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Media Contact:

Kathleen Hickey
Chief Communications Officer
Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries
(845) 838-1600 x15
khickey@bire.org
www.bire.org

Beacon Institute celebrates World Oceans Day with screening of documentary film *A Sea Change* on Saturday, June 6

Q&A with Hudson Valley filmmakers Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby to follow

BEACON, NY — Hudson Valley filmmakers Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby consider ocean acidification the “wet underbelly of climate change.” Their new documentary, *A Sea Change* – the first ever on the little-known problem of ocean acidification—invites the viewer to imagine a world without fish. The film combines the intimate story of Norwegian family whose life is bound up with the sea with an investigation into the science of ocean acidification. It suggests that if ocean chemistry continues to change because of excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a bottom-up collapse of the sea food chain could result.

The film *A Sea Change* made its world premiere at the DC Environmental Film Festival in March, to a standing-room-only audience at the National Museum of Natural History. The film also has premiered at the San Francisco and Seattle film festivals.

Beacon Institute will screen *A Sea Change* at 1 p.m. EDT on Saturday, June 6, 2009, in honor of World Oceans Day (WOD). WOD screenings of the film are taking place in Australia, Europe, North America and the Hawaiian Islands. Linking the screenings will be a live webcast of a Q&A with filmmakers Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby, moderated by John Cronin, Beacon Institute director and chief executive officer, emanating from Beacon Institute’s new Center for Environmental Innovation and Education (CEIE) in Beacon, NY.

Admission to the Beacon Institute screening is free; however, capacity is limited. Pre-registration is necessary; tickets can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis on Beacon Institute’s website at www.bire.org.

Registered guests should plan to arrive at 12:30 p.m. for the 1 p.m. film screening, and wear comfortable footwear to enjoy a quarter-mile walk (approximately 10 minutes) into Denning’s

Point from the public parking area or from the Metro-North train station via the Riverside Trail. Those who require special accommodations should note their needs when they register.

A live panel discussion with the filmmakers will take place following the screening at 3 p.m. EDT, moderated by Beacon Institute's John Cronin, and stream live on the Internet. Internet viewers of the panel discussion will be able to email and tweet their questions about the film and ocean acidification. The live webcast will be available at:

<http://mfile.akamai.com/35537/live/reflector:46515.aspx?bkup=53670>. (Please note that the link will not be live until 3 pm EDT on June 6.) Tweets can be sent to aseachange. Email questions can be sent to angela at aseachange.net.

What People Are Saying about *A Sea Change*

Ann Hornaday of The Washington Post wrote: "The story of a retired educator who becomes interested in, and finally consumed by, the declining state of the world's oceans, the film [*A Sea Change*] brings a crucial and little-known issue to the attention of filmgoers. The movie, which takes the audience to some of the globe's most attractive locales, brings to surprisingly absorbing life the subject of ocean acidification. That's what happens when carbon dioxide -- released by cars and other fossil-fuel-burning culprits -- ends up in the sea, thereby fatally changing its chemistry. . . . *A Sea Change* ... looks terrific, with lots of breathtaking footage of the natural world, from the tiniest pteropod (the fluttery, planktonic sea snail that is most threatened by acidification) to the most majestic Norwegian scenery. And, at a time when plenty of documentaries want to be the "Inconvenient Truth" of fill-in-the-issue, *A Sea Change* brings a genuinely important subject to the fore with a welcome lack of jargon and preaching."

Dr. Cat Dorey, Sustainable Seafood Advisor for Greenpeace International, wrote: "[*A Sea Change*] follows ex-history teacher, activist and grandfather Sven Huseby as he travels to visit various scientists to learn more about the impacts of ocean acidification and tries to find ways to explain the problem to his 5-year-old grandson, Elias. I completely fell in love with Sven and the extraordinarily bright Elias. The people in the film are very real and approachable and the ocean footage is stunning. Optimistic, with a whole section of solutions at the end. Broad appeal for all ages."

About the Panelists

Director **Barbara Ettinger's** first film, *Martha and Ethel*, screened at the Sundance Film Festival and was distributed theatrically by Sony Pictures Classics. Her most recent film, *Two Square Miles*, was co-produced with her husband **Sven Huseby** through their company Nijji Films, and aired nationally on PBS's Independent Lens in November 2006 and again in January 2007. Huseby is a retired independent school head who worked as a teacher and administrator at The Putney School for 30 years.

John Cronin, Director and CEO of Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, will moderate the Q&A session with the filmmakers. Cronin is known internationally as an environmental leader and visionary. *The Wall Street Journal* has called him as "a unique presence on America's major waterways," a distinction affirmed by the breadth of this 35-year career dedication to public

service, the environment and the Hudson River. As an advocate, lobbyist, legislative and congressional aide, commercial fisherman, author and filmmaker, Cronin tackled a wide range of frontline issues, such as Clean Water Act enforcement, disposal practices at Love Canal, fisheries management, and the New York City Watershed Agreement. For his accomplishments, *Time* magazine named him a “Hero for the Planet.”

