

# RESEARCH AT THE RESERVE

131 WAQUOIT HIGHWAY, WAQUOIT (E. FALMOUTH)

MONDAY EVENINGS IN APRIL

7:00PM - 8:30PM



## Are Our Salt Marshes Rising to the Challenge of Sea Level Rise?

Monday, April 3

In the past few decades, scientists across New England have observed a decline in salt marsh plants that prefer higher elevation and less frequent flooding. Sea level rise is considered to be the main driver of this ecological shift. Salt marsh survival and the continuation of important marsh ecological services, including bird and wildlife habitat, recreation, shoreline protection, and as a natural carbon sink, depends on marshes keeping pace with sea level rise. Join Dr. Gonnee as she shares what she learned by taking cores of the marsh to reveal the past and shed light on the future.

*Meagan Eagle Gonnee, U.S. Geological Survey*



## WHAT'S UP WITH THE WATER IN WAQUOIT BAY?

Monday, April 10

One of Dr. Tyrrell's first orders of business when she joined the Reserve this past fall, was to conduct preliminary analysis of some of the over twenty years of weather and water quality monitoring data the Reserve has collected. She will present trends in temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen that could have implications for seagrass and harmful algal blooms. She will also examine wind and precipitation patterns that may affect the growth of salt marsh vegetation. Come meet our new Research Coordinator and hear what she's found out about what's going on in our local waters.

*Megan Tyrrell, Research Coordinator, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*



## BATS & BUNNIES: MANAGING HABITAT FOR SELDOM SEEN MAMMALS

Monday, April 17

The New England cottontail, a species of conservation concern (different from the Eastern Cottontail which is very common), and Northern long-eared bats, recently listed as a threatened species, are being studied by US Fish and Wildlife biologists in the forests of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and Waquoit Bay Reserve. How many of these mammals are left? Where can these species be found? What kinds of habitats do they thrive in? Management is underway to improve the health of the forests, reduce the potential for wildfires, and to improve habitat for the New England cottontails. How should the forest be managed to reduce potential negative impacts on the bats? Results of the cottontail surveys and the bat surveys to date will be presented.

*Eileen McGourty, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO WASHBURN THE WAYWARD MANATEE?

Monday, April 24

Misty Niemeyer will be discussing the rescue efforts for the manatee "Washburn" which took place in September 2016 in Falmouth, just off of Waquoit Bay Reserve's Washburn Island component. Additionally, she will place the rescue in the context of other occurrences of manatees on Cape Cod and present about the marine mammal rescue and research work that IFAW does here on Cape Cod.

*Misty Niemeyer, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Marine Mammal Rescue and Research Division*

## WAQUOIT BAY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER

### COFFEE HOUSE SERIES

Join us for an informal evening learning about the cutting edge research happening around Waquoit Bay.

Each week you will learn from a different scientist about how they do their research, what they are discovering, and how it applies to today's issues.

*Coffee & dessert provided.*

Doors open at 6:30PM. There is no charge for the series, table seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information please contact Joan Muller at joan.muller@state.ma.us or visit our website at [www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org).

### Co-Sponsors

*Waquoit Bay Reserve,  
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