



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

January – June Issue

2007

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER NETWORK EXPANDS INTERNATIONALLY

On June 14th, 2007, Coastal America designated the Veracruz Aquarium as its first International Coastal Ecosystems Learning Center (CELC). The Veracruz Aquarium is now part of the dynamic network of 20 Learning Centers, reaching 25 million people annually, and working together to educate and inspire children and their families to protect, preserve, and restore our oceans and coastal heritage.

The prestigious dedication ceremony was held at the Veracruz Aquarium in Veracruz, Mexico. Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, presented the designation. Deputy Secretary Scarlett represented the Coastal America Federal agencies and the White House Council on (see page 2 – Coastal Ecosystem)



Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, and Governor Fidel Herrera-Beltran, Governor of the State of Veracruz, Mexico at the Veracruz Aquarium Designation Ceremony.

Military Divers Train and Protect Coral Reefs in Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and a Coastal America Principal, dives the artificial tire reef.

In Broward County, Florida, it is estimated that nearly two-million tires were placed into the ocean in the 1970's by private organizations hoping to create healthy fish habitat. Over the years, the successful formation of an artificial reef did not occur; the tires loosened and moved, damaging the nearby natural coral reefs.

For the month of June 2007, Coastal America has gathered divers from the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard to salvage tires from the seafloor, 70' below the surface, approximately a mile east of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This summer's

(see page 2 Military Divers)

In This Issue:

Veracruz Designation.....	1
Tire Removal, Ft Lauderdale.....	1
CELC Workshop.....	2
CA National Meeting	3
Partnership Awards	4
Bahia Grande.....	5
Blackwater Nutria.....	5
Branford Supply Ponds.....	5
2007 National Meeting.....	6
Veracruz Aquarium.....	7
Broward County.....	7
CWRP Updates.....	8
CA Leadership Awards.....	9
CELC Updates.....	10
RIT Updates	11
New Faces	11
Farewell to Patmarie.....	11

(from page 1 - Military Divers)



Truckloads of tires are salvaged from the ocean floor.

effort concentrated on determining the most efficient techniques that will be applied to the next several years' cleanup efforts. The goal is to remove an estimated 700,000 tires that are covering 34 acres of seafloor. Removing the failed artificial reef will protect adjacent living corals from further damage from the tires. The project also provides a large scale training opportunity for the military.

To accomplish the tire reef cleanup, a host of agencies with diverse expertise were brought together to accomplish a cleanup job that has languished for over 30 years. The military divers are providing the salvage expertise. The Army is providing a 175' landing craft utility (LCU) that will crane the bundles from the surface, deposit them into cargo containers, and transport them to Port Everglades in Broward County. NOAA has assisted with technical advice on coral protection. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is addressing the transportation and processing of the recovered tires. Broward County's Port Everglades donated dock space and their Environmental Protection Department's marine biologists were on hand and ensured that all the pieces came together at the local level.

"Without the cooperation and synergy of federal, state and county governments, removal of the tires, coral reef restoration and protection would be impossible," said Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggelation. "The government partnerships create a win-win situation for all parties involved in the project. We are most thankful that the state agreed to finance the recycling of the tires and the military has provided the labor and skill necessary to get this job done. It's unprecedented."

(from page 1 - Coastal Ecosystem)

Environmental Quality at the ceremony. Governor Fidel Herrera-Beltran of the State of Veracruz, Mexico, was also in attendance.

"The Veracruz Aquarium will join a network of aquaria delivering a strong public message about the importance of our coastal resources. The Coastal America Partnership created this innovative network so that the general public, especially younger citizens as future stewards of our coasts can better understand how human activities affect the environment along our shorelines".

— Lynn Scarlett,
Deputy Secretary of the DOI

Federal commitments to the Aquarium were presented by Bryon Griffith, Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Co-Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Governor's Alliance Federal Working Group. Jerry Schubel, President of the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long

Beach, California, and Co-Chair of the CELC Network, presented the joint commitments on the part of the CELC network and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) to offer training to Veracruz Aquarium staff at five CELCs across the United States.

