
NEERS NEWS

SEASON'S GREETINGS

EDITORS NOTE

WELCOME to the first issue of NEERS NEWS, the newsletter of the New England Estuarine Research Society. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for the exchange of social and professional information between the Society and its membership. It will be published about 3 times every 2 years and will include information on meetings, sources of information, sources of funding, social events, published articles and any other need for communication we may have. Since it is difficult for every member to attend every NEERS meeting, this newsletter will provide important updates on activities and events your fellow colleagues would like to share with the Society.

On the following pages we will be presenting sections which will be included in this and upcoming issues. Each section provides an overview of the information we would like to present during each issue. The newsletter will work best if we receive input from our membership. Therefore, we invite any comments or information our NEERS members would like to submit. The layout and contents of the newsletter will constantly be evolving to reflect the ideas and information offered by NEERS

members. We hope that this information service will aid in your research, your professional activities and maybe even your social life. Please read the newsletter and let us know what you think. Enjoy the holiday season and here's wishing you and your family all the best in '94.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The following is a message from NEERS President, Veronica Berounsky. The message is printed in its entirety.

"Let me start by thanking Rich Orson for giving me and NEERS this opportunity to write something (anything we want) in our own newsletter. Following up on the discussion at the spring NEERS meeting in CT., Rich volunteered to assemble, edit, compose, copy, fold and mail a NEERS newsletter. By the time you see this, we will know if he still wants to do a second one! [Editors Note: you mean that NEERS was expecting a second issue? Nobody said anything about doing this again!] I think, as did many at the meeting, that a newsletter would be a great idea and that it may be the only way to keep in touch with our members since we all can't make it to every meeting. Rich gives more details and plans elsewhere, and do send him your

comments, suggestions, and information. We want this to be something you read and refer to.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who do things for NEERS that over the years are above and beyond the call of duty. You have been very willing to not only put together newsletters, but also write articles for the ERF newsletter, put together posters, judge student papers, be members-at-large, historians and program chairs, run for office, etc. and you do a great job. There's something about NEERS that keeps you interested and committed, I hope it stays that way. The questionnaire on the last page of this newsletter is an attempt to find out what you like and don't like about NEERS. Please fill it out and return to me.

The spring NEERS meeting, run by Barb Welsh and colleagues at UCONN and held at Avery Point Campus, was successful with interesting and diverse paper and poster presentations, an enjoyable and educational cruise on the Thames River with Project Oceanology, and a wonderful lobsterbake. (Did you read the article about Project O in the September ERF newsletter?) Chris D'Elia, who was ERF President at the time, attended the meeting and spoke about the relationship between ERF and the affiliates, and their respective roles. Chris stressed that there is a need for both organizations. The affiliates are less formal and have more student involvement, but a national organization is needed to have a proactive approach to funding and policy on the national level and to make comparisons beyond regions. There was plenty of time for NEERS members to speak to Chris, both formally and informally, and I think it

led to a better understanding of both organizations.

At the ERF '93 meeting recently held at Hilton Head, SC, I also attended the ERF Governing Board meeting. The new ERF President, Fred Nichols and the Governing Board have developed a vision document for ERF-what ERF is and what it should be (see September 1993, vol.19, no.3, ERF Newsletter). One of the topics discussed is the need for an increased emphasis on education, and much of this needs to be done on the local level which would involve the affiliates. ERF is very interested in having the 1997 meeting in New England. We need to locate a meeting place that can accommodate 5-6 concurrent sessions, 500-600 people at a Plenary Session, about 400 hotel rooms, at a reasonable price. Contact me if you have any suggestions. The Federation's journal, Estuaries, is doing well and will publish extra volumes this year. The price to libraries is going up, but it will still be cheaper than many journals. Don't let your library drop it! There was also an Affiliates' Presidents meeting at which we compared notes about society meetings, dues, elections, membership, etc. NEERS has the largest membership and is one of the few affiliates that meets twice a year. Thanks for keeping NEERS fine and healthy!"

