



Ecology Matters

Spring 2011 | Volume 16

The Newsletter of the Ferry Beach Ecology School

Grant funds inspire program expansion

Generous grant funding has allowed FBES to expand the *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!* (SELU) program in Biddeford, SAD #60 (Berwick, North Berwick and Lebanon), Bonny Eagle Middle School in Buxton and Lincoln Middle School in Portland. Thanks to the generosity of Jane's Trust, Quimby Family Foundation and Poland Spring Hollis, thousands more young people are participating in our multi-year environmental literacy education programs.



In December Ferry Beach Ecology School was granted an \$85,000 gift from Jane's Trust to support *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!* This is the largest grant our organization has ever received and has enabled exponential program expansion!



Students from SAD #60 participate in a variety of SELU programs at their school site (above) as well as at our coastal campus throughout the year.

The Quimby Family Foundation donated \$20,000 to Ferry Beach Ecology School in August 2010 to support *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!* for Maine students.



Students from the Galloway Clan of Bonny Eagle Middle School pose for a group shot at the end of their overnight trip to FBES (above).

In March of this year, Poland Spring Water Company in Hollis contributed \$20,000 to the students of their host communities. Because of their generosity, this is the first year that over 240 Bonny Eagle Middle School 8th grade students had the opportunity to participate in a residential program at Ferry Beach Ecology School.

Bill Maples, Poland Spring's Northeast Operations Director, explains how this project aligns with Poland Spring's philosophy:

"Like Ferry Beach, Poland Spring values Maine's natural resources. We are excited to support organizations that promote environmental education, particularly for children. We believe in adding value to the communities in which we operate and are especially proud we can partner with Ferry Beach Ecology School and Bonny Eagle Middle School."



Bonny Eagle Middle School Principal Ansel Stevens, Poland Spring's Bill Maples and Heather McBean, and SAD 60 Superintendent Suzanne Lucas mingled with BEMS students during a Lunch and Learn program when the students visited Ferry Beach in April.

Thank you Jane's Trust, the Quimby Family Foundation and Poland Spring Water Company in Hollis for your commitment to hands-on, experiential environmental education!



Environmental Education is Dead, Long Live Environmental Education!

by Drew Dumsch, FBES Executive Director



"The teachers on our team were impressed with the program you put together. The students' level of enthusiasm showed that they were engaged and responsive. This was a terrific learning opportunity for the students and it tied in well with our curriculum."

Heather LaFrance
3rd Grade Teacher,
Hussey School (SELU)
Berwick, ME

This spring marks my 20th year as an environmental educator. It doesn't seem so long ago that I started my career as a naturalist right here at Ferry Beach in April of 1991. In those days, environmental education most often meant just getting students outside to explore nature or back in the classroom they might spend a little time studying topics like deforestation or pollution. Noble activities, perhaps, but not necessarily effective strategies to prepare anyone to deal with Earth's impending ecological meltdown!

Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus of The Breakthrough Institute wrote in their notorious 2004 essay—"The Death of Environmentalism: Global Warming Politics in a Post-Environmental World"—that the environmental movement has largely failed because it spends too much time focused on individual problems such as species extinction or climate change without creating a bolder, more cohesive vision for a sustainable future through a core set of common values. The essay's exhortation was that progressives need to stop trying to only solve separate problems but instead focus on how everything is connected, to become systems thinkers that take a holistic approach to living

(and learning and politics!) that views systems— whether they be economies, communities, education, energy, food, or ecosystems— as a whole, to see the entire forest rather than only the trees.

The author Wendell Berry gets to the



heart of systems thinking with his concept of "solving for pattern"— the process of finding solutions that solve multiple problems, while minimizing the creation of new problems. [A huge thanks to Matt Dubel of Maine Audubon for introducing us to this concept at our recent FOAM Summit; see page 6 article.] I am confident that the programs at Ferry Beach Ecology School are guiding students to this type of thinking as they gain knowledge of ecosystems via exploration and then apply that knowledge to their own lives and

communities.

