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Nonprofit selling compost to buy lobster gear for its students

By Mary Markos Staff Writer May 23, 2017

ROCKPORT — A local non-profit organization is selling compost to raise money for gear that will be used in its ocean-based programs for students.

Cape Ann-based Seaside Sustainability, which offers conservation programs focused on environmental awareness, has partnered with Black Earth Compost to provide 1-cubic foot bags of local compost for \$10, with free shipping. Spreading quality compost boosts plant nutrients and taste and improves the garden's soil that they are grown in.

Eric Magers, director of Seaside Sustainability, said the money raised will go to buy gear necessary for the sea program, which includes lobster pots, lines, buoys, fishing gear, and lobster traps. The organization's goal is to raise about \$4,000 through the initiative.

Seaside Sustainability offers two ocean-based programs. One is Sea Yacht Sailing, where people learn about water safety, basic sailing and navigation terminology, as well as basic yacht-sailing skills. The other is Sea Marine Life Exploration, where students age 8 to 17 learn how marine biology and ecology are interconnected with human actions.

"Students really get to explore hands-on fun stuff on a boat. It's exciting, it's what makes us different," Magers said. "We are showing them the bounty of the ocean and what it has to offer us, and that we need to protect these oceans. It's a full circle of education."

Seaside Sustainability focuses on the land's health, through composting initiatives, and the development of an environmentally responsible youth community through outdoor learning opportunities.

"The most critical thing we can do is take care of our environment," Magers said. "The clarity of our environment is messed up and this is most important thing that I feel like I can do for this world and that's what I want to do."

He has adopted the seventh generation way of living. "Everything I do, I try to do it with the intention of a Native American ethos where your actions should take into account the next seven generations," he said.

"I'm trying to make a difference fast because climate change is upon us, and we want to make a difference."

For bulk orders of 20-plus bags, or for a yard's worth (or more!) of compost to be dumped, Seaside Sustainability's Magers may be contacted at magerse@seasidesustainability.org, or 978-879-9769. Payment may be made by check, credit, or cash. Bags are shipped free in the Cape Ann area.

More information is available on Seaside Sustainability's Facebook Page, and its website, www.seasidesustainability.org.