Veronica

The following are excerpts from comments made by incoming ERF President, Fred Nichols' upon his installation as President. The complete version will be printed in the ERF newsletter.

"I am pleased and honored to be assuming the ERF Presidency, and I thank you for this opportunity to serve the

Federation. I have also come to recognize the challenge of leading ERF at a time when the Federation is undertaking a process of self evaluation and goal setting. We are embarked on an important journey, taking a fresh look at our Federation's role as a supporter of scientific research, as a facilitator of information exchange, as a promoter of and contributor to science education, and as a participant in public discussions of the science and management of the world's estuarine and coastal environments -- all of this within the context of examining how we function as an organization. There is much that we can do in each of these broad areas, both as a Federation and as individuals within the Federation.

To begin to focus our ideas...the Governing Board has, through its Visions Committee, created a list of some of the possibilities. I hope that, if you haven't already, you will examine the Visions Report, then get involved...Among the things we must do is to examine - then improve - how we function as an organization, how we communicate with each other and those outside the Federation, and how we can better make our expertise and information available to those who need it -- from students, to scientists in underdeveloped countries, to public agencies, to congressional staff members...The ultimate achievement of our goals will surely require that we continue to be a vibrant, growing Federation in all respects...The contributions of the affiliate society leaders to this organization cannot be overestimated...It is one of the Federation's unique strengths that we are able to function successfully at more than one scale of organization, and it is the affiliate's leadership that makes it happen."

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Part of the newsletter will be to report on research projects our members are currently engaged in. An important part of this feature will be to aid in requests fellow members might have for information, comments, equipment or any other interaction they might seek. For instance, there is a lot of "gray" literature available which most people never gain access to, for one reason or another. This feature will act to funnel that information together and provide fellow members with a new method of obtaining background information for a project they are undertaking. The requests in this section could include a call for volunteers, willingness to trade time or equipment or a plain cry for help. By listing an upcoming project, our network of members can help locate information which may be important to your results. We will print as many as we can giving preference to those with time constraints. Remember, you might not even know that the information exists, so printing your project in the newsletter could lead to information volunteered from fellow members.

FUNDING SOURCES

Another aspect of the newsletter will be to collect information on sources of funding including grants and applied research funds. Although we will concentrate on the smaller, more obscure agencies you might not have thought about previously, we will include information on the larger agencies, as well. Any help from our members would be appreciated.

The first agency we will discuss is the NOAA sponsored National Sea Grant

College Program available to coastal New England States. The Program is a university-industry-government partnership mandated by the federal government to support research, education and advisory service activities on the problems and opportunities of the marine environment. Because of the importance of estuaries and the coastal zone and the fact that they have some of the most pressing environmental problems, Sea Grant concentrates its funding on research in these areas.

Although many of us know of the existence of the Sea Grant Program, many are not aware of the variety of funding opportunities available to scientists and planners throughout our area. For instance, most Sea Grant Programs have Development Funds available throughout the year to use in preliminary investigations in anticipation of applying for a proposal for a larger project, short-term projects, travel for meetings, workshop attendance or organization, publication of a report or literature review or a number of other activities where small sums of money may be required. Sea Grant also has fellowships for graduate students who are willing to combine national policy decisions on marine resources (John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship). We strongly suggest that you contact your Sea Grant office and discuss your research project with them. If they cannot fund your work, they may be able to suggest alternative sources. We are including a list of Sea Grant directors for your information.

ME: Dr. Robert E. Wall, UMaine (Orono), (207)581-1435

NH: Dr. Ann Bucklin, UNH (Durham), (603)749-1565

MA: Dr. C. Chryssotomidis, MIT (Cambridge), (617)253-7131

Dr. Judith Capuzzo, WHOI (Woods Hole), (508)457-2000 x2557

RI: Dr. Scott Nixon, URI (Narragansett Bay Campus), (401)792-6800

CT: Dr. Edward Monahan, UCONN (Groton), (203)445-3457

NY: Dr. Anne McElroy, SUNY-Stony Brook, (516)632-6905

PROFESSIONAL/SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A regular feature of the newsletter will be to report professional achievements or social announcements members might have. This would include (but not limited to) birth announcements, promotions or job changes complete with new mailing addresses or meetings our members might be interested in. It will also include recent publications or reports our constituents might want to include. Below we have listed some examples of recent work our members have completed.

