



Historic Times Newsletter

8th Annual Heritage Award Honors George R. Hampson

Marine biologist **George R. Hampson** will receive this year's Falmouth Heritage Award on Wednesday, May 2 at the Coonamessett Inn. "The members of the selection committee were very impressed with Mr. Hampson's work," said society board president Margaret Gifford. "The vote was unanimous."

For the past 35 years, Mr. Hampson has taken every opportunity to educate people about the value of Falmouth's coastal waters and the need to protect them. From writing letters to the editor and speaking out at town meeting to serving on committees, leading seminars and tours on the water and testifying before Congress, he has been a persistent advocate for a coastline threatened by pollution.

A vision statement adopted at town meeting last fall states that Falmouth's harbors and coastal ponds "are the cornerstone of our ... economy and an important part of our cul-

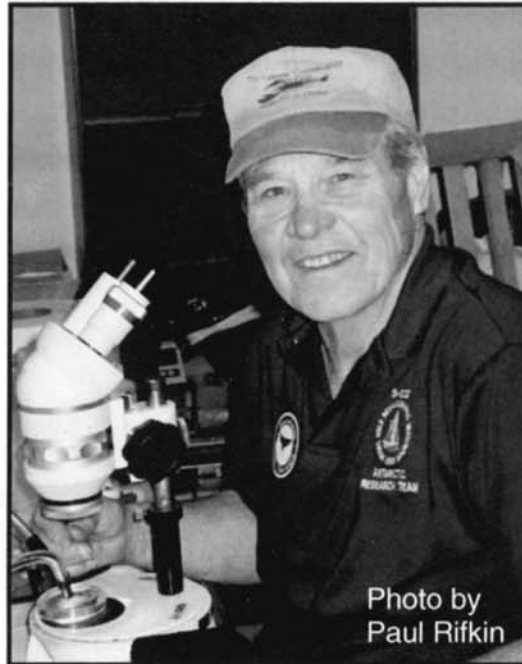


Photo by
Paul Rifkin

George R. Hampson will receive the 2007 Falmouth Heritage Award. "I don't want it to be our generation that drops the ball when it comes to preserving the special beauty of Cape Cod," he said.

tural identity." Twenty years ago, long before *nitrogen overload* became a household phrase, Mr. Hampson was warning government officials and residents about the threats to Buzzards Bay. He has called for such measures as state-wide monitoring of water quality, land acquisition to save sensitive areas like salt marshes, and public education. "Solutions can be found with community action and political change," he has said.

Although Mr. Hampson retired from WHOI in 1997 after more than three decades, he continues to work. His current job involves looking for diversity of marine life as one aspect of gauging the health of coastal water. "It's forensic science. It's very exciting," he said.

More information about the 8th annual Heritage Award Dinner appears on page 3.

