



Letter from the President

Dear SENEME Members,

As I write this (munching on my kids’ Halloween candy... shhh, don’t tell!) I am thinking back to my very first meeting with SENEME. A little-known fact about me is that I’m an introvert at heart, so this first meeting was terrifying for me. I had met most of the Board before, but it was a brief introduction. Was I intruding? Would I have anything of value to offer? Fast forward to now and I wonder why I ever had those thoughts. If SENEME members can boast about anything, it’s about being welcoming and accepting!

This was most evident in the revival of the Long Island Sound Educators Conference that happened on October 13th. In partnership with the New York State Marine Education Association and The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, SENEME hosted a fall conference that featured field trips, workshops, and a fantastic keynote speaker. This event was fun and engaging and was a wonderful time to connect with our sister organization. These connections between organizations and members are so important to the future of SENEME.

SENEME Board Meetings are open to all SENEME members (or those interested in membership). The meeting dates are posted in this newsletter as well as on our new website: www.seneme.org.

Please don’t ever feel like you’re intruding on Board meetings! We need many individuals to inspire and create great things! What great ideas could you bring?

Best wishes,

Megan Strand
SENEME President

In this Edition:	
Nauplius Notations...	2
SENEME Announcements	3
LISEC pictures.....	4-5
Copps Island Oysters	6-7
Sound Notes from the Water Column..	8
General Announcements	9-11
Organizational Members	12

SENEME Board of Directors & Committee Members 2018-2019

President

Megan Strand, New England Science & Sailing

Vice President

Donna Dione, Children's Museum of SECT

Chapter Representative

Valerie Cournoyer, Amity High School

Treasurer

Julie Ainsworth, Bauer Park

Membership Secretary

Donna Dione, Children's Museum of SECT

Recording Secretary

Amy Gollenberg, Mystic Aquarium

Members-At-Large

Katrina Barrett, Mystic Aquarium
 Amy Ferland, Marine Science Magnet High School
 Andrea Gingras, URI Inner Space Center
 Amy O'Neal, JASON Learning
 Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant
 Nina Quaratella, NAMEPA
 Nicki Rosenfeld, The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
 Maryann Scholl, URI Office of Marine Programs

Webmasters

Donna Dione
 Megan Strand

Newsletter Editor

Donna Dione

Editorial Assistants

Julie Ainsworth
 Katrina Barrett

Development Committee

Andrea Gingras, Chair
 Maryann Scholl

Membership & Public Relations Committee

Maryann Scholl, Chair
 Julie Ainsworth
 Donna Dione

Nominating Committee

Andrea Gingras, Chair
 Katrina Barrett

Scholarships & Awards Committee

Amy Ferland, Chair

SENEME LIFE MEMBERS

2003 Mickey Weiss
 2004 Thaxter Tewksbury
 2005 Ralph Yulo
 2006 Elizabeth Gibbs
 2010 Katrina Barrett

MARINE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

2005 Lance Arnold
 2006 Matt Schardt
 2010 Vicky Sawyer
 2011 Joseph Hage
 2012 MaryEllen Mateleska
 2012 David Bednarz
 2014 Michael O'Connor

Nauplius Notations

By Donna Dione, Editor

Last year, I wrote about my questionable sanity at applying for and then actually receiving and having to institute a major coastal grant program for all 3rd graders in New London and Norwich. This, with limited staff, most not having a clue about the coast. Somehow, we pulled it off and are doing it again this year, although I got smart and recruited help from my friends at Mystic Aquarium. For one part of the programming, we travel to all the classrooms with coastal plants and animals, which entailed us setting up a salt water aquarium in our back kitchen. Again, probably not the sanest idea I've had, but since I don't want to go out collecting animals every time there's a school visit (already must make numerous trips for seaweed), it was a necessity (and another thanks to friends at Project O for keeping us well supplied with "megafauna"). Barring incidents of the spider crabs preferring to eat all the hermits instead of their own food, the tank has surprisingly fared well. That made me excited to attend a session by Anthony Wasley at the LIS Educators Conference on coral tanks in his classroom. Not that I have a chance of pulling off that coup in our back room, but it's always exciting to see what our members are doing to teach their students about the marine world. I hope to see you all at future SENEME events, where we can share more!

