

**N**<sup>EW</sup>  
**E**<sup>NGLAND</sup>  
**E**<sup>STUARINE</sup>  
**R**<sup>ESEARCH</sup>  
**S**<sup>OCIETY</sup>

**NEWS**

**JANUARY 1996**

VOLUME 2; ISSUE 3



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

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Well the move is complete and now it is time to settle in with another issue of **NEERS NEWS**. ERF '95 went off with a bang and for all of you who made the trip to the Gulf Coast I am sure you were not disappointed. For those who could not make the trip there are tidbits throughout this issue you might find interesting.

One of the nicest compliments for **NEERS NEWS** came in the form of a thank you note from the Hudson River Foundation recently stating that due to the notices listed in the newsletter, applications for student grants increased substantially during the last year. This new pool of applicants provided the foundation with high quality proposals and improved their ability to fund a number of significant research projects...**WAY TO GO NEERS!** Indeed they were so pleased that they are announcing a new fund to support graduate work through the newsletter (see below). The deadline for submissions is March 4 so you may want to flip directly to the Student Support Section and get started on your application. To help prepare for our upcoming meetings and foster research in the Hudson, there is an additional section in this issue about the NERR.

Correction - in the last issue of **NEERS NEWS**, the discussion of a Student Poster Award credited Larry Spencer with the idea (as passed on to me by Dave Franz). Alan Young wrote to tell me that it was actually his idea and that he even surveyed and lobbied the members for it. So...the tentative Dave Dean Student Poster Award is actually the brainchild of Alan not Larry (sorry Larry). Be sure to give Alan a pat-on-the-back the next time you see him for keeping the gray matter rolling. [Of course this means that I will probably be hearing from Larry next].

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER - President Franz**

It is early January, sunny and cold, the day after the great Blizzard of '96. The outlying boroughs of the City are snowbound, but Manhattan is shaking off the snow and getting back to work. The seabeach - covered with ice and snow above the strand line - is frozen to the consistency of a hardwood floor. A few Scoters and Mergansers fly by, and the occasional small flock of Sanderlings can be seen making a pretty feeble attempt at foraging along the shore.

This is a time for reflection on the past and contemplation of the future. The balmy November week in Corpus Christi is still a warm and compelling memory. ERF'95 was enormously successful and sets a high standard for ERF'97 in Providence. I hope that our members who were at ERF'95 will be willing to share their thoughts about the meeting with all of us at our next meeting in Poughkeepsie. Looking ahead to May, we are anticipating the **NEERS 1996** spring meeting at Vassar College - a historic first for **NEERS** in New York State. Come to Poughkeepsie! We promise to get you there painlessly without even a wiff of the great metropolis to the south. Come and see Marshall on his home turf, and learn more about the great Hudson Estuary which defines **NEERS'** southern geographical boundary. For those really adventurous members, why not plan an extra day to Visit that mother of all estuaries - Jamaica Bay!

Come to Vassar prepared to think seriously about the **NEERS** mission. As the host affiliate for ERF '97 in Providence, we have to set our sites pretty high to meet the standards set at Corpus Christi. **NEERS** meetings are always delightful - we get to see friends, learn about new research, get progress reports on previous work, and even brag a little about our own estuarine endeavors. Perhaps this is enough; but, maybe **NEERS** could be doing a little more to keep the passion higher between meetings. If you have ideas for reshaping the **NEERS** mission and are

willing to share them, bring them with you to Poughkeepsie, or try them out on one of the officers. See you there!

NEERS HOME PAGE NEERS has a Home Page on the World Wide Web. For those of you who may not be frequent travelers on the electronic superhighway, this is different from NEERSLST, which is an Internet newsgroup available only to NEERS members. The homepage is available to anyone searching the internet Here is our WWW address:

<http://oz.plymouth.edu/~biology/neers.html>

The 'page' is a work-in-progress by Larry Spencer. We hope to be able to provide information not only about NEERS (applications for membership info, meeting sites, dates etc.) but also general information about the nature of estuaries, estuarine problems, and possibly local "experts" (NEERS volunteers) willing to provide more specific educational information via email. The homepage will also be able to direct interested parties to other sources of information, e.g. university and other research laboratories in our region. Larry would welcome suggestions, and we hope to be able to demonstrate the Homepage in May at Poughkeepsie.

