



BAYWATCH

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CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY CPWB

Treasure Hunting on the Reserve

Have you participated in the worldwide game of seeking treasure with a GPS? There are currently 4 treasures on several of the properties; the online locations are given here to get you started. Anyone with a GPS device can locate the geocache (treasure). Remember you can take a small item from the treasure but please leave something to replace it for the next person who finds the geocache. Learn more by visiting <http://geocaching.com/about/>. The 4 treasures locations can be found at the following websites:

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=42ad4a9c-d34d-4785-ad4e-f1c67406dc0f
http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=c997ee33-2e85-40cc-a680-5e87eac07c54
http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=49491de2-14cf-40c4-aaf5-c5cfb3acbb4a
http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=e1403413-d046-4645-8fa8-cadbf98829f

Note: two of the locations are on Washburn Island, another is at South Cape Beach and one at Martin Road property. It is in the planning stage to have a treasure on each of the 13 properties making up Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Summer Season at the Visitor Center:

1. The osprey nest and its seasonal residents. We believe there are three chicks in the nest.
2. Exhibits on watersheds and estuaries as well as a special discovery nook for kids with giant shellfish pillow seats, story books, puppets, and touch boxes (yes, please do touch).
3. Passport stamping station for DCR's State Park passport program. Do you have your passport to explore Massachusetts State Parks?
4. The organic demonstration garden.
5. Pick up the Nature Trail Guide to walk the paths at the Visitor Center. See the plants native to our area with descriptions, explore the Raindrop Journey. There is a rare native plant the Sand Plain Gerardia found in the grassy circle at our front door and on Washburn Island the Blazing Star.
6. Read the white board on the porch to see what is happening on the Reserve properties. You might find notes on migrating birds in the area, water data and short research notes of importance to visitors.
7. The inside of the Visitor Center is now the location of prize winning photos taken on the properties, too there are some professional drawings over the fireplace and sea creatures for children too can enjoy.
8. The compass rose built around our USGS geodetic marker which shows elevation and will be used to monitor sea level rise.
9. Friendly visitor greeters to answer your questions. Ask about the solar hot water heating systems at the Gate house, collect free information on coastal issues, upcoming programs, research data, or a map of local water ways for boaters. Ask about the # of horseshoe crabs from count done in May at Waquoit Bay.
10. Best view of Waquoit Bay from the bluff, see the new interpretive sign to help orient you to what you are seeing. Bring your lunch, observe the activity from research, science classes and enjoy the picnic area.

This can be the start of your summer visit to WBNERR continue on to see the new bridge at SageLot Pond, find Abigails Brook (an abandoned bog), walk the paths at Jehu Pond. Participate in a guided walk at South Cape Beach on Friday mornings in July and August. For times, and other events be sure to check out the calendar at www.waquoitbayreserve.org. Enjoy the summer!

Have you noticed our directing you to the web? We would like to have your email address to send CPWB information to you. Please when filling out your membership or returning the raffle tickets provide us with your email address. This address will not be given to other organizations, only used for CPWB and WBNERR's contact with you.

Donations come from Members in All Sizes

Being a part of CPWB has many rewards. This year we were overwhelmed by how are members are creating ways to support WBNERR. You can imagine that Earth Day is special to everyone, reminding us the winter will be over and new things are happening. There was an overwhelming response to the Earth Day Coffee House event sponsored by CPWB; people had to be turned away. Funds raised from that evening were used to create the Organic Demonstration Garden that will provide vegetables to the food pantry. (Please don't pick the cherry tomatoes when you visit, thank you in advance).

To make Earth Day special three children set up a lemonade stand and raised over \$20.00 for CPWB. We would like to thank David Hevenor, Milo the dog, Emily Melvin and James Melvis.

The biology class taught by Ms Riseman at Wayland High School was given an assignment to raise awareness about how to keep our environment safe and clean. They raised \$300 then donated the funds to WBNERR through CPWB. Ms. Riseman has been a participant in the teacher workshops organized by Pat Harcourt. Special thanks to Meta Surjaputra, Julia Vinha, Dina Berdichevsky and all in Ms Riseman's biology class.

