

Tides

MAGAZINE

Inspiring Bay Champions

The History of Save The Bay's
Explore The Bay Program

NARRAGANSETT BAY

SAVE THE BAY®

50

Transforming
Fields Point

Patrolling the
Watershed

Adding to Our
Educational Fleet

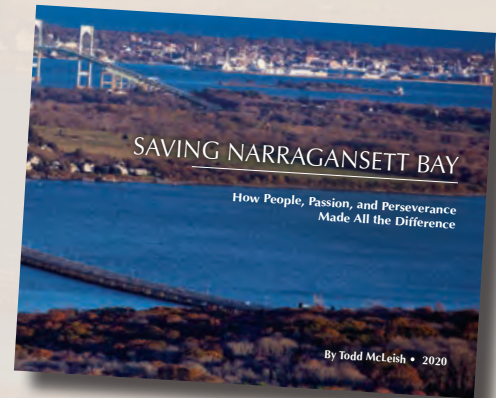
CELEBRATE SAVE THE BAY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH...

SAVING NARRAGANSETT BAY

How People, Passion, and Perseverance Made All The Difference

Discover the never-before-told personal stories, critical victories, and powerful voices that have contributed to the remarkable cleanup of Narragansett Bay.

A 10-chapter history book, authored by Todd McLeish, and featuring the stunning photography of Onne van der Wal, Salvatore Mancini, Carmel Vitullo, and more!



WWW.SAVEBAY.ORG/SAVINGNB

Accepting orders May 31, 2020

Narragansett Bay wasn't always like this...

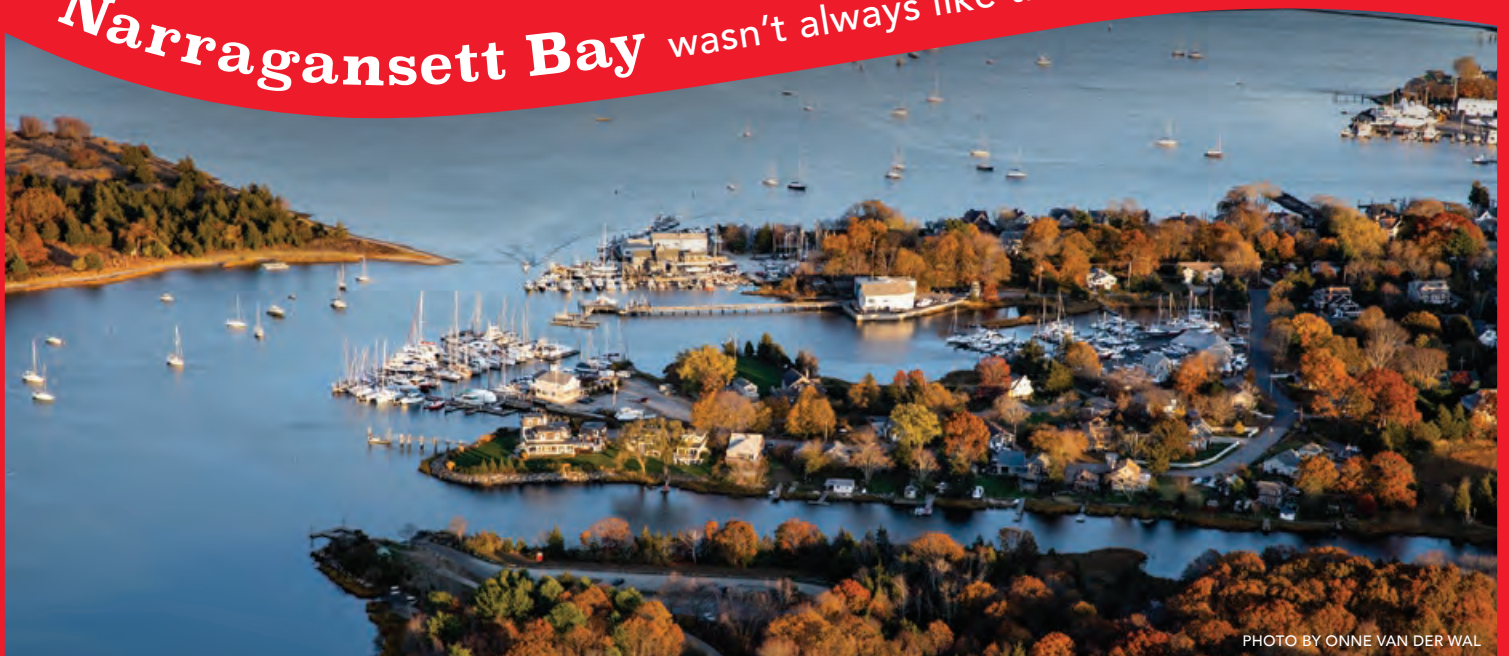


PHOTO BY ONNE VAN DER WAL

REMEMBER THE PAST. PROTECT THE FUTURE.

Save The Bay You Love.



Join today to support our ongoing efforts at www.savebay.org/join

True North

It's hard to imagine a global crisis more disruptive than that which we are experiencing today. Every aspect of daily life seems to have been upended, suddenly and without warning. There seem to be few constants, as health directives change daily and economic upheaval affects millions.

But one constant offers solace in this crisis, just as it has in the past. Experiencing the natural world, and specifically Narragansett Bay, anchors us. There is a reliable comfort in the return of birds traveling north, in the smell of a fresh sea breeze drifting inland from the shore, in the migration of menhaden and striped bass to our coastal waters. When we are outdoors walking along the shore, we remind ourselves of how the natural world sustains us.

Save The Bay's founders understood the timeless nature of this living resource we call Narragansett Bay. And our purpose is another constant: to be a tireless champion and steward for the Bay. During the present-day crisis we're still at it, shining a light on government activity, promoting water quality improvements, restoring habitats and inspiring the next generation to care for the Bay.

By exploring this issue of Tides, you'll discover that, three decades ago, Save The Bay took a long, hard look into the future and asked, "How can we ensure that future generations continue to value this extraordinary natural resource?" So began our commitment to environmental stewardship as the foundation for our advocacy work. Over the years, we've made major investments in environmental



education, inspiring connections between children and young adults and the natural world.

By building the Bay Center and restoring Fields Point in Providence, we created a sanctuary for students in Rhode Island's capitol city to explore rocky shores and salt marshes. By investing in the Exploration Center and Aquarium in Newport and expanding our shipboard programs, we opened new doors to experience Narragansett Bay. By launching our summer BayCamps, we inspired—and educated—thousands of youngsters to care for the Bay.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we continue to keep our eye on the future. We have not been derailed by hurricanes or recessions, and we will not be derailed by a pandemic. We're doing everything in our power to ensure our continued ability to be the Bay's most tenacious advocate. Through thick and thin, you—our members, volunteers, and supporters—have sustained us. Under today's circumstances, your help is more important than ever.

Jonathan Stone
Executive Director

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ON THE COVER:

This 1993 shipboard program provides a glimpse into an early shipboard trawling lesson—a program Save The Bay continues to offer today.



Saving Narragansett Bay

A STORY OF UNDERDOGS, BIG MONEY, CORRUPTION, POLLUTERS AND LOCAL HEROES



BY CINDY M. SABATO, APR
SPECIAL PROJECTS CONSULTANT

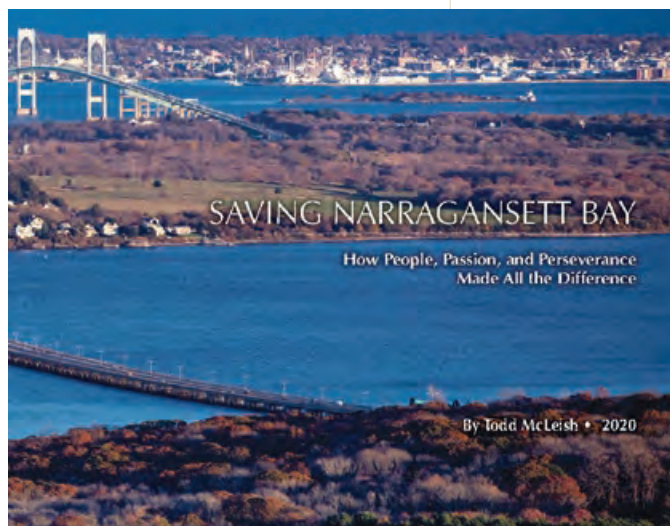
The environmental cleanup of Narragansett Bay has always been a story about community. It is the story about citizens coming together, time and time again, decade after decade, to protect a natural resource that, in many ways, shapes and defines us, our identity, our way of life. And as part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we are honored and proud to announce the June release of that story in the form of a commemorative, coffee-table style book: *Saving Narragansett Bay: How People, Passion and Perseverance Made All The Difference*.

“What I think is cool about the book is that it is a celebration, an acknowledgment of so many different people from all walks of life who, in their own way, made a difference,” said Executive Director Jonathan Stone.

The 10-chapter, hardcover book features both historic and present-day photographs—stunning photography by Onne van der Wal, Salvatore Mancini, Carmel Vitullo and others—and knits together a series of storylines, organizations and individuals that have been part of the cleanup of Narragansett Bay. “Each one is, in its own right, a story worth telling, but the book brings them all together in a larger narrative about the collective effort that’s made a huge impact on New England’s largest estuary,” Stone said.

Saving Narragansett Bay is written by local author and science writer Todd McLeish, whose father’s architectural office was next door to Save The Bay’s first office in East Greenwich.

“My father used to come home with stories about early Save The Bay activities that we would discuss over the dinner table, so I feel like I was a part of the early history of Save The Bay, and am so pleased to have been selected to write this book and have a chance to relive some of that history,” McLeish said.



FIVE DECADES OF PROGRESS: 1995 - 2005

1995

Save The Bay defeats a proposed 60 ton-per-day sewage sludge incinerator at Fields Point on the Providence River.

1996

Save The Bay is a first responder and **lead contact during the North Cape oil spill**. We organize, train and mobilize 1,200 volunteers in the massive cleanup effort.



Save The Bay launches BayCamp for students in grades 5-12.



OPPOSITE PAGE: The cover of the commemorative book, *Saving Narragansett Bay*.

LEFT: A glimpse of the littered banks of the Providence River from the mid-1900s by local photographer Carmel Vitullo.

BELOW: The author, Todd McLeish.