BOOK "REVIEW" New York City really is only a large estuary enclosed by lots of people. In addition to New York Harbor (the Lower Hudson Estuary), there is the Raritan Estuary to the west, Jamaica Bay to the east and Sandy Hook in New Jersey. If you should find yourself in or near New York, and would like to visit some of our estuaries first hand, consider this little book *Gateway, A Visitors Companion*\* by John Tanacredi. In addition to historical information, there are many beautiful color and B&W photos of animals and plants of Gateway, including Invertebrates, from Jamaica Bay and Sandy Hook, as well as descriptive information and visitors' advice.

\*Gateway, A Visitor's Companion, 1995. J.T. Tanacredi, with Curtis J. Badger. Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (\$14.95) Dave Franz

## MEETINGS

### ERF '95

Over one thousand estuarine-type people attended a very successful ERF '95 meeting this past November 12-16 in Corpus Christi, Texas. I think I can honestly say that I speak for everyone that ERF was treated to a wonderful time while visiting the Lone Star State. A big thank you to Paul Montagna and the rest of the organizing staff is in order.

The meeting began for early arrivals on Saturday night with an informal get together in Joy Bartholomew's room (The Presidential Suite) complete with beer and chips. On Sunday a number of people took advantage of the field trips and enjoyed a taste of Gulf Coast ecology. A number of members went on the Warf Cat cruise to see whooping cranes at Aransas Wildlife refuge and came back with smiles and sunburns on their faces. My compadre, Scott Warren, and myself took our own tour of Padre Island National Seashore on Sunday and we saw some great coastal scenes. Plenty of geomorphology and botany to keep anyone happy. By the way, things are bigger in Texas...the mosquitoes just grab you, pick you up and suck you dry, then drop you back down (or so it seemed). When the tours ended, everyone met at the Presidents Reception for some drinks and discussion with a Mexican theme. Plenty of tacos and tequila.

The presentations began on Monday and ran through Thursday PM. A lot of very good papers and posters were presented and a number of specialty sessions were first rate. The meetings were all within a short distance of each other so there were no problems making the talks you wanted to see. For anyone interested in estuarine sciences, this was the place to be. If you haven't made ERF meetings in the past, definitely make plans to join us in Providence in '97, you won't regret it.

As always an integral part of the meetings are the social events. Poster sessions were run in the afternoons over beer and wine. At the end of the day, organized events helped make this another fine set of meetings. The Affiliates Reception was held at the nearby Texas Aquarium. This gave everyone a chance to see the exhibits while drinking beer and munching on cheese to shrimp (...not from the tanks) The banquet was a real Texas style Bar-B-Q complete with all the fixins including brisket, corn and a country western band. Not to leave anybody out, they also offered dance instructions for the crowd. After the festives a number of ERFians met impromptu, at a rhythm and blues bar back near the hotel where they danced, drank and played fussball till the wee hours of the morning.

When one wasn't attending a planned social event it was time to hit the pavement and have some local fun. A number of bars in the area offered some good music while the restaurants served up gumbo and crawdads. The seafood was particularly tasty. If one was adventurous, you could drive to one of the nearby wildlife refuges or national seashore for a bit more flavor of the area. We took a trip to Aransas Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday and found it was closed (the Government was shut). Of course being the responsible citizens we are, we climbed over the gate and watched 12 foot 'gators run into the water as we approached. We also found a great little

microtidal salt marsh at the site of a bankrupt development complete with *Distichlis*, *Spartina* and a prickly pear cactus upper border. You didn't even need a hand lens to tell if the mosquitoes were *Aedes*...joy!

All and all it was a nice place to have a meeting and a wonderful place to observe a coastal habitat much different than New England.

