

BREA NEWS

<https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

Volume 26, Issue 1

January/February 2026

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m.

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Zoom meetings via video link have become the norm. Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

Meeting Schedule

January 13, 2026

February 10, 2026

March 10, 2026

BREA Officers

President

Arnold Moodenbaugh

moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President

Andrew Feldman

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Secretary

Laura Miller

lj96miller@outlook.com

Treasurer

Louise Hanson

hanson.louise@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe

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Hunting is not allowed on the BNL site, so this tom turkey had a peaceful Thanksgiving last fall. See more wildlife photos on pages 2-3.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

I hope you have had a good holiday season. Brookhaven's management posted a holiday message, with contributions from Interim Director John Hill, Interim Deputy Director for Science and Technology Martin Schoonen and Deputy Director for Operations Ann Emrick. I note that these three leaders have spent much of their careers at BNL. If you haven't seen it, you can view a short video at <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=222729>.

This issue features wildlife on site. It was put together with BNL's photographer Kevin Coughlin and Kathy Schwager, natural resources manager. For spectacular color renditions in the online newsletter, go to <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/newsletter/>.

The deadline for voting for BREA officers was extended to December 15, 2025, because of a delay in publishing the 2025 November/ (continued on page 3)

Cicadas and box turtles and killdeer, oh my!



After incubating for 17 years, Brood XIV cicadas hatched this summer on the BNL campus. They live only briefly, intent on mating and egg laying. Eggs hatch in about six weeks, and tiny nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into the soil. What will the world be like when they emerge in 2042?

All the photos in this issue of BREA News were taken by Senior Technical Photographer Kevin Coughlin, who came to BNL in 2022.

“Before joining the lab, I was the Executive Photographer to New York governors Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul,” said Coughlin. “Prior



The Audubon Society website describes the Killdeer as “widespread, common and conspicuous.” A type of plover, they make a high-pitch, two-note noise that resembles their name.

BNL’s 5,321-acre site is home to an abundance of wildlife. Turkey and deer are most often spotted, but you see quite a variety of critters if you get around as much as do the Brookhaven Lab photographers, Kevin Coughlin, David Rahner and Timothy Kuhn.



The eastern box turtle is the only exclusively terrestrial turtle found on the Brookhaven Lab site. As part of a research project with New York University, Newt, a turtle detection dog, scouted the woods and found one within 45 minutes.



to that, I served as a photojournalist and photo editor for 30-plus years at various newspapers in the metro New York/New Jersey area, including *The New York Times*, the *New York Post* and *Newsday*.” Coughlin was also senior photo editor of the *New York Daily News*, co-managing (continued on next page)

staff photographers, photo editors and freelancers.

Said Coughlin, “BNL offers me a wide range of subjects to discover and photograph everyday – from wildlife to world class science to environmental portraits. The people here are unlike any I've met in my previous professions.”

Coughlin is an FAA-certified private pilot. “I have a tremendous interest in aerial photography,” he said. He is BNL's first FAA Part 107 drone pilot and documents most of Brookhaven's aerial coverage with a drone.

When he's not on the job, Coughlin is often flying his 1967 Cessna 150, documenting his travels from the air.

– Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com



Turkeys, deer and groundhogs are commonly sighted near buildings. In 2020, BNL reported more than 350 plant and 33 mammalian species being supported by the undeveloped woodlands, grasslands and wetland habitats on the property, with approximately 85 species of nesting birds observed.



President's Message

(continued from p. 1)

December newsletter. We will review the results at our meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m. EST on Tuesday January 13, 2026. Thank you to the candidates for their time and energy supporting BREA and to Membership Chair Betty Elder for receiving and counting the ballots. We appreciate the participation of all those who submitted a ballot.

Jennefer Maldonado, who works at NSLS-II and is on the board of directors for United

Way of Long Island, is seeking donations for United Way's campaign at BNL this holiday season. You can make a one-time donation earmarked for the Long Island region at <https://www.unitedwayli.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=69>. Please enter “Brookhaven National Laboratory” on the form.

Finally, I want to mention DOE's Long Island Regional Science Bowl Competition at Brookhaven Lab on January 30, 2026. For details, go to <https://www.bnl.gov/hssb/>. I encourage BREA members living near the lab to volunteer for one or two half-day morning sessions. A science background is not needed for many of the roles. Contact Amanda Horn at ahorn@bnl.gov.

I hope to see you at our January 13 BREA meeting via Zoom.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

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 information has changed, send me an email at bettyelder81@gmail.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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 Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check to:

Betty Elder, Membership Chair
 215 River Drive
 Moriches, NY 11955

– Betty Elder, Membership Chair
bettyelder81@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees and a long-term employee.

Elbert Nathan Carter, 95, September 2, 2025

Eugene Raymond Kelly, 90, October 23, 2025

Edward Francis Meier, 90, November 14, 2025

William (Bill) Schneider, 88, June 7, 2025

More information may be found at BREA's website: <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>. To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

Letter to the Editor

I retired on May 31, 2024, from BNL after 46 years. I worked in the Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science Division (CMPMSD) and prior to that I worked in the once-called Medical Department in the Chair's Office, ISABELLE Project, Contracts and Procurement, Physics Department, and stayed with CMPMSD until I retired. I enjoyed my time at BNL.

I like being part of BREA because it keeps me up-to-date on what is happening at BNL and that still is of interest to me after being at BNL all those years. I look forward to the emails from BREA and the interesting and useful information provided. I feel like every retiree should join to keep BREA going on for many years to come.

– Arlene Rementer

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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