“But I was totally unaware of the advocacy before Save The Bay got started, and that’s the part I was particularly fascinated by. The big battles by small groups of residents of Jamestown and Tiverton in the 1950s and 60s to oppose the siting of oil refineries are success stories that I’m sure few Rhode Islanders remember. But if those battles had been lost, I bet Rhode Island would be a much different place—and much less



beautiful—than it is today,” McLeish said.

In fact, one of our goals in recognizing our 50 years of existence as an organization, and in the book, is to remind people how important individual action has been, and remains, in protecting something as dear to us all as Narragansett Bay.

“This story, looking back to efforts that began as early as the 1940s, is our way of inspiring people to look forward and to double-down on their commitment to this beautiful resource,” Stone said. “There is no guarantee that all the progress made won’t be rolled back unless individuals and communities of people who share an interest in the Bay stand up and are heard.”

continued on next page >>>

1997

Save The Bay leads a successful campaign for a reduction in discharge levels at Somerset’s Brayton Point power plant.



1998

In partnership with the Conservation Law Foundation, Save The Bay wins a public stakeholder process in the proposed container port development plan for Quonset Point.



Without giving away any spoilers, *Saving Narragansett Bay* is a book with one of those endings that's up to the reader. After all, the continuing story of Narragansett Bay could go either way, depending on what we, as a community, decide to do in the next half-century and beyond.

"I hope people who read this book will be proud of the work that has been done to protect Narragansett Bay and recognize that the work isn't finished. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to everyone who has stood up to polluters and fought to restore and preserve Narragansett Bay," McLeish said. "I hope people will be motivated to get involved, stay vigilant, and follow in the footsteps of the advocates featured in this book. I know I will." ■

The book's stunning photography captures the magic of Narragansett Bay from all perspectives, featuring images of (TOP) fishermen pulling up their nets, by Salvatore Mancini, and stunning aerial imagery of iconic locations, like (ABOVE) Beavertail State Park by Onne van der Wal.

FIVE DECADES OF PROGRESS: 1995 - 2005

2001

Save The Bay christens its first educational vessel, the M/V Alletta Morris.



With the help of 212 volunteers, we transplant more than 21,000 eelgrass plants in Narragansett Bay.

2003

Save The Bay mobilizes a public meeting on devastating fish and clam kills in Greenwich Bay attended by Governor Carcieri, who announces he will appoint a new Bay and Watershed Commission.

Your Narragansett Bay Memories

"My oldest memories are of spending the day at Rocky Point, riding the rides, laughing, being somewhat frightened by the infamous flume ride, and then settling in for a bite to eat outside of the shore dinner hall. That also-infamous dinner hall was set right on the Bay, and we would sit and have chowder and clam cakes, while looking out over the water, watching the sailboats pass by."

~ Leigh O.

"My first experience in the Bay was in the 1950s, digging quahogs with my family. Then my brothers and I graduated to fishing for flatfish and blues. No summer flounder were about. Striped bass were a mythical creature we only read about in the weekly fishing report. We always caught fish, and there were a lot of other fishermen. We were instructed never to tell anyone how or where we fished. The age of instant information did not exist. Before I could drive, I had a work skiff and became a quahogger. It was a good job for a teenager when minimum wage was \$1 an hour; \$30 was a good day."

~ Allan G.

"Narragansett Bay is a very special place for me. For more than 80 years, I have delighted in summer days there, staying at the waterfront family cottage in Jamestown. Swimming in the Bay was (and is) my favorite activity there. Once I even swam from Dutch Island to our beach, a distance of about a mile." ~ Phyllis S.



"During my many years of teaching, over 30 of my classes participated in Save the Bay's floating classroom aboard the M/V *Alletta Morris*. Over 700 of my students, of all abilities, learned about Narragansett Bay and its sea life by using scientific equipment and specialized nets. By the end of the trip, the students realized why it was important to preserve the Bay, and how they could help achieve this goal. On June 2, 2005, my class was chosen to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Save the Bay Center in Providence. After cutting the ribbon, we boarded the *Alletta Morris* for my final excursion since I was retiring from teaching. This definitely was the highlight of my career!" ~ Diane W.

"I remember being a small child and clamming at Oakland Beach with my father and his cousin, my brothers and my sister."

~ Alice L.



"I grew up in Newport and would ride the ferry several times a week when I was a child from the early '50s to the early '60s. I would actually ride with the captain in the wheelhouse. I became a ship captain myself because of it."

~ Jack P.

TAKE ACTION!

Share YOUR favorite Bay memories and photos with us at savebay.org/your-stories-and-memories

In Massachusetts, Save The Bay co-founds the Watershed Action Alliance, as well as the Southeastern Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative.

2004

Save The Bay and its partners work to pass the Open Space Clean Water bond, providing funds for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and habitat restoration.



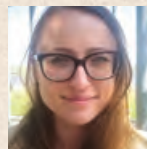
2005

Save The Bay celebrates its new home and education center at Fields Point.

RESTORATION

The Transformation of Fields Point

HOW SAVE THE BAY BUILT A COMMUNITY HUB FOR DECADES TO COME



BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

In the 17th century, Providence's Fields Point was carefully-tended farmland, owned and operated by its namesake, Thomas Field. As centuries passed, and human activity in the area increased, the site ultimately became better known for the municipal dump it housed than for the rustic scenes of the time of its naming. That is, until Save The Bay came along.

During its farming days, a small island could be spotted off Fields Point's southern coast. Dubbed Starved Goat Island, later Sunshine Island, the small outcropping was home to a

contaminated site—until Save The Bay identified it as the perfect place for its future Explore the Bay Center.

“From the very beginning, our goal was to create a space for the community,”

wing, and community meeting rooms, alongside public grounds and a pier to promote Bay access. An initial \$6.5-million capital campaign to fund the endeavor was launched on March 5, 2000, and included funding for educational programming, the construction of the Bay Center, and a contribution to the organization's endowment. But why a brownfield?

From Top to Bottom: Passengers disembark at Fields Point, bound for one of Colonel Atwell's clambakes. Looking east from scenic Fort Independence, Fields Point, circa 1886. Credit: Rhode Island Historical Society.



state children's hospital in the early 20th century, before the Hurricane of '38 destroyed the facility. While the island fell out of use, its mainland cousin did not.

The City began using Fields Point as a landfill in the 1950s and, due to sheer quantities of deposited waste alone, the gap between the mainland and the island closed. Before long, the site was abandoned, designated a brownfield, a

explained Maureen Fogarty, director of operations for Save The Bay since 1995. “We envisioned a site that would serve as a hub, not just for Save The Bay, but for our students, for community groups, and for anyone looking to connect with the upper Bay.”

The designs for the center featured classrooms for Save The Bay's growing education program, an administrative

“We sought to build a community site, and find a home for Save The Bay, but we also wanted to stick to our roots,” said Fogarty. “By selecting Fields Point, we created an opportunity to demonstrate what was truly possible when it came to site reclamation.”

After acquiring a lease on the property from Johnson and Wales University, Save The Bay broke ground on the project

Save The Bay's Fall 2005 Newsletter**Our Living Classroom Connects Kids to the Bay**

Imagine a bay named Leo. Leo lives in Providence's West End where the trees grow out of cement and the closest body of water is the inky canals of Waterfire, to which Uncle Ted brought him last month. He doesn't get to the Bay on weekends since his mom works and Leo has to watch his little sister.

But today is Leo's lucky day — his teacher announces that the class is going on a Save The Bay field trip, aboard the *Alletta Morris*. Leo raises his hand: "Will there be killer sharks?" No, killer sharks do not live in Narragansett Bay, but you will see flounder, lobster, crabs, striped bass and many other creatures. And Leo does. He is amazed at the variety of marine life they haul in aboard the ship. Leo goes to touch the flounder (slimy!) and frightens his classmate with a live crab. The fish and frighten him with a lot of trash, though, and the Coke bottle reminds him of how carelessly Uncle Ted tosses his out of the car window.

Along the shore, Leo wants to collect sea stars to make a necklace for his mother. But an STB educator assures him that shells would make a nicer necklace since the sea stars need to stay in the water. Leo doesn't mind. He'd stay in the water too if that was his home.

In the Bay Center classroom, he studies plankton under the microscope — "A whole secret universe! Awesome!" — and does his best to copy the watershed map so he can show his mom where they



from top to bottom:
Kids learn about Bay
inhabitants and reuse
for plankton at our
new Bay Center.

live in it. Leo decides he'd better make a second one for Uncle Ted who tends to pour his motor oil down the sewer.

At the end of the day, Leo's head is swimming with memories of his first experience on the Bay, and he can hardly wait to go back.

Over the years, Save The Bay has initiated a multitude of educational programs for kids of all ages, especially ones like Leo who have had little to no connection with water while living in the Ocean State. Our coastal, shipboard and classroom programs have brought the Bay to thousands of students and, thanks to the support of people like you, our new facility at Fields Point can affect even more.

The Bay Center is a living classroom that demonstrates the principles of stormwater management, coastal buffer planting, and salt marsh restoration. As a "green" building, the Bay Center exposes students to contemporary design features that conserve energy and protect the land. Inside, two bright, spacious classrooms—equipped for up to 30 students each—overlook the Bay. Our new resources also include: specialized lab space, compound and stereo microscopes for in-depth studies of marine life, a dock and a second education vessel, M/V *Swift*.

Currently, we offer teachers customized programming. Any of our existing classroom programs can be held at the Bay Center and expanded upon with hands-on studies in a laboratory setting. We cover a wide variety of marine and environmental topics and are happy to tailor programming to meet the needs of any curriculum. Teachers can contact the Education department at 401-272-3540, ext. 133.

Please visit us. If you're anything like Leo, you'll come back time and again.



to provide insulation and absorb rainfall, managing stormwater.

Four years, and many additional fundraising efforts later, the building formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2005, and Save The Bay has anchored itself at Fields Point ever since. In 2019, we fully realized the original dream of the center with the opening of our public pier.

in November 2002. But restoring a brownfield is no small feat.

First, Save The Bay enlisted engineers to reshape the shoreline with a rocky seawall to prevent erosion, creating a brand new salt marsh in the process. Then, in keeping with brownfield restoration best practices, the entire site was capped with a geosynthetic fabric to keep the underlying layer of toxic material from leaching out. A layer of clean soil and new vegetation was placed on top.

