



## “Trans-Boundary Issues” is theme of Spring 2010 Meeting

The Spring 2010 meeting was a joint meeting between NEERS and our neighbors to the north, ACCESS (Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society). It was held from May 13-16 in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, Canada. A special symposium was held on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> that focused on "Trans-Boundary Issues: Effecting Policy and Management Change through Estuarine and Coastal Research - Learning from our Neighbours".

On the final day, a subset of the 110 attendees were also treated to a field trip to two salt marsh sites along the lower Bay of Fundy – Dipper Harbour and Saints Rest. The field trip was led by Gail Chmura, whose lab has conducted extensive research at both locations; the former is a reference site for multiple biological and geological studies, while the latter has been diked, ditched, drained, used as a shooting range, and is located downstream from a sewage treatment plant. What an ideal experimental setup!

One of the most exciting parts of a NEERS meeting is seeing students present their work. At this meeting, students from ACCESS were also eligible for student awards so competition was fierce. The winners were:

- Project UFO Prize (\$150):
- Mark Wilcox, UNB Saint John "Variation in chelae morphology and diet of the green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) along the southwestern shore

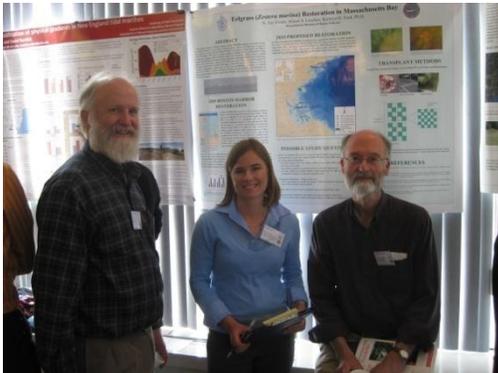
of New Brunswick"

- Best Undergraduate Poster (\$200): Brent Wilson, UNB Saint John "Interaction between the European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*, and two intertidal snails, *Littorina obtusata* and *L. littorea*: a test of the arms race hypothesis"
- Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation (\$100 each, tie for first place): Daniel Griffith, Vassar College, NY "*Spartina alterniflora*'s (Poaceae) peculiar relationship with sulfide" and Brady Quinn, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick "Interactions between invertebrate predators in intertidal mussel bed communities"
- Best Graduate Poster (\$200): Michael Coffin, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick "Effect of the mud snail *Ilyanassa obsoleta* on vital rates and behaviours of the amphipod *Corophium volutator*"
- Best Graduate Oral Presentation (\$100 each, tie for first place): Marc Skinner, Canadian Rivers Institute at UNB Fredericton "Impact of suspended oyster aquaculture on eel grass photosynthesis, growth rate and distribution"

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Pam Morgan (Univ. of New England), Elizabeth Mitchell (Univ. of Southern Maine), and Cathy Wigand (USEPA) at the poster session. Photo by S. Hale.



Fred Short (Univ. of NH), Tay Evans (MA Div of Marine Fisheries), and Sheldon Pratt (Univ. of RI) at poster session. Photo by S. Hale.



Best Graduate Oral Presentation winners. From left to right: Pam Morgan (NEERS President), Kristin Wilson (Univ. of Maine), Marc Skinner (Canadian Rivers Institute) and Martha Jones (ACCESS President).

# NEERS News Summer 2010



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>

## NEERS Spring 2010 meeting (cont.)

Kristin Wilson, University of Maine, Orono “Does groundwater flow control surficial salt marsh pool morphology?”

NEERS: \$200 each

- Nadine Shatilla, McGill Univ.
- Daniel Griffith, Vassar Univ.
- Alyssa Novak, UNH

Multiple student travel awards were also given out:

MIT Sea Grant - \$100 each

- Elizabeth Mitchell, Univ. of Southern Maine
- Sandra Fussell, Univ. of Southern Maine

Overall it was a very successful meeting, and the Canadians were fantastic hosts. Thank you to Simon Courtenay, Gail Chmura, and all the others from ACCESS (as well as NEERS) who made this meeting happen.

- Sara P. Grady

Woods Hole Sea Grant – \$250 each

- Kristin Wilson, Univ. of Maine
- Dante Torio, McGill University

## Newsworthy NEERSians Helping in the Gulf

The images from the Gulf oil spill are upsetting to everyone, particularly those of us who work intimately with coastal ecosystems every day. Many current and former NEERSians are working down in the Gulf to help assess the impact that the spill has had thus far, including Chris Reddy (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), Jen Culbertson (Univ. of North Carolina - Wilmington), Ruth Carmichael (Dauphin Island Sea Lab), and many federal employees working for NOAA and FWS.

We wish them good luck in the Gulf of Mexico – their contributions will certainly help us learn more about what’s going on, what can be done, and potential scenarios for recovery.



Gail Chmura (McGill University), right, led the field trip to Saint's Rest salt marsh. Photo by S. Hale.



A beautiful view of the Bay of Fundy. Photo by R. Buchsbaum.

# Fall 2010 NEERS Meeting

Thursday, October 28 - Saturday, October 30  
Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies  
Provincetown, Massachusetts

## Important Dates

September 10, 2010 - Abstracts due

September 22, 2010- Student travel award application due

October 1, 2010 - Last day for conference rate at the Cape Inn Resort

October 13, 2010 - Online meeting registration due

October 20, 2010 - Pre-registration payment due to Treasurer

NEERS is returning to Cape Cod once again for the Fall meeting, and as always there are plenty of great things planned for attendees.

The **Thursday Symposium** will focus on Cape Cod Bay, with a special emphasis on long-term interactions, including people and how they use the bay.

**Thursday night** will feature the NEERS social with our own NEERS Hot Toddlies providing musical accompaniment for an extra night of pre-Halloween social shenanigans. Note: The Hot Toddlies are currently down to solely guitars and bass, and need a (few?) vocalist(s) and a drummer! If you're musical and want to be a Hot Toddy, contact Chris Deacutis (deacutis@gso.uri.edu).

On **Friday night**, Ed and Kathy Rhodes have once again stepped forward to put on a lobster bake for our banquet. After the banquet, we will head down Commercial Street to the infamous "A" House or similar venue for dancing. Rumor has it that P-town is a popular destination for Halloween. If you want to stay an extra night, you'll have to make your hotel reservations early as the town is booming for the weekend.

On **Saturday**, we are planning several field trips including a whale watch to Stellwagen Bank (the last weekend for whale watching!) and/or Herring River Dike project (the largest marsh restoration project in New England), and/or Pilgrim Lake (formerly known as East Harbor) restoration, and/or local salt marshes being affected by dieoff.

For more details on where to stay and how to get to P-Town (other than drive until you can't anymore), check out the NEERS website ([www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org)).

Co-Hosted By: Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Coastal Resource Specialists, Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary