

Reeling in Results for School

This June, educators from around the state convened at Southampton College of Long Island University for the annual conference of the New York State Marine Educators Association. The three-day event centered around the theme of "Marine Science: Hooking Your Students on the Natural World." Says NYSG's Long Island Sound Study specialist, **Kimberly Zimmer**, treasurer for NYSMEA, "This concept is at the heart of an effort to more effectively infuse marine sciences into the state's and nation's educational curricula."

The conference featured a lecture by speaker and field trip leader **Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman**. Leatherman is one of the world's foremost beach experts, a Florida International University in Miami professor, and author of 1998's America's Best Beaches. Also, attendees participated in workshops on whales, birds, turtles and fish and joined in on kayak trips, beach walks and boat surveys. The curricula activities included *Project Wet*, aquaria in schools, teaching marine science for the regents, and the EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) program. Many local organizations involved in educa-

Photo by Lou Siegel, Oceanside High School



NYSMEA members and Southampton staff prepare a 36-foot trimaran, for a field trip out onto Shinnecock Bay.

tion exhibited their programs throughout the weekend, which concluded with a behind the scenes tour of Atlantis Aquarium in Riverhead. Says Zimmer, "It was a fun and exciting weekend filled with opportunities for educators to network and learn new activities to bring back to the classroom to excite students about the marine environment." For additional information on NYSMEA, log on to its web site, members.aol.com/nysmea.

— **Kimberly Zimmer**
Long Island Sound Outreach Coordinator

Making a Splash in Oswego

Oswego was again the scene on March 10th for *Great Lakes Underwater!* This, the fifth installment of the annual shipwreck symposium, was sponsored by New York Sea Grant and the Oswego Maritime Foundation. One of the many shipwrecks discussed at the event, held at SUNY Oswego, was *The Keystorm*, a freighter whose wreck lies on its side on a steep shoal, forever pointing its bow upward toward the sunlit surface of the St. Lawrence River.

Last May at Great Lakes Underwater IV, history was made on the evening news as the Syracuse-based ABC affiliate station WIXT NewsChannel 9 televised perhaps the first-ever live broadcast of an underwater ribbon-cutting. Twelve feet underwater, five divers helped dedicate the *David W. Mills Submerged Cultural Preserve and Dive Site* in Lake Ontario. According to NYSG's Great Lakes program coordinator **David White**, "The buoying and marking of this preserve

culminated nearly ten years of hard work and determination of many people involved in diving, historic preservation, community development, and education in the Oswego area and throughout the state."

According to **Phil Church**, OMF's Director of the Submerged Cultural Resource Program, "History buffs or anyone who enjoys true stories of adventure and exploration are drawn to this annual event for its professional presentations, exhibits and displays."

Great Lakes Underwater VI is already in the planning stages for next March. Potential topics include a discussion regarding the process for sinking ships and the *George T. Davie*, the newest shipwreck site off Kingston, Ontario.

— **Dave White**
Great Lakes Program Coordinator