

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

July 9th:
Creature Feature - 'Exciting
Eels'
10:00 - 11:30 am & 1:00 -
2:30 pm

July 12th:
Summer Fun -
'Build an Underwater
Robot'
1:00 - 3:00 pm

July 16th:
Creature Feature -
'Plankton Party'
10:00 - 11:30 am &
1:00 - 2:30 pm

July 23rd:
Creature Feature -
'Fabulous Flounder &
other Funky Fish'
10:00 - 11:30 am &
1:00 - 2:30 pm

July 30th:
Creature Feature -
'Sea shells and Sea Stars'
10:00 - 11:30 am &
1:00 - 2:30 pm

July 31st:
Summer Fun -
Nature Arts & Crafts
1:00 - 3:00 pm

August 6th:
Creature Feature -
'Winged Wonders'
10:00 - 11:30 am &
1:00 - 2:30 pm

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Jacques Cousteau Volunteer Newsletter

VOLUME 4



SUMMER 2013

JC NERR Happenings

Greetings Volunteers! Here at JC NERR we're happy summer as arrived, although we could do without so much rain! We have begun a new season of exciting and engaging summer educational activities and programs at the Education Center.

Our winter programs were well-attended and we were lucky to have one enhanced by some live critters. John Wnek of the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) conducted a 'Family Fun' program in which he discussed his main area of study - Diamondback Terrapins and their nesting ecology and human impacts.

This spring, our Education Coordinator, Melanie Reding, conducted a great 'Ecological Evening' discussing 'What has science done for you lately?', focusing on how science influences our lives and shapes our society.



Top & bottom: John Wnek of M.A.T.E.S., gives his audience a hands-on experience with Diamondback Terrapins in his JC NERR Family Fun program 'Totally Turtles and Terrapins'



Our Lunch n' Learn Series in conjunction with the Tuckerton Seaport concluded another successful season this year with a presentation on Black Sea Bass research, by our own Rutgers' scientists. The Lunch n' Learn series will break for the summer, but continues again in September.

In addition to our public programs, staff and volunteers alike were busy with the JC NERR hosted high school academic competition, Shore Bowl, as well as working with town, county and FEMA officials to aid in post-Sandy recovery; and collaborating with an exhibit design company for the renovation of our public interpretive exhibit 'Life on the Edge'. Find out more about what staff and our volunteers have been working on below!

HAPPY SUMMER!

Reserve Current Events

Here at JC NERR we are very excited for the launch of a website that our Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Lisa Auermuller, in conjunction with the Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) have been working on over the last 5 years. 'NJ Flood Mapper' is a data viewer that provides coastal managers, scientists and the public with a preliminary look at sea level rise and flooding impacts. The website allows users to view flooding due to sea level rise, subsequent coastal evacuation routes, location of critical municipal facilities (hospitals,

police stations, etc.) and how they will be affected; as well as maps of marshland and how it can mitigate flooding effects. Flood maps from FEMA and NJ DEP can also be viewed on the site.

While this website was in the works for over 5 years now, it's launch shortly after Hurricane Sandy is timely to be able to assist municipal officials, emergency managers, and floodplain administrators - data and maps provided can be used for planning purposes and to help gauge trends and prioritize actions for current and future flooding events.

Lisa, who represents JC NERR as an

academic liaison to FEMA's NJ/NY Coastal Outreach Program for the Risk Map Initiative, has been working tirelessly since Hurricane Sandy with FEMA and municipal officials to provide dialogue about how communities receive information as well as be a voice for those communities to relay how they are dealing with storm recovery and continued sustainable restoration.

One of the intended additions to the website is including tidal flooding data so users can view different tidal flooding scenarios and how it might affect their homes and businesses. You can find the website at:

www.NJFloodMapper.org





Shore Bowl 2013



From top to bottom: Two schools face off in competition; student work on a team-challenge question, 2nd place winners West Windsor Plainsboro South High School work diligently on a competition question; 1st place winners MAST (Marine Academy of Science and Technology) pose for a photograph.

Once again, in conjunction with the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS), JC NERR hosted Shore Bowl, the regional high school academic competition sponsored by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership which tests marine science knowledge. This year's competition was held at the Busch Campus Center at Rutgers University on February 23rd.

We can't thank our volunteers enough for all of the hard work that they put in to make this day successful. Months before the competition, volunteers assist with preparing question/answer materials and prizes and on the competition day, volunteers help register and greet teams and serve as game officials (moderators, score runners, timekeepers, scorekeep-

ers) and photographers. The competition day is a long and hectic one, and we truly appreciate all of the effort our volunteers put in so that we are able to hold this competition for the students. Here at JC NERR we always find it rewarding and inspiring to see how much the participating students know and how passionate they are about marine science, and we hope that our volunteers do to.

This year we had six schools from New Jersey, two from Pennsylvania and one from New York.

Competition was close throughout the day, with MAST (The Marine Academy of Science and Technology) of Sandy Hook, NJ going undefeated into the Championship Round to face West Windsor-Plainsboro South High School, where

MAST pulled through in a heated round to clinch the 1st place win. West Windsor-Plainsboro South High School came in 2nd place and MATES of Manahawkin, NJ (The Marine Academy of Science and Technology) took 3rd place. Germantown Academy of PA earned the Sportsmanship Award for their stellar conduct throughout the competition.

