

June 2007



NEERS News

Spring 2007

New England Estuarine Research Society

NEERS Spring 2007 Meeting in Boothbay Harbor a Great Success



Peter Larson aboard the Harbor Princess on the Saturday afternoon field trip

The Spring 2007 meeting of NEERS was held on the coast of Maine at the Opera House in downtown Boothbay Harbor, ME from May 3-5. Peter Larsen of the Bigelow Laboratory of Ocean Sciences and John Sowles of the Maine Department of Marine Resources organized a great meeting. The Thursday symposium, "New England's Other Estuaries: The Functioning of Rock-bound, Boreal, Macrotidal Estuaries" was introduced by Barbara Vickery of the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, who put the recent research conducted in Maine's macrotidal estuaries into a conservation context. A number of invited speakers then discussed the physical and biological components of macrotidal estuaries, and several focused on the rich ecosystem of Cobscook Bay.

The contributed paper sessions on Friday and Saturday were once again highlighted by the many excellent student talks and posters. Ann E. Speers, from Bates College, won the Rankin Prize for best undergraduate talk for her presentation entitled "Long- and Short-Term Effects

of Baitworm (*Glycera dibranchiata*) Digging on Nutrient Cycling in the Intertidal Flats of Maine, USA." Gregory Henkes, also from Bates College, won the Warren Prize for best undergraduate poster. His posted was titled, "Shifts in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Signal of Greenland Cockle, *Serripes groenlandicus*, Shell Organic Matter: An Indication of Intra- and Inter- Annual Changes in Primary Production in the Arctic Ocean." And finally, the Ketchum prize for best graduate student talk was awarded to Eric L. Hazelton of the University of Southern Maine for his talk, "Partitioning of Glutamine Synthetase in *Spartina* Grasses." (cont...)



Kathy Rhodes prepares a traditional Maine clambake for the Friday night banquet

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NEW ENGLAND
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH SOCIETY
<http://neers.org>



NEERS is an
affiliate society
of the Estuarine
Research
Federation
<http://erf.org/>

Come to the ERF
meeting in Fall 2007!



NEERS Spring 2007 meeting (cont.)

The banquet on Friday night was a truly memorable one, as it was a traditional Maine clam bake, complete with lobsters, mussels, potatoes, corn on the cob and the rest, all cooked over a wood fire on a bed of seaweed by NEERS's own Ed and Kathy Rhodes. Ed and Kathy first met at a NEERS meeting years ago in Boothbay Harbor. We certainly were fortunate to have them prepare such a feast and a celebration for us.

Following the banquet, many NEERSians walked downtown to Gray's Wharf for the traditional Friday night dancing. Tryouts for the NEERS dance team and the NEERS pool team were fierce. These teams

will represent NEERS at the upcoming ERF meeting in Providence. Charley Roman, captain of the NEERS pool team, kept a close eye out for good talent. The undergraduate and graduate students seemed especially keen on making the pool team. And the following morning, Ron Rosza was awarded the coveted Stickleback Award for his dancing style Friday night and his presence at the first Saturday morning talk.

After the formal presentations concluded, Peter Larsen had arranged for a narrated boat trip through Boothbay Harbor, Townsend Gut, and the Sheepscot, Sasanoa and Kennebec Rivers.

About Our Organization...

NEERS is a non-profit organization with a wide ranging membership from scientific institutions, federal agencies, state agencies, municipal agencies, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. The purpose of the society is to bring together persons actively engaged in estuarine and coastal research and management for informal discussion and exchange of ideas. NEERS meets twice a year in the spring and fall. Meetings usually commence with a special session or symposium to focus upon issues of a

topical or regional nature. This is followed by 1 1/2 days of regular meetings. NEERS acknowledges that today's students are tomorrow's estuarine scientists and managers and so supports students, both undergraduate and graduate in a variety of ways.

The informal nature of meetings provides a unique opportunity for students to present their research and gain valuable experience in refining their skills at organizing data, developing succinct presentations and public speaking. Oral

Saturday was a beautiful, sunny day, so many NEERSians joined the cruise. Dave Brooks, who has modeled the currents in this part of the Maine coast, was on the field trip, and described on the water what he had discussed during his talk.

Now it is on to Providence for ERF in Fall 2007. Hope to see you all there!



David Brooks discusses coastal currents on the Saturday afternoon field trip

presentations are judged and the best undergraduate and graduate presentations receive an award at the Banquet. In addition, the Society created an award for the best poster. Travel awards are provided to students to support their travel to and participation in NEERS and ERF meetings.