I'm currently finishing up a workshop proposal for the annual New England Environmental Education Alliance conference. I've chosen the controversial title "Environmental Education is Dead, Long Live Environmental Education!" inspired, in part, by the ideas of Shellenberger, Nordhaus and Berry. The days of environmental education being a random series of well-intentioned outdoor hikes and indoor lessons is over. The work of environmental literacy must be to inspire and guide systemic change for a sustainable planet and a healthy humankind. In the coming years, I look forward to seeing Ferry Beach Ecology School being on the cutting edge of innovative teaching that connects the environment, education, economy, communities, energy, food and health into a joyful, thoughtful and holistic approach to living and learning.

"We do not need to invent sustainable human communities. We can learn from societies that have lived sustainably for centuries. We can also model communities after nature's ecosystems, which are sustainable communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms."

*-Fritjof Capra, cofounder of
The Center for Ecoliteracy*

Welcome New Board Member Corey Hascall



Ecology Education, Inc. welcomes Corey Hascall as a member of the Board of Directors. Corey is a public relations consultant at *Barton & Gingold* in Portland, Maine, and has extensive experience providing strategy, media relations, operations, planning, and communications work in a variety of settings. Corey is also the current Executive Director of *A Rising Tide*, a non-partisan, not-for-profit campaign leadership training institute for Maine's young people that she co-founded in 2003. Corey joined the EEI board because she feels it is vital to instill in young people a sense of stewardship for our environment. "When I was in 6th grade, I had the opportunity to participate in an experiential environmental program that was the pre-cursor of FBES. It left a lasting imprint on me and shaped my view of the natural world and my role in helping to protect it. I am proud to be a part of Ferry Beach's groundbreaking work and hope to contribute to its success in any way I can." We are delighted to have Corey on our team!



Ecology Matters Newsletter is published twice a year by Ferry Beach Ecology School Staff including: Drew Dumsch, Executive Director • Maureen Duggan, Associate Director • Alexandra Grindle, Residential Program Director • Meg Edstrom, Outreach Director • John Ibsen, Assistant Director & *Food For*

Thought Coordinator • Krysta Zambroski, Program Naturalist.

We welcome your comments and contributions. Send them to Drew at drew@fbes.org or by mail to the address below.

FBES is operated by Ecology Education, Inc. an educational non-profit 501(c)(3) organization led by an all volunteer board of directors which includes: Mike Hansen, president • Susan Gentile, vice president • Steve Grindle, secretary • Marc Lavoie, treasurer • Ken Barber • Kelly Towle • Corey Hascall.

Since 1998, Ferry Beach Ecology School has brought quality ecology education programs to more than 80,000 children and adults throughout New England. In everything we do – residential programs and field trips on our campus, outreach and workshops at schools, camps and publications – we accentuate the magic, mystery and wonder of nature so that children and adults can better understand and care for the environment.

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The ELLMS Project Takes Root at Earth Day Celebration

On Earth Day, April 22nd, Ferry Beach Ecology School joined three other Maine non-profits to officially unveil the *ELLMS Project: Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students*. In response to the economic challenges currently facing public schools in our state, FBES, Chewonki Outdoor Classroom for Schools (Wiscasset), UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, and UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Tanglewood (Lincolnville) have formed a partnership to help provide residential environmental education to all Maine students.

FBES Executive Director Drew Dumsch is thrilled to be a part of this collaborative effort. "Our four organizations are competitors in the business world, but we all share the same mission of providing residential environmental education to Maine students and getting them active outside. All four of our programs provide academic programs that complement schools' science curricula, and offer students a chance for an amazing 'camp' experience: eating in a dining hall with their classmates; sleeping in dorms, cabins or tents; being a part of a community and engaging in outdoor activity."

Through the ELLMS financial aid fund, Maine public schools will be able to apply for grants to help send their students to any of our four organizations for an immersion in residential environmental education. Schools will apply to the fund online and select

which location best fits their curriculum and suits their needs. The ELLMS Project Steering Committee is currently soliciting businesses and foundations for funding for this initiative.

The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation is the first funder of this unique collaboration. Carol Colson, Senior Vice President and Director of Community Relations and Communications, says that the foundation was intrigued by the concept of four competitive non-profits working together with a common goal. "Bangor Savings Bank is committed to giving back to the Maine community and to making Maine an even better place to grow up in and put down roots. Investing in a program that celebrates Maine's natural resources and improves quality of life in the communities we serve is a great investment for us."