Coastal America is delighted to incorporate such a dynamic institution into its Learning Center network and looks forward to utilizing the Aquarium's educational and research efforts for international collaboration. Marcelino Fernández Rivero, President of the Acuario de Veracruz, was honored to accept the official designation. "We are pleased to express our pleasure to become a part of such a successful and promising network of Learning Centers. The common focus on environmental education is tremendously important and the Learning Center network has shown its dedication to this effort. We are looking forward to contributing our resources, knowledge, and regional diversity to further achieve environmental awareness and stewardship among the public."

CELC Workshop

Collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Thinking Ahead and Beyond Boundaries

In early June, Coastal America and NOAA coordinated a workshop focused on the partnership opportunity with the Smithsonian Institution to develop an Ocean in the News kiosk network, and to explore other collaboration opportunities. The workshop brought together representatives from the learning center network with NOAA and other federal experts that are developing the kiosk for the Smithsonian Ocean Hall, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

A prototype of the kiosk was demonstrated and the learning center

experts provided valuable technical and topical feedback. Additionally, participants identified potential components for a network of ocean interpretive stations that would provide a public portal to critical ocean and coastal information. The workshop generated excellent ideas for content of the kiosk, and on the possibilities of linking the CELC network to the kiosk system, the Smithsonian, and other federal program efforts. Coastal America and its partners are working closely with the Smithsonian to further develop the ideas and proposals discussed at the June Workshop.

Coastal America National Meeting in Tilghman Island, Maryland



The Coastal America Annual Conference on site at Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project, Maryland.

The Coastal America Annual Meeting was held May 15-18 on Tilghman Island on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The focus of the meeting was to further the federal interests in ocean and coastal protection, restoration and education by continuing to find new ways to leverage Coastal America resources through effective partnerships with the private and public sectors. This year's meeting also examined the Administration's new ocean governance structure and how it can work to help improve the Coastal America Partnership.

The focus of the formal meeting was placed on improving productivity of the Partnership through the enhancement of existing tools. Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership members (CWRP) presented the results of their recent meetings and discussed expansion of the CWRP to increase non-governmental involvement in partnership activities. David Pittenger, Director of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, provided an overview of the CELC network activities. Also discussed with Louisa Koch, Director

of Education, NOAA, were ideas for improving ocean literacy through the partnership, including the opportunity to partner with the Smithsonian Institution to develop a series of ocean interpretative stations for use in the existing Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network. Lastly, participants were briefed by Captain Karen Trueblood of the U.S. Navy on the Innovative Readiness Training process and how Coastal America can better utilize these innovative partnership projects to achieve mutual goals.

Coastal America Principals, Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, attended the meeting, offering insights on policy and future directions for the partnership. Partnership members shared their views with Ben and Tim about what they hoped to see the Coastal America Partnership achieve in the year ahead.

In addition to discussing tools, meeting participants were briefed on several topics of particular relevance. Ralph Cantral, from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management briefed participants on the strategy for visioning the future of Coastal Management, the road to reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and involvement of Coastal America constituents in the process. Dr. Gerhard Kuska Associate Director, Council on Environmental Quality, and his distinguished colleagues on the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) including: Mary Glackin, Assistant Administrator, NOAA; Craig Hooks, Director of the Office of Watersheds Oceans and Wetlands, EPA; and Chris Kearney Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of the Interior, joined the meeting to discuss the Ocean Governance Structure and its role in assisting Coastal America accomplish its mission. Particular focus was placed on how each group can benefit the other, creating a more powerful mechanism for improving coastal management.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Public Service Enterprise Group Receives Special Recognition Award

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) was presented with the Coastal America Special Recognition Award by Marty Hall, Chief of Staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). PSEG was selected for the award by the Coastal America Program in recognition of its leadership of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) in New Jersey and the mid-Atlantic region. The significance of PSEG's initiative to restore aquatic habitats on the Delaware Bayshore through the PSEG Estuary Enhancement Program was also recognized.

The presentation was made during the company's annual Earth Day celebration at its headquarters in Newark. Accepting the award were Ralph Izzo, PSEG chairman and chief executive officer; R. Edwin Selover, PSEG executive vice president and general counsel; Eric Svenson, PSEG vice president of environmental, health and safety; and Stanley LaBruna, recently retired PSEG vice president of environmental, health and safety.

