



## Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's ~ Field Notes ~

Spring 2009

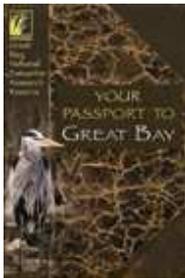
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Welcome to the first edition of Field Notes, a newsletter just for our Great Bay Community Land Stewards! After this first one, look for it to hit your inbox the beginning of each season. In each edition there will be announcements for more volunteer opportunities, interesting articles and links (be sure to click on the pictures) to increase your natural history knowledge, updates about Great Bay, and much more. We'll keep you connected and remind you that we're looking forward to receiving all your monitoring forms. You are "the eyes and the ears" of the properties, after all, and we'd love to feature more of your stories and experiences. Have fun out there!



CLS News

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Have you seen the Reserve's latest publication, *The Passport to Great Bay*? While reading it, visitors are invited to "punch" their way around Great Bay as they hit each geocache site and learn a bit about the natural history as they see some new sites. So while visiting your property this spring, you may encounter some new visitors and be called upon to answer a few questions! Our Passport was featured in the Portsmouth Herald this past summer, click [here](#) and [here](#) to read the articles or stop by the Discovery Center to pick up a Passport of your own.

Calling all Monitoring Forms! I have summarized all the monitoring reports and compiled the following data from 2007:

- 10 visits made to properties, totaling 19 hours
- Litter picked up 5 times, with the majority being found on areas bordering a road
- Cultural Activities: Shell midden discovered on a property on a visit with Division of Historic Resources

- Stewardship Activities: Hosted Bog Bridge Building Day and International Coastal Cleanup Day with Timberlane High School



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- Natural Resources: Sightings or evidence of many animals including; deer, turkey, fox, raccoon, fisher, moose, coyote, weasel, barred owl, kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, frog, turtle, butterfly. An active rookery 20 nests and one opsrey nest. Also noted that the site of this rookery has more downed trees and thus fewer nests than last year.



We would love to make this year's report include a lot more data. I will look forward to receiving your monitoring forms and sharing some info about your visits in the next newsletter.

## Great Bay News

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Many of you have spotted osprey on your visits last year. Be sure to keep an eye out for their return this spring. Thanks to dedicated Osprey Monitoring Volunteers we know that 2008 was a record breaking year. There were an estimated 68 territorial pairs in NH. The Great Bay/Coastal region produced the most young (30). One nest even produced an astonishing 4 young. To read the full report [click here](#).



As you are out walking your properties this spring watching the plants green up and bud out, how many non-native species will you be able to identify? Have you ever wondered how these plants can travel so far so fast? [Click here](#) to read an article about research telling us that in addition to birds, small mammals and other factors, there is another culprit out there spreading seeds!



Want to learn more about some species native to NH? Or perhaps use them to attract more wildlife to your own backyard? Plant some Wild Raisin, Elderberry or Crabapple (a particular favorite of Bohemian Waxwings and American Robins and several butterflies in the larval stage). Seedlings are now available from the NH State Forest Nursery. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

Since 1996 the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership has protected 10,235 acres of habitat in the Great Bay Reserve. Acres that you all now help steward! The work continues while trying to connect and enlarge even more fragments of land. On November 3, 2008 deeds for 6 more properties and 1 conservation easement totaling 424 acres of land were transferred to The Reserve and NH Fish & Game. [Click here](#) if you'd like to read the full press release or click on the logo to visit the Partnership's new website.



## Professional Development



UNH Cooperative Extension has just completed a second printing of the Habitat Stewardship Series. These colorful brochures explain how to

identify habitat types, major threats to them, and shares info about the wildlife that depend on them. Hardcopies are now available for free to New Hampshire landowners, managers, conservation groups, and others interested in wildlife habitat stewardship. Brochures currently available include Vernal Pools, Grasslands, Marsh & Shrub Wetlands, Floodplain Forests. More habitats will soon be available. You may receive the brochures free through the UNH Forestry Information Center (call 1-800-444-8978, email [forest.info@unh.edu](mailto:forest.info@unh.edu)) or available for download by clicking above.



Is part of what you enjoy on your monitoring visits the chance to spot wood frog eggs in the vernal pool or to catch the blur of a dragonfly as it zips past you? If you'd like the opportunity to do a lot more of that and be collecting valuable data while you at it,



there are several citizen science opportunities available to you. To read more about becoming a NH Dragonfly volunteer [click here](#). To learn more about the Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP) [click here](#).

Think Spring!

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So grab your boots, binoculars, cameras and monitoring forms and head out! We hope you enjoy your treks on the properties this spring, and catch a glimpse of something you've never seen before. We'll be waiting to hear about your visit. Stay safe and have fun.