



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

August - December Issue

2006

SUMMIT INSPIRES TEENS TO TAKE ACTION THROUGH COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

“We are committed to making a change”

— Students Pledge, December 8, 2006 —



Summit delegation provides recommendations to Administration and Congressional officials on Capitol Hill.

Coastal America celebrated its 10 year partnership with the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network, December 5th to 8th 2006, by hosting a National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts. Held in Washington, DC, the Summit brought together formal and informal educators and offered high school students unique exposure to national ocean leaders. The Summit was guided by the premise that such exposure would benefit all involved and would advance an ocean literate and involved citizenship beyond Summit participation and school curriculum. As a result teens across the nation are involved in cooperative conservation projects and mentorship to promote environmentally healthier coasts and

oceans. Their plans encompass coastal issues such as tidal power, habitat restoration, conservation of wildlife, and ocean literacy programs. Students unified in pledging, “*we are committed to making a change,*” and presented personal commitments.

(see page 6-7 - Summit Highlights)



Coastal America Principals comment on Student Recommendations.

In This Issue:

Summit Inspires Teens	1
Principals’ Meeting	2
Partnership Awards	2
2006 Winners Selected	3
Regional Implementation Team Updates.....	4
CWRP Updates.....	5
National Student Summit	6
CELC Updates	8
Formal & Informal Ocean Education Recommendations	10
Events, Programs & Other News.....	11

Principals' Meeting Focuses on Learning Center Expansion



Photo by Will Nickols

Coastal America Principals met in August to discuss program planning and initiatives.

The Coastal America Principals met on August 1, 2006, at the White House, Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Executive Steering Committee was invited to make a presentation on CELC expansion (a recommendation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan). Ted Beattie, CEO, Shedd Aquarium, and Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, National Mississippi River

Museum and Aquarium, represented the CELC partnership. Mr. Enzler recommended strategies that could strengthen and expand ocean literacy amongst the CELCs nationwide. Mr. Beattie reported that aquaria are collaborating internationally on many issues. The Coastal America Principals agreed to extend CELC designation to international aquaria. Coastal America has already received a formal application

from Veracruz Aquarium in Mexico. A workgroup will develop appropriate criteria for such foreign applications, but will require that international aquaria must share water bodies with the United States. Vice-Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Administrator, NOAA supported the Steering Committee recommendations and agreed to chair a Working Group on CELC Expansion.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD CEREMONIES

Lonsdale Saltmarsh Restoration Project Team Recognized

On September 11, 2006, JP Woodley, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, presented the 2005 Coastal America Partnership Award to the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project Team. Woodley stated, "the restored marsh will demonstrate how underutilized, incompatible development can be replaced by a sustainable and compatible land use." The project involved the restoration of 17 acres of habitat by removing a former drive-in theater within a heavily urbanized watershed. Ten acres of riparian habitat and a 7-acre wetland composed of 3.6 acres of emergent



JP Woodley presented Partnership Award to the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project Team.

and open water habitat and 3.4 acres of shrub and forested swamps, replaced the asphalt paved drive-in. The project created a continuous wooded riparian buffer along the Blackstone River, linking important upstream and downstream habitats for the watershed's

wildlife community. In a parallel effort the Rhode Island Department of Transportation built a bicycle trail adjacent to the restoration site. The project was identified through a comprehensive watershed evaluation of ecological restoration opportunities in the Blackstone River watershed. It took the collaboration of RI state agencies, the Corps of Engineers, the Coastal America NERIT, the RI-Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) and the Blackstone/ Woonasquatucket American Heritage Rivers Initiative to deliver this important project. The CWRP contributed the key cost-share funding (\$30K) that allowed this project to be completed on time.

Winners Selected for 2006 Partnership Awards

Congratulations to the 2006 Coastal America Award Winners!

