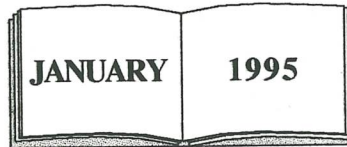


NEW
EINGLAND
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
SOCIETY

VOLUME 2; ISSUE 1

NEWS



*"ALL THE NEWS THAT'S
FIT FOR NEERS"*

EDITOR'S NOTE

To begin this issue of the newsletter, NEERS NEWS would like to show its appreciation to Past-President **VERONICA BEROUNSKY** for her dedicated service to the society. A number of changes were instituted during her tenure which we feel will improve NEERS...THANKS VERONICA! NEERS NEWS would like to take this opportunity to welcome **DAVE FRANZ** as the new President of NEERS. The Editorial Staff (me, myself and I) is confident that Dave will continue to help NEERS grow and develop in the fine tradition of administrations which have come before him...GOOD LUCK DAVE! NEERS NEWS would also like to congratulate the newest members of the Executive Committee, Secretary **WENDY LEO**, Members-at-Large, **R. SCOTT WARREN** and **CHARLES ROMAN** and President-Elect **FRED "Free Beer For Everyone" SHORT**. Congratulations and thanks goes to **ROBERT BUCHSBAUM** for his continuing service as Treasurer of NEERS. NEERS would also like to express gratitude to **LINDA DEEGAN** and **CHARLENE D'AVANZO**, runners-up in the recent elections. THANKS TO ALL!!!

The Fall'94 meeting was held in Orleans, MA and a good time was had by all. We were even treated to a narrowly averted environmental disaster at a local shopping center (see Meetings). On behalf of all our members, NEERS NEWS would like to thank **SANDY MACFARLANE** and the rest of the people who helped organize the meeting...NICE JOB!

As you are aware Dave Franz is the new

President of NEERS. With this change the newsletter marks the first issue of the second volume. Dave and I have been communicating and he has expressed a little apprehension about his tenure as President. So lets all give Dave a warm welcome as President and reinsure him that this is NEERS and as long as he keeps us fed and full of "cheer", everything will turn out just fine.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - President Franz

Winter finally has come to New York, following a delightful but seemingly endless fall season. On the salt marshes of Jamaica Bay, I am accompanied only by Brant and Canada Geese, the ibis and egrets (and even the enthusiastic undergraduate helpers) of late summer are but a pleasant memory now. Hard as it may be to believe, it's 1995, and time to write the first message as your president. This is the first of several opportunities that I will have to contribute to this column, and it seems that now would be the appropriate time to say something really significant. Actually, I may have thought of something really important last week, but alas I can't remember what it was [Editor's Note: maybe it was about buying beer for all members of NEERS at the next meeting...just a guess).

I feel a bit like a new coach of a winning team - my job is to keep the momentum going. If you though the meeting last October was great wait until you see Portsmouth! In April (27-29), at Portsmouth, we will celebrate the

25th anniversary of the first regular NEERS meeting. This is an opportunity not only to pat ourselves on our collective back for 25 successful years, but also to think seriously about the next 25 years. It is a remarkable fact that with the exception of Dave Dean, all of the past presidents of NEERS are still with us - and available to help us view the past and plan for the future. There are some clouds on the political horizon. At this moment, Americans seem willing to turn back the clock of history a few turns. But political ignorance, lack of funding, etc. are not new, and the American people are not ready to see their coastal resources, fisheries and park land disappear. What does this mean for NEERS? I think it is time to take a deep breath, and think about the things which have made our society successful in the past, and what needs to be done to meet the new challenges. We are not about to discard what is clearly working well, but this doesn't preclude change. What changes, if any, could we make to increase the effectiveness of NEERS, and make it more valuable to the membership? Now is the time for all of us to think about NEERS and the future. An internet NEERS bulletin board, stronger support for students, greater emphasis on education are areas where NEERS has responded to membership needs. If you have suggestions or ideas for improvement, put them in writing and contact me or the executive committee, or bring them with you to Portsmouth. Happy New Year!

CANDIDATES CORNER

With the change in administrations, NEERS has two new Members-at-Large, **Charles Roman** and **R. Scott Warren**. Before congratulating Charley and Scott, NEERS would like to thank the outgoing members **Michelle Dionne** and **Bernie Gardner** for their service during the past few years...THANKS GUYS! To acquaint NEERS members with their new Members-at-Large, the following biographies were submitted by Charley and Scott.

