



# FISH HATCHERY NEWS

Newsletter of the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium • Winter 2012 • Volume 28 No. 1

## Looking Back for a Great Future

The end of another year is always a great time to look back and take strength from our accomplishments. At the Hatchery our success throughout the past 29 years has been due to the resolve of many. The enormous effort of trustees, community members, visitors and staff who have promoted our mission has truly nurtured our success. Looking forward we must strive to ignite that same passion fueling our efforts so that we can succeed in achieving new and noble goals, not only to maintain, but also grow support.

With the New Year approaching, now is a great time to generate the wave of support that will carry the Hatchery & Aquarium into the next generation. We must start with those who know and support our mission. We ask you all to share your fondness for and commitment to our nonprofit with others. Encourage everyone to visit throughout the year and take advantage of the programming we offer. Children and adults will take joy in the exhibits and programs which will spark an everlasting memory. They will learn more about our natural world and how they can help protect our resources.

A Hatchery volunteer named Elizabeth Vivirito once wrote, "We must preserve what we now treasure, and protect the hatchlings, for everyone's pleasure. They are a steady light amidst the world's sorrow; they are the certain promise of a bright tomorrow". These are the words that guide me and hopefully will do the same for you.

- Steven DeSimone



Northern Water Snake

## Animal Spotlight: Northern Water Snake

The northern water snake, *Nerodia sipedon*, can be found throughout New York State near lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshes. As cold-blooded reptiles, they spend a large amount of time basking in the sun to warm their bodies, making their preferred habitat a freshwater ecosystem with lots of vegetation and rocks for basking. While in the water, northern water snakes can often be found hiding amongst other species of snakes in muskrat houses and beaver dams which provide lots of hiding places.

Northern water snakes can be identified by their tan, brown or gray coloration with black, dark brown or reddish-brown crossbands. Their belly is a light color (white, yellowish or orange) and marked with reddish-brown half moon spots. This contrast in coloration is called countershading, a common form of camouflage. When seen from above, the dark colors will help the snake camouflage with the dark environment below them. When seen from below, the snake's lighter coloring on its belly helps it camouflage with the sunlight from above. These colors tend to darken as the snake ages.

During late summer and early fall (August through October), northern water snakes can give birth to between 10 and 100 live offspring. Unlike most snakes, northern water snakes are ovoviviparous. Similar to humans, the egg develops while inside the mother's body and the offspring are born live. Immediately following birth, the baby snakes are on their own and do not receive any parental care. Survival is a daunting task for any young animal without parental care as they learn to search for food and escape predators. Those fortunate enough to survive may live to about 9 or 10 years old.

Active during the day and night, the northern water snake changes its hunting technique

*Continued on page 2*

## Trivia

What kind animal uses antifreeze to survive the winter?

*Read the Fish Hatchery News for the answer.*

# Hatchery Events

The cold, winter air typically keeps visitors away from the Hatchery during the winter months. With the decline in visitors, and the tough economic times, the Hatchery is in store for a tough few months. It is important to continue your support throughout the winter by attending the many new events and programs scheduled for 2012. So don't forget us this winter, and be sure to visit our two indoor buildings and outdoor exhibits. Be sure to check out our list of upcoming events on our website: [www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org).

## Special Events

### Hatchery Tours

Wed & Sun through March, 1pm and 3:30pm

### Holiday Break: Live Animal Presentations, Fish Feeding Demonstrations, Hatchery Tours

December 26-30, See website for schedule

### "Food for Food" Drive

January 1-31

### Trout Birthday Party

Sun, January 8, 2pm

### MLK Jr. Day: Free Mini Fish Food Funtainer

Mon, January 16

### Tying the Knot

February 1-17

### February Vacation Programs

Mon through Fri, February 20-24

## Ongoing Events

### Catch & Keep Fishing

Fri through Tues, 10am-12pm and 1-3pm

### Fish Feeding Demonstrations

Sat and Sun at 11am and 2pm

Wed and Thurs at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Visit our website for details or to see a complete list of events: [www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org).



# Birthday Parties

Celebrate your birthday at the Hatchery with a live animal presentation and fish feeding!

Visit our website or contact the Hatchery for details.  
[www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org)  
[fisheducator@cshfha.org](mailto:fisheducator@cshfha.org)  
(516) 692-6768



## Animal Spotlight - Continued from page 1

depending on the conditions. During the day, they will hunt along the waters edge for amphibians, fish, crayfish, smaller snakes and small mammals. At night, they will hunt in shallow water looking for sleeping minnows or other small fish. Their predatory instinct is beneficial for humans as it helps control the small animal population.

As a non-venomous snake, its best line of defense is its small teeth. Northern water snakes will strike if they feel threatened. They will also excrete waste or release a musky odor to ward of predators, including bullfrogs, snapping turtles, larger snakes, herons, hawks and small mammals (raccoons, skunks, otters, etc.). Along with these wild predators, they also have to combat human interference. They are often killed by humans after being confused with copperheads, a venomous snake with similar colorings. Copperheads can be identified by bands of color, as opposed to the blotches of color found on the northern water snake.

Information on sponsoring a northern water snake can be found on our website: [www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org).

# Fishing Fun

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at fishing, but didn't want to spend money on all that expensive gear? A fishing rod and reel, bait, tackle and fishing license can become quite costly. The Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium is a great place to learn how to fish without the added expense of purchasing equipment. It is also a great opportunity for seasoned fisherpeople with their own gear to catch a trout to bring home for dinner. This winter try your hand at "Catch & Keep" trout fishing at the Hatchery. Fun for all ages.

