



# BOAT CAMP Inc.

Annual Report 2010





## BOAT CAMP Inc.

PO Box 235  
54R Merrimac St.  
Newburyport, MA 019050  
978-463-2233

[www.boatcamp.org](http://www.boatcamp.org)

### Directors

Kate & Rob Yeomans

### Instructors

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Garry Dow  
Jill Moran  
John Halloran  
April Odell  
Steve Sofronas  
Kristi Umile

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Lauren Batterton, Triton '12  
Abigail Clavin, GDA, 13  
Dylan Corbett, Hobart College '14  
Eliza Purinton, GDA '13  
Tucker Quinlan, GDA '14

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Rachel Williamson  
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Kate & Rob Yeomans

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"Our kids LOVED their experience—I think this is the best program in the greater Newburyport area. So unique and offers an incredible experience. Extremely well staffed with enthusiastic and capable counselors. We hope to do BOAT CAMP for years!" —a BOAT CAMPer parent

## Mission

Our name is an acronym for our mission:  
Building Ocean Awareness Through  
Children, Adults and Marine education Professionals.

Ashore inside our education center and afloat aboard the *Erica Lee*, we provide high quality, meaningful marine and environmental education that connects kids, teachers and families to the sea through stories and positive experiences.

We celebrate the diversity of local marine life and work to inspire sound stewardship of the Merrimack River estuary, coastal Plum Island and our home waters of the Gulf of Maine.

# We invite you to explore...



**Joy** springs to mind when we reflect upon 2010. No matter where we found ourselves during our BOAT CAMP programs, we could not help but pause to celebrate the simple joys, minute by minute, of spending time outdoors with kids, families and adults. Teachers participating in our graduate courses told us we had taught them to read the landscape and truly "see" nature in our community for the first time. Parents excitedly told us how eagerly their kids attended BOAT CAMP each day. Best of all, kids unabashedly exclaimed "Whoa!" and "Cool!" while immersing themselves in the amazing natural resources along our Merrimack River estuary, coastal Plum Island and our home waters of the Gulf of Maine. Is there anything better than listening to kids giggle and shriek with delight while traipsing amongst the tall marsh grasses, deep mudflats, or rocky tidepools when given the opportunity to explore without the distractions of time and technology?

It's very simple what we do at BOAT CAMP Inc. We take kids into nature and play with them. We encourage following their own curiosity. We say, "Yes! You can walk barefoot in the mud." "Yes! You can hug a tree and follow the curves in its bark with your fingertips." "Yes! You can pick up that green crab and **really** look at it." We kneel down on deck or on the sand with kids and invite them to guide us with their curiosity. We are prepared to accurately and responsibly answer the many questions that follow. In so doing, we hope to inspire further pursuit of outdoor experiences that will deepen their own connection with our coastal waters.

The importance of what BOAT CAMP Inc. does with youth and students in our community cannot be understated. We are working to make a positive local impact on a nationwide concern known as Nature Deficit Disorder. A lack of routine contact with nature can result in stunted academic and developmental growth. It's attributed to a national rise in childhood obesity, ADD and ADHD, anxiety and depression. Kids need to know how to connect with nature in order to become healthy adults.

We believe that if youth in the greater Newburyport area come to know the nature that surrounds them, they will come to love it and, later as adults, protect it. In this way, partnering in our work at BOAT CAMP Inc. is a great long-term investment in the sound health of our area's natural resources and will ensure a vibrant quality of life for all who live here.

As our kids grow, we grow. We invite you to explore the many programs, passions and accomplishments that happen every day at BOAT CAMP Inc.

Welcome aboard!

Kate and Rob Yeomans

"JOY IN LOOKING AND  
COMPREHENDING IS NATURE'S  
MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFT."

--Albert Einstein

# Environmental Stewardship

## Plum Island Beach Cleanups

During BOAT CAMP programs, we discuss the importance of respecting the diverse natural resources of the Merrimack River estuary. We spend a lot of time on and along the northern stretch of Plum Island thanks, in large part, to the hospitality of the Charos Family and Captain's Fishing Parties, who welcome our arrival by boat. Unfortunately, Newburyport's very busy beach is often littered with leftovers from fishermen, families, and partygoers. As it is just inside the Merrimack River entrance, this area is often covered with debris that flows down the Merrimack River during ebb tides and drifts in from sea.

