

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

**October 6th:**  
Ecological Evening -  
'Synopsis of the Pine-  
lands'  
7:00-8:00 pm

**October 9th:**  
Coast Day @ the  
Lobster House in  
Cape May  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

**October 12th:**  
Lunch n' Learn -  
'The Bog at Warren  
Grove'  
12:30 pm

**October 19th:**  
Out and About -  
Fall Foliage Tour at  
Bass River  
1:00 - 3:30 pm

**November 9th:**  
Lunch n' Learn -  
'The Fish Factories'  
12:30 pm

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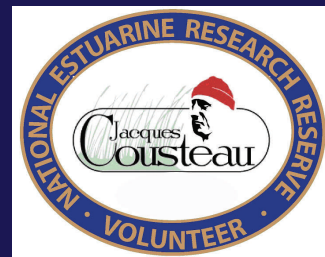
Learn more about the  
Reserve on our website:  
<http://jcnerr.org/>

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NEWS now online

# Jacques Cousteau

## Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9



SEPTEMBER 2011

## JC NERR in September

Greetings Volunteers and Happy Fall! Although, it sure doesn't feel like fall with all of the wet and humid weather we have been experiencing.

September was a busy month at the JC NERR in preparation for the Rutgers University Marine Field Station (RUMFS) annual Open House that was held on September 17th. The day brought chilly and windy weather, but did not deter the public (and our volunteers!) from coming out. We had a grand total of 440 visitors throughout the day, which was a very welcome number compared to last year's overwhelming 826 visitors! With less people, staff and volunteers alike felt that they were better able to talk to and interact with the public.

Visitors were led on a tour

through the Field Station focusing on five different programs - Fish Identification, History and Overview of the Station, Black Sea Bass & Stock Assessment, Touch Tanks, and the REMUS (Remote



### Volunteers assist children with making fish-print t-shirts

Environmental Monitoring Units).

Of people who participated in our exit survey (91 total) the 'History and Overview' section was the most popular with 64%

of respondents listing it as their favorite, with 'Black Sea Bass' talks coming in second. 94% of visitors rated their overall experience as 'Very Good' or 'Excellent.'! Overall the day was a great success! I wanted to express my many thanks again to all of the volunteers who helped make the day run smoothly. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!



### Visitors gather around the Touch Tanks for an up close and personal view of marine life

## Reserve Current Events

Our Fall/Winter 2011-2012 program brochure has been delivered and is ready for delivery to your mailbox! If you are not on our mailing list or did not receive a copy you can always access this brochure on our website (<http://www.jcnerr.org/education/Fall%20Winter%202011-2012%20Pub%20Prog.pdf>). We have a slew of free programs for all age ranges and there is sure to be something for everyone!

Upcoming programs include 'Synopsis of the Pinelands' familiarizing you with the importance of the Pinelands and its cultural, historic and natural resources. If you are interested in walking/hiking opportunities within the Reserve, come out for an easy interpretive hike at Bass River State Forest at our Fall Foliage tour. We are also holding another tour of Seven Bridges Road



(Great Bay Blvd.). This program was held earlier this spring and proved quite popular. The history, culture and biology of the Tuckerton Peninsula will be presented in this driving tour.

Please contact Melanie Reding (609-812-0649 x206) to register for programs or for more information.

# Barnegat Bay 10 Point Action Plan



## Barnegat Bay Stressors

Above: Sea nettles have increased dramatically in Barnegat Bay since 2000. Distinct causes are unknown, but researchers think it may have to do with increased nutrient levels and warmer water.

Below: *Ulva* (sea lettuce) covering seagrass. With excess nutrients, *Ulva* overgrows and shades out seagrass.



Volunteers greet visitors at the 2011 RUMFS Open House

On December 9th 2010 NJ Governor Christie announced a comprehensive action plan that addresses the ecological health of Barnegat Bay. The watershed has undergone dramatic growth in recent decades with more and more land being developed with a large increase in population. Development, as well as an array of other human impacts, have threatened the ecological health of the bay (see July 2011 Volunteer Newsletter for more Barnegat Bay info). The 10 points of the plan are -

1. Close Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant
2. Fund Stormwater Runoff

3. Reduce Nutrient Pollution from Fertilizer
  4. Require Post-Construction Soil Restoration
  5. Acquire Land in the Watershed
  6. Establish a Special Area Management Plan
  7. Adopt More Rigorous Water Quality Standards
  8. Educate the Public
  9. Fill in the Gaps on Research
  10. Reduce Water Craft Impacts
- Rutgers University, including Rutgers U. Marine Field Station (RUMFS), is involved with # 9 -

'Fill in the gaps on research'. Numerous scientists and researchers across the university are involved in an assortment of projects including, benthic community monitoring, characterizing algae and zooplankton, shellfish health, fish and crab monitoring, sea nettle distribution and salt marsh studies.

Locally, RUMFS will be focusing on fish and crab response to human alteration and urbanization in the bay. As of now, it is anticipated work on this project will start this upcoming winter. If you would like more information on the '10 Point Action Plan' please see (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/barnegatbay/>).

## Volunteer Drivers

If you are a person who likes to drive, RUMFS has the need for volunteer drivers to transport researchers and/or R.U. classes to field sites using University vehicles.

Often for field work involving the R/V Arabella, the boat captain and crew will leave from one port, and dock in another for the night. When that is the case, staff need to be picked up. Due to time limitations and work con-

straints we are often struggling to make these pick-ups/drop-offs.

RUMFS also hosts undergraduate classes that usually involve field trips. Again, we find that we need people to help drive these classes to field sites due to the large volume of students.

In order to drive a University vehicle, you must take a Defensive Driving course. If you are interested, RUMFS will

cover course costs, so you are able to drive work vehicles.

We currently have three volunteers who have taken the course and ideally we would like to have three more drivers. The course is 8 hrs long and usually held in New Brunswick. The bonus: once you have a Defensive Driving certificate, it does not expire and you may be eligible to get a discount on your car insurance!

## Looking Ahead

### Ecological Evenings

#### October 6th:

'Synopsis of the Pinelands'

### Festivals

#### October 9th:

'Coast Day' in Cape May

### Out and About in the Reserve

#### October 19th

'Fall Foliage Tour at Bass River State Forest'

### Lunch n' Learn

#### October 12th

'The Bog at Warren Grove'

### November 9th

'The Fish Factories'

### Until next month!

-Kim Capone

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