

# New England Estuarine Research Society



## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL 2008 MEETING

16-18 OCTOBER 2008  
BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND

JOINTLY HOSTED  
BY  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND  
US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, NHEERL,  
ATLANTIC ECOLOGY DIVISION, NARRAGANSETT, RI

**MEETING SITE:** Newcomers to the New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) have heard about the well attended 1996, 2000, and 2004 NEERS meetings on Block Island and now we are giving you the opportunity to experience it yourself! Long time NEERS members are looking forward to returning to the island 12 miles out from the Rhode Island mainland that the Nature Conservancy calls “one of the world’s last great places”. On October 16-18, we will discuss science, management, and education issues concerning estuarine and coastal ecosystems. You can do all this while gazing out over the Atlantic Ocean from the wraparound veranda of our meeting site, “**The Spring House Hotel**” – the same grand hotel where we met in 2000 and 2004. Just a 15 minute walk from the ferry landing, Block Island’s oldest (but renovated) hotel is situated on a 15-acre promontory overlooking Old Harbor, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Block Island foothills.

**SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM: "Global Climate Change in Estuaries & Coasts: Impacts and what we can do about them".** The goal of this session is to get us thinking critically about the impacts of global climate change on estuarine and coastal systems, and how they are perceived by scientists, policy makers, the media, and the public. First we will hear perspectives from an estuarine ecologist, a fisheries scientist, a coastal geologist, a coastal zone manager, and a journalist. Then we will follow with a discussion of what tools and information are needed to get a better understanding of the impacts of global climate change on estuaries and coasts, and what we, as estuarine and coastal scientists, can do to provide those tools and information. The speakers will be:  
Scott Nixon, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island,  
Narragansett, RI

Jeremy Collie, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island,  
Narragansett, RI

Jon Boothroyd, Department of Geosciences, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI  
Grover Fugate, Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, RI and  
Peter Lord, Providence Journal, Providence, RI.

The symposium will take place on Thursday, October 16 and will “kick-off” the NEERS meeting. We have planned the timing of the symposium program around the ferry schedule (see “Getting There” section). You can take the 11:00 AM ferry to Block Island, be on island at 12 noon, check into your room, enjoy lunch at the Spring House dining room, then be ready for the first talk at 1:30 PM in Victoria’s Parlor of the Spring House. **Lunch at the Spring House Hotel before the symposium is included in the registration fee (whether you register for the whole meeting or just the symposium).** The symposium talks will finish by 4:30, in time for people to catch the 5 PM ferry back to Point Judith, for the unlucky people that that have to go back to the mainland that day. The symposium will continue with a panel discussion, ending at 5 PM. The symposium discussion will continue at the NEERS Social immediately following the symposium in the same room. (Registration for the symposium is included in the registration for the NEERS meeting.) Contact symposium organizers Walter Berry (401-782-3101, [berry.walter@epa.gov](mailto:berry.walter@epa.gov)) or Veronica Berounsky (401-783-8437), [vberounsky@gso.uri.edu](mailto:vberounsky@gso.uri.edu)) if you need more details.

**THURSDAY EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP** :As we have done at previous Block Island NEERS meetings, there will be an informal discussion group in the living room of one of the Spring House Hotel guest houses on Thursday after dinner. Snacks will be provided and you can bring your own beverage. We will be continuing the theme of climate change but talking about aspects that we didn’t get to address in the symposium – such as: Is climate change affecting invasive species? How do climate-induced changes in offshore hydrology affect estuaries? What new tool & techniques are available for examining climate-induced changes or adaptations to changes?

