

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

... and the Piscataqua Garden Club...and...the US Coastguard... to make the Great Bay Discovery Center beautiful! During the cold gray days of February and March, a dedicated and creative group of women from the Piscataqua Garden Club gathered at the Great Bay Discovery Center to design a new garden for the “zig-zag” handicapped accessible trail. After many years, the once wonderfully designed gardens had become overgrown with invasive species and unruly to walk through. Led by a creative and highly skilled team, including Marylyn Benson, Ann Tarlton and Great Bay Stewards board member/Discovery Center volunteer, Nancy Cauvet, the team designed an aesthetically pleasing garden that would be attractive to wildlife, yet hardy and beautiful at the same time.

Once the garden was designed, a larger group of volunteers from the Garden Club descended upon the grounds to get to work planting. Students from Phillips Exeter and Berwick Academies also assisted in the project as well as volunteers and staff of the Discovery Center. Garden Club member, Danna Dearborn also joined the design team by constructing a dramatic driftwood sculpture in the middle of one of the garden beds.

Once many of the plants were in place, Officers and crew of the USCGC Tahoma finished the job by planting more shrubs, and spreading hundreds of pounds of mulch. The Tahoma, currently in dry-dock, is a multi-mission 270



TOP: Crew members of the USCGC Tahoma complete a teepee for the children’s garden. ABOVE: Marylyn Benson and Nancy Cauvet take the ceremonious “first shovel”.

foot Medium Endurance Cutter and her 110 officers and crew are charged with alien and migrant interdiction missions, counter narcotics enforcement, search and rescue operations and enforcement of federal maritime treaties and fishing regulations. With this down time, they have been assisting organizations and agencies throughout the Seacoast to complete difficult and necessary projects. The crew also designed and erected three children’s garden structures in the parking lot area. These men and women were well-fed by the newly-opened Meat House



in Stratham. Their generous donation of sandwiches satiated this hungry crew!

Donations of many beautiful perennials from the personal gardens of the design team, along with many hours of volunteer labor, has enabled the Center to create the new garden at a fraction of the cost of what a full design/install firm would charge. Initial prep of the garden beds was flawlessly and enthusiastically completed by Fat Cod Plantscape and plants were also

purchased from VanBurkems Nursery and Northern Nurseries in Barrington, NH.

Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers who dedicated many hours to making us beautiful! The new gardens are always in need of upkeep and we are now looking for volunteers who might enjoy weeding, watering and maintenance as they become more established. Please call 778-0015 if you would like to become a GBDC garden volunteer!

## Friends We Will Miss...

### Jack Jette "A Good Man"

The Center lost a dear friend and volunteer when Jack Jette passed away in June. Originally Jack joined us because his wife Jane had signed them up to volunteer. Jack settled in the Exhibit Room and greeted countless visitors, answered the phone, helped out with cleaning, and in the store. He and Jane were among the first volunteers to lend a hand at the Striped Bass Tournaments and at Duckers Day. He was always on hand to help stuff T-shirts into race envelopes and he and Jane showed up to help out at the 10th anniversary celebration, the Art Shows, and all Great Bay Steward Events. In 2000 they were the first couple to be awarded the Evelyn Browne Conservation award and received Presidential Volunteer Awards as well as "gold" name badges for serving more than 20

years. When I first took over the Bay Views lecture series, I never knew if anyone would show up, but Jack and Jane never missed a program. They constantly offered their support to the staff and the Center. This summer Jack's granddaughter, Sara, is helping out in the Exhibit Room and with kids' programs. How happy Jack would be to know that she is sitting in "his" chair.



### Michelle Dionne

Michele was the Research Director at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; our closest neighboring NERR and a partner on many joint projects throughout the years. Michele was an enthusiastic and brilliant coastal scientist who was committed to the Gulf of Maine and adamant that National Estuarine Research Reserves be leaders in coastal science and management. She passed away in early July and will be missed terribly by the NERRS, and by the coastal scientific community here in New England.