

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

January 11th:

Lunch n' Learn -  
Garveys & Garvey  
Racing  
12:30 pm

January 18th:

Out and About -  
Winter Birding at  
Forsythe National  
Wildlife Refuge  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

February 4th:

Family Fun - Life in  
the Salt Marsh!  
10:00 - 11:00 am

February 8th:

Lunch n' Learn - Fish  
Tracking by Under-  
water Robot  
12:30 pm

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

JC NERR in De- 1  
cember

Reserve Current 1  
Events

2011 Year in Re- 2  
view

Rutgers Environ- 2  
mental Stewards

Looking Ahead 2

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

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NEWS online

# Jacques Cousteau

## Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 2011

### JC NERR in December



*Happy Holidays*

*Volunteers!*

I hope your holiday time is filled with much joy, laughter, friends and family.

Here at JC NERR we have had a busy December. We kicked off the month with a great hands on family program about seals in New Jersey, where kids got a chance to visualize and feel what it would be like to have blubber! Our Lunch n' Learn lecturer this month was Olaf Jensen, a researcher at Rutgers University Marine Field Station, (RUMFS) who spoke about his past research on Salmonid fisheries (salmon, trout, charrs, whitefishes, graylings) in the northern lakes and rivers of Mongolia. While these Mongolian habitats are some of the most rural and pristine in the

world, they are still affected by threats such as overfishing, changes in climate and local mining operations. Olaf will be con-



tinuing his research in Mongolia next summer.

We have also been busy with Shore Bowl 2012 preparations. Shore Bowl is a marine science

academic competition for high schools who compete to go to a national tournament. JC NERR along with the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS) sponsor our regional (NY, NJ and PA) competition. We are a small regional competition compared to others, but we are proud and excited to be hosting 9 schools from NJ and PA for the upcoming 2012 Bowl in March.

Lastly, a big thank you is in order to those volunteers who put in long hours to help with set up and food preparation/ serving at two of our Coastal Training Programs this month - Land Acquisition, Conservation and Stewardship in the Face of a Changing Climate & Sea Level Rise website testing.

Your efforts and help are greatly appreciated!!

### Reserve Current Events



All of us at JC NERR are excited and very happy to announce that we have made significant progress on the redesign of our 'Life on the Edge' interpretive exhibit in the Tuckerton Seaport. Since we have a small building here at the Coastal Education Center our public exhibit is housed at The Tuckerton Seaport.

This exhibit is the gateway for the public to see what kind of research, education and outreach we do as well as learn about how important our estuaries and wetland environments are. As with most

educational and interpretive material, our exhibit recurrently needs updating, not only content-wise but also with design and technical materials. Ida Scott, our interpretive coordinator, along with other staff members have been working all year on proposals and finding an appropriate exhibit design firm that will help us update our exhibit to best reflect the Reserve as we are today and how and where we see ourselves in the future.

We are very pleased to say we have just chosen a firm, and work

on the exhibit will begin in February 2012 with a 12 month timeframe planned for the full redesign.

I would also like to say thank you to our dedicated volunteer educators who currently work at the exhibit interacting with and informing the public about the JC NERR and our estuaries. We greatly appreciate your hard work and dedication. We would love to have more volunteers work at the exhibit as educators; if you are interested in this opportunity please let me know!

# 2011 Year in Review



**Top to Bottom - Volunteers help with children's summer programs; fish for black sea bass on the Miss Beach Haven; work the information table at Cape May Harborfest and run the fish printing table at RUMFS Open House**

As we head towards a new year I'd like to take this time to look back at the progress we have made and all that has been accomplished over the past year.

I began this year as a volunteer myself after having worked at RUMFS, mostly working on larval fish sampling (colloquially known to us as Bridgenetting!). In May I was fortunate to become a part of the JC NERR team on the other side of things as the Volunteer Coordinator and I can't thank you all enough for making me feel so welcome as such.

The winter and early spring months of this year were busy with an eel collection project and Bridgenetting, particularly 'Super bridgenetting' which included more sampling sites for one of our grad student's (Jamie Caridad) research. Volunteers were a huge help with this sampling and always faced the

long hours of field work with a smile and positive attitude.

When I started at the Reserve in May volunteer activities were off full steam ahead with black sea bass fishing for a new RUMFS research project. Volunteers contributed long hours, angling skills and a love of fishing to help catch and tag black sea bass. The summer months also brought numerous environmental festivals and educational programs which our volunteers were integral in helping us educate children and the public about the Reserve and our research. Volunteers also were a great help, as they are every year, with RUMFS long term otter trawling in Great Bay/Mullica River.

We kicked off fall with the RUMFS annual Open House where volunteers acted as lab tour guides, ran the fish printing,

sales and informational tables and helped us make the day a success by making sure everything ran smoothly! This winter RUMFS has been conducting extra bridgenetting as part of research on Barnegat Bay in accordance with Chris Christie's '10 Point Action Plan'. In addition to our regular sampling on Great Bay Blvd, volunteers have also accompanied technicians to Oyster Creek, Point Pleasant and Toms River to assist with sampling.

And as always, throughout the year we have had continuous help from volunteers providing administrative, computer, database, library, office and program support and volunteer educator support at our Life on the Edge exhibit. All of us at JC NERR wish to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for all of the work that you do.

**THANK YOU!!!!**

## Rutgers Environmental Stewards Class

The Rutgers Cooperative and Research Extension is offering their Environmental Stewardship certification program. This program is designed for the non-scientist, and covers the basic areas of soils and geography, water, sustainability, waste and energy, as well as leadership and dealing with conflict.

The program seeks to help people to address environmental issues locally and bring about positive change in their communities by empowering participants with knowledge and tools to help work with others. Each group will meet twenty times for classroom and field study from January to May

2012. Students will be certified as Rutgers Environmental Stewards when they've completed 60 hours of classroom instruction and 60 hours of volunteer internship. The fee for the course is \$250 and begins Jan. 11th. If you are interested please contact Amy Menzel - 609-272-6934 or [amenzel@acua.com](mailto:amenzel@acua.com)

## Looking Ahead

### Lunch n' Learn

**January 11th:**

Garveys and Garvey Racing

**February 8th:**

Fish Tracking by Underwater Robot

### Out and About in the Reserve

**January 18th:**

Winter Birding at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

### Family Fun

**February 4th:**

Life in the Salt Marsh!

All the best to everyone and their family over the holidays! See you in 2012!!

- Kim Capone  
Volunteer Coordinator



*Happy Holidays!*