SENEME Auction Donors

The Long Island Sound Educators Conference Committee and SENEME Auction Chair, Donna Dione, would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their generous donations to this year's Silent Auction: Cross Sound Ferry Services, Mystic Aquarium, New England Science & Sailing, The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Julie Ainsworth, Valerie Cournoyer, Kristen Dahms, Dakota Dione, Katherine Nuzzo, Lovelle Ruggiero, Sally Wellinger and Kimberly Williams.

The money raised goes into SENEME's Scholarship and Awards Fund. With these funds, we are able to offer scholarships for local educators to attend regional and national conferences as well as finance mini-grants for teachers and SENEME awards at the Connecticut and Rhode Island State Science Fairs.



The SENEME Board would like to give special thanks to The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk for their generous sponsorship donation towards the Long Island Sound Educators Conference!



SENEME Election Results

Congratulations to the following re-elected Board Officers: Megan Strand, President, Donna Dione, Vice President, Julie Ainsworth, Treasurer (all two-year positions) and Amy Gollenberg, Recording Secretary (one-year position).



SENEME Board Meeting Schedule

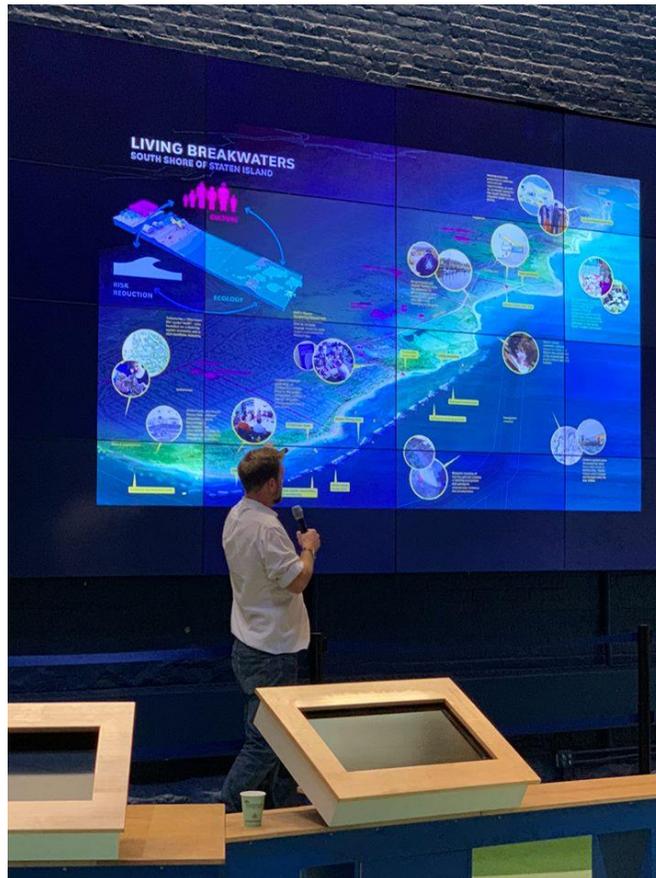
January 7, 2019, Monday - Children's Museum of SECT, Niantic, CT
February 6, 2019, Wednesday - Conference Call
March 2019, Date TBD - URI Narragansett Bay Campus

Please contact SENEME President, Megan Strand, at mstrand@nessf.org or Vice President, Donna Dione, at donnadione@comcast.net to confirm finalized meeting times (typically 4:00-5:30 pm) and locations or to obtain the phone number for conference calls.

Long Island Sound Educators Conference Returns!



A great day of learning and comradery started with the Keynote Address by Peter Malinowski from the Billion Oyster Project.