For more information about the ELLMS project, please visit www.ellms.org or contact Maureen Duggan at 207-283-9951 or Maureen@fbes.org



To kick off this unprecedented collaboration, the four participating organizations exchanged staff on Earth Day to share some of their best lessons with the students attending other ELLMS Project sites. Bryant Pond's Ryder Scott fascinated the FBES' April Vacation Camp students with lessons on survival skills.



"Of all the activities Anna has participated in throughout the years, FBES has far exceeded anything else. You have provided her with the best growth opportunities, highest quality educational and social opportunities and taught her transferable life skills that have allowed her to gain confidence, grow and succeed in other areas in her life."

Martha Wyman
Mother of Garden &
April Camper

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Food for Thought (FFT) coordinator John Ibsen has been hard at work planting and landscaping. With the help of Ferry Beach Ecology School students and staff, John has planted a wide variety of trees, flowers, and vegetables that will all be used as part of the *Food for Thought* curriculum this year.

We would especially like to thank the following for their generous gifts that help make our garden grow

- *Whole Foods Market Portland - Food for Thought* lead sponsor
- *Horizon Foundation* - \$7,500 grant
- *The Unity Foundation* - \$150
- *Coast of Maine Organic Products* - 80 bags of lobster compost
- *Fedco Seeds* - Hundreds of seeds
- *Stark Bros.* - Fruit Trees



FFT Coordinator John Ibsen unloading the 80 donated bags of Coast of Maine Organic Compost this spring.

Thank you Horizon Foundation!

We would like to recognize The Horizon Foundation for consistently supporting new initiatives at Ferry Beach Ecology School for the past ten years. In 2001, the Horizon Foundation funded the very first publication of the Ferry Beach Ecology School Field Guide. When FBES built our 'green' office building in 2005, the Horizon Foundation provided funds for our solar panel. In 2008 the Horizon Foundation helped us launch our summer camp programs with a gift of \$7,500. And most recently the Horizon Foundation is supporting the *Food for Thought* program.

We appreciate the Horizon Foundation's vision for philanthropy and their strong support of Ferry Beach Ecology School as our programs grow and expand to meet the needs of our students and the community.

April camp participant turns compost in our new compost system, a highlight of the garden expansion that was made possible in part by the Horizon Foundation (right).





"One of my best memories came at six o'clock in the morning – my friends and I went to the beach and saw the sun rising above the water. It was gorgeous! The sun was expanding from a little dot of orange and it slowly became a big yellow spot in the sky. Without Ferry Beach Ecology School, these priceless memories would simply not exist."

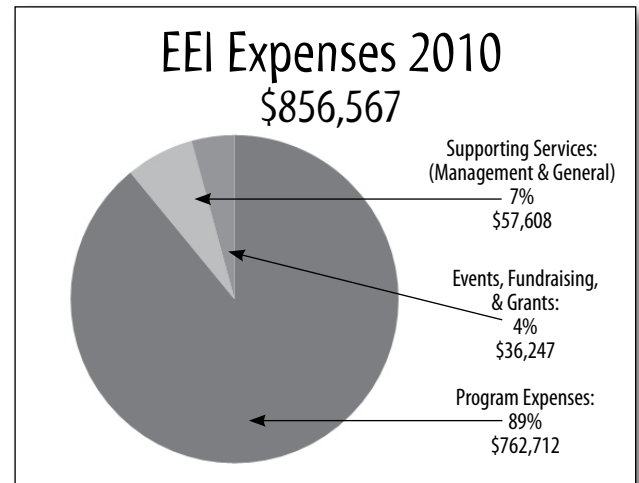
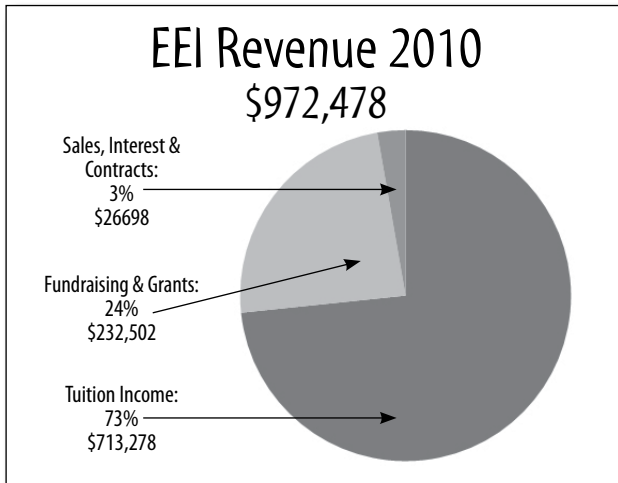
Anna S., 7th grade student,
Lincoln Middle School (SELU),
Portland