#### NEERS SPRING '96, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

The Spring '96 NEERS meeting will be held at Vassar and include the Hudson River estuary as one of its main themes. The meetings are scheduled for May 4-6, 1996. Marshall will be our host and there will be a special Hudson River symposium on Thursday. We will let you know the specifics as we get closer, but for now keep this weekend open for your fun and pleasure. [Editor's Note: Why include the Hudson in NEERS? For those of us who have lived in the New York region you certainly get the feeling that you are living on the edge. AERS is concentrated in the Virginia region and New York ends up on the border of both groups. We could argue that there are many likenesses between the Hudson and other major New England rivers/estuaries, however, the real reason is its about time that the New York group gets its day in the sun and who better to shine a little light than the smiling faces of NEERS (why let potential dues go to waste). So...be prepared to let the Hudson group know that they belong to NEERS (as we have done for the Nova Scotia crowd) and come to Poughkeepsie for some of that "edge effect"]

#### ERF '97, PROVIDENCE, RI

As always we are still looking for volunteers to help with organizing the 1997 ERF Meetings scheduled for Providence, Rhode Island. 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 [vmberoun@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu](mailto:vmberoun@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu).

#### BLUECRAB FISHERIES OF NORTH AMERICA

A symposium sponsored by the National Shellfisheries Assoc., the National Bluecrab Industry Assoc, NOAA and the Maryland DNR will be held at the Holiday Inn, 301 West Lombard St., Baltimore, MD 21202, (410)685-3500 on April 18-19, 1996. Research, conservation and management are the

main themes. Registration will cost \$30 and for more information contact: **Dr. Rosenfeld**, Oxford Field Station, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, NOAA, 904 S. Morris St., Oxford, MD, 21654-9724, (410)226-5193, FAX (410)226-5925.

#### OTHER

##### NEW MEMBERS

Some of our members have been busy setting up recruits for future NEERS membership drives. **ANNE GIBLIN** and **KEN FOREMAN** are the proud parents of **NICK**, **VERONICA BAROUNSKY** and **DICK LEE** have added **BENJAMIN** to the pool and **ROBERT** and **NANCY BUCHSBAUM** have added **GABRIEL** to the list of future Treasurers...CONGRATS TO ALL!

On another note, **ED** and **KATHY RHODES** have moved from Chile to Mexico. So it looks like **CHEERS** is out and **MEERS** is in. We also hear that **Kathy** won the baby pool.

##### NEEDED! A VOLUNTEER TO CREATE A NEW NEERS POSTER!

That's right, we are still looking for a kind soul who will put together a NEERS Poster. Contact **Dave** or **Wendy** if you want to volunteer yourself (or even someone else).

##### NEERS LOGO!

Wouldn't you know that the only logo suggestion (see last page) we have received thus far, was from **Kent Mountford**, an **AERS** member...Thanks **Kent**! Keep those cards and letters coming.

##### NEERS ON-LINE

Just a reminder, the NEERS Bulletin Board is here. **Bernie Gardner** set up the 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](mailto: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](mailto:neerslst-request@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu) the same way you would send mail to an individual. 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](mailto:gardner@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu) or call at (617)287-7454.

## FEATURE ORGANIZATION

### HUDSON RIVER NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE (HRNERR)

For over twenty years a group of estuarine scientists have been hard at work studying the Hudson River estuary. As a result of their work, the HRNERR was established in 1982. The reserve itself encompasses over 100 river miles (RM) and includes Stockport Flats (RM 124), Tivoli Bays (RM 94), Iona Island (RM 45) and Piermont Marsh (RM 24). Combined these areas represent approximately 5,000 acres of tidal wetland, open water and upland buffer areas.

The reserves funding comes primarily from the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division of NOAA and the Hudson River Foundation and is administered by the NYSDEC, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and a number of State agencies including the Dept of Parks and the Office of General Services. Much of the research has focused on baseline characteristic studies, aspects of water quality, wetland and mudflat ecology, rates of sedimentation and point and non-point pollution sources, although more recently, other topics have included the effects of development on the watershed, management issues and the study of exotic and invasive species (i.e., zebra mussel). HRNERR has accumulated a library of information about the Hudson River including over 70 publications and reports, aerial photos, maps and four years worth of water quality data taken from fixed point sampling stations. Anybody interested in the estuary should contact the research coordinator at:

Hudson River NERR  
c/o Bard College Field Station  
Annandale, NY 12504  
(914)758-5193

(Chuck Nieder is the present Research Coordinator)

**[Editor's Note: there will more info available at the meetings in May...see you there]**

## STUDENT SUPPORT

1). 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.

