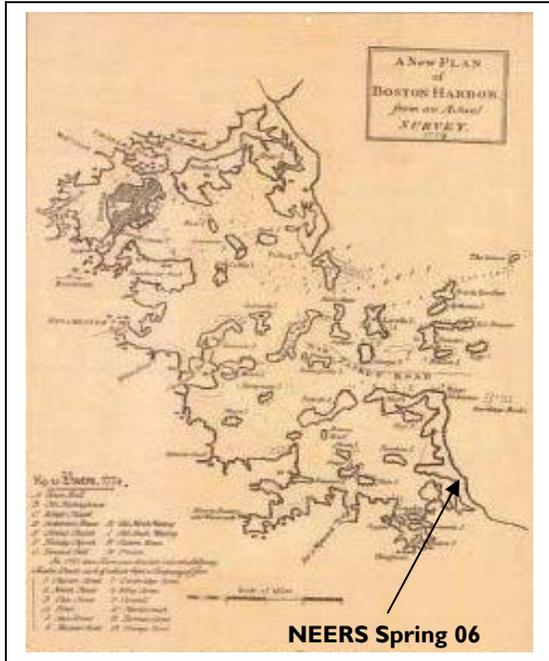


NEW ENGLAND ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



NEERS SPRING 2006 MEETING

April 6-8, 2006

**Nantasket Beach Hotel & Conference Center
Hull, MA**

Co-Sponsored By
Battelle, ENSR, Woods Hole Group

Patrons:
Normandeau Associates, MWRA

Benefactor:
WHOI SEA Grant

Sponsors:
YSI, Marine Research, Inc

Donors:
CR Environmental, MIT SEA Grant, MA Coastal Zone Management
(It is not too late, if you or your organization would like to help donate to this meeting, please contact meeting organizers for more on the benefits of donating)

Final Meeting Announcement

MEETING SITE: The Spring 2006 New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) (<http://www.neers.org/>) meeting will be held at the Nantasket Beach Hotel and Conference Center in Hull, Massachusetts. The hotel is located on beautiful Nantasket Beach, a public beach with fine sands, tide pools and large intertidal flats, plus spectacular views of Boston Harbor, the Boston Harbor Islands and the Boston skyline. Sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be held in the hotel's conference facilities which are steps from the beach.

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM: The meeting will begin **Thursday, April 6th** at 9:00 AM with a Special Boston Harbor Symposium: *Love that (Not So) Dirty Water: Science and Management of an Urban Estuary*. The harbor has been a focus of not only considerable remediation efforts but also research and monitoring. This special all-day session will provide a range of invited speakers presenting talks on the many activities in the Harbor and provide insight into the health and status of the Harbor and there will be a special poster session as part of the symposium as well.

PROJECTION: To facilitate the smooth running of the meeting, we are requesting everyone intending to use PowerPoint to plan on submitting their presentation by **MONDAY, March 27th**. This may be done by mailing a CDROM or sending the file as an attachment to an email to:

John Brawley
Battelle
397 Washington St.,
Duxbury, MA 02332
brawleyj@battelle.org

Presentations will be loaded onto an IBM compatible laptop, If your power point presentation has limited graphics and special effects, (e.g. embedded videos, animations), you can opt to bring a CD or Flash/thumb Drive and load your presentation the evening before your talk. No one should plan to use their own computer for their presentation. Everyone should plan to bring overheads as a back up in case of a technological crisis. If you intend to use overheads or slide projector, please let John know in advance of the meeting.

POSTER GUIDELINES: Foam core poster boards, push pins and tape will be made available to poster presenters to mount their posters starting Thursday evening if the poster is not already mounted. All posters should be in place by the start of the Friday morning presentations or Thursday morning if part of the Boston Harbor Symposium. Posters should not exceed 40" by 60". Poster will be displayed propped on tables in the Nantasket Beach Hotel Conference Center. Presenters can retrieve their posters Friday evening through Saturday noon, (or late Thursday afternoon if part of the Boston harbor Symposium). Presenters will be expected to be present during the dedicated poster viewing session on Friday. There will be some room on the poster tables for additional materials. If you have additional needs, please contact one of the conference organizers.

