



## “The Science Behind Ocean Management” is theme of Spring 2009 Meeting

On April 2nd, NEERS members convened in “The Witch City,” Salem, MA and kicked off the Spring 2009 meeting with a special symposium on “The Science Behind Ocean Management.” The map-intensive and aesthetically-pleasing presentations covered management strategies being used by Massachusetts through its Ocean Management Act and Rhode Island through its Special Area Management Planning effort, from scales as large as the Gulf of Maine to small embayments like Taunton Bay, Maine.

Friday began with presentations on nutrients and nutrient dynamics in Boston Harbor and Cape Cod, as well as a special tour of Portugal, its estuaries, and its abundance of tiled surfaces from Stephen Hale, transitioning into multiple talks on general salt marsh ecology that carried us through to lunch. The afternoon featured a mix of talks with the general theme of temperature tolerance; periwinkles unable to survive (too hot) in a partially restored coastal lagoon on Cape (S. Smith), oysters glad to find warm pockets of refuge in mid-coast Maine (P. Larsen and S. Barker), and tunicates that unfortunately are quite temperature tolerant (M. Wood and C. Cuomo.) Everyone took a mid-afternoon break to go check out the posters, which included some fantastic work by scientists of all ages, including a very impressive poster on *Limulus* mitochondrial DNA by high school students from Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, CT and an informative and

enthusiastic poster on manatees by Hali Pregnall of Arthur S. May Elementary in Poughkeepsie, NY. The afternoon concluded with talks on phytoplankton (L. Windecker and S. Nixon), algal sequestration of PCBs (D. Cheney et al.), and post-restoration salt marshes (G. Moore et al., K. Wilson et al.).

The NEERS business meeting followed, and featured a follow-up presentation by Sara Grady and Eric Hazelton of the logo ideas that had been presented at the Fall meeting on Block Island. Online voting had suitably narrowed the field, and a vote was conducted to determine the final winner. The new logo, which can be seen in its debut on the upper right corner of this newsletter features a compass rose and the NEERS acronym. Thank you to all who participated in the logo creation and voting.

After an opportunity to socialize and look at posters again, as well as for student award judges to convene for serious discussions in corners and in the middle of the lobby, the awards banquet was held. The winners were:

- Ketchum Prize (graduate oral): Sarah Corman – “Salt Marsh Mosquito Ditches as Habitat for Nekton and Implications for Restoration”
- Rankin Prize (undergraduate oral): Xuefeng Peng – “Nitrogen Cycling in Sediments in Two Stretches of the Coonamessett River”



NEERS President Pam Morgan (left) with Rankin Prize winner Xuefeng Peng (center) and Ketchum Prize winner Sarah Corman (right). Photo by V. Berounsky.



NEERS President Pam Morgan (center) with student travel award winners Laura Windecker (left) and Diane Charbonneau (right). Photo by V. Berounsky.



“NEERSighted” (L. to R. Sara Grady, Jonathan Garber, Ed Levine, Chris Deacutis, Mike Larkin, with guest vocals from Joan Pratt) Photo by V. Berounsky.

## NEERS News Summer 2009



NEW ENGLAND  
ESTUARINE RESEARCH  
SOCIETY

<http://neers.org>

NEERS is an affiliate  
society of the Coastal and  
Estuarine Research  
Federation (CERF)

<http://erf.org>

### JOIN NEERS

Student dues are \$5.00 and  
regular dues are \$20.00. To  
register, see

[http://www.neers.org/main/join  
.htm](http://www.neers.org/main/join.htm)

• Warren Prize (undergraduate poster):  
Emily Crescenzi – “Grain Size  
Characterization and Soft Shell Clam  
(*Mya arenaria*): Survival Rates in  
Selected Boston Harbor Tidal Flats”

There were no entries for the Dean  
Prize (graduate poster).

Travel awards were given to two  
students - Laura Windecker of  
URI/GSO and Diane Charbonneau of  
McGill University.

After the awards ceremony we played a  
version of Family Feud hosted by Alan  
Young. Fortunately many of the  
answers were sitting in the audience as  
visual aids to many of the questions  
pertaining to NEERS members.