Partnership Awards: Branford River Fishway Team, CT; Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit, NC; Bahia Grande Restoration Team, TX

Spirit Awards: The Nature Conservancy's Long Island Marine Team, NY; Seattle Aquarium Citizen Science, WA

Special Recognition Award: Gulf of Mexico Foundation

Team chairs have been notified. Award ceremonies are underway. Contact your regional chair for scheduling.

Invasive Species Toolkit Team Receives Award

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, DOC presented the first 2006 Partnership Award of the year to the *Invasives Tool Kit Team* at a September 29th ceremony in Tampa, Florida. Timothy R.E. Keeney stated, "this team project will enable millions



Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Commerce, presented a Partnership Award to the Aquatic Invasives Tool Kit Team.

of people annually to learn how to protect our environment from aquatic invasive species, which cost our nation nearly \$138 billion per year to control." *Aquatic Invaders* is an educational program that demonstrates steps to avoid spreading of invasive species. More than 200 AZA-accredited facilities will receive a kit in 2007. Katie Mosher, NC Sea Grant explains, "the project is a

national partnership which drew upon an advisory committee of 12 partners, including the CELCs, Sea Grant, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America said, "I am pleased that the CELCs have partnered in this nation-wide team effort with AZA to inform and engage the public in preventing the rapid proliferation of aquatic invasives." The team goal is "to share a consistent national message," stated Alan Power, of the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service. Congratulations to the entire team!

Coney Island Restoration Team Award

On July 18th EPA Regional Administrator, Region 2, Alan Steinberg presented a 2005 Coastal America Partnership Award to the *Project Creek: Coney Island Restoration Team*. Mr. Steinberg presented the award during the National Marine Educators Annual Meeting before an audience of nearly 400 marine educators. Steinberg stated, "this program provided a unique, hands-on experience for students in New York City, while restoring important waterfront habitat at Coney Island Creek. Student and volunteer efforts continue to expand." The team project included recruiting and training volunteers from high schools



EPA Regional Administrator Alan Steinberg presented a Coastal America Partnership Award to Project Creek: Coney Island Restoration Team.

in New York City to participate in the conservation program. The team developed a program to educate students to act as Aquarium exhibit interpreters; involve teens in community

conservation; provide hands-on field research, including the monitoring of fish and crab abundance. Working with schools, the team developed lecture sessions on biology, species, animal husbandry, data analysis and research, oral communication and leadership skills. Steinberg said "this team reflects the power of partnership in bringing together a community of teachers, students, parents, and federal, state, and community partners in restoring an important ecosystem in Coney Island."

San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Team

On September 19, the *San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Sale/Donation & Interim Stewardship Planning Teams* were recognized with a 2005 Coastal America Spirit Award. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the World Ocean Conference 2006 at the Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach, California. Timothy R. E. Keeney, DAS for Oceans, DOC; Dr. Gerhard Kuska, Associate Director for Ocean and Coastal Policy, CEQ; and Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator for EPA Region 10, presented the award.



Coastal America Principals present Spirit Award to the San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Sale/Donation & Interim Stewardship Planning Teams.

The team successfully protected 16,500 acres of shoreline/marsh, through the restoration of 25 square miles of important wetland habitat. These efforts are providing important habitat to several endangered bird species and almost 100 other species that use this area for feeding, nesting and resting. This project is one of the largest of its type to improve water quality in the region.

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Alaska Regional Implementation Team

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) met in October hearing progress reports on AKRIT-endorsed projects in Alaska. They also prepared the agenda for the February 2007 meeting of the Alaska Regional Principals, which includes the AKRIT's final strategic plan for 2007-2010. The Regional Principals will consider the plan at their meeting. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment, where AKRIT will be giving presentations on AKRIT endorsed projects. Projects include: Chester Creek Aquatic Restoration; Kenai's North Road Fish Passage; Shorezone Coastal Mapping; Eroding Landfills Along the Coast of Alaska; Resurrection Creek Restoration; Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership; Whittier Artificial Reef; Anchorage's Salmon; Ship Creek Fishing Access and Stream Bank Rehabilitation; and Little Campbell Creek Rescue.

Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team

A Coastal America team conducted a site visit of the Veracruz Aquarium on August 16-17, 2006 to evaluate its proposal to become a CELC. If approved for designation, this will be the first international CELC. The U.S. Ocean Action Plan supports the expansion of informal institutions, such as the CELC network, to promote



Gulf of Mexico RIT conducted a site visit of the Veracruz Aquarium.

ocean literacy efforts. In accordance with the Plan, the inclusion of the Veracruz Aquarium supports the goals of mobilizing international efforts to advance international ocean science.

The site team concluded unanimously that the Veracruz Aquarium far exceeds all the criteria for consideration. On October 5, 2006, the Regional Principals of GMRIT convened in New Orleans and approved moving forward to the Coastal America Director the nomination of the Veracruz Aquarium as the first bi-national CELC.

Northwest Regional Implementation Team

The NWRIT is making good progress in forming a Puget Sound CWRP pilot chapter. There is a NWRIT approved project list that has been vetted and prioritized by the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership. Battelle, CH2M Hill and others have expressed interest in convening the Puget Sound chapter. The NWRIT has facilitated two initial planning meetings with Battelle to map out respective roles, work plan and recruitment strategy. The NWRIT is working closely with Coastal America headquarters and other CWRP chapter contacts to learn from their successes and implement the Washington chapter in an efficient and effective manner. The NWRIT is also actively working through a variety of channels to formalize a link between the CWRP and Governor Gregoire's Puget Sound Initiative by educating key people involved with the initiative.

NWRIT is working with the Hatfield Marine Science Center CELC and relevant stakeholders to address erosion issues along the estuary nature trail located at the centers program along Yaquina Bay. Consultations with local, state and federal agencies have determined the best method to stabilize the bank is a gravel beach solution. This

design was chosen to avoid the impacts of a hard shoreline stabilization structure. The project design considers potential impacts on estuarine species, habitats, biological productivity, and water quality and incorporates native plants in the revegetation plan. The Innovative Readiness Training program and NWRIT have facilitated the local Oregon Army National Guard unit for project implementation. Project kick-off is targeted for spring of 2007 pending final permit approvals.

Southwest Regional Implementation Team

The Coastal America Southwest Regional Implementation Team had a successful CWRP reception and Spirit Award presentation at the Long Beach Aquarium during the California and the World Ocean Conference 2006. Bill Britt of Cargill accepted the Coastal America Spirit Award from Dr. Gerhard Kuska Associate Director of CEQ, USEPA Regional Administrator Wayne Natri, Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary Tim Keeney, and Gerhard Kuska spoke to the need for a California CWRP. In



Dr. Sylvia Earle and Jean Michel Cousteau with SWRIT and CWRP Chairs.

addition, Jean Michel Cousteau and Dr. Sylvia Earle participated in the event. Approximately 40 people attended, including nine different companies, a number of them expressing interest in the CWRP.



CWRP Highlighted at New Orleans Conference

CWRP was highlighted at the Restore America's Estuaries Third National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration in New Orleans, LA. One of many sponsors to the well-attended conference, the CWRP visibility included an exhibit and many presentations of projects from around the country. In addition, the CWRP Management Subcommittee met on December 14th in New Orleans. The meeting focused on developing a 2007 workplan which will increase CWRP participation. John Bowie announced that he would be leaving Duke Energy-Gas Transmission in January and that George Olson would serve as CWRP Chair until the next meeting in the spring. John Balletto announced that ARCADIS BBL would be joining the CWRP MS.

MD CWRP Developing

The MD CWRP is in the development stage under the leadership of Constellation Energy. As part of the planning effort, the CWRP has been highlighted in several events around the state, including the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fair, held in Annapolis on

CWRP UPDATES

September 21, and at the Chesapeake Bay Program Businesses for the Bay annual meeting in Annapolis on November 13. Constellation Energy and Coastal America are working towards a Spring 2007 launch.