SENEME and NYSMEA reunite! (Photos courtesy of Megan Strand)



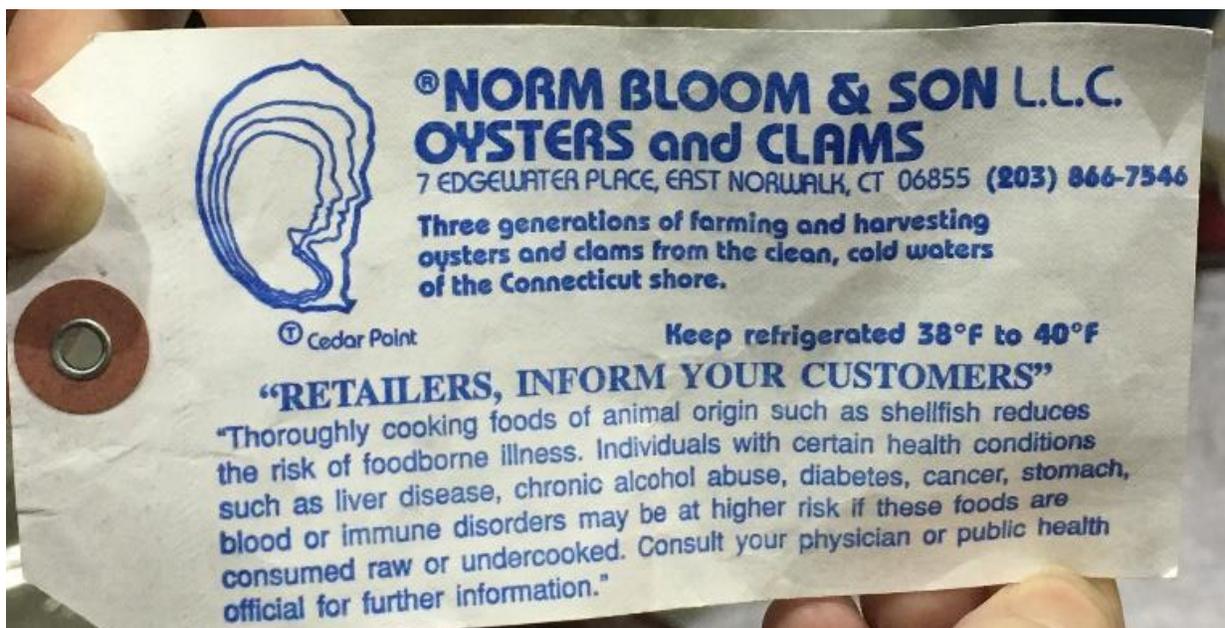
Connecticut and New York Teachers Brave New England Weather to Learn about Oyster Farming

By Valerie Cournoyer, Amity High School

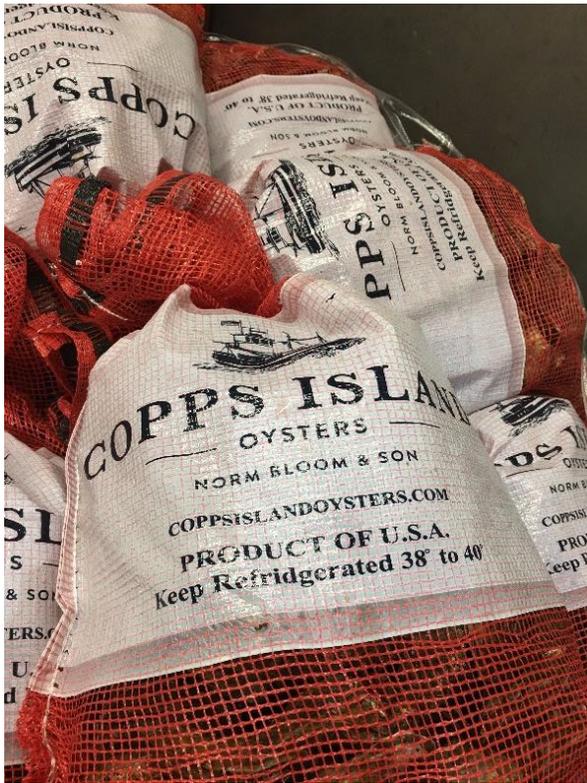
A light, cold, misty rain fell on teachers and oyster farmers alike, during a field trip to Copps Island Oysters, owned and operated by Norm Bloom and son in Norwalk, as a part of the Long Island Sound Educators Conference on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The highlight of the tour happened when an oyster vessel arrived and unloaded crate after crate of prized CT oysters. A full crew was on hand to unload, sort, size and package oysters for shipment all over the world in colorful red mesh bags with the prominent Copps Island Oysters logo.

