



President's Greeting

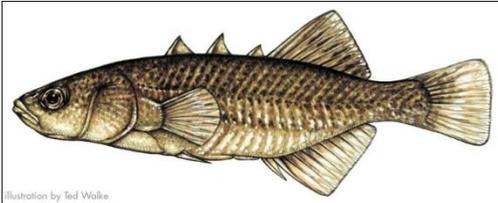


Illustration by Ted Walker

By Stephen Hale, NEERS President

Awards that Stick

Among the several awards NEERS gives out, the Stickleback Award is the most unique. Started at the fall 1998 meeting, it honors the meeting attendee who (1) distinguishes her/his self in post-banquet dancing and stays until the music ends, (2) attends the first presentation the next morning, and (3) has shown exemplary service to NEERS. Tough criteria, indeed, especially since the stamina required for the combination of #1 and #2 is most prevalent among members who haven't been around enough to meet #3 – hence, the award is not given at every meeting. Awardees have the honor of possessing until the next meeting the cherished NEERS copy of "The Life Cycle of a Stickleback," by Philip Parker, illustrated by Jackie Harland. I confess a personal fondness for these creatures, having written, while a fishery biologist in Alaska, a monograph on sticklebacks (Hale, Stephen S. 1981. Freshwater habitat relationships: Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). Resource Assessment Branch, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Anchorage, Alaska). You'll find the Parker book more entertaining.

Other NEERS "Occasional Awards" are the Graying Gracefully Award, given to the senior scientist who gives an exceptionally thoughtful and inspiring presentation at a meeting, and the Professional Achievement Award, given to recognize people who "have made significant contributions over a period of years to estuarine science, education, conservation, or management."

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Spring 2011 Meeting

Long Island Sound Science and Management

The Spring 2011 meeting brought NEERS to Port Jefferson (a.k.a. "Port Jeff"), Long Island, where we were kindly hosted by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences of Stony Brook University and their wonderful ambassador, **Darcy Lonsdale**. Having a meeting on Long Island meant that there was a strong contingent from the southern reaches of NEERS territory, bringing exciting studies from both sides of Long Island Sound to the Thursday symposium focusing on Long Island Sound science and management. The symposium was followed by a welcoming social and dinner in town.

On Friday, talks focused on phytoplankton ecology, conservation planning, ecosystem and landscape interactions, and ecology and management of fisheries. The poster session was very active, with lots of room for attendees to have discussions. There was also an opportunity to take a tour of the SoMAS research vessel, the Seawolf.

On Friday night, the banquet was held in a beautiful room overlooking the pier at the conference hotel, Danfords.

There were only two student awards given out at this meeting; the winners were:

•Ketchum Award – **Lauren Kras**, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of New Hampshire. "The status of five state-listed tidal plant species in New Hampshire with emphasis on

potential impacts of sea level rise"

* Dean Award – **Elizabeth Suter**, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University. "Evidence of changing nutrient regimes in Long Island Sound"

Student travel awards were given to **Annesia Lamb**, Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center, Brooklyn College; **David Brown**, Dept. of Biology and Environmental Science, Univ. of New Haven; and **Owen Nichols**, School for Marine Science and Technology, UMass Dartmouth (Niering Awards); and **Lauren Kras**, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of New Hampshire and **Camilo Salazar**, New York Suffolk County/School of Marine Sciences, Stony Brook University (WHOI Sea Grant Awards).

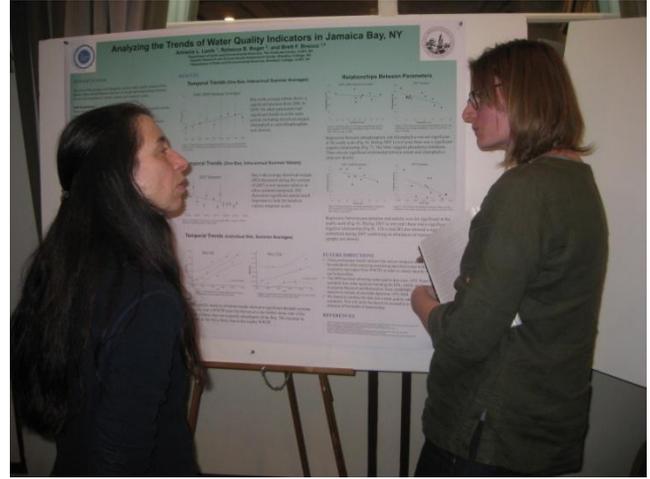
After the banquet, NEERSians headed over to Port Jazz for some dancing. Unfortunately for many attendees, the initial music consisted of loud dance remixes. The live band that followed turned out to be a very good cover band, albeit one with a certain (young, female) audience in mind. A few people stayed until the end, and fewer were present at the first talk the next morning. In perhaps the first NEERS "Triple Crown" ever, the Stickleback Award was given to **Lauren Kras**.

