A person is silhouetted against a shimmering, sunlit body of water. The person is standing on the left side of the frame, looking out towards the right. The water is covered in numerous bright, starburst-like reflections of sunlight, creating a sparkling effect. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by golden yellows and oranges.

Great Bay MATTERS

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*Promoting research, education
and stewardship throughout
the Great Bay Estuary*

Hello, I Look Forward to Meeting You!



If you are reading Great Bay Matters, then I want to shake your hand, look you in the eye and hear why you care about Great Bay. My name is Cory Riley, and I am the new manager

of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. I want to invite all of you to teach me what you know and to help me understand this place and this community better.

My excitement to dig into this job and into the work of Great Bay is enormous. I have worked with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with the Reserves' federal partner, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. While in that position, I worked closely with the Great Bay NERR and fell in love with this unique inland bay, the education, research, training and conservation work of the Reserve, and the tight-knit professional coastal community in New Hampshire.

One amazing characteristic of estuaries is that they are so tolerant of change. Estuaries are resilient, and they thrive on daily fluctuations of factors like water level and salinity. Change may be easier on estuaries than it is on most of us. I know it is strange for you to open up a copy of Great Bay Matters without seeing Peter Wellenberger's face here in the Manager's Corner; and it is strange for me too. Peter was an amazing advocate and an articulate voice for Great Bay in his role as manager, and we are all fortunate that he will be doing more of the same as the Great Bay Piscataqua Water Keeper. I had the pleasure of working with Peter for ten years, and when I

A Unique Blend of Experience

Cory Riley has spent the last ten years working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Estuarine Reserves Division where she has served as a federal liaison to National Estuarine Research Reserves along the east coast, most recently to Great Bay NERR and the other New England Reserves. Throughout her career she has helped to develop and advance education, research, and training and land stewardship programs from the national perspective, and has used her expertise in strategic planning, facilitation, policy analysis, performance metrics and evaluation to help advance Reserve planning in New England and within NOAA. Cory comes to us with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the College of William and Mary and a Masters in Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Science from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Previous to her experience with NOAA, Cory worked for the Urban Harbors Institute in Boston and served as a volunteer in the Peace Corp.

accepted the job of Reserve Manager I knew it would be futile to attempt to fill his unique role here. We will have to form our own relationships, and my role will be shaped by what is important to you. You will learn that I am passionate about the coast; I love to laugh, and I do not shy away from a spirited debate or a sticky challenge. In fact, starting out in a position like this one is just the sort of thing that energizes me; I am eager to be a part of this change, the future, and the amazing things we will do together at Great Bay.

Cory Riley
Reserve Manager, GBNERR



GREAT BAY
NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) is an estuary comprised of 7,300 acres of tidal waters and 2,935 acres of coastal land. Acquired through land purchases and conservation easements, GBNERR was designated on October 3, 1989 to be preserved for the purposes of education, research, and resource protection.

GreatBay MATTERS

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GBNERR

Manager: Cory Riley

Great Bay Discovery Center

Education Coordinator:
Kelle Loughlin

Great Bay Stewards

President: Jay Diener



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Creating a Legacy

Imagine a quiet spot along the Great Bay where you can easily wander forest paths, sit in a butterfly garden or step onto a wildlife observation deck to watch the osprey build their nest. Maybe there is a talk on native wildflowers being held on the patio or a group of fifth graders planting a “pizza garden” for their class project. And it feels like you’ve just been invited into a neighbor’s backyard to watch some tadpoles hatching in their homemade pond!

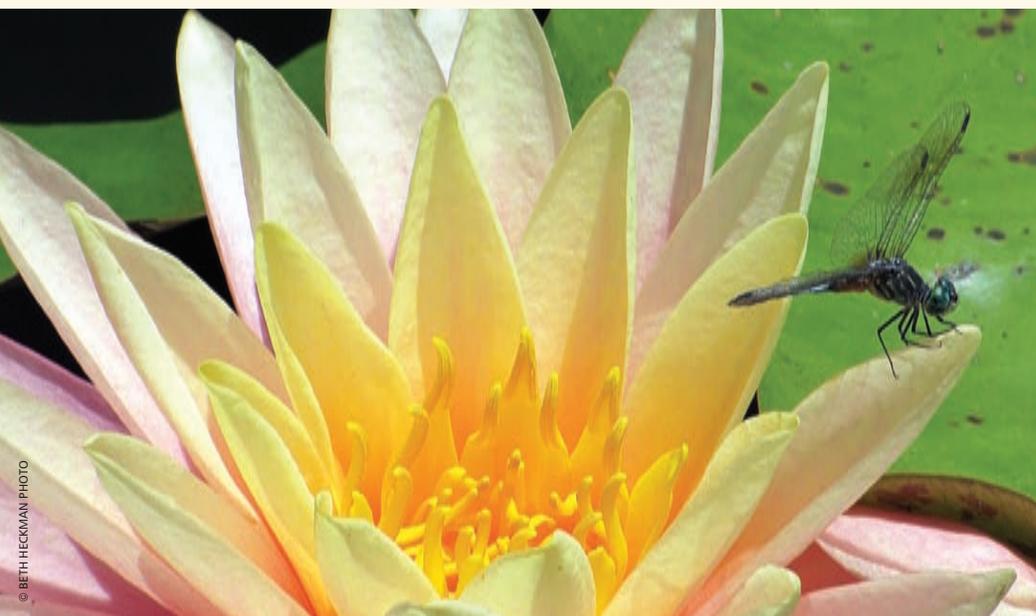
This is our vision for the 1.6 acre tract located in Stratham on Rt. 108N adjacent to Chapman’s Landing boat launch on the Squamscott River. The land was purchased in 2001 with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Known as

the “Wiggin Project”, this property has been designated to become a backyard wildlife garden for public use.

So what exactly is a Backyard Wildlife Garden? Basically it is an area that is landscaped to attract, support and protect native species. It could be your own backyard or in this case, an existing wildlife habitat that will also serve as an educational community garden. Our garden will be low maintenance, provide food, shelter and water for wildlife, and utilize “green” practices such as rain barrels, “no mow” lawns, and repurposed materials.

Reserve staff members Rachel Stevens and Shannon O’Brien are coordinating this project and have enlisted the help of:

- Marilyn Wyzga (NH Fish & Game Wildlife Educator)
- Robbie Woodburn (landscape architect)
- John Hart’s (professor of Horticulture Technology) landscape design class at UNH



Timberland employees have enthusiastically volunteered to help out this fall with some of the more demanding projects such as building garden beds, benches, bridges, railings and patios. Other volunteer groups include local garden clubs, master gardeners and anyone interested in lending a hand.

Earth Day 2012 was the first of many volunteer opportunities to help make this project a reality. On Saturday, April 21, we were on site teaching invasive plant removal using “weed wrenches”. To sign up to help in any way, please contact Shannon O’Brien at 778-0015 or Shannon.obrien@wildlife.nh.gov.

Once the garden is designed and implemented, community volunteers will continue to maintain it for generations to come. What better legacy can we leave for our children and grandchildren?

Linda Schepps Bieber
Master Gardener Volunteer
UNH Cooperative Extension
Rockingham County