Short, F.T., et al. 1993. Production and nutrient dynamics of a Syringodium filiforme Kutz. seagrass bed in Indian River Lagoon, Florida. *Estuaries* 16:323-334.

Marino and R.W. Howarth. In Press. Atmospheric oxygen exchange in the Hudson River: Dome measurements and comparisons with other natural waters. *Estuaries* (Sept. 1993).

Rozsa and R.A. Orson. 1993. Restoration of degraded salt marshes in Connecticut. *Proceedings 20th Annual Conference on Wetland Restoration and Creation, Hillsborough, Florida*

Dettman, E.H., et al. 1992. A steady-state model of dissolved oxygen and nitrogen in the Providence River - Seekonk River estuary, Rhode Island. Rpt - NBP-92-102 to the

Narragansett Bay Project, Providence, RI (calibration and verification of model to various processes)

Many thanks to Bernie McAlice who has retired as NEERS Program Chair after many years of witty, literary, and educational service to NEERS. Bernie was the person responsible for putting together all those quality meetings and program mailings so challenging and interesting to read. Although, Bernie can never be replaced, he will be followed by Marshall Pregnall, our former Treasurer. Marshall assures us that he is brushing up on quotations and developing new schemes for getting people to submit their abstracts on time. We are all looking forward to the spring meeting.

NEERS will be well represented on the new ERF Governing Board. The ERF President-Elect is Candace Oviatt from URI School of Oceanography and the new member-at-large is Linda Deegan from the Ecosystems Center at Woods Hole. Congratulations to both members.

MEETINGS

Recently (Nov 14-18) over 800 scientists gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Hilton Head, South Carolina for ERF '93. The members were treated to sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's for the entire week. The meetings began with the President's Reception on the patio of the hotel on Sunday Evening. Beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres were served amidst the conversation. The Plenary Session was held on Monday morning. The talks were excellent and many people agreed that this was one of the best Plenary Sessions ever presented. Research presentations began Monday afternoon

and continued through to Thursday afternoon. Over 500 presentations were made including two poster sessions complete with beer, wine and munchies. Due to the quality of the talks, it was difficult (not impossible) to "play hooky" and take advantage of the nice weather. There were a number of special sessions including a special W.E. Odum Memorial Symposium introduced by Gene and Howard Odum. The social event this year was a Low Country Cookout held in an open-air pavillion on Wednesday evening. Over 400 people were treated to a meal of shrimp, corn, baked beans and barbequed beef, among others. A band played some rock-n-roll and the "joint was jumping". Of course there was beer and wine to quench our thirsts. Indeed, the organizers of the cookout said that they had run many of these parties for various groups, but had never run out of beer before this...ERF is always setting new standards. The week concluded with a strike by stewardesses at American Airlines, which made the trip home a little more hectic than usual, but did not dampen the experience.

Although, it was agreed that the meeting was a success, there were a few issues the membership voiced their opinion on. The most common issue ERF members mentioned was the fact that the Hyatt was built on a primary dune, a delicate coastal habitat. The members suggested that ERF should be more sensitive to issues such as these. Although the complaint was valid, in all fairness to the organizers, the Hyatt was not their first choice. The meetings were originally going to be held in Charleston, however at the last minute plans fell through and Hilton Head was the only place that could accommodate the 800 registrants on such short notice. Even with these issues, ERF '93 was a smashing success

and we like to thank the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium for providing us with a wonderful time. We would also like to thank Wendy Leo for putting together the NEERS poster at the ERF meeting. It was humorous, informative and eye-catching.

ERF '95 will be in Corpus Christi, Texas. It will not be on a primary dune, but rather a filled marsh (uh-oh, here we go again). We are working on bringing ERF '97 to New England. Anyone with suggestions on a place to meet or willing to take part in the organizing the meetings should contact Veronica B. or myself.

