



Fall 2010

# Sea Notes

Newsletter of the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation



143 Pleasant Street Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 431-0260 www.blueoceansociety.org

## Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring passion in people to conserve the marine environment, through education & research in New England.

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**Major Sponsors/Funders**  
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### NH Coastal Cleanup

Ocean Conservancy  
New Hampshire Coastal Program  
NH Dept. of Environmental Services  
NOAA  
Waste Management  
NH Division of Parks & Recreation  
Portsmouth Regional Hospital  
Wentworth Douglass Hospital  
Exeter Hospital  
Starbucks Coffee  
Flatbread Company, Portsmouth  
Wal-Mart, Seabrook  
Poland Springs  
Seacoast Coca-Cola

## 6,800 Pounds of Litter in One Weekend



By Jennifer Kennedy

A medicine bottle with pills...a silk plant...a respirator mask...a googly eye...A shopping cart...Dental floss holders... Underwear... Spray paint...

It sounds like an eccentric shopping list, but these were all items picked up on New Hampshire beaches during this year's New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup (NHCC), held in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy's 25th Annual International Coastal Cleanup.

The cleanup was held the 4th weekend in September, and began



Over 160 Girl Scouts participated in the NH Coastal Cleanup!

energetically as 687 students and chaperones descending on 4 beaches in Rye and Hampton on a nice fall day to do a cleanup as part of their school activities.

The following day, cleanups were done at over 20 additional sites. In total, more than **1,300 volunteers** did **30**

cleanups during the NHCC, resulting in the removal of **6,849 pounds of litter!** as balloon strings, fishing line, and plastic bags. In just 8 weeks this summer/fall, we saw 4 animals affected by marine debris—a northern gannet with a fishing lure in its foot and fishing line from the lure to its wing, a basking shark with a fishing net in its mouth, and two right whales entangled in rope. Any time we pick up debris from the beach before it washes out to the ocean means that animals like these will avoid getting injured or killed.

Litter is harmful to marine life. Animals may eat debris or get entangled in items such

(Continued on page 2)

### NH COASTAL CLEANUP TOP 10

Item	#	%
Cigarettes/Filters	23,059	50%
Rope	4,225	9%
Food Wrappers/Containers	3,710	8%
Beverage Cans	1,836	4%
Caps, Lids	1,724	4%
Plastic Bags	1,550	3%
Glass Beverage Bottles	1,113	2%
Cups, Utensils	1,068	2%
Plastic Bottles	996	2%
Lobster Traps (& Parts)	800	2%

**Top Ten Total 40,081 87%**

## Coastal Cleanup Thank You's

### Site Coordinators

David Anderson, NH Coastal Protection Partnership (NH COAST)  
Jeff Barnum, Coastal Conservation Assn.  
Rebecca Bolton  
Brewster Bartlett, Pinkerton Academy  
Rena Caron, Pembroke Academy  
Perrin Chick, Seacoast Science Center  
Morgan Eastman, Alpha Phi Omega (APO), NHDES  
Priscilla Fanning, Greenlands Association  
Karen Fitz, Measured Progress  
Matt Henderson, NH Port Authority  
Steve Johnson, Blue Ocean Society  
Amy Kane, Friends of N. Hampton Beach  
Julie Kearney  
Pat McKenzie  
Julie Myers, Timberland Company/Hampton Girl Scouts  
Michael Petruzzello, Winnacunnet High School  
Mary Power, NH Coastal Program  
Neil Savage, Girl Scouts of the Green & White Mtns.  
Andy and Deb Schulte  
Suzanne Scippa, Exeter Cub Scouts  
Ron Sher, Nextera Energy Seabrook Station  
Cathy Silver, Winnacunnet High School  
Camille Upson, Newington Elementary School  
Karyn Warren  
David Weber, Philips Exeter  
Dick Weyrick, Oyster River Watershed Assn.