Croxtton Collaborative Architects, P.C. designed the building to be a shining example of the latest in environmentally-friendly design. The structure supports solar panels and a "green roof," the latter of which incorporates native grasses

Today, Save The Bay welcomes 150 community groups and nearly 200 school programs to the Bay Center every year; while hundreds more traverse our grounds and fish from our shoreline and pier. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, and position ourselves for another half-century of environmental education, advocacy and habitat adaptation, the Bay Center continues to be the perfect place to call home. ■

TOP TO BOTTOM: The Bay Center during construction; the ribbon-cutting in 2005; and an aerial view of Fields Point today.

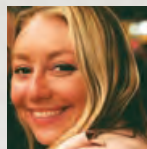
Photo by Onne van der Wal.



EDUCATION

Connecting With the Bay

THE JOURNEY OF SAVE THE BAY'S EXPLORATION CENTER AND AQUARIUM IN NEWPORT



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



ABOVE: The Exploration Center and Aquarium on Easton's Beach. BELOW: Bridget Prescott, former aquarium manager, introduces a Bay Center student to a lobster.

Following years of advocacy and restoration work, Save The Bay's education program, "Explore The Bay," was officially established in 1986. The following two decades brought phases of rapid development, including the addition of vessel family cruises, summer camps and full-day programs. With 35,000 people served by the early 2000s, the value of experiential education was clear. Save The Bay kicked off a \$10 million capital campaign devoted to educational programming, with the goal of providing a Bay experience to every student within the watershed by the time they graduated high school.

The success of the campaign allowed Save The Bay to take over an existing aquarium and New England Aquarium satellite site on Easton's Beach, and turn it into a hands-on marine science learning facility. The Exploration Center and Aquarium opened in 2006, bringing Save The Bay's presence directly into the Newport community and expanding the scope of Explore The Bay programs, with a new goal of educating an additional 30,000 people per year.

"Running an aquarium was a completely new endeavor for us," said Bridget Kubis Prescott, currently Save The Bay's director of education and formerly the original manager of the aquarium. The team had to develop the skills and knowledge to run the center, and started by hiring an aquarist and other staff members skilled in animal husbandry, as well as a fleet of skilled interns from local colleges and universities.

The center received a full "Save The Bay makeover," with new painted murals and red and white signage throughout. Previously run by the New England Aquarium and the City of Newport, the exhibits had been historically focused on ocean-based species and habitats.



Explore Learn Discover Explore Learn Discover Explore Learn Discover Explore

Save The Bay Offers Beachfront Opportunity for Learning

This summer when you're catching some cool one steps, you can also catch up on a little marine science. The Save The Bay Exploration Center at Easton's Beach (formerly the New England Aquarium) opened its doors May 25, and our new Newport location is an exciting opportunity to discover the wonders of Narragansett Bay. Get up close and personal with native lobsters, fish and crabs, explore the world of plankton in our microscopes lab or take home a memory from our arts and crafts area—all while learning more about your local watershed and our efforts to restore and protect Narragansett Bay. Save The Bay's relationship is on hand to guide you through the Center and answer any questions.

The Exploration Center also welcomes groups for a more hands-on learning experience. Programing is flexible and can include behind-the-scenes talks along the rocky shore and sandy beach, indoor Bay



experiences with live animals, puppet shows, story hours and more. Join your class, camp, Ministry's group, parties and other organizations for a fun, interactive summer outing. For group pricing and scheduling, call 401-324-0020 or 401-373-5546 ext. 133.

"We offer quality environmental education giving people the knowledge to make educated choices in their lives," says aquarium manager Bridget Kubis. "The Exploration Center is a place where the community can not only learn about but get involved in local issues and opportunities that protect our Bay. I am really excited about what we have to offer down here—it's going to be awesome!"

So what are you waiting for? Get up from your beach chair, grab a life preserver and check out this tide pool full of fun with Bay Center. And if you're a new Bay member, you get in FREE for our inaugural summer (you must have your membership card with you). If you're not a member, don't fret. Turn to page 8 or go to www.savethebay.org. The Center is open daily (Thursday, Memorial Day (May 25) through Labor Day (September 4)). General admission is \$5 for children under 13 and \$10 for adults.



The next step is to find the location of the Center. For directions and parking information, go to www.savethebay.org.

We extend our thanks to the following donors: Christine from the Brown University Trust and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for their kind support of the Save The Bay Exploration Center.



Save The Bay's Summer 2006 Newsletter

Under Save The Bay's management, the center became home to over 150 species of animals retrieved exclusively from Narragansett Bay by hand, seine boat or local fishermen. The featured exhibits had a local focus, such as "Narragansett Bay at Night," which showed interesting bioluminescent species, and a climate change tank. "We wanted to be less ocean-

Norman Bird Sanctuary and Rhode Island Lighthouse Foundation. The center was deemed an immediate success, and it was clear that updates would be necessary to stay open as the seasons changed. Save The Bay applied for and received a grant to install a heating system, enabling educators to utilize the center for year-round programming and serve

programming, providing a classroom space for students to learn about the species and its habitat in addition to the on-vessel, Bay-tour experience. Winter programming, partnerships with local schools, and open hours during school vacations led more than 7,500 guests to the Exploration Center and Aquarium in its second year.



focused and more about our Bay, our changing Bay, and looking at it through the lens of climate change," said Bridget.

In its inaugural summer of 2006, the Exploration Center and Aquarium saw 6,300 summer guests, aided in part by a membership swap with three local nonprofits: the Audubon Society,

as an educational hub for school groups on Aquidneck Island. In 2007, educators provided science curriculum for the entire freshman class of the Public Street Campus of the MET School.

Expanded winter hours at the Exploration Center and Aquarium added depth and quality to Save The Bay's winter seal

ABOVE: A school group handles local species in the Rocky Shore touch tank with the guidance of Save The Bay educators.

While the popularity of the Exploration Center and Aquarium has continued to grow each year, it has faced some significant challenges since inception. The cutting of federal earmark funding in 2010 forced its team to rethink how they would operate on a leaner budget, and led them to rely more heavily on volunteers. Location has also posed somewhat of a challenge; the center sits along a highly dynamic action zone on Easton's Beach. Hurricane Sandy caused major damage in 2012, bringing a foot of sand and various debris into the building. The aquarium closed for nine months as community members and volunteers joined forces to return the space to sound condition and renovate with storm preparation in mind.

The Exploration Center and Aquarium continues to be a staple of Save The Bay's education programming on Aquidneck Island. Today, our collection is 100 percent locally sourced, with most species visiting us temporarily before we release them back into the wild, stronger, larger, and more resilient than when they arrived.

Present-day Exploration Center manager, Adam Kovarsky, has developed an ongoing aquaculture program where Save The Bay breeds skates and chain catsharks right in the center.



Thanks to grant funding, a new, accessible, shark-and-skate touch tank entitled "Sharks and Skates of Narragansett Bay" was installed in early 2020. The new front-of-house exhibit—part of a larger Shark and Skate Conservation Education Initiative made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust—houses adult and juvenile dogfish sharks, catsharks and skates. Through the initiative, Save The Bay's aquarists and educators will connect visitors to the wonders of sharks and

An Aquarium Like No Other...

The Exploration Center and Aquarium is a unique, hands-on center for learning—but that's not the only thing that sets this Newport destination apart! Just take a look at some of the practices Save The Bay implements to make our aquarium one-of-a-kind!

Our collection of animals is 100 percent locally-sourced.

Even though we are a relatively small aquarium, we house hundreds of ani-

mals, and every animal in our exhibits was found in Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island waters.

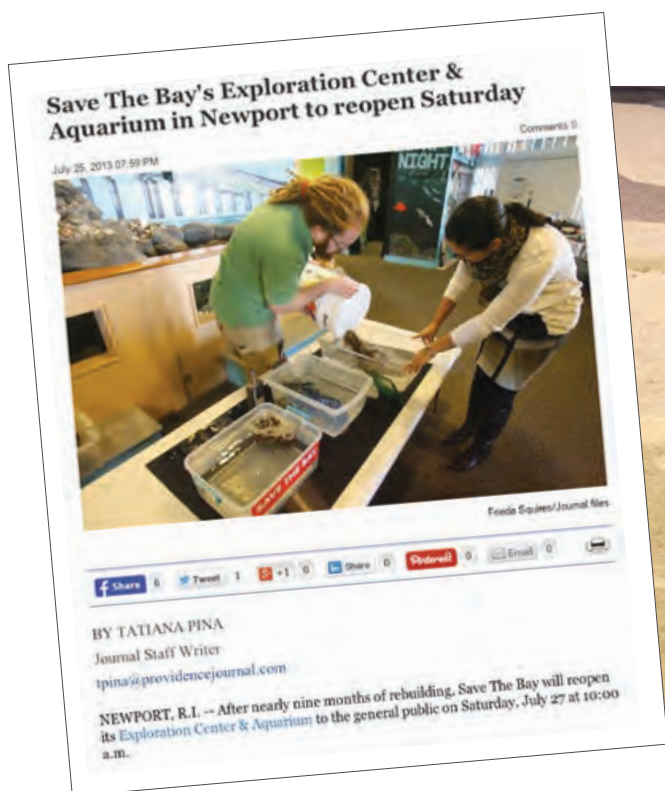
The animals at the Exploration Center and Aquarium only visit us temporarily.

The young or vulnerable native wildlife that take up residence at the aquarium are cared for by Save The Bay staff for up to a year before being released back into the wild, stronger, larger and

more resilient than when they arrived. (The center does, however, provide a permanent home to any animals that are unlikely, or unable, to survive in the wild.)

The center seeks to have a positive impact on wildlife populations.

As part of our ongoing aquaculture program, and in coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Save The Bay



skates and their important role in local and global marine ecosystems.

As we reflect on Save The Bay's 50 years, the team is excited to welcome the community into the ever-changing Exploration Center and Aquarium, a space that serves as more than just an educational facility, but as a nucleus for our restoration and advocacy work, too. Every revenue dollar earned through the center directly supports



our mission of supporting the Bay and its watershed — and it's a whole lot of fun. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE: Damage to Easton's Beach and inside the Exploration Center from Hurricane Sandy. ABOVE: The first skate residents make themselves at home in the Exploration Center and Aquarium's new Shark and Skate tank, installed in early 2020. LEFT AND BELOW: Aquarium staff lead visitors in hands-on experiences.



