

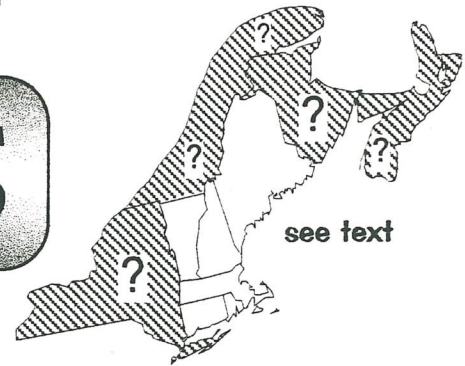
NEW (ORTH??)
ENGLAND (AST??)
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
SOCIETY

VOLUME 2; ISSUE 4

NEWS

AUGUST 1996

"ALL THE NEWS THAT'S
FIT FOR NEERS"



Editor: Richard Orson
Assoc Editor: Robert Radulski

Yes it's that time of year when the NEERS Newsletter hits the stands and everybody wants a copy. Since you were smart enough to join as a member you get your copy delivered straight to you, no lines, no waiting, just wonderful literary prose. Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out, but we had to wait until the candidate situation was resolved. A lot has happened since our last issue. A very successful meeting was held in New York in the spring, the fall meetings were announced and nominations for candidate elections were considered. All of this and more will be covered as you continue to read through this issue.

NEERS NEWS would like to welcome the arrival of our new Associate Editor, **Robert Radulski**, to the editorial staff. Bob brings a fresh attitude to the production, as well as his own bottle of Scotch. So for his efforts on behalf of NEERS, we want to extend our sincere appreciation.

Keep in mind that by the time you receive this issue that ERF '97 will be a little over a year away. Volunteers are still needed to help make these meetings successful. Contact **Veronica Barounsky** for more information.

ERF' 97
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
OCTOBER 12-16, 1997

Candidates were nominated for elections to be held at the Fall meetings. We want to thank all those people who graciously submitted their names for consideration (I hope their twisted arms feel better). We have included statements by each candidate in this issue for your reading pleasure.

We have two very qualified members running for President, **Bernie Gardner & Scott Warren**. So be sure to support the candidate of your

MEETING REMINDER

NEERS Fall '96
October 24 -26, 1996
Hotel Mannasis
Block Island
Hosted by URI

choice and remember, neither one is above bribery. We also have **Pam Arnofsky** running for Treasurer. **Wendy Smith** is running unopposed for a 2nd term as Secretary and is expected to win big. You can read all about the candidates later in this issue (can't wait).

And remember that this is **Dave Franz's** last few months in office and that our President-Elect, **Fred Short** takes over the reins in the Fall (watch your liver). We also will not have **Robert Buchsbaum** to push around anymore...he is retiring from the Treasurers position (I guess he saved up enough NEERS money to retire). From the members of NEERS and the staff here at the newsletter, we would like to thank both **Dave and Bob** on a job well done and we wish them well.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At our next meeting, October 24 on Block Island, we will choose a new President-Elect, and Fred Short will take over the reins as your president. We are blessed to have such a capable and experienced officer in the wings. I wish to use this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to NEERS for giving me the privilege to serve as president of your society. These have been interesting years for our science, for NEERS itself, and especially for me. At our 25th anniversary meeting at Portsmouth [Editor's Note ...and Cape Cod,...and Salem

and...], we enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to look back at our Society and its beginnings, to see almost all of our past-presidents together again, and to learn something about how we have gotten to where we are today. The past two years have been a time of renewal and preparation for the future. With the advent of the NEERSLST and the NEERS homepage, we are moving in a direction which undoubtedly will become even more important in the future. The historical meeting at Vassar College this past Spring - the first NEERS meeting in New York state - may be a harbinger of growing strength for NEERS. Perhaps Julie Rankin is right when she argues that the 'NE' in NEERS really should stand for North East. The decisions made at that meeting to increase our membership dues in order to substantially increase our ability to support student travel awards (including both local NEERS and ERF meetings) , to increase each student award to \$100, and to establish the new Dave Dean Poster Award, are important steps in strengthening our constituency, and cementing our future. Without student participation, NEERS loses its most compelling *raison d'être*, because there are many other forums available for professionals merely to trade ideas among themselves. If I have a regret, it is that we haven't yet found a means to utilize the talents of more of our membership, especially those engaged primarily in undergraduate education.

