



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

July

Spring-Summer 2006

EARTH DAY CELEBRATES SIGNATURE PROJECTS

In celebration of Earth Day, Coastal America and AmeriCorps*NCCC launched over 20 Signature Projects nation-wide to restore and protect our nation's coasts while teaching the principles of ocean literacy. Seven Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, three Regional Implementation Teams, and one Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partner hosted the teams of 12 members each. Partners expressed gratitude for the NCCC teams' enthusiasm, abilities, and particularly their exceptional work habits and efficiency. The projects varied in ingenuity and results. For example, the Southwest Regional Implementation Team co-chair Pat Rutten of NOAA organized a NCCC team in Santa Rosa Creek, California that removed invasive species, planted native vegetation, and stabilized the bank of Santa Rosa Creek, California.

(see page 2 Signature Project)



Photo: Courtesy, North Carolina Aquariums

*AmeriCorps*NCCC volunteers prepare to remove invasive plants at North Carolina Aquarium sites.*

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Georgia Aquarium

On May 25, 2006 in Atlanta Georgia, Coastal America designated the Georgia Aquarium as the United States' 19th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and Timothy R. E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce presented this prestigious national designation to the Aquarium. Bernie Marcus, Founder, Home Depot and Aquarium Benefactor received the designating honors. Georgia Aquarium worked closely with Coastal America to receive the official designation. "We're delighted to be included into the Coastal America partnership," said Bernie Marcus. "The designation will enable us to expand our conservation message to far more people through participation in the Learning Center network." James L. Connaughton, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality and Chair of Coastal America



Children from the Atlanta New Century School perform at the Georgia Aquarium CELC Designation Ceremony.

(see page 2 Georgia)

Signature Project NCCC

(continued from page 1)

In conjunction with the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NMRMA) in Dubuque, Iowa, AmeriCorps® NCCC members and community volunteers spray-painted stencils on storm drains. The drains read, “Drains to Creek, Drains to River, Drains to Gulf.” The primary intention is to increase awareness of where storm water flows after it leaves



Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA (2nd left) joins Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, NMRMA (2nd right) and local officials to welcome NCCC volunteers.

the streets. “The health of our rivers and streams throughout the country affects the health of our oceans,” said Merlene Mazyck, Director of AmeriCorps® NCCC. “By working to clean up these waterways now, we ensure a healthy environment for the future,” stated Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA.



The Coastal America Partners celebrated with NCCC at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

The NCCC team assigned to Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama completed maintenance, painting, and repair work throughout the campus. Student volunteers expressed enthusiasm that working at the Sea Lab campus was

more than work—everyday they learned about the environment and coastal and ocean issues at the Lab’s estuarium.

In Seattle, Washington, the volunteer team produced iPod broadcasts featuring community conservation. The team organized events and community volunteers to facilitate Earth Day events throughout Seattle involving multiple federal, state, and private partners.



Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior and Jack Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator for National Ocean Services, NOAA, kicked off Earth Day events in the Seattle, Washington area.

Coastal America Principals Highlights

On January 20, 2006, the Coastal America Principals met at the Council on Environmental Quality Conference Room to discuss the Strategic Plan; Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCS); and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The Principals discussed anticipated results from the Strategic Plan commitments. The Principals determined that each Regional Implementation Team Co-Chairs should provide anticipated tangible results from requested resources. The Principals decided a number of actions regarding Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers: (1) they approved the designation application of the Georgia Aquarium as a CELC; (2) they agreed to explore extending designation to international facilities adjacent to U.S.

borders; and (3) they agreed to look into legal considerations for including profits into the CELC network. The Principals also discussed energizing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and making available to agencies both project lists and CWRP support.

Coastal America Foundation

Congratulations to The Coastal America Foundation for receiving the Wyland Foundations’ Certificate of Appreciation for its “commitment to our marine life and your dedication to clean water for the 21st century.