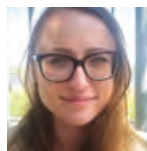
breeds little skates and chain catsharks right in our own tanks.

All proceeds support Save The Bay's mission.

Every dollar of admission fees goes back to Save The Bay to support our education, advocacy and habitat adaptation efforts.

WHO SAVES THE BAY? STAFF PROFILE

Meet Save The Bay's Education Director, Bridget Prescott



BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

Bridget Prescott has been with Save The Bay's education program since 2002. Over the course of her 18 years with the organization, she understands better than most what it takes to foster the next generation of Bay stewards.

How did you come to be Save The Bay's director of education?

My first experience with Save The Bay was when I volunteered for horseshoe crab monitoring in college. I became a full-time educator in 2002, then the Exploration Center manager in 2005, when Save The Bay took over the management of the aquarium. In 2007, I was promoted to director of education.

What do you do as Save The Bay's director of education?

I make sure that we're achieving our goal of fostering the future stewards of Narragansett Bay. I oversee full-time and seasonal staff members, our Exploration Center and Aquarium in Newport, and our fleet of education vessels. Our team works with over 50,000 people annually, and it's my job to ensure that everyone who participates in our programs leaves with a stronger connection to both Narragansett Bay and Save The Bay.

How has your work changed over the years?

The education program has really evolved since I've been here. We've grown in size and scope, but I think the most important change was when we made the strategic decision to focus on the depth of our programs, rather than the breadth of them. We began developing high-impact programming, and now partner closely with school teachers to make sure our programs are an extension of the classroom experience.

What's the secret to our education department's success?

A passionate, dedicated staff of educators who are constantly challenging themselves to be their best. We aren't stagnant or averse to change. We want to be a resource to our teachers and our students, and we know it's our job to work with them by making our programming an extension of their classroom.

What's your biggest concern for the future of Narragansett Bay?

I worry about kids not having enough opportunities to go outside and enjoy nature. If you don't experience nature and the Bay, then you won't feel the need to protect it. There are a lot of distractions in today's world, and there just isn't enough value attributed to incorporating the outdoors into our daily lives.

What's your biggest hope for the future of Save The Bay's education program?

I'd love for every student in the watershed to have at least one on-the-Bay experience every school year. (But I'd settle for at least one experience in elementary, middle and high school.) ■



Bridget Prescott, Save The Bay's director of education, enjoying Narragansett Bay with her children and the family dog.



Save The Bay Action Updates

Restoration

- **Returning a Cranberry Bog to a Freshwater Wetland:** Riverkeeper Kate McPherson conducted an assessment of the plants recolonizing the Mill Brook Bogs Wildlife Management Area. The assessment will help determine how well the site's freshwater wetland habitat—a former cranberry farm, now owned by the Mass. Department of Fish and Game and managed by the MassWildlife Southeast District—is responding to restoration efforts.
- **Salt Marsh Adaptation:** Working with partners at the R.I. Department of Environmental Management, Westerly Land Trust and Audubon Society of Rhode Island, as well as with students from the Greene School, Save The Bay continues to make progress on habitat adaptation projects at Winnapaug and Ninigret ponds, as well as Quonnie Salt Marsh. Our ongoing work at these sites includes improving drainage and identifying areas for the drowning marshes to move inland.
- **Coastal Adaptation Collaboration:** Save The Bay worked with Providence, Barrington, Bristol, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Newport, Narragansett, North Kingstown and Warwick to identify coastal adaptation projects for funding via a federal grant distributed by CRMC. The pilot projects will allow the communities to address infrastructure that is vulnerable to coastal flooding and erosion, while maintaining public access and helping habitats adapt to sea level rise.

Advocacy

- **Transparency in Enforcement:** To ensure the laws protecting Narragansett Bay are being properly enforced, Save The Bay filed a request for records pertaining to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's enforcement activities. When the DEM partially denied our request, we filed a complaint with the R.I. Attorney General alleging DEM violations of the Access to Public Records Act. We await the Attorney General's decision.
- **Coastal Resources Management Council:** Save The Bay submitted extensive comments on both substantive changes to the Coastal Resources Management Program and procedural changes to the Council's Management Procedures. The resulting regulatory changes will provide additional clarity in the program and more transparency in the agency decision-making process.
- **Providence River Dredging:** In response to Save The Bay's concerns that a plan to dump contaminated dredged materials would violate the law and pollute the Providence River, the state and the City of Providence scaled back the project to avoid soils that had not been adequately characterized for pollutants.

Education

- **New Shark and Skate Touch Tank:** The Exploration Center and Aquarium closed this winter for the installation of a new, accessible, shark and skate touch tank. The new exhibit—part of a larger education initiative made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust—will house adult and juvenile dogfish sharks, catsharks and skates.

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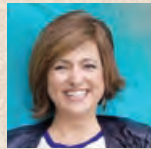
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Inspiring Bay Champions

The History of Save The Bay's Explore The Bay Program



BY CINDY M. SABATO, APR,
SPECIAL PROJECTS CONSULTANT

The year was 1984 when Lisa Pritchard asked Warwick's Randall Holden School fourth graders, "How long does it take for a bottle to reach Newport Harbor from the Providence River by water, if it takes 60 minutes to drive there by car?" The students shouted out their guesses:

"Three days!"

"Forty-five minutes!"

"One hundred days!"

In fact, Pritchard told the students, "if we dump our pollution in the Providence River, it will stay in our Bay for at least 50 days before the tide washes it out to sea." During 45-minute visits to two schools per week all over Rhode Island that year, Save The Bay's first school program director taught about the positive and negative ways people use and affect Narragansett Bay. These were the seeds for Save The Bay's award-winning environmental education program, Explore The Bay.

Fifteen years into Save The Bay's successful advocacy to clean up Narragansett Bay, we began to ponder who would carry the torch into future generations, beyond the organization's founding visionaries?

Former board member Chris Powell remembers seeing an ad in the Washington Post for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "It showed a child looking at a fish in a fish tank. The headline read: 'This is the first fish he has ever seen that wasn't in a stick.' It was powerful." Powell and others at Save The Bay knew that many Rhode Island children were not unlike the youngster in the ad—living just a few miles from Narragansett Bay and never knowing it was there.

Save The Bay formally launched "Explore The Bay" in 1987 as a hands-on, Bay-based marine science program, led by Groton-based Project Oceanology aboard their 50-foot research vessel Enviro-Lab. "Once these kids get a chance to see what Narragansett Bay is like from out on the water, we know the Bay will have some friends forever," Trudy Cox, Save The Bay's executive director, said at the time.

Nearly 900 children from 39 schools participated. Twice a day for two weeks, Enviro-Lab left its slip at Apponaug Harbor Marina and steamed out into Greenwich Cove with young oceanographers aboard. They tested water temperature, salinity, and density and trawled for plankton and

fish. One morning, a fifth-grade class from Potter Burns School untangled 16 beer cans from the seaweed. Another day, Thompson Junior High sixth graders hauled in plastic bags and a three-foot sheet of plastic, leading to an impromptu lesson on the dangers of plastics to marine life.

Sandra Ryack-Bell, Save The Bay's school program coordinator after Pritchard, prepared pre-cruise manuals for the classroom teachers and visited every class after their cruise to discuss issues facing the Bay. "These youngsters are the ones who will be making decisions about the Bay in the future. It's important for them to begin to understand now why the Bay is such a valuable resource," she said.

Save The Bay has been inspiring the next generation of Bay stewards ever since.



Photo by Lisa Pritchard
Who says learning about Narragansett Bay is dull? These fifth and sixth graders at the Randall Holden School in Warwick are certainly having fun.

Save The Bay's
May/June 1984
Newsletter

Save The Bay's Nov/Dec 1987 Newsletter

Young Eyes Are Opened While Exploring The Bay

"Can you eat it?" asked a third grader from Second Avenue School in Woonsocket as Brian Beckus, instructor aboard the Enviro-Lab, held up a window pane flounder. "Why does its skin feel so slimy?" inquired another student.

These students, along with 20 of their classmates and 22 students from the William R. Waters School in Rumford were standing on the deck of the Enviro-Lab, a 50 ft. model research vessel owned and operated by Project Oceanology of Connecticut. As part of Save the Bay's new on-the-water education program, "Explore the Bay," the Enviro-Lab spent two weeks this fall on Narragansett Bay introducing selected third through sixth grade students to the wonders beneath the Bay's waters and the condition of Rhode Island's most valuable natural resource. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students," commented Barbara Very of Second Avenue School, "most of my students have never been out on Narragansett Bay before. For many, this is the first time they've even seen the Bay."

Twice a day from October 26 through November 6, the Enviro-Lab left its slip at Apponaug Harbor Marina and steamed out into Greenwich Cove with forty young oceanographers aboard. For 2 and a half hours, students took temperature, salinity and density readings; measured the dissolved oxygen and pH of the water; took core samples; and determined the water quality of Greenwich Bay using a variety of scientific instruments. In the stern of the vessel, other students using an otter trawl and plankton net, sampled the life hidden below the water's surface.

The living treasures of flounder, fluke, skate, spider crabs, slipper shells, sea stars, blue crabs and sponges brought up each day taught valuable lessons. One morning sixteen beer cans were pulled out of the seaweed as a group of fifth graders from the Pawtucket's Potter Burns School sorted their catch.

"Look at all the slipper shells living on these cans," commented Shannon Kelley, an Enviro-Lab instructor. "Do you think this makes it okay to throw things into the Bay?"

"No, it's still pollution!" responded the 21 fifth graders. A low on one trip by the sixth graders at Thompson Junior High in Newport revealed several plastic bags and a 3 foot sheet of plastic, and a lesson on the hazards of plastics to marine life. One class even turned up an antique, coke bottle, still filled with the original, classic Coca Cola.

For each teacher participating in an Explore the Bay cruise, Save the Bay developed a Pre-Cruise Manual. Teachers spent two to three weeks preparing their students for the on-the-water class. Following the cruise, Save The Bay's education director, Sandra Ryack-Bell, will be visiting each classroom to review the data and discuss issues facing the Bay today.

"The purpose of the program is to foster an appreciation of the Bay in these youngsters," says Ryack-Bell. "They are the ones who will be making management decisions about the Bay in the future. It's important for them to begin to understand now why the Bay is such a

valuable resource to all Rhode Islanders. They need to realize we all have an impact on the Bay's future."