In 2010, we hosted seven beach cleanups from April through October and picked up 2,555 pieces of marine debris. We recycle all that we can through the cooperation of the City of Newburyport. Our most alarming finds were syringes that were prevalent in spring, and, in summer, plastic pellets mixed among sand grains.

Plastics are a major contributor to marine pollution. Some of these plastics are known as "nurdles," pre-production plastic pellets, or "mermaid's tears." More than 250 billion pounds of nurdles are shipped world-wide annually, and many slip free during transfer from ship to rail to factory and find their way into the oceans. Ten percent of plastics found on world beaches are nurdles, and that includes our beloved Plum Island.

We catalog the nurdles and other marine debris and submit our data to the Mass. Office of Coastal Zone Management as a citizen science and stewardship effort.

In 2011, we hope to develop an outreach campaign to reduce the amount of litter left behind by beachgoers so that we can positively, proactively impact the cause rather than use our volunteers as the default post-beach-party-cleanup crew!



## Marine Debris Removed From Newburyport's Plum Island Beach by BOAT CAMP Volunteers

April through October 2010

bait containers	7
balloons	5
beverage bottles (glass)	184
beverage bottles (plastic)	612
beverage cans	252
building materials	9
buoys/floats	37
caps, lids	187
car door	1
cars and car parts	5
cigar tips	10
cigarettes	346
cleaning bottles	11
clothing, shoes	48
condoms	6
crates	2
dead pig	1
diapers	1
fireworks	5
fishing line	32
fishing lures	20
food wrappers, containers	160
light bulbs	4
lighters	103
newspapers	11
oil/lube bottles	6
pens	1
plastic dinnerware	54
plastic sheeting/tarps	25
plastic shopping bags	92
pull tabs	2
rope	25
shotgun shells	57
silly bands	3
six-pack holders	15
strapping bands	7
straws, stirrers	49
styrofoam pieces	56
syringes	13
tampons	45
tires	4
tobacco packaging	9
toys	28
traps	5
<b>TOTAL items 2010</b>	<b>2555</b>

# Summer Program Highlights



## River Runners

Our summer programs start with kindergarten-age children right at the water's edge. Using the central waterfront boardwalk, the Rail Trail and Cashman Park as our outdoor classroom, last summer we explored the many places we find water in our neighborhood. (Not just the river!) We wondered where does water come from? Where does it go? What is tide? Why do humans need water?

As we played with water, we spent their week exploring the concept of water movement. This included learning the water cycle, building a model watershed, and modeling moon phases with Oreo cookies as we discussed how the moon affects tides. We pressed plants found on our walks and created nature journals. On Fridays, we treated kids and their families to their first boat ride on the Merrimack!

## Young Naturalists

As kids grow older, we expand our classroom into the Merrimack River estuary. Our Young Naturalists, ages 7 to 9, spend mornings with us ashore and afloat. Last summer, we explored the biodiversity among the various habitats found along the river's edge: the rocky beach of Salisbury's Black Rock Creek, Plum Island's sand and mud flats, the vast salt marsh and untouched upriver islands. We collected green crabs, reached into the sand for clams and observed harbor seals, great blue herons, ospreys and eagles. We ended the week by dipping into the maritime heritage of our area with a visit, by boat, to Lowell's Boat Shop.

Kids have a natural curiosity and desire to explore, and we let them! Back inside our cool classroom, we concluded each day with a related science experiment and discussion.

## Kids & Teens aboard the Erica Lee

Upon turning 9 years old, youth are welcome to join us on our all-day program aboard the *Erica Lee*. Following our spiraling curriculum, we expand into maritime studies of coastal ecosystems by spending each day afloat exploring the coastal waters beyond the Merrimack River.

Last summer, each day began with an indoor discussion about what we learned the day before. We also discussed topics connected to the seven essential principles of Ocean Literacy, including ocean currents and weather systems, observing nature, and a variety of invasive species such as Humboldt squid found in the Pacific.

We explored the intertidal ecosystem of coastal islands, conducted bottom sampling in the waters of Ipswich Bay, fished for a variety of species using traditional methods on Jeffreys Ledge and inshore waters, searched for macrofauna in the mudflats, beach seined for sand eels and, of course, kept cool by swimming on so many hot, sunny days!