NEERS STUDENT PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded to students chosen by the judging panel in the following categories: graduate student oral presentation (Buck Ketchum Prize, \$100), undergraduate student oral presentations (Stubby Rankin, \$100), graduate student poster presentation (David Dean Prize, \$100) and undergraduate student poster presentation (Scott Warren Prize, \$100). All eligible students will be automatically entered into the appropriate presentation prize competition. Papers and posters are judged by a committee in terms of overall effectiveness, scientific content, and quality of the presentation. *Students are encouraged to review the scoring criteria on the NEERS website (www.neers.org).* Students who have won an award are not eligible for that award again. NEERS appreciates contributions towards the endowment fund for these prizes, so give generously when you pre-register. **One free Banquet ticket is provided for each student competing for an award and students should note this on their registration form.**

NEERS STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS: Three \$100 travel- awards will be awarded by NEERS and two awards covering full travel costs will be awarded by WHOI Sea Grant to help defray or cover costs associated with attending this meeting. MIT Sea Grant will provide two \$100 travel-awards for eligible students. Graduate and undergraduate students may apply. Selection will be made by lottery and will not affect eligibility for student presentation prizes. To be considered for a travel award you must

be a member of NEERS (by the meeting time) and have your faculty advisor send an e-mail to treasurer Steve Hale (hale.stephen@epa.gov) by **March 17th** to certify that you are a student in good standing, are presenting (include abstract) and you would benefit from the financial assistance. As always, NEERS greatly appreciates donations to the Bill Niering Student Travel Endowment fund.

REGISTRATION: The pre-registration fee for this meeting is \$90.00 for NEERS members, \$110.00 for non-members, and \$40.00 for students. **Breakfast and multiple coffee breaks for Thursday through Saturday plus Thursday and Friday lunches, and the social** (and two free drink tickets for use during the social) **are included in the registration fee-** all this in addition to the stimulating talks, ocean views and great company! **The pre-registration deadline is March 17, 2006.** **After the 17th the walk-in rates will be assessed,** so pull yourself away from the green beer long enough to squeeze in a last minute registration to what promises to be a great meeting. Pre-registration is a HUGE help to the organizing committee plus you save money so PLEASE PRE-REGISTER and make life a little less chaotic for the Treasurer and Organizing Committee.

	PRE-REGISTRATION	WALK-IN FEE
Student	\$45.00	\$55.00
Member	\$85.00	\$105.00
Non-member	\$105.00	\$125.00
One day member	\$40.00	\$50.00
One day student	\$20.00	\$25.00
One day Non-mem	\$50.00	\$65.00

Pre-register on the web at www.neers.org (select “meetings”, then “date of meeting”) and then send in a check to our treasurer or send in the registration form below with a check, (made payable to NEERS) to Steve Hale, US EPA-AED; 27 Tarzwell Drive; Narragansett, RI 02882-1153. Use this opportunity to make sure your NEERS dues are paid- annual dues are due at the spring (THIS) meeting of each year.

NEERS is also offering a one day attendance registration rate, (\$20 for students, \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members). If you wish to only attend for one day please indicate which day you plan to attend on your registration form to help us with meal planning, (breaks and lunch are included in the one day registration fee).

NEERS SOCIAL: The NEERS Social will be held at the Nantasket Beach Hotel in Raffael’s Lounge. The Social will be on Thursday night, following the special Boston Harbor symposium at 5:30 PM. During the social, members and friends will enjoy the stunning view of the city skyline, the harbor and the pleasant company of fellow NEERSians. Two free drink tickets are included in your registration fee (if of legal drinking age).

NEERS BANQUET: The Banquet will be held Friday evening at the hotel and members and friends are invited to sign up for the banquet when they register (only those that pre-register for the banquet can be guaranteed a meal). The banquet will be buffet style with a range of meat and vegetarian options. A cash bar will also be available. The Student awards for best presentations and posters will be awarded at the close of the banquet. Following the banquet, the organizing committee has arranged for some post- banquet calorie burning at the hotel lounge, (aka dancing) featuring live dance music, a disco ball (yee haw another opportunity to wear the white leisure suit) and a guaranteed good time (and a chance for the Stickleback Award).