Almost one thousand students from 39 public, parochial and private schools from throughout Rhode Island participated in the Explore the Bay pilot program, representing 26 of the state's communities. Last spring, Save the Bay sent applications to all elementary school principals in Rhode Island. One hundred and twenty-five applications were returned; from these applications forty schools were selected to participate in this year's pilot program. Classes were chosen to represent the diverse regions, teaching the Rhode Island educational system to enable Save the Bay to assess the impact of the experience in a diverse population. Save the Bay will offer the program again next year, with plans to expand the program in future years, so that as many young Rhode Islanders as possible can gain a deep and lasting appreciation of Narragansett Bay.



MOST POPULAR ATTRACTION on every trip was the well, where marine life brought up with the boat's trawling net was deposited for "hands-on" inspection. Photos by Gene Monteiro.



ABOARD THE ENVIRO-LAB, instructors used a variety of sampling and measuring devices to allow the nearly 1,000 schoolchildren, who took part to see how clean the Bay really is, and showed them on nautical charts just where they were on Narragansett Bay. (Above)

Explore the Bay Cruises into Massachusetts

On-The-Water Education Program Expands into Fall River

FOR THE FIRST TIME, SAVE THE Bay's award-winning Explore the Bay program took approximately 100 fall River students out on Mount Hope Bay. Fifth and sixth

grade students from the Henry Land Middle School participated in four cruises on October 13-16. The cruises were featured on the front page of The Herald News of Fall River on October 16.

The expansion of the Explore the Bay program complements Save The Bay's ongoing Storm-Drain Painting Program in community and cultural groups throughout Fall River. Save The Bay is also directly involved in the work to reduce pollution in Mount Hope Bay generated by Fall River's Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

Save The Bay is interested in conducting more Explore the Bay cruises for Massachusetts and Rhode Island students, but budget constraints limit availability. Save The Bay is currently looking for interested individuals and groups to serve as financial sponsors for Explore the Bay. To help with this effort please call Save The Bay at 801-222-3540.

Explore the Bay's third on-the-water cruise took place in Massachusetts on October 13-16.



YECCH! A less than enthusiastic greeting is given to a sea robin displayed by Save the Bay board member Chris Powell during a trip aboard "Enviro-Lab." Over 800 R.I. schoolchildren in grades 3-6 will be given a hands-on classroom experience on Narragansett Bay through Save the Bay's "Explore the Bay" program this fall. The teachers from the 39 participating schools were given a preliminary cruise in August to see what they would go through with their students.

Generations of Bay stewards have been inspired by Save The Bay's educational programming. A dive into our archives revealed dozens of stories, like the ones featured here, highlighting the impact of a hands-on learning experience.

Save The Bay's
Nov/Dec 1987
Newsletter

In the years that followed, with boats borrowed and leased, Explore The Bay evolved and expanded during a period of growth and experimentation. We tried family cruises and summer camps; workplace programs and teacher workshops; shoreline, canoe and classroom-based programs; and more. In 2000, Save The Bay set sights on providing Bay experiences “to every student in the Bay watershed at least once during their K-12 school career,” said then-board member Kate Kilguss, who co-led the \$10 million capital campaign that set afloat Explore The Bay as we know it today.

At Fields Point on the Providence River, we restored an old landfill to build the environmentally-friendly Save The Bay Education Center, with two indoor classrooms and a plankton lab, boat launch, and outdoor classrooms on the lawn and along the shore. We christened our first education vessel, *Alletta Morris*, and then its sister vessel, *Elizabeth Morris*. We opened the Exploration Center and Aquarium in Newport, and last spring, added a public pier that also serves as a living classroom for our students.

Explore The Bay Schools

City	School
Middletown	The New School Aquidneck School
Ashaway	Ashaway Elementary School
Westerly	St. Pius X School
Jamestown	Jamestown School
Bristol	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Narragansett	Narragansett Elementary
East Providence	Gordon School Sacred Heart School
North Kingstown	Forest Park School
Newport	Thompson Jr. High Hazard Elementary Hope Valley School
Wakefield	Reservoir Avenue School
Hope Valley	Wheeler School
Providence	Nathan Bishop Midd. School St. Paul's Christian Day Mary E. Fogarty School Robert F. Kennedy School
Exeter	Wawiloon School
North Providence	James L. McGuire School
Greenville	St. Aloysius School
Weymouth	Richmond Elementary
Coaston	George J. Peters School Daniel D. Waterman School Norwood Avenue School Oak Lawn School
Harrisville	William F. Callahan Elem.
North Smithfield	Halliwel School
Slater'sville	Kendall-Dean School
Riverside (F. Providence)	William R. Waters School
Conventry	Tiogus School
North Scituate	Fogarty Memorial School
Barrington	St. Luke School
Rumford	Union Elementary
Woonsocket	Second Avenue School
Warwick	Hoxsie Elem. School

In 2019, Explore The Bay offered 975 school programs covering topics from habitats and marine life to watershed and seawater science; two-thirds of them were in Rhode Island's urban core communities of Providence, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, West Warwick and Newport. Of the 15,931 students who visited us during the school year, 7,884 of them spent, on average, 14 hours with us over multiple visits.

Bridget Prescott has been at the helm of Explore The Bay since 2007, after joining the education team in 2002 and becoming aquarium manager in 2006. “That was all an exciting time, because we had this whole new exploration center and I could really see us evolving our program into experiences with a great deal more depth,” she said.

Prescott made Explore The Bay invaluable to schools and districts by listening to educators. “We were hearing that teachers wanted something hands-on that would give kids a sense of place, community, and make a difference. We’ve been able to connect schools and students with our habitat restoration efforts—eelgrass, salt marsh nurseries, storm drain markings, beachgrass planting—all of that has really taken off,” she said.

Explore The Bay has also become well-respected for what Prescott calls “high impact programming.” Whereas once our goal was to serve as many students



TOP TO BOTTOM: From our July/August 1987 newsletter, a list of the first 39 schools that participated in the official Explore The Bay program; the Spring 1996 newsletter announces the launch of BayCamp; and a first grader explores the rocky shoreline at our Fields Point education center.

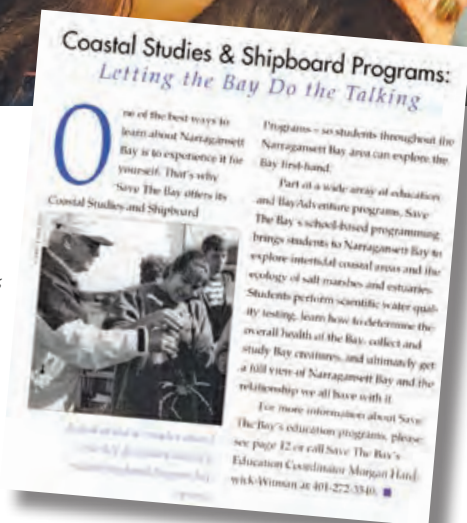


as possible, now we offer the most in-depth programs we can. "We work with teachers to integrate our lessons with theirs throughout the school year. Central Falls, Woonsocket, Chariho and 360 high schools, for example, have been engaged with our Narragansett Bay Field Studies program for many years," Prescott said.

"We have also worked very closely with teachers to become an extension of the classroom, not just an add-on." Every single Explore The Bay program is aligned with state standards and gives teachers in-class materials that supplement and reinforce the experiences their students get on the water. "Many districts have integrated our program into their grade-level science curricula, including Warwick and Providence fourth grades, Newport first and fifth grades, the entire Lincoln Lower School. That is impressive for a program that's a choice, not a requirement," Prescott said.

Going forward, Prescott hopes to expand further into Massachusetts, where most of the Narragansett Bay watershed lies, and to integrate environmental education at a more systemic level. "Ideally, at all districts, every student within the watershed would experience Narragansett Bay with us. There are so many ways we can be teaching about the Bay, and I am always excited by opportunities to grow." ■

*Save The Bay's
Summer 1998
Newsletter*



TOP: Students from Sowams Elementary school get a hands-on introduction to Narragansett Bay's marine life during a school program at the Exploration Center and Aquarium in Newport. RIGHT: Students from 360 High School have a similar experience during their Narragansett Bay Field Studies program in Providence.



ADVOCACY

Putting Eyes and Ears On the Water

A HISTORY OF WATERKEEPING IN NARRAGANSETT BAY AND ITS WATERSHED



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Save The Bay's Narragansett BayKeeper Is Coming, read a headline in the Spring 1993 Bay Bulletin. For 23 years, Save The Bay had made major steps in turning the tide on pollution as a political advocacy powerhouse and educational pillar in the community, with an established presence at the Rhode Island State House, in classrooms and on the street. But challenges were evolving, and new strategies had to be implemented.

We decided to institute a Narragansett Baykeeper: a dynamic, on-the-water-presence dedicated to defending the environmental integrity of Narragansett Bay and its tributaries. Save The Bay simply needed to acquire a specially-equipped boat, computer hardware and software for documenting and mapping, a 1-800 hotline for public reporting, and staff. Easy enough, right?

Halfway to a \$470,000 fundraising goal and with the loan of a Boston Whaler and outboard engine, our first Baykeeper, Maria Libby, took to the water in 1993. At the time, illegal discharge pipes emptied untreated sewage into the Bay, construction work on local bridges impacted Bay and human health, ships illegally dumped pollution into the Bay, unauthorized shoreline development destroyed fragile ecosystems, and failing septic systems poisoned shellfish beds. The Baykeeper had her work cut out for her.

Role as Watchdog

Save The Bay's Baykeeper serves as the eyes and ears of Narragansett Bay. Whether on the water or along the shore, the Baykeeper works to

observe, document and report any environmentally harmful activity and serves as a deterrent to irresponsible action.

The Baykeeper's "watchdog" role routinely involves reviewing development proposals and ensuring that the rules and regulations that protect Narragansett Bay are maintained and enforced.

Docked at the Bay Center in Providence, the Baykeeper's vessel allows our Baykeeper to actively patrol Narragansett Bay's every corner. You can routinely find our Baykeeper in the Upper Bay, an area that suffers from a legacy of industrial pollution. While some problems are resolved quickly, many require years of persistent advocacy. For more than ten years, through the mid-2000s, former Baykeeper Tom Kutcher and current Baykeeper Mike Jarbeau each spent significant time monitoring and publicizing ongoing violations at Rhode Island Recycled Metals and other operations along Providence's industrial waterfront. In these cases, our Waterkeepers pursue the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Protection Agency and United States Coast Guard to enforce the Clean Water Act and inform the press of the pollution.