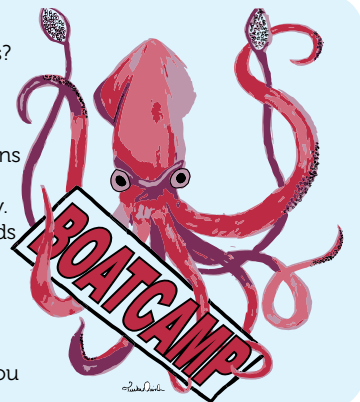


## Capt. Rob's Humboldt Squid Research Expedition



What's a pink squid doing on the back of our 2010 BOAT CAMP t-shirts? Designed by deckhand Tucker Quinlan, we selected the squid as our species of the year in honor of Capt. Rob's Nov. 2009 trip to Monterey, California, where he conducted field research on his own aboard the *Hulicat* and alongside Dr. William J. Gilly of Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station aboard a NOAA vessel. Rob then wrote lesson plans for in-class squid dissections for Gilly's "Squid-4-Kids" program. (<http://gilly.stanford.edu/outreach.html>) Rob also arranged to have Humboldt squids shipped to BOAT CAMP Inc. for hands-on dissections with students at BOAT CAMP and at Newburyport High School.

This experience reminded Capt. Rob about the power of asking to do something that is of interest. We shared his adventure with kids each week, and conveyed the same to them. At BOAT CAMP, and in life, if you want to learn more about something, just ask!



# Teacher Courses & Grant Projects

## Elementary Education Through Ocean Inquiry

Last spring, we taught two of our graduate level environmental education courses exploring inquiry-based methods for classroom teaching inspired by the sea. We explored the principles of Ocean Literacy and used this ocean-themed approach to develop innovative ways to teach fundamental lessons in math, language arts or sciences aligned with state curriculum frameworks and connected to the natural resources of the Mass. coastline.

Using Newburyport as a model, we applied principle #6 of Ocean Literacy—The oceans and humans are inextricably linked—by learning about Newburyport’s maritime history and seafaring culture through visits to the Custom House Maritime Museum, Cushing House, Lowell’s Boat Shop, and a tour led by Ghlee Woodworth. Teachers applied these experiences through independent study to create lessons for their students and earn three graduate credits from Salem State College.

## Survey of the Merrimack River Estuary

We followed April’s Ocean Inquiry Course with a second course in May focused on the biodiversity of the Merrimack River Estuary. Through field experiences ashore along Plum Island and afloat aboard the *Erica Lee*, teachers from Salem and Gloucester schools explored the lower portion of the Merrimack River, Plum Island and Old Town Hill.

Using scientific sampling equipment and following their own curiosity, teachers connected to the region in a meaningful way and learned how to apply this approach through developing inquiry-based, standards-based lessons that would engage their students with a river system in their community.



## Get WET in New England: Ocean Literacy Through Watershed Education and Training

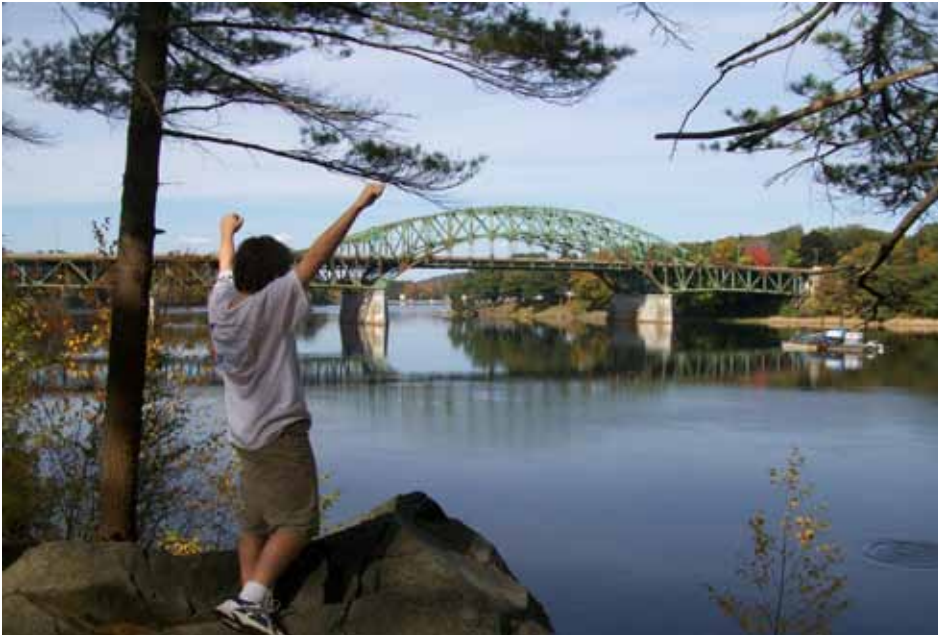
In July we were thrilled to learn that as part of our partnership with the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC), we had received a three-year award of funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a project titled “Get WET in New England.” This is part of the NOAA Bay-Watershed Education Program (B-WET), a national environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment.