The next two years will be banner years for NEERS, as we have the opportunity to welcome a larger, and more effective ERF back to New England. As I look forward to this, I will take special pride in having served as NEERS president - Dave Franz.

MEETINGS

NEERS SPRING '96

For those of you who could not attend the Spring Meetings in Poughkeepsie, NY, you missed a good time. These were the first NEERS meetings held in NY and they went along just fine. The meetings began with a Thursday Special Symposium on the Hudson River Estuary and fisheries ecology sponsored by the Hudson River Foundation & Institute for Ecosystem Studies at IES in Millbrook, NY. The place was packed and the papers were high quality. After some science and great food we moved to Vassar

NEW
DAVID DEAN POSTER AWARD
(see Business Section)

for the traditional social and to get ready for the upcoming talks on Friday and Saturday.

Talks on Friday and Saturday were held in the Vassar College Alumni House and once again a number of excellent papers were presented. The Rankin Prize for the best undergraduate paper was awarded to **Kevin Scheirer** of the University of New Hampshire for his talk "Fish use of four New England salt marshes following tidal restoration". The Ketchum Award for the best graduate paper went to **Steven Litvin** of Rutgers University for his presentation "Habitat utilization by juvenile winter flounder and tautog as indicated by stable isotope ratios". Congrats to both for a nice job.

The Friday banquet was held at the Alumni House and enjoyed by all. At the banquet, **Marshall Pregnall**, our host for the meeting, was presented with a special certificate showing our appreciation for all the fine work he has conducted on behalf of NEERS over the years. For those of you not familiar with Marshall's contributions, he is a former Secretary/Treasurer, a local meeting organizer and our Program Chair, besides being an all round good egg...Thanks and Congratulations to **Marshall**, for his past work and a job well done on these meetings.

\$\$	STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS	\$\$
	(see Student Support)	
\$\$		\$\$

NEERS FALL '96

The next set of meetings will be held from October 24 to 26, 1996 at the Hotel Mannasis on Block Island. For those of you who have never been to Block Island, hold onto your hats, this is one of the nicest and best kept secrets in New England. The island is accessible by boat (ferries can be taken from Point Judith in RI and New London in CT) and plane and plan on leaving your car behind. If you want to get around the island bring your bike. This is also one of the prettiest times of the year to be there and it should prove to be a fantastic time (no kidding this place is beautiful). The meetings will be cosponsored by URI School of Oceanography, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode Island Sea Grant Office. Meeting announcements will be going out shortly and information about talks and housing will be provided then. So mark these dates on your calendar and be ready to enjoy NEERS first meeting on an island. There will be student travel funds available (see Student Support) for this meeting, so no excuses not to attend. And remember, it is close enough to

Halloween to wear costumes (or portions of).

ERF '97

Be sure to mark October 1997 on your calendar for ERF'97. NEERS is the host affiliate and it's up to us to show those ERFians how it's done. There are many tasks yet to be performed and volunteers are needed. As always **Veronica** will be coordinating the affair and you can contact her at (401)874-6633 or e-mail at vmberoun@gsosunl.gso.uri.edu. **Charles Roman** will be assembling a NEERS session for the meetings and anybody wishing to get involved or would like additional info can contact him at (401)874-6885(6). More to come as we get closer to the date, keep your eyes posted on the mail.

CZM '97

The Coastal Zone Management Conference, CZ97, invites papers, poster presentations, special sessions, and Associated Meetings for its meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, July 20-26, 1997. Abstracts are due September 1, 1996. For further information, visit the CZ97 site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/cz97/welcome.html>, or contact **Dr. Martin C. Miller**, USAE Waterways Experiment Station, Attn: CEWES-CR-O, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180, phone (601) 634-3999, e-mail: m.miller@cerc.wes.army.mil.