2). 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 4, 1996** to:

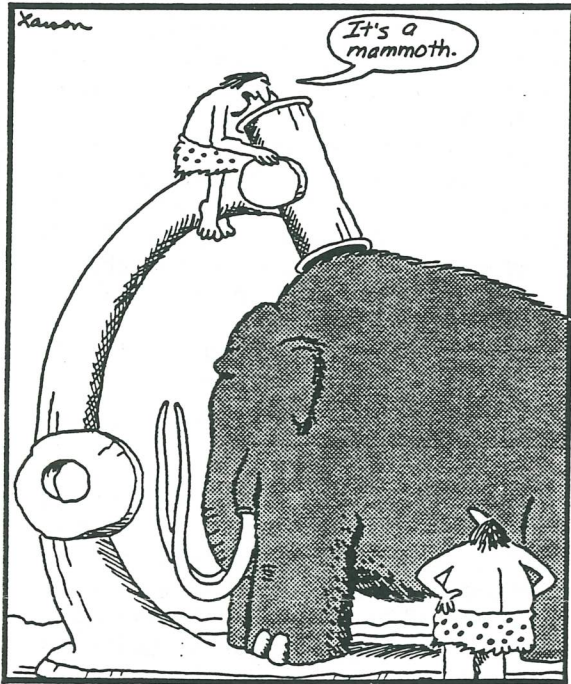
Polgar Fellowship Committee,  
Hudson River Foundation  
40 W 20th St, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10011

**NEW! 3).** The New York Sea Grant Institute and the HRNERR are soliciting applications for the 1996 Cooperative Research Fellowship from graduate students seeking to fund thesis work on the Hudson River. Emphasis will be on the following three areas: a) developing remediation and evaluation techniques for plans to restore disturbed coastal environments; b) understanding the impact of introduced species on wetland ecosystems and development of effective response, detection and control mechanisms; and c) determining the relationships between wetland ecosystems and the drainage basin. Fellowships will be awarded with a stipend of \$14,000 plus \$2,000 to cover operational costs [this should make somebody out there very happy]. A portion of the work must be conducted within or have direct application to HRNERR. The fellowship will begin as early as June 1 or as late as September 1, concluding one year from starting date. **Deadline for applications is March 4, 1996.** Applicants must consult the sponsors of the fellowship as they develop their proposals. For more information contact Chuck Nieder at (914)758-5193.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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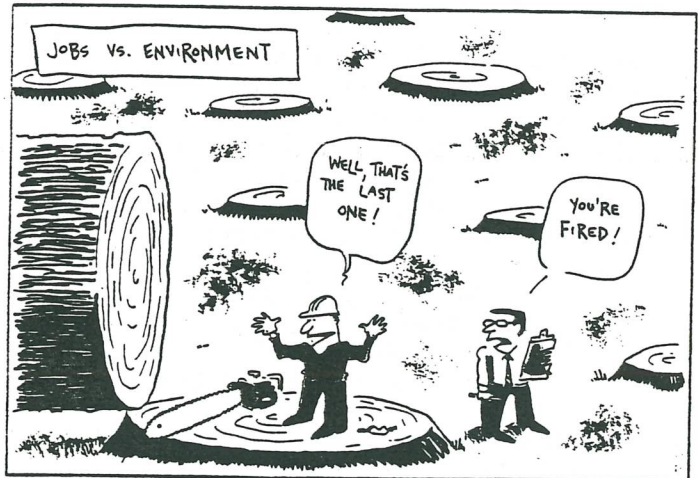
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Early microscope



Ned couldn't help but feel that if his grant had come through his search for Atlantis would be going much better.



Joel Pett  
The Lexington Herald-Leader  
North America Syndicate



V2-3

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LOGO IDEA BY KENT MOUNTFORD

Send all newsletter correspondances to Rich Orson c/o return address on front page