

# JACQUES COUSTEAU NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2011

JACQUES COUSTEAU  
NATIONAL ESTUARINE  
RESEARCH RESERVE

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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

**April 21st:**  
Ecological Evening : What is  
the SWMP Program and  
what can it do for You?

**May 11th:**  
Ecological Evening: Virtual  
Tour of the Mullica River  
Headwaters

**May 17th:**  
Discover Seven Bridges  
Road Van Tour—contact  
Melanie for details  
609-812-0649 x 206

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:

**What's Happening This Month** 1

**Reserve Events** 1

**Annual Volunteer Dinner** 2

**Eel Research—Help Wanted!** 2

**Looking Ahead** 2

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

Archived Articles of JC  
NEWS now online at  
[jcner.org/volunteer.html](http://jcner.org/volunteer.html)

## JC NERR in March

Hi Everyone!

You will be excited to know that the summer public programs are ready for the presses and should be hitting your mailboxes shortly.

While cold weather still feels the need to linger, the gearing up of spring and summer events has been an enjoyable distraction here at the Reserve.

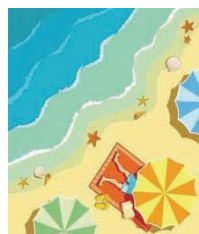
This summer will involve a lot of research that has volunteer components to it, so those of you who are interested in getting a taste of the field stay tuned for some of the opportunities that will be available this spring season. Refer to the article on eel research in this edition for the first of several possible projects.



In the meantime look forward to some upcoming Lunch n' Learns and Ecological Evenings which include a lot of the research that has been happening at the Reserve and the Field Station.

Stockton intern, Linda J. Dotts will be talking about her research on seals in Great Bay on April 13th. On April 21st, Gregg Sakowicz, Field Researcher for the Reserve will discuss what the SWMP program is all about and what it indicates about the state of Barnegat Bay. Last but not least, on May 11th Watershed Ambassador, Nina Sassano will be giving a Virtual Tour of the Mullica River Headwaters and describe what makes up our unique watershed.

## Reserve Current Events



The return of spring and summer means a return of some well known festivals!

Sunday, June 5th please contact myself x 203 ([jsmith@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:jsmith@marine.rutgers.edu)) or Melanie x206 ([reding@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:reding@marine.rutgers.edu)) ASAP because we are scheduling summer events now!

Contact us about the summer programs being offered if you wish to participate in events like Creature Features, Ecological Evenings and Summer Fun programs.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Ocean Fun Days Festival on Saturday, May 21st at Island Beach State Park or the Barnegat Bay Festival on

For those of you who use email, an online list of events will be sent in the next few weeks. Please respond back if there are any dates you definitely want to be available for. You can also check the summer public program and call or email me if there's an event you wish to be part of.

I will begin scheduling for the summer in the next few weeks so don't hesitate to give me a call!

# Volunteer Dinner



This year's annual dinner was held on March 25th at the Historic Smithville Inn.

It was a very enjoyable evening, with approximately 77 guests in attendance. The opening remarks by Reserve manager, Mike DeLuca, gave a humorous introduction of the staff. Dinner was served and then guests were entertained by guest speaker of the evening, Nina Sassano, Watershed Ambassador for the Jacques Cousteau Reserve. Her talk about watersheds was both excellent and engaging.

The most important part of the evening of course, were the Volunteer Awards themselves. It was an honor to distinguish so many dedicated and deserving guests for the time they put in at the Reserve over the course of 2010.

Special recognition was given to our 500 hour recipients Sheila Kipper and Richard Zaengle, for achieving this high number of hours over the course of their volunteer careers. The Volunteer of the Year Award went to none other than Betty Leshner. Her service over the past year was diverse, versatile,

well rounded, and illustrated the many ways volunteers can help at the Reserve. Her involvement in the amount of projects and activities in the past year has been truly admirable and we can't thank her enough for her hard work.

It was an exceptionally nice evening and a complete honor to host so many deserving guests. Our sponsors graciously contributed free dinners, gift cards, and even a luscious scarf from Dana Zeck Weaving. We hope the night demonstrated all of our appreciation for our volunteers.

"The project is funded through the Barnegat Bay Partnership and focuses on getting eels up over dams through a structure called an eel ladder"

## Eel Research

If you are interested in field work, help is wanted with a current eel project at the Rutgers University Marine Field Station.

The project is funded through the Barnegat Bay Partnership and focuses on getting eels up over dams through a structure called an eel ladder.

The American eel comes into the estuary from the Sargasso Sea and makes its way upstream to fresh water so it can mature into an adult.

These eels, however, sometimes have trouble getting to upstream habitat due to obstructions such as dams.

The concept of the eel ladder is to allow eels a surface to "climb" up the dam face instead of battling a strong water current. The ladder reduces water flow and provides traction for eels.

Volunteers would assist with checking the eel ladder and eel collectors, which are used to collect data on the number of

eels below the dam, the stage of life they are at, and the physical characteristics of the collection sites themselves.

Efforts from volunteers would take half to almost a full day's worth of hours. If you are interested in accompanying technicians with this project please contact me at [jsmith@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:jsmith@marine.rutgers.edu)



## Looking Ahead

### Education:

**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

### April 21st:

Ecological Evening : What is the SWMP Program and what can it do for You?

### May 11th:

Ecological Evening: Virtual Tour of the Mullica River Headwaters

### Events:

**May 17th**—Discover Seven Bridges Road Van Tour

### Research:

Eels & Bridgenetting

### Till Next Month...

We're almost at spring and summer- get ready for a good one!

Jen Smith,  
Volunteer Coordinator



Reserve Office