2010 Milestones

Despite the challenging economy, Ferry Beach Ecology School has ended the past three fiscal years in the black, with net assets of \$297,571 as of 12/31/10 (financial statements by Worthing & Going, P.A.). This is a result of a strong financial plan and responsible business practices in addition to our quality programs and solid reputation.



Team Admin gathers for a photo at the Inn on Peaks Island during a winter brainstorming retreat (left). Naturalists explore the tide pools during staff training to prepare for the spring term 2011 (right).



- Ecology Education, Inc. expanded the full-time, year-round staff to include an Assistant Director and a Program Naturalist.
- More than 8,500 people participated in Ferry Beach Ecology School's various programs.
- 4,210 participated in FBES residential programs.
- 2,150 students participated in our multi-year program, *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!*, including Lebanon, Berwick, North Berwick, Biddeford, Lincoln Middle School (Portland, ME) and Bonny Eagle Middle School (Buxton, ME).
- We completed Year One of the *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!* Impact Study. The Executive Summary is posted on our website (www.fbcs.org).
- Ecology Education, Inc. received the largest grant in our history - \$85,000, from Jane's Trust, to fund *Science & Ecology: Live & Unplugged!*
- The Ferry Beach Ecology School doubled the size of the organic teaching garden and added a larger variety of plants, including fruit trees and berry bushes.
- Thanks to a generous gift from Hannaford, we built a new, sturdier and more efficient compost bin complete with a roof.



February - Ferry Beach Ecology School was one of only 12 Maine nonprofit organizations invited to participate in the Maine Association of Nonprofits Hall of Flags Day at the Statehouse in Augusta.

April 22, Earth Day - Hannaford invited Ferry Beach Ecology School to display our *Food for Thought* concepts at a green event for their 600 associates.

August - Poland Spring recognized Ferry Beach Ecology School with its "2010 Good Neighbor Award."

Throughout the year, other educational and environmental organizations as well as Maine businesses requested workshops and programs conducted by the FBES staff due to our solid reputation as a leader in the field of environmental and sustainability education.

2010 Recognition

In Memoriam: Tim Sullivan, EEI Board Treasurer

We are deeply saddened by the passing of long-time Ferry Beach Ecology School board member, Tim Sullivan. Tim was devoted to our mission and to connecting people with the natural world around them. Tim served as our board treasurer from the beginning of our organization in 1998. We could always count on Tim to provide us with sage financial advice. Although Tim lived in Massachusetts, he had a nearly perfect attendance record for board meetings and he never missed an opportunity to participate in our fundraising events like the Saco River Canoe-A-Thon and Eco Appetito.

He was as handy grilling up burgers at our Canoe-A-Thon BBQ as he was with a calculator, budgets and spreadsheets. Tim Sullivan played a huge role in the success of this organization in his quiet, humble, unassuming and humorous way. A celebration of Tim's life will take place on June 24th at Ferry Beach. Tim requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Ferry Beach Ecology School in his memory.