Georgia Aquarium

(continued from page 1)

stated: “I am delighted to welcome the Georgia Aquarium into the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers family. The President believes that lifelong education is an essential component to fostering a strong economy, promoting healthy ecosystems, and encouraging a competitive workforce. Coastal America’s CELCs contribute to this goal by creating a compelling environment to engage communities in learning about our coastal resources and encouraging them to become good stewards of the resources; and the Georgia Aquarium is now a stunning addition to this effort.”

The CELC network includes 22 facilities which reach 22 million people annually.

National Meeting in Mobile, Alabama



The Coastal America annual meeting included a tour of the Mississippi coast ravaged by hurricane Katrina in 2005.

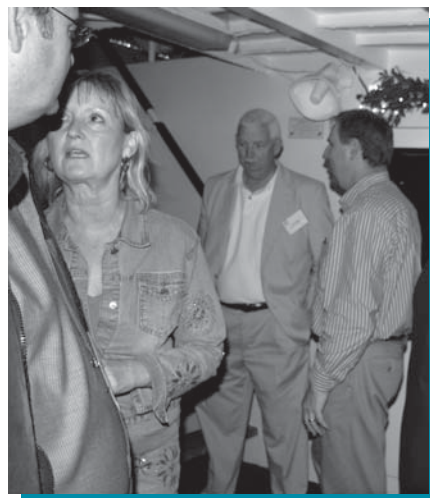
The Coastal America Annual Meeting was held April 23-27 in Mobile, Alabama, hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team (GMRIT). The meeting focused on improving productivity by pulling together regional action plans with emphasis on Coastal America tools. These are the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCS), the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) and the Innovative

The annual meeting included the presentation of leadership awards and off-site activities, including a tour of the Alabama and Mississippi coast ravaged by hurricane Katrina. An evening event sponsored by the Dauphin Island SeaLab highlighted the many achievements of this CELC. A walking tour of the Estuarium and nature trail were followed by showcasing the work completed by NCCC volunteers. Meeting participants also toured the Mobile River by boat, with commentary by Mobile Bay NEP Director, Dave Yeager.



Fish and Wildlife Service presentation on post Katrina restoration efforts.

Readiness Training Program (IRT). One outcome of the meeting was an announcement by CWRP to join with CELCs in educational and outreach opportunities. Several Coastal America Principals participated in the meeting, offering many insights on policy and future directions of the Partnership.



Meeting participants toured Mobile River with commentary by Dave Yeager, Director, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

National Leadership



Chief Master Sergeant Gilbert Taylor received a Coastal America Leadership Award for leadership in implementing environmental projects that enhance military readiness.



Marguerite Duffy, Coastal America's Deputy Director for Education/Outreach, received the distinguished National Leadership Award from Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA, Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior, and Gerhard Kuska, Associate Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality for leadership in facilitating the CELC network and developing the AmeriCorps NCCC Signature Project partnership.

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Regional Leadership Award



Ben Grumbles, Coastal America Principal and EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, presented the Regional Leadership Award to Paul Michel for leadership in developing a collaborative federal/state partnership with the State of California.

Northwest (NWRIT)

On January 27, 2006, the Northwest Regional Principals met in Seattle, Washington to discuss the current and future goals of the Coastal America partnership. Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Department of Commerce and NOAA Coastal America Principal, shared his vision of Coastal America as a mechanism for integrating Federal actions at the regional and local levels. The need for greater engagement of regional principals was stressed by both Keeney and Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior. Onley also discussed the importance of supporting regional and local collaboration on ocean and coastal protection and restoration.

It was agreed that the first and most important step toward strengthening the Coastal America partnership is to develop a strong, functional NWRIT. Regional principals were asked to identify a staff member to participate as a member of the NWRIT. This team will develop a vision of how Coastal America will add value in the Northwest, as well

as a draft work plan that identifies key areas of cooperation.

In April Kameran Onley met with members of the NWRIT and the Seattle Aquarium CELC and discussed strategies for engaging the aquarium in the CELC network and ocean literacy initiatives.

Alaska (AKRIT)

On April 13th the AKRIT team met at the Department of the Interior Aviation Management Directorate to review the Coastal America Program in Alaska and establish priorities for the federal partnerships. Jon Kurland, NOAA chaired the meeting and encouraged RIT members to bring a written description of projects that might benefit from Coastal America participation. The AKRIT was encouraged to consider those projects which might benefit from CWRP or in-kind support. Alaska SeaLife Center (CELC) and BP Exploration (CWRP) provided updates.