According to the Copps Island Website, <http://www.coppsislandoysters.com/>, their oysters are world renowned due to a sweet briny flavor and plump meat made possible by the conditions in the shallow waters and swift currents of the oyster beds in the Norwalk/Westport Island Chain. The recent farm-to-table movement has allowed the company to expand its distribution capabilities to sell directly to local restaurants. The CT Department of Agriculture reports that Connecticut Shellfishing generates \$30 Million plus in farm-gate sales annually. The Connecticut shellfishing industry provides over 300 jobs statewide.

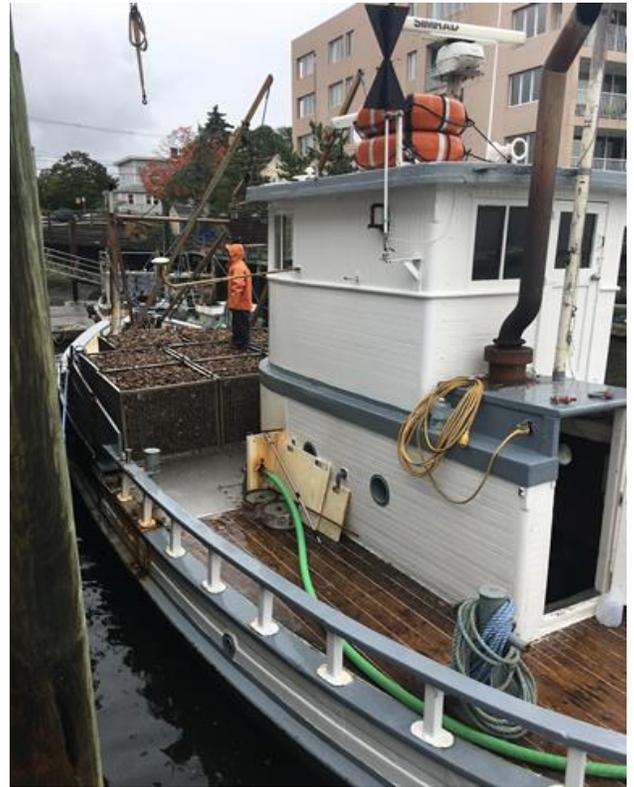
A new endeavor for the company is an on-site, whimsical oystering museum with historic equipment, marketing posters and an impressive and diverse collection of cans from hundreds of oyster brands. One prized item is the “Elvis/Fonzie” can which is extremely rare and a favorite of visitors. Teachers can contact Copps Island to arrange a visit.



Bloom Brothers oyster verification tag



Premiere shellfish CT grown in Norwalk



Oyster farming vessel unloads catch



Collectable "Elvis" oyster can is a prized artifact of the Oystering Museum at Copps Island Oyster Co.



Donna Dione communing with a Bloom Brothers oyster

SOUND NOTES FROM THE WATER COLUMN

By Joseph Hage, Bacon Academy

Ocean Beach, New London, was where we learned to swim and has always retained an allure for the entire family. However, New England water temperature did not. We would collectively stand at the waves' leading edge, each of our toes curled into the beach, holding fast to the shifting sand as the watery foam receded. All six of us, arms held half extended chest high, fingers spread with a grimace contorting on our faces. "The Hages were going for their swim." I can only imagine the sight of six browned bodies standing on the edge of the surf of Ocean Beach like a bunch of cormorants drying our wings...A weekly ritual, and every time our gaze would reach across to the horizon, off in the distance Long Island would meet the Sound.

I tried to advance into the gentle surf slowly, half hoping that the water would somehow become warmer. Stop again, and pause to look at Ledge Light, Fishers Island, and Race Rock light. Again, we would stiffly march down the sloping, shifting sand, straight-legged until the edge of the submerged berm, and then, that last step off into the seeming abyss always came as a surprise. The drop was to the thighs or deeper, and yet we continued the slow stilted advance...still no warmer. Shivering, we would stare out from the sandy edge of beach, delaying the inevitable. Across the sound, we pictured white-sailed whaling vessels, and later steamships belching black smoke and always a confusion of small boats sailing and rowing about. I imagined an earlier time when whales cruised the sound and fish were bursting up through waves frantically attempting to escape the gaping maws of the baleen filled mouths of humpbacks.

