

Keansburg a "Natural" for Novel Education Program

The NJMSC Education Department has been working throughout the school year with the Port Monmouth Road School in Keansburg in Monmouth County to develop and present a comprehensive series of professional development experiences, including in-school support and field trips to help teachers capture and use their students' natural curiosity about water and the sea to enrich and extend their science learning experiences. The project received grant support through the Bristol-Myers Squibb and Rider University Grant Program for Enhancement of Science Teaching.



Included are a series of two day-long workshops on using various field-tested, inquiry and standards-based, hands-on materials and lessons for teaching about water and ocean sciences. These sessions were presented in the beginning of the school year (Oct. 17 and Dec. 12). As the teachers implement the new

lessons and activities with their students, in-class support by NJMSC staff will be available given the proximity of NJMSC's Sandy Hook facility to the Port Monmouth Road School.

The project will culminate in outdoor demonstration sessions at Keansburg's bayfront co-taught by NJMSC staff and the participating Port Monmouth Road School educators.

The project helped the Port Monmouth Road School teacher team to realize their long-time goal to better use the "living laboratory" located right in their school's backyard — Keansburg's own bayfront environment.



Bob Abel-Champion of New Jersey's Coastal Resources

This issue of the COASTodian is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert B. Abel who passed away on October 10th, 2007 at the age of 81. His work significantly contributed to the development of cost-effective, environmentally sound solutions to ocean and



Pictured left to right: Senator Frank Lautenberg, NJ Sea Grant Director Bill Gordon, NJMSC President and CEO Dr. Bob Abel and Governor Thomas Kean, at the 1989 New Jersey Sea Grant College Program designation ceremony.

coastal problems in New Jersey and he was recognized and respected statewide, nationally and even internationally as a leading authority on marine affairs.

Bob Abel's distinguished career in government service included working as a chemical oceanographer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Staff Oceanographer to the Vice President and being appointed as the founding Director of the National Sea Grant College Program in 1967.

Following Dr. Abel's retirement from government service, it was New Jersey's good fortune he took the helm as Director of the New Jersey Sea Grant Program in 1979. For nearly 15 years he steered the program on a course of steady growth, championing cutting-edge research and education-based projects in fisheries, aquaculture, shore protection, environmental protection and other areas that would eventually prove to be critical to New Jersey's coastal economy.



DR. BOB ABEL

He was also responsible for securing permanent state support for New Jersey Sea Grant when Governor Kean pledged state money to match the federal Sea Grant dollars. He was subsequently appointed President of the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium an alliance of colleges and universities which serves as the managing agent for the New Jersey Sea Grant Program. As President, Bob Abel commandeered projects that drew on the resources of the organization's members and developed dozens of partnerships with the private sector, state and federal agencies. These efforts benefited New Jersey and the region through innovative research, by promoting science-based management policy and improving science literacy and informed decision making among its citizens.

There is no doubt that New Jersey's emergence during the past several decades as a leader in sustainable ocean and coastal research, policy planning and marine science education was due to a great degree to the guidance, vision and dedication of Dr. Robert Abel. His presence in the state's scientific, academic and political arenas will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.




**NEW JERSEY
MARINE SCIENCES
CONSORTIUM**

**Building #22
Fort Hancock
NJ 07732**

**Tel. 732-872-1300
Fax 732-291-4483**

**or visit
www.njmssc.org**



NJ Sea Grant Gears Up for New Program Cycle

NJMSC's New Jersey Sea Grant College Program recently submitted its omnibus proposal funding package to the National Sea Grant Office for program year 2008-2010. In addition to management, education, communications and extension components, the proposal includes funding requests for six major research projects which were narrowed down from an original field of nearly two-dozen pre-proposals and selected on a competitive basis. The projects will focus on marine biotechnology, coastal zone management and coastal processes, and fisheries and aquaculture.

Each program component including research, underwent rigorous peer review before being sent to Washington. This year the New Jersey Sea Grant Advisory Council (SGAC) recommended fewer, but larger multi-investigator, multi-

institution, transdisciplinary awards that focused on critical regional research needs. Because New Jersey Sea Grant supports scientific excellence integrated into coastal issue relevancy, sociological and economic impacts and application of research results were important considerations in funding decision-making. Collaboration with industry, state and regional agencies and the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program was also strongly encouraged.

