



**NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER
INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR MARINE EDUCATORS**

NOVEMBER 2004

This update is provided as a service by the National Marine Protected Areas Center to share information pertinent to the marine educator community. It is intended to encourage exchange of information and programs. We hope that it will also promote collaboration among the different educators addressing similar issues in their programs. Please share this email with your colleagues and constituents. If you request materials or respond to a request for information, please try to mention that you learned about it in the MPA Information Exchange.

The information included here has been compiled from many different sources, including SeaSpan, NSTA Express, edinfo at FREE, EE-NEWS@NAAEE, CREEC, EEinGEORGIA, Scuttlebutt, and others. We have attempted to verify web addresses, but make no guarantee of accuracy. The Department of Commerce/NOAA does not necessarily endorse or promote the views or facts presented on these sites.

To subscribe to this distribution list, send a blank message to requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov with "subscribe infoexchange" in the subject field. Similarly, to remove yourself from the list, send the subject "unsubscribe infoexchange".

Contact the MPA Center's education coordinator directly at phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov, or by phone at (865) 932-5074, to discuss further enhancements or to contribute information for future issues.

Gorgona Island National Park, Colombia

Gorgona Island, a marine protected area, is located in the Pacific off the coast of Colombia, South America. It has two main ecosystems: coral reef and tropical rainforest. Representative animals include a blue lizard (an endemic species), capuchin monkeys, bats, toads, snakes, fisher eagles, pelicans, boobies, and frigate birds, along with a host of insect species.

The Environmental Education Project aims to first address the community schools on the continent. They develop workshops for teachers and students about the ecosystems of Gorgona, informing through slides and presentations. They also have an Interpretative and Interactive Center and provide interpretative walks, teaching about the flora, fauna and geology of the island. The island was a prison until 1984, and they teach about the history of this turbulent epoch through an interpretive walk by the prison ruins. Park personnel have also developed an interactive marine interpretative activity, snorkeling

through a small coral reef patch. They regularly publish a wall newspaper containing relevant information about the island and events, such as humpback whale and bird migration. Other work includes solid waste management.

For more information about the Colombian National Park System, check out www.parquesnacionales.gov.co . For more information about Gorgona Island, or if you have appropriate teaching videos or other multi-media materials in Spanish, contact Roberto Pardo at robepardo@yahoo.com .

Notable MPA Literature

List of publications on shipwrecks and shipwreck related topics located in NOAALINC

This is a bibliography of shipwreck related titles of print and online resources which have been cataloged in the NOAA Library Network's online catalog. Entries are organized alphabetically by title and include call numbers and URLs if available. The document also includes a section of selected Internet resources. .

List of publications on shipwrecks and shipwreck related topics located in NOAALINC, NOAA Library Network online catalog, compiled by Anna Fiolek, NOAA, 2004.

For more information, check out <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/edocs/Shipwrecks1.pdf> .

Main MPA Library URL:

http://www2.mpa.gov/mpa/mpaservices/virtual_library/virtual_library.lasso .

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

The Regional Ocean Conservation Club

The purpose of the Regional Ocean Conservation Club (ROCC) is to develop a student coalition where students are encouraged to take an interest and become involved in local marine and aquatic issues facing the environment. The mission is to have high school students work with local, state and national organizations to protect and restore the health of marine and aquatic resources through education and conservation programs.

ROCC is still in its early development stages. It was formed as a commitment to action by five delegates that represented the International Game Fish Association and southeast Florida in January 2004 at the National Student Summit held in Washington, D.C. Seventy students from 14 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (museums and aquariums partnering with Coastal America) convened in Washington to discuss the health of our oceans with key policy makers. With the help of their teachers and CELC directors, students presented issues relevant their regions to environmental political leaders. The students also signed a commitment to action; the students supported through the International Game Fish Association have carried through with the development of the ROCC.

Using the International Game Fish Association as headquarters, ROCC organizers are establishing this club in southeastern Florida middle and high schools. For those

interested in aquatic conservation, ROCC can be integrated into other clubs to generate and carry out small projects that will help preserve our threatened aquatic ecosystems. For more information, including a list of local projects and further contact information, check out <http://www.igfa.org/ROCC.asp> .

