

Coastal Features



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SUMMER 2007

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The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

CRMC unveils new UCG Public Access sign

To celebrate the creation of its Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan and model program components, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council unveiled its new public access sign at a ceremony on July 31 at the American Locomotive Works site in Providence.

from the University of Rhode Island. The CRMC's partner in planning this event is Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, which is developing the American Locomotive Works site

developed (a sixth is being developed for Aquidneck Island), and encompasses the cities of Cranston, East Providence, Providence and Pawtucket.

This region is a largely untapped natural resource and economic engine. It was the site of industrialization and progress and over the years



The new UCG public access sign

The sign will be posted throughout the Metro Bay region at all points of public access as part of the SAMP's Urban Coastal Greenway (UCG) program. The sign was a result of a design contest the CRMC conducted late last year, and the design winner is Grady Peck, a landscape architecture graduate

into a mixed-use complex with commercial space, retail shops, restaurants, residential units and public parks. The site will also feature public access and an urban coastal greenway along the Woonasquatucket River.

The Metro Bay SAMP is the fifth to be

has become outdated and underutilized. The cities are now acting to make this region of Narragansett Bay a more appealing place to live and work by improving the economic, social and environmental resources of the working waterfront; attracting major developers with more predictable and effi-

CRMC christens R/V Jack Reed

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and U.S. Senator Jack Reed christened the CRMC's new research vessel, Jack Reed, in July at Brewer Greenwich Bay Marina in Warwick.

The R/V Jack Reed is a 27-foot all-weather research vessel that will be utilized by CRMC staff to conduct underwater mapping. The R/V Jack Reed is outfitted with a Garmin plotter/sounder, which is used for navigation. This shows the boat's location, depth, speed and direction of travel and displays the information on an electric chart. The CRMC will also use its Side Scan sonar and multi-beam equipment, which the University of Rhode Island has

(Continued on next page)

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UCG Sign, continued from Page 1

cient permitting; and providing recreation and access to the water.

The Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) aims to accomplish these goals and provide a functional framework for future environmentally and economically sensitive redevelopment of the SAMP boundary encompassing most of the waterfront in the four cities. The CRMC is coordinating with the cities, government agencies and community organizations to prepare the SAMP.

The UCG is a new regulatory approach for coastal vegetative buffers in the urbanized environment of northern Narragansett Bay, and is intended for projects bordering the Providence, Seekonk, Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers. The purpose of the UCG is to provide a mechanism to redevelop the urban waterfront of the Metro Bay region in a way that integrates economic development with expanded public access along and to the shoreline, as well as the management, protection and restoration of valuable coastal habitats. It is also in keeping with the goals of the CRMC's Marine Resources Development Plan, which utilizes SAMPs as a regional environmental management tool.

"The Urban Coastal Greenway policy is a vital part of the ongoing update of the Metro Bay SAMP, and will serve as the impetus for billions of dollars of redevelopment in the four cities," said CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian. "This policy will allow for a more predictable, flexible process by which developers will be able to redevelop Brownfields sites and a formerly industrial waterfront in major urban areas. This tool is vital to the economic success and environmentally-sensitive re-use of the urban waterfront."

The SAMP will also update and revitalize the Providence Harbor SAMP that the CRMC developed more than 20 years ago. Since that time, the cities of the upper Narragansett Bay have prospered from economic growth and cultural renewal, as well as a renewed appreciation for the waterfront and its natural values.

"The Metro Bay region is an important natural resource for Rhode Islanders," Tikoian said. "The CRMC is committed to creating a SAMP that protects this important natural and economic resource and honors the upper bay's special history and heritage."

"All of us at Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse are proud of our partnership with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council in the creation of its Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan and our collaboration on the public greenway at American Locomotive Works. This is an incredible undertaking for the State of Rhode Island and a fantastic new public amenity for the Valley neighborhood of Providence," said John Sinnott, Struever Bros.' Managing Director.

CRMC holds SAMP forum for Aquidneck Island officials

The R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) presented an overview of the Aquidneck Island Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) on July 31, at Middletown Town Hall, along with town officials, to interested residents and neighborhood groups.