Southeast (SERIT)

Innovative Readiness Training is supporting SERIT through a North Carolina Aquarium CELC project. The project will redesign the shoreline at the NC Aquarium's Roanoke Island Facility. The purpose of the project is to allow increased access to the water and a demonstration of state-of-art shore protection techniques. Professor Dave Kriebel will lead the US Naval Academy's involvement in the project.



The U.S. Navy conducted a site visit of the North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island.

Naval Academy Cadets will develop design options for the site next fall through an independent study ocean engineering course. The IRT program, the Navy Reserves, the Air Force Reserves, and others, will return in FY08 to reshape the shoreline in accordance with the plans.

Gulf of Mexico (GMRIT)

The State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit 2006 was held March 28-30th, in Corpus Christi, TX. The Summit was a major step in increasing awareness on long-term sustainability of the Gulf based on sound economies and healthy and productive marine ecosystems. The Summit included an international perspective on the issues



Eric Gustafson, President, NE Mexico Chamber of Commerce, announced at the Gulf of Mexico Summit, the commitment of U.S./ Mexico Chamber of Commerce to establish the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in the Mexican states along the Gulf.

related to the Gulf by examining the commitments and efforts of leaders of government, business and industry, science, conservation, and resource management. The Gulf States Alliance released the *Governors Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts* and a blueprint for the next three years. The key topic areas included coastal growth and development, economic vitality, habitat alterations, public health and collaborative regional governance. You can review the plan at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gulf/files/files/GulfActionPlan_final.pdf.

Partnership Awards

Ft. DeSoto Team Receives Award

On May 3, 2006, the members of the Ft. DeSoto Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Team received the 2005 Coastal America Partnership Award. Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator for the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service presented the award during the Pinellas County Environmental Fund Conservation Partners meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. Ft. De Soto Park was once a group of separate islands encompassing more than 1,100 acres of pristine bays and lagoons. During the park's development in the late 1950's and early 1960's, the islands connected by dredging and filling two causeways. This activity cut off tidal circulation between the back bays and lagoons.

Over the years, this loss of tidal circulation took its toll on the local ecosystem. Harsh environmental conditions resulted, such as low dissolved oxygen, high turbidity, and water temperatures peaking at up to 106 degrees. This combination of stressors had devastating effects on fish and wildlife within the park.

Now after nearly 50 years, tidal circulation has been restored to this part of Ft. De Soto Park. A new channel, cut beneath the newly-installed 40-foot-wide bridge allows water flow between two of the larger lagoons. Project data is still being collected and long-term studies to monitor the environmental changes of Ft. De Soto Park will continue.



Terrapin team with family volunteers celebrate project success.

Delaware Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project Honored with Spirit Award



Delaware Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project Team is honored with a Coastal America Spirit Award.

Coastal America honored the members of the Old Inlet Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project with a 2005 Spirit Award at a ceremony on May 5, in Rehoboth, DE. The awarding official was Michael Thabault, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services, US Fish & Wildlife Service. The goal of the Old Inlet Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project is to restore nesting habitat for the Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*). Diamond-backed terrapins are brackish-water turtles that spend most of their lives in the water, coming out on land primarily to bask or lay eggs. The journey between the high, dry land to the marsh creeks often require traversing roads or highways that bisect habitat, unnaturally increasing the mortality of turtles during the most critical phases of their life cycle. Female diamond-back terrapins leave tidal marshes each spring, typically from late May to mid-July in search of suitable upland habitat to lay eggs. Suitable habitat is any open upland area above the

reach of the highest tide with areas of exposed sand or soil. Eight to ten ping pong ball sized eggs are deposited in a nest excavated in the soil to a depth of about five inches. Depending on soil temperatures, eggs generally hatch sixty days later. Hatchlings must then traverse the same roads or highways back to the water.

