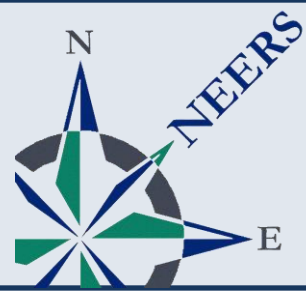


# NEERS News

Winter 2011

A publication of the New England Estuarine Research Society



## President's Column

### Est! Est!! Est!!! Estuaries

Stephen Hale

#### This Column

Q: Where did this column title come from?

A: No, it's not a scene from The King's Speech. Est! Est!! Est!!! is the name of a wine from Montefiascone, Italy. Legend has it that a German bishop travelling to Rome around 1110 sent his man Martin ahead to scout for inns with good wine. When Martin found such a place, he would chalk on the door the phrase "Est!" loosely meaning "It's here." Martin liked the Montefiascone wine so much he marked the door Est! Est!! Est!!! The same is true about the enthusiasm of NEERSians when they come upon a New England or New York estuary.

#### Journey of Meetings

Provincetown, Massachusetts, at the transition between the Acadian and Virginian Biogeographic Provinces, was a dynamic spot for our NEERS meeting last October. I'm happy to report no incidents occurred that called for us to actually use the new meeting insurance now available through CERF. However, the NEERS Dance Team, on a Halloween weekend in a hot, overcrowded bar in Provincetown, may have at last met its match. (The first serious challenge was at the Yellow Kitten on Block Island a few years ago. Ask somebody who was there.) Further west on the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin Episode glaciation, the Spring 2011 meeting on Long Island will be the first time NEERS has met on that island since 1971. Fittingly, the Thursday symposium will be a synthesis of Long Island Sound and will feature as speakers the chapter authors of a forthcoming book. This will complete the journey of recent meetings from the northeast tip of NEERS (Passamaquoddy Bay) to the southeast (Cape Cod Bay) to the southwest (Long Island Sound). (Cont. pg. 3)

## Fall 2010: Halloween in Provincetown

The Fall 2010 meeting returned to an old NEERS haunt: Provincetown, MA. Provincetown was the perfect place for some serious discussion of issues in Cape Cod Bay (the special symposium topic) as well as some Halloween fun.

The opening reception on Thursday night featured our "house" band, NEERSighted, who provided accompaniment while NEERSians caught up with each other. On Friday night the awards banquet was a clambake provided by **Ed and Kathy Rhodes**, who prepared yet another amazing spread for the attendees.

The winners of the student awards were:

\* Ketchum Award - **Alyssa Novak**, Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of New Hampshire. Why are *Thalassia testudinum* leaves turning red in some areas of the lower Florida Keys?

\* Dean Award - **Diana Barrett**, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Effect of environmental factors on the germination of several species of coastal dune plants.

\* Rankin Award - **Amanda Vieillard**, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Boston University. Effects of fertilization on benthic and pelagic silica fluxes in a New England salt marsh.

Student travel awards were given to **Erin Rempala**, Dept. of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences, UMass-Boston; **Leanna Heffner**, Graduate School of Oceanography, Univ. of Rhode Island; and **Elise Heiss**, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Boston University (Niering Awards); and **Carrie Byron**, Dept. of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Univ. of Rhode Island and **Lindsey Fields**, Graduate School of Oceanography, Univ. of Rhode Island (WHOI Sea Grant Awards).

The Stickleback Award was not given out as the current holder's proxy, **Cindy Delpapa**, decided nobody met the stringent criteria (the hardest part is making that first talk after staying up late dancing!) However, **Robert Buchsbaum** was honored for his years of service to NEERS and an award was given to **Sue Adamowicz** for best Halloween costume (a Harry Potter style wizard).

On the final day, attendees could choose between a couple of field trips - a tromp out into the salt marsh to see dieback and visit the Herring River restoration site or a visit to some of the hot birding spots in Provincetown (bird list on pg. 3).