The CRMC and the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC) are working with the towns of Middletown, Newport and Portsmouth to design a plan that encompasses: smart growth requirements set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; buffers and setbacks to accommodate the expected mixed-use developments on the west side of the island; the transfer of federal land from the Navy that is consistent with CRMC regulations and SAMP guidelines; and possible water type changes for that side of Aquidneck Island that will reflect the expected change in use, as envisioned by the towns.

"The SAMP is an opportunity for the public to take part in a collaborative process with government and the private sector to develop a management plan that addresses coastal problems specific to the SAMP area, and will offer practical ways to solve those problems," said CRMC Executive Director Grover Fugate. "A SAMP is unique in its flexibility to provide tailored recommendations for the unique issues of an area, while still serving as a powerful regulatory tool for protecting coastal resources."

A SAMP, once approved by the CRMC, requires federal, state, and local governments to abide by SAMP policies. For example, in the event that the U.S. Navy opts to give up some of its island property, it would do so in accordance with an approved SAMP that reflects local needs and input. The CRMC expects that the Aquidneck Island SAMP will initially adopt the boundary of the island's West Side Master Plan, developed by the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, which provides recommendations for the majority of the island's west coast, as its target area. Eventually, the boundary could be expanded to include other areas, or the remainder of the island.

"As chairman of the CRMC I am excited about this next step in the development of the Aquidneck Island SAMP," said CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian. "This new SAMP will greatly benefit the island, and its creation is in line with the goals set forth in the Marine Resources Development Plan."

To see the state's other SAMPs, visit <http://www.crmc.ri.gov>.

R/V Jack Reed, continued from Page 1

been utilizing. The sonar produces a high-resolution image of the ocean floor, and the multi-beam creates a 3-D picture of the ocean floor. A sediment penetrating depth profile sensor will also be used to create profiles below the sediment bottom, and an underwater camera will be used for a variety of tasks. It will be equipped with an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP), which will be housed in an Oceanscience Riverboat which will be towed behind the vessel. The ADCP is a rapid-sampling current profiling system that will be used to collect data on currents and sediment transport.

A Hydrographic Survey System onboard includes computer software, a portable Echosounder, which will record paper and digital records of ocean floor contours, a Trimble GPS (Global Positioning System) and laptop. Some additional specifications to the R/V Jack Reed are its two 150-horsepower Yamaha 4-stroke engines, 300-pound davit with electric winch and aluminum hull.



Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian stand next to the R/V Jack Reed before taking a tour of the vessel.

“The CRMC is thrilled to have a new research vessel to collect data in the field in a variety of areas,” said CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian, who will serve as master of ceremonies for the christening. “With this vessel we will be able to track sediment movement and create profiles of sea beds, useful data for many of our programs and efforts. We are also honored to have the support of Senator Reed, after whom the vessel is named. We think it is a fitting tribute to a man who has always supported coastal management issues and the CRMC.”



The R/V Jack Reed is christened by Meagan McCusker while Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian look on.

The R/V was christened by Meagan McCusker, a close family friend of Senator Reed. Meagan is a Cranston resident and is currently a sophomore at UNH studying health management and policy. Following the christening ceremony, Perry Raso, owner and operator of the Ocean State Aquaculture Farm, offered a complementary raw bar for guests.

Funding for the vessel was secured with fees collected from the Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells, which the state owns and maintains. The vessel will be kept at Brewer Greenwich Bay Marina in Warwick; the marina location is central and its facilities will allow for the CRMC to get the vessel in and out quickly.

“The CRMC would also like to extend our gratitude to the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association for their support and to Brewer Greenwich Bay Marina for keeping the boat at their marina,” Tikoian said. “We have a great working relationship with the association, and we look forward to continuing that relationship well into the future.”

“I am honored that CRMC chose to name this new research vessel after me,” said Senator Jack Reed. “This boat will help provide researchers with new information about Narragansett Bay and our coastal waters and the health of these important ecosystems. It will further enhance the work of CRMC scientists.”