"PSEG has a long standing commitment to being an environmentally responsible energy provider," said Svenson. "Our goal is not to win awards but to be a good corporate citizen. However, we are pleased when our actions are recognized by environmental organizations like Coastal America." Izzo emphasized the company's strong dedication to environmental leadership and expressed enthusiasm about its commitment to working with both federal and state agencies in striving to resolve environmental issues. In particular, he noted the important role Earth Day plays in calling attention to the common interest in being good stewards of the environment.

Florida Oyster Restoration Team Recognized



Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce (right) and Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator NOAA Fisheries Service present partnership award to Dr. Donna Henry.

Florida Gulf Coast University President Dr. Richard Peggnetter and Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce, joined federal, state and university officials on April 5, 2007, to present the Coastal America Partnership Award to the team of individuals responsible for the successful restoration of oyster habitat in coastal Southwest Florida.

"This oyster restoration effort is built upon partnership and community support developed from education and awareness with the direct result being community ownership and commitment to coastal restoration and protection" said Timothy Keeney.

Investigators from the Coastal Watershed Institute of the Florida Gulf Coast University and the South Florida Water Management District began the oyster restoration project in 2001 with the goal of re-establishing the Eastern oyster

(*Crassostrea virginica*) one reef at a time. Since then, with funding support from federal, state and local agencies, including \$85,000 in grant funding from the NOAA Restoration Center, this project has carefully expanded its vision. The success of this restoration effort is a result of the incredible support of volunteers in filling small net bags with fossilized oyster shell. These bags, placed in a reef like formation at designated sites, attract oyster larvae and begin to form a natural reef. This community-based project has the power to restore local estuaries because oysters filter water naturally and are extremely important in the development of healthy fish habitat.

With the help of more than 600 volunteers, donating more than 4300 hrs of time, this project has re-established 23 oyster reefs in the mangrove estuaries of southwest Florida. In addition to the shell bag restoration efforts, this project has also established an oyster shell recycling program and an oyster gardening program. The ecological impact of these restoration efforts has been significant, and the community outreach opportunities provided through all three of these programs has been immeasurable. The public has been educated on the value of oyster reefs, coastal restoration, and protection.

The foundation of this oyster restoration effort is built upon partnerships and community support and the project exemplifies how a creative approach to a coastal issue can bring an entire community together. Restoration of coastal habitats, such as oyster reefs, is critical to preserving the health of our ecosystems. Projects just like this community-based effort are needed to guide communities towards preserving our coasts for future generations.

Bahia Grande Receives Recognition for One of the Largest Restoration Projects on Record

On June 22, the Bahia Grande Restoration Team received a Partnership Award for their outstanding restoration and protection efforts.



The Bahia Grande basin after flooding with tidal water.

Bahia Grande is a 10,000 acre complex of three estuarine basins between Brownsville and Port Isabel in Cameron County, Texas. The estuary complex was once extremely healthy, providing estuarine habitat for nurseries and habitat for wildlife. After construction projects in the 1930's and 1950's the complex was cut off from tidal flow and quickly dried up. The blowing of

“This project is considered one of the largest and most successful coastal wetland restoration projects in the United States and it took more than 65 partners and about eight years to get to this point,”

— John Wallace,
Deputy Project Leader for the
South Texas Refuge Complex

sands and dust in the degraded wetlands became a serious source of health and industrial problems in the Brownsville area.

When fully restored, the 10,000 acre wetland will restore and enhance habitat for wildlife and fisheries, improve environmental conditions in surrounding communities, and provide opportunities for recreation and environmental education. The Texas CWRP provided critical non-federal funds to this project.

Blackwater Nutria Team Honored with Spirit Award

On May 17, 2007 Coastal America presented a spirit award to the Nutria Eradication Team located at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland. The highlights of this event included a tour of the refuge, recognition of exceptional effort by the Blackwater team, and the opportunity to taste the delicious rodent for ourselves.

Nutria is a semi-aquatic rodent native to South America that forages directly on marsh, river, and lake vegetation. The voracious appetite of Nutria coupled with its rapid reproduction rate makes this rodent an enormous contributor to the loss and degradation of wetlands, and other vegetation along river and stream banks. The eradication project executed by the team at Blackwater National Refuge has been extremely successful and their continued efforts to eliminate this rodent are valued by all.