### Teachers, Students & Chaperones From

Little Harbour School  
Dondero School  
Cornerstone School  
Hampstead Middle School  
Newington School  
Nute Middle School  
Nottingham School  
Pembroke Academy  
Pinkerton Academy  
Sant Bani School  
Winnacunnet High School

### NH Coastal Cleanup Partners & Funders

Ocean Conservancy  
New Hampshire Coastal Program  
NH Dept. of Environmental Services  
NOAA  
Waste Management  
NH Division of Parks & Recreation  
Portsmouth Regional Hospital  
Wentworth Douglass Hospital  
Exeter Hospital  
Starbucks Coffee  
Wal-Mart, Seabrook  
Poland Springs  
Seacoast Coca-Cola



## Volunteer Spotlight: Neil Savage

By Jennifer Kennedy

If you drove along Route 1A in Rye, NH on September 25, you might have seen hordes of green-shirted volunteers cleaning the coast. The parking areas along Route 1A from Odiorne Point to Wallis Sands are the domain of Neil Savage and the girls he recruits from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains to do cleanups there as part of the NH Coastal Cleanup.

Savage is a field biologist with a Ph.D. in oceanography and has volunteered with the Girl Scouts for 24 years. He's been participating in the NH Coastal Cleanup since 1996.

This year, over 160 girls and their parents participated in the NH Coastal Cleanup, a huge increase from the 76 of last year. He credits—what else? — social networking for the volunteer increase.

"Girl Scouts of the Green Mountains put out an e-mail call for volunteers [after the camping program we usually run canceled due to low registrations]. Responses poured in from all over NH and VT...and just kept coming! By the time of the cleanup, we had almost 170 girls and adult volunteers -- so many



Dr. Neil Savage teaches about marine life

that we conducted the cleanup in two shifts," Savage recalled.

What's Savage's favorite cleanup memory over the years?

"In 2008, the girls discovered a dead young harbor seal that had washed up on some rocks. The girls took pictures that I sent to the marine mammal stranding center at New England Aquarium.

The girls were upset over the demise of the seal, but proud that their pictures recorded the event and, in a manner of speaking, "helped" the harbor seal population."

Thanks, Neil, for your help with the cleanups, and all you do to educate the next generation of environmental stewards!

### Trash, Continued from page 1

also recorded 14,000 less pieces of litter. These numbers should be interpreted cautiously, though.

Our cleanup sites were a little



United Divers of NH volunteers picked up about 500 lbs. of wet debris during this year's underwater cleanup in Portsmouth.

different this year. Due to construction at Hampton Beach, we only cleaned the northern half of the beach, likely amounting in less cigarette butts picked up. We had more volunteers at Foss Beach in Rye, which traditionally hosts large piles of rope pieces that wash in from the Gulf of Maine, which is why the amount of rope on our Top Ten list is likely so high this year.

Either way, it's encouraging to have so many volunteers involved here in our small state, and gratifying to drive up the coast on cleanup morning and see droves of volunteers removing harmful debris from the beach. Thanks to all who participated!

Next year's official cleanup date is September 17, 2011, so hopefully we'll see you then!

## Why Do I Love Whales?



By Willy Jones, Blue Ocean Society Junior Intern. Willy lives in Waverly, PA.

### How did I start to like whales? Why do I like them so much?

To me, whales are angels.

The first time I saw a whale, I got to look into its eye and I saw a sparkle. Then I thought to myself, "Wow, this is really important."

I remember exactly how I felt.

I held my breath, and everything around me just stopped. The people talking, the noise of the boat, it all stopped.

It was just me and the whale looking at each other.

I just felt like me and that whale were part of each other. We *were* each other.

That connection has been there forever. Whenever I see a whale, I remember that connection.

When I can't be with the whales, I read about them and then I think about them. Then it feels like I'm still with them, because when I read I get back to that time when it was just me and that first whale. It makes me refresh inside when I think about whales.

I always like to picture how the whale is swimming if it's a chapter book about whales. I think about how they look when they're

breathing and their tail movements in the water. How they position their pectoral fins, moving like angel wings.

