From the EDITOR

“SEA” WHAT’S NEW!

In this issue of Wrack Lines, we depart from our usual potpourri format to instead offer a single theme, marine education. We have highlighted in these pages not only the worthy efforts that our own program leads, but a look at marine education efforts by a variety of Connecticut educators and partners who all have the same goal: bring the ocean and coast to life for this generation of students. We couldn’t include everything going on in these 24 pages, but you’ll find some inspiring examples.

When I look through the articles submitted, I find a common thread throughout: the educators we talked with all agree that nature makes the best classroom, and hands-on activities are the ones young people will remember. Did I mention the sense of stewardship that can develop when students are exposed to natural environments?

By bringing observations, data, or specimens back to the classroom or laboratory, the learning continues indoors with the tangible real-world connection still fresh in students’ and teachers’ minds.

For all of us, it’s important to understand the importance of the ocean. A good place to start: The Ocean Literacy Campaign is a wide-ranging, collaborative effort by hundreds of scientists and educators to create a society with greater ocean knowledge. One of its key efforts was to develop seven basic key principles of Ocean Literacy that we should all know and appreciate.

*Here they are—see how many you knew!*  
- The Earth has one big ocean with many features.  
- The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.  
- The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.  
- The ocean made Earth habitable.  
- The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.  
- The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.  
- The ocean is largely unexplored.

Peg Van Patten

Peg Van Patten, editor

About our cover:
The Charles W. Morgan, last wooden whaleship in the world, sails on its 38th voyage to New England ports of call in 2014. The voyage was not only about history, but also science and ocean sustainability. NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries partnered with Mystic Seaport for a visit to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Story on page 7. Photo: © Mystic Seaport, DA Murphy