Charles T. Roman

is Director of the National Biological Survey's (NBS) Cooperative Studies Unit at the University of Rhode Island. NBS is the newly created biological research arm of the Department of the Interior. Charley's research over the past decade

has focused on marshes and estuaries associated with coastal national parks, particularly Acadia National Park and Cape Cod National Seashore. His studies have addressed salt marsh restoration, nutrient loading, primary production of macrophytes and water column, and functional habitat ecology. Charley has been a member of ERF for 15 years, and affiliated with both AERS (while at Univ. of Delaware and Rutgers University) and NEERS.

R. Scott Warren

is Professor and Chair of the Botany Department at Connecticut College. He did his graduate work at Defiance College and received his M.S. and Ph.D. in plant biochemistry and genetics from the University of New Hampshire. As a grad student he drove past the marshes and waters of Great Bay nearly every day, but barely knew Spartina from Zostera. By today's standards he could have been considered "estuarily challenged" (?). At Connecticut College Scott was introduced to salt marshes by Bill Niering and worked first on height forms of S. alterniflora. Over the past 20+ years he has studied various aspects of tidal marsh vegetation, focusing on patterns of change and the factors which influence angiosperm species distribution. This work has included long-term change and historical marsh development (with NEERS NEWS Editor-in-Chief Orson). Scott also collaborates with his Connecticut College zoological colleague and fellow NEERSian Paul Fell on questions relating to marsh macroinvertebrates and tidal creek fish. Most recently, he and Paul have been working on the impact of Phragmites australis invasion in the brackish tidal marshes of the Connecticut River estuary.

I have had the pleasure of knowing both Scott and Charley for over fifteen years (my poor liver) and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them both on their appointments and am confident they will do a great job for NEERS.

MEETINGS

NEERS FALL '94, ORLEANS, MA

I think I can speak for everybody when I say that the Fall '94 meetings were a smashing success. Those who attended were treated to a wonderful time hosted by **Sandy Macfarlane** and the **Town of Orleans** and the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Coastal Research Center**. A heart-felt THANK YOU goes out to the hosts of the meeting and the **OLD JAILHOUSE TAVERN** for putting up with NEERS for three days...GREAT JOB!

The meetings were interesting, the papers presented were of high quality and, as always, we had a blast. The meetings began on Thursday with an all day symposium titled "Translating Science into Management" arranged by **Sandy Macfarlane**. Interesting talks were presented by both scientists and managers and the session was topped off by an al fresco luncheon at Fort Hill Park. Here, members of the Park Service presented posters and discussion of park research and policy for NEERS members. The session went well, although it was evident that **Fred Short** was a little "bugged" during his talk. The Thursday session was followed by the traditional NEERS social which included a keg and munchies at Cabin 5 at the Nauset Beach-Side Motel. NEERS folks had a wonderful time and we want to thank our friends from Nova Scotia for keeping the tap running (Thanks Heidi).

In the opinion of NEERS NEWS, the Friday paper session was one of the best grouping of papers presented at a NEERS meeting. The talks included a wide variety of subjects and a number of people when they could get **Dave Burdick** off stage. Unfortunately, it rained during the day so it was difficult to go walk the beaches during lunch, but the views were spectacular all the same. We want to thank our Chilean Connection (CHEERS), **Ed and Kathy Rhodes** for taking time out of their schedule to call and FAX NEERS during the meetings to congratulate us on our anniversary. Towards the end of the session NEERS was treated to a special event. Apparently, the rains caused a problem with the sewage system of a nearby Stop-n-Shop shopping center and there was concern that spill over could impact the local coastline. NEERS members sprung into lively

debate and came up with a plan to berm off the parking lot and plug storm drains with kitty litter until the water could be pumped into trucks and carted off for the proper treatment elsewhere. Fortunately, the problem turned out to be less drastic than first considered and did not end up requiring the drastic application of kitty litter...PHEW! It was both fun and interesting to see NEERS in action and it should be noted that a working plan agreeable to most of the members was developed within fifteen minutes. Who says scientists always want more data before they can act? The Friday session was followed by a happy hour at the Old Jailhouse Tavern with beer, wine and clams on the half-shell (Mmmmmm!). The NEERS Banquet followed the happy hour in the Tavern's meeting room. During the banquet the outgoing administration was honored and the incoming group was introduced to all. **Amy Uhlenhopp** was presented with the Rankin Prize for her talk titled "Effects of land use on the degradability of dissolved organic matter from different watersheds". There were no Ketchum Prize candidates this time around. As always NEERS members went out dancing after the banquet, this time to Link Montana and the Roamin' Catholics at the Orleans Inn. And to no ones surprise, we stayed until they kicked us out. Just another successful NEERS Meeting!

