

NEW ENGLAND ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPRING 2009 MEETING

2-4 APRIL 2009
SALEM, MA

JOINTLY HOSTED
BY
THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
MASS AUDUBON
AND
SALEM STATE COLLEGE

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRE-REGISTRATION

MEETING SITE: The Spring 2009 NEERS meeting will be held in historic Salem, Massachusetts, at the new Salem Waterfront Hotel at Pickering Wharf on Salem Harbor. Historically, Salem was one of the wealthiest and most important seaports in the country. The first European settlers arrived in the early 1600s to discover abundant natural resources. Salem Sound and associated rivers were described as teeming with estuarine and anadromous fish, including such species as sturgeon, salmon, halibut, shad, river herring, cod and haddock (to name a few). Although Salem Sound marine resources have clearly changed since those early days, this estuary still inspires with its magic of beautiful rocky islands, intertidal flats, kelp beds, eelgrass meadows, and salt marshes.

The City of Salem itself is a great place to visit. The Salem Waterfront Hotel is located just steps away from many famed historic sites including Hawthorne's House of the Seven Gables and Derby Wharf as well as the beautiful and intriguing collections of maritime art and history found at the Peabody Essex Museum. The Visitor Center of the Salem Maritime National Historic Site is just across the street, as are many houses that date back to colonial times. If you want to have your palm read, gaze into a crystal ball, visit a wax museum, or ride on an authentic merry-go-round, there are plenty of opportunities for that too.

From April 2-4, we will discuss the science and management of estuarine and coastal ecosystems in this inspiring setting. We look forward to your joining us!

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SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM: “The Science Behind Ocean Management” Competing uses, such as energy development, commercial fisheries, aquaculture, recreation, and mining, are placing demands on our ocean and coastal systems. Management of marine resources will face increasing challenges with mounting stresses from climate change, coastal development, and energy projects such as wind farm construction and off-shore drilling. Effective management of our marine resources will require a change from existing case-by-case and sector-by-sector management approaches. Many entities, including the United States Commission on Oceans and several New England states, are considering comprehensive ocean management planning as a way to balance competing uses with protection of our ocean ecosystem.

Whether the scale is at national, regional, state, or local levels, ocean plans are intended to be informed by scientific information. The information being used includes seafloor mapping, species’ life history and habitat requirements, sediment transport, water quality, sources of primary and secondary productivity and climate change effects. How are estuarine and coastal scientists involved in this process? How adequate are the existing data for planning purposes and where are the data gaps? The Spring 2009 NEERS Symposium will serve as an update on the status of Ocean Planning in New England with an emphasis on how science is informing management decisions.

The Symposium will take place on Thursday, April 2 beginning at 10:00am at the Salem Waterfront Hotel. We are planning a full day of interesting invited talks. We expect the day’s discussion will continue at the NEERS Social immediately following the Symposium. Registration for the Symposium is included in the registration for the NEERS meeting. Contact Symposium organizer Tay Evans (978-282-0308 x168, tay.evans@state.ma.us) if you need more details.

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP: "How to give a good talk: public speaking and scientific presentations". We are pleased to announce that we will have a Saturday morning workshop with a mix of interactive presentations and exercises designed to hone public speaking skills. Get ready to jump out of your seats and practice on stage at this workshop. We are fortunate to have Bill Cunningham from the Salem State College Theater Department to coach us at the podium. Please indicate on your registration form if you plan to attend the workshop (there is no extra fee).

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS: Abstract submissions for contributed oral and poster presentations are invited on any subject related to estuaries or coastal environments. Reports of work in progress as well as work in advanced stages and reviews of relevant topics are encouraged. Contributed oral and poster presentations will be scheduled for Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning, April 3rd and April 4th. Each 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. Students can compete for the Ketchum Prize and the Rankin Prize for oral presentations or the Dean Prize and Warren Prize for posters (see below). 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 Dettmann (Dettmann.Edward@epa.gov or 401-782-3039).

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS: Please submit your abstract using the abstract submission form on the NEERS web page BY **FRIDAY February 6** (www.neers.org and select “meetings”, then “spring 2009 meeting”). All abstracts have a **1750 character limit (including spaces) which is about 250 words**. The character limit applies to the body of the abstract only; the authors and titles are excluded from the limit. All words in the title should be CAPITALIZED. Author(s), address(es), and presentation title must appear in the proper format. Use footnotes to minimize the space for addresses when multiple authors are from more than one institution. Include full name, e-mail address, and phone number for the presenting author. Even if you would prefer an oral presentation, please consider checking the "oral preferred but poster okay" option if you are willing to present a poster instead. This greatly facilitates scheduling of the final program. All submissions will receive electronic confirmation of being received (although this is not automatic) and the lead author will be notified of her/his scheduled time. Contact NEERS Program Chair Hilary Neckles with any questions (hneckles@USGS.gov , 207-622-8205 x119).

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS: To avoid presentation delays at the Salem NEERS meeting, we plan to load all the PowerPoint presentations onto an IBM-compatible laptop well before each session. Please bring your PowerPoint presentation saved in a Power Point 2003 format on an IBM-compatible CD or flash disk or thumb drive to the projection desk at the NEERS meeting soon after you arrive. We would like to load your contributed presentations the evening before your talk. Please make sure your disk can be read by another computer before you give it to us. 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 Robert Buchsbaum (rbuchsbaum@massaudubon.org) by March 26 for further instructions. For this or other questions related to the presentations, contact the conference organizers.

We are looking for one person willing to serve as a co-projectionist for the meeting. The registration fee for projectionists will be waived and the conference organizers will be greatly indebted to you. If you or your students are interested, please contact the conference organizers.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS: There will be a dedicated Poster Session on Friday afternoon but posters will be available for viewing from the Thursday evening social until the Friday evening banquet. NEERS will have available foam-core mounting boards, pushpins, and tape to display a poster of 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 (need to be near a power outlet, etc.) contact the conference organizers.

STUDENT PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded to students chosen by the judging panel in four categories: graduate student oral presentation (Buck Ketchum Prize, \$100), undergraduate student oral presentations (Stubby Rankin Prize, \$100), graduate student poster presentation (David Dean Prize, \$100) and undergraduate student poster presentation (Scott Warren Prize, \$100). All eligible students will be 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.

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Students are encouraged to review the scoring criteria on the NEERS website (www.neers.org -- select “student center” then “presentation judging criteria”). Students who previously 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 (note this on your pre-registration form).**

STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDS: Three \$100 travel-awards will be awarded by NEERS, and additional awards may be donated by our sponsors (which may cover full or partial 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. To apply for a travel award, send an email with your abstract attached to NEERS treasurer Ed Dettmann (Dettmann.Edward@epa.gov) no later than **February 25**. Provide your name, address, college or university, email, and telephone number. In addition, please have your faculty advisor send Ed an email certifying that you are a student in good standing. As always, NEERS greatly appreciates donations to the Bill Niering Student Travel Endowment fund. Travel awards may be offered to non-presenting students if sufficient funds are available; students are welcome to contact the NEERS Treasurer about availability of such support for general student travel.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Salem Waterfront Hotel (www.salemwaterfronthotel.com) located at Pickering Wharf on Salem Harbor, was selected by NorthShore Magazine Readers as Best of North Shore Hotel for 2007. The hotel offers comfortable double and single rooms as well as larger suites. A block of rooms has been reserved for NEERS at a group rate of \$109 per night for this meeting. For this rate, book your room by March 2 (call 1-888-337-2536 and mention NEERS). Hotel amenities include high speed internet, an indoor heated swimming pool, fully-equipped fitness center and an on-site restaurant, the “Regatta Pub.” In addition, Pickering Wharf and the streets near the hotel are filled with shops, bars and restaurants.

NEERS WELCOMING SOCIAL: The discussion generated by the Symposium on Thursday will continue at the NEERS welcoming social. Enjoy appetizers and drinks with the perspectives of estuarine scientists, managers, and educators right after the Symposium (about 5 PM), at the Salem Waterfront Hotel on Thursday April 2. After the social there are many dining choices in Salem within walking distance of the hotel.