**SATURDAY MORNING SPECIAL SESSION: “Talking to Everyone Else: Helping Scientists Communicate to Non-Scientists”** We will have a Saturday morning session devoted to scientific communication, with emphasis on verbal communication with the media and the public. This is a follow-up to the terrific session devoted to scientific writing and publishing we had at our last Block Island meeting. Christopher Reddy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, is planning an entertaining and enlightening session with a mix of presentations and exercises. As climate change, evolution, and other scientific issues have gained increasing attention, scientists have been increasingly challenged to communicate their work outside their peer groups. Not only are scientists not trained to do this, they are actually trained in ways that hinder their ability to do it, employing a dispassionate jargon-filled, non-narrative style that often makes them appear inaccessible and out of touch to the public. This workshop will address topics including “why it is important to communicate more effectively to the lay public”, “common misconceptions”, and “knowing your audience”. In-class exercises at the end of the workshop will give you a chance to put your new-found communication skills to work.

**CONTRIBUTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS:** Contributed oral and poster presentations are scheduled for Friday morning and afternoon (October 17<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday morning (October 18<sup>th</sup>). Each oral presentation will be limited to 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for discussion. Poster presentations will be displayed for the duration of the meeting and highlighted during a special poster session Friday afternoon.. All presenters must be (or become) a NEERS member. (Information on becoming a NEERS member is included on the pre-registration form or contact NEERS Treasurer Ed Dettman ([Dettmann.Edward@epa.gov](mailto:Dettmann.Edward@epa.gov) or 401-782-3039). IF you have question about the Program (see separate document) contact NEERS Program Chair Hilary Neckles ([hneckles@USGS.gov](mailto:hneckles@USGS.gov) , 207-622-8205 x119).

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:** To avoid powerpoint presentation delays at the Block Island NEERS meeting, MJ James-Pirri will load all the powerpoint presentations onto an IBM-compatible laptop well before each session. MJ has overseen the oral presentations at several NEERS Block Island meetings as well as at ERF (and she is the mother of twins), so she can deal with a lot of situations. But she can't always work miracles, so please bring your powerpoint presentation saved in a Power Point 2003 format on an IBM-compatible CD or flash disk or thumb drive to MJ at the projection desk at the NEERS meeting soon after you arrive on island. Please make sure your disk can be read by another computer, before you give it to MJ. Speakers should not plan to use their own computers for their talks. For presentations that include graphics beyond the standard slides, (e.g. complicated animations or embedded video clips), authors should contact MJ by October 9 for further instructions. For this or other questions related to the presentations, contact MJ at [mjpp@gso.uri.edu](mailto:mjpp@gso.uri.edu) or call her at 401-874-6617.

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS:** There will be a dedicated poster session on Friday afternoon in the Spring House Sunroom but posters will be available for viewing from the Thursday evening social until the Friday evening banquet. NEERS will have available our foam mounting boards and clips to display a poster of 40" x 60". Due to the size of the poster room, posters can be no larger than 40" x 60". For those of you who prefer conversational discussion of your work, this may be the most appropriate presentation style. Please check that option on your abstract form. If you have special needs (a power outlet, etc.) contact Walter at [berry.walter@epa.gov](mailto:berry.walter@epa.gov), 401-782-3101).

**STUDENT PRIZES:** Prizes will be awarded to students chosen by the judging panel in four categories: **graduate student oral presentation (Bostwick (Buck) Ketchum Prize, \$100), undergraduate student oral presentations (John (Stubby) Rankin, \$100), graduate student poster presentation (David Dean Prize, \$100) and undergraduate student poster presentation (Scott Warren Prize, \$100)**. All eligible students are 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](http://www.neers.org) and select "student center" then "presentation judging criteria"). Students who have won an award are not eligible for that award again, but can compete for a different award. NEERS appreciates contributions towards the endowment fund for

these prizes, so give generously when you pre-register. **One free Banquet ticket is provided for the lead student author of each presentation.**

**STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDS:** Three \$100 travel awards will be awarded by NEERS, plus additional awards may be donated by our sponsors (may cover full travel costs). Graduate and undergraduate students who are giving presentations at this meeting and are members of NEERS (by the meeting date) may apply. Selection will be made by lottery and will not affect eligibility for student presentation prizes. The deadline to apply for these has passed, but watch your NEERS email (you did sign up for the NEERS list serve – right? If not, see [www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org) for directions!) if additional funds become available. As always, NEERS greatly appreciates donations to the Bill Niering Student Travel Endowment fund.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The **Spring House Hotel**, known to Islanders as “the Jewel” for 156 years, will be familiar to NEERSians since the Fall 2000 and 2004 NEERS meetings were held there. It offers Victorian charm and elegance in comfortable accommodations with modern amenities (such as wireless internet connections in the public areas) in two adjacent historic buildings. The dining room offers exquisite meals with majestic ocean views. All accommodations, meals, and meeting events will be at the Spring House Hotel, 1 Spring Street, Block Island, RI. Spouses, significant others, friends, and children are welcome. **NEERS has an *all-inclusive* price package that includes a room with a queen bed or 2 twin beds, private bath, phone, continental breakfast, evening dinner, and even taxes and service charges for \$129 per night for Thursday and Friday night (and Saturday night subject to availability). Additional adults in a room are each \$79 per night, which includes continental breakfast, evening dinner, taxes, and service charges.** (Note: Thursday and Friday lunches are included in the registration fee, see below). Some of the rooms are actually two room suites or studios with a sofa bed. We encourage you to share hotel rooms in order that the Spring House Hotel can accommodate all NEERS attendees. If you can come to Block Island early, the Spring House Hotel is offering a special rate on **Wednesday night of \$78 which covers your room, taxes, and continental breakfast the next morning.** (You can check out “downtown” restaurants for dinner Wednesday night.) Please make your reservations directly with the Spring House Hotel, at 1-800-234-9263 or (401) 466-5844 (a local call from Rhode Island’s South County) and identify yourself as attending the NEERS meeting. Only **Danielle** is handling the NEERS reservations, so she might have to return your call if she is not in when you call. The Hotel would appreciate reservations by **OCTOBER 1st**. We will have the Hotel buildings all to NEERS, but once they are full, you will have to go to other hotels, so make your reservations early. As of now, all the single rooms have been booked, so try to find a roommate to share a room with (and share costs). Find out more about the Spring House Hotel at their web page: [www.springhousehotel.com](http://www.springhousehotel.com).

If you have a group of 4-6 people who would like to stay together at the meeting, the Spring House Hotel guest houses are just for you! These four guest house (with nice views) are on the hotel property and have 3 bedrooms and three full bathrooms plus a living room, dining area, and kitchen, so they are ideal for colleagues, labs, or classes that

want to be together. On the second floor, each house has a master bedroom with a queen bed and adjoining full bath, another bedroom with a queen bed, a third bedroom with twin beds, and the second full bathroom. The first floor has a third full bath and the common rooms mentioned above, plus dishwasher, and washer & dryer. **All this for the same rate as the hotel rooms: \$129 per night for the first three people, and each extra person is \$79 per night (up to 6 adults total). These rates include continental breakfast, evening dinner, taxes, and service charges.** If you have a group, **even if you have already reserved separate rooms**, you can change your reservations by talking to Danielle at the Spring House Hotel at 1-800-234-9263 or (401) 466-5844 (a local call from Rhode Island's South County).

**NEERS WELCOMING SOCIAL & DINNER:** The discussion generated by the Symposium on Thursday will continue at the NEERS welcoming social (included in your registration fee). Enjoy beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, cheese & fruit & crackers and the perspectives of estuarine scientists, managers, and educators, starting right after the Symposium (about 5 PM), at the Spring House Hotel on Thursday October 16. You can then enter the Spring House Hotel dining room for dinner anytime between 7 PM and 9 PM. The price of **this dinner is included in your Spring House Hotel accommodation package.** (There are not many other restaurants serving dinner on Block Island in mid-October.)