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Reef Environmental Education Foundation

The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) was founded out of growing concern about the health of the marine environment, and the desire to provide the scuba diving community a way to contribute to the understanding and protection of marine populations. There are currently over 28,000 REEF members. REEF has numerous programs and projects. Two of the main programs are the REEF Fish Survey Project and REEF's Field Station Program that includes the organization's latest initiative, the Non-Profit/Academic Field Station Program.

REEF Fish Survey Project

Through this volunteer fish monitoring program, participants not only learn about the environment they are diving in, but they also produce valuable information. These data are used by a variety of resource agencies and researchers. Volunteer scuba divers and snorkelers collect and report information on marine fish populations. The data are collected utilizing a user-friendly, standardized method, and are housed in a publicly-accessible database on REEF's website. In addition, the Living REEF Project is an invertebrate monitoring program that was created as a companion to the fish monitoring program for the Pacific Northwest.

REEF's Field Station Program

Dive shops, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, individuals, and others actively contribute to REEF's programs. They serve as the point of contact between REEF and individual divers who participate in the Fish Survey Project. Becoming part of REEF's Field Station Program creates an opportunity to engage their clientele and members in a lifelong activity of fishwatching, continuing education, and actively contributing to marine conservation. Field stations educate local residents and visitors by teaching and promoting fishwatching activities. Locals and visitors engaged in fishwatching act as "citizen scientists," playing an important role by contributing critical data on fish population dynamics and adding to the overall understanding of these ecosystems. In addition to having a positive effect on marine conservation, REEF Field Stations create an atmosphere of "We Speak Fish."

A new Field Station membership category, Non-Profit/Academic Field Station, has been created to recognize the special needs and considerations related to non-profit involvement in the program, such as limited financial resources and a differing audience not based on a paying diver clientele. This category recognizes that partnerships with businesses in the private sector are crucial to REEF's work. As part of this initiative, concerned dive operators and other businesses are able to serve as sponsors for the non-profit, enabling them to participate in REEF's programs and projects. Additionally, this membership category promotes the formation of long-term relationships between REEF and the sponsored organization. Mundo Arrecife in Costa Rica is the first Non-Profit/Academic Field Station.

The REEF website includes information about these programs and field stations, access to the REEF database and research, special events, and educational quizzes and identification galleries. For more information, check out www.reef.org .

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Honor Your Coastal And Ocean Heroes

Nominate a person or organization for the Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards or the NOAA Excellence Awards for Coastal and Ocean Resource Management. Every day a shining star emerges and makes an extraordinary difference in the coastal and ocean community. Honor the people and organizations that dedicate countless hours and energy to ensure the nation's coasts and oceans remain treasured places to live, work, and play. The categories include coastal steward, excellence in coastal and marine graduate study, volunteer, non-governmental organization, and others. Nominations are due by December 3, 2004. For more information, check out http://www.nos.noaa.gov/programs/ocrm/jonesawards/announcement_05.html .

Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction Awards Program

Intel Corporation and Scholastic Inc. offer the Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction awards program to provide outstanding K-12 schools in the United States recognition for implementing innovative programs that support positive educational outcomes. The awards highlight successes, celebrate innovative use of technology, demonstrate the benefits of strong teamwork, and showcase the classroom practices of excellent teachers. The deadline for application is December 1, 2004. For more information, check out <http://www.schoolsofdistinction.com/> .

International Coral Conservation Grants

An opportunity for funding of international coral reef projects is available through NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program. Education can be part of the grant application. The grant program has four project categories: Promote watershed management in the wider Caribbean, Brazil, and Bermuda; Enhance management effectiveness of marine protected areas; Encourage regional approaches to further no-take marine reserves in the wider Caribbean, Bermuda, Brazil, and Southeast Asia; and Promote socio-economic monitoring in coral reef management in the wider Caribbean, Brazil, Bermuda, East Africa, South Pacific, and Southeast Asia. The deadline for application is December 10, 2004. For more information, check out <http://international.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html> .

Local Language Field Guides - Call for Proposals (Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Africa)

To date, the World Bank has funded more than 50 local language field guides. The MacArthur Foundation has generously awarded the Bank an additional \$200,000 towards the production of local-language field guides. The new funds must be used for products completed before December 31, 2006. Co-financing arrangements are strongly encouraged. Given the limited funds and limited time for completion, priority is likely to be given to translation of existing guides, though with every encouragement to revise them, produce locally-relevant introductory sections on sites, institutions/clubs, cultural links, threats, conservation, observation methods etc. and to modifying existing guides to make them relevant to neighboring countries where appropriate. All proposals must be received by December 14, 2004. For more information, please email me a request for

the full proposal attachment (with Local Language Field Guide as the subject) at phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov .

P3 Award

This national student design competition for sustainability focuses on people, prosperity, and the planet. EPA and its affiliates offer the P3 Award competition to respond to the technical needs of the developed and developing world in moving towards the goal of sustainability. P3 highlights people, prosperity, and the planet - the three pillars of sustainability - as the next step beyond P2 or pollution prevention. The P3 competition will provide grants to teams of college students to research, develop, and design solutions to challenges to sustainability. The deadline for application is January 27, 2005. For more information, check out <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/p3/index.html> .

Switzer Environmental Fellowship Program – New England and California

The Switzer Environmental Fellowship Program for graduate students in New England and California whose studies are directed toward improving environmental quality and who demonstrate leadership in their field. Awards have been made to students pursuing environmental policy studies, economics, engineering, public health, and law as well as the more traditional sciences: biology, chemistry and physics. Technical knowledge, analytical skills and environmental experience are important components of a successful application, regardless of field of study. The application deadline is January 7, 2005. For more information, check out <http://switzernetwork.org/fellowship-overview.html> .

ThinkQuest

This international collaborative internet-based contest, sponsored by the Oracle Education Foundation, is for 9-19 year old students. Teams of students and teachers are challenged to build websites on educational topics. The site includes links to entrant's web pages, which are models of public education on a broad array of topics. Competitions begin every 6 months; the next website upload deadline is March 15, 2005. Make sure to check out some of the websites – a simple search on “marine” brought up 32 former entries including 3 finalists. For more information, check out <http://www.thinkquest.org/> .

INTERNSHIPS AND TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITIES

Protected Area Personnel Exchange Program

This program promotes experience transfer between protected areas through exchange of personnel. Nature Seychelles offers positions for visiting wardens or rangers of up to 3 months on Cousin Island Special Reserve. They provide a living allowance, local transport, housing, work permits, on the job training (if necessary) and logistical back up. For more information, contact Nirmal Jivan Shah at nature@seychelles.net .

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation Online Course

This 10-week online course, developed as a cooperative effort between the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, will be offered February 21 - April 29, 2005 through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The course is

designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs. Participants have the opportunity to apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as questionnaires, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides. Credit is available from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. For more information, check out <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/> .

Critter Cam Virtual Teacher Workshop

The National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation offer a 2-week virtual teacher workshop, November 8-21, 2004, organized and hosted by the College of Exploration. The workshop highlights the use of National Geographic's research tool, Crittercam, to explore the mysteries of ocean life. Deployed on the backs of whales, sharks, seals, sea turtles and more, Crittercam provides an unprecedented look at the marine world through the animals' perspective.

The workshop will allow teachers to bring the wonder of the world's oceans to their students. Teacher resources will include access to research findings, lesson plans, links to news stories, magazine articles, video clips, and Internet links. In addition, the first 3,500 participants will receive a Crittercam: Oceans for Life CD ROM which includes a half-hour interactive film highlighting Crittercam research. The CD ROM showcases breakthrough technology that allows users to click on what they see in order to access additional content, pictures and video. For more information, check out <http://www.coexploration.org/crittercam/> .

DataStreme Water In The Earth System Online

This free Water in the Earth System course is sponsored by the American Meteorological Society and the National Science Foundation. This innovative Internet-based distance-learning course is directed towards middle-school teachers, but is open to all K-12 teachers. The course incorporates inquiry-based instructional strategies and a holistic concept of Earth from oceanic, atmospheric and terrestrial water and problem-focused perspectives. It is designed after the highly successful DataStreme distance-learning course, and investigates the mass and energy flows associated with the global water cycle, and with related issues. The spring semester course starts January 19, 2005 and runs through May 2005. Applications are due by January 10, 2005. For more information, check out <http://64.55.87.13/amsedu/WES/index.html> .

Fundamentals of Environmental Education Online Course

A 10-week online course about the fundamentals of environmental education, developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national environmental education experts, will be offered February 7 - April 15, 2005. The course is appropriate for both classroom teachers and for non-formal educators who work with students and/or teachers. The course provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators; and interact with other educators from across the country. Credit is available from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. For more information, check out <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/> .