## "Catch & Keep" Fishing

Available year-round  
10am-12pm  
1pm-3pm

Additional summer session:  
Weekends 4pm-6pm

*\*Not available on  
Wednesdays & Thursdays.*

All fish caught must be  
purchased for \$4 per fish.

Rental equipment available.

Visit our website for details: [www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org)



# School is Out, So Let's Have Some Fun!!

February 20-24

10:30am - 3pm



This year our February Vacation Programs will have a new format. Fun, hands-on activities will be available each day for any Hatchery visitor. Activities may include making your own homemade ice cream, or making slime and learning why it is important for an animal's survival. Each day will have different activities. Themes will be listed on our website after the New Year. Great for all ages.



[www.cshfha.org](http://www.cshfha.org) • [fisheducator@csfhfa.org](mailto:fisheducator@csfhfa.org) • (516) 692-6768

## Winter in the Water

As winter approaches, and temperatures drop, animals living underwater must adapt to survive the cold and icy conditions. Reptiles (turtles and snakes) and amphibians (frogs and salamanders) will often spend the winter buried in the mud on the bottom of a pond. As temperatures begin to drop, their body slows down and they require less energy. Less energy means less of a need for food. These animals slow their body so much that they can last all winter without eating!

Some reptiles and amphibians can even hibernate on land, often burrowing underneath a pile of decaying leaves which provides a layer of insulation. Some frogs produce a natural antifreeze that protects their tissues and organs during the cold winter. When the frog defrosts in the spring, the animal is healthy and ready to search for food.

Fish and other animals that do not hibernate in winter will slow down their bodies and move to the deepest part of the pond or lake where the water does not freeze. Because cold water holds more dissolved oxygen than warm water, the animals are able to survive throughout the winter.

## Thank You

The Hatchery staff would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers and exhibitors who came out to help during our Fall Fair. Despite being rescheduled because of the weather, visitors still came out to support the Hatchery for a day of food, fun and fishing.

The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research  
and Preservation

Long Island Chapter - NY Water Environment  
Association

Joel Stewart

Barbara Chickory

Charlie Barba

Ivan Carballude

Hank Marshall

Liz Powers

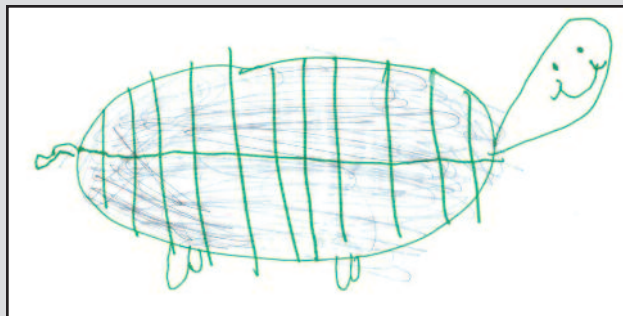
Rob Muller

Ann Coneys

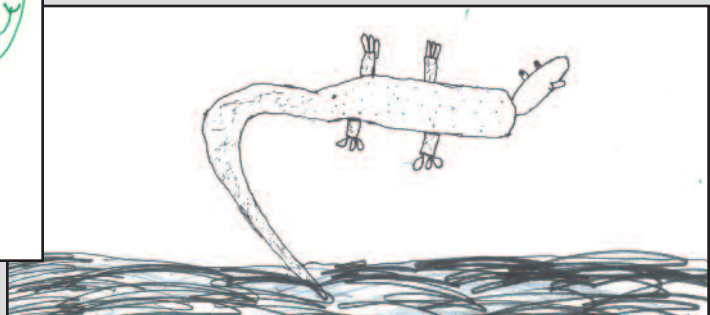
Lauri Landeau

Kerith Freidberg

## Kid's Corner



Artist: Timmy Kusterbeck, age 6



***Have a picture, story, or poem about the Hatchery? Send it in for publication in our future newsletters.***

*Attn: Kid's Corner, CSH Fish Hatchery & Aquarium, 1660 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724.*

Fish Hatchery News is a publication of the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium. As a not-for-profit charitable corporation, the Hatchery is an aquatic environmental education center dedicated to educating its visitors about the freshwater ecosystems of New York State.

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 Krissy Forman, *Environmental Educator*  
 Diane Lundegaard, *Education Assistant*  
 Jeremy Deeg, *Part-Time Staff*  
 Jason Sikorski, *Part-Time Staff*



**Hours**

10am to 5pm, seven days a week

June, July and August  
 Sat & Sun open until 6pm

Closed Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving & Christmas Day

**Admission**

\$6.00 for adults  
 \$4.00 for those ages 3 to 12 and over 65  
 Members and children age 2 & under are free

(516) 692-6768 • www.cshfha.org • info@cshfha.org

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership offers free admission, quarterly newsletters, invitations to special events, discounts on seasonal programs for children, and discounts in our gift shop. A gift membership also includes a Hatchery T-shirt and fountains.

YES, I am interested in becoming a member of the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you would like to receive Hatchery mailings via e-mail. Your e-mail is for Hatchery use only.

- Student (Under 18) \$15
- Individual \$25
- Grandparent \$40
- Family \$50
- Supporting \$75
- Patron \$100
- Donor \$250
- Benefactor \$500

\*Add \$10 to any category to make it a gift membership. Please fill in the above contact information for the gift recipient and include your name and contact information with this form.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to CSH Fish Hatchery & Aquarium.

Please bill my credit card \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Mastercard    Visa    Discover  
 Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 1660 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

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 Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

An Aquatic Environmental  
 Education Center

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED