

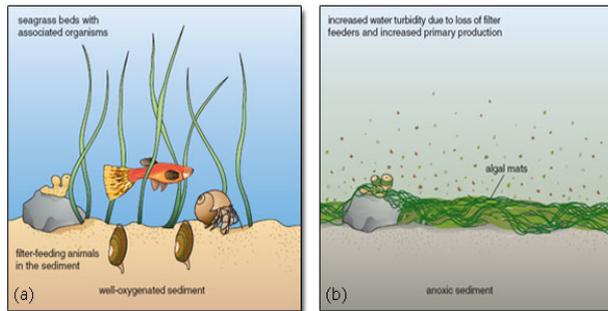
# NEW ENGLAND ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



## NEERS SPRING 2008 MEETING Final Announcement

**MAY 1-3**  
Portsmouth, NH

Hosted By: **Great Bay  
National Estuarine Research Reserve**



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## Final Meeting Announcement

**MEETING SITE:** The Spring 2008 New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) meeting (<http://www.neers.org/>) is hosted by the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and held at the new, 'green' Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center in Greenland, New Hampshire, - just minutes from Portsmouth and situated on beautiful Great Bay. The Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center was built in 2005 in the old New England post and beam barn style with

several sustainable design features, including a geothermal heating and cooling system and permeable pavement car park (note that the permeable pavement won't be installed until June, so unfortunately won't be available for viewing as part of NEERS)- an ideal setting for this spring's meeting and special symposium. Friday and Saturday sessions and the Thursday symposium and social will be held in the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center.

**SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM:** The meeting will begin **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00 PM with a Special Symposium: **Tipping Points**. The symposium will focus on the point at which natural coastal ecosystems are stressed to a degree from which they cannot recover. We all have witnessed such situations, and the symposium is intended to provide an opportunity to explore and discuss both the specific and larger issues of *Tipping Points* with your fellow NEERSians. Oral and poster presentations will explore:

- 1) examples of estuarine tipping points
- 2) potential causes and
- 3) human responses and outcomes.

**REGISTRATION:** The pre-registration fee for this meeting is \$55 for NEERS members, \$75 for non-members, and \$25 for students. All coffee breaks, Friday lunch, and the social (and two free drink tickets for use during the social) are included in the registration fee- all this in addition to the stimulating talks and great company! The pre-registration deadline is **April 16, 2008**. (Note the deadline for the special rate at the Hilton Garden Hotel is earlier- **March 27<sup>th</sup>**. See accommodation section below) **After the 16<sup>th</sup> the walk-in rates will be assessed**, (\$70 member, \$ 90 non-member & \$25 student). You have been warned. Pre-registration is a HUGE help, plus you save money so PLEASE PRE-REGISTER. Make life a little less chaotic for the Treasurer and Organizing Committee. Pre-register on the web at [www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org) (select "meetings", then "date of meeting"). NEERS is not able to accept credit card payment, so checks covering registration fees along with a copy of your on-line registration form should be sent to the NEERS treasurer (see address below). **To get the pre-registration rate, your check must be received by the Treasurer by April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please see the field trip section on how to sign up for the exciting field trip cruise in conjunction with meeting registration.

If on-line registration is not a viable option (our preferred alternative), you may send in a registration form with a check. All checks should be made payable to NEERS and sent to:

Ed Dettmann, NEERS Treasurer

US EPA-AED

27 Tarzwell Drive

Narragansett, RI 02882-1153

Use this opportunity to make sure your NEERS dues are paid- annual dues are due at the spring (THIS) meeting of each year.

NEERS is also offering a one day attendance registration rate, (pre-registration: \$15 for students, \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, walk in: \$25/\$35/\$45). If you wish to only attend for one day, please indicate which day you plan to attend on your registration form to help us with meal planning (all refreshments are included in the one day registration fee). As above, to qualify for pre-registration rates payment must be received by NEERS treasurer by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**NEERS SOCIAL:** The NEERS Social will be held at the Gregg Coastal Conservation Center. The Social will be on Thursday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, immediately following the special *Tipping Point* symposium, (approximately 5-7:00 PM). Workers of the world are invited to unite in solidarity to enjoy light refreshments and revolutionary conversations. For additional adventures, the Gregg Center is adjacent to the Great Bay Discovery Center, the grounds are beautifully landscaped and there are several hiking trails. A May Pole and baskets may be available upon request. Two free drink tickets are included in your registration fee (if of legal drinking age).

**NEERS BANQUET:** The Banquet will be held Friday evening at the Hilton Garden Inn, Portsmouth. Members and friends are invited to sign up for the banquet when they register (only those that pre-register for the banquet can be guaranteed a meal due to space limitations). People may select a fish, chicken or vegetarian meal and there will be a cash bar available. The Student Awards for best presentations and posters will be presented at the close of the banquet. Students competing for prizes are eligible for a free banquet ticket (in instances of multiple authors one ticket per poster or presentation will be made available). Following the banquet, the organizing committee has spared no expense and exerted inordinate effort to identify a post-banquet relaxation and dancing venue with live music, cheap drinks and no hidden cameras.

**FIELD TRIP:** Following the Saturday (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) morning presentations, the local organizing committee invites meeting attendees and their guests to set sail. Arrangements have been made with Isle of Shoals Steamship to conduct a **Portsmouth Harbor tour**. The boat leaves the dock at 1:25pm (no late shows unless you are an especially fast swimmer). Parking is dock-side and free! Boat returns by 3pm. Cost is \$15 per person. **SPECIAL OFFER-** The cost is only \$10.00 for the first 25 people to sign up for the trip and send in their fee to confirm a spot(s). Just make a note on the copy of the registration form you are sending with your meeting fee check and add the cost of the cruise to the total, (There is no sign up for the cruise on the on-line registration form- sorry. The first 25 people will be refunded \$5 per ticket at the meeting) **Please sign-up by April 16<sup>th</sup>** (though we may be able to add walk-up registrants at the meeting). Questions can be directed to <cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us> or 617/626-1545.

The Harbor tour will be narrated by knowledgeable crew and hecklers....ah scientists. Sue promises to make it fun. More information can be found at <http://www.islesofshoals.com/>, but cruisers should reserve with NEERS directly with their meeting registration. Also, this is one of the first weekends they will be running this season so don't hold the Steamship folks to all the bells and whistles...though the local committee will do its best to make sure it is a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

**NEERS POSTER TRIVIA CONTEST:** Contest forms with questions based on information on the posters will be distributed at the meeting, and a lucky winner drawn from those with correct answers. The winner will receive a \$25 prize, consisting of a year of NEERS dues and the balance in cash.

**OTHER MEALS:** The cost for Friday lunch, coffee breaks, and the Thursday night social (though not dinner) is included in the registration fee. Without the pressure of finding off-site dining, the lunch break should be a good opportunity to view posters and chat with colleagues. A list of nearby restaurants will be available at the registration table with suggestions for Thursday evening's meal. Please join us Friday evening for the awards banquet at the Hilton Garden Hotel.

**NEERS BUSINESS MEETING:** The Business meeting will be held after the last presentation on Friday afternoon. We will be discussing NEERS awards, updates to the Operations Manual, a constitutional change, progress in running NEERS meetings as efficiently as possible, and updates from ERF, particularly results of the ERF 2007 Challenge. Check the NEERS website for more details. Please plan on attending the meeting as we value all member input and participation.

### **LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:**

The Portsmouth area offers exceptional restaurants, music, art, and a rich history. Definitely stroll through famous Strawberry Banke and the gardens at Prescott Park. Great views can be found at Fort Constitution. There is the Children's Museum, the USS Albacore Museum and Park and many historic houses (Moffat-Ladd House & Garden and Wentworth Gardner House are downtown). The Great Bay Discovery Center is adjacent to our meeting location, and there is also the Seacoast Science Center to visit.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the new Hilton Garden Inn in beautiful downtown Portsmouth ( <http://tinyurl.com/yqyvua> ). This lovely new hotel is central to everything and a short drive to the Gregg Center. You must **reserve a room by MARCH 27** in order to be guaranteed the special NEERS group rate of \$121/night plus taxes and a modest daily valet parking charge, (this is an extraordinary deal as rooms are usually \$210+ a night, so be prompt to take advantage of this NEERS special rate. We hope you will consider the Hilton first as NEERS has booked a set number of rooms, if we do not fill them than NEERS is on the hook to cover the cost of empty rooms). The room block is under the name "NEE". Reservations can be made at (603-431-1499) or on the web site (see above).

There are many other options in the Portsmouth area. The Comfort Inn is close to the highway, it is not far from the Gregg Center, offers high speed internet and continental breakfast, 603-431-1499 [rates are \$110 (Thur)-120 (Fri) + tax]. The Sise Inn is also downtown, 603-433-1200 [rates are \$119 (Thur)-160 (Fri) + tax]. If you want a country inn with breakfast, the Hickory Pond Inn is recommended, 800-658-0065 (rates are \$100-110 + tax) <http://www.hickorypondinn.com/>.

**GETTING to the Gregg Coastal Conservation Center & Great Bay Discovery Center:**

**Parking at the Gregg CCC will be in short supply on Friday so people are respectfully requested to car pool. There will also be a 12 passenger van leaving the Hilton**

**Garden Hotel ~35 minutes before the first talk on Friday (~8:25 AM) and will start the return trip to the hotel 10 minutes after the end of the business meeting. Please consider these options so we can avoid space issues on Friday. More information will be available at the Thursday Social and at the registration desk.**

From the North on I95 or the Spaulding Turnpike, take I95 exit 3B and turn left on Rte 33. Follow Rte 33 for 5 miles. Turn right on Sandy Point Road for about a quarter mile and turn right again on Depot Road. Follow Depot Road to the end, bearing left at the stop sign – watch for the active tracks!

From the North on I08, take a left on Squamscott Road after the bridge over the Squamscott River, take another left at the lights. Take the second left onto Depot Road and follow it to the end, turn left at the stop sign and continue 100 meters to the GBDC.

From the South on I95, take exit 2 (just before the Hampton Tolls) and head West on Route I01 for 4.5 miles and take the exit for Rtes 33/I08. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Follow Rte 33 for approximately 4 miles. Take the second left (Depot Road) after the Squamscott Road traffic lights. Follow Depot Road to the end, bearing left at the stop sign – watch for the active tracks!

From the West on I01, take the exit for Rtes 33/I08 in Exeter, turning left at the bottom of the ramp. Follow Rte 33 for approx. 4 miles. Take the second left (Depot Road) after the Squamscott Road traffic lights. Follow Depot Road to the end, turn left at the stop sign and continue 100 meters to the GBDC.

**NEERS LISTSERVER SIGNUP:** Future conference updates will occur via the electronic NEERSLIST. It is highly recommended you sign up on the NEERSLIST in order to receive conference updates and other important NEERS communications in a timely manner (and note we do not share the NEERS list with others). Go to [www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org) and click on the link to the LISTSERVER (just to the right of the beautiful eelgrass photo). Good instructions for signing up (quick and painless) are contained on the list server page.

**QUESTIONS? Contact any of the following:**

Susan Adamowicz (Co-organizer); [susan\\_adamowicz@fws.gov](mailto:susan_adamowicz@fws.gov) (General and Symposium Questions)

David Burdick (Co-organizer); [david.burdick@unh.edu](mailto:david.burdick@unh.edu) (General Meeting Questions)

Cindy Delpapa (Co-organizer); [cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us](mailto:cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us) (General Meeting Questions)

Tay Evans (NEERS Secretary); [tay.evans@state.ma.us](mailto:tay.evans@state.ma.us) (Membership and correspondence)

Hilary Neckles (Program Chair); [hneckles@usgs.gov](mailto:hneckles@usgs.gov) (Abstracts or other program concerns)

Ed Dettmann (Treasurer); [dettmann.edward@epa.gov](mailto:dettmann.edward@epa.gov) (Registration and student travel awards)

# NEERS SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

## *Tipping Points*

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 @ 1:00 PM**  
**Gregg Coastal Conservation Center,**  
**Depot Road; Greenland, NH**



Photo by Oli/4

A tipping point (aka ecosystem threshold) occurs when an ecosystem is stressed beyond its ability to respond to perturbations and return to a previous state but, instead, transforms into a new state.

We have witnessed many tipping points in our own lifetime on both a small and large scale: crash of Atlantic groundfish and replacement by skates and small sharks, loss of kelp forests as sea urchins increased, replacement of seagrass beds by macrobenthic algae. Other, potential, tipping points may be unfolding due to climate change, increased urbanization, invasive species, trophic disruptions or other factors. The purpose of this special theme is not merely to identify ecological collapses and catastrophes but to elucidate underlying ecological principles and to evaluate the efficacy of potential or actual human responses.

FOR MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.NEERS.ORG](http://WWW.NEERS.ORG) AND CLICK ON MEETINGS.