When I would read the chapter books, I wanted to picture them so much I started to draw how I saw them in my mind. I drew them so much, now when I draw them I think of what whales are, how they live, how they swim, how they move to swim.

Then it all just comes out of my mind into the drawing and it makes me feel that connection with the whales again.

From all my reading I've learned a lot about whales. It makes me feel good because I get to think about whales and how great they are.

After all that, I know how the whales swim, what they do, how they feed and I know the names of the different kinds of whales. I know how they do certain movements to do things like bubble-feeding. I know there are toothed whales and baleen whales. I know how they eat. I know that dolphins are also counted as whales, a small type of whale.

I can recognize whales from their blow, what kind of whale they are.

I know different patterns in a humpback tail can be used to identify them.

I bugged my mom a million times to go on the whale boat, and we went on so many times, I got to know the Captain and the crew and all the people from Blue Ocean Society, especially Dianna



Willy teaches a whale watch passenger about baleen.

[Schulte, BOS's Research and Intern Coordinator]. When we talked, I think they saw I connected with the whales so much, and how much I knew about them. Dianna asked me to be an intern on the boat and teach people about what whales do and how they feed.

I got to tell people how their body parts help them to swim and I got to teach them about different species of whales.

My first time going around to the people, I was a little nervous and I didn't know exactly what to say. But every time I did it, I got less nervous because I knew so much about them.

If I was an intern on an American Girl Doll ship I would have a hard time because I don't know the first thing about dolls.

Because of the connection I have with whales, I realize that whales aren't just this long thing with a tail that you can go and see. They're alive and part of the ocean and how the world works. I know I have to do my part to keep them a part of the world.

by Willy Jones, 10 years-old  
4th Grader at Waverly Elementary School, Waverly, Pennsylvania



**Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation**

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[www.blueoceansociety.org](http://www.blueoceansociety.org)

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## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 4, 2010  
Beach Cleanup & Food Drive**

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Jenness Beach, Rye, NH

RSVP to 603-431-0260 or email  
[info@blueoceansociety.org](mailto:info@blueoceansociety.org)

*We'll be collecting donations for area food pantries! Bring a food donation and get a free t-shirt or water bottle.*



**Saturday, December 18  
Beach Cleanup in North Hampton, NH**

9:00-10:00 a.m.

North Hampton State Beach

North Hampton, NH

RSVP to Amy Kane at 603-964-5675 or by email to [amykane@comcast.net](mailto:amykane@comcast.net)

**Saturday, January 8, 2011  
Beach Cleanup at N. Hampton State Beach,**

**9 AM** RSVP to Amy Kane at 603-964-5675 or by email to [amykane@comcast.net](mailto:amykane@comcast.net)

**Beach Cleanup at Jenness Beach, 10:30 AM**

RSVP to 603-431-0260 or email  
[info@blueoceansociety.org](mailto:info@blueoceansociety.org)

## Adopt-a-Beach Thank You's

**Thanks to the following groups & individuals for their help in keeping our beaches clean with their monthly cleanups!**

Alpha Chi Omega and Lambda Chi Alpha

Bill Hall

Calling All Crows

Club Finz (almost 7 years!)

Chuck Rosa/Chucky's Fight

Exeter Unitarian Universalist

Church & Phillips Exeter

Academy

Friends of North Hampton Beach

Greenlands Association (4 years)

The Hayford Family

Karyn Warren

LifeShare, Inc. (3 years)

Linda Clark & Linda

Rickenbach (4 years)

Maggie Kennedy

NEMO Equipment

NextEra Energy Seabrook Station

Phi Beta Gamma

Robyn Sealock (3 years)

Rye Elementary School

(Jacquie DeFreze's class)

Rye Girl Scouts (6 years)

Seacoast Mental Health Ctr

Shortridge Academy

Surfrider Foundation, NH

Chapter

Timberland Company

UNH Climbing Team

Winnacunnet HS (Cathy

Silver)