Many thanks to the donors, foundations, businesses and volunteers who supported Ferry Beach Ecology School in 2010

INDIVIDUALS

EAGLE (\$1,000 +)

Ken and Amy Barber
Bridget Jones & Dinesh Goburdhun
Drew Dumsch & Lisa Farago
Steven H. Grindle
Merilee Grindle
Bobbi Keppel
Larry & Anne Ramsport

OSPREY (\$500 +)

Maggie and Bob Daigle
Nick & Mary Dumsch
Mike Hansen
Robert & Constance McGee
D. Suzi Osher
Martha Taylor
Carol G. Thompson
John & Barbara Zotz

GREAT BLUE HERON (\$250 +)

Amherst Middle School 8th Grade
Lorraine Moore Adams
Katherine Creagh
Elaine Duggan
Maureen Duggan
Lee & Kathryn Edstrom
Kate Gillis
Bill & Louisa Graver
Rebecca Harrison
Carolyn John Hodges
Kristin & Malin Hunter-Thomson
Guy & Roby Huntley
John & Linda Ibsen
Robert & Suzanne Murphy
Linda Sullivan
Kelly Towle

GREEN HERON (\$100 +)

Amigos School 8th Grade Team
Michael & Catherine Bisceglia
Janet Bringola
Jeff & Wendy Boudreau
Lucille R. Bousquet
Ann Boynton
Tom & Laura Broussard
Dee & Tom Brown
Nancy Caggiano
Lynne Champion & Don Pearson
Kerry T. & Mary Ellen S. Connell
Virginia Crocker
Kathleen Duddy
Paige Eagle & Christian Sinderman
Caryl Everett
Tony & Suzanne Federer
Alexandra Grindle
David & Cynthia Harrison
Lucie S.B. Hatch
John Ibsen
Mary and Bill Johnson
D'Vorah & Bob Kelley
Christopher Kirkhoff
Adam Lee
Kim & Fred Lipp
Ben Lubbers

Kristin & Peter McCabe
Lee & Steve Miller
David Mitchell
Irmgard Neils
Lucien & Amy Ouellette
Wendy Page
Joan & Charles Partridge
E. Bruce & Mary L. Plummer
Barbara Reed
Norman Segel
Susan Sharon
Peter & Elizabeth Signell
Christine & Dan Simonson
Paul & Katy Thompson
Jill Valley
Milton & Joan Victor
Joan Watts
Robert & Susan Williams
Diane E. Woods
Krysta Zambroski
Susan Louisa Zayac

SNOWY EGRET (\$50 +)

Joel Alex
Joyce C. Adams
Vicki & Al Adams
Shirley Arrand
Biddeford 2nd Congregational Church
Jessica Boehland
Will Broussard
Allison & Matt Brown
Marty Burgess
Crystal Canney
Tom Davis
Dave & Tami Dean
Rob & Heidi Eadie
Meg Edstrom
Nancy Edstrom Bachler
Michael & Maura Boucher
Ross Feitlinger
Judith & Jeff Fletcher
Susan Gentile
Margaret Graciano
Annette Hamilton
Jane Hartnett
Raymond Hopkins
Cherie Howard
Albert Howlett
Laura & Steve Humphrey
Noelle Jordan
Robert & Marjory Keeler
Link Klinkenberg
Felicia Knight & Towle Tompkins
Dorinda Toppan & Ray Peterson
John & Dianne Lemoine
Anne Linehan
Mark Maynard
Kara McKeever
Tyler and Jess Miller
Linda Newell
Christina Nicolson
Rich O'Brien & Luiza Brown
Russ Peppe
John B. Polackwich
John Read

Lindsey Reed
Jo & Grant Reynolds
Claire Russo
Nan Schildroth
Nicole Schrader & Steve Tackett
Diane M. Schuette
Lauren Scott
Kelley Shimansky
Steve Signell
Todd Smith
Cynthia Sommer & Andy Balder
Ray Speirs
D&orinda Toppan
Gayle A. & Michael J. Tweed
Nate Underwood
Richard Welch
Jim & Cindy Whitaker
Hannah Wilhelm
Laura Young

PIPING PLOVER (up to \$49)