Under Cronin’s leadership, Beacon Institute has adopted technological innovation as a central mission. Its River and Estuary Observatory Network (REON) will monitor the Hudson “source to sea” through a network of sensors and robotics that provide real-time data to researchers, policy makers and educators. REON will be emulated on rivers and estuaries worldwide; collaborating institutions include IBM, Clarkson University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Columbia University.

About Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not-for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. www.bire.org

The Institute’s new Center for Environmental Innovation and Education (CEIE), formally opened in December 2008, is Beacon Institute’s primary education and outreach facility and home to SENSE IT, the Institute’s National Science Foundation-funded education and teacher professional development program. It is also the first home to REON (River and Estuary Observatory Network), a joint effort between the Institute, IBM and Clarkson University to create an integrated network of environmental sensors throughout the 315-mile length of the Hudson River. REON will monitor physical, chemical and biological changes in the river in real time.

The CEIE is also a Visitor Center for Denning’s Point, which is part of New York’s Hudson Highlands State Park. From April 1 to November 30, the Park is open to visitors, who can visit the new CEIE as they walk the hiking trails from the Metro-North Beacon station and around Denning’s Point.

About World Oceans Day

The concept for World Oceans Day was proposed in 1992 by the Government of Canada at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and it had been unofficially celebrated every year since then. Official designation by the U.N. is a significant step in conserving and protecting our world's ocean. As of 2009, "World Oceans Day" has been officially declared by the United Nations as June 8th each year. The ocean has been used as a dumping ground by humanity for years. The assault from pollution, global warming, and now ocean acidification is creating a perfect storm, heralding possible destruction of life as we know it in the sea.

Beacon Institute Calendar of Events

Please note: Some events require advance registration. Events held at CEIE involve a 10 minute walk into the park from the parking area or the Metro-North train station. Please wear comfortable footwear and be sure to allow additional time to enjoy the walk.

GALLERY at 199 Main St.: [Up River: Man-Made Sites of Interest on the Hudson for the Battery to Troy](#)

May-October 2009

A portrait of the Hudson's shores, Up River focuses on man-made sites rarely seen by those who travel along the river's banks. Exhibit courtesy of The Center for Land Use Interpretation.

CEIE Film Series: Screening of [A Sea Change](#) in honor of World Ocean Day 2009

June 6, 2009, 1:00 p.m. screening; 3:00 p.m. live webcast panel discussion

Join Beacon Institute for a screening of *A Sea Change*, the new documentary about ocean acidification by Hudson Valley filmmakers Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby. Plan to arrive at 12:30 p.m. to enjoy the quarter-mile walk into the park for the 1 p.m. screening, followed by a 3 p.m. live webcast of panel discussion with the filmmakers and Beacon Institute's John Cronin. Free, however capacity is limited. **Seats available on a pre-registered basis only.** [REGISTER ONLINE HERE.](#)

CEIE Walk & Talk Series: Archeological and Historical Walk & Talk at Denning's Point

June 26, 2009, 12:00 p.m.

Join Lucille Lewis Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at Vassar College, and Jim Heron, Project Historian at Beacon Institute, for a tour and discussion of Denning's Point's rich and historic landscape. Bring a bag lunch. Free. Online registration coming soon.

CEIE Film Series: Screening of *The Power of Song*

July 16, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Join Beacon Institute for a screening of Jim Brown's documentary film, *The Power of Song*, about Pete Seeger. Discussion with filmmaker Jim Brown to follow. Free, however capacity is limited. **Seats available on a pre-registered basis only.** Online registration coming soon.

GALLERY at 199 Main St.: Fishkill Watershed Day

July 25, 2009, time TBD

Talk by Beacon Institute Project Historian Jim Heron at the gallery at 199 Main St. Free.

GALLERY at 199 Main St.: A Day in the Life of ... Beacon

July 31, 2009, time TBD

Walking tour of Denning's Point with Jim Heron. Free.

Dennings Point 5K Run

August 8, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

More info to be posted as it becomes available.

CEIE Film Series: Screening of *Flow*

August 20, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Join Beacon Institute for a screening of Irena Salina's documentary film, *Flow*, about the world water crisis – what many experts believe is the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st century. Online registration coming soon.

CEIE Walk & Talk Series: Habitats at Denning's Point

August 28, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

Join Tanessa Hartwig, Assistant Director of the Conservation Ecology Program at Hudsonia, for a Walk and Talk of the vast and fascinating habitats of Denning's Point. Bring a bag lunch. Free. Online registration coming soon.

For more information about CEIE programming and availability, please visit www.bire.org/events or call (845) 838-1600.

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