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Spring 2011 NEERS Meeting Photos



Passing on of the Stickleback Award from Sara Grady to Lauren Kras of Univ. of New Hampshire.



Cindy Delpapa discusses a poster by Annesia Lamb on water quality trends in Jamaica Bay.



The Seawolf, the research ship of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University



The captain of the Seawolf explaining their GPS unit.



Field trip attendees, including our Stony Brook host and field trip organizer, Darcy Lonsdale (third from left) and some of the other "usual suspects".

Photos by Stephen Hale

NEERS News Summer 2011



NEW ENGLAND
ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

<http://www.neers.org>

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

<http://www.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>

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Spring 2011 Meeting Bird List Wertheim NWR

12 Red-winged Blackbird	1 Black-capped Chickadee
12 Tree Swallow	1 Blue-winged Warble
10 Herring Gull (American)	1 Great Egret
8 Yellow Warbler	1 Hairy Woodpecker
5 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 House Finch
5 Gray Catbird	1 Mallard
5 Mute Swan	1 Marsh Wren
5 Pine Warbler	1 Northern Harrier
4 American Goldfinch	1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
4 American Robin	1 Song Sparrow
2 Canada Goose	1 Tufted Titmouse
2 Common Grackle	1 Turkey Vulture
2 Osprey	
2 Snowy Egret	- Robert Buchsbaum
1 American Crow	

Spring 2011 Meeting (cont.)

The meeting concluded with sessions on estuarine habitat and variability, and then attendees had the option to visit the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge (bird list above), which protects the Carmans River Estuary.

Thank you to our host Stony Brook University for another wonderful NEERS meeting. After a jaunt farther south to Florida this fall for CERF 2011, NEERS will start zigzagging its way back north. The next meeting (Spring 2012) is most likely going to be in Plymouth, MA, followed by (potentially) a return to Block Island in Fall 2012.

Help Fill this White Space!

Do you have interesting photos of your work or things you've found while mucking around in your favorite estuary?

What about tales of your best (or worst) field days?

The NEERS Newsletter welcomes all contributions!

- NEERS has given two \$500 NEERS Niering Travel awards for CERF 2011 to **Sarah Foster** (Boston University) and **Lindsay Fields** (URI-GSO). We hope you will join them in Florida for CERF (November 6-10, 2011)! More information on CERF on the next page or at <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2011/>.

- Attack of the Decapods! The NEERS list was busy this summer with news of two decapods terrorizing our shores. First, reports came from Narragansett Bay of tiny crabs that were swarming in the water and pinching people. They were identified as the porcelain crab *Polyonyx gibbesi*, a commensal of *Chaetopterus* tube worms.



Photo by Daisy Durant

The second organism is a true invader, the European rock shrimp or “rock pool prawn” (*Palaemon elegans*). First discovered in Salem, MA during the 2010 Marine Invasives Rapid Assessment, it was recently found by Jeremy Miller in Wells, ME during an invasive species survey.



Photo by Jeremy Miller

Please send nominations for these two awards to Past-President Pam Morgan, Chair of the Awards Committee. See the website (www.neers.org/main/library/awards.htm) for details.