On Saturday Morning the members were treated to a special symposium on Marine Education arranged by **Charlene D'Avanzo**. The session resulted in an exchange of ideas and lively discussion about marine education and directions for the future, the place was hopping. The meeting ended a little past noon and we said our goodbyes over the committee sign-up sheets for the ERF '97 meeting.

NEERS SPRING '95, PORTSMOUTH, NH

The Spring '95 25th NEERS Anniversary meeting will be hosted by the **University of New Hampshire** and will be held at the **Yoken's Comfort Inn Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on April 27-29, 1995**. UNH hosted the original meetings 25 year ago and we are returning to celebrate those first presentations. Portsmouth is an old and interesting port city with good restaurants, lots of dancing, discount and specialty shopping, the famous Strawberry Banke Historical District, some nice walks and

beaches and proximity to the Great Bay Estuary.

The meetings will begin on Thursday with a Symposium on Estuarine Management. Invited and contributed papers will include State and Federal agencies such as New Hampshire DES, USEPA and Army Corps, among others. Agencies charged with managing New England estuaries will discuss their problems and concerns and the issues as they see them. If you would like to participate in this symposium, contact the meeting organizers, a few contributed papers will be included, but the numbers will be limited.

The general paper session will be held on Friday, April 28. Contributed papers will be presented and the deadline for abstract submission will be March 20, 1995. Watch your mail for meeting announcements and registration material. For more information about abstracts you can contact Marshall Pregnell, Program Chair (E-Mail - Pregnell@Vassar.Vassar.Edu; FAX - 914/437-7315) or wait for the announcement to be mailed in the next few weeks.

The Saturday session will be a special anniversary event to be held at the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory in Durham, New Hampshire. This occasion will mark the 25th Anniversary of both NEERS and the Jackson Estuarine Lab. We invite you to join us on the UNH's R/V Gulf Challenger for tours of Great Bay Estuary and various research and mitigation sites. There will also be tours of the Jackson Estuarine Lab and a celebration of a quarter of century of research. The organizers will be inviting all of NEERS Past-Presidents for a rare opportunity to discuss the history of NEERS and gather some rare photos. In keeping with this 25th Anniversary celebration the organizers are also considering a change in the structure of the banquet. Instead of the usual sit down dinner on Friday night, they are considering a buffet style meal with the awards ceremony on Friday night at Portsmouth and a lobster bake on Saturday at noon at the Jackson Lab for the anniversary celebration. This will take the normal costs for the banquet and divide them between two meals (we will try to contain the costs for both activities to allow as many people as possible to attend both meals). Either way dancing will still be included in the Friday night festivities. In order to give our members an opportunity to respond to these changes, please

fill out the questionnaire (see below) and send it to Fred Short at UNH.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Inn (1-800/552-8484 or 603/433-3338) under the name "Estuary Conference". Costs and registration will be handled through the upcoming meeting announcement. We encourage you to submit an abstract and come to Portsmouth in April to make this a dynamic 25th Anniversary for NEERS.

ERF '97, PROVIDENCE, RI

Sign-up sheets for those interested in participating in the **1997 ERF Meetings** scheduled for Providence, Rhode Island are now available. This ERF meeting will be hosted by NEERS so it is our responsibility to make sure it is a great meeting. All of those who may be interested in helping to prepare for the meeting, please contact meeting organizer, **Jonathan Garber**, at USEPA, 27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882 or call (401)782-3154 or **Veronica Berounsky** at the address listed on the cover page or E-Mail at vberoun@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu.

BENTHIC ECOLOGY MEETING

The Benthic Ecology Meeting will be held March 17-19, 1995 in New Brunswick, NJ. For information contact **Ellen Oates** (908)932-6555 ext300).

MARINE AND SHALLOW WATER SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The Marine and Shallow Water conference will be held April 3-7, 1995 in Atlantic City, NJ. Contact **Ralph Spagnolo** at (215)597-3642 or spagnolo.ralph@epamail.epa.gov for more information.

ESTUARINE GORDON CONFERENCE

The Estuarine Gordon Conference is being held June 11-16, 1995 in New Hampshire. Check *Science* for details or call (401)783-4011 for more information.

ERF '95

ERF '95 will be held November 12-16 in Corpus Christi, Texas. June 15, 1995 will be the abstract deadline. For information contact: **Paul Montagna** at (512)749-6779 or paul@utmsi.zo.utexas.edu.

OTHER

NEEDED! A VOLUNTEER TO CREATE A NEW NEERS POSTER!