CRMC permits first marine ornamental farm



The owners of New England Marina Ornaments plan to raise clownfish (above), lined sea horses (left) and peppermint shrimp (below).

Photos Courtesy of New England Marine Ornaments



The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council recently issued a permit for the first ornamental marine fish farm in Rhode Island.

The facility is located in an old mill building – the former Parker Mills building – on Metacom Avenue, and business partners Ronald Fortunati, Bradford Bourque and Harold Pomeroy have formed the company New England Marine Ornaments, LLC and plan to grow and sell ornamental species such as clownfish, lined sea horses and peppermint shrimp. Bourque and Pomeroy work at Roger Williams University, and Fortunati is an alumnus.

Researchers at Roger Williams University's Center for Economic and Environmental Development have been working for the past four years to develop the best production technologies for the northeast region.

“The CRMC is pleased to have permitted Rhode Island's first ornamental marine fish farm,” said CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian. “This business represents an important niche in the aquaculture industry, and the research performed by the university is very valuable to the CRMC and to aquaculture. This farm is also a great example of sustainable environmental management, one of our primary goals as an agency.”

The group received a major grant from the Rhode Island Aquaculture Initiative – established through the efforts of Senator Jack Reed and maintained by the CRMC – over three years to develop economically and environmentally sustainable land-based culture tech-

niques for at least three species of marine ornamentals, the results of which prompted the creation of this farm. New England Marine Ornaments plans to begin with a small scale operation, with the goal of producing the different species for the local marine aquarium store market. According to Bourque, the three businessmen hope to make back their initial investment within a year, which might allow them to diversify into additional species of clownfish and other species (such as dottybacks, gobies and cardinalfish) and service a regional market. Production is expected to be at more than 400 clownfish, 50 seahorses and 300 peppermint shrimp per month. The company currently has clownfish available for sale.

“This project represents an important step in developing Rhode Island's aquaculture industry,” said U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), who secured \$1 million to help establish the Center for Aquaculture Development at Roger Williams University. “It makes good economic sense for the Ocean State to be a leader in the rapidly expanding global aquaculture market. This ornamental fish farm also makes good environmental sense because it will help reduce the impact of the aquarium trade on delicate coral reef systems.”

CRMC, RI Sea Grant celebrate Coastweeks

The 26th annual Coastweeks celebration runs from September 15-October 13

Join us in the 26th annual nationwide Coastweeks—dedicated to fostering awareness, understanding, and improved management of the coast. Contact Jean Gallo at (401) 874-6842 to join the Coastweeks mailing list to receive the free calendar of events every year.

Coastweeks is sponsored by the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council and the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program. For a complete schedule of events, contact Sea Grant at <http://sea-grant.gso.uri.edu> or

(401) 874-6842.

Throughout Coastweeks:

Historic Lighthouses Tour with Gansett Cruises

Each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during Coastweeks, Gansett Cruises is offering lighthouse tours of approximately 75 minutes. Enjoy coffee, oven-fresh muffins, fruit, and more aboard the Gansett and learn about Rhode Island's historic lighthouses. Cruises offered September 20-22, 27-29, and October 4-6. 9 a.m. \$20.

Cruise schedule subject to change due to weather and other circumstances. For more information or to register, visit www.gansettcruises.com or call (401) 787-4438.

Cross' Mills Coastweeks Book Display and Cinema

Cross' Mills Public Library will have books relating to the coast on display. The library will also host "Cross' Mills Coastweeks Cinema." All films are shown at 7 p.m.