Imagine. A Sound so rich with life, whales could find enough to sustain themselves, even for a short while - in my backyard.

Inevitably, an errant wave usually forced the anticipated plunge, the pain was over, and we fell into place beginning our mile family swim across the length of the Waterford and Ocean beaches.

Recently, I captained our weekly fishing excursion. Every Tuesday, for almost 35 years, Seth Yarish and I worked together first at Project Oceanology and then on my boat. Shortly thereafter, we coerced Dave Bednarz, Jeff Withey and sometimes even Mike O'Connor to join us in our weekly excursions across eastern Long Island Sound. We have been able to experience almost everything the Sound has to offer: seals, dolphins, sea turtles, semi-tropical fish, and even *Mola mola*. Always in the back of my mind, I had wished to see whales.

On a late September Tuesday, we were heading out to the Race to assess the fishing options. As we neared Race Rock, two boats were hovering in an unusual spot just south of the light...not a typical location for fish. I was curious to see what captivated their attention, and as I approached, a whale breached out of the slick surface of the breathless evening water. I was shocked, Jeff and I screamed like schoolgirls "HOLY S@#T!" I powered up and motored to a safe distance to try to glimpse a closer look. The two whales were very focused on their task at hand, feeding on the bait fish that seemed to cover acres of water. Pods of rippling water belied the bunker schooling below. A gentle, mid-outgoing tide concentrated the bait balls, as they grazed through the Sound's water, just south of the lighthouse. I threw my phone to Seth so that he could try to capture some footage, Dave scrambled to film from the gunnel, and Jeff joined Seth. I jumped on the radio to notify the Coast Guard for the purpose of informing ships to hopefully avoid potential collisions. The whales were romping in and out of the Race passage, and there were several "heavies" cruising through. I called Mystic Aquarium's hotline, and someone returned my call. All the while, Jeff, Dave, and Seth were trying to capture the dance that was unfolding off the bow of the boat. The whales frolicked and worked for at least 45 minutes, seemingly drifting with the outgoing tide and bait. We were numb. Dave began working his contacts in the media, we compared and edited video on our phones, and I began looking for top water feeding bluefish and stripers. The two boats with whom we began this journey, drifted off and motored away.

I began scanning the horizon for action, and again I saw the humpbacks fully breaching out of the water once... twice... the third time. One of the whales, as if to taunt us, upended and hovered upside down with half of its body out of the water tail swinging about as if beckoning. We all looked at each other in disbelief. I blurted "we could fish or go watch whales"...Jeff summed the general consensus with " we @\$%& can fish any day... LET'S GO!"

Off we went. This time we had the entire sea to ourselves, us and the whales. Engines off, we drifted with the black and white behemoths. The documentation was done, notification of authorities was accomplished, my responsibilities as a captain were on hold for the moment. I clambered onto the bow unfettered by phones, radios or responsibilities. Standing on the bow of my boat, toes instinctively curled around the fiberglass lip of the gunnels, legs locked against the rail, and we watched. From where I stood, I observed the whales in the foreground and Race Rock was framed by the not too distant shores of Ocean Beach....

NMEA Annual Conference: July 22-25, 2019



NMEA 2019 - Turning the Tide

Learning from Yesterday, Adapting for Tomorrow

The NMEA 2019 conference committee is excited to host NMEA members at our annual conference at the University of New Hampshire next July. We have a fantastic venue to host the conference; UNH was just ranked the second coolest school in the country by the Sierra Club! This recognition celebrates UNH's national leadership in sustainability and its commitment to protecting the environment, addressing climate issues, and encouraging environmental responsibility.

As you've come to expect, this NMEA conference will offer a variety of opportunities. During the day, attend a full program highlighting the latest trends and research in marine education. Learn about how, over the course of a decade, the Gulf of Maine warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean, and how local researchers and policy makers are addressing this. Then, in the evening, explore both Portsmouth, NH (one of the nation's oldest cities, filled with vibrant restaurants and shops to explore) and Rye, NH (home to the [Seacoast Science Center](#), where we will be enjoying a full lobster

bake).