The 6.2 acres of upland at the Old Inlet RV Park site was very low quality terrapin nesting habitat. This project deposited clean fill material on 4.4 acres of the site and was graded for habitat enhancement. This provided alternative nesting habitat for the terrapins thus eliminating traversing highways or roads. The monitoring element is tracking the success of this new approach to minimizing unnatural terrapin mortality.

Team members included: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Divisions of Soil and Water, Fish and Wildlife and Park and Recreation; along with the DE Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and ERM.



CWRP UPDATES

CWRP Leaders Receive Special Recognition Award



Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water presented the Coastal America Special Recognition Award to Cindy Angelelli and John Bowie of Duke Energy for efforts in developing the CWRP operating structure.

National-Level Management Subcommittee

The National Program Management Subcommittee convened two meetings this winter and spring. The first meeting was held in Washington, DC on January 31, and the primary outcomes were the final approval of the new structure, operating principles and contribution forms for the CWRP, including the state chapters. The CWRP is now a standing committee of the Coastal America Foundation, a 501(C)(3) operating in Massachusetts. This new alignment provides a formal structure for the CWRP as well as additional legal protection. The April 24 meeting was held in conjunction with Coastal America's annual meeting in Mobile, AL. The primary business of the meeting was to have an open dialogue with Coastal America regional chairs. In addition, the leadership of the subcommittee was transferred from Cindy Angelelli of Duke Energy to John Bowie of Duke Energy - Gas Transmission. And, finally, the CWRP announced the release of the new five

year status report and the launch of the new website. Both can be viewed at www.cwrp.org.

CWRP State Updates

Many of the state CWRP chapters convened their board meetings this quarter, including Rhode Island, Maine, Alaska, Texas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire. The meetings centered on the new organizational structure of the CWRP, and each of the states devoted time on their agendas to revising their operating principals as requested by the national Management Subcommittee. Several chapters also voted on new officers and other chapters continued to support new projects.

Several informational meetings were held this quarter, including one with the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetlands Evaluation Task Force. The Task Force members were very interested to hear about Coastal America and the CWRP, and agreed to participate more regularly with the Coastal America Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team and to work on identification of projects that would be appropriate for CWRP sponsorship. Thanks to former NIT member, Jennifer Greiner, USFWS and USEPA, for facilitating this successful meeting.

Maryland

The MD CWRP is off to a good start with the announcement that Constellation Energy will be taking the lead for the state's chapter. With encouragement and support from the MD Department of Natural Resources, the MD CWRP is expected to be formally announced at an event in the Fall of 2006.

New York

The NY CWRP was very busy this winter. They held a state board meeting

on January 25, in Syracuse, NY. The meeting resulted in the election of the new co-chairs, National Grid and Louis Berger Group. The meeting participants agreed to support two projects this year, vernal pool restoration at Canoga Marsh and the Dry Marsh restoration in the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The NY CWRP participated in two events this quarter. The first was an informational recruiting session in Albany, NY, on April 6. The meeting, hosted by NY CWRP co-chair, National Grid, included a brief address by NYSDEC Commissioner Sheehan, and focused on the CWRP plans and opportunities for private and public participation in restoring and enhancing Empire State wetlands, streams, lakes, and coastlines.



NY CWRP hosted an informational recruiting session in Albany.

The second NY CWRP event was a panel presentation during the annual New York State Wetlands Forum in Syracuse on April 19. Joining the panel were Scott Shupe, National Grid & NY CWRP co-chair; John Balletto, PSEG & Mid-Atlantic CWRP Chair; Patmarie Nedelka, Coastal America; and Dan Montella, EPA Region 2. Also participating in the panel discussion were the project leads for the two NY CWRP projects - Sharon Anderson described the efforts underway at the Canoga Marsh and described the plans being developed for the Dry Marsh project at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.



Massachusetts CWRP hosted a environmental stewardship recognition event in Boston.

Massachusetts

The MA CWRP hosted a recognition event on March 19, 2006, in Boston. The event highlighted the achievements of the MA CWRP - 50 Massachusetts companies are contributing over \$1.5 million dollars worth of support to two dozen projects stretching from Ipswich to Wellfleet. Ten companies were recognized for their environmental stewardship on public projects to restore wetlands for their contributions. In addition to contributing goods and services, companies have advanced projects by donating funds that help towns meet the match requirements for federal grants.