September 18: Save the Wave

September 25: Search for the Giant (Lobster)

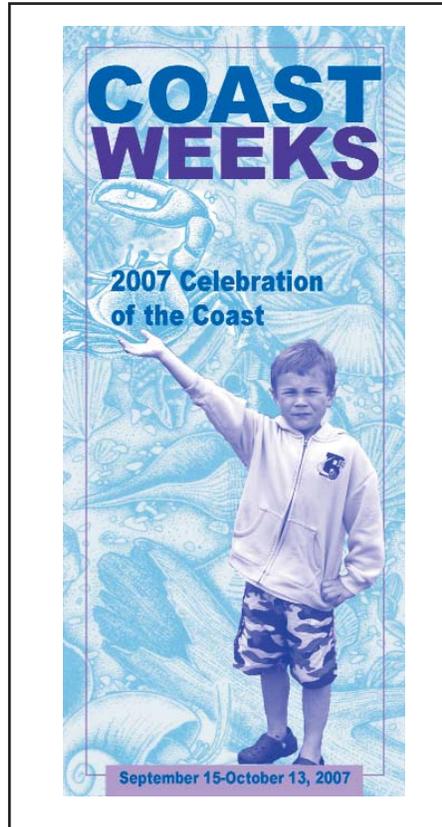
October 2: Man of Aran

Cross' Mills Public Library, 4417 Old Post Road, Charlestown, RI 02813. Tel: (401) 364-6211 Web: crossmills.org. Directions: Rte. 1S, after entering Charlestown area, make a U-turn at the sign for Cross Mills, Charlestown Beach. Immediately cross to right lane and take the exit for Cross Mills. Turn left at the Stop sign. The Cross' Mills Public Library is the second driveway on the left.

Thundermist Tours aboard the Black-

stone Valley Explorer

Every Sunday from September 9 to October 30, passengers aboard the Blackstone Valley Explorer will experience historical, architectural, and scenic views between the Thundermist Dam and the state border in Blackstone, which will be high-



lighted with guided interpretation. Find out about the development of Woonsocket, from its origins as a conclave of mill villages, to its strong French-Canadian ethnicity, to historic architecture spotlighting the city's role in the American Industrial Revolution in the 19th and 20th centuries. In late September through October delight in the seasonal changes along the river with a breathtaking fall foliage trip. On October 7, half-price tours will be sponsored by Citizens Bank on a first come, first served basis as part of a Footsteps in History event.

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour. \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children. These tours depart from Woonsocket Landing, located in Market Square, near

the Museum of Work & Culture. A \$1 discount will be offered to anyone with a receipt from the Museum of Work and Culture. Reservations recommended. Call (401) 724-2200. For more information visit www.rivertourblackstone.com or www.footstepsinhistory.com.

South County Stroller Club

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Would you and your child enjoy spending time with other parents and kids? If so, then this club is for you! During this four-part series, we will be touring some local historical, cultural and ecological attractions, all while getting a bit of light exercise. Be sure to wear your suntan lotion and bug spray. A hat, good walking shoes, water bottle & snack, stroller, and binoculars are also suggested. Please note these programs are for parents and infants or toddlers in strollers or backpacks. Due to the pace of the walk, this program is not appropriate for young children to walk. All walks are from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Advance registration is required for all. The cost for each adult and child(ren) in a stroller is \$9 for residents and \$12 for nonresidents of South Kingstown. Call South Kingstown Parks and Recreation at (401) 789-9301 for more information or to register.

September 15

Oyster Gardening

Aquaculture extension specialists at Roger Williams University (RWU) will offer a session on the aquaculture program R.I. Oyster Gardening for Restoration and Enhancement (RI-OGRE) that is

(Continued on next page)

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Coastweeks, continued from Previous Page

also sponsored by the Rhode Island Aquaculture Initiative under the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council. Through this program, where coastal residents or dock owners can grow oysters for use in a restoration program and—depending upon location—personal consumption. RWU has a dock near the aquaculture facility and will have oysters growing with the gardening techniques.

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

RWU, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol. For more information, contact Steve Patterson at (401) 254-3707 or e-mail oysters@rwu.edu. For directions to campus, visit www.rwu.edu.

International Coastal Cleanup

Volunteers at 65 locations around Rhode Island tally each piece of trash that is picked up in order to provide a snapshot of the origin of trash on the beach. Data is used in policy work to reduce debris. Line can entangle whales, turtles, and propeller shafts. Cigarette butts contain poisons. Litter in the water is a menace to wildlife and humans. Help create a cleaner beach by counting and combing along with teams around the world.

9 a.m. to noon. Free.

