

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

June 2019 / Issue 1



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear HRES Members: We are pleased to present our Summer 2019 HRES Newsletter. We hope to publish at least three times per year with organizational news, planning updates and announcements from the board. This issue we include the sad news of the deaths of Dennis Suszkowski of HRF and John Sansalone of the Ulster County EMC, and the good news of our excellent Spring Symposium and our McKeon Awards.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and hope to see you in October for our Fall Field Trip and annual Awards Dinner.

**Lucy Johnson, Ph.D.**  
HRES President

## 2019 HUDSON RIVER SYMPOSIUM

Titled “**Ecosystem Response to Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise in the Hudson Estuary**,” the 2019 Hudson River Environmental Society (HRES) Symposium brought together more than 165 scientific professionals and students to Vassar College on Wednesday May 8th. The Symposium centered around three moderator-led sessions that featured nine topical presentations from recognized experts in their field. (Find presentations and the program at [HRES.org](http://HRES.org).)



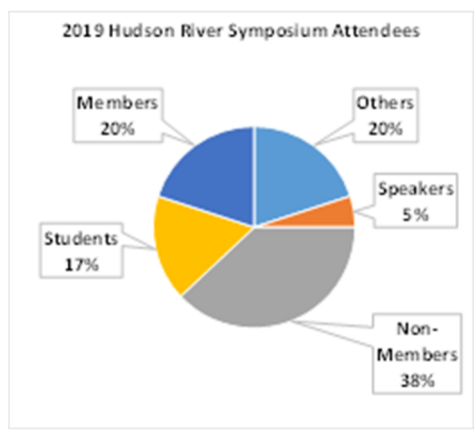
*Mark Lowery, Assistant Director, Office of Climate Change, NYSDEC*

Session One in the morning was introduced by Society board member **Emilie Hauser** of NYSDEC Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR), focused on Climate Change and featured talks by **Daniel Bader**, Program Manager at Columbia University Earth Institute, and **Mark Lowery**, Assistant Director of the Office of Climate Change at NYSDEC. After a short break, **David Yozzo** of HDR Engineering opened Session Two which focused on fisheries and featured presentations by **John Manderson** from NOAA, **David Secor** from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, and **Christopher Nack** of O’Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc. and SUNY ESF.

After lunch, Session Three focused on Tidal Wetlands and was moderated by Society board member **Stuart Findlay** of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. The afternoon session featured talks by **Sarah Fernald** of HRNERR, **Nava Tabak** of Scenic Hudson, **Brian Yellen** of the University of Massachusetts, and a remote web-linked presentation by **Joel Pecchioli** of NJDEP.



*Session Two Call to Order by David Yozzo, HDR and Chris Bowser, NYSDEC*



## Student Lunch Program

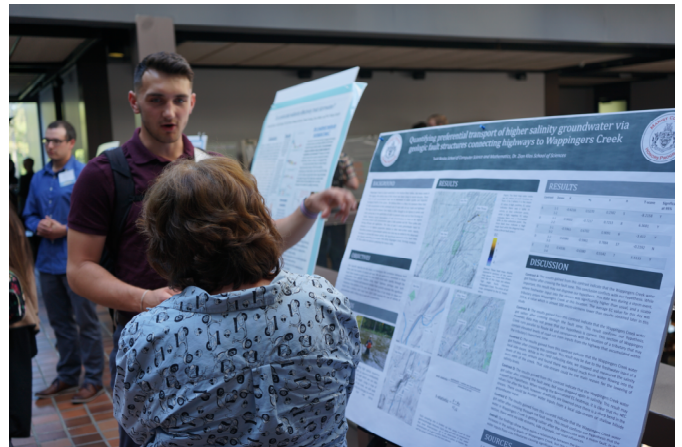
HRES board members **Zion Klos** and **Eli Dueker**, Bard Assistant Professor **Robyn Smyth**, and Saw Kill Watershed Community Chair **Karen Schneller-McDonald** met with students attending the 2019 HRES Symposium to discuss student needs and ideas for expanding HRES interaction with students. The lunch was attended by undergraduates, recent graduates, and graduate students representing five academic institutions, the NYSDEC, and several environmental nonprofits. Discussion centered on possibilities for increasing venues for students to share research and meet professionals (and not just academics) to learn more about job possibilities and opportunities for engaging in applied work specifically. The HRES board plans to support efforts to address these ideas, including possibly holding a separate student event in the fall, and discussions with other Hudson Valley institutions interested in student support.



