

HUMANE ED NEWS

UFT Humane Education Committee

UFT Teachers Take A Seal Walk

The UFT Humane Education Committee in collaboration with CRESLI (Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island, Inc) spent the afternoon on April 10, 2016 looking at seals at Cupsogue Beach.

Dr. Arthur Kopelman, President and Naturalist of Cresli and the CRESLI Seal Research Program monitors seal populations and continues to conduct a long-term behavioral and population studies of seals around Long Island, including regular observations at the major haul out at Cupsogue Beach Park.

Population counts at Cupsogue over 9 years and elsewhere over the 18 years have indicated a significant and continuing increase in the number of seals utilizing Long Island's waters, as well as shifts in the species residencies and composition. Historically, Long Island's seal species typically included **Harbor** and **Grey** seals, which are relatively abundant in our waters from late fall until late spring. In recent years, "arctic" species such as **Harp**, **Hooded** and **Ringed seals** that were once extremely rare for Long Island, have also become more commonly sighted.

Teachers started the day with an introduction to CRESLI by Dr. Kopelman and the various seals as well as some interesting seal facts, followed by how to be a responsible seal viewer and comply with federal seal watching guidelines. Teachers also received grade appropriate materials on seals and marine information.

For additional information, log on to:

<http://www.cresli.org>



Suggested books about seals available from amazon.com include:

See What A Seal Can Do,
grades pre-k to 1

Seal Pup Rescue,
grades 2 - 3

Prince William,
grades 4 - 5

The Summer of Cecily,
grades 6 - 12



Organizations That Can Help you Develop a Humane Education Program

Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART) <http://teachhumane.org>
HEART offers programs for teachers and students in the New York City area as well as other parts of the country.

Institute for Humane Education (IHE) <http://humaneeducation.org>
IHE offers Master's Degrees and Certificate Programs for teachers, guidance in developing a Solutionary program with your students and an extensive resource archive.

United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee (UFT/HEC)
<http://www.uft.org/committees/humane-education-committee>
Check out our website for lessons plans and current programs.