



A Newsletter from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

## Winter 2021

### Samantha Kreisler joins NJSGC as Communications Specialist



**SAMANTHA KREISLER**

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium is excited to welcome Samantha Kreisler aboard as their new Communications Specialist. Samantha comes to NJSGC with a strong background in marine policy and conservation, extensive experience communicating science and a history of working towards fostering environmental stewardship with various stakeholders.

With inspiration and guidance from her father, a New York Harbor boat captain, she grew up on the water learning the importance of preserving our marine environment and its resources. Graduating from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science with a BA in Marine Policy and a MPS in Marine Science Ecosystems and Society, Samantha pursued her

interest in marine science and combined it with her passion for environmental conservation to embark on a career of finding real-world solutions to environmental challenges. This led her to positions at NY/NJ Baykeeper and Clean Water Action, where she honed her ability to communicate science through storytelling to the public.

In her most recent position as the Outreach Coordinator at Hackensack Riverkeeper, Samantha managed communications efforts of this grassroots non-profit organization, from creating content for their website and newsletter to social media campaigns and digital marketing. Samantha also oversaw volunteer programs such as community and corporate river clean-ups and coordinated major events like fishing derbies and HRK's annual gala.

Samantha was introduced to NJSGC in 2019 by a friend and was quickly hired as a seasonal field instructor. Her content knowledge, background experience and enthusiasm made her a great

candidate for the position. According to Diana Burich, Director of Education, "Samantha was a fabulous field instructor who engaged visiting school groups with her energy and passion, always interacting with a bright smile as she taught children about the importance of New Jersey's marine and coastal environments and why it is necessary to care for them. We're ecstatic to have her back at NJSGC in greater capacity!"

As communications specialist, Samantha is responsible for writing and distributing content including the NJSGC newsletter COASTodian, email blasts, and managing social media.





# 2021 Sea Grant Knauss Fellow

## Dr. Arye Janoff Update

*Dr. Arye Janoff is the 2021 Knauss Fellow working with the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.*

*In front of polar-class icebreaker with Dan Gormley at Station Seattle.*



Over August recess, Arye toured 11 US Coast Guard (USCG) Pacific Area shore side units from Seattle to San Diego to understand how their infrastructure and the operations they support are vulnerable to climate change effects such as sea-level rise and other natural hazards.

He used this opportunity to meet service men and women and learn from their expertise; to discuss local mission sets and challenges faced by Coasties and their families including affordable housing and access to childcare/quality healthcare; and to express Congress' support for the USCG and appreciation for their service to our nation.

He had an incredible experience driving a 47-foot patrol boat across "the graveyard of the Pacific" (i.e., the Columbia River bar) at Station Cape Disappointment; driving a 29-foot patrol boat along the Willamette and Columbia Rivers at Station



*Selfie in front of electric cranes with (left to right) Wendy Motto, Miguel Rodriguez, Drew Rodriguez, and Letitia Austin.*

Portland, even steering around the only US-flagged cruise ship, Norwegian Cruise Line's Pride of America; seeing Polar Class icebreakers Polar Sea and Polar Star at Base Seattle; participating in a Search and Rescue training mission at Station Yaquina Bay; touring the 225-foot USCG Cutter Aspen, an oceangoing buoy tender; riding on an 87-foot Marine Protector Class Cutter Hawksbill at Sector San Francisco; touring an MH-65 helicopter at Port Angeles Air Station; touring the USCG's Blue Tech Center of Expertise and meeting with partners at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; learning about migrant interdiction and national security efforts at Sector San Diego; and meeting with Aids to Navigation Teams and Civil Engineering Unit personnel all along the coast.

## *Congratulations to NJSGC 2022 Knauss fellows*



Schuyler Nardelli (Rutgers University) executive fellow placed at the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Office.



Elizabeth Wright-Fairbanks (Rutgers University), executive fellow is placed at the Ocean Acidification Program Office.



Janine Barr (Rutgers University) is a legislative fellow who will receive her placement in January.



Ashlyn Spector (Rutgers University) is a legislative fellow who will receive her placement in January.

# Application Period for Knauss Fellowships has opened

The application period for 2022 fellowships is now open! Please visit the official Knauss website to learn more, or contact Dr. Peter Rowe at [PRowe@NjSeaGrant.org](mailto:PRowe@NjSeaGrant.org) for more information on applying through NJS GC.

The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The Fellowship, named after one of Sea Grant's founders and former NOAA Administrator John A. Knauss, matches highly qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative and executive branch of government located in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one-year paid fellowship.

Review the 2023 Knauss Fellowship Student Guide and the Student Applicant Guide to Sea Grant Fellowships for application preparation tips. Applications are due February 18, 2022 (for 2023 fellowships).