For our Get WET program, BOAT CAMP Inc. is working with the New England Aquarium, Mystic Aquarium, and Gundalow Company to provide professional development that is grounded in Ocean Literacy and focussed on addressing NOAA Education Plan goals.

Get WET trains and supports teachers to enable them to confidently lead their own field experiences and follow-up activities for students. This results in longer-term meaningful watershed education experiences that do not rely on external expertise. In collaboration with our partners, this project will serve at least 110 new teachers over three years, and through them, approximately 4,700 students from across New England. The project will continue through March 30, 2013.

During fall 2010, BOAT CAMP Inc. worked with teachers from Merrimack River bordering school systems, including Newburyport Public Schools, Salisbury Elementary School, Newburyport Montessori School and Haverhill Public Schools. With this grant, we provided funding—bus fees, naturalist services and equipment—for outdoor field experiences to Moseley Woods, Salisbury Rail Trail and Plum Island for more than 350 school children ranging in age from Pre-K to high school. This included all eight 5th grade classes of the Molin Upper Elementary School over two days.





## Families By the Seaside: Building Community-Based Ocean Science Learning Experiences

In November, we learned that we had received a second, three-year award of funding as part of our NEOSEC partnership. This "Families By the Seaside" project will create meaningful learning experiences for underserved/underrepresented families lead by informal science educators, including BOAT CAMP Inc. It is often difficult for informal education organizations like ours to create meaningful learning experiences for underserved/underrepresented youth because we lack the tools and particular needs awareness required to do so. Yet, it is these families who can benefit most from outdoor, informal science education. This project will work over three years with teams from five coastal communities from Portsmouth, NH, to Mystic, CT.

BOAT CAMP Inc. will be working with Amesbury's JumpStart Youth Connection Inc. to develop field programs for World Oceans Day in June and Coastsweep in September. This project will also extend ocean literacy to reach a broader public audience. Our work with our NEOSEC partners will enrich the content of existing coastal education programs using ocean literacy principles; extend audience engagement using new technology; build our capacity through professional development; expand our partnerships with community based organizations; and strengthen collaboration among informal science education institutions in the region. Lead by the Seacoast Science Center, additional informal education participants include New England Aquarium, NERACOOS, Mystic Aquarium, Northeastern University Marine Science Center, and the Encyclopedia of Life ([www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org)).

## Summer Science in New England: Ocean Education Through Informal Science Centers

In late December, we were invited to join year two of NEOSEC's three-year NOAA-funded program to work with international Census of Marine Life (COML) scientist Thomas Trott and additional research scientists to engage teens, ages 14 and up, in near-shore biodiversity monitoring. We are excited to launch this in 2011!

An ocean-literate person understands the seven essential principles and fundamental concepts, can communicate about the oceans in a meaningful way, and is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the oceans and its resources.



# You inspire us....



"We love that we discovered BOAT CAMP."

"This was my daughter's first year at BOAT CAMP and she loved every minute of it! Thank you for doing such a wonderful job."

"Our kids LOVED their experience—I think this is the best camp in the greater Newburyport area. So unique and offers an incredible experience. Extremely well staffed with enthusiastic and capable counselors. Hope to do it for years."

"We will be back next year, and little bro wants to come too."

"Greatest camp experience around!"

"As a mom and former elementary school teacher, I am always incredibly impressed with everything that goes on at BOAT CAMP. You have some master teachers there and the kids learn so much while having fun. I also felt incredibly comfortable leaving my daughter in your care both this year and last (and I don't leave her very many places). There always seems to be enough hands to help out and keep all the kids safe."