Preregistration is not necessary but helpful. Participants must be able to walk and pick up lightweight material. For directions or more information, call (401) 949-5454.

October 6**Oktoberfest Aboard the Sea Princess**

When you hear the word Oktoberfest, it is almost certain that one thing comes to mind—beer! We will be featuring a rousing tasting of beers from around the globe. To complement this festive atmosphere, we will also feature a variety of artisan cheeses from small American companies who make cheese the old-fashioned way. A sampling of pates and olives will round out this traditional fall celebration. 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$42 for Audubon Society of Rhode Island members/ South Kingstown residents, \$49 for nonmembers/nonresidents.

Town Wharf, Main Street, Wickford.

Sponsored by Audubon Society of Rhode Island and South Kingstown Parks & Recreation. All participants must be over 21 years of age. Wear clothing appropriate to the season, and bring a jacket. All registrations are final three days before the program is scheduled to run. Space is limited,

early registration is suggested!

Please note; if the program is full, sign up for the waiting list. We will run additional sessions if interest warrants. For more information or to register, contact Audubon at (401) 949-5454 x3041, or South Kingstown Parks and Recreation at (401) 789-9301.

October 6 & 27**Waterscape/Streetscape Symposium**

The future redevelopment of Newport's waterfront is a pressing planning issue, and this symposium will serve as a visioning process on successfully redeveloping the waterfront. The symposium will feature speakers describing Newport's historic and economic waterfront assets, a case study of a similar plan for Newburyport, Mass., study tours, and charettes.

IYRS, 458 Thames Street, Newport. For more information or to register, contact (401) 272-6418 or execdir@aia-ri.org. The symposium is sponsored by the American Institute for Architects, the city of Newport, the Alliance for a Livable Newport, and Rhode Island Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center.

October 13**Nature Poetry Writing**

Participants will begin writing using the physical/natural-observed environment found at the Historic Watson Farm to connect with memory. Exercises and discussion will focus on the inner dialogue the writer has within himself/herself of the present, past, and imagined future. Ira Schaeffer and Patte Weathers-Parry, both published poets, will lead the workshop. Group sharing and discussion of written work is encouraged. Open to journal writers and poets of all levels. 9 a.m. to noon. \$10 for Historic New England members, \$20 for nonmembers.

Directions: Rte. 138E across Jamestown Bridge, first exit (Helm Street). Turn right at second stop sign onto North Road. Watson Farm is three miles ahead on right. Contact Heather Minto at (401) 423-0005 or visit www.historicnewengland.org.

A Taste of Provence Aboard the Sea Princess

We have brought back a popular favorite for our fall boating season. The finest chefs of Wickford have created a sampler

of breads, cheeses, and other culinary delights to conjure the flavors of this famous region of France. Fine food and a splash of wine will round out an unforgettable day on the bay. 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$42 for Audubon Society of Rhode Island members/South Kingstown residents, \$49 for nonmembers/nonresidents.

Town Wharf, Main Street, Wickford. Sponsored by Audubon Society of Rhode Island and South Kingstown Parks & Recreation. All participants must be over 21 years of age. Wear clothing appropriate to the season, and bring a jacket. All registrations are final three days before the program is scheduled to run. Space is limited, early registration is suggested!

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Shoreline Adventures Aboard the Southland/Coastal Crafters Cruise

All aboard! Join us aboard the riverboat Southland to explore the shore next door. You will be able to sit back and relax while listening to a narrated tour of Point Judith Harbor. As we cruise along our picturesque coastline, you will get to see the beautiful islands of the Great Salt Pond. And, if you're a crafter, register for the craft program taking place on board during the cruise, and create your own nature-themed craft. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Shoreline Adventures only: South Kingstown residents: \$13 for adults, \$10 for children. Nonresidents: \$16 for adults, \$13 for children. Coastal Crafters Cruise: South Kingstown residents: \$16 for adults, \$13 for children. Nonresidents: \$21 for adults, \$16 for children.