Branford Supply Ponds Fishway Receives Recognition

Coastal America honored the members of The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Branford Land Trust (BLT) along with numerous federal, local, and non-profit partners with the Coastal America Partnership award for the Branford Fishway Project. The ceremony took place in Branford, Connecticut on May 7, 2007; the awarding official was Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Branford Fishway Project was identified through a comprehensive watershed evaluation of ecological restoration opportunities aimed at restoring and linking key habitats to enhance overall watershed functioning throughout Long Island Sound.



Branford Fishway, Connecticut.

Project implementation was led by the Branford Land Trust and resulted in the construction of a fishway over the 16-foot dam on Queach Brook at the Supply Ponds. The land is owned by the Town of Branford whom has accepted ownership and maintenance responsibility of the facility upon project completion.

This project allows various fish species to use water that had not been available to them since 1899 when the dam was built and the Supply Ponds were formed. Species include alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, sea-run brown trout, and American eel. The fishway is helping to restore fish access to 86 acres of open water, nine acres of riparian habitat, and five miles of river and stream habitat.

In the first year alone 3200 fish passed through the fishway. Despite unseasonable cold weather, 500 fish have already passed through the fishway and that number is only expected to increase in the coming weeks as the waters in Queach Brook warm.

2007 National Meeting in Tilghman Island, Maryland



The Coastal America Annual Conference on site at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland with the Nutria Eradication Team.



Carli Bertrand, Coastal America, and Natalie Cosentino-Manning, NOAA, with the catches of the day!



John Wolfliin, FWS, recognizing the wetland restoration efforts at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland.



Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America, and Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water.



The Coastal America Annual Conference visits Blackwater National Refuge to learn about on-site wetland restoration projects from Stephen Kopecky, *US Army Corps of Engineers, Chesapeake Marshlands Implementation Strategy*.



Dave Pittenger, Executive Director of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, discusses the CELC network.



Hazel Groman, Mario DelVicario, Bo Crum, and Craig Vogt, all from EPA at Poplar Island, Maryland.

Veracruz Aquarium Designation



Deputy Secretary Scarlett, speaking on behalf of the President and the Coastal America principals at the Veracruz Aquarium dedication ceremony. With her (from left to right), Bryon Griffith, Governor Herrera-Beltran, Mr. Prieto, Mr. Fernandez, and Ms. Tippie.



Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific, presents the CELC and CWRP commitments to the Veracruz Aquarium at the Designation Ceremony



Signatories and witnesses join together for the unveiling of the Coastal America plaque presented to the Veracruz Aquarium

Broward County IRT Tire Removal



Photo by William Nuckols

Diver LT Russell Destremps from the Army Drive Company, Ft. Eustis, VA, explains the tire salvage project to newspaper and TV reporters.



The Army Landing Craft El Caney hauls bundles onboard and transports trailers of tires to Port Everglades where they are offloaded and trucked to Georgia for processing.



Dawn Miller-Walker, Education Director of the IFGA, and Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, at the tire removal in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



National Overview

Representatives from the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) met in June during the Coastal America Annual Meeting to discuss their program, identify ways to expand membership, and to hold an open initiation recruitment briefing for interested groups. The national CWRP Management Subcommittee recently hired John MacKenzie, the primary CWRP creator and founder, to assist with recruiting efforts at the national level. John is the founder of the CWRP in Massachusetts and was instrumental in generating this ever-growing program around the country in coordination with Coastal America.

In addition, Patrick Hester, of Spectra Energy, rejoined the CWRP National Board as the new Chair, replacing George Olson of Gillette Health, Safety, and Environment, Global Business Unit of Proctor and Gamble. We are very pleased to have Pat back with us, and as many of you will know, Pat was instrumental in developing the ME CWRP. We are very thankful to George Olson for all of his hard work and dedication as the Chair of the CWRP National Board, and are pleased to have him still serving with us as the Vice-Chair.

In other CWRP news Karen Foster replaces Sally Yozell on the national committee for Battelle while Sally moves to The Nature Conservancy. Welcome (back) to John, Pat, and Karen! We also bid a fond farewell to Mark Wolf-Armstrong and Steve Emmett-Mattox as they depart Restore America's Estuaries for new adventures. Steve Bosak will be replacing these gentlemen on the Management Subcommittee. Best wishes to Mark and Steve!