NEERS BUSINESS

During the last Business Meeting there were a number of topics discussed and voted on. The first business worthy of discussion is the advent of the new **DAVID DEAN STUDENT POSTER AWARD**. The brainchild of **Alan Young**, this new award recognizes outstanding posters presented at NEERS meetings. It is named for the first President of NEERS who past on to greener estuaries a number of years ago. All students will be eligible for this award which carries a \$100 prize for the winner. You will sign up for this award the same way you would sign up for the other awards, through meeting announcement and abstract submittal. The membership also voted to increase the other awards and now the Ketchum, Rankin and Dean Awards all carry a \$100 purse for the winner.

To finance these new awards as well as the travel grants (see below), the members voted to increase the regular dues from \$10 to **\$15 per year** (still a bargain). Members also selected candidates for the upcoming elections on Block Island (see below). At the business meeting the perennial suggestion to change the name of NEERS to the

North East Estuarine Research Society came up once again (Judy Rankin suggested it this time). Since this will require changing the Constitution, a vote will be conducted in the Fall.

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.

NEW...Student Travel Lottery - Block Island Meeting

NEERS will award **four (4) travel awards, each for \$125**, to be given to four students to help cover the costs of travel to the NEERS meeting on Block Island, Oct 24 - 26, 1996. Winners will be determined by lottery. We invite you to apply regardless of whether you are planning to present a talk or poster, and receipt of the award will not affect your eligibility for one of the regular student presentation awards (Rankin, Ketchum and - for the first time - the Dean Award for best poster.) If you are interested in being considered for the lottery award, please ask your research advisor to write a letter to **Dave Franz** (President of NEERS) at the address below. The letter from your advisor should contain the following information: (1) Your present status at your college (2) a statement indicating his or her knowledge regarding your interest in estuarine research. Letters must be received by September 6. Winners will be announced via NEERSLST within one week of Sept 6.

Ask your research advisor to mail the letter to:

David R. Franz
231 B-141 Street
Belle Harbor, NY 11694

**Get Ready for the Next NEERS Award:
Bernie McAlice Award for
BEST STUDENT DRINKER**



AROUND TOWN



NEERSian, **Mickey Weiss**, recently published a guide to the "Marine Animals of Southern New England and New York". This comprehensive guide to invertebrates and vertebrates contains keys for over 1,500 species, over 2,000 illustrations, 116 color prints in a 344 page, case bound volume. It is available for \$39.95 (+\$3.00 s&h) from the CTDEP. For information or to order contact: CTDEP Publications, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127.

Wendy Smith Leo is trying to get votes for Secretary anyway she can. This time she is adding to the voting population with the addition of **Rosemary Leo** born 12/27/95 at 7lbs, 13.5oz and 21 inches. **Congrats to the family!** Remember Wendy, Rosemary will have to become a member before she can vote.



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

As always we like to give candidates the opportunity to tell us a little something about themselves (keep in mind that classic campaign message from Fred Short about free beer at the meetings). We are still looking for another candidate for Treasurer (Pam doesn't want it too easy), so bring your nominations to the Fall meetings. Well here it goes and in their own words no less...

Office Of President

SCOTT WARREN - Connecticut College

It is not that I have lots of free time on my hands.....but NEERS has been great to and for me and my students, and it is time to give something back. As a professional society NEERS is simply **The BEST!** The science is rigorous, the scientists take their work seriously, but don't take themselves too seriously, and it is difficult to imagine a group of professionals that could be more supportive of students. A key challenge will be sustaining the high level of participation at our meetings - there seem to be more meetings and symposia scheduled every year, and we can only attend a few. NEERS needs to remain a "MUST MAKE" event! Maintaining a high level of student participation, and continuing to broaden the scope of topics will be critical.

BERNIE GARDNER - Univ of Massachusetts

I was honored and pleased when Fred Short called a couple of weeks ago to ask if I would run for President Elect of NEERS. Over the last few years I have developed a strong appreciation of the value of NEERS as user friendly scientific organization in providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and camaraderie among a wide range of estuarine researchers. Unfortunately, he also said that I had to write a 'campaign' statement for the newsletter. Normally this would be fine, but at the time I was frantically trying to get ready for a decidedly non-estuarine research cruise, and I failed in my efforts to finish the statement before I left. I am now trying to compose a brief statement in the galley of the R/V New Horizon about 300 miles north of Hawaii on the way to San Diego. I suppose I shouldn't admit my foray into 'blue water' in a campaign speech for an estuarine organization, but honesty is always best!