Complete your conference experience by exploring the beauty of New Hampshire and Maine on one of our field trips. Anticipated trips include visits to **Shoals Marine Laboratory**, kayaking in our Great Bay, a whale watch cruise, tours of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (established in 1800 and still operational today), and sampling cuisine from in the New England culinary scene.

Stay tuned to our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for updates, as we highlight some of the venues and trips that will be offered. Hope to see you next summer!



- Released our 2018 Accomplishments video to highlight our education and stewardship initiatives - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=354mQsRH58w>.
- Conducted our 11th Annual Conference and Awards Dinner in New York on October 25, 2018. NAMEPA's annual conference, "The New CSR: Ethical, Strategic, Sustainable," focused on sustainability in shipping and worked to connect marine industry professionals, conservationists, and students. Following the conference, was a brief NAMEPA Annual General Meeting before the NAMEPA Annual Awards Reception and Dinner, recognizing the achievements of individuals and corporations who "Save Our Seas" and honored the high school award winner of the Awards Competition for Marine Science Projects.
- Ran beach cleanup with the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club in Fairfield, CT to remove 51 pounds of debris from the shoreline. (Photo at right courtesy of Nina Quaratella)





Professional Development in *World of Waves and Living Well*

World of Waves - FREE 2-Part Workshops - Sign-up Soon - Space is Limited. Best for Grades 4, 6-8, 9-12
 These are being sponsored through the Office of Naval Research and the Savings Bank of Manchester. After attending, participants have an option to receive a BOSEBuild Speaker Cube Kit of their own to pilot selected activities to explore: how sound works; how speakers work; frequency and waveforms.
 REGISTER at: www.jason.org/ct

LEARN - Old Lyme, CT 8:30am-3:00pm
Part 1: Wednesday, November 28, 2018
Part 2: Friday, March 1, 2019

EASTCONN - Hampton, CT 9:00am - 3:30pm
Part 1: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 (snow date 1/23/2019)
Part 2: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Watch the World of Waves promo video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4uq8T7y5ls>.
 Build a deep, working understanding of the physics of waves and their importance in our world. Meet STEM role models ranging from Navy officers to robotics engineers & rock musicians that apply the physics of waves in their work.

New! Living Well - Biology Curriculum. Best for Grades 9-12 (with some content for 6-8)
Cost: \$40.00

One day workshop: Explore the wonders of human biology from the molecular building blocks of life, to cells, organs and organ systems, to the human body as an interconnected whole, and even the behavior of populations—through the prism of human health and disease.
 REGISTER at: www.jason.org/ct

LEARN - Old Lyme, CT 8:30am-3:00pm
April 5, 2019

RECYCLE TO REBUILD Contest!

Calling all artists, filmmakers, and recyclers in grades K-12! A national recycling awareness contest sponsored by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) and JASON Learning.

Learn more at: <https://www.jason.org/recycling-contest>

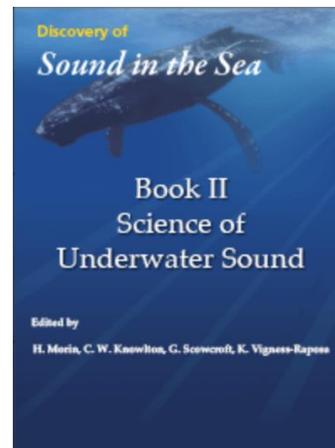
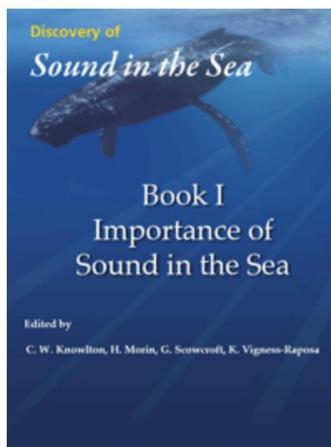
One of the most important human-made resources we have is our infrastructure: the roads and bridges we drive on, the airports, water ways and train lines we travel through, and the cellular towers, cables and fiber optic networks that connect us. Many important parts of our infrastructure are beginning to show signs of wear-and-tear. Join the challenge to imagine innovative ways to use RECYCLED materials to support the rebuilding of our infrastructure! Submission deadline **December 15, 2018**.