The omnibus proposal is now being evaluated by National Sea Grant staff and will be returned with comments and recommended modifications in early 2008. New Jersey Sea Grant will then make any necessary changes and submit the package once again for final approval. The new program year will officially begin March 1, 2008.

Sea Grant Extension

New Signs Point to Belmar's Natural Treasures



Belmar Mayor Kenneth Pringle and NJSJGEP Coastal Communities Agent Jenny Laiso cut the ribbon on the "History of Silver Lake" sign.

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC), the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program (NJSJGEP) and the Belmar Environmental Commission (BEC) unveiled the second wave of signs in the *Treasure Trail* series during a special ceremony on Sunday, November 4th. The six new coastal education interpretive signs were developed as a continuation of the *Treasure Trail* signs first created by NJMSC for Belmar in 2005. The project is part of a partnership public education program to teach

beachgoers and visitors about the historic and natural treasures of the Jersey Shore.

The new signs highlight several of Belmar's coastal points of interest and maritime history including Shark River, Silver Lake and the wreckage of the U.S.S. *Malta*. "Partnering with the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium on these signs has been such a positive experience for us. The community of Belmar and its visitors have all benefited tremendously," noted Carol Davies, BEC Chair. "The signs are both informative and eye-catching and will help educate the public on the importance of Belmar's 'Natural Treasures'."

The Consortium and NJSJGEP have been approached by several other coastal communities in Monmouth and Ocean counties to develop similar interpretive signs.



Several of the signs provide information on marine and bird life.

Current Events

Marine Agent Memorialized at Coast Day NJ

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus paid special tribute to Stew Tweed, a long-time Marine Extension Agent for New Jersey Sea Grant, as part of a memorial ceremony at *Coast Day NJ* on October 14th in Cape May New Jersey. Secretary Kuperus presented Stew's family with an official proclamation from Governor Corzine, declaring October 14th, 2007 Stew Tweed Coast Day and a plaque from the Department of Agriculture honoring and commemorating Stew's contribution to the state's shellfish industry and commercial fishing. Assemblyman Jeff Van



Secretary Kuperus presented Stew's family with a plaque commemorating Stew's contribution to the state's shellfish industry.

Drew (District 1) introduced a resolution recognizing the establishment of the Stewart Tweed Memorial Scholarship Fund, recently announced by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium and its New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program. Beginning in 2008, scholarships will be awarded to a graduating high-school or



Daniel Cohen presented a check for the scholarship fund to Gail Tweed. Patty Tweed, James Tweed, Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew, NJMSC President and CEO Michael P. Weinstein, and NJ Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus looked on.

vocational school senior and an undergraduate or graduate student pursuing studies, careers or research focused on aquaculture and fisheries.

The scholarship fund received a significant boost on its first official day, when Daniel Cohen, President of Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc. of Cape May, donated \$5,000 to the fund which matched the start-up seed money provided by the scholarship fund organizers.

The well-deserved state and legislative recognition of Stew and his accomplishments is expected to continue into 2008 with discussions now underway to name a wing after him in the Agriculture School at Rutgers, the State University. For more information about Stew Tweed and the scholarship project visit the News and Events page at njmsc.org

Pumpout Program Pays Off

Efforts to encourage boaters to help keep New Jersey waters clean haven't gone to waste according to the latest figures compiled by the state's Clean Vessel Act Program (CVA). One of the CVA's first efforts in 1998 was to provide funding to help construct and provide land and mobile pumpout stations along the coast to prevent hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage generated by recreational boaters from winding up in our coastal waters.

Currently there are four operational pumpout boats that will go



Tuckerton's Waste Watcher pumpout boat.

to any boat, docked or moored, needing to be pumped out. Three are located in Ocean County, serving the entire Barnegat Bay/Little Egg Harbor Estuary and one pumpout boat serves the Shrewsbury River, Navesink River and Sandy Hook Bay in Monmouth County.

In 2007 alone, a total of 136,565 gallons of sewage was disposed of by these boats.

That brings the total of all sewage pumped out since the program began to 422,497 gallons. Discussions are currently underway to explore the possibility of constructing and providing additional vessels to service other coastal water areas around the state.

For more information about the Clean Vessel Act Program visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/cvhome.htm>

To view the an interactive mapping version of the Official NJ CVA Pumpout Guide go to <http://ims.rutgers.edu/pumpout>