Our Secretary, Wendy Leo, created the last NEERS poster which disappeared mysteriously after the last ERF meeting. Wendy has some of the original photographs and a copy of the poster text, but **NEW PICTURES ARE NEEDED!** If you would like to take on the job of creating the new NEERS Poster, contact Wendy or Dave Franz. Anyone who has an interesting photograph or illustration, send a copy to Dave Franz. If possible it will be included in the new poster.

WANTED! IDEAS FOR A NEERS LOGO!

Many people have expressed an interest in designing a logo for NEERS. If you have an idea or a design, please submit it to Rich Orson. The logos will be on display at the meetings in Portsmouth and selections will be made by general vote or committee (hey this is NEERS...nothing gets decided without a beer in ones hand) at the next meeting. Please keep in mind that the logo should include NEERS and that it should be readily reproducible. Many small details are hard to recreate and extensive designs can be expensive to include on letter heads. The idea does not have to be presented in a final state. A conceptual design is acceptable and we can use our members talent to render the final product. As incentive to our membership there will be a prize for the winning selection (prize to be decided upon by the Executive Committee). So put on those thinking caps and get those creative juices flowing, we want to see a good effort.

NEERS ON-LINE

The NEERS NEWS Editor-in-Chief is aware that electronic mail is the thing of the future. However, for the present the newsletter will not access E-Mail due to costs and logistics. Please understand that this is a temporary situation and will be corrected within the next year and a half.

The NEERS Bulletin Board is coming along and the information should be of interest to the membership. **Bernie Gardner** is in the

process of setting up a **LISTERV** mailing list for NEERS on the UMASS/Boston computer system. In order to use the LISTV system send an internet mail message from the account you normally use to read your mail. Send to: **neerslst-request@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu**. Leave the subject of the message blank and the body of the message should contain the command: **subscribe neerslst**. Once you have subscribed, you can send mail to address **neerslst-request@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu** the same way you would send mail to an individual. The list should be available by the time you receive the newsletter, but if you experience problems please be patient, this new service will require some adjustments. For more information or a list of individual addresses for those who have signed up for the service, contact Bernie at **gardner@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu** or call at **(617)287-7454**.

NEERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUES

The number on your mailing label indicates the amount you owe in dues for 1994 and any previous year. If you owe three or more years worth of dues (i.e., \$30.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for students) you will be dropped from the mailing lists, provided that your dues have not been received by **Robert Buchsbaum by March 15, 1995**. Also note that dues for 1995 will be due at the Spring '95 meeting. Remember NEERS is a real bargain and we need your dollars to keep the society running.

NEERS BROCHURE

The following is a description of NEERS we would like to use for announcements and brochures. If you have any comments, please send them to Veronica Berounsky or Dave Franz.

Purpose and Scope:

The New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS), is a professional organization that brings together persons interested in estuarine and coastal research and management for presentations, informal discussion and scientific exchange. NEERS is a non-profit society that operates exclusively for educational purposes. Its 300 members are

mainly based in the northeast area, from Canada to New Jersey, and work in ecosystems ranging from the head waters of estuaries to the open waters of the continental shelf, although their work may also take them anywhere on the globe. NEERS members include research scientists, educators, students, managers, administrators, consultants and other people who share an interest in the ecology, structure, conservation and general well-being of estuarine and coastal environments.

History:

NEERS was founded in December, 1969 at Salem State College (MA) by area scientists to continue in the northeast traditions of the Chesapeake Bay-based Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS), in which a small band of scientists with broad interests met informally to talk about area estuaries. The first meeting with scientific presentations was held the following spring at the University of New Hampshire. In 1971, the region affiliate societies, which now included NEERS, AERS, the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS), and the Gulf Estuarine Research Society (GERS), saw the need for a parent organization and formed the Estuarine Research Federation (ERF), a nonprofit organization that promotes research and understanding of estuarine and coastal ecosystems world-wide. ERF also publishes the journal *Estuaries* and holds biennial international conferences. Later, another regional affiliate, the Pacific Estuarine Research Society (PERS) was formed.

Meetings:

NEERS meets every spring and also every fall in which an ERF meeting is not held. The meeting is hosted by some center of estuarine and coastal activity within our geographical area. Meetings traditionally begin on Thursday evening with registration and a social. On Friday, there are morning and afternoon sessions for contributed oral and poster presentations followed by a business meeting and then a banquet and other social events. Saturday morning there is another contributed session with adjournment about noon. At some meetings, there is a symposium on Thursday focusing on a topic of current interest (e.g., eutrophication, management) or on a geographical area (e.g., Long Island Sound, Massachusetts Bay).

