



The Strandline

New York State Marine Education Association
Newsletter

July 2010

Dear friends of NYSMEA,

While it is hot as can be this week, summer in New York affords us so many opportunities to explore our world of water, both fresh and salt. We can enjoy our local beaches; go boating and fishing; visit our science and cultural institutions, and much more.



Summer is also a great time for professional development, whether it be [volunteer/citizen science](#) work or [traditional meetings and workshops](#). Have you checked out NYSMEA's website for such opportunities? Learn how to participate in water quality monitoring, shellfish restoration, stranding networks, and more!

In addition, the [National Marine Educators Association](#) (NMEA) 2010 conference in Gatlinburg, TN, is just a few weeks away, but it is not too late to register! A group of NYSMEA members will be there-- we hope you'll join us!

Stay cool and I hope you are enjoying your summer!

Sincerely,
Meg

Meghan Marrero, Ed.D.
President
New York State Marine Education Association
president@nysmea.org

The Creature Corner: Piping Plovers

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) arrives on the shores of New York in mid-March to breed. During May and June, females lay three to four eggs above the high-tide line. The young leave the nest shortly after hatching and, by early September, all but a few stragglers have departed for their wintering areas (from Texas to North Carolina).

At the turn of the century, piping plover populations declined due to extensive hunting for meat and sport. In 1986, this species was listed as endangered by the state of New York. Today, coastal development, recreational activities, and disturbance by off-road vehicles continue to impact this species by reducing suitable breeding habitat.

Recent surveys have estimated that there are about 400 breeding pairs on Long Island, which is an increase from the 100 pairs that were estimated to be nesting when this species was listed on the endangered species list.

You can help piping plover populations by:

- respecting fenced off nesting areas on beaches
- keeping dogs on leashes and cats indoors
- observing birds from a distance so not to stress them
- taking all trash with you when you leave the beach; garbage will attract predators that feed on the birds and eggs

Strandline (n): the high water mark; the area at the top of a beach where debris is deposited.

Other Upcoming Events

NMEA Annual Conference
July 18-24
Gatlinburg, TN

Free Family Nights
Thursdays, Aug 5-26, 6-8 pm
Sag Harbor
Whaling Museum

Turtle Hatch Day
August 21, 2 pm
Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery &
Aquarium

[Visit our Calendar](#)
for more information on
these and other events!

**Missed the
conference?
Be sure to renew your
membership today!**

For just \$20.00 a year,
you can become a member
of the New York State
Marine Education Association (also
known as NYSMEA).

[Click here to join!](#)

NYSMEA holds an annual conference, periodic meetings, lectures, workshops, field trips (such as exploring the geology of Central Park in NYC, shown below), and boat trips.

For more information, please visit the [NYSDEC's Web site](#).



Our Web site includes lesson plans, job postings, research opportunities, field trip destinations, and marine-related links.

New Updates on the NYSMEA Web site:

[New job postings](#)

Naturalist/Educator, Seatuck Environmental Association
(Islip, NY): work on expanding organization's educational programming.

Operations Director, Seatuck Environmental Association
(Islip, NY): work with the Executive Director in managing the organization and its new nature center.

Outreach Associate, Columbia Land Conservancy
(Chatham, NY): assist with marketing and public outreach for our conservation and education programs.

Stewardship Assistant, Scenic Hudson
(Poughkeepsie, NY): assist with the management of Scenic Hudson's conservation easements, and also will have parks management duties as part of the Parks Team.

Gardener, City of New York/Parks & Recreation
(Staten Island, NY): inventory, assess, and supervise various projects for a six month period on Prall's Island.

Life Science and Biology Teacher, Stony Brook School
(Stony Brook, NY): teach 7th grade Life Science and 9th grade Biology, who can also coach sailing and a Scallop Bowl team.

For direct links to these postings and more, visit our ["Jobs" Web page](#).

[Upcoming professional development opportunities](#)

Teacher training for Brookhaven National Laboratory's Open Space Stewardship Program (July 12-15, from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Brookhaven National Laboratory)

Marinating Science (July 9 - Aug 1, 2010 [5 Fridays] at Dowling College)

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELFF) Summer Institute for Sustainability Education (July 12 -16 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY)

National Marine Educators Conference "From the Mountains to the Sea" (July 19-23 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee)

For more on these opportunities, visit our ["Professional Development" Web page](#).

[Deadlines for upcoming grants](#)

Classroom Earth Professional Development Grants: Deadline July 9, 2010

Change for the Children Grants: Deadline July 15, 2010

Still not convinced? Read our [TOP FIVE REASONS TO JOIN!](#)

Looking for periodic updates?
Join our online
social networks:

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[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Disney Friends for Change Grants: Deadline July 15, 2010

Global Youth Service Day Lead Agency Grants: Deadline July 15, 2010

STEMester of Service Grants: Deadline July 15, 2010

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education: Deadline July 29, 2010

Green Across America Grant: Deadline July 30, 2010

Great American Teachers Awards: Deadline Sept 1, 2010

Trash to Treasure Competition: Deadline Sept 5, 2010

MATE International ROV Competition

For direct links to these grants and more, visit our "[Scholarships and Grants](#)" Web page.

**Only
\$20!**

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Be a part of NYSMEA: [CLICK HERE](#) and join today!

The New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that exists to promote marine awareness and encourage the growth and exchange of instructional resources.

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