It was another fun meeting on the Cape. Join us this spring for a NEERS meeting on another glacial moraine, Long Island!

## Fall 2010 NEERS Meeting Photos



A guitar-intensive NEERSighted entertaining on Thursday night (Photo by S. Hale)



Ed and Kathy Rhodes serving up a delicious clambake (Photo by S. Hale)



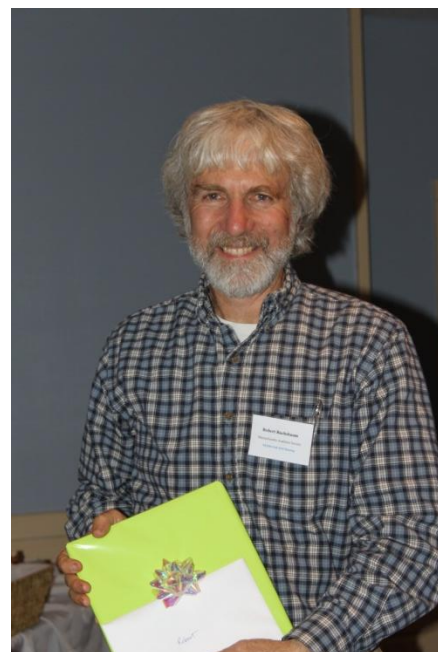
Birdwatchers at Race Point (list of species on pg. 3!) (Photo by S. Hale)



Student travel award winners are all smiles with Pam Morgan. (Photo by S. Hale)



Meeting organizer Sandy MacFarlane and past-president Pam Morgan (Photo by V. Berounsky)



Robert Buchsbaum was recognized for his years of service to NEERS (Photo by V. Berounsky)

# NEERS News

## Winter 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>

### Team NEERS

**President - Stephen Hale**, US EPA Atlantic Ecology Division

**Past-President - Pam Morgan**, Univ. of New England

**President-Elect - John Brawley**, Saquish Scientific, LLC

**Secretary - Sara P. Grady**, Mass. Bays Program

**Treasurer - Cindy Delpapa**, MA Fish and Game, DER

**Member-at-Large - Wally Fulweiler**, Boston University

**Member-at-Large - Susan Adamowicz**, Rachel Carson NWR

**Program Chair- Hilary Neckles**, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

**Student Representative - Leanna Heffner**, Univ. of RI Graduate School of Oceanography

**Historian - Alan M. Young**, Salem State University

**Newsletter Editor - Sara P. Grady**, Mass. Bays Program

**Webmaster - Jamie Vaudrey**, Univ. of Connecticut

## Fall 2010 Meeting Bird List

2000 Northern Gannet	Cowbird	3 Golden-crowned Kinglet
400 Herring Gull	25 House Sparrow	3 Chipping Sparrow
250 Common Eider	20 Tree Swallow	2 Sharp-shinned Hawk
250 Great Black-backed Gull	15 Black-capped Chickadee	2 Greater Yellowlegs
200 White-winged Scoter	15 Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 Downy Woodpecker
150 Double-crested Cormorant	12 Bufflehead	2 White-crowned Sparrow
150 <i>Sterna</i> sp.	12 Laughing Gull	1 Blue-winged Teal
140 Red-breasted Merganser	10 American Black Duck	1 Hooded Merganser
130 Dark-eyed Junco	10 Mallard	1 Pied-billed Grebe
80 American Robin	10 Great Cormorant	1 Cattle Egret
75 Surf Scoter	10 Sanderling	1 Red-tailed Hawk
50 Common Tern	10 Northern Cardinal	1 Merlin
50 Rock Pigeon	8 House Finch	1 Black-legged Kittiwake
35 Green-winged Teal	6 Tufted Titmouse	1 Parasitic Jaeger
35 Greater/Lesser Scaup Sparrow	6 White-throated Sparrow	1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
30 Ring-billed Gull	6 American Goldfinch	1 Northern Flicker
30 American Crow	5 Forster's Tern	1 Horned Lark
30 Red-winged Blackbird	5 Song Sparrow	1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
25 Bonaparte's Gull	4 Red-throated Loon	
25 Blue Jay	4 Mourning Dove	- Mark Faherty & Robert Buchsbaum
25 European Starling	3 Common Loon	
25 Brown-headed	3 Turkey Vulture	