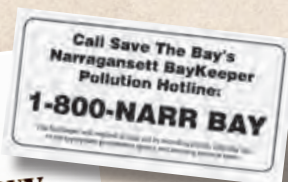
Over the years, DEM enforcement capacity has been reduced due to staff and budget restrictions. But Save The Bay has increased our monitoring activities. Recently, in 2017, Baykeeper Jarbeau spotted, reported and helped the DEM respond to an oil spill near Stillhouse Cove in Cranston. The Baykeeper's physical presence on the water resulted in the identification of a spill that would have otherwise gone undetected, and led the correct agency to the site for cleanup.

Incident Response

While active patrol is a primary Baykeeper responsibility, our Bay watershed is huge, making it impossible to be in all places at all times. Implemented in 1994, the 1-800-NARRBAY hotline has allowed community members to report pollution, illegal dumping, and spills of oil or hazardous materials in Narragansett Bay. Responding to hotline tips, our Baykeeper has often been the first onscene to investigate such incidents.



1ST BAYKEEPER MARIA LIBBY WITH
TOPHER HAMBLETT, 1993



The Providence Journal May 1993 Save the Bay gets its own navy

■ Its BayKeeper program is bolstered after efforts on the Western River, San Francisco Bay, Long Island Sound and New York Harbor.

PROVIDENCE — Save the Bay, after 23 years of fighting for Narragansett Bay, plans soon to take its campaign out onto the bay itself. This summer the environmental group will launch a specially equipped boat and crew that will search for polluters, monitor water quality conditions and educate people about activities harmful to the environment.

The boat will be the most visible part of a "BayKeeper" program announced by Save the Bay officials yesterday at Shore's Western Cafe.

"Now more than ever, there is a need for an on-the-water presence dedicated to defending Narragansett

Bay and protecting the public's rights to clean and healthy water," said executive director Curt Spaulding. "This will be a new set of eyes and ears looking after the bay," he said.

The BayKeeper program is bolstered after similar efforts on the Western River, San Francisco Bay, Long Island Sound and New York Harbor.

Save the Bay is launching its BayKeeper with a 22-foot boat loaned by the Boston Whaler company and a 225-horsepower outboard engine loaned by Outboard Marine Corp.

Some of the group's current staff members will man the boat seven days a week. Equipment and dock space have been provided by Tremble Salvage of Middletown, Carlisle's Marina of Warwick, Old Harbor Marina of Providence, Captain Marina of Johnston, Joan and Richard Abrams of Bristol, WSHR of East Providence, West Marine of Johnston, Teas One Newport, South

Coast Optic North America Ltd., Atlantic Sailor of Newport, Applied Science Associates of Narragansett and E & D Marine of Providence.

Save the Bay has launched a \$470,000, three-year fundraising drive to buy its own boat, to establish a citizen's hotline for those who find a problem on the bay, to set up a computerized system to map toxic spills on the bay and to start a legal program to enforce third-year law students in filing cases against polluters.

Spaulding said \$120,000 has been raised already. The contributions include \$50,000 from Prince Charles Trust, \$20,000 from the Providence Journal, Chesapeake Foundation, \$15,000 each from Sarah and Craig Macardson and Victory Fighting Technologies, \$10,000 from Narragansett Electric, \$6,500 from Randolph Ellis Carter and \$3,000 from Cyn Environmental Services of Stoughton, Mass.

In early 1995, concerned Tiverton residents called the Baykeeper to investigate a controversial parking area on Fogland Point Beach. Our third Baykeeper, John Torgan, who held the role for 18 years, investigated the site before testifying at Town Council hearings. The result: a new plan to protect the habitat. Later, in October 1995, a hotline call informed the Baykeeper that hundreds of sacks with chemical warning labels containing computer parts littered the Allens Avenue shoreline. Torgan's follow-up investigation led Save The Bay to alert the DEM and EPA, sparking a cleanup of the site.

But Save The Bay's response to the North Cape Oil Spill of 1996, the first major oil spill in the United States since the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 passed, propelled the Baykeeper role into what it is today. When the oil barge North Cape grounded on the rocks off Moonstone Beach, 828,000 gallons of heating oil spilled into 250 square miles of ocean, and spread into nearby estuaries and inlets. Baykeeper Torgan responded to the scene, and represented Save The Bay as the official volunteer coordinator for the cleanup effort.



While many state and federal agencies took on their respective duties during the spill, Save The Bay's office became an oil spill communications center, with staff training volunteers in wildlife rescue and damage assessment. Torgan appeared on local news broadcasts and appealed to the public for help, eliciting an overwhelming response of more than 5,000 volunteers. Our Baykeeper also conducted on-the-ground analysis of the incident, during which an estimated 12 million lobsters and 300 seabirds perished.

In the following months and years, Save The Bay participated in legal and legislative proceedings to protect Rhode Island's waters from future spills. Torgan represented the region's environmental groups on a new task force that recommended safety procedures for Coast Guard response to oil spills. Save The Bay was also written into the Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts Area Contingency Plan for future spills. The North Cape oil spill provided a perfect example of the critical and unique role that our Baykeeper could play in incident response, community organizing, and agency collaboration.

The Waterkeepers still rely heavily on tips from the community, which has allowed them to be on the scene of major historical incidents, including the 2000 Penn 460 Oil Spill and the 2003 fish kill in Greenwich Bay. Those community members who keep their eyes, ears, and noses poised for anything that might be a hazard are invaluable. And, when someone has an incident to report, and either doesn't know who to call or isn't getting traction at a state agency, Save The Bay uses our knowledge and resources to encourage a state or town to do right by their own environmental laws.

Introducing a Coastkeeper

In 2007, Save The Bay announced a South County satellite office opening in Westerly to serve as a hub for advocacy, restoration and education efforts from Narragansett to the Connecticut border. David Prescott, longtime Save The Bay educator, became Coastkeeper. The position replicated the Baykeeper model as an on-the-water presence who would work in the community to protect, restore and promote the stewardship of the region's waterways. In 2013, the satellite office became the South Coast Center, a place



TOP: The M/V Narragansett Baykeeper was a first-of-its-kind, environmentally-friendly powerboat. Longtime Baykeeper John Torgan at the scene of the North Cape Oil Spill (ABOVE), and skimming the Providence River in 1996 (LEFT).

where the public could touch, explore and learn about marine and freshwater species in Rhode Island.



Water Quality and Bay Health

Improving the water quality of the Bay has been a priority since the inception of our Waterkeeper program, with Keepers taking on various projects to monitor Bay health. In the nineties, Baykeeper Rick Wood partnered with DEM to launch the Narragansett Bay Marine Pump-Out and Giveaway program, aimed at raising awareness of the state's 30 marine pump-out facilities and encouraging their use to reduce Bay pollution. In 1997, Baykeeper Torgan supported Save The Bay's restoration team, who joined NOAA in an effort to restore eelgrass habitats that had been destroyed by the 1989 World Prodigy oil spill.

For 12 years, Coastkeeper Prescott has led an initiative to test water quality in the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay, collecting data on bacteria, nutrients and chlorophyll levels. He uses the results to directly advocate for septic system and treatment facility upgrades; further public

education on environmental harm caused by fertilizers and pesticides; continue enforcement of illegal waterfowl feeding and shellfish harvesting; and make improvements to stormwater outfalls. This useful data has also supported the enforcement of the Clean Water Act, and leveraged EPA funding for both Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Introducing a Riverkeeper

Save The Bay developed its most recent Waterkeeper program in 2016 to monitor Narragansett Bay's tributary watershed, including the Blackstone, Ten Mile, Runnins, Palmer, Kickemuit, Cole, Lee and Taunton rivers. Our first Riverkeeper, Rachel Calabro, defined the role by working with federal, state, and local partners on salt marsh restoration, dam removals, fish ladders and recreation projects, as well as with watershed councils to protect local rivers and streams. This important watershed encompasses over a million acres of wetlands, rivers, upland forests, towns, cities, roads and infrastructure, and supports nearly two million people.



Current Riverkeeper Kate McPherson reviews regulations that protect water quality and advocates for more rigorous, consistent and transparent enforcement of existing regulations. She assists communities and watershed groups in identifying and securing grants for restoration, adaptation and water quality improvement projects. The Riverkeeper promotes a greater understanding of watershed health and its impacts on Narragansett Bay.

Community Partnerships

Our Waterkeepers face unique challenges, as some of the Bay's most ecologically important and vital habitats exist along state borders. Sixty percent of our Bay watershed, which forms the foundation of the Narragansett Bay ecosystem, lies in Massachusetts. Save The Bay's Riverkeeper ensures that agencies in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts are enforcing their own environmental laws. However, she is often the first point-of-contact for incidents like vegetation cutting or filling in a wetland or stream because some towns in Massachusetts do not have a designated conservation agent.

Our Waterkeepers also build relationships with various stakeholders, including Save The Bay members, state agencies, other nonprofits and individual municipalities. When Rachel Calabro became Riverkeeper in 2016, she had been working as a member of the advocacy team for years, partnering with watershed communities, other nonprofits and local government bodies on notable victories like the 2009 Wild and Scenic River designation of the Taunton River, affording the river special protections to safeguard water quality, fish and animal communities and recreation resources.

Coastkeeper Prescott formed a strong partnership with the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association in 2009. Working together, they finally helped the Wood-Pawcatuck River get its own Wild and Scenic River designation in 2019 – the first river segment in Rhode Island to do so.

Save The Bay has been a vocal advocate for the designations of both these rivers, and serves on the Stewardship Council for each. Now that the rivers have this status, our Riverkeeper and Coastkeeper continue to work in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure long-term protection.

Our three Waterkeepers continue to patrol Narragansett Bay's vast watershed, monitoring water quality, responding to supporter concerns, and ensuring the enforcement of environmental regulations. While the tasks at hand are very much the same as when Save The Bay developed each respective Waterkeeper role, the challenges are always evolving. As a team, the Baykeeper, Coastkeeper and Riverkeeper have

ABOVE: Coastkeeper Dave Prescott examines the contents from a microplastics trawl. RIGHT: Riverkeeper Kate McPherson at Mill Brook Bog in Freetown, site of a cranberry bog restoration. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Baykeeper Mike Jarbeau tests water quality, and former Baykeeper Tom Kutcher spies evidence of a fish kill while patrolling.



been working together to trawl for and track the presence of microplastics, a relatively new threat, in our Bay.

