

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR MARINE EDUCATORS

SEPTEMBER 2006

This update is provided with support from NOAA's Office of Education and 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 mention that you learned about it from NOAA's Information Exchange.

The information included here has been compiled from many different sources, including EE-NEWS@NAAEE, EEinGEORGIA, CREEC, the Scout Report, edinfo at FREE, scuttlebutt, NSTA Express, and others. We have verified web addresses, but make no guarantee that they will remain active. The Department of Commerce/NOAA does not necessarily endorse or promote the views or facts presented on these sites.

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Collected archives of the information presented in past newsletters are available at http://www.mpa.gov/information_tools/education.html#InfoExchange. Contact the editor directly at phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov, or by phone at (865) 932-5074, to discuss further enhancements or to contribute information for future issues.

Notable Article

Measuring Coral Reef Ecosystem Health: Integrating Societal Dimensions

Measuring Coral Reef Ecosystem Health: Integrating Societal Dimensions, from the World Bank, identifies causes of the rapid deterioration of coral reefs being witnessed today through indirect impacts from human activities, including overfishing, destructive fishing practices, chronic pollution, sedimentation from degraded watersheds, and physical alteration associated with coastal development, tourism, oil, and gas exploration. The report offers a framework for measuring societal dimensions of coral reef ecosystem health and applies it to the Mesoamerican Reef.

<http://www.cep.unep.org/newsandevents/news/2006/measuring-coral-reef-ecosystem-health>

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

EstuaryLive

Learn how salt marshes migrate and about creatures that call salt marshes and estuaries their home. Tune into EstuaryLive on September 29, 2006. EstuaryLive is a free, live, interactive field trip broadcast live over the Internet. Educators from New York, Oregon, and Washington will bring the plants and animals of our nation's estuaries into your classroom. All you need to participate in program is a computer with an Internet connection.

This year's field trips will feature segments on crabs, salmon, turtles, birds, salt marshes, habitat restoration and much more. The broadcast schedule for this year's field trips will be as follows (all times are EST); archives will also be available for these and previous field trips:

- Peconic National Estuary Program, New York, 11:00 am-12:05 pm
- New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, New York, 12:10-1:15 pm
- South Slough NERR and Tillamook Bay National Estuary Program, Oregon, 1:20-2:25 pm
- Padilla Bay NERR, Washington State, 2:30-3:35 pm

Visit the website to register for the program, learn more about the individual field trips, and to peruse the educational materials. We look forward to exploring these exciting ecosystems with you and your classroom.

www.estuaries.gov

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

A new website designed to provide the communities along the northern Gulf of Mexico with information regarding estuarine and coastal issues was recently launched by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The site contains information that is pertinent to educators, researchers, students, community members and visitors to the reserve which is located in the southeast corner of Mississippi near the towns of Moss Point and Pascagoula

This website features several sections of interest:

- The home page features a short video showing our reserve before and after Hurricane Katrina and a species profile generator.
- *Our Estuary* highlights the reserve and other Mississippi estuaries and coastal habitats.
- *Education* serves as the portal to our Coastal Training Program (designed for coastal decision-makers), community, and K-12 education programs such as EstuaryLive. Additional selections link to Kids Fun, Careers, Ocean Literacy and more.
- *Research* provides information on our real-time water and weather collecting program, System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP), ongoing research projects, and fellowship opportunities.

- *Stewardship* highlights our ongoing natural resource management programs including invasive species control, restoration, monitoring, and more.
- *Recreation* includes a wealth of information on the recreational opportunities found at the reserve and highlights the watchable wildlife and plants found at our site.
- *Reference Materials* includes publications, news, presentations and technical posters that are of use to a variety of audiences.