Grace Barber
Dean & Carol Benton
Sarah Benton
Katie & Nick Bloom
Christine Bougie
Dianne & Tom Buckingham
Joseph & Doris Buonomo
Anne Carchedi
Lara Carlson
Wm. Roy Couch
Martha Davenport
Todd Dowling
Jaime Duval & Rob Beranek
Kenneth R. & Mary V. Feathers
Erika Hammond
Carol Hayden & Dick Hall
Angela Hennessy & Chris Farago
Judy Higbea
Therese Hodorff
Nancy Hughes
Nelson & Betti Jaquay
Peter Knight
Mike McGee
Joanna Lisker Meyer
Guy Loranger
Sara Lozefski
Norma Lynch & Christie Michaud
Sandra & Phil Kirby
Rostislav Kusnezov
Heidi Magario
Deb McKennay
Judith Morse
Claude & Ruby Nadeau
Becca Neville
Satya Onorato
Ren & Pam Parziale
Leah Penn Boris
Lois & Brown Pulliam
Malcolm Richards
Jen Rost
Bob & Nancy Schutsky
Shireen Shahawy
Hilary A. Sullivan Andrews
Cristina & Paul Trahan
Michael Urbanski

Marion & William Vierow
Robert H. Warner
Lisa Whittemore
Mary Lou Yund
Peter Zack, Jr.
Ana Zick
Don Zick
Jeff Zotz

FOUNDATIONS

Horizon Foundation, Inc.
Jane's Trust
Keiter Family Foundation
Sage Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
The Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Quimby Family Foundation
Sam L. Cohen Foundation
John Sage Foundation
Unity Foundation
Wing-Benjamin Trust Fund

BUSINESS CHAMPIONS (\$5,000 +)

Cinque Terra Restaurant
Poland Spring
Whole Foods Market Portland

BUSINESS LEADERS (\$1,000 +)

Atlas Stone Works
Ferry Beach Park Association
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
L.L. Bean
Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution
TD Bank
Unum Matching Gifts

BUSINESS PARTNERS (\$500 +)

Rotary Club of Saco Bay
Hannaford

BUSINESS COLLEAGUES (\$250 +)

Annie's, Inc.
Independence BioFuel
Key Bank
Oakhurst
Prime Motor Group
Worthing & Going CPAs

BUSINESS CIRCLE (\$100 +)

Clean O'Rama
DeLorme

BUSINESS FRIENDS (up to \$100)

Funtown/Splashtown USA
Gardener's Supply Company
Shaw's Saco

ECO APPETITO VENDORS

Allagash Brewing Company

Big Sky Bakery
Borealis Bread
Broadturn Farm
Cristin Walsh
Farm Fresh Connection
Harbor Fish Market
Maine Beer Company
Maine Root
Maple's Organics
Mariner Beverages
Mount Desert Island Ice Cream
Par's Meat Market
Pineland Farms Creamery
Pineland Farms Market
Pineland Farms Natural Meats
Poland Spring
Rosemont Market
Snell Family Farm
Starbucks
Three Sons Fish
Wicked Wines
Whole Foods Market Portland

ECO APPETITO AUCTION DONATIONS

Amtrak Downeaster
Blackbird Baking
Mario Batali
Anthony Bourdain
Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Cherie Howard
Cheese Iron
Tory Churchill
Cold River Vodka
John Ibsen
Kate's Homemade Butter
Dr. Peter Knight
Maine Rock Gym
Maine Beer Company and Mariner Beverages
Mount Desert Island Ice Cream
Outside Television
Portland Schooner Company
Rabelais
Gergana Rupchina
Shipyard Brewing Company
Standard Baking Company
Starbucks
Sunrise Guide
Cristin Walsh
Pam Ward LeBlanc
Wolf Pine Farm

Special thanks to the many volunteers who help us out throughout the year – Captain Carl Lagerstrom, parent chaperones, FOAMers, master gardeners, event participants, envelope stuffers and too many others to list here!

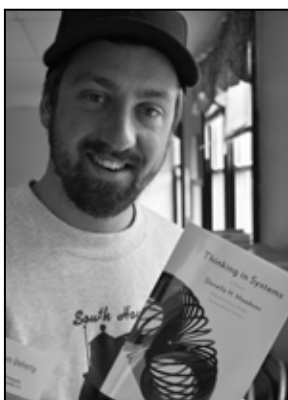
We regret any misspellings or omissions. Please contact us at 207-283-9951 to report any corrections. Thank you!

1st Annual "FOAM Summit" Gets FOAMers Thinking Systemically!