At the same meeting, Stephen Pritchard, Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, presented the Gulf of Maine 2005 Visionary Award to Congressman William Delahunt of the Tenth District,

on behalf of the Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The award praises the Representative's office as a "true partner in coastal habitat restoration" and acknowledges his role in securing Federal support for the Herring River Restoration in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, one of the largest restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine Region, and also for the Straits Pond Restoration in the Towns of Cohasset, Hull, and Hingham.

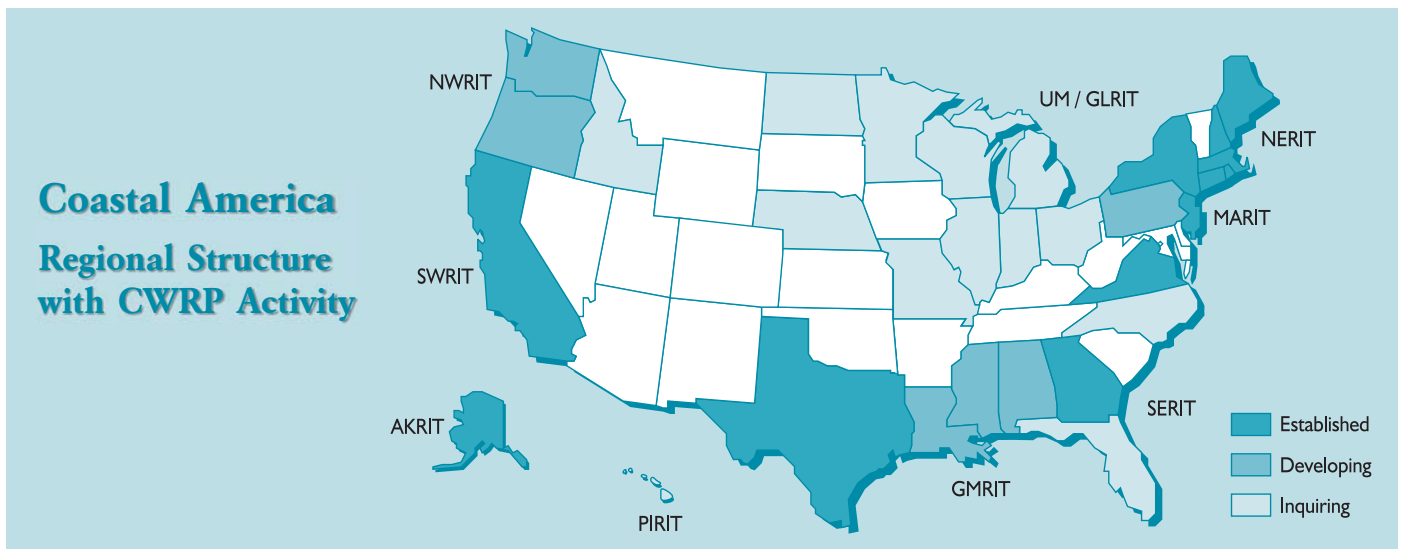
In accepting the award, Congressman Delahunt remarked that "far too often it seems that we are forced to defend against assaults on the environment. I'm pleased to have been able to partner with local leaders that have the foresight and dedication to protect these unique natural treasures, so that they can continue to be enjoyed by residents and tourists alike."



Sally Yozell, George Olson, and Bill Cronin at CWRP recognition event.

New Jersey

The NJ CWRP is sad to announce the retirement of chair, John Balletto, PSEG. He is retiring from PSEG in May and will be replaced by Russ Furnari. Not to worry, John will be staying involved in the CWRP once he begins his new job at BBL. Best wishes, John!