FIELD TRIP: NEERS TAKES YOU TO WORLDS END! Following the Saturday morning presentations, the amiable Tim Smith, of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Wetlands Restoration Program has generously volunteered to take NEERSians to Worlds End! This is a relatively large salt marsh restoration site (~20 acres) and is a Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) property. You'll see restored flushing to a salt marsh that has been impounded for centuries. There is also the promise of stopping at a pre-restoration site in Hull, which will provide opportunities for discussion on future planning. Tim will also give a detailed narrative and the 'real story' behind restoration in an urban setting. An optional Saturday brown bag lunch is available and field trippers may want to consider this option on the registration form.

NEERS POSTER TRIVIA CONTEST: Contest forms with questions based on information on the posters will be distributed, and the observant winner will be drawn from those with correct answers. The winner will receive a \$25 prize, consisting of a year of NEERS dues and the balance in cash.

OTHER MEALS: The cost for Thursday and Friday lunches, breakfast each morning and mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks, (though not dinner) will be included in the registration fee. Without the pressure of finding off-site dining, the lunch breaks should be a good opportunity to view posters and catch up with colleagues. Lunches (and the Banquet) will provide a buffet style spread with many yummy options for omnivores and herbivores. A list of nearby restaurants will be available at the registration table for Thursday evening's meal and a Saturday box lunch can be ordered on the registration sheet for an additional fee.

NEERS BUSINESS MEETING: The Business meeting will be held after the last presentation on Friday afternoon. Please plan on attending the meeting as we value all member input and participation. We will discuss the recent ERF meeting and ERF's upcoming strategic planning, the transitioning of Robert B. to the Governing Board as our beloved dictator- um president as Pam steps down in preparation of past-presidency purgatory, can NEERS ever set up an on-line payment system, (anyone with experience and insight on the pratfalls is especially encouraged to weigh-in). Pam also has information from The Schneider Group. Look forward to hearing about the latest ERF 2007 updates, (which will be in NEERS land - Providence, RI), database conversion progress, possible Sea-Grant Red Tide Meeting, Sudden Marsh Dieback Listserver and update, NEERS Logo update, possible sing-a-long and tap-dancing and so much more!

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

Nantasket Beach Hotel is literally on the Beach in the thin stretch of sand jutting out from the mainland that is the town of Hull. Hull is a reasonable drive from Boston and an even shorter ferry ride. Nantasket Beach is a public beach offering a wide intertidal area at low tide and an occasional high surf for those of you into surfing, (adequate waves are not guaranteed for the meeting- sorry). Whale watching is available out of Boston and there are ferries out to the Boston Harbor Islands including historic George's Island and Fort Warren. Fort Revere is just down the street from the

conference center and Boston is accessible by ferry and a 20 or so mile drive up the coast. Below is just a partial list of the many activities in the area.

Bird Watching and Nature

- ~ Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield
- ~ North Hill Marsh Sanctuary, Duxbury
- ~ Daniel Webster Sanctuary, Marshfield
- ~ Blue Hills Reservation (and Trailside Museum), Milton
- ~ World's End, Hingham
- ~ Third Cliff, Scituate

History

- ~ Fort Revere, Hull
- ~ Lifesaving Museum, Hull (www.bostonharborheritage.org)
- ~ Paragon Carousel, Hull (www.enjoyhull.com)
- ~ Adams National Historical Park, Quincy
- ~ John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy
- ~ Quincy Homestead, Quincy
- ~ US Naval Shipbuilding Museum, Quincy
- ~ Abigail Adams Birthplace, Quincy
- ~ Boston Harbor Islands (www.bostonharborislands.org)
- ~ Georges Island, Fort Warren
- ~ Ferry service from Hull
- ~ Boston Light

Plus lots of history, entertainment, shopping and cultural attractions in the Boston and greater Boston area. To find up to date information check out *The Boston Globe* which publishes a Thursday Calendar Insert listing many events in the area. The (free) weekly, *Boston Phoenix*, has extensive arts and entertainment sections plus restaurant listings.

ACCOMMODATIONS: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Nantasket Beach Hotel and Conference Center, (www.nantasketbeachhotel.com) at an **extraordinary rate of \$89.00 per room** + tax, (if anyone has stayed in the Boston area recently you know how good a deal this is so find a friend or two to share a room). The rooms come with an ocean view and free wireless internet. Such a deal. **You must reserve the room by March 23th** in order to get the group rate. The room block is under the name "NEERS". Reservations can be made on-line or by contacting the hotel at 1-800-CLARION or 781/925-4500.