We leave from the port of Galilee at the State Pier, docked next to the Block Island Ferry. Dress for the weather since we run rain or shine, and bring your camera! Advance registration is required. A registered adult or guardian must accompany all children. Please call South Kingstown Parks and Recreation at (401) 789-9301 for more information or to register.

Volunteers keep an eye on Greenwich Bay water quality

By James Boyd, CRMC Policy Analyst

Over the past several seasons, Michelle Komar and John Williams have logged countless hours sampling and reporting water quality monitoring data in Greenwich Bay. Additionally, John has volunteered the use of his own boat to help in the water quality sampling. Michelle and John are members of the Greenwich Bay



John Williams and Michelle Komar take some water samples in Greenwich Cove.

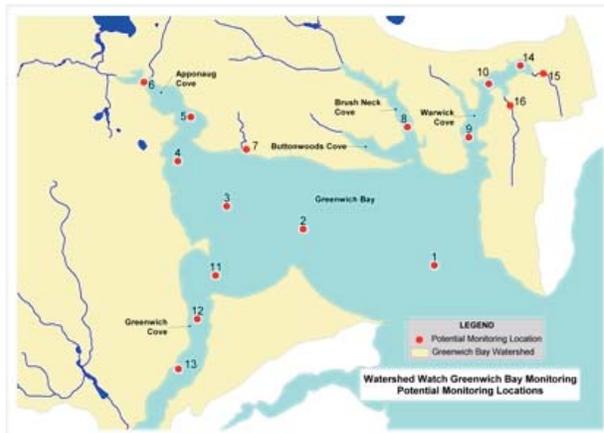
Watershed Group and are volunteers for the University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch Program. They sample the water column in Apponaug, Brushneck, East Greenwich, and Warwick Coves, as well as four monitoring stations within Greenwich Bay from May through October to compile a comprehensive database of water quality parameters. This data is used to keep track of water quality status and trends in Greenwich Bay and provide important information for better management decisions.

The Greenwich Bay Watershed Group monitors water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chlorophyll abundance at the 13 different monitoring stations on a weekly basis. Once a month samples are obtained at each station for bacteria, total nitrogen, nitrate and ammonium nitrogen and pH. These water quality analyses cost \$600 per station for the sampling season. The Warwick Sewer

Authority, the Town of East Greenwich, and the CRMC have sponsored monitoring stations, but the URI Watershed Watch Program is still seeking additional sponsorship to help with this monitoring season. Visit their website, www.uri.edu/ce/wq/ww/index.htm, to help fund a site.

In addition to the monitoring work conducted by the Greenwich Bay Watershed Group, the RI Department of Environmental Management, RI Department of Health (Beach Monitoring Program), and URI Graduate School of Oceanography are all collecting water quality data in Greenwich Bay. The collection, compilation, and analysis of the water quality data provides valuable information to gauge the effectiveness of implemented management measures as part of the CRMC Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP).

Long-term data collection is essential to evaluate the impact that the SAMP measures have on improving water quality. The DOH has recently reported that bathing beach closures in Greenwich Bay have been decreasing during the period of 2004 through the middle of this year (2008), despite some periodic heavy rainfall events. During this same period, the Warwick Sewer Authority has reported approximately 4,000 new residential sewer connections to municipal lines. It appears that the increased sewer line connections, mandated as part of the Greenwich Bay SAMP, have resulted in decreasing pollution to Greenwich Bay, in turn is decreasing the number of beach closures in Warwick. The CRMC thanks the volunteer water quality monitors, like John and Michelle, who help make this data collection possible.



Greenwich Bay Watershed Watch Volunteer Monitoring 2007 Sampling Stations (May - October)



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 David Abedon
 W. Michael Sullivan, RIDEM
 Raymond C. Coia
 Bruce Dawson
 Donald Gomez
 Neill Gray
 Thomas Ricci
 K. Joseph Shekarchi
 Gerald P. Zarrella

Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director
 Brian A. Goldman, Legal Counsel



CRMC Chairman Michael M. Tikoian, left, UCG logo designer Grady Peck, center, and CRMC Executive Director Grover J. Fugate celebrate at the CRMC's UCG event.

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