



BAYWATCH

Volume 12 Issue 1

January 2009

CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY CPWB

CPWB Steering Committee would like to wish you the best in 2009 and thank you for participating in our successful Bounty of the Bay event held in August. There are so many to thank staff and members.

Bounty of the Bay evolved last Spring, Laurie Tompkins and Sheri Proft, WBNERR staff members, came to our bi-monthly CPWB Steering committee meeting to present plans the Reserve was thinking about for the celebration of its twentieth anniversary. As the Friends group to WBNERR, the Steering Committee was delighted to review these plans, willingly accepted their request that we forgo our annual raffle during the 2008 summer, and hold a fund raising event to be held in August at the Reserve. The event was to be an auction, celebrating the Bounty of the Bay with a seafood-tasting event.

The staff at WBNERR and members of CPWB worked together to obtain items for the live and silent auction. We sent out letters to the businesses that had supported our annual Raffle for many years as well as new contributors. We sent invitations to all the CPWB membership inviting them to attend and to donate to the Auction. We invited members of neighboring residential associations to attend and support the Bounty of the Bay. Volunteer Betsey Lowery, CPWB members, Reserve staff all sold tickets at the Evenings on the Bluff and the Watershed Block Party.

We also tried to convince local restaurateurs to donate the seafood appetizers we needed for the Bounty of the Bay tastings. Primarily, because of the economy, we had no success at this attempt. However, we did get several generous offers of help; the Rick and Joanne LeMoine, owners of Kenyan's Market (also CPWB members) supplied the beer and wine at a substantial discount and volunteered to bar tend for us! The committee chose the Mad Platter/Chef Ralph of Mashpee as the caterer who also donated his cream puffs for dessert. Starbucks in Falmouth also donated the coffee for the day.

Many members donated glass vases and other items we needed to make our event special! The afternoon of

August 16th, members and staff brought in beautiful flowers from their gardens. The next morning, Mary Kay Fox and Maureen Jankauskas arrived early to make the beautiful table centerpieces that graced all the tables. These were given to the guests who were lucky enough to be sitting at a designated chair at the end of the Live Auction!

We cannot say enough about the way the WBNERR staff, volunteers and CWBP steering committee all worked together to orchestrate this fundraiser!

August 16th was a delightful day on Waquoit Bay! It was sunny with a pleasant light breeze. Upon arriving at the Reserve, the staff had already set up the tables with linen tablecloths, readied the seafood tasting tables, and displayed both silent and live auction items. Jayne Abbott, Maureen Jankauskas, Maureen Soutter, and Lee and Joe Feinstein were distributing programs, collecting and selling tickets and directing our guests to tables, auction item viewing and Bounty of the Bay appetizers. The Falmouth Fiddlers were circulating and providing **marvelous music** for all to enjoy! We even entertained the youngsters present with estuary based crafts and pizza.

The Silent Auction items were awarded while we were conversing and deciding what to bid on the Live Auction selections. Hugh and Eileen O'Doherty, long-time WBNERR volunteers our auctioneers with assistance from Jennifer Sirico did an excellent job keeping us focused during this most important part of our event. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we had over 50 silent auction items and 23 live auction items. We enjoyed good-natured bidding rivalry during both auctions!



Everyone enjoyed the seafood appetizers as well as the liquid refreshment while touring the displays of auction items. Many guests were able to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. Including staff, about 225 attended. Jim Farrell from WBNERR facilities worked all day with the summer staff who volunteered to lend a hand where ever needed and George Noyes assisted with clean-up.

Initially, it was our intent that this fundraiser would provide more visibility of the Reserve and that we could at least break even financially. This was our prior assessment of our goal, as we had not done a fundraiser of this sort for many years. As it turns out, we are pleased to announce that we grossed almost \$2,500, which will provide the funds for many educational programs at the Reserve.

Our guests remarked that they not only learned more about the Reserve and estuaries, but also were able to purchase creative and useful items at reasonable prices, plus having a terrific time doing so! The CPWB Steering Committee plans to sponsor another event like this one when WBNERR celebrates its 25th anniversary. However, if any of our members think we should repeat it sooner and are willing to participate in the preparations, please contact the Steering Committee.

More than likely, we will be conducting our annual raffle this summer. We need help from you, the membership, so that we can continue to support the many educational events and the Science Summer School conducted at the Reserve every summer. If you have kids, or grandkids, between the ages of 7-14 years old, look into registering them for this most interesting, educational and enjoyable summer school! We need members to help sell raffle tickets, to obtain raffle prizes and to staff the booths at Mahoney's too. Please call Toni Grady (508-548-9457) for more information. Better yet, please join the CPWB Steering Committee at our Jan. 12, 2009 meeting at the Reserve's Visitor Center at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to the following for contributing items to the Auction:

*Lucy Parker
The Boston Red Sox
"g" design center
Stephens and Meredith Howlett*

*Heinz and Sheri Profit
Charlie Bosselli
New Seabury Golf and Country Club
Holly Ridge Golf Club
Bill Durgin
Kathy Smith
Tonna-Marie Rogers
Beth Roderick
Edwards Boat Yard
Eastman Sport and Tackle
Paul Andrews
Mahoney's garden Center
Mary Kay Fox
Dr. Jonathan Way
Moonakis Cafe
Pocasset Hardware Center
Beth Schwarzman
Forget Me Knot Garden Center
Leah Finity
Matt Patrick
Chris Weidman
Wauquoit Feed & Garden Center
Lee and Joe Feinstein
R. Smith Furniture Factory Outlet
Cape Cod Winery
Cape Cod Sportswear
Peg Bent
Market Street Bookshop
Little River Boat Yard
Carbo's Grille and Bar
New England Patriots
Cape Light Compact
Earthstar Designs
Solstice Day Spa
Laurie Tompkins
Eight Cousins Bookstore
Kensington's
Joan Muller
g foundation, Mashpee Commons
Sea Sports
South Cape Veterinary Clinic
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Tea Shoppe of Mashpee Commons
Mashpee True Value Hardware
Dr. David Diamond
Joe and Marilyn Veccio
Carole Vail
Julie Drake
Ed and Marilyn Crowley*

News and updates on work from the researchers at the Reserve:

WBNERR Receives Funding to Monitor Groundwater

This summer, WBNERR Research Coordinator, Dr. Chris Weidman, received funding to install three groundwater wells on the Reserve's property. This data will be extremely useful for visiting scientists as they have been focusing their research on the groundwater seepages that occur mostly within 30ft from the shore below the bluff. The well locations vary on the property so that we can capture the groundwater at different distances and depths as it moves its way downward towards the ocean. One well is located near the Gatehouse, another near the Osprey pole and the last one is near the beach by the Boathouse. Each well has several separate wells inside that vary by depth. The multiple wells as they are situated will provide data on shallow surface groundwater (that reacts quickly to rainwater inputs or droughts) and very deep aquifers (originating from long distances and very ancient waters - 100-1000 years old). Dr. Weidman has been taking the measurements every other day since the wells were installed and now has a good understanding how the groundwater varies after rainstorms, over the summer and over distances.

Volunteer opportunities: We would like to have a volunteer come on a regular basis to take the groundwater well measurements and, if there is interest, to enter the data into a spreadsheet. It would take about one hour, every other day (3 days per week). There is a lot of flexibility on which days and times to sample. If you are interested in this research, please contact Dr. Chris Weidman, Research Coordinator (508-457-0495 ext 105).

New Region-Wide Research Effort on Horseshoe Crabs at WBNERR

The Reserve Staff joined a new, region-wide effort this spring to assess the Horseshoe crab population in Waquoit Bay. The Massachusetts Marine Fisheries (MMF) division initiated the program and gave training sessions at WBNERR and a few other locations on the Cape on how to do the field

assessments and record data. This way, everyone utilizes the same procedures and is out surveying at the same times so the agency can evaluate the data in a meaningful way. So what was the reason for this survey? What got this study started was the need to understand how many crabs are in each bay on the Cape, and for the bigger picture what is the populations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and Connecticut. Horseshoe crab populations have crashed in the southern states due to over-harvesting for bait (for eel & whelk traps). They are also sought after for the unique qualities of their blue blood. Although they are caught, tapped for some blood, then released back in the same water they were caught in, some don't survive this process and this adds to their losses. States such as Delaware and Maryland have closed their Horseshoe crab populations so that they can start to save and repopulate them. MMF is trying to get a handle on how many crabs are located in the northern states as the pressure to harvest our crabs is increasing due to the closures in the south. They want to protect the crab now before they are faced with the same sad situation down south. Horseshoe crabs live for 20 years but must reach 10 years to begin to reproduce. With this extended length of time to mature, an unsustainable harvest can quickly eliminate this creature who has been on this earth for over 350 million years.

In the spring, the Horseshoe crabs come from off-shore waters and rendezvous in bays to mate and lay their eggs at the high-tide line on the beach. Researchers use this behavior to their advantage to count how many crabs are present because Horseshoe crabs, like herring and sea turtles, come back to the same area year after year to nest on the same beaches. Volunteers were asked to go out three times around each moon phase described above, roughly one-half hour before high tide. Staff and volunteers here at WBNERR surveyed the bay side of South Cape Shore, covering approximately 1/2 mile of beach. Overall we sampled for 12 days, some in the afternoon hours and even a few nights. We recorded over 175 crabs with 56 pairs. We mostly saw pairs (male and female) and a few rogue males. The largest sighting was on May 29th between 7:00pm-8:30pm where 142 pairs were seen. Generally, we would see about 20 pairs of crabs on each visit to the beach. Our findings were different from the other survey sites on the Cape. Survey teams located at Mashnee Island, with the help of Americorp volunteers, found that

males outnumbered the females. Overall, the crab numbers were very low throughout the Northeast region.