From Watersheds to Oyster Beds

SouthEast Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (SE-COSEE) and NOAA's SouthEast Phytoplankton Monitoring Network will host *From Watersheds to Oyster*

Beds, a teachers' workshop, November 13, 2004, Charleston, South Carolina. The workshop is open to 20 middle and high school teachers, and CEUs are available. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and receive free educational resources. For more information, contact Julie Cahill at 843-762-8832 or julie.cahill@noaa.gov or Wendy Perry at 843-762-8830 or wendy.perry@noaa.gov.

Global Warming International Conference

The 16th Global Warming International Conference will be held April 19-21, 2005, New York City, New York. Sessions include global warming science and policy; extreme events and impacts assessment; global warming and the oceans; water resources management; Education: Global change and sustainable development; and more. For more information, check out <http://www.globalwarming.net/gw16-announcement.asp>.

National Marine Educators Association 2005 Conference - Call for Papers

The theme of the National Marine Educators Association annual 2005 meeting, Kahului, Maui, July 11-16, 2005, is *Nana I Ke Kumu, Nana I Ke Kai – Look to the Source, Look to the Sea*. The deadline for abstract submission is February 1, 2005. For more information, check out www.hawaii.edu/maui/oceania/NMEA05.html.

NSTA's Upcoming Conventions – Call for Proposals

Share your successes, your ideas, and your knowledge by presenting at an upcoming NSTA convention. Proposals are currently being accepted for NSTA's conventions, which will be held in Hartford, Connecticut, October 20-22, Chicago, Illinois, November 10-12, and Nashville, Tennessee, December 1-3, 2005 and for the 2006 national convention in Anaheim, California, April 6-9, 2006. The deadlines for submission are January 15 and April 15, 2005. For more information, check out <http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2004-09/www.pdf>.

SouthEast Portals to Ocean Research for Teachers (SEPORTs)

The SouthEast COSEE supports Action Projects in North and South Carolina and Georgia, with state and regional efforts to promote coastal environment projects, professional development opportunities for educators, and research activities. The upcoming SEPORT events scheduled for November include the Southeast Phytoplankton Monitoring Network, November 13, 2004, *From Watersheds to Oyster Beds* and the North Carolina Estuarium, November 20, 2004, *Eastern North Carolinians' Impact on the Atlantic Ocean*. Additional workshops are scheduled for January through March. For more information, check out <http://www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/>.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting Rescheduled

The Coral Reef Task Force Meeting has been rescheduled for December 2-3, 2004 in Miami, Florida. Public workshops will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 (Sustainable Diving and Snorkeling Practices) and Saturday, December 4 (Improving Science and Management of Florida Ecosystems, and Damage Assessment and Restoration Protocols for Coral Reef Habitats). For full agendas and information on meeting registration and exhibiting, check out <http://www.ces.fau.edu/taskforce/>.

Water, Weather, and Electricity Workshops – Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District, is offering a series of 13 workshops this fall emphasizing basic electricity and water science. Workshops will also include weather and air quality and advanced transportation for secondary teachers. Pre-enrollment is required at the

location where the workshop is held. All workshops are hands-on and materials are free to participants. The workshops are developed to help address the physical science components of testing. Standards are addressed at each workshop. For more information, check out <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp004782.jsp?> .

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

All About Wetlands Newsletter

"All About Wetlands" is a new newsletter published quarterly by Environmental Concern Inc, publishers of the peer-reviewed publication, *Wetland Journal*, from 1993 to 2001. "All About Wetlands" contains articles covering a wide array of wetland topics and issues from around the world. The inaugural issue, features the successful nutria eradication program undertaken at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, introduces readers to the Iraqi Marshlands, and gives tips as to which native plants give the best fall foliage. Join Environmental Concern, Inc. to receive a copy of the newsletter. For more information, check out www.wetland.org .

Clean Sweep U.S.A. - Solid Waste Education

Keep America Beautiful has a new education website geared for middle grades teachers and students -- Clean Sweep U.S.A. There is a wealth of information, activities, lessons, and links about solid waste. For more information, check out www.kab.org/kids .

