



SUMMER 2018 EDITION

Another summer season is coming to a close at New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, but the memories will surely last a lifetime!

In this latest edition of the *COASTodian*:

- Find out which popular Jersey Shore destination was named NJSGC's "Favorite Beach" in 2018
- Learn about what it's like working as a field instructor with NJSGC's Scouts Program
- View NJSGC-inspired instructional videos made in collaboration with three former MAST students
- Get exciting updates on recent fellowships and research achievements.
- And much more!



We're always working hard to provide fresh and entertaining content on NJSGC's official [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) pages. Be sure to check out what's new and get involved by tagging us on social media! Please visit njseagrants.org for further information and updates.

Ocean City hosts New Jersey's "Favorite Beaches" Ceremony

With temperatures reaching over 90 degrees in the days surrounding the July Fourth holiday, thousands of beachgoers swarmed Ocean City for some breezy relief and sandy relaxation. Keeping with the "hot" summer vibes, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium hosted its annual "Favorite Beaches" ceremony on the Music Pier boardwalk on Friday, June 29th. Thousands of voters participated in this year's poll, with Ocean City once again claiming the top "overall" spot for several consecutive years in a row now.

Celebrating a decade of some friendly "Favorite Beach" competition, NJSGC continues to annually recognize several of the most popular Jersey Shore towns throughout the entire Garden State coastline. The official 2018 winners and runner-ups are as follows:

Atlantic County: Margate || Brigantine

Cape May County: Ocean City || Wildwood Crest

Monmouth County: Asbury Park || Sandy Hook – Gateway National Park

Ocean County: Seaside Heights || Beach Haven

For the full breakdown organized by county, please visit our [website](#).



NEW THIS YEAR

Representatives from Asbury Park, Sandy Hook, and Seaside Heights accepted their awards during a sneak peek ceremony with 94.3 "The Point" during NJSGC's live "Lou and Liz in the Morning" radio broadcast!



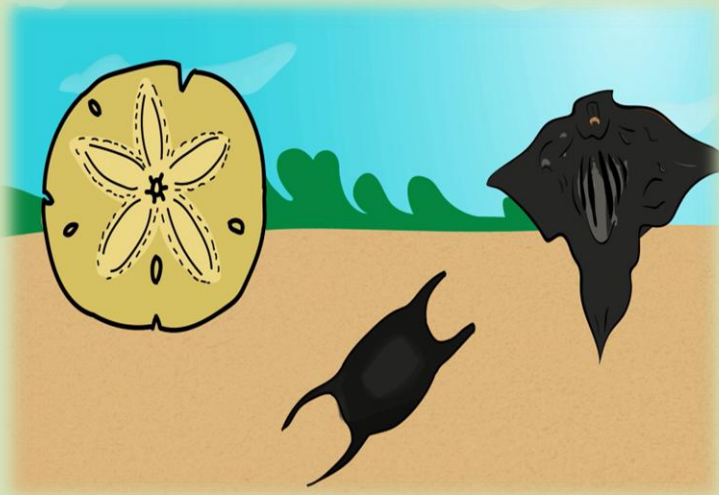
Photo: Amy Quinn (Facebook)

MAST Students Enhance NJSGC's Digital Experience

A group of students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) graduating class of 2018 focused their Senior Capstone Project on creating informational “how to” videos for New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. These short and easy-to-follow tutorials were specifically designed for NJSGC’s education program, but are an extremely useful tool for anyone interested in learning more about general marine science topics including beach dunes, seining, and common mollusks.



The three students – Joseph Chiusano, Griffin Davis, and Michael Dunn – were recognized during the MAST graduation ceremony in June and awarded for their work on this project. Given such success, NJSGC will continue mentoring MAST upperclassmen now interested in continuing this video project. The goal is to build a diverse collection of digital content specific to the Sea Grant brand, while fostering interest in further study of science and technology.



Mr. Chiusano created a video on [seining](#), and he will be studying Computer Information Systems at the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Davis created a video on [common mollusks](#), and he will be studying Electrical Engineering at Villanova University.

Mr. Dunn created a video on [beach dunes](#), and he will be studying Computer Science at Rutgers University.

The clips first debuted on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to extremely positive reviews and feedback. The videos are now available to watch on our [website](#).