Look through the website for the information you need, including downloadable field journals, books for students, slide shows, and more. We invite everyone to visit our site and provide feedback, suggestions, and community contributions to us through the link on the homepage, or directly to Jennifer Buchanan at jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov.
<http://www.grandbaynerr.org>

MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE

Now-casting Sea State from Your Classroom

The Bridge features a collection of over 60 Data Analysis Teaching Activities (DATA) that can be used to supplement curriculum materials. In the current Bridge DATA, Sea State, students use real-time data from the NOAA National Data Buoy Center to determine wave conditions around the coastal United States. Learning how wind is created and its effects on the sea surface, students will compare real-time wind speeds to the Beaufort Wind Force Scale in order to now-cast sea state conditions at each of the buoy sites. Use this DATA to supplement your atmosphere unit and bring real scientific data into your classroom.

http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge/index_archive0906.html

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Arthur Vining Davis Foundation Grants

The foundation supports innovative professional-development programs that strengthen teachers and their teaching in grades 9-12. Special consideration will be given to projects in their early stages that address the concerns and problems of secondary education on a national level.

www.avdfdn.org/programs-secondaryeducation.htm

Graduate Research Fellowships

Graduate students gain hands on experience with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Graduate Research Fellowship program. Students will have an opportunity to conduct their master's or doctoral research in a reserve as well as contribute to the reserve's research or monitoring program. Graduate Research Fellowship projects are based on the reserves' local needs, the reserve system's national priorities and the students' interests. All fellowship projects address issues important to coastal zone management and enhance our understanding of estuarine ecosystems. The application deadline is November 1, 2006.

<http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/fellowship/>

Painting Competition on the Environment

The International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment is organized annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and others. This year's competition focuses on the theme of Climate Change. The organizers invite

children, ages 6-14, to submit their paintings to the UNEP office in their regions. A list of these offices, along with a world map indicating regions, is available from the website. The deadline for entry is December 31, 2006.

<http://www.unep.org/Tunza/paintcomp/>

Preserve America Grant Program

The National Wildlife Refuge System Preserve America Grant Program provides competitive grants to help fund national wildlife refuge interpretive and education projects focusing on history and historic sites and how they contribute to our conservation and understanding of natural resources. Grant proposals must demonstrate national, state, or local partnerships to qualify. Priority will be placed on proposals that effectively blend interpretive or education programs with the Refuge System's mission to conserve fish, wildlife and plants and that emphasize themes that are important for understanding American history at the national, state or local levels. The deadline for proposals is November 1, 2006.

http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nwrqp_pa.cfm

Target Field Trip Grants Program

Target educational programs focus on teachers and classrooms and early childhood reading. Target also supports schools and educational organizations through local grant donations. The Target Field Trip Grants Program offers funds to allow teachers to offer valuable experiential learning gained from field trips to enhance students' classroom studies. Criteria for the selection of grant recipients include: the description of the field trip and its objectives, the benefits to students, the tie-in to the school curriculum, the number of students who will be impacted, and the proposed use of funds. Funds may be used to cover cost of transportation, entry fees, supplies and equipment and resource materials. Applications will be available online from September 1, 2006 through November 1, 2006. The deadline for application is November 1, 2006.

<http://www.target.com/teachers>

Whale Tail Grants Program - California

The Whale Tail Grants Program distributes funds from sales of the Whale Tail License Plate. The grants support programs that teach California's children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state's marine and coastal resources, especially those communities that are currently poorly served in terms of marine and coastal education.. The deadline for application is November 15, 2006.

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html>

REQUESTS

Coral Reef Curriculum Development

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is re-releasing a request for proposals for the development of a K-12 coral reef curriculum. The Scope of Work is available for review. Select About CRM → RFP/IFP from the home page.