**AWARDS BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT:** The banquet will be held at the Spring House Hotel on Friday evening at 7 PM, preceded by socializing either on the veranda or in front of the fireplace (depending on the weather). It will include a choice of meat, fish, vegetarian or vegan (please note **your banquet choice** on the pre-registration form). The price of **the banquet is included in your Spring House Hotel accommodation package.** Please note that if you have a guest staying in your room who will not be attending or registering for the meeting, please **select their banquet choice** on your pre-registration form. The Ketchum, Rankin, Dean and Warren Prizes will be awarded at this time and the lead author of each student paper will receive a free banquet ticket. If you are NOT staying at the Hotel, you can still attend the banquet for \$50.40 which includes all taxes and service charges (free for students who are lead authors of papers – but if you are not staying at the Spring House Hotel, you need to tell us). Walter Berry is planning some **fun & games over dessert**, so if you liked “NEERS Jeopardy” or “Who Wants to Win an NSF Grant?” at previous Block Island meeting, plan to come to the banquet! The **Post-Banquet music** will be right at the Spring House, highlighting the musical talents of NEERSians. Come listen as mild-mannered coastal and estuarine scientists transform to rock stars! Contact Chris Deacutis at [deacutis@gso.uri.edu](mailto:deacutis@gso.uri.edu) or Michael Larkin at [larkinmj@cox.net](mailto:larkinmj@cox.net) if you are interested playing or singing. This will be set up as an “open mike” or “NEERS at NIGHT”. With the reputations of outgoing and incoming Presidents Robert Buchsbaum & Pam Morgan at stake and the Stickleback Award again being awarded, there is no question that there will be a call to “Dance to the Music”!

**MEALS:** If you are staying at the Spring House, evening dinner and breakfast the next morning is included with your hotel room. Lunches on Thursday and Friday are included with your registration fee. All meals will be held in the Spring House Hotel dining

room. If you are attending the Symposium but not the rest of the meeting, you can pre-register for Thursday's lunch and symposium for \$35.00 for NEERS members or \$55 for non-NEERS members. When you pre-register you can add a box lunch on Saturday for \$15.50 to take either on the field trip or on the ferry home.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** This will take place **at 5:20 on Friday, OCTOBER 18th**. All meeting participants are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion of NEERS business (agenda to be posted on the web before the meeting). President Robert Buchsbaum will become Past-President and President-Elect Pam Morgan will be suitably inaugurated. It is presidential election time, not only for the United States but also for NEERS. Come and vote! A slate of **NEERS candidates** for President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary and their statements will soon be made available to you. Nominations for officers are also welcome from the floor. Also, catch the latest news from **Joy Bartholomew, Executive Director of CERF**, and get the details about the spring 2009 NEERS meeting.

**REGISTRATION:** Pre-registration for this meeting for members is **\$89 and includes the Climate Change in Estuaries and Coasts Symposium, Thursday lunch, Friday lunch, both socials, all breaks, and the field trip. Student pre-registration is only \$45. The pre-registration rate for non-members is \$114.** (Or you can become a NEERS member on the registration form and then register as a member for \$89.) **If you are attending the Thursday Symposium but not the rest of the meeting, you can pre-register for Thursday's lunch and symposium for \$35.00 for NEERS members or \$55 for non-NEERS members** (Or you can become a NEERS member on the registration form and then register as a member for \$35.) Please pre-register for the Symposium, so we can plan for any space constraints. **The Pre-registration deadline is OCTOBER 1st.** You can pre-register on the web ([www.neers.org](http://www.neers.org) and select "meetings", then "fall 2008 meeting") and follow that with a check made out to "NEERS" and mailed to NEERS Treasurer Ed Dettmann at the given address. **On-site registration is \$114 for members, \$57 for students, and \$139 for non-members.** The NEERS registration desk will be open on the Thursday 11:00 ferry from Pt. Judith to Block Island and at the Spring House Hotel before and after the scientific sessions on Thursday and Friday. Pre-registration makes our life easier and it is cheaper for you, so pre-register on the web! If you haven't already, you can pay your NEERS dues for 2008. If you haven't paid by this meeting, you can expect a dunning letter.