As this was the first year of the study, we wanted to understand the dynamics of the crab in our bay and learn what areas of the bay the crabs were using for nesting. We went beyond the MMF sampling protocols and surveyed the entire back beach area from Sage lot pond to the jetty. Next year, we would love to survey more areas within Waquoit Bay

Volunteer opportunities: We will need many volunteers for next springs survey. It takes about 2 hours to complete, we work in teams, and it's so much fun being out on the beach in early summer & a unique experience to be out at night on a full moon. Please join us for a truly distinctive experience. Please contact Mary Kay Fox, Assistant Research Coordinator (508-457-0495 ext 109) if you would like to take part in the training and field session.

So much more happened in the summer of 2008, celebrating Waquoit Bay Reserves 20th anniversary here are two more events to share with you

2nd Annual Reserve Cup Regatta held with tasks highlighting the environmental health of Waquoit Bay

On July 23, 2008, the Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay (CPWB) and the Waquoit Bay Yacht Club (WBYC) sponsored a junior regatta to showcase The Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR). This regatta was open to boys and girls from age 8-15 sailing Optimist Dinghy sailboats. This year there were nine boats competing. The races were run by members of WBYC with the support of CPWB members and WBNERR staff.

The event began at 8:00 AM at WBYC where the sailors registered and launched their boats. A skippers meeting was held to introduce the hosts and outline the race procedures. This was followed by races on Waquoit Bay. The participants were treated to lunch at

the yacht club and then headed back to the Bay and more races. After racing the WBNERR staff entertained the sailors, their families, and yacht club and CPWB members with a "Creature Feature". Marine life from the Bay was netted, identified, and examined by the guests. There was a discussion of the environmental challenges facing the creatures of the Bay. The underlying theme of the day was that people who enjoy being on the water should have a personal interest in the health of those waters

The day concluded at WBNERR with an awards banquet and cookout. Educational prizes were given to the top sailors.

Plans are being made for holding a Regatta next year on July 22.

Summer Photo Contest winners are:

Peter Partridge - 20th Anniversary Grand Prize
Gena DiMestico - Bounty of the Bay Award
Tom Noonan - 1st Place, Nature
Michelle Netto - 1st Place, People

CPWB wants to thank everyone who contributed to the contest and a special thanks to the Upper Cape Cod Camera Club. The club working with WBNERR staff brought an event CPWB will schedule again. Please stop by the Reserve to see the subjects captured, they give an added dimension to what you will see the next time you explore the Reserve properties.

CALENDAR

Jan. 12, 2009

CPWB Steering Committee meeting, at the Reserve's Visitor Center at 7:00 PM. – open to everyone, mark your calendar.

June 2009

Washburn Island Clean-up a Saturday in June date tbd

June 22nd, CPWB Annual Meeting at 5:30pm in the Boat House

Social event for members, it's a Monday evening

July 22nd, 3rd Annual Reserve Cup Regatta, co-sponsored with Waquoit Yacht Club, a Wednesday.

Volunteers opportunities:

Coastal Training Program Volunteer

The WBNERR CTP program could use some help with keeping our database up to date. Duties include data entry, internet searches and telephone inquiries. Hours are flexible and needed on an ongoing basis. Computer Experience necessary and training will be provided. Contact Laurie Tompkins at 508-457-0495 x108.

Note the other opportunities for assistance with research on pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter.

CPWB member to assist with 3rd grade poster contest held in early spring. Contact Jayne Abbott 508-540-1948

Check out www.waquoitbayreserve.org for updates on programs.

Membership CPWB

Our membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Please check to see if your membership is current. CPWB dues notice is included to assist members.

Your \$10.00 membership fee supports educational programs. Is your neighbor a member? We are working to grow our membership; the CPWB brochure with application is available at WBNERR.

CPWB thanks the members who give additional contributions. CPWB is a non-profit organization concerned with the health of the area's waters. CPWB serves as the Friends Group for the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, supporting their educational programs and seminars. We are committed to providing critical support through our membership base to support WBNERR.

Please mark your calendar to attend the CPWB Steering Committee meeting.

Meetings are held every other month on the first Monday at 7:00pm at the reserve. Come to the first meeting of 2009 on January 12th at 7:00pm in the main building at the Reserve.

RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP: (Please make checks payable to CPWB, P.O. Box 3021, Waquoit, MA 02536))

☐ \$ 10.00 Membership ☐ \$ _____ Contribution

Names: _____

Address: _____

Summer Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address _____

BAYWATCH

CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY CPWB

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

Thank you to ALL CPWB members and WBNERR staff for assisting with Bounty of the Bay

News from the Reserve

WBNERR Receives Funding to Monitor Groundwater

New Region-Wide Research Effort on Horseshoe Crabs at WBNERR

2nd Annual Reserve Cup Regatta

Summer Photo Contest Winners

Calendar

Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay CPWB

P.O. BOX 3021

WAQUOIT, MA 02536

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.