AWARDS BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT: The banquet will be held at the Salem Waterfront Hotel on Friday evening at 7 PM, preceded by cocktails (1 free drink ticket) and a cash bar. Dinner choices include chicken, fish, or vegetarian (please note your selection on the 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. We have a tough act to follow after Walter’s performance with the NEERS Wheel of Fortune on Block Island, but we’ll see what we can do. Dancing will of course follow the banquet -- details TBD! Check back for more information soon.

OTHER MEALS: Lunch on Thursday can be purchased from one of the many cafes and restaurants near the hotel. Lunch on Friday is included in the registration fee and will be served as a buffet in our meeting room. Box lunches will be available for Saturday at an additional cost of \$15.

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BUSINESS MEETING: Pam Morgan will preside at the Business Meeting after the last paper on Friday, April 3. All meeting participants are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. Contact Pam (pmorgan@une.edu) if you have an agenda item.

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration for this meeting for members is \$99 and includes the Symposium, Thursday's Social, contributed presentations on Friday along with continental breakfast, buffet lunch and coffee breaks, Saturday's Workshop and contributed presentations with continental breakfast and coffee break. Box lunches will be available for Saturday at an additional cost of \$15. **Pre-registration for students is \$49 and for non-members is \$124.** Pre-registration for the **Thursday Symposium only** is \$30 for members, \$20 for students, \$40 for non-members. The **pre-registration deadline is MARCH 18 and your check must be received no later than March 25** to get the pre-registration rate. Pre-register on-line (www.neers.org -- select "meetings" then "Spring 2009 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 will be \$124 for members, \$62 for students, and \$149 for non-members.** The NEERS registration desk will be open at the Salem Waterfront 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-line! If you haven't already, you also can pay your NEERS dues for 2009 at the same time.

FIELD TRIP: Following the Saturday morning presentations, the organizing committee will offer one or more field trips to places of interest on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Specific details will follow in the final announcement and will be posted on the NEERS web site. When you register you can sign up for a box lunch (additional charge) to enjoy on the field trip or the journey home.

GETTING THERE: Salem is just 30 minutes north of Boston by car or by commuter rail from North Station, or an hour by bus.

From the North or South by car:

Take Interstate 95 to exit 45 (Route 128 North – Gloucester).

Take Exit 26, Lowell Street East (Peabody and Salem).

Proceed 2.6 miles through Peabody Center past Bridge Street (Route 107 North)

Turn left onto Essex Street and travel through two sets of lights to Washington Street.

Turn right on Washington Street.

Turn left at lights onto New Derby Street (Route 1A North).

Continue to follow New Derby Street.

The Salem Waterfront Hotel will be on the right on the corner of Congress and Derby streets.

From Boston by train or bus:

Train service is available on the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line from Boston's North Station. At the Salem Depot, exit up the stairs. Walk down Washington Street and then left onto New Derby Street. At the Salem Fire Station, New Derby becomes Derby Street. Walk 1.5 blocks and you'll see Pickering Wharf's shops. It is a ten-minute walk from the Salem Depot. Bus service is available on bus #450 or #455 from Boston's Haymarket Square. For train and bus information, contact the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) at www.mbta.com or 800-392-6100.

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QUESTIONS? For general meeting questions please contact one of the local organizers, Tay Evans (tay.evans@state.ma.us, 978-282-0308 x168), Robert Buchsbaum (rbuchsbaum@massaudubon.org), or Alan Young (ayoung@salemstate.edu). Contact Hilary Neckles, NEERS Program Chairperson, with abstract or program concerns (hneckles@USGS.gov, 207-622-8205 x119). For questions about registration or student travel awards, contact Ed Dettmann (Dettmann.Edward@epa.gov, 401-782-3039).

NEERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Pam Morgan, President

Ed Dettmann, Treasurer

Tay Evans, Secretary

Steve Hale, President-Elect & CERF Representative

Robert Buchsbaum, Past President

Chris Deacutis, Member-at-large

Cathy Wigand, Member-at-large

Hilary Neckles, Program Chairperson

Alan Young, Historian

Leanna Heffner, Student Representative