



2016 Water Watch Lecture Series

January 13 – March 9

Wednesdays at 7 pm • FREE ADMISSION!

at the South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell * except where noted

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JANUARY 13 - The Finest Hours

Michael Tougias, Author

Author Michael Tougias will appear at Laura's Center for the Arts (at the SSYMCA - Emilson in Hanover) to give a presentation on his new book *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue*. Hear the heroic tale of when a ferocious nor'easter split in half two tankers off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and how the Coast Guard miraculously saved the day. The Disney Corporation has made a movie based on the book that will premiere two weeks after the lecture, and will star Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.



JANUARY 20 - Whale SENSE, Ensuring Safe & Comfortable

Whale Watching – for the Whales!

Regina Asmutis-Silvia, Executive Director, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Whale watching has always been great family fun, with thousands of people embarking on excursions each year. Whale SENSE wants to ensure that not only is it fun for the participants, but it's also safe for the whales. Whale SENSE is a voluntary education and recognition program offered to commercial whale watching companies that are committed to responsible practices. Join Regina Asmutis-Silvia as she discusses the reasons why we need to ensure that our whale watching tours are Whale SENSE certified.

JANUARY 27 - History of Hurricanes in New England

Jeff Donnelly, Associate Scientist in Geology & Geophysics, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Sandy, Irene, and Bill are just some of the harsh hurricanes that have hit Massachusetts. While these storms have left significant marks within our communities, what are these storms like compared to storms 300 years ago? Woods Hole Scientist Jeff Donnelly shares the stories of historical storms that have hit New England and what the future may hold for hurricanes yet to come.

FEBRUARY 3 - Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird Back to Egg Rock

Stephen Kress and Derrick Jackson, Co-Authors

Project Puffin is the inspiring story of how a beloved seabird was restored to long-abandoned nesting colonies off the Maine coast. With the ever-looming threat of climate change, habitats will be shifting, making today's vital ecosystems more rare and the restoration of these ecosystems even more important. Today, Project Puffin has restored more than 1,000 puffin pairs to three Maine islands, and the project has helped restore rare and endangered seabirds worldwide. Come learn about this project's success directly from the authors.

FEBRUARY 10 - Adventures Under the Sea: Piloting the Alvin

Bruce Strickrott, Alvin Group Manager, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

How can we learn about something that we can't see? Deep sea oceanographers have always had this problem. This is why the Alvin was created—to help us reach the most extreme areas on earth so that we can learn about them and explore them. Alvin has transported more than 8,000 researchers over the last 40 years, including Bruce Strickrott. He will share with us some of the incredible experiences he has had while piloting the Alvin.

FEBRUARY 17 - Disaster Response in Haiti: Resilient Communities and Aquaculture

Chris Sherman, Island Creek Oysters

Join Chris Sherman from the Island Creek Oysters Foundation to discuss aquaculture and its important role in meeting the food production needs of a growing human population. The Island Creek Oysters Foundation supports projects that use sustainable aquaculture as a food source. Additionally, they educate and inform people about the value of aquaculture as a solution to the global issue of food production.

FEBRUARY 24 - The Most Endangered Species in Massachusetts That You've Never Heard About: Spadefoot Toads

Ian Ives, Director of Mass Audubon's Long Pasture, Ashumet and Skunknet River Wildlife Sanctuaries

The eastern spadefoot toad is the rarest frog species in Massachusetts; its status in the state is listed as "threatened". Ian will explore the secret life history of this elusive and little known species that is being reintroduced on Cape Cod to increase their population and hopefully ensure their survival.

MARCH 2 - Boston Light 300th Birthday

Sally Snowman, Boston Lighthouse Keeper

Boston Light has been ensuring safe passage for sailors for 300 years, making it the oldest light station in the country! Learn about the history and 300th birthday celebration of the iconic Boston Harbor lighthouse directly from the entity that is tasked with protecting it. Join us as we welcome Boston Lighthouse Keeper Sally Snowman, to learn what it takes to protect the most historical lighthouse in the country.

MARCH 9 - Lessons Learned from the Largest Wetland Restoration Project in Massachusetts

Alex Hackman, Restoration Specialist, Mass Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration

Alex Hackman from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration will describe how the state has managed to restore two retired cranberry farms in Plymouth into the largest freshwater wetlands project to date. The Tidmarsh Farms project (currently in construction) represents the largest freshwater wetlands project to date in Massachusetts, and the Eel River Headwaters Project (completed in 2010) received the 2011 Coastal America Partnership Award. Come and hear how theory and practice come together to achieve self-sustaining and dynamic wetland ecosystems in previously degraded lands.