



# School of Fish

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BEACH NEWS STAFF WRITER

PORTSMOUTH | It's a tale of two universities; one local, the other, a well-known partner. It is also the tale of two leases, one a continuation of work begun 40 years ago, and the other a new opportunity.

It has been a busy month for Cornell University and the Shoals Marine Laboratory. The university, in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire, has been operating the marine biology lab on Appledore Island since 1966. Thanks to an agreement with the Star Island Corporation, the operation of that lab may be allowed to continue for years to come.

Earlier this month the two entities signed a lease that would allow the lab to continue to operate for the next three years, with the option

to continue the lease for a further 22 years.

"It's a very generous arrangement," said Kingsbury Director of Shoals



Marine Laboratory William Bemis. "We're absolutely thrilled to be working with them (Star Island Corporation) for another 25 years."

Director of External Rela-



tions for Shoal Marine Laboratory Mary Benetti said the unique learning opportunities provided on Appledore attract students from April to October, whether it is for a week-long workshop or an eight-week course. The lab

also offers adult courses from mid-May to the first of June and also in late August.

"We're expecting about 160 to 170 students throughout this summer," said Benetti.

The bulk of those students will be undergrads from both Cornell and UNH taking intermediate and advanced level courses in marine biology. Benetti said



although many of the students are from the two cooperating schools the lab also recruits students from throughout the U.S., as well as internationally.

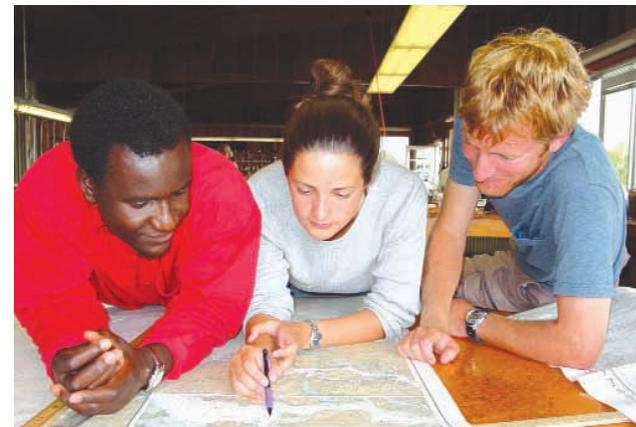
On Monday of last week, Shoals Marine Laboratory also signed a lease with the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests to assume control of Creek Farm Cottage, located at 400 Little Harbor Road in Portsmouth. The lease, simi-

lar to that of Appledore Island, is for three years with the option to extend to 50.

Bemis said the lab plans to utilize the 35-acre property as a year round shore base for administrative offices as well as a space for entry-level marine biology instruction. An office was slated to open sometime this week. Bemis said a good deal of renovations will have to be performed before the property can be used for instruction.

"Having a prominent shore base in Portsmouth will be an asset," said Bemis. "We're thrilled about that. It's an amazing property. By linking new year round activities at Creek Farm with our seasonal operations at Appledore we can serve more students and faculty and more easily manage our facilities on Appledore."

The combined use of the two properties makes Shoals Marine Lab a very attractive place to study, said Bemis, offering study of terrestrial, fresh water, as well as marine



**SCHOOL AT THE SHOALS** — Students at the Shoals Marine Laboratory (above) help chart the course of the institution on the Seacoast. The lab inherited derelict buildings left behind during the hotel era (top left) which were restored or replaced to create the current facility on Appledore (left middle). Creek Farm Cottage (left, bottom) in Portsmouth, near the historic Wentworth Coolidge Mansion was also leased to provide mainland offices for the Laboratory.

habitats.

"Between the two properties we have a really great spectrum of habitats in the Gulf of Maine," he said. "I don't think there is any place that can touch us."

For years the marine lab on Appledore Island has been an attraction for vacationers. Celia Thaxter, a year round resident of Appledore Island during the late 1800s, made the island famous with the writing of "An Island Garden," a first-person account of the blossoms and blooms that she tended throughout the gardening

— Beach News Courtesy Photos season.

After lying fallow for several years, the garden was restored in 1977 under the direction of Dr. John Kingsbury, the marine lab's founder and first director. Pam and Mark Boutilier, owners of Appledore Arbor in North Hampton, who also maintain the garden, give tours of the garden on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

"A lot of people come out specifically for the garden," said Benetti. "It's a surprise to them to realize the garden is part of a marine lab."

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