For their 1st place win, the MAST team travelled with Melanie Reding (JC NERR's Education Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for Shore Bowl) in April, to Milwaukee Wisconsin, to compete in the Nationals competition.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers who give so much of their time supporting Shore Bowl!

Life on the Edge Exhibit

Since mid-2012, JC NERR's Coastal Training Program, Education, Interpretive and Communications Coordinators have worked on making our newly renovated 'Life on the Edge' exhibit a reality. Lisa, Melanie, Ida and Andrea worked diligently on gathering and organizing scientific and educational content that reflects the most current research as well as working with a design company to incorporate it into our public exhibit, located on the third floor of the Tuckerton Seaport. With great enthusiasm from all of us here at JC NERR, the exhibit re-opened to the public this past June, when we held an Open House for our volunteers, staff, friends and family to get a first look at the exhibit.

We are very appreciative to our volunteers and friends who gave

us honest feedback on what could be improved in order for exhibit visitors to have the most positive experience. We are currently working with the exhibit design team to address these issues, but overall we are pleased and eager for the launch of this new exhibit



and new possibilities.

One thing that we were anticipating was being able to hold more educational programs and classes in a newly developed space. We were

able to do so with our Estuary Explorers program. Cassandra, who served as Americorps Watershed Ambassador for the Mullica River Watershed and was based out of our Education Center, collaborated with Melanie, our Education Coordinator, to develop this children's program that was held every Saturday in June. Each week participants discovered a new habitat in the Reserve by doing hands-on activities and exploration in the exhibit.

Kassandra led the program, and it went wonderfully with great positive feedback from staff, parents and volunteers alike. We look forward to continuing programs like this in the future and thank all of our volunteers who assisted with our first one at the new exhibit!

JC NERR Volunteer Dinner

JC NERR held its annual volunteer dinner on March 21st this year to honor our volunteers who gave 10 or more hours in support of the Reserve in 2012.

Dinner was held in the Absegami Room at the Smithville Inn with volunteers, JC NERR staff, Rutgers University Marine Field Station staff and students, and Tuckerton Borough Mayor, George 'Buck' Evans in attendance.

We were very proud to honor a Volunteer of the Year for 2012 as well as three volunteers who reached and surpassed a total of 500 hours of volunteer service with us.

Linda Dotts was awarded Volunteer of the Year for her continued commitment to environmental and marine science, her valuable service in numerous research and education projects and her enthusiasm and work ethic, which are assets in all types of research and education settings.

Congratulations Linda!!

Our three 500 hour honorees for 2012 were: **Pat Filardi, Betty Leshner and**

Astrida Sinteff. Pat is always willing and eager to help in all aspects of field work and is an excellent asset to have in any field situation. Betty gives her time both to the Rutgers Marine Field Station and to the JC NERR Education Center where she provides outstanding support and always willing to help with both research and education projects and activities. Astrida is an exceptional asset as a volunteer educator at our Life on the Edge exhibit as well as other JC NERR educational programs.

All of us at JC NERR extend sincere thanks and gratitude to all of our volunteers support the Reserve!

Top: Volunteer of the Year, Linda Dotts, with Reserve Manager, Mike Deluca, Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Capone and Tuckerton Mayor George 'Buck' Evans. Middle: A view from the banquet room. Bottom: 500 Hour honorees Pat, Astrida & Betty with the Volunteer Coordinator, Reserve Manager and Tuckerton Mayor.



Volunteer Involvement and Opportunities

Volunteers are involved with a number of research and education projects this summer. Our summer programs were kicked off with our Estuary Explorers series (see Life on the Edge Exhibit story for more details) and continue full steam ahead with Creature Feature and Summer Fun programs. We had an amazing response from volunteers interested in helping with these - thank you for your enthusiasm! We look forward to the always engaging and fun Creature Feature program led by teacher Julie.

As we look toward a new chapter with the Life on the Edge exhibit we are also seeking more volunteers who would be interested in volunteering at the exhibit. If you like to share your excitement, enthusiasm

and passion for marine environments and your local estuaries with people of all ages, the Life on the Edge exhibit offers ample opportunities to do so. Please let me know if you'd like to learn more about getting involved.

We have continued this summer with high volunteer involvement to seine for fish and crabs off of Great Bay Blvd and at Graveling Point. The May and June sampling events went very well (with over 600 small silversides being caught off of Great Bay Blvd in June!) and we will be continuing to seine each month until October. Please let me know if you are interested in coming out with us to assist with this RUMFS long-term project.

RUMFS OPEN HOUSE

The Open House this year will be on **Saturday, September 21st from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.** Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering! We ask volunteers to man the information, t-shirt sales, fish printing, and exit survey tables as well as be greeters/people counters and tour guides to give tours through the Station. We never know what kind of weather we're going to get mid-September, but it is always a fun day!

Top: Volunteers seining at Graveling Point. Middle: A volunteer assists a RUMFS technician with larval fish sampling for DEP Barnegat Bay sampling. Bottom: View of the Rutgers University Marine Field Station from the boat basin.