**GETTING THERE:** You need to either take the ferry or a plane to get to the island. The "Block Island Ferry" runs from Point Judith in Narragansett to Old Harbor, Block Island:

<b>2008: Oct 14th - Oct 19th</b>		
<b>Days</b>	<b>Departing Pt. Judith</b>	<b>Departing Block Island</b>
<b>Mon - Thur</b>	<b>9a, 11a, 3p, 5p</b>	<b>8:15a, 11:45a, 3p, 5p</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9a, 11a, 3p, 7p</b>	<b>8:15a, 11:45a, 3p, 5p</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9a, 11a, 1p, 5p</b>	<b>8:15a, 11a, 3p, 5p</b>

<b>Sun</b>	<b>9a, 11a, 3p, 5p</b>	<b>8:15a, 11:45a, 3p, 5p</b>
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You should be at the ferry dock a half hour before departure. Missing your ferry is not a legitimate reason for getting your hotel deposit back, so don't be late! The trip to the island takes about an hour and costs \$21.05 round trip for an adult (and \$20.05 for senior citizens, \$10.40 for children, and free for children 4 and under). See also [www.blockislandferry.com](http://www.blockislandferry.com) for more information or to order tickets on line or call toll free 1-866-783-7996 (the local number is 783-7996). (Note that Friday's session will start about 8:00 AM, and the first ferry over to Block Island arrives about 10. So if you are coming by ferry, you must arrive sometime Thursday in order to be there for the beginning of the session on Friday. Note also that if you are arriving Friday for the banquet, the last ferry you can catch is the 3 pm to get to Block Island for dinner. ) Parking is available at various lots near the Ferry Dock in Point Judith for \$5-\$20/day. You will NOT need a car for the meeting. A bike is a good idea to bring (only \$5.80 round trip on the ferry) or rent on island, one can easily bike most of the island in a few hours (with beautiful views and not too many hills!)

Directions to the Point Judith Ferry Dock: From the South: From 95N take Exit 92; turn right onto Rte. 2; turn right on Rte. 78; at end of Rte 78 turn left onto Rte.1. Take "Galilee/Pt. Judith" exit on Rte. 1 (sign will say BI Ferry). Turn right off exit and then right onto Rte 108. After about 3 miles, take the right hand exit for Block Island Ferry and Galilee. When the road ends, take a left. The ferry is located at the Galilee State Pier, across from the Department of Environmental Management.

From the North: From 95S take Exit 9 (Narragansett) to Rte 4; follow Rte 4 which turns into Rte 1; take Rte 108 Exit from Rte 1. Continue on Rte 108 for 3 miles to right hand turn for Block Island Ferry and Galilee. When the road ends, take a left. The ferry is located at the Galilee State Pier, across from the Department of Environmental Management.

See [www.blockislandchamber.com](http://www.blockislandchamber.com). for airplane schedules and other information.

**FIELD TRIPS:** During the meeting we are planning not one, not two, but three field trips to see different aspects of Block Island. The cost of the field trips are included in the registration fee. When you pre-register you can add a **box lunch on Saturday for \$15.50** to take on the Saturday afternoon trip.

If you remember from a talk at the spring NEERS meeting by Eric Hazleton, there are 2 stands of **native phragmites** in Rhode Island and one is on Block Island. Of course, we will have a trip to go see it. You will have to give the secret handshake first, then you will be blind folded, and you will have to swear not to reveal the location under penalty of death. The time of the field trip will be announced at the meeting.

On Saturday (Oct 18) morning there will be a field trip to observe **bird banding** with Scott Comings of The Nature Conservancy on the north end of the island, weather-dependent. It is limited to 10-15 people. Experienced bird-banders could be enlisted to help. More information will be posted at the meeting.