NJSGC would like to collectively thank these students for their hard work and ongoing dedication to this project, and we wish them the best of luck in college and beyond!



Summer Sessions 101 – An Insider’s look

Throughout July and August, along with daily field trips and Scouts Programs, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium offered six different day camp sessions focused on diverse marine science-related topics and geared towards various age groups.

We’re currently working on an interactive photo collage to encompass the entire 2018 experience. Please send any NJSGC “summer vacation” photos you’d like included to our Communications Specialist [Danica Bellini](#).

Here, one of our Field Instructors associated with the Scouts Program since 2015 talks about yet another amazing summer spent with NJSGC.

Christine Leary

Seton Hall University 2020, Diplomacy & International Relations
Research Internships in Ocean Sciences (RIOS) Fellow, Rutgers University 2018

Favorite memory... “My best field trip had to be the first! I was so excited and so happy to be part of a team with like-minded people who really do care about marine science education for future generations.”

Post-season plans... “Study, study, study! Apply for another fellowship, and just be happy!”



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“I learned of NJSGC at Brookdale Community College in the Career Services Department. When I saw the flyer with ‘Job – Marine Science’ in bolded letters, in that moment my heart leapt for joy and I immediately applied!”
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Overall experience... “Sea Grant has helped me grow as a person in many ways, actually. For example, I am a better leader in all situations, and I understand what it takes to communicate science. I now have better time management, people skills, and most of all I make a difference in the lives of others (as well as my own) through the pursuit in an area of science that I am so very interested in.”



SUMMER SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES

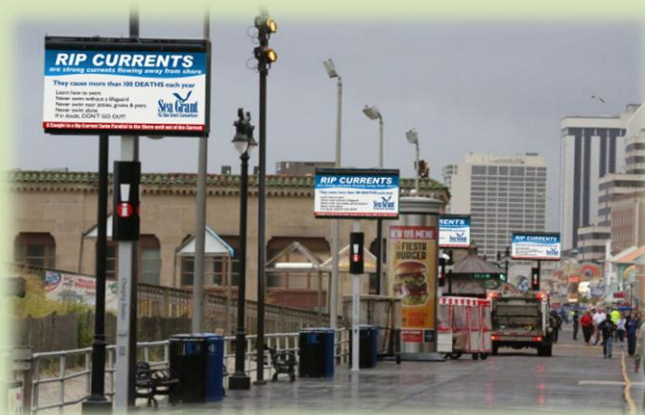


Omanjana Goswami, a PhD student and Graduate Teaching Assistant from Rutgers University-Newark, will be representing NJSGC and the entire State of New Jersey as part of the 2019 [John A. Knauss Fellowship Program](#). As a member of the 40th class (which includes 66 finalists throughout 30 of the 33 Sea Grant programs), she will be assigned a one-year fellowship later this fall working in a federal government office in Washington, D.C. Specifically, she will join a legislative cohort.

Ms. Goswami's fields of specialization include Environmental Geochemistry and Earth/Environmental Sciences. NJSGC wishes her the best of luck and success on this amazing achievement!

NJSGC's [Rip Current Awareness](#) campaign recently hit the boards in Atlantic City! Communications Associate Rory Joyce designed an informational ocean safety display that is now featured on several large jumbotrons located up and down the seven-mile long boardwalk.

Beachgoers visiting this popular summer destination will now know how to properly spot a rip current and strategically design a way to escape without panic if caught in one. Keep an eye out for the Sea Grant logo!



Elizabeth Wright-Fairbanks, a PhD Student in the Graduate Program of Oceanography at Rutgers University, was recently named a recipient of NOAA's Mid-Atlantic Ocean, Coastal, and Estuarine Acidification Graduate Research Fellowship as a representative of NJSGC. Her research will focus on the biological impacts of climate change. To learn more, please visit the [NOAA website](#).

During Sea Grant training week in August, six fellows from throughout the region got to visit NJSGC's headquarters on Sandy Hook. The students toured NOAA's J.J. Howard Lab, learning about the benefits of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean ([MARCO](#)) with Rutgers University's Dr. Grace Saba, and gained hands-on marine science teaching experience with members of our education staff!