JASON Learning Resources - Free for all CT Public Schools - Supplement or Build Your NGSS Units!

If you haven't renewed/reactivated your account, you can simply login and you will be prompted to update your school information. If you have forgotten your login information - no problem - just go to the login page: <https://login.jason.org/gated/login> and use the "forgot username or password?" link.

JASON Learning is compliant with the Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-234aa through 10-234dd (the "Privacy Statutes") and has registered with the Connecticut Commission for Education Technology. We are listed as one of the companies that have taken the official "pledge" and have agreed to and adhere to the policies. In addition, we are also happy to provide a more formal letter. If, for some reason, you require anything further, we are happy to work with your IT team.

We also now offer single sign-on with Google! We have the ability to configure your district's login to use your Google IDs (if applicable and helpful). This allows you to assign anything from JASON into your Google Classroom if you are using that platform. We also have a single sign-in option with Microsoft office. Please contact ssmith@jason.org.



Due to an overwhelming response, the Discovery of Sound in the Sea (DOSITS) Project is pleased to announce that the DOSITS electronic books (eBooks) will continue to be available to download for FREE through the iTunes store (for macOS, iPad, and iPhone) from now through the foreseeable future. To view sample pages and access the books via an iTunes link, please visit the DOSITS website at www.dosits.org/book/.

Discovery of Sound in the Sea Book I: Importance of Sound in the Sea focuses on sound in the ocean, both natural and human produced, and contains DOSITS content on topics related to marine animal sound production and reception and use of sound, along with a chapter on the potential effects of human produced sounds on marine animals. *Discovery of Sound in the Sea Book II: Science of Underwater Sound* focuses on the fundamental science of underwater sound, sound movement, and sound measurement, as well as advanced scientific content.

Both interactive books contain high-resolution imagery, videos, and sound files. The content in these books is based on the DOSITS project, including its website (www.dosits.org). DOSITS content is based on well-understood scientific principles, peer-reviewed literature, and high-quality sources of scientific data.

Independent underwater acoustics experts have reviewed all of the books' content. Several topics in these books are areas of active scientific research; new information will be integrated into each eBook as peer-reviewed publications become available.

Questions? Please contact Holly Morin (holly_morin@uri.edu)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SENEME MEMBERSHIP!!

If you receive a letter this month that your SENEME membership will expire at the end of 2018, we hope you will consider renewing soon. Remember as a SENEME member you receive the following benefits:

- * Reduced SENEME conference and special event rates.
- * Reduced National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) membership rate, <http://www.marine-ed.org/>.
- * Scholarship opportunities to attend the NMEA conferences.
- * Opportunities to receive awards and mini grants.
- * Receive the online SENEME newsletter, which contains information on events, classroom ideas and articles on marine-related subjects.
- * Invitations to attend special events. Past events have included:
 - Lectures, book signings
 - Seal watch, horseshoe crab hunt, family beachcombing
 - Discounted entry at area attractions
 - Professional development opportunities

You can conveniently renew your membership on the SENEME website, <http://www.seneme.org/>. If you have a question about your membership status, please contact Membership Secretary Donna Dione at donnadione@comcast.net.

THANK YOU TO OUR SENEME ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!!



MYSTIC
AQUARIUM



The Maritime Aquarium
AT NORWALK



North American Marine Environment Protection Association

NAMEPA

2014 Lloyd's List Awards ENVIRONMENT AWARD WINNER

The Nauplius is the newsletter of the Southeastern New England Marine Educators Association Inc. (SENEME). Submissions including (but not limited to) articles, activities to share, student projects, pictures of SENEME members in action, recipes, and other organization's announcements are welcome for all issues. The opinions expressed by authors published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of SENEME and all its Board members. SENEME is not responsible for any typographical errors that may occur within this publication. Permission is granted by SENEME for readers to make copies of newsletter items for their own, non-commercial use.