

Letter from the editor

Summer's here, and it's time to go clamming! This issue will help you sort out the various clams you may gather with your trusty rake. You'll also gain insights into emerging and evolving options for fisheries management in New England, that ultimately could affect the seafood you find in the marketplace. And you can also brush up on your Long Island Sound history, as two fascinating historical accounts appear in this issue. One is about Venture Smith/Broteer Furro, the legendary 18th century "black Paul Bunyan," who became a success using his wits and the resources of Long Island Sound, and is now being described as a national hero. You'll learn how a UConn historian re-discovered his home in Stonington, Connecticut, and how a high school teacher is inspiring students with his legacy. The story took a personal twist for me when the famous Venture Rock turned out to be located on a farm that my grandparents bought in 1909. It's now a coastal preserve that many people enjoy. Then you'll learn about the discovery of Long Island Sound and its native inhabitants and "Nieuw Netherlands," the Dutch colony that appeared on our shores well before the Mayflower landed in Plymouth.

While I hope the summer is a time of rest and relaxation for at least some of our readers, many of us including the Sea Grant staff remain busy at work. My best accomplishment since our last issue is the publication of a new little nature book, *Seaweeds of Long Island Sound*, that can be found on the Connecticut Sea Grant web site. In general it is a time of transitions for the Connecticut Sea Grant program, as we are simultaneously preparing for our national program evaluation and searching for a permanent Director for the program. At present, our former director for more than 18 years, Ed Monahan, is enjoying retirement by celebrating the outdoors. The good news is, he remains on the magazine's Editorial Board. Our interim director, Sylvain De Guise, is skillfully guiding the program through its strategic planning process and preparation for an evaluation by the National Sea Grant Office in October. *Wrack Lines* is one of the publications that the evaluation team will examine, so we invite our readers to write with your comments and suggestions, or to tell us how you use the magazine. Using last year's survey cards, we have tried to follow your suggestions for story topics, and a second reader survey will be included in the next issue. Comments and ideas from readers, as well as donations, can be sent to me at the address on the masthead which appears on the facing page.

Now, finally, I hope you will get out to that wrack line and have some summer fun in Long Island Sound and the Connecticut shoreline. Get out and smell the seaweed!

Peg Van Patten, editor