The banquet and game were followed  
by music and dancing, and once again  
the music was provided by a few of our  
own NEERS members. NEERSighted  
a.k.a. “The Hot Toddies” a.k.a. “The  
NEERS Band” played a mix of music,  
including Paul Simon, Wallflowers,  
The Ramones, and Grateful Dead.  
Many stayed until the end, and the fun  
was only stopped when Salem’s laws  
impeded any further drinking.

The final day of the NEERS conference  
began with talks on river herring  
populations and restoration (S. Grady,  
M. Armstrong et al.), snail  
identification (D. Franz), softshell clam  
restoration (T. Shields) and finally  
lobster coloration (A. Metzler et al.)  
Once the official talks had concluded,  
we were treated to a special workshop  
on presentation skills by Bill  
Cunningham of the Salem State  
College Theater Department. In an  
interesting meeting of worlds, NEERS  
scientists learned how to present their  
work and themselves most effectively,  
and also pointed out that language that  
may seem equivocal (such as “I  
think...” or “It appears...”) has a place  
in the cautious world of hypothesis  
testing.

The afternoon concluded with two field  
trips, one to a salt marsh restoration  
conducted by Salem Sound Coastwatch  
and Salem State College, and the other  
to Beverly Pier to search for  
nudibranchs with Brian Cassie. Thank  
you to meeting organizers Tay Evans,  
Robert Buchsbaum, and Alan Young for  
a wonderful event!

- Sara Grady



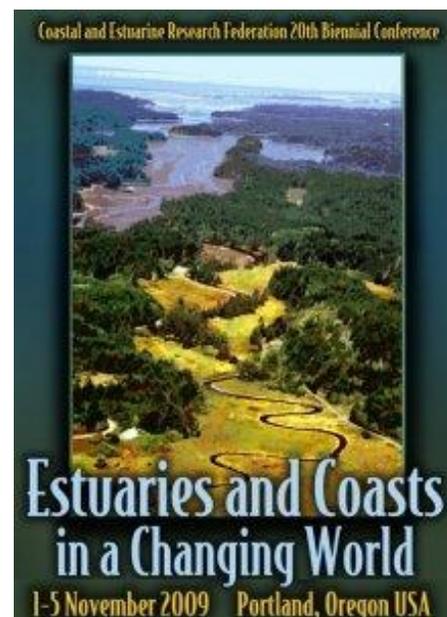
Stickleback Award winner Sara Grady (right)  
with Bob Radulski (left) and Fall 2008  
Stickleback Award winner Wendy Leo  
(center.) Photo by V. Berounsky.



Red-gilled nudibranch (*Flabellina verrucosa*)  
from Beverly Pier. Photo by R. Buchsbaum.

# CERF 2009 is almost here!

The theme of this year's CERF conference is "Estuaries and Coasts in a Changing World". From the CERF website: "This theme captures the important relationships between coastal regions and estuaries over time and spatial scales, and implies on-going change. Plus we think it is plain-spoken and self-explanatory for our non-scientist partners as well. "Coasts and Estuaries in a Changing World" is a very appropriate theme for a conference in the Pacific Northwest where oceanographic conditions, and climate changes strongly affect entire watersheds. But, happily we think this theme is appropriate everywhere as many of us are researching and observing change in a variety of coastal and estuarine habitats.



Early registration  
by October 1<sup>st</sup>!

As usual, the conference organizers have put together a fantastic array of activities to complement all the talks and posters that will be given in November, including:

- Field trips like a canoe trip on the Willamette River, a kayak paddle of the Lower Columbia River, birding Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, and tours of the West Eugene Wetlands, the Columbia River Estuary, restoration sites in Nestucca Bay and Salmon River Estuary
- Workshops on scientific writing, measuring denitrification, high resolution spatial sampling, dataloggers, and climate change
- Student-focused activities including a career event and awards banquet
- Music by the CERFTones and dancing at the Wonder Ballroom

See you in Portland in November!

## Ed Levine, 1947-2009

Ed Levine, known to many as a physical oceanographer from Rhode Island but also more recently as the drummer for the NEERS house band "NEERSighted" on Block Island and at Salem, passed away on Wednesday, June 24 from cancer. This was a surprise to many of us who talked to him, viewed his posters on using autonomous underwater vehicles to measure turbulence in Narragansett Bay, and danced to his music at the Spring NEERS meeting. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, bandmates, and friends.



Ed playing drums with "NEERSighted" (Photo by V. Berounsky)