<http://www.crm.gov.mp/>

NOSB Team Challenge Questions Needed

The Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB[®]) are seeking scientists and graduate students to write team challenge questions for the 2007 NOSB competition to be held April 28-30, 2007 in

Stony Brook, New York. Team Challenge Questions are comprehensive thought questions that range from 2-5 minutes for a team of four students to cooperatively answer. 150 questions needed by September 29, 2006.
Contact Henry Hope at hhope@coreocean.org

INTERNSHIPS AND TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITIES

Curatorial Internships 2007

As part of its role of education center for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville, Australia, offers four curatorial internships. Each position carries a specialist research project, as well as water quality and laboratory duties, that will be the core duties of the candidate. However, interns may also assist Reef HQ staff with animal husbandry responsibilities of all exhibit areas, including feeding, diving, field trip assistance, maintenance of aquarium systems, and other related duties. This program is designed for individuals intending to undertake a technical or professional career in marine science, aquaculture, or a closely related discipline. Overseas applicants are encouraged to apply. The deadline for application is September 30, 2006.

<http://www.reefhq.com.au/involved/intern/curatorial.html>

Database Analyst Consultancy - Terms of Reference

The Organization of American States has a one-year consultancy opening for a GIS and database analyst for the development of the Ecosystem Thematic Network, building the Interamerican Biodiversity Information Network. IABIN is an Internet-based forum for technical and scientific cooperation that seeks to promote greater coordination among Western Hemisphere countries in the collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making and education.

<http://www.iabin.net/english/index.shtml>

East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for Graduate Students

The East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI) provide U.S. graduate students in science and engineering first-hand research experience in Australia, China, Japan, Korea, or Taiwan; an introduction to the science and science policy infrastructure of the respective location; and orientation to the society, culture and language. The primary goals of EAPSI are to introduce students to East Asia and Pacific science and engineering in the context of a research laboratory, and to initiate personal relationships that will better enable them to collaborate with foreign counterparts in the future. The institutes last approximately eight weeks from June to August. The deadline for application is December 12, 2006.

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5284

Instructors and Interns for Seacamp

Newfound Harbor Marine Institutes has openings for instructors and interns to lead interpretive programs in tropical marine science for visiting schools and participate in support services required to run a residential facility. Extensive training is provided. Seasonal employment is available for fall (September-December), spring (January-May), and summer (May-August). Multi-seasonal and year-round positions are also available.

<http://www.nhmi.org/staff.htm>

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

American Museum of Natural History's Graduate Science Courses – Online

Deepen your knowledge with Seminars on Science courses from the American Museum of Natural History. Fall Session 2 runs October 30–December 10, 2006; the registration deadline is October 16, 2006. The five courses available this fall are: *Earth: Inside and Out*, *The Ocean System*, *Genetics, Genomics, Genethics*; and *Space, Time and Motion*. Free sample resources are available for each course on the new Seminars website. Each 6-week course immerses the learner in a collaborative investigation of a current topic within one of the life, Earth, or physical sciences. All courses are taught by museum scientists and educators, and highlight current, cutting-edge research.

<http://learn.amnh.org/>

Carnivores 2006

Carnivores 2006: Habitats, Challenges and Opportunities, the sixth biennial carnivore conservation conference, will be held November 12-15, 2006, in St. Petersburg, Florida. The conference features three days of sessions on terrestrial and marine carnivore issues.

<http://www.carnivoreconference.org>

Emerging Scientist Project – Washington, DC

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Emerging Scientists Project (ESP) provides urban high school teachers with the means to bring oceanic and atmospheric sciences into their classrooms and the opportunity to get their students into the field. The project encourages youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math as well as increases understanding of and appreciation for the resources of the Chesapeake Bay. NOAA is currently recruiting a new class of ESP teachers in the Washington, D.C. area.