CWRP UPDATES

Massachusetts CWRP

Northeast Utilities contributed funds to the CWRP for the recent removal of the Ballou Dam. The removal of Ballou dam will restore aquatic habitat and fish and wildlife passage through the Yokum Brook.



A kayaker enjoying the restored water flow at Yokum Brook in Becket, MA after the dam removal in December.

New Hampshire CWRP

The New Hampshire Chapter of the CWRP held an awards breakfast on April 13, 2007, at the Great Bay Research Reserve's Discovery Center. With an attendance of over 50 people, the NH CWRP recognized each of the CWRP members for their continued support of the CWRP in New Hampshire. Tom Burack, Esq., NY Department of Environmental Services Commissioner was the keynote speaker and recipient of



Volunteers planting pitch pines on site at Bull Toad Pond in New Castle, NH.

an award for his agency's contributions to the CWRP. David Manning also addressed the crowd. Mr. Manning is the Executive Vice President for Corporate Affairs & Chief Environmental Officer of KeySpan Energy, and a long-time member of the NH CWRP.

In other chapter news, the Bull Toad Pond invasive species removal and restoration project has been completed. Unfortunately, breakfast participants were unable to see the site due to the weather. The Chapter also endorsed the support of a few new projects at their winter meeting, including projects in Wiswall, Merrimack and Odiorne Park.

New York CWRP

The New York CWRP held a chapter meeting in mid-February in Albany, NY. Several new members have joined the NY CWRP, and the chapter has endorsed the financial support of several new projects, including the continual support of the Montezuma NWR and Canoga Marsh projects endorsed last year. Construction is now underway at the Canoga Marsh site. The NY CWRP will convene their next meeting in the autumn.

New Jersey CWRP

The New Jersey CWRP chapter held their winter meeting on January 31, 2007 in Edison, NJ. The meeting was well attended, and included a discussion on recruitment of new members. Several "big checks" were presented to projects and the chapter discussed the status of the projects endorsed in 2006 as well as several new projects that were presented for 2007 support. The chapter established a project subcommittee to provide assistance with vetting new projects and to follow up on previously supported efforts. A unique volunteer opportunity was presented to the CWRP by member, Pinelands Nursery. Pinelands Nursery presented a unique volunteer opportunity by offering to donate excess plants (trees and other vegetation) to create rain gardens and other small restoration projects around the state. Several members of the CWRP will continue to develop this opportunity. The next chapter meeting is May 23, 2007.

California CWRP

Paul Michel, EPA Region 9 and Coastal America Regional Chair was invited to speak about the CWRP at the American Hazards Council's 17th Annual Corporate Affiliate Workshop program in Phoenix, AZ in February. The AHC Group "Achieving Results" leadership workshop series is a process of transformational corporate learning, featuring the experiences and innovations of a variety of companies and member organizations. Paul was joined at the conference by Bob Forbes, FMC Corporation and CWRP Management Subcommittee member. The presentation was well received and very appropriate for the audience. You can check out <http://www.ahcgroup.com/> for more information on the organization. Dan Pingaro, EPA Region 9, has replaced Paul Michel as the California CWRP representative. Welcome aboard Dan!

Washington CWRP

The WA CWRP continues to evolve and has reached several milestones this quarter. The WA CWRP has been recognized as a potentially important component of the Governor's Puget Sound Action Plan, and has received the endorsement of several important groups in the region. On January 17, 2007, John Balletto, Arcadis and CWRP national member, and Patmarie Nedelka, Coastal America, participated in an informational session convened by the US EPA and Battelle in Seattle. The meeting was well-attended and generated additional interest in, and support for, the CWRP including the Association of Washington Businesses. Efforts are underway to formally announce the establishment of the CWRP and the first CWRP project in Puget Sound later this year.

Alaska CWRP

The AK CWRP held a successful meeting during the Alaska Forum on the Environment in February. In addition to publicly recognizing participating companies, the Chapter devoted time to discussing expanding the membership and evaluating projects for future support.

Virginia CWRP

Virginia's first project at Ducking Stool Point is now underway. The project involves the restoration of 1900 linear feet of shoreline in Charles City County, Virginia. The project is in the permitting process now, it is anticipated that they will be in a position to have a groundbreaking ceremony this summer.

