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UNH Marine Educator Receives National Award

By Sharon Keeler
UNH News Bureau
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DURHAM, N.H. -- Ann Reid, coordinator of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant Great Bay Coast Watch has been awarded the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Marine Educator award for her outstanding work in the field.

Reid's 100-plus volunteers "get their hands and feet wet" monitoring New Hampshire's two estuaries and small coastline for water quality, point and non-point pollution, and toxic phytoplankton.

Reid and Sharon Meeker, marine extension specialist, developed the program over the past 12 years to produce one of the longest-term data bases for basic water quality of the Great Bay Estuary. Candace Dolan, a marine docent, has recently taken on the toxic phytoplankton portion of the program, and cooperates with other similar programs throughout the Gulf of Maine.

Reid recently attended the National Marine Educators Association annual conference in Victoria, B.C., where she received the award in person.

"Ann's ability to meld people from many backgrounds and several generations into a first-rate volunteer force to 'watch-dog' our precious coast has been recognized by several other organizations," says Meeker. She has also received the New Hampshire Governor's award for the Outstanding Adult Volunteer Organization in Strafford County.

Reid recently published Great Bay Coast Watch 1990-1999; A 10-year Report on the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring of the Great Bay Estuarine System. It is
available at a cost of $15. To receive a copy, contact Ann Reid at (603)749-1565 or ann.reid@unh.edu.

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