"If you say my job doesn't have benefits, you've never seen children cry from the beauty of a shooting star, set their eyes on the ocean for the first time, or beg to get up at 6am to see the sunrise. What a great season at Ferry Beach."

FBES Naturalist Lindsay Beene reflecting on the Fall 2010 term



Photos: (top) Matt Dubel, Director of Fields Pond Audubon center in Holden, ME, 1st annual FOAM Summit Presenter; (second from top) FBES alumni, Mike McGee, Andie Bisceglia, & Heidi Magario, catching up before the morning workshop; (third) FOAMers sharing inspiring ideas during the afternoon break-out session; (fourth) Current Naturalist, Tom Doherty, curious to learn more about systems!

FOAM = FBES Orders of Alumni Masters

FOAMers are any former FBES staff and board members as well as current FBES staff.

FBES is enormously proud of our teaching staff. We hire 16 naturalists each fall and spring that include graduates and undergraduates from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, including the natural sciences, humanities and education. Our naturalists are hired for their enthusiasm, energy, and past experience working with children.

Since 1998, more than 200 people have been employed by Ferry Beach Ecology School and have become part of our FOAM network. FOAMers are now spread across the globe (literally!) and working in a variety of fields striving for

a better world. They are a dynamic group of people working and often leading in the fields of innovative ecology and sustainability education and creating healthy, sustainable communities.

On April 2nd, Ferry Beach Ecology School hosted the first ever FOAM Summit to bring together some of these former colleagues for a day of professional development and camaraderie.

More than 50 FOAMers gathered at Ferry Beach the first weekend in April for a day-long workshop on "Systems Citizenship" by Matt Dubel. Breaking into small groups, these former and current naturalists were

able to share their experiences and brainstorm while learning from others who share their love of nature, the environment and teaching.

Ferry Beach Ecology School holds a special place in the hearts of all who have worked here. The FOAM Summit offered past employees a unique opportunity to come back to Ferry Beach, reconnect with old friends, share their knowledge, receive relevant professional development and offer ideas of how Ferry Beach Ecology School can continue to meet its mission.

It was wonderful to see everyone in April and we look forward to next year's FOAM Summit!

Ferry Beach Ecology School Spring 2011 Staff



"There is a complete and utter happy gathering of eco geeks [at FBES]" -Reagan, Lincoln Middle School student

From left to right starting in the back row: Eva Svobodová, Assistant Director John Ibsen, Aspen Gavenus, Todd Dowling, Megan Connor. Third row: Brita Stepe, Katrina Venhuizen, Katie Hyman, Maria Chacon, Nurse Diane LaPointe, Wick Prichard, Chrissy Constant, Amy Salowitz. Second row: Tom Doherty, Charlie Creagh, Lauren Benson, Brad Pilleen, Associate Director Maureen Duggan, Maggie Griset. Down front: Residential Program Director Alex Grindle, Program Naturalist Krysta Zambroski, Executive Director Drew Dumsch, Outreach Director Meg Edstrom.



"The kids LOVED it. You made a huge impact. They will never forget the lessons and the experience. It couldn't have been better!"

Sue Pennell
5th Grade Teacher
Mary Hurd School
(SELU) North
Berwick, ME

What happens back in the classroom?

One of the major goals at Ferry Beach Ecology School is to have students bring what they learn about ecology and sustainability back to their homes, schools and communities. Part of our program involves providing educators with teaching tools and classroom lessons that can be put to use back in the classroom following a trip to the Ferry Beach campus. Often, follow-up assignments involve other academic disciplines

such as language arts, mathematics, technology, art, music or history.

Kira Peasley is a 5th and 6th grade science teacher at the Deerfield Community School in Deerfield, NH. Mrs. Peasley visited Ferry Beach Ecology School with her 6th grade class last fall. "What the kids learn at Ferry Beach compliments our curriculum greatly. The kids in Deerfield have a good sense of the natural world, as they live in a beautiful area

of NH with many different ecosystems. They also go to a school where the backyard is a forest with a swamp and pond. They are surrounded by nature! They gain a better appreciation of the natural world after spending a week at Ferry Beach. It's also great for them to see other ecosystems that we don't have in Deerfield, like the ocean and salt marsh."

