

Sher lectures on Seabrook Station at marine lab



The daughter of a Shoals Marine Lab faculty member gets up close and personal with a young gull.

This August marked the 20th year that Seabrook Station Environmental Scientist Ron Sher provided a lecture at the Shoals Marine Lab (SML) about Seabrook Station's commitment to environmental protection.

The Lab is a nationally recognized seasonal field station on Appledore Island, Maine, located about six miles offshore from the Maine/New Hampshire border. It is operated by Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire and offers college-level credited courses in marine science. Instruction at SML is based on giving participants a truly "hands-on" educational experience. Ron was a student at the Shoals Marine Lab in the summer of 1977, when he was pursuing his zoology degree at UNH.

During his many presentations at the Lab, Ron said he has definitely observed moderating attitudes toward nuclear power.

"In recent years, it has become apparent to me that the lab's students and faculty are recognizing that nuclear power has a necessary role to play in our energy mix," he said. "They appreciate the fact that nuclear power plants do not contribute to such global changes as the greenhouse effect, depletion of the ozone layer and acid rain, like fossil fuel plants do."

Ron has found that question and answers during his annual lectures always concentrate on nuclear waste.

"The safe management of nuclear waste has been the key issue we discuss," he added. "We talk about the technical issues as well as the ethical issues related to nuclear power and waste management. I try to impress upon the students that nuclear waste is being managed safely now and will be disposed of safely in the future."

Ron's lecture is usually in the evening, which means that he must spend the night on Appledore Island. This extra time gives him the opportunity to take pictures of the island's beauty, including the flora and fauna which inhabit Appledore. Ron's photographs regularly appear in the Shoals Marine Lab's course booklet.

For more information about the Shoals Marine Lab you can contact Ron or check out their website at <http://www.sml.cornell.edu/>.

The photographs shown here were taken by Ron.