GETTING to the Nantasket Beach Hotel: A lucky few of you will have the opportunity to experience the thrill of the Big Dig and the fun of driving with hard-core Bostonian drivers. The directions below should get you to Hull but there may be the unanticipated detour (or two or three) associated with on-going construction, leak abatement, and general chaos associated with the Big Dig. The hotel's address is 45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull, MA 02045. There is a ferry from Boston but the Hull ferry dock is not within easy walking distance of the hotel, (visit the 'T' web site for more details- http://www.mbta.com/traveling_t/schedules_boats_station.asp?stat=F2H).

WEST: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike to the end and get on I -93/Southeast Expressway/ Rte 3 South. At the I-93 Rte3 split, in Braintree, continue on Rte 3 south (South/Cape Cod). Take Exit 14 (Route 228 North) towards Hull/Nantasket Beach. As you enter the town of Hull (Nantasket Beach) proceed 1/4 mile through two sets of traffic lights. Nantasket Beach Hotel & Conference Center is on the left.

NORTH: Take Route I-93 (Southeast Expressway) South to and at the Rte 93/ Rte 3 split in Braintree stay to the left to Route 3 South/Cape Cod. Take Exit 14 (Route 228 North) towards Hull/Nantasket Beach. As you enter the town of Hull (Nantasket Beach) proceed 1/4 mile through two sets of traffic lights. Nantasket Beach Hotel & Conference Center is on the left.

SOUTH: Take Route 3 North to Exit 14. Go right off the exit. Follow Route 228 North towards Hull/Nantasket Beach. As you enter the town of Hull (Nantasket Beach) proceed 1/4 mile through two sets of traffic lights. Nantasket Beach Hotel & Conference Center is on the left.

NEERS LISTSERVER SIGNUP: Future conference updates will occur via the electronic NEERSLIST. It is highly recommended you sign up on the NEERSLIST in order to receive conference updates and other important NEERS communications in a timely manner (and note we do not share the NEERS list with others). Go to www.neers.org and click on the link to the LISTSERVER (just to the right of the beautiful eelgrass photo). Good instructions for signing up (quick and painless) are contained on the listserv page.

QUESTIONS? Contact any of the following:

Pam Neubert (Co-organizer & NEERS President); pneubert@ensr.aecom.com (General Questions)

Cindy Delpapa (Co-Organizer & NEERS Secretary); cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us (General questions)

John Brawley (Co-Organizer); brawleyj@battelle.org (General questions)

Hilary Neckles (Program Chair); hilary_neckles@usgs.gov (Abstracts or other program concerns)

Stephen Hale (Treasurer); hale.stephen@epa.gov (registration and student travel awards)

NEERS SPECIAL BOSTON HARBOR SYMPOSIUM DESCRIPTION

Love that (Not So) Dirty Water: Science and Management of an Urban Estuary

Date: April 6, 2006

Place: Nantasket Beach Hotel and Conference Center, Hull, MA

Purpose: The purpose of this special session is to focus on recent changes in Boston Harbor sparked by the clean up. In 1988, Boston Harbor was labeled the most polluted harbor in America. Since that time, it has been the center of a massive and costly clean up campaign. The campaign has included upgrading its wastewater treatment facilities as well as instituting recreational and cultural improvements to connect residents with their cleaner harbor. Along the way, the Harbor has been the center of a great deal of research but also controversy about standards, methods, and costs. This symposium will provide the following:

- Historical overview of what the harbor was like and what prompted the clean-up
- Research efforts and their findings
- Cultural and recreational changes
- Improvements- how far have we come?
- Challenges
- Future Directions
- What Boston Harbor can teach the nation

Recently, Boston Harbor has seen significant changes. In particular, organic loading has dramatically decreased as a result of sewage outfall no longer being disposed directly into the Harbor. Boston Harbor has one of the longest and most rigorous ecological monitoring programs in existence and provides an important learning environment for researchers, managers, decision makers and regulators. The activities, past and present, in the Harbor serve as helpful tools to others faced with similar or comparable challenges looking for guidance on what can be accomplished, what should be avoided, and how to set reasonable goals and a course to achieve these goals. Please join us for the Symposium to hear historical and current perspectives, research efforts, and what is in the future for Boston Harbor.