CELC UPDATES

New York Aquarium Leads National Wetlands Education

The Education Department of the NY Aquarium in Brooklyn, NY launched an innovative national leadership program with aquarium and zoo educators and their local environmental regulators at a seminar on March 20-21 at the Aquarium. Project Power (Protecting Our Wetlands with Educators and Regulators) is the brainchild of Jim Gilmore, NY Department of Environmental Conservation, and Dr. Merryl Kafka, Curator of the NY Aquarium, who created the project in 1994 with a EPA Region 2 environmental education grant. Building on its successful results, Dr. Kafka applied for a national EPA grant to broaden Project Power nationally.

Project Power brought educators and 12 states together to create a network devoted to conservation, education, and preservation of our nation's aquatic habitats and resources. Paul Boyle, President of the NY Aquarium, stated, "the purpose of this course is to



Project Power participants included five Coastal America CELCs.

stimulate the replication of the program around the nation. Each region is unique and we hope participants will adjust the course to your needs. This course is a tipping point in connecting folks in wetlands protection." Project Power is about targeting audiences to include not only wetland violators, but also

the entire community of stakeholders who live or work in environmentally sensitive areas, so they do not become violators. Each participant will tailor the course to its state then pilot the course and report outcomes to the NY CELC within a year.

Project Power: Protecting Our Wetlands with Educators and Regulators

Nearly 500 New York City residents and corporations have participated in workshops since 1994 with EPA funding support and the personal commitment of the NY Aquarium and NY DEC. Merryl Kafka, NY Aquarium notes, "90% of wetlands violators are good, honest homeowners who happen to live in the shadow of wetlands and have put up a fence

or extended a porch. Few people have heard of the Tidal Wetlands Act, and even fewer people understand it." Kafka's solution was to design a course and teach the community to prevent destruction of valuable wetlands.

Merryl Kafka formed a partnership between her aquarium and the NY DEC. She said, "People tend to hate regulators

but you can't hate aquariums." By inviting violators and of late, non-violators, into the aquarium, attendees see slide presentations, hear lectures, and tour museum exhibits which improve their understanding of wetland ecosystems. Attendees may arrive angry but they leave happy and well informed.



CELCs discuss national and regional potential of Project Power.

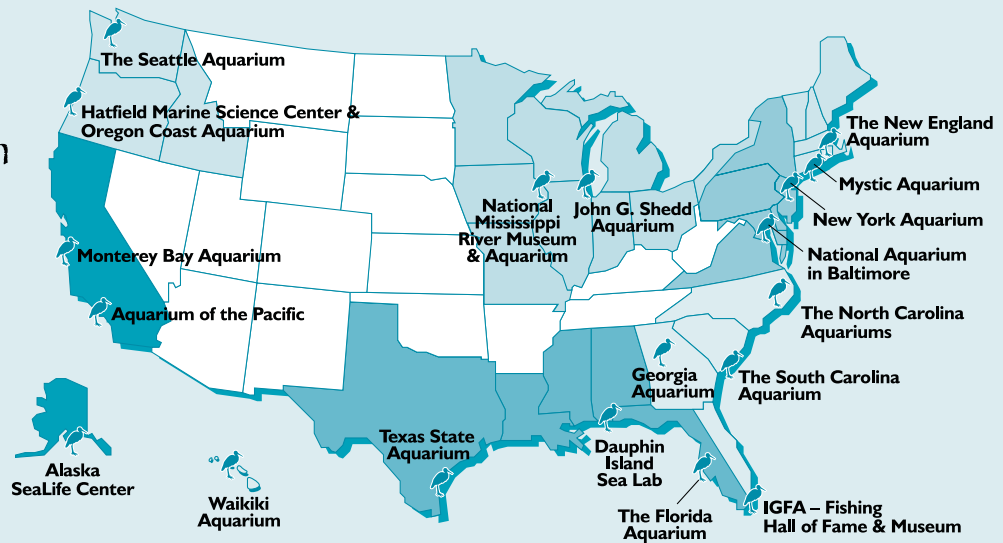


Merryl Kafka encourages CELCs to implement wetlands courses locally.



New England Aquarium discusses regional wetlands Issues.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers



Texas State Aquarium

In March, several Administration officials met with the Texas State Aquarium directors while attending the Gulf Summit to discuss ongoing programs and ocean literacy.