We are fortunate that one of our Symposium speakers is also an expert on the **Glacial**

**Geology of Block Island** and he has agreed to lead a field trip Saturday afternoon (that would still allow us to catch the 3PM ferry to the mainland). If it wasn't for the Wisconsin Glacial Episode, followed by the rising sea, you wouldn't be on this island. Dr. Jon Boothroyd, Professor of Geosciences at the University of Rhode Island and State Geologist of Rhode Island, will lead a field trip to discuss the glacial geology of Block Island, a bump on the terminal moraine from the last glaciation. Learn about ancient salt marshes now underwater offshore. Learn about how your great-grandchildren will be using oceanographic ships to study your salt marshes of today.

**EXPLORING THE ISLAND:** Since Block Island has been designated as one of the “12 Last Great Places” in the Western Hemisphere by the Nature Conservancy, we would be remiss if we didn't give you time to roam the island or take a field trip. Please note that on Thursday you can take the 9 am ferry over to Block Island and have a couple of hours to explore on your own before the Symposium & lunch at 12:30. Bring your bike to do some sight-seeing or to get to the Island's 25 miles of nature trails. See a map at [www.blockislandchamber.com/blockisland\\_map.pdf](http://www.blockislandchamber.com/blockisland_map.pdf) Block Island contains a variety of habitats, such as morainal grasslands, coastal bluffs, 17 miles of sand or cobble beaches (don't forget your swimsuit!), salt & brackish ponds, sand dunes, and various freshwater wetland ecosystems. More than one-third of the island's land is now preserved as open space. Block Island is home to over 40 rare or endangered species and natural communities, including the globally endangered American Burying Beetle. There is also a stand of native Phragmites! Block Island has been called the best birding site in North America during the fall migration (so bring your binoculars). Check out more about Block Island through the Nature Conservancy's web page, [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) and search on block island or at [www.blockislandinfo.com](http://www.blockislandinfo.com). Tours of the town may be given by NEERS Honorary Member and Past President and one time Block Island summer resident Bernie McAlice.

**OTHER RI CONFERENCES:** Start your trip to Rhode Island in Providence and attend the Restore America's Estuaries Conference (see [www.estuaries.org](http://www.estuaries.org) ) October 11- 15 at the RI Convention Center (where ERF was last fall). Then, when you have had enough of the city, come out to Block Island on Oct 15. A special hotel rate of \$78 (includes taxes) covers your room Wednesday night at the Spring House Hotel and continental breakfast the next morning. You can check out the cool spots mentioned above before the NEERS presentations start.

**QUESTIONS?** Walter Berry of EPA ([berry.walter@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:berry.walter@epamail.epa.gov) , 401-782-3101) and Veronica Berounsky of URI ([vberounsky@gso.uri.edu](mailto:vberounsky@gso.uri.edu), 401-783-8437 ) are again running another NEERS meeting in Rhode Island (will our luck hold out for a SEVENTH time?) with MJ James-Pirri ([mjpp@gso.uri.edu](mailto:mjpp@gso.uri.edu) or 401-874-6617) and Leanna Heffner ([leheffner@gso.uri.edu](mailto:leheffner@gso.uri.edu) or 401-874-6634). MJ is returning to coordinate the computers and projectors and Leanna is in charge of publicity. Contact Hilary Neckles, NEERS Program Chairperson, with abstract or program concerns ([hneckles@USGS.gov](mailto:hneckles@USGS.gov), 207-622-8205 ext.119). If you have questions about registration or the student travel awards, contact Ed Dettmann ([Dettman.Edward@epa.gov](mailto:Dettman.Edward@epa.gov) or 401-782-3039).

**NEERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

*Robert Buchsbaum, President*

*Ed Dettmann, Treasurer*

*Tay Evans, Secretary & ERF Correspondent*

*Pam Morgan, President-Elect & CERF Representative*

*Pam Neubert, Past President*

*Chris Deacutis, Member-at-large*

*Sue Adamowicz, Member-at-large*

*Leanna Heffner, Student Representative*

*Hilary Neckles, Program Chairperson*

*Alan Young, Historian*