"My son came home excited to share his experiences every day and couldn't wait to go back the next day."

"Our oldest son loved it so much that he wanted to participate again. There was not room in the following week, so he begged us to take him to the dock every morning of the next session 'just in case (one of the other scheduled campers) didn't show up!'"

"My daughter enjoyed every minute: from catching fish to shark sightings to tales on the Isle of Shoals and of course, the swimming! She will be back next year."

"I have never had my child talk so much about something that he has taken part in. He loved every minute!"

"Our son loved the Young Scientist program and our daughter loved the Erica Lee (second summer). Wonderful experience for both!"

"Your camp was truly the highlight of our children's summer. Both children wished they could go for another week and when asked to rate their experience gave it a 10 out of 10. What more could a parent ask for!"

"I was highly impressed with every crew member I encountered at BOAT CAMP. My son had such a wonderful time and had only very complimentary remarks about each and every one of his crew. I am looking forward to sending him again next year. Thank you all for all of your hard work and dedication!"

"It is clear how much the captains, instructors, crew and staff all enjoy what they are doing."

"Based on what my son came home and told me, the crew made a real effort to get to know and talk to the children. They seemed to have learned a lot about my son, and they were truly interested in what he had to say."

"The enthusiasm for sharing the sea with the children in a fun and educational manner is what truly came through. You have a gift and a unique program going, indeed. We feel so fortunate to have found you."

"I would love to see BOAT CAMP have a presence in the Newburyport public schools."

I will treasure this year at BOAT CAMP forever,  
Even though some days had bad weather.

We sailed along the ocean blue,  
But nothing would be as fun without the crew.

Rachel taught us about animals,  
And the time she stayed in the cold water was not at all minimal.

Abbie was our CIT.  
She was very kind indeed.

Dylan fixed up the boat,  
To make sure we would stay afloat.

Scuba Steve was very tough  
Until he stepped in the muddy stuff

Last but not least, Captain Rob,  
Who is nice, funny and smart.  
(But doesn't like to be called Bob.)  
Unfortunately we will have to part,

But don't you fret, I will soon be near.  
Because I will definitely come back next year!

—Ella Vicedomine, age 11



“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.”

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--author David Sobel

## Capt. Sean Cone Memorial Scholarship and Merit Scholarships



On January 31, 2007, Capt. Sean Cone, aged 24, was lost at sea when his fishing vessel *Lady Luck* sank in the waters off southern Maine, while headed home to Newburyport, Mass. Sean grew up in North Andover and loved spending every spare minute at sea. He was known as a passionate and skilled fisherman, and he easily earned the respect of others who fished alongside him. Among the many boats he spent time aboard, Capt. Sean as a child played aboard the *Erica Lee* for several summers.

In his honor, Capt. Sean's family sponsors two boys aged 9 to 12 to attend BOAT CAMP aboard the *Erica Lee* each summer. In 2010, Sean's family sponsored Sean Madden and Danny Lee. *The Newburyport Current* wrote about this scholarship on March 19, 2010, "Parents Love Honors Son Through BOAT CAMP."

Thanks to the generous contributions of BOAT CAMP friends and families, we were able to offer eight additional scholarships to deserving children. We stand by our desire to never let financial challenges inhibit any child from connecting with the sea.

# Your Support Matters

## 2010 Community Support

We are grateful for the generous contributions from:

### Up to to \$2500

Newburyport 5¢ Savings Bank

### Up to \$1000

Flatbread Pizza  
Michael & Francee Quinlan  
Newburyport Development & Newburyport Marinas  
Pat & Leslie Cone

### Up to \$500

Stevan Bloom & Calli Towne  
Andrew Sidford Architects  
Jen Wright Signs  
Robert J. & Katie M. Yeomans

### Up to \$100

Megan Arel  
Kathryn Basson  
Kellie DiFilippo  
John Desch & Heidi Wilson  
Julia Godtfredsen  
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Jody Fitzgerald Haseltine  
Noelle B. Keach  
Diane Koocher  
Lindsay McGuinness  
Lisa C. Miles  
Susan E. Pursell  
Chris Smith  
Evangeline Sutter

### In-Kind Donations

Captain's Fishing Parties  
Erica Lee Fisheries  
Merri-Mar Yacht Basin  
F/V Victoria Rose  
F/V Erica Lee Inc.  
F/V Lisa Ann II



BOAT CAMP Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit educational organization, was founded Nov. 2007.

