

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

Volume 18, Issue 6

November/December 2018

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Meeting Schedule

November 13, 2018 (at the Brookhaven Center)

December 11, 2018

January 8, 2019

BREA Officers

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* * *

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*BREA was a sponsor of the recent research symposium for students and postdocs at Brookhaven Lab.
– Photo by Joseph Rubino*

From the President

by Steve Shapiro, shapiro@bnl.gov

Dear Fellow BREA Members,

I recently attended the Early Career Research Symposium, held at Berkner Hall on October 11. This all-day annual symposium is organized by the Association of Students and Postdocs and showcases the exceptional research performed by students and postdocs at BNL. There were 32 oral talks and 21 posters, along with a career panel and two distinguished keynote lecturers. BREA recognizes the importance of encouraging these young researchers by being a breakfast sponsor of the event. I was heartened to see the enthusiasm, excitement and vitality of these young scientists. If some of them can remain at the Lab, the future is in good hands.

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article by fellow BREA member Peter Bond, who also served as interim director of BNL. Published in *Physics in Perspective* last June, the article is entitled “The Fiftieth Anniversary of Brookhaven National Laboratory: A Turbulent Time.” This was a period at Brookhaven Lab that most of us experienced. The article reviews, in detail, the raucous period of the Lab’s history from an insider’s viewpoint – from the tritium leak at the High Flux Beam Reactor to the change in management of BNL from AUI to BSA. The abstract and references of this article can be found

(continued on page 3)

Field Trip to the Farm

BREA's tour of Cornell University's 68-acre Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center (LIHREC) was interesting, educational and informative. Originally, 42 of us signed up for the tour, but the remnants of Hurricane Florence forced a last-minute date change to September 20, and so we dropped to 26 participants.

Background information about the LIHREC and Suffolk County farming may help you understand why Cornell University and the County Cooperative



Extension have a high level of commitment in the agricultural community. Here are statewide stats: Suffolk County is first in New York in the economic value of crop agriculture; second for total agriculture; fifth for vegetables (with more than 100 vegetables grown); first for greenhouses; and first for nurseries. Top crops in economic value are greenhouse plants, nursery plants, grapes and several different vegetables.

There are also specific reasons why Long Island, and Suffolk County in particular, is such an agricultural powerhouse:

- Only area in NYS in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7 – it's warmer here
- Strong underground aquifers – plenty of fresh water
- White sandy soils – excellent drainage, moderate water-holding capacity, modest fertility

The LIHREC will celebrate 100 years of service to the farming community in four years. The LIHREC assists farmers with plant disease issues, insect identification and control, best management practices, and provides research that directly impacts farmers. In recent years, there has been an emphasis on environmentally related research, specifically to decrease the impact of pesticides and fertilizers. This research includes controlled-release fertilizers which reduce the leaching of nutrients into the ground water, reduce manpower requirements for applications and potentially reduce material costs. Other research efforts are comparison trials for new variations to determine how they perform under Long Island conditions, and studies to evaluate disease resistant plants that require fewer pesticides.

Our special day at the center consisted of an introduction by Campus Director Mark Bridgen, Ph.D.; tours of various dedicated display gardens maintained each week by over 30 volunteers; a Cornell maintained perennial display garden primarily for evaluation by agricultural professionals; and an annual garden where plant information is evaluated throughout the growing season. In addition, we took a wagon tour of the fields used for research studies such as Downy mildew in basil and impatiens, ozone injury to beans, tomato late blight, cover-crop options, field-grown chrysanthemums and boxwood blight.

I have been a volunteer gardener at the LIHREC since June of 2004. It is a very rewarding and fun activity as our major purpose is gardener education. We sponsor an annual open house, maintain and improve our garden areas for various visitors and groups, and maintain and expand our gardening knowledge through weekly meetings and special programs. Of the 45 diverse volunteers about 30 are present each week. The group includes Master Gardeners and those interested in gardening. Stop by any Tuesday between 9 a.m. and noon. If you come at 11 a.m., it's coffee time!

– Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com



Meet BREA Webmaster Renee Warno

Renee Warno volunteered to be BREA's webmaster in October 2017. She's certainly got the chops for the task!

Warno, née McNeil, works in BNL's Information Technology Division (ITD) as the PeopleSoft Security Administrator. "I make sure that Lab employees have the correct access to the PeopleSoft HR and financials environments," said Warno.

She was hired at BNL 20 years ago with an undergraduate degree in computer information systems from Dowling College and started at ITD's Help Desk. She soon took advantage of BNL's tuition reimbursement program and did graduate studies at Stony Brook University, obtaining a Master of Liberal Studies with a certificate in Computer Information Systems, in 2001.

Through the years, Warno has continued her training by taking various PeopleSoft classes and now webinars. She said, "I want to keep my knowledge fresh in the field to assist end users."

"I am glad to be working in a technical field," she added. She recalled that men outnumbered women in her undergraduate days and that she was one of only two women in graduate school. "If you have the knowledge and want to work in the field, go for it! I would always encourage someone to learn new things even if they are not comfortable with it," said Warno. "Computers are the way of the future and they will only get used more."

BREA News caught up with Warno when she was on vacation at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. "I am slightly Disney obsessed. So this is not a first visit!" she admitted. She was there with husband Keith Warno, who works at CA Tech (formerly Computer Associates) as a support engineer.

Volunteer-minded Warno is currently the recording secretary for the BERA Board and has served in that capacity for over 10 years now. She is also one of the co-chairs of the United Way Holiday Auction. Always active, she participates in many of the exercise offerings at BNL. "I am an *avid* cyclist and love biking on the trails on site."

– Mona S. Rowe, msrowe.hi@gmail.com



Renee Warno with husband Keith at Disney World

President's Message (continued)

at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00016-018-0219-x>, and an editorial related to this can be downloaded from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00016-018-0222-2>.

Nobody is better equipped to review this period than Peter, and we are fortunate that he will be our guest speaker at our December 11 BREA meeting.

The end of the year is approaching and I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year. It is the time of the year to be with your loved ones, be thankful for all you have worked for, and be at peace. The world needs this.

I look forward to seeing many of you at future BREA meetings. The next one is on November 13, at the Brookhaven Center.

– Steve Shapiro, shapiro@bnl.gov

Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA’s mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information.

If you have questions or if your contact info has changed, email me at hellobylin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Dues cover year(s) _____

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

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I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
81 Westchester Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair
hellobylin@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees:

Eleanor Hughes, 78, September 12, 2018

Robert Kaszuba, 74, January 25, 2018

More information may be found at BREA’s website: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send information by email to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or by snail mail to BREA’s address in the panel below.

Dragon Boat Winners!

BREA member Susan Wong, of the Information Technology Division and BERA’s Asian Pacific American Association, organized the BNL dragon-boat team for the fifth annual Port Jefferson Dragon Boat Race Festival on September 15, 2018. Team members left the day with medals, earning first in its division. For Joe Gettler’s full report on the team, go to <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=213128&btw=1>.

To get regular news about the Lab, you can subscribe to Brookhaven This Week, a weekly email newsletter edited by Gettler and published by the Media & Communications Office. Go to <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/thisweek/> and enter your email address in the box on the right.

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