

Errata to Environmental Education in the Schools (NBJ Fall Issue, #20)

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It was brought to our attention that the Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve was not included as a partner in the list of partners in the Rhode Island Environmental Education Alliance. We apologize for any confusion this omission may have caused. The NBNERR program has many great opportunities for both students and educators.

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR):

(Maureen Dewire, Education Coordinator, maureen@nbnerr.org). For the third consecutive year, NBNERR has been one of three National Estuarine Research Reserves in New England that offers Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) professional development workshops. These workshops are the result of a nation-wide effort among the entire National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). Each workshop is a research and field-based professional development opportunity designed to improve teachers' and students' understanding of estuaries using local research examples with an emphasis on climate change impacts to these systems. The workshops provide resources and hands-on experiences to support the incorporation of estuary and watershed topics into classroom teaching. Designed for middle and high school teachers, participants work with local scientists and coastal educators to explore estuary habitats and practice field and classroom-based studies and activities. Participants learn how NERRS scientists are studying climate change impacts such as rising sea levels and warming water temperatures, and how these factors are disrupting estuary habitats and upsetting the balance of local species along our coasts. Educators also discover innovative web-based data visualization tools and climate change education resources from NOAA and the NERRS. These products facilitate the introduction of coastal climate change topics with students, and will make possible the use of near real-time data in the classroom. As part of the requirement for participating in this workshop, teachers are asked to develop a stewardship project with their students, allowing them the chance to take ownership of and become fully engaged with an environmental issue of their choosing. Projects have ranged from school recycling programs, native species planting on school grounds, invasive species monitoring and implementation of monofilament recycling stations. The combination of hands-on experience, interaction with scientists, access to a wealth of online resources and guidance from environmental educators have

made these workshops highly desirable for teachers from across New England and beyond. We are dedicated to providing teachers with the tools they need to integrate current environmental issues into the classroom, creating a stronger science foundation for our youth.

~ Maureen Dewire is the education coordinator for NBNERR.



Teachers learn how to use a specrometer to measure salinity. Photo: Maureen Dewire, NBNERR.



Teachers visit a local salt marsh to learn about hands-on field research activities. Photo: Maureen Dewire, NBNERR.