Coastal America Partners Recognized with Leadership Awards

Regional Leadership Award



Chris Kearney, DOI and Tim Keeney, NOAA, present the Alaska co-chairs Doug Mutter and Jon Kurland with the Regional Leadership Award.

On May 18, 2007 as part of the Annual Meeting, the Regional Leadership Award was presented to the Alaska co-chairs Jon Kurland, NOAA, and Doug Mutter, DOI. Jon and Doug were awarded for their outstanding leadership in Alaska, re-energizing the Alaska RIT, and engaging the regional principals.

CWRP Leadership Award



Ben Grumbles, Coastal America Principal and EPA Assistant Administrator for Water and Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America, presented John Balletto, ARCADIS-BBL, with a Leadership Award at Tilghman Island, Maryland.

John Balletto, ARCADIS-BBL, was recognized at the 2007 Coastal America Annual Conference for his excellent work in organizing CWRP state chapters in the Mid- Atlantic region. John was elected to the board of directors of the Coastal America Foundation, and is one of the only non- governmental directors. Keep up the good work John!

CELC Leadership Award

Dave Pittenger, Executive Director of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, received the CELC Leadership Award on behalf of the CELC Executive Committee, for their tremendous work with the Learning Center network. Other members of the CELC Executive Committee include: Ted Beattie, President of the John G. Shedd Aquarium; Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, and Jerry Schubel, President of the Aquarium of the Pacific.



Dave Pittenger, Executive Director of the NAIB, receives the CELC Leadership award from Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America.

CELC UPDATES

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab recently announced the hiring of Lee Yokel, Education and Outreach Coordinator, for the Gulf Alliances Comprehensive Education effort. Lee has stepped in as the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Coordinator.

International Game and Fishing Association (IGFA)

This spring the IGFA held a wetlands teacher workshop which taught 40 teachers about the different kinds of wetlands with an emphasis on the Everglades. Dawn Miller-Walker, Education Manager, participated in the Florida Marine Science Educators (FMSEA) Conference in Naples, Florida. Accompanying Dawn at the FMSEA Conference was Jordana (Jordy) Gelman. Jordy participated in and presented at the National Student



Giant Food web at the Wetlands Teacher Workshop.

Summit held in Washington, DC in December of 2006. Jordy presented to educators at the FMSEA Conference; this was the first time a high school student presented to educators at this conference.

Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium had their hands full this January staying on top of all the wildlife rescue emergencies. Earlier this year the Aquarium recovered over 100 green sea turtles and one 820 pound, 9-ft male manatee. The sea turtle stranding is the largest on

record for the western Gulf of Mexico. The successful rescue was a result of a coordinated effort involving federal, state, local, and private resources. Forty-three of the animals were transported to the Texas State Aquarium where they received medical care and rehabilitation. Through extensive collaboration more



Photo courtesy Texas State Aquarium

Padre Island National Seashore and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department personnel ready the sea turtles for release into the Gulf of Mexico.

than 100 green sea turtles were returned to the Gulf of Mexico. In January the Aquarium recovered a manatee in the Corpus Christi ship channel after it was displaced from the Gulf off western Florida. The Aquarium arranged for its transport to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo; veterinarians hope to return the manatee back to its native waters this summer.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

This March the HMSC collaborated with the Oregon Army National Guard Innovative Readiness Training program to complete an erosion control project. The erosion on the shoreline of Yaquina Bay in Newport, OR had forced the closure of the HMSC's public estuary trail and threatened other critical infrastructures nearby. The gravel beach, "dynamic revetment" that was created maintains the shoreline's natural and aesthetic values while providing a much greater resistance to wave action



Oregon Army National Guard completes an erosion control project in Newport, Oregon.

than the sand and sediments that were there previously. Planning is underway to re-establish an artificial dune with native grasses and other indigenous plants.

Waikiki Aquarium

Students from the Waikiki delegation from the Student Summit in Washington, DC organized volunteers for the Earth Day release of young Moi, or Pacific threadfin, into the protected waters of the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District fronting the Aquarium. Federal, State, and local representatives were present at the very successful and energizing event.

