



THE FIELD JOURNAL

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Come to the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative Conference on Sept. 22!

THIS MONTH AT THE FIELD STATION

- ❖ SUMMER INTERNS WRAP UP RESEARCH PROJECTS
- ❖ TULGEYWOOD CAMP FOR THE DISABLED ENJOYS WATERFRONT RECREATION
- ❖ MOSQUITOES CAUGHT AROUND ISLAND AND SENT TO STATE LAB FOR DISEASE TESTING
- ❖ STAFF CONTINUES GROUNDWATER MONITORING
- ❖ MARIA MITCHELL AND STRONG WINGS DAY CAMPS FREQUENT THE GROUNDS



UMB Team Installs Sensors in Harbor

Three sensor buoys were deployed in the harbors this summer by a collaborative team of scientists from on- and off-island. The buoys transmit live data wirelessly, which can be accessed anytime through a public website connected to a Google Earth interface at <https://datagarrison.com/users/3422871/map.php>.

Two buoys were installed in Nantucket Harbor, while a third was put in Madaket Harbor. The project was coordinated by Managing Director Dr. Sarah Oktay of the Nantucket Field Station and Peter Boyce, a member of the Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board (SHAB) and a research scientist with the Maria Mitchell Association.

The heart of the

buoys' functionality lies in the units secured atop them. These watertight housings contain solar-powered data transmitter stations with ports for connecting various instruments. All of the units were set up to measure temperature in the water at two depths (surface and near the bottom), while

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Biology Classes Held at Field Station

Biology students from UMass Boston took full advantage of the Field Station's resources this month as they explored the trails, identified and studied local species, and monitored the marsh during two

different biology classes.

The first class on the island, a 100-level course with a focus on coastal ecology, is held every year at the Field Station and is open to college

students and to the general public as well. The second class, another two-week course, is an advanced, 300-level biology course with a focus on marine and coastal ecological

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SENSOR BUOYS DEPLOYED IN HARBOR

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one unit also included a sensor to measure photosynthetic light. There are plans to add several other sensors in the future.

Mike Pollard and Francesco Peri of the UMass Boston Center for Coastal Environmental Sensing Networks (CESN) built the computing units on campus in Boston over an eight-week period. The buoys

themselves were donated by the Marine and Coastal Resources Department (MCRD). During deployment, the team was assisted by Chris Vanderwolk, the Madaket Harbormaster, and by Keith Conant, the Town Biologist, along with two MCRD interns. Funding for the project was provided by the Nantucket Field Station, CESN, SHAB,

and the Marine Department.

The buoys have been operating since their deployment, although the buoy located at Quaise Basin was hit by a boater on the night of August 13th and will be repaired within the month. The replacement buoy will include a flashing LED beacon on top to help boaters navigate around it.

Bio Students Study Local Habitats at Field Station

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research and has several prerequisites.

Eric Friedenson is a teacher from Washington D.C. who summers on Nantucket and always wanted to take a class at the Field Station. He is using the 100-level course to improve his

background in biology so he can apply for a teaching license in the public school system.

“The course provides a nice overview of ecological interactions with enough species-level examples that I’ll be able to use this in teaching,” says Friedenson. “Knowing the specifics about five

different types of plankton, as opposed to just saying ‘plankton,’ will make teaching [the science] more interesting.”

More information on classes at the Field Station is available online at www.ccde.umb.edu.

ABOUT THE FIELD STATION...

The University of Massachusetts Boston's Nantucket Field Station (NFS) includes a 107-acre field site with laboratory facilities, residence space, maintenance shop, and offices on Nantucket Harbor in the Quaise portion of the island.

The Field Station is open for research, academic work, and field trips throughout the year. The NFS has provided more than 35 years of continuous service as a learning center for environmental education and research.

The Station's mission is education, research, and community service in cooperation with faculty and students of the University of Massachusetts Boston, the people of Nantucket, and other educational and research organizations both on and off Nantucket.

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