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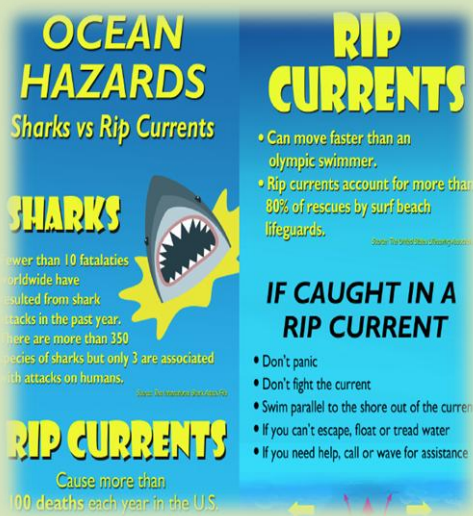


In July, high school students from Pakistan visited Monmouth University (MU) and joined Professor John Tiedemann on an educational fieldtrip hosted by NJSGC. The group, organized by [EducationUSA-Pakistan](#), explored the beaches of Sandy Hook while learning about maritime forests, bivalves vs. univalves, seining, beach combing, longshore currents, and several other marine science-related topics. Professor Tiedemann, a longtime associate of NJSGC, is the Assistant Dean of MU's School of Science and Director of the Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program.

The students (mostly juniors and seniors) went on to visit several other universities along the East Coast, including Harvard and Yale. Please visit the [EdPrograms](#) organization website to learn more.

Assistant Professor Dr. Daphne Munroe of Rutgers University's Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory continues work on her [NJSGC-funded research project](#) entitled "Interactions among Horseshoe Crabs and Intertidal Oyster Farms in the Delaware Bay." Here, graduate student Joshua Daw helps conduct fieldwork at Rutgers' Cape Shore facility.

Dr. Munroe's ongoing study on shellfish aquaculture aims to "assess the ability of horseshoe crabs to move around and among oyster farms to mate and spawn, to survey the spatial distribution of dislodged eggs upon which red knots feed, and to evaluate the financial burden of seasonal shorebird migration restrictions to farm operations."



NJSGC's [Rip Current Awareness Program](#) was established to better inform the general public about water hazards and beach safety. Coastal Ecosystems Extension Agent Dr. Amy Williams created a unique Jeopardy-style trivia game entitled "Sharks vs. Rip Currents" – specifically designed to educate students and children about the dangers of changing currents. Just last year, thousands of bookmarks inspired by "Sharks vs. Rip Currents" were distributed to young beachgoers throughout the Jersey Shore area, with fun and easy-to-remember facts about safe and smart ocean swimming.

An enhanced version of this bookmark is now available through NJSGC for 2018-2019. For more information, please contact us at 732-872-1300 x10. And be sure to always remember, "When in doubt, don't go out!"

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES

Dr. Christopher Free, a Quantitative Ecologist and former New Jersey representative of the NOAA/NMFS-Sea Grant Population Dynamics Fellowship Program (2013), recently accepted the prestigious [Rutgers Outstanding Doctoral Student Award](#), the highest honor bestowed on graduate students involved in any of the 75 Rutgers University PhD programs. Dr. Free will continue working in the lab as a post-doc with Dr. Olaf P. Jensen (Assistant Professor in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences), whose current research on [juvenile striped bass](#) is also funded by NJSGC. (Photo: marine.rutgers.edu)



To help promote the opening of the new Marine Education Field Station located in Holgate (Long Beach Township), NJSGC's Coastal Ecosystems Extension Agent Dr. Amy Williams conducted several family-friendly presentations focused on marine and environmental science education, specifically "Rip Currents vs. Sharks" and "Making a Wave with Living Shorelines." Dr. Williams (an LBI native) was also featured in the local news outlet [The Sandpaper](#) for her efforts: "As an [NJSGC] Extension Agent, I am always looking for new places to conduct my outreach programs, and I can't tell you how excited I am to have a new one open on my Island!"

In July, select members of the [Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program](#) toured the beaches and NOAA's James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory located on Sandy Hook. Led by NJSGC's k-12 Program Coordinator and Sea Grant Associate Diana Burich, the goal of this "team bonding" experience was to strengthen Sea Grant's partnership with new extension associates and to enhance our shared citizen science efforts.

With support from NJSGC, the Water Resources Program progressively works to address several important environmental issues, including: stormwater management and green infrastructure, watershed planning and restoration, and agricultural water management.

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