The Aquarium held a "Seasons and the Sea" event, a continuation of a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project funded by Coastal America. To date, this project is proceeding with a preliminary identification of local sources of ocean related TEK to research ways that CELCs can distribute the information.



Moi release at the Waikiki Aquarium.

RIT UPDATES

AKRIT

The AKRIT held an Alaska Regional Principals Meeting this February in Anchorage, Alaska. The Alaska Regional Principals endorsed a strategic plan for 2007-2010 to establish goals, objectives, and annual tasks to be carried out by AKRIT in coordination with the Alaska Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the Alaska Sea Life Center, Alaska's sole designated Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The AKRIT also endorsed a new project that ties together several separate marine debris removal efforts involving a number of agencies and non-profit groups. AKRIT is investigating whether some of these efforts might be good candidates for involving the military's IRT program to provide logistical support for removing large quantities of debris from very remote areas along Alaska's coasts.

GMRIT

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team has recommended that the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium be designated by Coastal America as a CELC. The Scott Aquarium was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and is temporarily located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Becoming a member of the Learning Center network will enable the Scott Aquarium to re-build their facilities, staff, and attendance through federal commitments and resources, and contributions from the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.



The J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium post Hurricane Katrina.

New Faces at the CA National Coordinating Office

Since January, several folks have joined the Coastal America Staff.

Steven Kinberg

Steven joined us in May from EPA as the new Deputy Director. Steven is working on all aspects of Coastal America's evolving mission, and is working to ensure we reach our goals.

Carli Bertrand

Carli joined us from NOAA Fisheries in March and is our Policy Coordinator and Advisor. She will be working primarily on Coastal America's efforts to integrate with the new Ocean Governance Structure, along with other ocean policy issues, event planning, and much more.

Shelley Fudge

Shelley will be joining us from EPA as the new CWRP Coordinator. Shelley is also looking forward to working closely with our new CELC Coordinator to think creatively to find ways to help the CWRP and CELC partnerships work together more closely and develop new bridges between the programs.

Scott Goodwin

Scott is our Coastal America Summer Fellow. He joined us in June to

examine the 2006 Student Summit from the perspective of an environmental anthropologist. Scott will also be developing a feasibility study of commercial fishing education programs in partnership with a number of CELCs, and making recommendations of how to implement such projects in the future.

Jeffrey Harrison

Jeffrey is Coastal America's Office Manager. Jeffrey has been lending a hand with helping Coastal America in many valuable ways.

Maggy Hunter

Maggy is our new Education and Outreach Assistant who started up with us this April. As many of you personally know, she has and will continue to focus on all aspects of our work with our CELC and CWRP partnerships as well, so her title tells only half the story.

Jake Levenson

Jake will be joining us from NOAA as the new CELC Coordinator. Jake's work and intimate knowledge of many of our CELC partners make him uniquely qualified to succeed in this difficult mission.

Farewell to Patmarie S. Nedelka

After seven years of service to Coastal America Patmarie S. Nedelka returned to her home agency, NOAA, this spring. Patmarie S. Nedelka was on a developmental assignment to Coastal America serving as the CWRP Policy Coordinator. In this position, she provided policy support, coordination, facilitation, and tracking to various Partnership Groups, including the Policy Committee, STAC, NIT, and Principals Group. She was responsible for directing and facilitating the expansion of the National and State CWRP chapters. She was also responsible for tracking

budget and legislative activities affecting the Partnership.

Patmarie received special recognition at Coastal America's Annual Partnership Conference for her tireless dedication to Coastal America and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership for the past seven years. Her tremendous energy, skill and dedication to helping Coastal America and its partners achieve their goals is missed by all. We wish Patmarie all the very best on her new adventures at NOAA and thank her for her tireless work for the organization. Thank you Patmarie!



Water spreads on parched ground into the Bahia Grande basin after tidal flow is restored at the Bahia Grande restoration site. For full story, see page 5.

Regional Chairs

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard..... 978-318-8552

MID-ATLANTIC

Mario DelVicario 212-637-3779

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

SOUTHEAST

Bo Crum 404-562-9352

GULF OF MEXICO

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

SOUTHWEST

Dan Pingaro..... 415-947-4275

Pat Rutten 707-575-6059

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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NORTHWEST

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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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