Earth as Art: A Landsat Perspective

This exhibition from the Library of Congress showcases Landsat 7 images, from the collection of Landsat photographs held in the Geography and Map Division, which have been selected for aesthetic rather than scientific value. These images are actual pictures of the Earth, created by printing visible and infrared data in colors visible to the human eye. Band combinations and colors were chosen to optimize their dramatic appearance. The Landsat 7 images were donated to the Library of Congress by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). They show striking photos of Aleutian clouds, the Everglades, the Ganges River delta and more. For more information, check out <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/earthasart/> .

eField Trips for Fall

Take your class on a field trip to Biscayne National Park to participate in an underwater adventure, to the freshwater wetlands of Watsonville, to the volcanoes of Hawai'i, or for a visit with Florida manatees. They may not be able to physically go there, but have your students visit the eFieldTrip site and participate in these learning adventures. All trips have four major components: a virtual visit, an interactive multi-media web experience that your students can complete at their own pace anytime; a Trip Journal, a short worksheet that students complete as they complete the Virtual Visit, an opportunity to Ask the Experts, times when students may post questions via the eFieldTrips web site, and specific times for a Live Web Chat. For more information, check out www.eFieldTrips.org .

Erase the Waste Action Kit

The California State Water Resources Control Boards' two-year public education effort includes the Erase the Waste campaign and provides a number of resources and information on simple every day actions steps to stop pollution at the source - and ultimately keep this trash from entering into the nearby waterways and ocean and

affecting the marine ecosystem. The Erase the Waste Neighborhood Action Kit includes tips on creating a trash-free cleanup event, adopting your local park or neighborhood as a trash-free zone, and organizing a clean-up of a local park, school, neighborhood, or local waterway. Also included are materials about pollution prevention, sample media materials, and a directory of additional pollution prevention resources. The kit is available at no cost on the web in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. For more information, check out <http://www.erasethewaste.com/> .

Georgia High School Envirothon

The Envirothon is a hands-on, high school academic competition on the environment. Teams exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered around five topics: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. There are three levels of competition. The regional competition is a one day event, while the state competition is a 2-day event. Winning teams from participating US States and Canadian Provinces then compete at the North American competition. Register by November 30, 2004. There is also Eco-Meet, a middle grades academic competition on the environment modeled after the Envirothon. For more information, check out www.georgiaenvirothon.org .

The Microbe Zoo

This virtual zoo, part of the Digital Learning Center for Microbial Ecology at Michigan State University, is filled with exotic specimens from the microscopic worlds around, inside of, and on us. The zoo includes pictures of microbes; data about their size, scientific classification, feeding habitats, and more; and descriptions of how the microbes fit into and interact with their environment and other microorganisms. Zoo specimens are arranged in pavilions representing the habitats in which they naturally dwell, including Water World. Look out for the microbe of the month and tales of the extreme. For more information, check out <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/dlc-me/index.html> .

National Marine Sanctuaries Education Website

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program education mission is to enhance public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the marine environment. With that in mind, a new education website has been launched. Take a Sanctuary Tour of image galleries or explore the section for teachers, which includes curriculum, online activities, professional development opportunities, high tech learning, multicultural programs and much more. You can also take a virtual dive in a submersible, download puzzles, read online story books and engage in digital labs just for fun. For more information starting next week, check out <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education> .

National Sea Grant Library

The National Sea Grant Library was established in 1970 as an archive and lending library for Sea Grant funded documents. These documents cover a wide variety of subjects, including oceanography, marine education, aquaculture, fisheries, limnology, coastal zone management, marine recreation and law. Sea Grant encourages the wise stewardship of our marine resources through research, education, outreach and technology transfer and the Library is committed to providing easy access to the wealth of information that is generated by the program.

This unique library houses the only complete collection (including 30,000 titles and a total of 90,000 documents) of Sea Grant funded work. It also maintains a 36,000 record bibliographic database that is searchable from the website. You may obtain citations and

abstracts of Sea Grant publications, and in many cases access a full text copy of the document online. For more information, check out <http://nsgl.gso.uri.edu/index.html> .

Ocean Connections from COSEE-Florida

The Florida Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence publishes their quarterly newsletter, *Ocean Connections*, on their home page. The newsletter features information about professional development and other events, and highlights a web portal and education program each month. In addition, if you register on the website, you will be able to post your materials, lesson plans, images, articles and data sets for others to share. For more information, check out <http://floridacosee.net/> .

