

# MARSH MUSINGS

by Dr. Lenore Tedesco, Executive Director



As most of you know by now, we finished 2012 in a whirlwind of activity. Superstorm Sandy upset our smooth sailing, but also provided us with an opportunity to reevaluate our conservation and education needs and plan to rebuild to be even better than before. We asked for your help – and you responded in amazing ways! You – our supporters – gave in record breaking ways with our combined appeals topping \$90,000. We are well on our way and everyone at the Wetlands says THANK YOU.

Things are moving quickly now and we hope to begin reconstructing the dock this spring! We are still working through the details of disaster assistance but have our permits and construction plans in hand. Stay tuned.

In addition to the infrastructure that we are rebuilding, we are reshaping the programs and people that are the Wetlands Institute. In January, Brooke Knapick joined the leadership team at the Institute as our new Director of Educational Program Development (see related article). She is full of energy and great ideas and has already made some dramatic changes to revitalize and strengthen educational program offerings. She has rolled up her sleeves to get the aquarium in shape to better serve active education and engagement. In early March, Sue Slotterback joined the Education Department and brings more than 15 years of environmental educational experience to the Wetlands Institute (see info about Sue on the Meet the Staff website page). Sue was last at the Nature Center of Cape May and brings excitement, energy and a get dirty and get out there sort of way. She will be responsible for leading school programs and summer camps.

By the time, this newsletter reaches you, I hope to have a new Director of Marketing and Communications in place. So – you can expect even more exciting materials coming from the Institute as we continue to grow and take the Wetlands Institute to the next level. We are planning for more new faces in the coming months.

This edition of Views From The Tower is full of announcements, introductions, and information on new special events, programs, partnerships, and projects. These programs, partnerships and people are bringing new energy and amazing new things to the Wetlands Institute. Come see what all the excitement is about and

**MAKE NO SMALL PLANS – WE AREN'T!**