Presentations delivered at NEERS

meetings include both "works in progress" and projects completed. It is an ideal forum for scientists beginning new projects, for students who may benefit from the constructive criticism of colleagues in a friendly setting, and for more traditional presentations. We encourage student presentations, and offer awards for the best graduate paper (Ketchum Award) and best undergraduate paper (Rankin Award). We also encourage student presentations at ERF meetings, by awarding money for student travel to ERF meetings.

Membership and Dues:

Membership is open to anyone actively involved in or interested in estuarine and coastal research and issues. Membership entitles one to give presentations at meetings, to receive meeting information (announcements, programs and abstracts, to receive NEERS NEWS, a newsletter published two times a year, and to have access to the NEERS membership list. Annual dues are \$10.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for students. Interested persons may become a member by paying dues to the NEERS Treasurer (at present: Robert Buchsbaum, Massachusetts Audubon Society, 346 Grapevine Road, Wenham, Ma 01984, 508/927-1122). NEERS also encourages its members to join ERF and support estuarine and coastal research and management at the national and international level. Contact the ERF executive Director, Joy Bartholomew, 490 Chippingwood Drive, #2, Port Republic, MD 20676 (401/586-0997).

Philosophy:

NEERS provides an amicable setting for presentation, questioning and discussion of theories and data. NEERS strives for the free exchange of ideas and first-name informality.

How can you get the most out of NEERS? If you see someone you don't know at a meeting, introduce yourself. If you happen upon a group discussing something that interests you, join in, the participants may be too engrossed to notice you otherwise. If you want to try out a new idea or get some criticism on work in progress, present a paper or poster; the amount of feedback you'll get may surprise you. If you have need for information about a topic, check the NEERS membership list and call someone up. If you want to spread some news on an estuarine or coastal topic, put it in the newsletter. In short, the scientific and social returns that you realize from your NEERS

membership will be determined by your taking advantage of every chance you get to interact with other NEERS members.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The **Sounds Conservancy Inc.** has a Marine Conservation Education and Research Program which supports student research projects within the marine region of southern New England (East River, NY to Outer Cape). Grants of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$2,500 are available. Applications are due **April 1** for summer funds and October 1 for funding during the academic year. For application/information contact **Christopher Percy**, The Sounds Conservancy, Inc., 43 Main St., P.O. Box 266, Essex, CT 06426 or call (203)767-1933. The Sounds Conservancy also encourages membership in its organization which helps provide funding for student grants. Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact the Conservancy at the above noted address. [Editor's Note: We have rerun this announcement for the benefit of those who missed it the first time]

The **Hudson River Foundation** and the **Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve** sponsor the Tibor T. Polgar Summer Fellowship Program for undergraduate and graduate research on the Hudson River estuary. They seek proposals focused on increasing our understanding of the physical, chemical and biological processes and relationships that exist in the Hudson River estuary. Projects on public policy aspects of the Hudson River environment are also eligible. Summer grants of \$3,500.00 plus \$500.00 for expenses are available. Students must be sponsored by a major professor. Applications should include 1) letter of interest from the student and of support from the sponsor, 2) 4-6 page project description, 3) a detailed time table, 4) budget, and 5) student's CV. Submit original and five copies by **March 1, 1995** to: Polgar Fellowship Committee, Hudson River Foundation, 40 West 20th Street, (9th Floor, New York, NY 10011. For more information or to discuss research ideas, contact **Chuck Nieder** at (914)758-5193.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NEERS NEWS would like to thank **Dr. Tavit O. Najarian** of Najarian Associates, Inc. for his continuing support in the production of the newsletter. The Editorial Staff would also like to thank all the members who contributed to this issue.

QUESTIONNAIRE (check your answer)

Please answer the following questions and return your results to **Fred Short**. This may not seem earth shattering, however, we really do need to know how you feel about these questions so that we can plan the meeting. Please take the time to mail your response to Fred.

1. Do you like the idea of having a special luncheon on Saturday afternoon to celebrate NEERS' Anniversary?
 Yes No
2. Would you be able to attend this celebration?
 Yes No
3. Do you like the idea of having a buffet style dinner on Friday to help reduce the costs?
 Yes No
4. Would you rather have the traditional banquet style dinner regardless of the Saturday lunch?
 Yes No
5. Would you rather just have the traditional dinner and forget the luncheon altogether?
 Yes No
7. You do not care either way, just as long as beer and wine are available at both.
 Yes No
6. Any other suggestion or comment you may have for the celebration of NEERS 25th Anniversary should be listed below.

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