(left to right)
Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and **Gerhard Kuska**, Associate Director for Oceans, White House Council on Environmental Quality and **Tara Schultz**, Education Director, observe volunteer working with students at Texas State Aquarium's teaching lab.

Shedd's New Invasive Species Exhibit

A world leader in conservation education, the Shedd Aquarium decided to take a larger role in regional education by

unveiling its new permanent exhibit featuring invasive species to the Great Lakes. Coastal America regional partners included the U.S. EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Invasive species are already causing a path of destruction in the Great Lakes as more than 180 aquatic invasive animals now live in the Great Lakes basin. In addition, a new invasive species is introduced every eight months on average, affecting millions of people who live near the Great Lakes. The public can learn about one of the more destructive forces to the Great Lakes, such as the impact of Asian carp, round gobies, and zebra mussels on the surrounding ecosystem.

Waikiki Aquarium Installing New Exhibits

The Waikiki Aquarium is working with Coastal America PIRIT on possible projects for the coming year. Last November, the Aquarium, through an EPA grant, installed an interactive outdoors exhibit on invasive seaweeds. The exhibit has a conservation/environmental awareness theme, and overlooks the Marine Life Conservation District behind the Aquarium.

The Aquarium is also working to fund a major new Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Conservation Exhibit that will include live corals and fish. The Northwestern Hawaiian Island Reserve Council has provided some funding. The aim of the exhibit is to raise visitor's awareness of the unique biological status of these islands, and the need to protect and conserve them. Fundraising began last year, and will continue this summer.

The Aquarium completed a moi (local fish) release on Earth Day. Local boy scout and girl scout troops were involved, as well as other children. Each child released a tagged moi and received a certificate with the tag number on it. The purpose is to instill stewardship by making youth feel a part of restocking and taking care of the ocean. Cooperating partners included Coastal America partner The Army Corps of Engineers, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, the State DLNR, Anuenue Fisheries Research Center, and the Waikiki Aquarium as a Coastal America Learning Center. The Aquarium has plans to make this an annual event.

Conference on Ocean Literacy

A Conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL) held June 7-8, 2006, in Washington, D.C. brought together key leaders in ocean education to discuss opportunities for formal and informal education efforts. The purpose of the Conference was to identify priorities that will be forwarded to the Education Working Group under the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. CoOL organizers included the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Department of Interior, U.S. EPA, the National Science Foundation, the Coastal America National Coordinating Office, among others.

In addition to the conference in Washington, D.C. there were 5 regional workshops around the country hosted by Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, Sea Grant, and Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence. These workshops hosted over 320 participants from widely varying backgrounds. Satellite links brought the national conference real-time to the regional workshops. Additionally, many CELCs accessed the national conference via Webcast. Recommendations centered on the need for partnering networks and developing coordinated national and regional public awareness messages designed to change behavior and encourage stewardship and action.

The *Aquarium of the Pacific* in Long Beach, California hosted the western regional workshop. Over 120 participants represented organizations from Oregon to San Diego. Many of the participants were not previously aware of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the Ocean Literacy effort. The regional CoOL facilitated the development of ways to increase the awareness and priorities of ocean science literacy.

At the *J.L. Scott Aquarium*, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, despite being destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, hosted



Photo: Courtesy Department of Commerce

Dr. Jerry Schubel, President, Aquarium of the Pacific responds to questions about informal education.

40 participants. Professionals from across the Gulf of Mexico participated in the regional Webcast. Research scientists, formal and nonformal educators from multiple education networks, marine resources personnel, policy makers, the media, and economic development experts helped mold the future of ocean literacy in the Gulf of Mexico through the facilitated discussions.

The *John G. Shedd Aquarium* in Chicago, Illinois, had 60 participants from the entire Great Lakes Region including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan and even New York and Canada. One panel highlighted informal education programs in the Great Lakes region and the second presented the community engagement philosophies and strategies of several Great Lakes organizations, as well as focusing on Great Lakes regional networking opportunities.