MA CWRP

On October 30, 2006, over 50 people joined Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary, Robert W. Gollidge, Jr., at an event to recognize MA CWRP. Hosted by Raytheon Corporation, the event recognized CWRP's donations to public projects that restore aquatic habitats. Gollidge stated, "I am happy to see this exceptional level of commitment. It demonstrates the power of partnerships and all that can be accomplished when people from business, government, non-profits, and local communities work together to achieve common goals." For example, Raytheon provided major funding for the Great Marsh Plan, which identifies priority habitats in need of restoration in eight communities on the North Shore.

The General Electric Company manufacturing facility in Lynn, MA highlighted the variety of ways that the private sector can apply their talents and resources to achieve greater results than possible with public funding alone.

Employees at GE have donned waders and assisted state fisheries biologists in monitoring fish species in the Saugus River, and the firm has helped underwrite the costs of studies for the restoration plans for Rumney Marsh, the largest coastal marsh in the Boston area. The company partnered with state and federal environmental agencies to help publish The Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy, which identifies habitat restoration needs and develops recommendations for their recovery. Dominion Energy received an Environmental Stewardship award from the CWRP and Coastal America for their contribution to the "Labor-in-Vain Brook" restoration project in Somerset, MA.

The Gillette Company announced the company's continued support with a \$10,000 donation to match federal grants for community habitat restoration projects in the Bay State. Through the CWRP chapter, 52 Massachusetts companies are contributing \$1,675,268 to a dozen projects stretching from Gloucester to Eastham.

VA CWRP

The VA CWRP now includes ten partners from around the state. The VA CWRP announced funding support of the Ducking Stool Pond project. The

(see page 8 - CWRP)



MA CWRP financial contributions and volunteers made possible a channel restoration in Massachusetts and protection of important habitat.



Project partners line up on the new pedestrian bridge over the restored open channel in Sandwich, MA.

2006 National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts Highlights



Summit delegation gathered on the steps of the National Academy of Sciences.



Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior and Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America welcome students at pre-Summit opening celebration.



Actress and playwright Kaiulani Lee received a standing ovation for her performance in "Sense of Wonder," about the life of Rachel Carson, sponsored by US FWS.



Dr. Gerhard Kuska, Associate Director for Ocean Policy, CEQ, spoke about the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the role of students and educators.



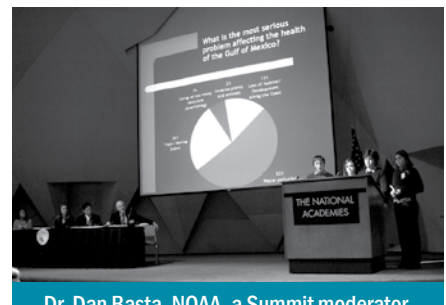
J.L. Scott Marine Education Center delegation found a quiet moment at the Albert Einstein park at the Academies. The Center joined the Summit as a COSEE network partner.



Working lunches provided students an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest.



On day one, delegates listened carefully to each other's action plan and contemplated common threads and national messages.



Dr. Dan Basta, NOAA, a Summit moderator, listens as the Texas CELC delegation delivers their presentation.

2006 National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts Highlights



Phillippe Cousteau, ocean-explorer and Jim Toomey, cartoonist/Sherman Lagoon, entertain students during evening dinner.



Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), President Pro Tempore of Senate, chaired the panel of Congressional and Administration officials who listened to students present national issues from their action plans, messages, and recommendations.



Gathered at a U.S. Senate Hearing Room, students organized to make presentations to Congressional and Administration officials.



Facilitated group discussions helped students organize national issues, messages, and recommendations.



Congressman Sam Farr, Co-Chair, House Oceans Caucus, met with students after their tour of the U.S. Capitol.