Visit: <https://seagrants.noaa.gov/Prospective>



## *Application Period is open for the 2022 National Marine Fisheries Service-Sea Grant Joint Fellowship Program*



The NMFS-Sea Grant Joint Fellowship Program in Population and Ecosystem Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics is designed to help Sea Grant fulfill its broad educational responsibilities and to strengthen the collaboration between Sea Grant and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Since 1990, Sea Grant and NMFS have partnered to train students through this joint fellowship program in two specialized areas: population and ecosystem dynamics as well

as marine resource economics. Population and ecosystem dynamics involve the study of fish populations and marine ecosystems to better assess fishery stock conditions and dynamics.

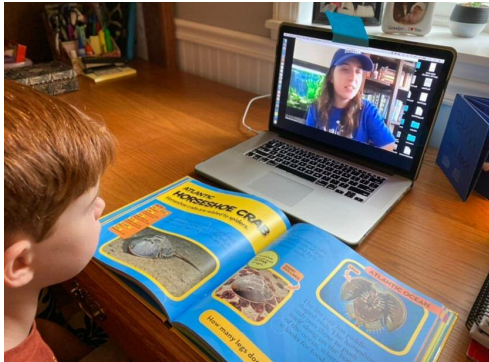
The goals of the NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant Fellowship Program are:

- To encourage qualified applicants to pursue careers in either population and ecosystem dynamics and stock assessment or in marine resource economics
- To increase available expertise related to these fields
- To foster closer relationships between academic scientists and NOAA Fisheries
- To provide real-world experience to graduate students and accelerate their career development.

Review the 2022 NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship Student Guide and the Student Applicant Guide to Sea Grant Fellowships for application preparation tips. This combined Federal Funding Opportunity can also be accessed at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=336127>



# Ocean Fun Days once again adapts with a great program



With the pandemic still looming in our midst, this year's family-friendly Ocean Fun Days was again held virtually. The event was a whole of success

celebrating 18 years of ocean discovery, coastal stewardship, and energy conservation with a month-long educational extravaganza.



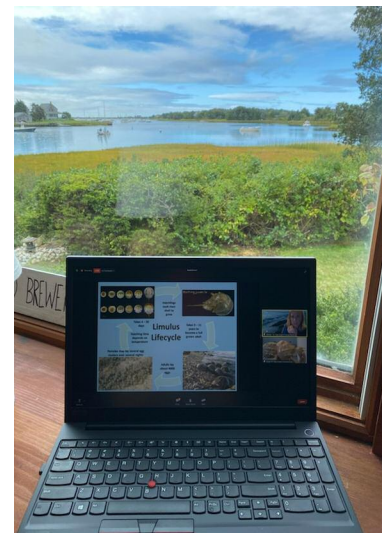
Starting October 1 through the end of the month, Ocean Fun Days participants gained access to online video presentations from over 30 exhibitors, at-home activities, and educational resources to provide eco-friendly fun... right from home. Some videos focused on New Jersey's most important local animals and their value to the ecosystem including horseshoe crabs, eels, and sharks, while others concentrated on



anthropogenic themes such as microplastics, saving energy and water, and the environment. New this year, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium educators led LIVE presentations via zoom on topics like diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs, and ocean swimming safety.

Rosemary Higgins, College & Special Programs Coordinator expressed "I just love coordinating Ocean Fun Days and working with many sponsors and exhibitors who help make the event a great success! The last two years Ocean Fun Days has been virtual with fun and exciting videos from our exhibitors for visitors online to enjoy. One of the most frequently visited pages the "Teachers Corner" gave teachers many resources with dozens of interactive classroom activities and lesson plans."

At New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, we appreciate all of the partners that made Ocean Fun Days possible. Thank you to our many exhibitors who took the time and energy to showcase their knowledge and expertise, especially Ocean Fun Days sponsor New Jersey Natural Gas. Most importantly thanks to all participants, whose desire to learn about our marine world makes events like Ocean Fun Days worthwhile. Although we loved seeing your smiling faces on our computer screens, we hope to see you in person next year! Stay tuned for more updates on Ocean Fun Days 2022.



Thomas Hays of New Jersey Natural Gas notes: "As a company committed to achieving a low-carbon, clean energy future that has built the most environmentally sound natural gas system in the state, we're proud to have collaborated on Ocean Fun Days 18 years ago and thrilled with our partnership with the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and other participants. Next's year's event promises to make an even bigger splash!"



# NJSGC Water Resources Extension Agent Update: Richard Kelly of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program

As part of a partnership with the South Jersey Land & Water Trust, during the month of October, the Water Resources Program completed two green infrastructure demonstration

projects in Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, one at Pittsgrove Township Middle School and one at Olivett Elementary School.



Olivett Elementary School, Elmer NJ - A 4,125 square foot Bioswale spanning 225 feet in length was installed in the courtyard area..



Phase 1 - Four Rain Gardens

Pittsgrove Middle School, Pittsgrove NJ - In the summer 4 Rain Gardens were installed in an existing detention basin and sections of the low-flow concrete channel were removed to promote water detention.

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## *Every Kid Outdoors FREE Programs for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades*

Whether your students are in class or learning from home, we can enhance their educational experience and support your curriculum with an awesome program! For more than 30 years, school groups from New Jersey and neighboring states have enjoyed learning about coastal ecosystems with New Jersey Sea

Grant Consortium (NJSGC) at Sandy Hook, a unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. NJSGC is proud to partner with the National Park Service and Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy to offer FREE programs to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students for Spring 2022.



As part of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders (along with their families and teachers) are encouraged to

visit national parks to experience the natural wonders and cultural history that can be found there. NJSGC headquarters has long been located at Sandy Hook, bringing this unique national park experience to tens of thousands of students since 1976.

Educators with 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade students interested in Outdoors program through NJSGC can choose from three remote synchronous learning programs or one in-person field trip at Sandy Hook, all provide FREE of charge and led by NJSGC Educators.

Contact the Education Department at [reservations@njseagrant.org](mailto:reservations@njseagrant.org) or visit the NJSGC Education Page for more information: <https://njseagrant.org/education/>

The Every Kid Outdoors initiative is made possible by a generous contribution from the National Park Foundation.



# NJ SEA GRANT IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Lisa Calvo speaking about oysters at the aquaculture apprenticeship program teacher professional development workshop.

NJSGC College & Special Programs Coordinator, Rosemary Higgins and Scout Program Coordinator, Jody Sackett at the New Jersey Science Convention in Princeton.



Al Avizius, NJSGC Field Instructor, at the Jersey Shore Boat Sale and Expo at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws Stadium in Lakewood, NJ (and Chris Lido with NJDEP Fish and Wildlife from the booth next to us!).

Communications Specialist Samantha Kreisler (left) and Education Director Diana Burich (right) throw the first pitch at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws game.



Acting Executive Director, Dr. Peter Rowe hosts People on the Move in a Changing Climate Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Virtual Workshop.



Education Specialist, Mindy Voss (right) and Scout Program Coordinator, Jody Sackett (left) lead a girl scout program.



NJSGC Coastal Community Resilience Specialist Dr. Tom Herrington speaks at Cape May Convention Hall on "A Scientific Approach to Global Warming and Climate Change".



# *NJSGC in the New Year . . .*

## **Field Trips**

With the return to in-person classrooms this school season, many New Jersey schools are permitting teachers to resume field trips. NJSGC invites teachers to enrich and expand their curriculum with our wide variety of field trip programs directed towards advancing greater understanding and stewardship of our state's marine and coastal resources. Spring is the most popular time for the K-12 Field Trip program, and dates in 2022 are filling up quickly. Coastal ecosystems of the Jersey Shore await your students, so contact the Education Department at [reservations@njseagrant.org](mailto:reservations@njseagrant.org) for more information.

Coming soon... need help covering field trip bus costs? NJSGC will soon be releasing plans in January to subsidize transportation costs for 20 schools in Spring 2022. Check the Education webpage in January for more information.

## **Scout Programs**

Boy and girl scouts can earn skills and meet badge requirements with our comprehensive Scout Program offerings that take place after school and most weekends. Contact Jody Sackett, Scout Program Coordinator, at [jsackett@njseagrant.org](mailto:jsackett@njseagrant.org) for more information or to reserve a program.

## **Marine Science Day Camp**

The NJSGC education staff is planning engaging educational activities for Marine Science Day Camp in Summer 2022. Check our website in January for the July and August weeks that suit your family!

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## ***We're hiring part-time instructors for the 2022 field trip season!***

Do you love all things ocean and are interested in helping us promote environmental literacy? NJSGC is looking for dynamic individuals to facilitate outdoor learning programs for students in grades K-12. All you need is a friendly disposition and an interest in coastal environments, and we'll show you the rest! Send your letter of interest and resume to Rosemary Higgins, College and Special Programs Coordinator, at [rhiggins@njseagrant.org](mailto:rhiggins@njseagrant.org).



Your donation directly supports New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium's mission to provide healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable solutions, and science opportunities for the next generation.

Over the years NJSGC has provided educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of students, reduced pollution at hundreds of marinas, and supported dozens of research projects pertaining to aquaculture, climate change, and microplastics.

*As 2021 comes to a close, please consider donating to the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium to support our mission of advancing coastal and watershed science, research, and education throughout New Jersey. With support from community members like you, for more than 50 years NJSGC has continuously worked towards our goal to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources in order to create a resilient economy and environment.*