CPWB 3rd Grade Project 2009

Each year CPWB has supported a project to educate the 3rd Grade to the life in the estuary through a poster contest. This year the art teacher, Joanne Peterson, from the East Falmouth Elementary school was working on a "focus evaluation" project to make a clay tile mural for the school of the Waquoit Estuary. Having worked with the children for many years on the CPWB poster project she started the class drawing animals that live in the estuary. The timing worked well to introduce our educational speaker on estuary life in Waquoit Bay. Over the last few years Pat has worked the 3rd Grade project as a learning tool for the Reserves AmeriCorps member. Davis Brush took on the project. I would like to share with you his description of the task and what the experience has done:

Last Tuesday, May 12th, I went to East Falmouth Elementary School and taught a lesson on estuaries to forty-five students in three classes. I did a short power point that introduced estuaries and why they are important. Then I showed them some estuary creatures which included a comb jelly, mud snails, periwinkles, shrimp, mummichogs, mussels, clams, oysters, hermit crabs, etc... This second part was the bulk of the half hour lesson. After the show-and-tell I did a wrap up with the students to see what they had learned and talk about the Green Pond Estuary they would visit in two weeks. One response that stood out was "estuaries are like nurseries, cradling baby animals." What the students learned from this lesson overall was the fact that estuaries are important for animals in giving birth, that its important to know land use around estuaries to avoid contamination of the estuaries, and that protecting or advocating for estuaries is important. Another student stated that we need to tell people to stop polluting the estuaries and to make sure that we properly dispose of our waste to protect the animals. A final comment that I remember is that we need estuaries or habitats for baby fish to feed the big fish that we eat.

The second class will be a walking tour of the estuary. On the walk to the estuary the students will count the number of houses and gardens to see the land use around Green Pond Estuary. Then while the students are at the estuary we will do some simple sampling to get the students thinking about the environmental factors that change the conditions of estuaries and how that effects the plant and animal life there. We will also try to find as many creatures as we can at the estuary to see what lives there and how it interacts in the system.

The last day will be a half hour wrap up where we will talk about what was observed. I will make some graphs using temperature and salinity and some bar graphs that show land use in terms of house and gardens, which the students will count on their way to the estuary.

We are also in the process of getting each student a [Beachcombers Guide to the North Atlantic Seashore](#) produced by Massachusetts Audubon so they can continue their education outside of the classroom.

Now what this has done for my AmeriCorps assignment is amazing. I have been charged with environmental education and at the end of my term here on Cape Cod I have finally combined all of my learning, in a culmination with the grade three program, to be able to teach and disseminate environmental education to students to encourage them to be stewards of their environment.

Davis Brush

ANNUAL MEETING

Please attend **CPWB Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 14th at 5:30pm** in the Boat House with guest speaker DCR Island Manager who will let us know about their summer activities at WBNERR. This meeting will start promptly to allow everyone to join Tuesday Nights on the Bluff to hear Roan Leventhal speak about *Stories of the Sea*.

Scallop Update

Rick York, Mashpee Shellfish Constable

The wild scallop population was lost in the early 1990s due to habitat degradation from nitrogen loading and vulnerability to predation. We successfully re-established a scallop fishery later in the 1990s by seeding large numbers of scallop seed from our propagation programs.

The last couple of seasons have been dismal despite our seeding efforts. This year might be better because the scallop seed that we released into Waquoit Bay last fall grew large enough by this spring that it should be less vulnerable to predators. Falmouth and Mashpee released hundreds of thousands of scallop seed last fall.

In addition Mashpee released more in April (2009) that were held in trays over winter. The problem the last couple of years was due in part to the smaller size of the scallop seed released and increased numbers of predators such as crabs. The seed was smaller because of growing conditions. Smaller seed is more subject to predation. Hopefully this will be a better year.

The nitrogen level is increasing everywhere. Eel grass is gone from Waquoit Bay; there are a few beds here and there with remnants in Jehu Pond. The predators too play a part; crabs, birds (seagulls, winter water fowl) and some fish (scup) in the scallop beds.

There are plenty of quahogs in the sandy bottom areas of the Bay. Remember to bring your Falmouth or Mashpee shellfish permit when you are out shellfishing in Waquoit Bay .

Recent CPWB Activities

Research Dock - CPWB held a Steering Committee meeting on May 18th in the Boat House at the Reserve. The committee reviewed current activities regarding the Reserve and Waquoit Bay. In our role to protect the natural resources of the bay and the ecosystem the Steering Committee cannot support the design of the dock being presented to the Falmouth Conservation Committee. While we understand that a dock would assist the Reserve, we believe the present design would endanger the fragile environment of Waquoit Bay. A letter was sent to Leslie-Ann McGee, Interim Manager – WBNERR.

On June 1st, the Steering Commission discussed with WBNERR staff the length, height and permanency of the present dock's design not being consistent with CPWB's many years of stewardship for Waquoit Bay. The Steering Committee voted to inform the Falmouth Conservation Commission with a letter of objection to the present plans.

DCR Meetings

CPWB Steering Committee Member Jayne Abbott attended the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Stewardship Council meeting held May 1st at WBNERR. Reserve manager Leslie-Ann McGee opened the meeting welcoming DCR staff and Partners recognizing CPWB and giving a brief overview of WBNERR's functions focused on education, research and stewardship.

Mike O'Leary participated in a DCR "Partnership Chats" held every 6-8 weeks. The Partners are environmental and community organizations concerned with parks. Participants will learn more about programs conducted in DCR parks and policies that govern them to help understand the internal workings of the DCR agency and its staff.

OUR ANNUAL RAFFLE *How Members can help make this fund raising project for the WBNERR Educational Programs a success.*

Every summer CPWB holds a Raffle whose proceeds are used by the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to fund educational Programs held there. The CPWB Steering Committee needs members to sell these tickets to friends and neighbors and for members to volunteer an hour or two at Mahoney's or Kenyon's Market where we sell tickets on the weekends as well as

pass out literature and acquaint the public with WBNERR and CPWB. Another way members can help is by donating prizes or soliciting them from local merchants. To volunteer for this project, please call Toni Grady at 508-548-9457. Win tickets to a Boston sports event, a computer, GPS system and more. Drawing will be held at the Block Party at the Reserve on August 4th.

Enclosed are two books of raffle tickets for the 2009 CPWB fundraiser. Some members have not been able to easily purchase tickets before the August Drawing. Therefore, we have sent everyone two books to purchase. Please fill out the top tickets, tear bottom part off, and return to CPWB P.O.Box 3021, Waquoit, Ma. 02536 with a check for \$5.00 per book.

CALENDAR

Washburn Island Cleanup - Saturday, June 20th (rain date Sunday June 21st) You are invited to join the June 2009 cleanup of Washburn Island. The plan is to leave the dock at Waquoit Bay Yacht Club at 9:00am, returning by 11:00am (somewhat later if doing the Sound side).

CPWB Annual Meeting – Tuesday, July 14th in the Boat House at 5:30pm

Tuesday Nights on the Bluff, programs begin at 6:30pm

July 7th - Explicit Noise

July 14th – Stories of the Sea, Rona Leventhal

July 21st – Birds of Prey

July 28th – Water, Water with Jack Golde

Block Party – August 4th, last chance for raffle tickets – prizes to be awarded to winners of the raffle

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

SPECIAL REQUEST

WBNERR uses the Gate House for visiting scientists. The guest residence is in need of good condition furniture and appliances (tv, refrigerator, washing machine), pictures for the wall. As you open the house for the summer there maybe something that can find a new home at the Reserve. Call WBNERR with your donations at 508-457-0495, a pick-up can be arranged with Sheri Profit.

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

\$ 10.00 Membership \$ _____ Contribution

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address** _____

Summer Address: _____

Membership CPWB

Our membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Please check to see if your membership is current.

Your \$10.00 membership fee supports educational programs. 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.

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