In the Midwest, the *National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium* in Dubuque, Iowa hosted 70 attendees from 58 museums and the 10 Mississippi River States. Participants included educators, students, museum staff, National Park Service, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife, Sierra Club, Health Department and religious organizations. The conference in Dubuque focused on: illiteracy, rivers, the network of interpretive centers, restoration benchmarks and communications strategies for the Mississippi river,

CELC Leadership Award



Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the National Mississippi River Museum received the CELC Leadership Award for his leadership in advancing coastal and ocean awareness and education through the CELC network.

Events, Programs, & Other News

California and the World Ocean '06

The California Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Coastal Conservancy Association are co-chairing an international conference "California and the World Ocean Conference 2006 (CWO '06)", from September 17-20, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency, Long Beach, California, U.S.A.

CWO '06 will take place as California and the nation are responding to a renewed call for ocean and coastal protection. The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is developing a strategic plan to improve the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources. The OPC strategic plan is scheduled for completion by June 2006, but the hard work of implementing the plan will be in full swing when the conference begins. With this event, California will bring together representatives from academia, government, industry, and the public to share ideas and to discuss how California can attain the goals of its strategic plan. For more information on CWO '06, please see <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/>.

Cooperative Conservation Update

On February 3, James Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, issued an update on implementing the mission and goals for Cooperative Conservation. Highlights include a report entitled, "Supplemental Analysis of Day 2 Discussion Sessions," which incorporate task force suggestions with short-, mid-, and long-term actions for a more efficient Federal workplace and more local involvement; a commitment to fulfill Federal commitments; hiring and training environmental employees under the auspices of the cooperative

conservation principles; a description of the President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget that will support cooperative conservation initiatives and actions through the task force; and continuing internet communication.

Coalition for Ocean Literacy

Coastal America has been working with several organizations in establishing a Coalition for Ocean Literacy. The proposed coalition would unite existing federally sponsored networks with a focus on coastal and ocean issues to work together to promote ocean literacy. Initial meetings have been held among proposed partners including the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE); the National Sea Grant Colleges; the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC); and the Coastal America federal partnership. A first pilot effort were the regional workshops on ocean literacy.



Photo: Courtesy Department of Commerce

SeaWorld demonstrates the use of marine life in education programs as Ted Beattie, CEO, Shedd Aquarium looks on.

and exhibits that reach the public and change mindsets. The efforts in Dubuque will impact the Education Action Plan for the Midwest.

On the East Coast at the *National Aquarium in Baltimore*, Maryland, the 30 participants included representatives from the National Aquarium in Baltimore CELC, Sea Grant, US Geological Survey, Oceana, and Maryland State Department of Education. The Baltimore Regional Workshop participants became part of the testing and formative evaluation of Chesapeake Bay "watershed". The interactive auditorium program will link visitors to the point of undergoing their own "watershed" moments, as they realize their personal connections to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and become inspired to take individual action.



Photo: Courtesy Department of Commerce

Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, NMRM&A addresses regional ocean literacy at CoOL.

Events Calendar

July 15-21
National Association of Marine Educators Conference
Brooklyn, NY

September 16
Coastal Cleanup Day

September 21-23
National Estuaries Day

September 25-30
American Zoological Association Annual Meeting
Tampa, Florida

December 6-8
National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts
Washington, DC



Bernie Marcus, Founder Home Depot and Aquarium Benefactor, and Steve Johnson, EPA Administrator witness as Tim Keeney, NOAA and Jeff Swanagan, Executive Director, Georgia Aquarium sign CELC designation documents.

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MID-ATLANTIC

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John Wright..... 718-765-7062

SOUTHEAST

Bo Crum 404-562-9352

GULF OF MEXICO

Robert Bosenberg 504-862-2522

Bryon Griffith..... 228-688-1172

SOUTHWEST

Paul Michel 415-972-3417

Pat Rutten 707-575-6059

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Mark Chandler..... 808-522-8180

NORTHWEST

Mark Brown 503-375-5686

Meghan Callahan

Grant..... 503-231-2213

ALASKA

Douglas Mutter 907-271-5011

John Kurland 907-586-7638

GREAT LAKES/UPPER MISSISSIPPI

Craig Czarnecki..... 517-351-8470

Gary Mast..... 202-720-1882

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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