

Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

The **Narragansett Bay Research Reserve**, located on Prudence Island, is one of 28 Reserves in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). This network of protected estuaries—where the rivers meet the sea—provides essential habitat for wildlife, offers educational opportunities, and serves as a living laboratory for scientists. The NERRS is a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states, and it protects more than one million acres of estuary lands and water around the nation.

Meet the Artists of the 2012 Tide Calendar...



Fostering an Appreciation for the Bay through Local Youth Education

The artwork in the 2012 Tide Calendar is courtesy of the 2nd grade class (2010-2011 school year) at Fishing Cove Elementary School in North Kingstown, RI, led by teacher Susanne Warburton. The students selected creatures of the Bay to research and illustrate as part of a larger class project incorporating science, math, literacy, environmental awareness and the arts into their lesson. The class used real-time data collected by the **Narragansett Bay Research Reserve**, which is available to everyone online at www.nerrsdata.org.

Here is a look at the project they worked on throughout the school year:

Using air and water temperature data collected by Reserve staff on Prudence Island, the class created weekly graphs and made predictions about the temperatures they would discover in their salt marsh. Students visited the marsh as the seasons changed, recording their own air and water temperatures to compare with the data from Prudence Island. The class explored how seasonal variations affected wildlife at the marsh by making monthly trips to count animal populations in designated “hot spots”. The students were engaged in real world investigations, using the same scientific tools and methods that real scientists use. According to Ms. Warburton, “students have so much fun that they don’t even realize they are learning”!



Susanne Warburton has been teaching in the North Kingstown school department since 2001, serving various roles including technology educator for elementary schools and joining the Fishing Cove School staff in 2008. Sue was a Rhode Island Finalist for the Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching Excellence in 2010, the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science.

*The tide data in this calendar is based on information for Newport, Rhode Island