<http://noaa.chesapeakebay.net/EmergingScientist.aspx>

eTeaching: Preparing Successful Online Instructors

This course from Creative Conservation provides educators with opportunities to explore e-teaching methods including ways to encourage interaction, provide personalized feedback, reduce isolation, create virtual teams, motivate learners and encourage community. The six-week course begins September 11, 2006; credit is available from the University of Alaska.

http://www.creative-conservation.com/classes_eteach.htm

Learning Ocean Science through Ocean Exploration - Various

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration conducts professional development workshops at a variety of locations around the United States for science teachers of students in Grades 6-12. From October through December of this year, workshops will be provided in San Diego, Seattle, Baltimore (in conjunction with the NSTA conference), Chicago, Tampa, Corvallis, and Norfolk. The website lists available professional development opportunities, along with contact information for those wishing to request registration information for individual workshop sites. To be added to the NOAA Ocean Explorer Education e-mail list so you can be notified of professional development and other educational opportunities, send a request to cindy.renkas@noaa.gov.

<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/development/development.html>

MARE Professional Development - California

The 2006-2007 MARE (Marine Activities, Resources & Education) from the Lawrence Hall of Science professional development schedule is available, offering half-day habitat and curriculum introduction workshops, full-day workshops, and field trips. Some offerings include Rocky Seashore, Sandy Beach, Wetlands, Open Ocean, & Islands; Kelp Forest Habitat Workshop; and Ponds Habitat Workshop.

<http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/mare/profdev/calendar.html>

Marine Educators Association Conference – Georgia and South Carolina

The annual conferences of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association and Georgia Association of Marine Education will be held jointly, October 20-22, 2006, on Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Join marine educators and scientists from throughout Georgia and South Carolina as they focus on the commonalities between neighboring states and partnerships among marine scientists and educators, celebrating the theme, *Partners in Ocean Sciences*.

<http://oceanica.cofc.edu/scmea/conf2006fall.htm>

MERITO Academy Workshop - California

The MERITO Academy's goal is to increase multicultural student's understanding of watershed and ocean issues through hands-on field and in-class activities while exposing them to careers in science and building pride and stewardship towards their sanctuary and local environments. This workshop for educators is scheduled for October 13-14, 2006 in Oxnard, California, with a follow-up on February 3, 2007. Teachers in grades 5-8 and after school program leaders who primarily serve Hispanic or cross-cultural students within Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties are eligible to attend.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/teachers/professional.html>

Monitor Open House and R.O.V. Workshops - Virginia

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will host a teacher open house at their office in Newport News, Virginia on October 5, 2006. The open house is an opportunity for local teachers to preview programming available through the national marine sanctuary program. Discover new resources to teach social studies and science standards using the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor and the National Marine Sanctuaries. The sanctuary will also sponsor professional development opportunities for teachers to learn about remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) this fall, on September 30, 2006, November 4, 2006, and November 18, 2006. These hands-on workshops teach how to design and build working ROVs.

<http://monitor.noaa.gov>

Contact Krista Trono at Krista.Trono@noaa.gov for information about the workshops.

National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

Restore America's Estuaries announces the 3rd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, *Forging the National Imperative*, December 9-13, 2006 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The deadline for early registration is October 17, 2006.

<http://www.estuaries.org/conference>

NSTA Web Seminars - Online

NSTA Web Seminars are 90-minute, live professional development experiences that use online learning technologies to allow participants to interact with nationally acclaimed experts, scientists, education specialists, and others from NSTA government partners

such as NASA and NOAA. A new series of seminars is scheduled between September 2006 and March 2007. Topics include the ocean's role in weather and climate, energy, the International Polar Year, and more. Registration is required.

http://institute.nsta.org/web_seminars.asp

ShortCourses.com: Digital Cameras and Photography Courses – Online

This website, created by Dennis Curtin, offers tutorials and informational essays on all aspects of digital photography, camera operation, and editing digital photos. In the site's seventeen sections, visitors can learn about how to choose a digital camera, how to display and share digital photos, and how to best use one's digital camera for a variety of purposes. There's also an on-line photographic journal of natural events in and around Marblehead, Massachusetts.

<http://www.shortcourses.com/>

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

The next meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force will be held October 24-28, 2006 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Workshops will be held on October 24-25.