Meeting on the Fringes

Over the last year or so, NEERS explored the edges of our natural habitat from New Brunswick to Long Island. Although meetings at the edges tend to draw fewer members, such gatherings can be refreshing in the interaction dynamics and the chance to hear talks covering a fuller range of estuarine topics (e.g., physical dynamics, geology, phytoplankton ecology, conservation at the recent spring meeting). They also re-connect members who work in those areas. However, we need to keep coming back to the geographic center and plans are progressing for a Spring 2012 meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Reminder: A NEERS Business Meeting will be held at the CERF meeting this November in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Executive Committee Doings

At the spring meeting, the NEERS Executive Committee adopted a green meeting policy (see the website). According to the United Nations Environment Program, a green meeting is one where natural resource consumption is minimized, waste generation is avoided where possible and remaining waste is reused or recycled, and the local community benefits economically, socially, and environmentally. NEERS wishes to lessen environmental impacts of NEERS meetings and set a good example for local hotels, conference centers, and businesses.

We're still looking for members interested in joining the Meeting Support Committee (formerly called the Finance Committee). This group will work with donors to garner support for meetings. Donations are used to keep meeting registration fees reasonable and support students.

Minutes from Executive Committee meetings (and Business Meetings) will be published on the revised website. That will likely debut sometime before the Spring 2012 meeting.

Ties That Bind

Inspired by the story of Ed and Kathy Rhodes, who met at the Fall 1981 NEERS meeting – same year “Freshwater habitat relationships: Threespine Stickleback” was released! – and married in 1988, I'm gathering information for a potential future NEERS newsletter article. Are there other couples who met at NEERS meetings? Or at least further cemented bonds? All stories welcome, regardless of gender of participants or acceptance by current state and federal legal systems.

CERF 2011

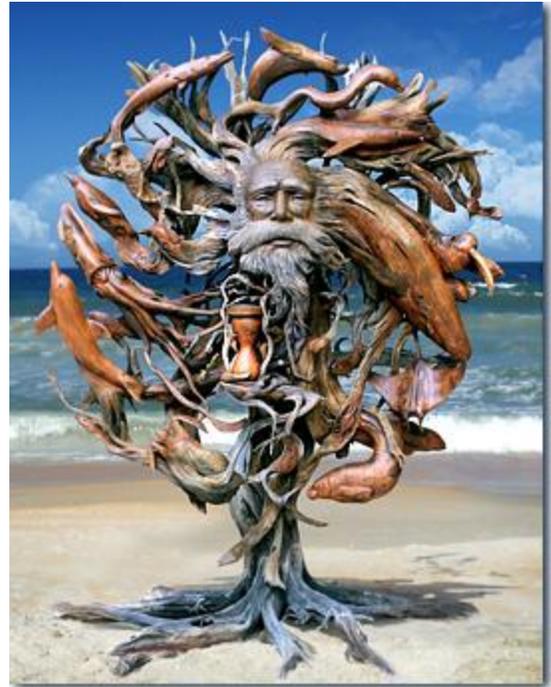
November 6th-10th 2011

Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, Florida

From the conference website:

This year's theme reflects a growing realization that human societies are an integral component of ecosystems and the dynamics of these societies and ecosystems are interactive - their futures are interdependent. Nowhere is this more evident than in the estuaries and coastal zones of the planet, where human populations are concentrated, typically dominating estuarine watersheds and affecting their linkage with the local, regional, and global dynamics of the coastal ocean. CERF as a professional scientific society has increasingly focused not only on understanding causes of ecosystem change but providing information necessary to manage anthropogenic changes that have impacted the biodiversity and sustainability of estuarine and coastal systems.

This conference will highlight new findings and perspectives of the interactive dynamics of diverse ecosystems and human societies, and in particular, explore how these dynamics can only be understood and managed when addressed at regional and global scales. To a greater extent than in previous CERF conferences this will include an effort to specifically address socioeconomic drivers and responses.



**CERF 2011
SOCIETIES, ESTUARIES AND
COASTS: ADAPTING TO
CHANGE**

Early Registration Ends October 6th

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 snorkeling in the seagrass beds of Indian River Lagoon, an airboat ride through the wetland restoration areas of Northern Mosquito Lagoon, and a tour of North Peninsula State Park
- Workshops on a variety of specific and technical topics, including numerical modeling of estuarine systems, restoring the Hudson-Raritan estuary, and scientists as communicators and educators

See you in Daytona Beach in November!