Senator Dan Akaka (D-HI) was on-hand to accept student proclamation and personal commitments.



Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce (left) and Senator Stevens (right) talked with students about their poster presentations. Pictured is the Alaska delegation and their poster on tidal power and the delegates plan to raise awareness on the benefits.



Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality, James L. Connaughton (left), presented each student and educator with a White House Certificate of Appreciation at the closing ceremony.



Jan Ross, Chairman of the Board, Newton Marasco Foundation and Dr. Sylvia Earle, board member Coastal America Foundation, surprised each CELC with a \$100 check to assist in implementation of plans and preparing case studies.

CWRP Updates

(continued from page 5)

James River Association, in partnership with US FWS is restoring 1,900 linear feet of shoreline at Ducking Stool Point in Charles City County, Virginia. The effort will protect over 500 acres of tidal freshwater marsh, located at the mouth of Herring Creek, a tributary to the James River. Watercraft and barge traffic are contributing factors to shoreline erosion. Prior attempts to stabilize the shoreline using vegetation have been unsuccessful.

AK CWRP

The AK CWRP has held several meetings and has become more involved with the Alaska Regional Implementation Team. They also published an article in the December Issue of the Alaska Resources Development Council for Alaska's journal in an effort to boost

participation. The article highlights the accomplishments of the CWRP in Alaska since its launch in 2002. The AK CWRP is planning a recruiting meeting in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment Conference in February 2007.

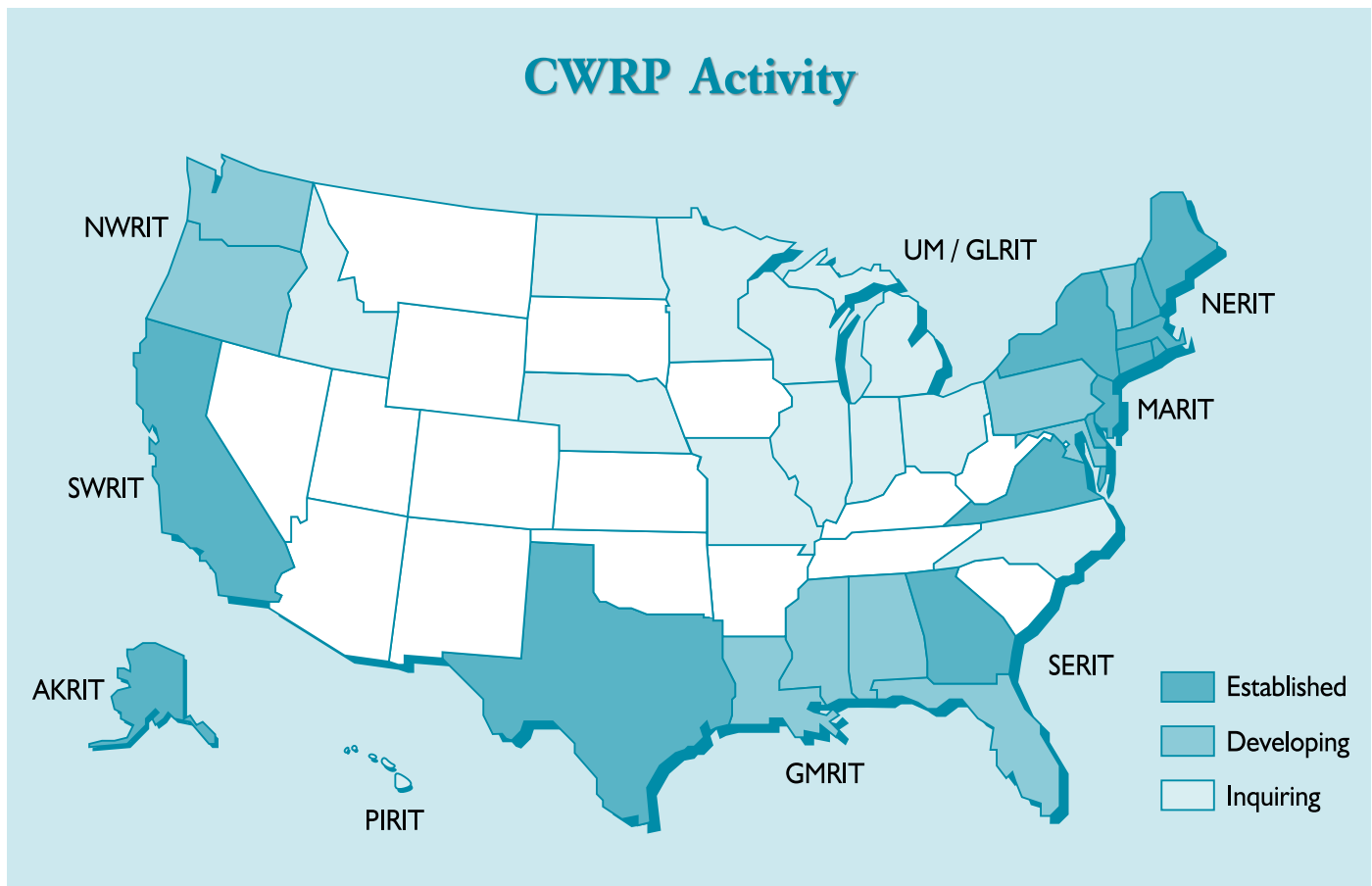
GA CWRP

Tom Simpson, CH2M Hill and GA CWRP Co-Chair, participated in the Georgia Environmental Conference. The first annual conference was held August 16-18, 2006, in Savannah. The three-day conference offered a wide array of subjects related to environmental programs within the state. The CWRP presentation highlighted the program, the Chattahoochee project, and the advantages of corporate involvement.

TX CWRP

Congratulations to the Texas CWRP on receiving the 2006 Southern Gas

Association Environmental Excellence Award. The award recognizes Duke Energy Gas Transmission, Panhandle Energy, ConocoPhillips, ENSR AECOM, Hyperion Resources, Horizon Environmental Services, Shiner Moseley & Associates, URS Corp, and HRA Gray & Pape. These SGA member companies are key partners in the Texas CWRP. In 2005, Texas CWRP was instrumental in the success of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife project "Bahia Grande Restoration Project." The project is one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the United States and will result in the restoration of approximately 10,000 acres of tidal wetlands habitat. Texas CWRP was the largest private sponsor of the project committing \$100,000 (cash and in-kind services) in support of the massive project.



CELC UPDATES

CELC Selection & Evaluation Criteria

On August 1, 2006 the Coastal America Principals approved inclusion of for-profit aquariums, such as Sea World. This will enable institutions not previously eligible for CELC designation to become part of a network that serves to increase ocean awareness and stewardship. The inclusion of both international aquaria and for-profit aquaria into the CELC network will provide more opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources in order to reach a larger audience.

CELC Executive Directors Highlights

The CELC Network met on September 27th, in Tampa, FL, during the AZA

annual conference. Chaired by Virginia Tippie, Coastal America Director, and Ted Beattie, CEO Shedd Aquarium, the agenda centered on network-wide project ideas. Ideas discussed included pooling efforts to create effective messaging in the public media; and developing ocean kiosks. Louisa Koch, Director of Education, NOAA participated in the meeting, on behalf of Vice-Admiral Lautenbacher, NOAA Administrator, who is chairing a Coastal America Principal's subcommittee reviewing a formal CELC network initiative.