Recently, social media has shown to be an effective medium for Save The Bay's Waterkeepers to keep the public informed of what they're up to, and you can follow each of them on Instagram and Twitter. Some things, however, don't change: our hotline is still open. If you'd like to report an incident to our Waterkeepers, you can dial the same number that a community member would have in the nineties: 1-800-NARRBAY. ■



The Waterkeeper Alliance: Our Partner in Clean Water

Established in 2000, the Waterkeeper Alliance is the largest and fastest-growing nonprofit solely focused on clean water. They preserve and protect water by connecting local Waterkeeper groups worldwide, and have a goal of fully drinkable, fishable, swimmable water everywhere. Save The Bay's own Baykeeper, Coastkeeper and Riverkeeper are all members of the Waterkeeper Alliance.

The original Save The Bay Baykeeper took to the water in 1993 as a dynamic, on-the-water presence, whose role was dedicated to defending the environmental integrity of Narragansett Bay. Our Baykeeper officially joined the Waterkeeper Alliance as the eighth designated Waterkeeper when the alliance was formed eight years later.

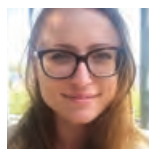
Our Waterkeepers must meet a set of quality standards to maintain our membership with the Waterkeeper Alliance. For example, each Waterkeeper must routinely patrol their respective waterways, and have a vessel that identifies them as a Keeper. Additionally, Save The Bay must have a physical office in the watershed and maintain a hotline for the public to report incidents of pollution: 1-800-NARR-BAY.

Our Baykeeper, Coastkeeper, and Riverkeeper join the Waterkeeper Alliance for training, to submit comments on federal legislation, and to attend regional summits. At the Global Waterkeeper Conference, Keepers network and discuss various topics related to water advocacy. Meanwhile, our Coastkeeper, Dave Prescott, serves as the North Atlantic Regional Representative for the Waterkeeper Council, and our program has a strong history that the Alliance can use as a model of success.

The Waterkeeper Alliance boasts 350 member groups in 46 countries around the world. Today's Waterkeepers help protect waterways from a broad range of threats, like pollution from failed or non-existent wastewater treatment systems or our waste from industrial processes, while also leading the global fight for strong environmental regulations. Learn more about the Waterkeeper Alliance at <https://waterkeeper.org>



WHO SAVES THE BAY? DONOR SPOTLIGHT



BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

The John and Daria Barry Foundation

50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN CAPACITY FUND DONORS

We sat down with Elizabeth Swanson and James Barry to learn more about their family's foundation, and why supporting Save The Bay's 50th Anniversary Campaign was high on their priority list.

The Barry family first fell in love with Rhode Island during a family vacation to Narragansett Beach. "My dad will tell anybody who will listen that Narragansett Beach has the best surfing on the entire East Coast," laughed Elizabeth Swanson, one of John and Daria Barry's five kids.

As a family of surfers and sailors, the Barrys' love for the coastlines of Southern New England runs deep. Both Elizabeth and her brother James joined the sailing team during their time at Brown University, where they regularly practiced in the northern stretches of Narragansett Bay.

A few years ago, the Barry family founded the John and Daria Barry Foundation, turning their relationship with local waters into a philanthropic endeavor. Having supported organizations like Save The Sound in Connecticut for years, they soon contacted Save The Bay as they expanded their support for the promotion of clean water, as well as environmental education and awareness.

"If people are not aware that a problem exists, then they are not aware of the role they can play in addressing it," explained Elizabeth. "Which is why education is so important; education for younger generations and education for ourselves. The waters in the Bay may look clean, but that does not mean there are not problems under the surface that need our attention."

"We believe that local activism and involvement is a great tool in shaping change—and that kind of activity ties back into education," confirmed James. "We hope that by supporting Save The Bay's 50th Anniversary Campaign and Capacity Fund, we are also encouraging more people to get involved."

"It's important to all of us at the foundation that we take a long-term approach to addressing the issues facing our environment today," James continued. "We do not want to just support changes and improvements for the next five years—we want to support for the next 50 years and beyond."

And, planning for the future, we are! With support from the John and Daria Barry Foundation, Save The Bay is expanding its capacity to connect students, and the public, with on-the-water experiences aboard a new education marine vessel that will be joining the Save The Bay fleet in 2021. Our new vessel will help us connect upwards of 5,000 students a year with on-the-water experiences, connect the public to volunteer opportunities throughout the Bay, and support our critical work of educating and inspiring Bay stewardship. ■



A peek into a Barry family photo album reveals that their connection to our regional coastlines was decades in the making.

DEVELOPMENT

Our 50th Anniversary Campaign

The Capacity Investment Fund

BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

With 50 years' experience protecting and improving Narragansett Bay, Save The Bay has been afforded a unique opportunity to explore and understand the shifting landscape of environmentalism—and what we need to do as an organization to continue to meet a world of evolving challenges.

Over the course of our five decades, we have seen environmental perils take on a variety of forms. In our early years, the threats to our Bay were almost straightforward, presenting themselves in the highly-visible forms of sewage and industrial waste, and poorly-conceived industrial proposals. Today, the challenges are more complex, requiring us to bring increased resources to bear to ensure continued progress in the face of emerging pollutants and progressively intricate policies.

Because of this complexity, having the right team in place—a team with experience, expertise, and commitment to the cause—is crucial. Equally important

is having sufficient financial resources to support the new strategies and programs that will allow us to adapt to shifting environmental battlegrounds.

And yet, fiscal constraints and the short time horizon of annual operating budgets have limited our ability to invest in initiatives that are critical to long-term success. So, when we began identifying the goals of our 50th Anniversary campaign, we established a Capacity Investment Fund.

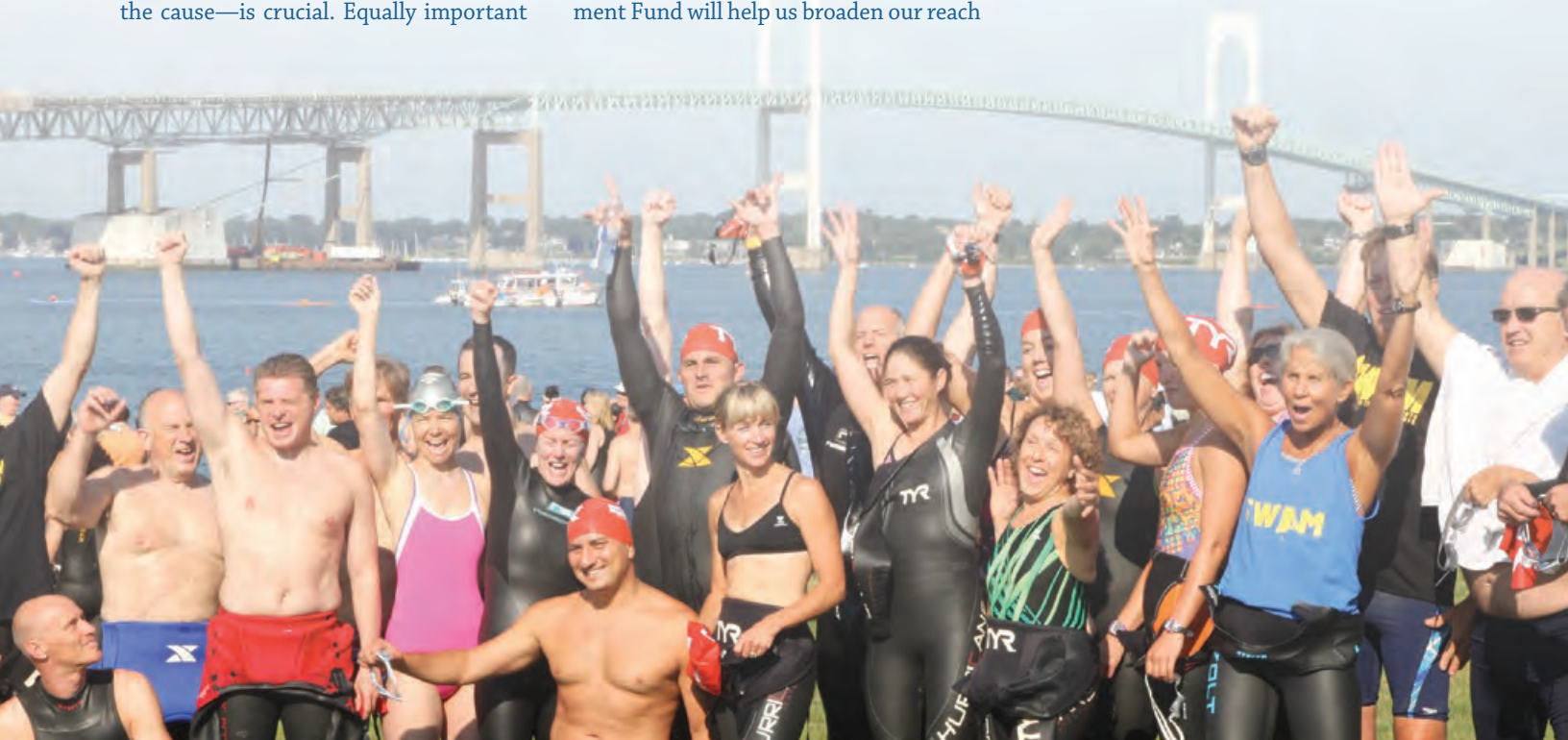
The Capacity Investment Fund will provide supplemental funding for special investment initiatives that strengthen organizational capacity but fall outside normal operating activities. With the fund, we will be equipped to support strategic communications; educational training and content development; development capacity; compensation and benefits; and, of course, new ventures.

Supporters of the Capacity Investment Fund will help us broaden our reach



to new audiences; enrich our educators' skills and programs; grow membership and strengthen donor relationships; attract and retain an extraordinary team; and underwrite investments into new revenue-generating services, products and events.

As Save The Bay prepares to march into a new half-century, we look forward to reaching the Capacity Investment Fund's \$2-million goal. After all, in order to carry the legacy of those who brought us this far, our strength must be commensurate with our passion for protecting and improving Narragansett Bay. ■



A New Way to Cross the Bay

Announcing our Newest Education Vessel



BY BRIDGET PRESCOTT, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND ERIC PFIRRMANN, CAPTAIN AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST

With support from the John and Daria Barry Foundation and the Capacity Investment Fund, Save The Bay is excited to announce that we are preparing to welcome a brand-new member to our fleet of education vessels!