## President's Column (cont.)

### Website Makeover

Webmaster Jamie Vaudrey, with help from the Communications Committee, is revamping the NEERS website. A version will be put up for member review and comment. Meanwhile, if anyone has suggestions for design or content changes, please email them to Jamie.

### Executive Committee Doings

The NEERS Executive Committee decided to form a Finance Committee to focus on raising funds for meetings. These funds are used to keep meeting registration fees reasonable and support students. Serving on this committee would be a great opportunity for those of you that need to overcome any lingering anxieties about asking people for money – a useful skill in research careers. The job is made easy by the generous group of faithful donors we've had over the years. The EC is also considering the possibility of changing the frequency or format of NEERS meetings. This will be on the agenda of the Business Meeting at Port Jefferson this May.

### Riding the CERF Board

The President of NEERS is automatically a member of the Governing Board of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation for two years, so I'll report various Board happenings here. Last summer, the Board struggled with how the organization should respond to the oil gusher in the Gulf of Mexico and the damage to estuaries and coasts. We did not come up with any clear resolution. Ideas welcome. The Publications Committee, of which I'm a member, is considering a new online journal to publish social science articles. For *Estuaries and Coasts*, Bob Howarth will be soliciting review articles. The Education Committee is looking for new members; contact Janet Nestlerode (see [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org) for her email). And the Board is always looking for 3 future Members at Large; contact Bob Christian.

# Spring 2011 NEERS Meeting

Thursday, May 5th - Saturday, May 7th

[Danfords Hotel and Marina](#)

Port Jefferson, Long Island, NY

## Important Dates

11 March 2011 - abstracts due

5 April 2011 - last day for conference rate at the Danfords Hotel

16 April 2011 - online meeting registration due

20 April 2011 - student travel award application due

25 April 2011 - pre-registration payment due to Treasurer

NEERS is exploring the southern boundary of its range and heading to Long Island!

The **Thursday Symposium** will focus on Long Island Sound Science and Management: A Quarter Century Synthesis. The goals of this symposium are twofold: (1) to celebrate, summarize, and synthesize what has been discovered through the study of the Sound over the past quarter century including the emergence of new challenges such as climate change, and; (2) to propose future more holistic science and management directions built upon this 25 year legacy that will result in improved ecosystem structure and function for the Sound.

On **Friday**, the research vessel at SoMAS (3 min walk from hotel) will be available for tours from 1-5pm.

On **Friday night**, we will have our awards banquet at the meeting site, Danfords Hotel. Following the banquet, the organizing committee has spared no expense and employed inordinate persuasive maneuvers to secure a post-banquet relaxation and dancing venue with (probably) live music, cold drinks and no hidden cameras up to NEERS' exacting standards. Everyone is invited to the Port Jazz Club for some dancing, fun, more conversation and a chance to be considered for the coveted Stickleback Award

On **Saturday**, you have a choice between two field trips: 1) Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Conservation - the only organization in New York State licensed to conduct marine mammal and sea turtle rehabilitation. The free tour is limited to 20, and transportation will be provided. 2) Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge - The main purpose for establishing the refuge was to protect the Carmans River Estuary for migratory birds. The River is a NY State-designated Wild and Scenic river and one of the Island's largest. The refuge supports eight Federal and/or New York State protected species. Transportation will be provided for up to 13; unlimited attendance for those with their own vehicle. There is a small fee for admission and directions to the refuge can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/wertheim.html> .

**For more details check out the NEERS website (<http://www.neers.org>)**

Hosted by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences of Stony Brook University  
Co-sponsored by New York Sea Grant