Sally Ride Science Festivals

Sally Ride Science Festivals bring together hundreds of middle school girls for a festive day of science and socializing, to support girls in grades 5-8 in their interest in science and in possible science-related careers. The University of California, Irvine, will host a festival on November 20, 2004. Dr. Ride will provide the keynote speech, and the girls can enjoy a hands-on science street fair and attend discovery workshops on a variety of science careers. There will also be workshops for parents and teachers. Additional festivals are scheduled for Florida, Arizona, and elsewhere in California. For more information, check out <http://www.sallyridefestivals.com/> .

Sanctuary Watch: Education Edition

Ocean education and hands-on field activities from around the country are highlighted in the new education edition of the Sanctuary Watch newsletter produced by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program. You can subscribe to Sanctuary Watch electronically by sending an email to requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov and putting "subscribe sanctuarywatch" in the subject line. Or to receive a hard copy, please email your name and mailing address to: Sanctuary.Education@noaa.gov .

Saving Springer

The NOAA documentary, *Saving Springer*, is a story about the work that the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources, does on a daily basis. It is about a young killer whale and the dedication of NOAA professionals helping return her to her family. It will air on 90 public television stations around the nation over the next several months. The next airings are Mobile, Alabama/Pensacola, Florida, on November 14 and 17, 2004, and Champaign, Illinois on November 14 and 18, 2004. For more information, watch you local Public Broadcast Stations.

Tread Lightly Government Resources

The nonprofit organization Tread Lightly! is a nonprofit whose mission is "To empower generations to enjoy the outdoors responsibly through education and restoration." They have developed a new web section specifically for employees of land and water management agencies. It was created to be a clear-cut, effective resource to provide aid to agencies who deal with recreation issues on their land or water. The new site makes it easy to find outreach resources. For more information, check out www.treadlightly.org/govresource.mv .

USS Arizona Preservation Project – Daily Project Updates

Beginning November 1, 2004, archeologists from the Submerged Resources Center of the U.S. National Park Service are conducting a three-week investigation of the wreck of USS ARIZONA, the American battleship sunk in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor,

Hawai'i, in 1941. Using nondestructive techniques, the team will conduct tests to determine the structural integrity of the ship, record in detail its current state for comparison with earlier surveys, and collect environmental data in the interior of the ship using remotely-operated vehicles. Because the ship is considered a war grave, divers will not enter the interior spaces of the vessel. Daily updates on the team's activities will be posted to the project website. For more information, check out <http://www.pastfoundation.org/Arizona/>, or the National Park Service Submerged Resources Center's homepage at <http://www.nps.gov/submerged> .

Wavebreaking News

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) presents the fall edition of Wavebreaking News, a multimedia presentation of developments in NOS science and technology. Available in Quicktime or Windows Media for different connection speeds, this brief news report features the Hunt for the Alligator, Navigation Safety, and Dolphin Health Exams. Links to information and contacts allow in-depth research into these topics. And while you're on the website, check out the links to the NOS data explorer, publications, and other topics. For more information, check out <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/wbnews/welcome.html> .

World Database on the Protected Areas of the World

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) Consortium website contains information about the 2004 World Database on the Protected Areas of the World, a CD-ROM product. It was part of the WDPA Consortium efforts to share conservation information for the Fifth World Parks Congress, which was held in September 2003 in Durban, South Africa. The WDPA, established in 2002, is a consortium of international conservation organizations and IUCN (World Conservation Union) members who have agreed on a set of common principles to ensure that information on protected areas is maintained on a cooperative basis and used effectively in monitoring the effectiveness of global conservation agendas. The Consortium welcomes contributions to the database by experts on protected areas. For more information, check out http://www.biodiversity.org/wcpa/ev.php?URL_ID=1697&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1099533914 .

INITIATIVES, JOURNALS, AND OTHER NEWS

Teacher Tax Deduction for Classroom Expenses

The recent tax legislation signed into law by President Bush includes an extension of the tax deduction for teachers for the first \$250 "out-of-pocket" expenses spent on instructional materials and classroom supplies. Remember to keep receipts for classroom materials purchased so that you can take the deduction come tax time. For more information, check out <http://www.nea.org/lac/edtax/index.html> .