A new catamaran hull landing craft vessel will be constructed according to a design by Response Marine, in nearby Newburyport, Massachusetts. The design was originally commissioned by the Uni-

The new craft—name to be determined—resolves all of these issues. Sufficient cover will allow Save The Bay to conduct programs in all but the coldest months; a capacity of 25 passengers will allow entire school classes and camp groups on-board; and the landing craft design and increased speed will expand programming options, allowing for visits to sites that have been difficult to reach and dock at, like Rocky Point in Warwick, and Colt State Park in Bristol.

The vessel will also benefit our habitat adaptation and volunteer efforts. The deck layout allows for the transportation and unloading of the excavators used in salt marsh adaptation projects, and the ability to pull up on-shore will make remote beaches and Bay islands accessible for volunteer cleanup efforts.

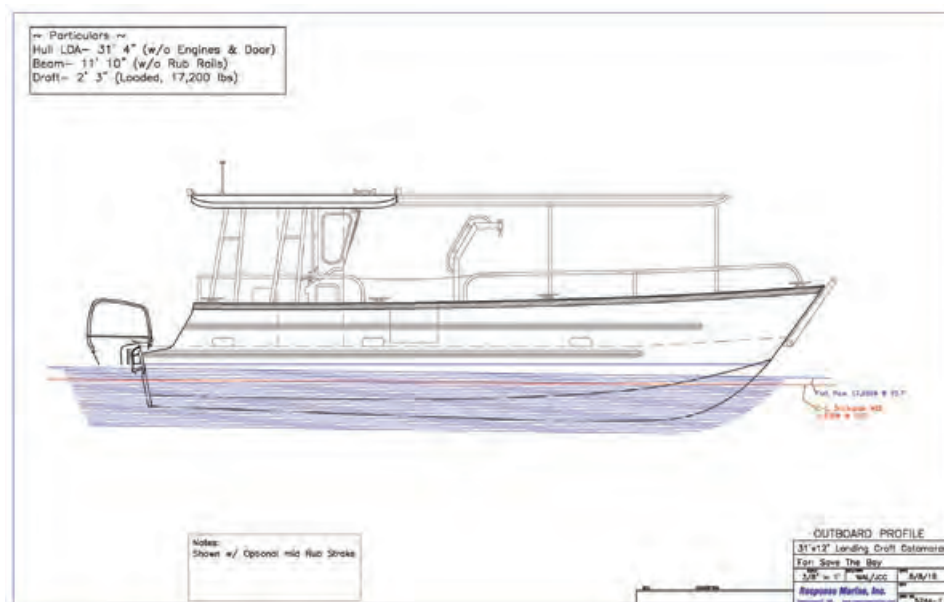
The \$270,000 project will come to full fruition in just over a year's time, pending United States Coast Guard approval, and then construction by Viking Welding in Kensington, New Hampshire. Keep your eye out for the new vessel summer 2021! ■



versity of New England as a research craft and, with some minor changes to its deck layout, will be the perfect replacement for the current education vessel, M/V *Swift*.

We acquired M/V *Swift* in 2005 and, during her 15-year tenure, she's served us well. She has carried thousands of students on 30-minute classroom, afterschool and BayCamp trips. However, as our educational programs and services have grown, we've discovered some of the good old girl's limitations.

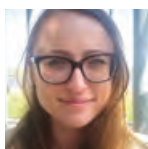
M/V *Swift*'s lack of cover leaves passengers with little protection from the sun and elements; an 18-person capacity limit, per United States Coast Guard regulations, limits our ability to truly grow our shipboard programs; and a lack of a marine head makes day-long trips impossible.



TOP TO BOTTOM: The University of New England's research vessel served as the inspiration and foundation for the above blueprint of Save The Bay's future catamaran hull landing craft vessel.

Meet Jessi Sullivan

EXPLORE THE BAY
PROGRAM PARTICIPANT,
EXPLORATION CENTER
INTERN AND VOLUNTEER



BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

Save The Bay intern, volunteer and part-time aquarist, discusses working at the Exploration Center and Aquarium, early connections to environmental issues, and a deep love for a certain snapping turtle.

When did you first become acquainted with Narragansett Bay?

I was born and raised in Middletown, Rhode Island, so I've been acquainted with the Bay since I was a baby. Growing up, my familiarity was limited to First, Second and Third beaches. Some of my favorite memories involve going to Second Beach with friends and family—I especially remember going to the beach with my grandma, because she was always so tan from the sun!

How did you first hear about Save The Bay?

I have some early memories of visiting the aquarium as a student at Gaudet Middle School. I vividly remember meeting Adam during that trip, and being fascinated by a tall tank of fish I thought looked like dragons. (I now know that they are called sea robins—and we still have an exhibit of them at the Exploration Center and Aquarium!)

When did you first become involved with Save The Bay?

I first became involved with Save The Bay in 2016, during my last year at the University of Rhode Island. I participated in the Education and Aquarist Internship, and enjoyed being at the aquarium so much that I continued volunteering after my internship was over until I became a part-time aquarist.

What did you enjoy about volunteering at the Exploration Center and Aquarium?

While the obvious answer is the animals, I also loved the people I worked with. My fellow interns and my supervisors were (and are) so wonderful. It didn't feel like a job working with them. But I also fell in love with one animal in particular: Bowser, our common snapping turtle!

What is your favorite part about working with Save The Bay?

Bowser, the aquarium's resident snapping turtle! When I first started, Bowser was just seven pounds, in a 125-gallon tank. Today, he weighs 13 pounds and has just moved into a brand new 600-gallon tank. Nothing puts a bigger smile on my face than seeing Bowser grow, swim and eat.

What would you tell people considering volunteering with Save The Bay?

As a volunteer, you become another person who can help spread the word and raise awareness about Bay-related facts and issues. Plus, volunteering with Save The Bay is a great opportunity to meet people with similar interests, and to learn about local waters and wildlife. ■

*Jessi at Sachuest Point
in Newport.*



50 WAYS WE'VE SAVED THE BAY:

Leading the Way in Environmental Literacy



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

By the time Congress passed the National Environmental Education Act of 1990 and installed the Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency, Save The Bay had already found our own educational niche. While Congress was making small steps to nationally implement environmental education in American schools, Save The Bay educators were leading on-the-water field experiences, working with middle schoolers to trawl for fish and plankton and test water quality. Since Explore The Bay launched in 1987, Save The Bay has been a pioneer of high-impact, hands-on environmental education, supporting environmental literacy for students grade K-12 in the region even before it was nationally implemented.

Our public programs evolved throughout the nineties and into the early 2000s, with the addition of family cruises, summer camps, full-day and after-school programs, and the opening of the Exploration Center and Aquarium. Beyond providing young visitors with the benefits of increased physical activity, boosted self-esteem, and improved academic performance in other subjects (especially science), Save The Bay wanted to develop a next generation of Bay stewards, who would make good, informed decisions about the environment and Narragansett Bay.

No Child Left Inside

Save The Bay was not the only one to recognize the importance of an environmentally literate citizenry. In August of 2007, Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed introduced legislation that would both

strengthen and expand environmental education in classrooms across America. The No Child Left Inside Act proposed federal funding for states to operate model environmental education programs and train teachers in environmental literacy. By supporting the bill as part of the No Child Left Inside Coalition with 115 other organizations, Save The Bay emerged as a nationally-recognized environmental educator.

"I know that most Rhode Islanders, and Americans nationwide, want their kids to be environmentally literate," said Senator Reed in a press release. "From saving the Bay to confronting the challenges of climate change, we need to prepare the next generation to tackle and overcome some very complicated environmental challenges."

The bill would correct the No Child Left Behind law of 2002 that succeeded in its objective of shifting student focus to math and science, but was taking away time spent on environmental education, among other things. As an unintended result, field trips and outdoor activities were curtailed by teachers who instead concentrated on the subjects their students would face on standardized tests.

Environmental Literacy Plan

The No Child Left Inside Act was not immediately passed by the Senate, and wouldn't be until 2015, where major points were repackaged under the Every Student Succeeds Act and re-introduced to the Obama administration. In the meantime, Save The Bay worked with the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

*Senator Jack Reed
introduces the No Child
Left Inside Act in 2007.*





(RIEEA) and the Department of Education to host the state's first Environmental Literacy Plan meeting in November of 2008, making Rhode Island one of the first states to develop an Environmental Literacy Plan in 2011.

While there is no requirement in any state for an Environmental Literacy Plan, Rhode Island's implementation of one has led to resources that have become vital to the development of engaged, environmentally-literate students. The plan has continued to evolve, and today Save The Bay partners with RIEEA and other environmental education practitioners to work toward an assessment tool to aid teachers in evaluating a student's level of environmental literacy.

NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program funds locally relevant, authentic experiential learning for K-12 students and educators through Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE's), multi-stage activities that include learning both outdoors and in



the classroom. Save The Bay's high-impact programming has become a model for B-WET MWEE's—we've even been invited to present at conferences about it, including the NOAA B-WET Conference in Portland, Maine and the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society Annual Conference.

The qualitative results of our B-WET Field Studies speak for themselves: educators reported a meaningful, positive shift in their students' attitude toward studying science in the future, an increase in student agency toward protecting the Narragansett Bay, and overall, observations that students were engaged, motivated, and learning.

High Impact Programming

Save The Bay has been making an impact as a leader in environmental education for 33 years. In 2019, our high impact programming reached almost 16,000 students, almost half of whom worked with us multiple times throughout the year. Our education team collaborates with teachers to build programs that fit their curriculum, align with federal standards, and ensure the environmental literacy of the future stewards of Narragansett Bay for decades to come. ■

TOP: Save The Bay educators lead activities in the field as part of their high impact programming. LEFT: An early Explore The Bay shipboard program provides students with the opportunity to come face-to-face with Bay creatures.

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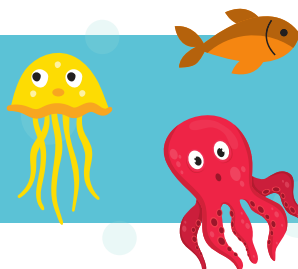
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