The Spring NEERS Meeting will be held from June 2-4, 1994 at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts. The organizers for the event will be Allan Young, Salem State College (508)741-6710 and Bernie Gardner, UMass-Boston (617)287-7454. Contact either Allan or Bernie for additional information. Call for papers will be sent out in a separate mailing. The Fall NEERS Meeting will be sometime in October or November on Cape Cod and hosted by Sandy Macfarlane...a meeting not to miss. We will keep you posted.

OP/ED

The newsletter can also be used as a forum for expressing opinions. From time to time we will include short editorial or opinion pieces submitted from our membership on topics of our members choosing. Topics can include anything from comments on new legislature coming up for vote to new teaching techniques to what's wrong or right with NEERS, ERF or science, in general.

OTHER

*Other sections we are considering for the newsletter a **Student Corner** which will feature information directly relevant to our student members including **Ketchum and Rankin Awards**, **Position Announcements** which will feature jobs or assistantships available to our members and other sections we haven't even considered yet.*

Please note that we have included a survey in this mailing. Please complete the survey, fold it, place a stamp on it and return it to Veronica (address listed). This information will help us plan future events and directions for NEERS.

The following list of NEERS officers is being provided for your information.

President; Veronica Berounsky, URI, School of Oceanography, (401)783-8437

President-Elect; David Franz, CUNY-Brooklyn, Biology Dept., (718)780-5396

Secretary-Treasurer; Robert Buchsbaum, MA Audobon Society, (508)927-1122

Program Chair; Marshall Pregnall, Vassar College, Biology Dept., (914)437-7416

Members-at-large; Michelle Dionne, Wells NERR, (207)646-1555 and Bernie Gardner, UMASS-Boston, Env. Sci. Program, (617)287-7454

Historian; Johnes (Jay) Moore, Marblehead, MA, (617)631-9454

Please submit all comments/submissions for the newsletter to Richard A. Orson, Newsletter Editor, c/o Najarian Associates, Inc., One Industrial Way West, Eatontown, New Jersey 07724 (908-389-0220).

NEERS membership questionnaire:

1. What influences your decision to attend a particular NEERS meeting?
(Rate each as: 1= very important, 2 = usually a consideration, 3 = not important, usually.

Use 1, 2, and 3 as many times as needed)

- if meeting date fits your teaching/class schedule _____
- if meeting date fits your research schedule _____
- attractive/interesting location _____
- distance from your place of work/home _____
- cost of registration, accommodations, etc. _____
- availability of travel funds _____
- program content and quality _____
- special symposium included _____
- having a paper/poster you'd like to present now _____
- other (specify) _____

2. Do you usually attend (check one)

- 1 or 2 meetings per year (when we have 2) _____
- 1 meeting every other year _____
- do you usually not attend meetings, but like to receive our mailings _____

3. What months are best for you for meetings: spring? _____ fall? _____

**Veronica M. Berounsky, President
Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, RI 02882-1197**

4. What factors about NEERS meetings are important to you? (Check all that apply)

- diverse program of contributed papers & posters _____
- special symposium sometimes included _____
- good audience for presenting papers & posters _____
- chance to discuss work with other NEERS members _____
- good meeting for students to attend _____
- meeting size is small enough to talk to people _____
- get to meet other scientists from our area _____
- get to meet other managers from our area _____
- get to meet other educators from our area _____
- presentations are mostly about the Northeast _____
- other _____

5. Would you rather have a specific topic symposium (circle one)

as an additional session on Thurs. afternoon or during regular session on Sat. morning

6. What topics would you like to see in a special topics symposium?

7. Who would you like to invite to / hear speak at an upcoming NEERS meeting?

8. Should NEERS have only one meeting per year (instead of the 3 every 2 years that we presently have)? Yes ___ No ___ (We are not planning any changes right now.)

9. Do you think our meeting days should be (circle one)

all weekdays weekend only as is, Thursday-Saturday

10. Do you like having a NEERS newsletter? Yes No (circle one)

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