Seriously, I would very much like to serve as President-Elect, and then President of NEERS. I don't have many specific suggestions (promises?) because I feel that the organization has functioned very well under previous presidents, and I would primarily work to continue the NEERS tradition. There are two specific areas I would like to work on. First, as a physical oceanographer, I am sometimes struck by the limited representation in NEERS among estuarine physicists, and I would try to encourage a broader participation. I think we (physicists) have much to learn from members of NEERS and conversely can contribute much to NEERS. This is really isn't an effort to have somebody to talk to at meetings because I don't seem to have much problem with that anyway. It just seems that we should try to encourage participation by as many estuarine scientists as possible, and there might be fertile recruiting ground among this group. The second area I would concentrate on is the continued expansion of electronic communication among NEERS members. The list server has been useful, but over the next few years we can expand into an active WWW presence, allowing us to communicate better among ourselves, and to a wider audience as well.

This doesn't seem like much of a campaign statement, but it is about as good as I can do between the 20 degree rolls. I do hope the wind slows a bit soon! I look forward to seeing many of you at the fall meeting, and if you choose, to serving you as President in two years.

Office Of Treasurer

Pamela Arnofsky - WHOI

Currently, I am a graduate student at Northeastern University finishing my doctoral dissertation in the lab of Ernie Ruber evaluating the systematic status of a genus of salt marsh copepods. Next month I will start a two year post-doctoral position with Amlie Scheltema at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. I have been a member of NEERS for the past 10 years and the society holds many fond memories for me particularly since it was here that I gave my first professional presentation. I would like to remain active and have more input within the society in both the areas of structural organization and student participation/presentation. Holding the office of treasurer would afford me this opportunity.

Thank you and sincerely,
Pamela Arnofsky

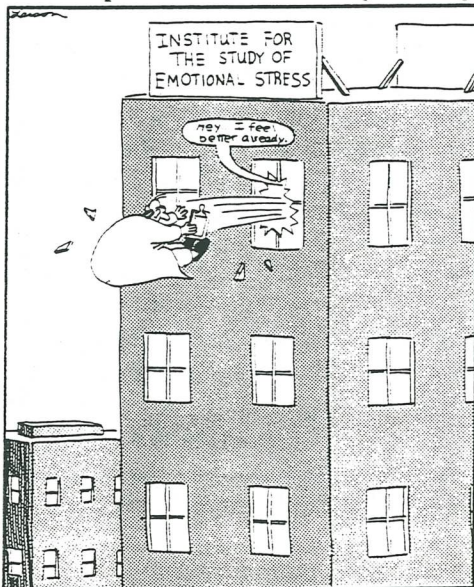
[EDITORS NOTE: What Pam didn't tell you is that she has been an elected officer in other societies and brings some real experience in organization to the job]

Office of Secretary

Wendy Smith Leo - MWRA

Wendy Smith Leo is the present NEERS Secretary, and has been a NEERS member since 1985. She is Marine Studies Project Manager for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

[EDITORS NOTE: Wendy's message may be short but her experience as Secretary is long]



EDITORIAL

Comment - As a society we can no longer limit our selves to New England. In the past we have always included Nova Scotia in our group and with the New York connection, we can no longer consider ourselves limited to the New England region. If one considers the benefits we have already received from expanding our range, it is easy to see why a name change is in order (those Nova Scotia meetings are always a blast). For any NEERS member who has lived out on the fringe you understand how strange it is to say that you belong to a New England society even when you don't live in New England. The editorial staff of NEERS NEWS supports the move to change the name to the North East Estuarine Research Society.