CELC Education Directors Meeting

On July 17th, in conjunction with the National Marine Educators Meeting, CELC representatives met at Long Island

University to discuss upcoming network projects and future CELC endeavors. Chaired by Marguerite Duffy, the 12 CELC educators discussed incentives for CELC education programs, ideas for the National Student Summit, and future CELC priorities. Participants included the TX State Aquarium, Dauphin Island SeaLab, Monterey Aquarium, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Florida Aquarium, the North Carolina Aquariums, New York Aquarium, Shedd Aquarium, and Aquarium of the Pacific.

"I was so proud of the work our kids did at the Summit. They took this seriously, and are constantly out in the community continuing their action plan"

Note from a CELC Education Director

A Fond Farewell

Nineteen members of the CELC network honored Marguerite Duffy, Coastal America Deputy Director following the Summit events on Capitol Hill. Dr. Merryl Kafka, NY Aquarium Education Curator, made the tribute to Marguerite applauding her outstanding leadership on behalf of the CELC network. Over the past three years Marguerite has served as the White House representative on the Education Interagency Working Group implementing the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, director of the CELC network and editor of numerous publications. Jim Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality, also presented Marguerite with a special letter of commendation praising her "tireless efforts in effectively promoting public awareness of coastal and marine issues by establishing a communication network, stimulating



CELC Directors gathered to recognize Marguerite Duffy's contributions to the Learning Center network.

the exchange of ideas, developing collaborative partnerships among the learning centers, and reaching out to new partners to promote ocean literacy."

Marguerite is leaving Coastal America and returning to her home agency at EPA in a new position early 2007. We wish her fond farewell.

Formal & Informal Educators Make Recommendations for Ocean Literacy



Coastal America sponsored a formal and informal education workshop to advance ocean literacy.

On December 7th & 8th, CELC informal education experts, formal education teachers, federal agency representatives, and non-government organizations met to strategize on advancing ocean literacy. The meeting was planned simultaneously with the student summit to capitalize on the unique gathering of educational experts from around the country. Dr. Marlene Kaplan, NOAA Deputy Director for Education managed the meeting. Dividing into three groups, each group explored: linking informal and formal education;

“Ocean literate people are defined as those who understand how they affect the ocean and how the ocean affects them no matter where they live.”

incorporating ocean literacy content into formal education; and creating the next generation of environmental citizens. The group agreed that, “ocean literate people are defined as those who understand how they affect the ocean and how the ocean affects them no matter where they live.”

Coastal America hosted the workshop at the National Academies of Science to build upon the conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL) June 2006, wherein five CELCs conducted CoOL regional conferences. The December workshop also built upon an ocean literacy strategic initiative being organized

through the Education Interagency Workgroup implementing the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

Dr. Jerry Schubel, President, Aquarium of the Pacific was selected to present workshop deliberations to Administration and Congressional officials at the U.S. Capitol on December 8th. Among the recommendations:

- Integrate ocean literacy concepts into National Science Education Standards.



Dr. Jerry Schubel, President, Aquarium of the Pacific, delivers educators recommendations on Capitol Hill.

- Develop more formal relationships between K-12 schools and informal learning centers such as aquariums, museums, and science centers. Formal and informal educational institutions are natural partners with complementary strengths, resources, and assets. Coastal America’s Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers could be important mechanisms for accomplishing this.
- Evaluate project-based learning and other environmentally-focused educational projects to document their impacts on learning, mastery of scientific and mathematical concepts, and principles and the ability to apply them.
- Develop and fund professional development programs for teachers in the areas of environmental science and ocean science. The Ocean Literacy principles developed by COSEE, NEMA, and other organizations, and California’s Education Environment Initiative (EEI) are good starting points.

- Expand and publicize more broadly opportunities for teachers to participate in ocean research such as NOAA’s “Teacher at Sea” program. Stipends are required for participating teachers.
- Supplement the “Leave No Child Behind” initiative with a “Leave No Child Inside” initiative advocated by Richard Louve.

Supplement the “Leave No Child Behind” initiative with “Leave No Child Inside” initiative.

