

Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

130 Great Bay Blvd. Tuckerton, NJ 08087
www.jcnerr.org 609-812-0649 ext. 206



Fall / Winter 2019-2020 Public Programs

The Cousteau Reserve is proud to present a variety of public programs designed to introduce curious people of all ages to the wonders of our coastal habitats. Programs are FREE and will take place at the Cousteau Coastal Center at 130 Great Bay Blvd., Tuckerton, NJ (just past the intersection of Radio Road) unless otherwise noted.

Registration is required for all programs by calling Kaitlin at 609-812-0649 ext. 206 or visit us online at www.jcnerr.org

Out and About in the Reserve

Join us as we explore the Reserve through a variety of recreational activities. Unless stated, meeting location will be given at time of registration.



Namaste with Nature

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019
6:00pm-7:00pm

Join yoga instructor Cheryl Pollack for a different kind of estuary experience! Cheryl will go through a series of yoga poses and stretches on our Grassle Marsh observation deck. Surrounded by the marshes and woodland landscape, this is a great way to unwind while connecting with nature! **Participants must bring their own yoga mat or beach towel. Space is limited! *Program is weather permitting***

Sunset Bike and Bird

Thursday, October 10th, 2019
5:30pm-7:00pm

Exertion: Slow pace, 6.5 miles
Get ready to admire the beauty of nature while getting some great exercise! Participants will bike along Great Bay Blvd, making some birding stops along the way. Near the end, we will stop and enjoy the breath-taking sunset on the marsh. Bike tour will be lead by JC NERR Education Coordinator, Kaitlin Gannon. Bring your own bike, helmet, and binoculars (optional). **All participants must wear a helmet! *Program is weather permitting.**



Halloween Night Hike

Tuesday, October 29th, 2019
6:00pm-7:00pm

Just in time for Halloween! Guests will take a guided walk through our 1/2 mile Grassle Marsh trail at dusk. Education coordinator, Kaitlin Gannon will lead the group through the trail while discussing different nocturnal creatures that may inhabit the area, plus some star gazing on the marsh observation deck. **Dress for the outdoors! All participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight. *Program is weather permitting.**



Ecological Evenings

A collection of presentations by scientists and professionals to inform the public of current coastal issues, science research and to inspire appreciation for the natural world.

Shellfish Ecology Research in New Jersey Estuaries, Bays, and Aquaculture Farms.

Thursday, January 23rd, 2020
6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Shellfish are a key species in coastal ecosystems. They provide a suite of ecosystem services, are the basis of many local sustainable fisheries, and are among the greenest animal food production known. Join Dr. Daphne Munroe from the Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory who will focus on recent and ongoing research projects on the ecology of shellfish in New Jersey estuaries, back bays, and aquaculture farms.



Whither the Red Knot?

February 13th, 2020
6:30PM-7:30PM

Arctic nest shorebirds are in decline across the globe, especially threatened is the red knot. New Jersey has a special role in helping to recover the population of the red knot, as Delaware Bay is a key migratory stopover for these shorebirds on the way to their Arctic nesting grounds. Join Dr. Rick Lathrop from Rutgers University, about the efforts of an international team of shorebird biologists and conservation ecologists to assess and mitigate conservation threats along the Western Atlantic birds' flyway from Tierra del Fuego to the Canadian Arctic.



Family Fun

Programs designed for all ages to enjoy the wonders of the natural world.

Penguin Pointers

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020
10:00am-11:00am

Join the education team from Jenkinson's Aquarium for a presentation all about penguins! We will waddle into the world of penguin biology, geography, care, feeding, and conservation. And yes, this presentation includes live penguins!



Scavenger Hunt at Life on the Edge!

Saturday, January 11th, 2020
10:00am-11:30am

Looking to explore the estuary while staying warm? This fun indoor scavenger hunt is the perfect winter activity for young scientists and families! Participants will receive clues that will take them on a scavenger hunt through-out our interactive exhibit. Everyone will receive a prizes for their efforts! **This program will take place at the Tuckerton Seaport Museum. 120 W Main St, Tuckerton.**



New Program Series!

Build a Better Backyard, 8 Steps to a Jersey-Friendly Yard!

Don't miss out on this series of programs about how to create a watershed-friendly yard! Residents will gain knowledge about native gardening, water conservation, and other sustainable gardening practices. Attendees are encouraged to attend all 4 weeks. Plus a spring follow up and native plant sale!