ERF '97 Report - ESA held it's annual meetings in Providence last week and I got to scope out the site of ERF '97. As the organizers have said, the city is set up just fine for the meetings. The talks were held in both the convention center and the adjacent Westin Hotel (its less than a mile away from Exit 22 off I95). The layout was nice, with most meeting rooms in close proximity to each other (the only exception was when you were traveling between the convention center and the hotel, this usually required five minutes and meant that you might miss the beginning of a talk). Just down the road (within a short walk from the center) is the ever popular Hill Section featuring excellent and inexpensive Italian Food (if you haven't been to Providence for a while you must try the pizza again). You can walk here for lunch and still have plenty of time to get back to the first talk of the afternoon (it also becomes a nice evening stroll). The area also has Thai and Japanese food as well as delis and those great Italian bakeries. Parking was easy and cost \$6/day (there were cheaper lots a few blocks away). For those of you wanting to take a little time for sightseeing, Newport is just 40 minutes away and worth your time (as most of us already know). Cape Cod is also just a few hours up the road so plan to grab your buddies from around the country and give them a tour of southern New England. We know that a lot of people are already working on these meetings, but there is always room for more, so....contact Veronica or Jonathan to volunteer your services. For those of us who have been to Providence in the past, it was nice to return and see all the improvements. For those of you who have not been there yet, you will be pleasantly surprised. See you at Block Island in a few weeks and ERF '97 next year.

NEERS NEWS
c/o ORSON ENVIRONMENTAL
7D Harbour Village
Branford, CT 06405
4-20

NEERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Franz, President

Biology Department
Brooklyn College CUNY
Brooklyn, NY 11210
(718)951-5700
drfr@aol.com

Robert Buchsbaum, Treasurer

Mass. Audubon Society
346 Grapevine Rd.
Wenham, MA 01984
(508)927-1122
rbeelgrass@aol.com

Wendy Leo, Secretary

MWRA
100 1st Ave., Clarkstown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129
(617)241-6501
enquad@world.std.com

Charles Roman, Member-at-Large

NBS/University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02886
(401)792-6886
croman@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu

Scott Warren, Member-at-Large

Department of Botany
Connecticut College
New London, Connecticut 06320
(203)439-2132
rswar@conncoll.edu

Marshall Pregnall, Program Chair

Biology Department
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(914)437-7416; FAX (914)437-7315
Pregnall@Vaxsar.Vassar.Edu

Fred Short, President-Elect

Jackson Estuarine Laboratory/UNH
85 Adams Point Road
Durham, NH 03824-3427
(603)862-2175
fred.short@unh.edu

**Veronica Berounsky, Past
President**

GSO/University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, RI 02882-8340
vmberoun@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu

ERF '97 STEERING COMMITTEE

Jonathan Garber - Co-Chair

US EPA Environmental Research Lab
27 Tarzwell Dr.
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882
(401)782-3154
jgarber@narvax.nar.epa.gov

Veronica Berounsky - Co-Chair

GSO/University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, RI 02882-8340
(401)783-8437
vmberoun@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu

**Patricia Kremer, Scientific & Technical Program
Chair**

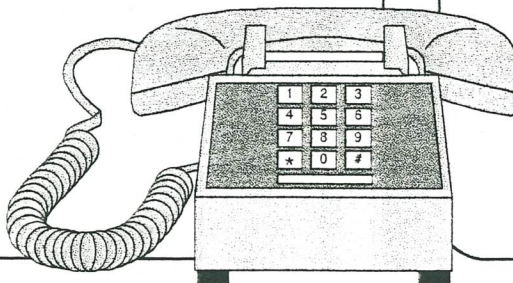
Dept of Marine Sciences
University of Connecticut, Avery Point Campus
Groton, CT 06340-6097
(860)446-1020, ext 266
pkremer@uconnvm.uconn.edu

Charlene D'Avanzo - Education Program Chair

School of Natural Science
Hampshire College
Amherst, MA 01002
(413)582-5569
cdavanzo@hampshire.edu

Charles Roman - Field Trip Chair

NBS/University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02886
(401)792-6886
croman@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu



Richard Orson - Editor

P.O. Box 921
Branford, CT 06405
(203)483-9234
raorson@aol.com

NEERS NEWS STAFF

Robert Raduiski - Assoc. Editor

Dept. of Earth Sciences, SCSU
501 Crescent St.
New Haven, CT 06515
(203)483-8966