The following is a sample of one of Mrs. Peasley's follow-up lessons and one student's completed assignment:

ASSIGNMENT: Write a letter to a 6th grade student who will be coming to Ferry Beach Ecology School soon. This student lives inland (somewhere in the middle of the country) and has never been to the ocean. What should they know about the Atlantic Ocean, salt marshes, tide pools, the ecosystems of Ferry Beach, etc. before they get here? What would you tell them? Be specific. Write about the ecology of the place. You should not include information about the naturalists, dorms, food, playground, etc.

Dear Kermin,

October 12, 2010

I hear that you will be going to the Ferry Beach Ecology School. Congratulations! Being at the ocean, as you will soon find, is a fun experience. But you must be prepared for it. Make sure to bring many layers. It gets cold in Maine.

By this time, I bet you are wondering: "Will this unknown person ramble on to me about the beach this whole time?" NO!!! There is much more to Ferry Beach than the beach! Heck, they have dunes, a forest, a salt marsh and tide pools! I found that Ferry Beach rarely brings lessons inside. My personal favorite lesson was when we went to the tide pools. You actually need to take a 15 minute bus ride to get there.

I served my unofficial role as group "periwinkle whisperer" at the tide pools. All you have to do is hum to them. One thing I loved about Ferry Beach: they love their skits! Before each lesson, they (the staff) put on a skit giving a basic synopsis of the coming lesson. My personal favorite was the day before going to the tide pools and the skit about a boy named Jimmy with girly pants with purple sequins all over them. Have fun at Ferry Beach! ~Conor



Conor (top far right) and his group in the secondary dune and (below) doing a notebook activity in the sand during a beach and dunes lesson.

Happy Camper

FBES offers camp programs that are much more than just a 'camp' experience. April Vacation Camp this year included ecology lessons, arts and crafts, time in the garden, and plenty of skits and songs. One mother of a camper shared her son's camp experience with us.

"Gage loved April Vacation Camp at Ferry Beach Ecology School! Gage has been to several camps and this has been the best experience he has ever had. The bonds he has

made with all will last. His friendships with the other campers he met and the staff will remain with him forever. Gage enjoyed all the staff. They had a welcoming attitude and were outgoing, cheerful, supportive, kind, and energetic. Gage enjoyed every minute and didn't want the camp to end. My son learned so much and couldn't stop informing us of all he learned. He learned about nature and ecosystems and that he can eat parts of a hemlock tree. The outdoor exercise was great for him, and he went down an entire pant size in

his week at Ferry Beach! This experience started him on a great path of healthy choices for exercise and habits. He is still doing GREAT!!!!"

★ This summer FBES will be offering garden camps, family nature day camps and an overnight adventure for families, "Exploring the Maine Coast". For details including dates, registration fees, and details on our summer camp programs, visit www.fbcs.org ★

Gage, pictured right, happily poses after returning from a walk to the Camp Ellis salt marsh.



Spring Appeal

★ Donate Now ★

Please help us reach our \$15,000 goal by June 30th!

"Our kids are the future protectors of our environment. Keep up the good work!"

-Joyce Adams, Franklin, MA

If you haven't received a Spring Appeal letter and would like to donate to the FBES Program Fund, please contact Maureen Duggan at 207-283-9951 or simply donate online at www.fb.es.org.



Come Join Us!

12th Annual Canoe-A-Thon & Saco River Clean-Up

Saturday, June 4th (Rain date: June 5th) | Celebratory BBQ following the clean-up



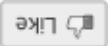

Two good deeds in one!

Pull garbage out of the Saco River and raise money for the Ferry Beach Ecology School Program Fund at the same time!

A perfect way to spend a June day outdoors with family and friends!

Event sponsors: 98.9 WCLZ, Whole Foods Market Portland, Rotary Club of Saco Bay, Starbucks, Worthing & Going CPAs, P&C Insurance and Prime Motor Group.

To register for or to sponsor the Canoe-A-Thon, visit www.fb.es.org

"Like" Us on Facebook!  

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Ferry Beach Ecology School fosters stewardship for the Earth by teaching the science of ecology and the practice of sustainability.

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