February 3rd, 2020. 6:00pm-7:30pm

"The Importance of a Healthy Watershed". An introduction on watersheds as well as green infrastructure, pollution reduction, and bay water quality monitoring.

February 10th, 2020. 6:00pm-7:00pm

"Jersey Friendly Yards". How to choosing the right native plants using the Jersey Friendly Yards website.

February 17th, 2020. 6:00pm-7:00pm

"Start with Healthy Soil". Learn about the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of soil, soil testing plus the fundamentals of composting.

February 17th, 2020. 6:00pm-7:00pm

"Water Wisely". Water conservation techniques as well as storm water management, rain barrels, rain gardens and more!



Thanks to the Barnegat Bay Partnership, Ocean County Soil Conservation District, the Brick Township MUA, and Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management for making this series possible!

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact Kaitlin Gannon 609-812-0649 x 206 or ganon@marine.rutgers.edu

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2019– 2020 Public Programs

2019-2020 Lunch n' Learn Series



Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from now until May 2020 at 9:30 and 12:30 at the Tuckerton Seaport. Call 609-296-8868 for more information and to register. Cost is \$2.00 per person (payable at the door).



For the 12:30 program, participants have the option of ordering lunch next door at the Union Market. Please call ahead of time at (609) 879-5799 and pick up your order before the presentation.

October 9, 2019

“Famous First of the Navesink Twin Lights” by Nicholas Wood

Did you know the Navesink Twin Lights are not actually “twins”? Join Historian Nicholas Wood for a discussion on the ‘Famous Firsts’ of the Navesink beacon in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Lighthouse Challenge (held just one week later, October 19th & 20th).

November 13, 2019

“Oyster Farming” by Bridgitte Bliss & Gretchen Maxwell

Gretchen & Bridgitte Maxwell of Maxwell Shellfish, are sixth generation Oyster farmers of the Great Bay. The Maxwells and their ancestors have been coastal traders, baymen, fishermen, and boat builders in South Jersey for over 150 years. Maxwell Shellfish is focused on growing their business in an environmentally sound way in harmony with nature to preserve the culture and heritage of the bay.

December 11, 2019

“History That’s Myth - History in the Making - And Ice Cream” by Paul Hart

End 2019 by reviewing some misinformation of New Jersey’s past. Investigate what 2020 brings for the 20th anniversary of the Tuckerton Seaport. Consume some sweet New Jersey history as we end.

January 8, 2020

“Research Efforts on the American Eel in the Great Bay Mullica River Estuary” by Dr. Mark Sullivan

The American eel can be commonly found throughout the Mullica River-Great Bay Estuary (NJ). Join Dr. Sullivan from Stockton University on how a decade of research on the species has shown the importance of long term data, innovative collection techniques, as well as formulating new research questions.

February 12, 2020

“The Coastal Resilience Puzzle” by Lisa Auermuller

What does it mean to be “resilient”? Since 2013, the JC NERR has assisted almost 60 New Jersey communities in implementing resilience planning, reduce vulnerability and increasing preparedness. Join Assistant Manager of the JC NERR, Lisa Auermuller, to hear more about what the reserve is doing to help the state and local communities be more resilient.

March 11, 2020

“Largest Musical Instrument in New Jersey (Largest Organ in the World)” by Scott Banks

The Midmer-Losh is the World’s Largest Pipe Organ, housed in Atlantic City’s boardwalk hall. Hidden behind the walls of this historic structure are 33,112 pipes and over 150 tons of sound producing equipment. Join Scott for a discussion on this 4-time Guinness book record holder!

April 8, 2020

“Returning the Favor, Citizens Helping Horseshoe Crabs” by Wetlands Institute Staff

The reTURN the Favor program was initiated in 2013 to rescue horseshoe crabs stranded on beaches along the Delaware Bay in New Jersey, where large concentrations of crabs spawn every spring. With crabs at risk to dying from exposure and predation, several New Jersey-based groups formed a partnership to recruit, train, and organize volunteers to rescue crabs stranded during spawning. Hear more about this important partnership from staff at the Wetlands Institute.

May 13, 2020

“Examining the ecological response of Barnegat Bay fishes to the closing of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Generating Station” by Dr. Thomas Grothues

In September 2018, The oldest operating nuclear power plant in the US, in Lacey Township, NJ, became the first to shut down for decommissioning. Dr. Tom Grothues from Rutgers University, will explore the ongoing efforts and preliminary results of a study on the response of larval, juvenile, and adult fish in the Barnegat Bay before and after the plant’s shut down.