	2008	2009	2010*
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$20	\$1,400	\$5,982
Program Fees	88,627	91,292	115,734
Grants	0	0	6,616
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,647</b>	<b>\$92,692</b>	<b>\$128,332</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries	\$3,555	\$9,672	\$12,730
Boat Leases	59,245	58,493	67,470
Program Expenses	25,878	25,029	45,609
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,678</b>	<b>\$93,194</b>	<b>\$125,809</b>

\*Projected—more details available by request or by visiting [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

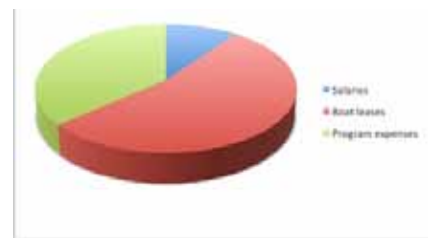
### Sources of income

2010



### Expenditures

2010



**THANK YOU!** Kids and teens participating in a summer program run by the Jumpstart Youth Connection in Amesbury kicked off their 2010 summer by spending a week aboard the *Erica Lee* thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Newburyport business community, especially Andrew M. Sidford Architects, Newburyport Development, and Newburyport Marinas, who matched a challenge grant from Newburyport 5¢ Savings Bank.

# Looking Towards 2011



Photo by Jen Wright

With our successful programs, we have emerged as the maritime education leader in our community.

With your support, we will be able to offer much more to the greater Newburyport community: more educational opportunities for kids and families, more courses and resources for classroom teachers, and more interactive exhibits to support Newburyport's eco and maritime tourism appeal.

## Sponsorship Levels

### \$2,500 Commandant's Circle

All-day fishing or educational outing for 18 people aboard the *Erica Lee*.  
Publicity on our website and in BOAT CAMP Inc.'s annual report.

### \$1,000 Admirals

Two-hour sunset cruise for 20 people aboard the *Erica Lee*.  
Two embroidered BOAT CAMP Inc. fleece vests.  
Publicity on our website and in BOAT CAMP Inc.'s annual report.

### \$500 Captains

Two-hour indoor event at BOAT CAMP.  
Two embroidered BOAT CAMP Inc. fleece vests.  
Publicity on our website and in BOAT CAMP Inc.'s annual report.

### \$250 Navigators

Two embroidered BOAT CAMP Inc. fleece vests.  
Publicity on our website and in BOAT CAMP Inc.'s annual report.

### \$100 First Mates

Four BOAT CAMP Inc. 2011 t-shirts.  
Publicity on our website and in BOAT CAMP Inc.'s annual report.



## Top 3 Goals for 2011

- 1 Continue enhancing our excellent quality programming through instructor professional development and upgrades to educational equipment, including marine aquarium and touchtanks, scientific sampling, and nature observation tools.
- 2 Develop outreach program to raise awareness and minimize the amount of marine debris on Plum Island and in the Merrimack River.
- 3 Build our organizational capacity to manage and execute with excellence the projects and opportunities that we obtained in 2010 and will pursue throughout 2011.

**Yes! I'd love to support BOAT CAMP's mission to inspire stewardship of the Merrimack River estuary and coastal waters through its education programs for kids, families and classroom teachers**

**with my sponsorship gift of:** \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated.)

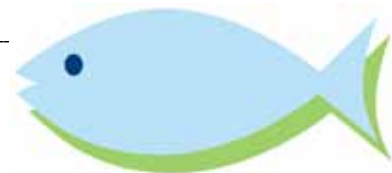
Please make check payable to **BOAT CAMP Inc.**

Charge my credit card (Mastercard/Visa/Discover/AMEX) a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



You may also donate online at [www.boatcamp.org](http://www.boatcamp.org).

**THANK YOU!**

BOAT CAMP Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit environmental education organization. All contributions are tax-deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged in our annual report. Please indicate if this is an anonymous gift. Our mailing address is PO Box 235, Newburyport, MA 01950.



*"Breathe in...*

*Now breathe in again.*

*Every second breath you take, comes from the ocean." — Census of Marine Life 2010*

**BOAT CAMP Inc.**

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