*Vassar College – host of the 2019 HRES Symposium*

## Poster Session

Highlighting the high-level of commitment of today's student researchers, more than 30 students and researchers participated in the HRES Poster Session including our four inaugural 2018 McKeon Research Grant winners: **Cami Plum** from Monash University who is working with **Dr. Emma Rosi** at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on the effect of pharmaceuticals and personal care products on antimicrobial agents within aquatic environments; **Hannah Stouter** of Arlington High School studying Blanding's turtles under the auspices **Dr. Margeret Ronsheim** at Vassar College; **Elinor Stapylton**, a Bard student working with **Dr. Brent Boscarino** at Poughkeepsie Day School, researching round goby predation on bloody red shrimp and the spread of round goby into the Hudson River; and **Suruj Devi Singh**, working with **Dr. Erika Crispo** at Pace University, researching on the effects of *C. virginica* on the nirS gene and the nitrogen cycle.



*Tadd Bindas from Marist College presenting his work*

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*We need your help. Interested in volunteering your time to support the HRES mission? Do you have a raffle item or know a donor willing to support the McKeon Student Travel Fund? Contact an HRES Board Member today!*

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## MEET OUR NEWEST HRES BOARD MEMBERS

**Margie Turrin** is the Director of Educational Field Programs at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory where she develops and runs science education projects for groups from informal community education to K12 students and teachers and undergraduate students. She is focused on improving diversity in the sciences through improved access to meaningful science education and research opportunities.



**Q: Margie, as someone dedicated to science education, what is one goal you would like to accomplish at HRES?**

A: I would like to see expanded opportunities for high school, undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research projects that forward our scientific understanding of the Hudson River and its watershed.

**Zion Klos, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at Marist College who was first introduced to the Hudson Valley while sailing down the Hudson River during a year-long sailing adventure aimed at science outreach along the Eastern Seaboard. His overarching approach to research and education is to integrate the physical, ecological, and social sciences, often through the lens of issues surrounding water and climate.

**Q: Zion, what do you see as the most critical area needed for Hudson River research?**

A: As a hydrologist, with a specialty in climate science, I would argue that the local impacts from climate change – particularly the impacts of intensified precipitation events and prolonged drought periods – are some of the areas I see as the most in need of additional research. Though, when it comes to how ultimately I believe science can better both our society and our environment, the most critical area that we need to overcome is finding new ways to communicate our scientific understanding with the public in more impactful ways.



### HRES Executive Committee

*Lucy Johnson* (President)

*Chuck Nieder* (Vice President)

*Jim Morrison* (Treasurer)

*Chris DeRoberts* (Secretary)

*Emilie Hauser* (Ex Officio)

### HRES Board Members

*David S. Davis*

*William Dey*

*Eli Dueker, Ph.D.*

*Stuart Findlay, Ph.D.*

*Zion Klos, Ph.D.*

*Karin Limburg, Ph.D.*

*Mark McLean*

*Margie Turrin*

### 2019 FALL FIELD TRIP

Join us on **Saturday October 12, 2019** for our annual Fall Field Trip. Once again organized by former HRES board member **Simon Litten**, the trip will feature an Ecotour of the Kinderhook Creek watershed. Details will be posted on HRES.org as the itinerary is developed.

### 2019 HRES AWARDS DINNER

Join us on **Thursday October 17, 2019** for our annual HRES Awards Dinner when we once again enjoy the ambiance and good food at River Station in Poughkeepsie and celebrate the careers of our selected 2019 award honorees. If you know of someone you believe is deserving recognition for their contribution to the Hudson Valley, please let us know by emailing us at: [HUDSONRIVERENVIRONMENTAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HUDSONRIVERENVIRONMENTAL@GMAIL.COM).



## AND THE MCKEON RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS GO TO....

**Jacob Katz, Obioha Chijioke and Knut Vanderbush** of Riverdale Country School (Advisor: **Rachel Cox**) who are studying epigenetic stress response in embryonic versus mature leaves from Picea and **Lindsey Drew**, a master's student at Bard College (Advisor: **Robyn Smyth**), who is studying disinfection products in Hudson River water supply. Each year, HRES announces the availability of small research grants for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students interested in undertaking research on Hudson Valley environmental issues. These McKeon Research Grants honor the more than 20 years of service by Warren McKeon as the Society's Executive Director. Awards support special one-time projects that enhance the Hudson River or advance the Society's research goals.

## IN MEMORIAM

With deep sorrow, the HRES board shares in the devastating news that our wonderful friend and colleague **Dennis Suszkowski** passed away in June. The Hudson River community is incalculably diminished today by this loss. We are all forever and immeasurably enriched by Dennis' contributions to the understanding and celebration of our River and by the joy of his friendship.



*Dennis  
Suszkowski  
with Lucy  
Johnson and  
Chuck Nieder  
at the 2016  
HRES Awards  
Dinner*



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*Founded in 1970, the Hudson River Environmental Society is a nonprofit, non-advocacy organization that delivers the science behind Hudson Valley issues to citizens, scientists, and decision makers. We enable objective discussions, provide forums for rigorous science, connect disparate views, and showcase the region's natural heritage. We are academic researchers, government officials, nonprofit scientists, private consultants, teachers, students, and interested residents who find real solutions.*