

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

February 5th:
Shore Bowl on Douglas
Campus

February 9th:
Lunch N' Learn- Clamming
in the Bay with Parsons

February 10th:
Ecological Evening:
Fisheries Around the
World

March 9th:
Lunch N' Learn - Barnegat
Bay Sneakbox

March 16th:
Ecological Evening: Fish
Tracking by Underwater
Robot

April 13th:
Lunch N' Learn- The Great
Bay Seal Study

**HIGHLIGHTS
THIS ISSUE:**

What's Happening 1
This Month

Reserve Events 1

Shore Bowl 2
Winners

February 21st: The 2
Winter Bridgenet
Story

Looking Ahead 2

Learn more about the
Reserve on our website:
<http://jcnerr.org/>

Archived Articles of JC
NEWS now online at
jcnerr.org/volunteer.html!

JACQUES COUSTEAU NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2



FEBRUARY 2011

JC NERR in February

And it's still snowing volunteers! Despite Punxsutawney's prediction of an early spring, it still seems like we can't shake the snow from our shoes. But with spring and summer events coming up soon, hopefully the weather will follow suite.

As per usual this winter, the Lunch n' Learns and Ecological Evenings for the fall/winter season are still taking place, but winding to their end. Don't miss these last upcoming winter events, including the Lunch N' Learns on the Barnegat Bay Sneakbox and The Great Bay Seal Study, and the Ecological Evening on the REMUS, the Rutgers University underwater vehicle, which tracks fish from Alaska to New Jersey!



Be prepared for new for spring and summer events—our new program brochure will be making its way to press by the end of March with a new slough of activities. We are happy to announce the return of our "Creature Features" programs as well as our participation in a number of upcoming spring festivals including the ACUA's "Earth Day", "Ocean Fun Days" at Island Beach State Park, and the Barnegat Bay Festival. Please contact myself (x 203) if you are interested in participating in any of these.

That being said, let's all cross our fingers for some spring warming and look forward to a great spring and summer season of events!

Reserve Current Events

Come check out the latest research on our winter marine mammal residents! Linda Dotts will be talking about "The Great Bay Seal Study," a Lunch n' Learn discussion scheduled for April 13, 2011.

If you have ever wondered what you can learn from seal scat, here's your chance! Stockton College has been studying seals in Southern New Jersey waters since 1994. Linda is the College's

most current marine biology student that is assisting with this study. She has spent many field days observing seals and boating across frigid waters to investigate the island they inhabit for the winter. She will describe her observations, which documents such things as seal abundance, species, basic behavior, and diet.

Understanding the dynamics of seal population biology is critical

to predicting changes in this population and to assess its effects on the coastal habitat. Come discover what the research findings are for one of Great Bay's best kept winter secrets.



Shore Bowl Winners

“After a long day of round robin and double elimination tournaments **MAST** came in **first place** and will represent our region at the national competition in April in Galveston, TX. ”

On Saturday, February 5, 2011 nine high school academic teams from NJ, PA and NY competed in the 11th Annual Shore Bowl. Shore Bowl is a regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) that took place at the Douglass Campus Center in New Brunswick.

Each winter IMCS and the Cousteau Reserve (JC NERR) host this regional academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of the marine sciences including biology, chemistry, physics, and geology. The NOSB was created in 1998 to support and expand ocean

sciences education and enhance the public understanding and stewardship of the ocean.

This year four new schools joined the competition including our first team from the state of New York. Over twenty members of IMCS served as officials for the competition along with members of Stockton College, Monmouth University, Barnegat Bay Partnership, NJ Sea Grant Consortium, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors, NJ Conservation Foundation, and the JC NERR.

After a long day of round robin and double elimination tournaments the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (**MAST**) came in **first place** and will represent our region at the national competition in April in Galveston, TX. **Second place** went to the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (**MATES**) and third place went to West Windsor-Plainsboro South.



A Winter Bridgenet Story



Snowfall at night.

Monday night - February 21st. After a seemingly pleasant day; 3 teams of 3 people were geared up to perform a large bridgenet sampling at 2100hrs, despite the winter storm warning that had been issued.

The research was part of graduate student Jamie Caridad's thesis work., which is trying to determine if there is any variance in larval fish populations caught from different sampling sites within our region. The field crew was ready snow or not and just as they began working around

9pm the snow began to fall. At first it appeared beautiful - white flakes lit up like crystals against the black backdrop of the night sky, However, things quickly turned as the winds picked up, turning into 20-30mph gusts. The little flakes were now hundreds of icy particles, hurtling into eyes and faces and stinging the skin.

Despite the rough conditions, the crews pressed forward, casting their nets into the constant wind and down into the dark water. Each tow was fished patiently for half an hour. By the second tow the snow had started to stick and create a layer of powder on

the ground. By the third and last tow the road was flooded, covered with snow, and the flakes still coming down, blowing horizontal.

The crews impressively remained undeterred and finished sorting through samples safely indoors until the tide receded and they made the daring journey home through snow and ice at 1:30am. It is with constant amazement that we admire and appreciate the help of volunteers in the most unlikely and undesirable conditions. A HUGE thank you to your dedication!!! This was a night worth remembering!!



Arabella in an icy boat basin. Photo by J. M. Smith.

Looking Ahead

Education:

February 9th: Lunch N' Learn Clamming the Bay with Parsons

February 10th: Ecological Evening Fisheries around the World

March 9th: Lunch N' Learn Barnegat Bay Sneakbox

March 16th: Ecological Evening Fish Tracking by Underwater Robot

April 13th: The Great Bay Seal Study

Events:

February 5th: Shore Bowl

Research:

Bridgenetting or Data Entry

Till Next Month...

Enjoy what is hopefully the last of our major winter snowstorms. Keep those fingers crossed for an early spring!

- Jen Smith,
Volunteer Coordinator