- Help students become strong ocean stewards and advocates by providing them meaningful, hands-on, real-life opportunities as critical integrated parts of learning experiences.
- Incorporate outdoor experiences into the curriculum to promote family learning and enhance environmental stewardship.
- Develop state and national Earth and Ocean awareness campaigns to promote earth and ocean ethics and stewardship at a grassroots level.
- Build on state and national programs to enhance technology infrastructure in K-12 classrooms, and to provide teachers with the training to use it
- Offer Distance Learning opportunities for inland schools to learn about the ocean, but only if there is connectivity.
- Broadly market dedicated search engines for teachers, students, informal educators and the general public to find information on earth and ocean sciences that has been reviewed and endorsed for accuracy and appropriateness.

The workgroup requested that mission agencies such as NOAA be given specific authority and responsibility for ocean education. Also, adequate funding should be provided to support these initiatives.

Programs, Events & Other News

Network of Ocean Networks

On August 1, 2006 a group of formal and informal education networks met at the Department of Commerce to discuss a Coalition for Ocean Literacy, including federal partners, COSEE, SeaGrant, and CELCs. Discussion included uniting individual CELCs into a cohesive network. "There is a need to formalize relationships with each other within the CELC network, outside of the formal MOU established with the federal partners. Within this new CELC relationship, the network should develop national and localized messages," stated Ted Beattie, CEO, Shedd Aquarium. The meeting focused on promoting ocean literacy and short-term and long-term concepts, ideas, and tools to effect change. Strategies included public kiosks and links to the Smithsonian's Ocean Hall at the National Museum of Natural History; traveling exhibits; and linking informal and formal education. Jerry Enzler, Director of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, stated, "Each CELC is a unique hub with spokes linking informal education institutions. It would be beneficial to create a working group to develop parameters to what the CELCs and the network might bring to the public." As an immediate effort, Marguerite Duffy, Coastal America and Dr. Marlene Kaplan, NOAA Office of Education will organize a meeting of educators attending the National Student Summit concentrating on formal-informal education links.

Marine Debris Assessed on Ocean's Floor

On August 22nd, a Coastal America led-team gathered with Navy salvage divers and Florida environmental officials in Fort Lauderdale Florida to assess the



Photo by Lauren O'Connor

The tire reef project team at an August 2006 assessment site visit in Florida. (left to right) Terry Gray, TAG Resource Recovery; Jan Ray Clark, FLDEP; CWO Thomas Wilson, Army; Lauren O'Connor, FLDEP; Ken Banks, Broward County; Chief Billy Gullett, Navy; Will Nuckols, Coastal America.

feasibility of hauling thousands of tires from the ocean's floor. In the 1970s, the federal government attempted to create an artificial reef of approximately one to two million discarded tires to attract fish. Thirty years later, reef specialists at Florida's Department of Environmental Protection recognize that the artificial reef did not work. Hurricanes and tides scattered the once bounded tires causing havoc to existing natural reefs. Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Mikulsi, Navy Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two, participated in the assessment. He stated, "the 60 to 70 feet of water will provide great endurance experiences for our Navy divers. The deep dives take a lot of training to become proficient." Will Nuckols, Coastal America's project coordinator stated "this project is unique because it has the support of many government agencies." A month trial period is planned for the summer of 2007.

Coastal America Thanks Summit Sponsors:

Federal Sponsors:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Office of Education
 - Coastal Services Center
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Science Foundation
- The National Academies
- National Academy of Sciences
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of the Navy
 - Office of the Oceanographer
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Office of Education
 - Office of Water

Non-Federal Sponsors:

- Coastal America Foundation
- Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
 - New Jersey CWRP
 - Connective Energy
- Institute of Learning Innovation
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- National Ocean Industries Association
- Newton-Marasco Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution



Photo by Will Nuckols

Tires cover 34 acres of seafloor one mile off of the beaches of Ft. Lauderdale, FL (see story p.11).

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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.



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