<http://www.coralreef.gov/taskforce/meetings.html>

Wetland Courses for Educators - Various

Environmental Concern, Inc. offers a variety of courses designed for formal and non-formal educators who are interested in learning more about wetlands, and who would like to bring the excitement of wetland education into their classroom. Upcoming course offerings include *WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands*, *POW! The Planning of Wetlands*, and more. Fall classes are scheduled in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and elsewhere. Check out their schedule on-line, or contact the education department to learn how to arrange for a course in your area. They can also design a custom course to meet your needs. Scholarships are available.

http://www.wetland.org/EC%20main/edu_schedule.htm

World Environmental Education Congress

The World Environmental Education Congress, *Learning in a Changing World*, will be held July 2-6, 2007 in Durban, South Africa. The World EE Congress Secretariat (Italy) will also launch the World Environmental Education Association. The congress will provide an opportunity for dialogue, reflection, and evaluation in this growing and dynamically evolving field. The deadline for submission of abstracts is November 30, 2006.

<http://www.weec2007.com/>

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Altered Oceans

Altered Oceans is a five-part series on the crisis in the seas published on-line by the Los Angeles Times on latimes.com. Part one, *A Primeval Tide of Toxins*, discusses cyanobacteria. The second part, *Sentinels Under Attack*, is about toxins affects on marine mammals. The remaining parts discuss marine debris, changing ocean chemistry, and algae blooms. Links are also provided for more in-depth information.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/oceans/la-oceans-series,0,7842752.special>

Barging Down the Mississippi

The Wyland Foundation is traveling down the Mississippi River on its third public education tour. *Barging Down the Mississippi* will take place throughout the month of October, 2006. From the headwaters of the Mississippi River watershed to the Gulf of Mexico, this program of classroom study and live events uses art as a gateway for the promotion of aquatic resource science and environmental education.

<http://www.wylandoceanchallenge.org/index.cfm?do=tourabout>

America's Underwater Treasures

Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures returns this September with the series finale, a two-part special investigation about the 13 National Marine Sanctuaries. America's Underwater Treasures will air on two consecutive Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on September 20 and 27, 2006 on PBS. Visit the website for more information and downloadable lesson plans.

<http://www.pbs.org/oceanadventures>

C-Side

NOAA offers this website, C-Side - Coastal Studies, Information and Data for the Ecosystem, as a comprehensive Gulf Coast Storm Information Center, providing direct linkage to local, state and federal information as it pertains to severe weather preparation and monitoring across the Gulf of Mexico coastal region. The site includes recommendations for home preparation and evacuation as well as time-sensitive data, weather products, and storm surge information. Post-storm assessments on the ecosystem, response and recovery products, environmental data and information, and remotely sensed data and imagery for affected areas will be available for response and recovery efforts. Plans to expand C-Side include links to Florida's Beach Monitoring Network and the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing Systems.

<http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/c-side>

Coastal Louisiana Activity Book

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) offers the Coastal Louisiana Activity Book, the sixth in a regional series of children's activity books. This activity book was requested by the Louisiana Department of Education and meets their standards of learning. The book introduces children (grades K-5) to coastal animals and ecology through regional information, fun facts, drawings to color, games, matching, and more. Other activity books include Hawaii's Ocean, Coastal North Carolina, the Salish Sea, Mobile Bay, and the Chesapeake Bay as part of NCCOS efforts to foster ocean stewardship. This series' goal is to begin the process of forming an environmentally aware citizen population, and encourage future careers in marine sciences. All activity books can be downloaded from the website; additionally, there are limited hardcopies available. For more information, contact Susan Baker at Susan.Baker@noaa.gov.

<http://www.coastalscience.noaa.gov/education/welcome.html>

EstuaryLive 2006

EstuaryLive will kick off the 2006 National Estuaries Day celebration on September 29, 2006 by offering free live Internet field trips to four different estuaries around the country. Designed as interactive field trips for classrooms, this program can be viewed by anyone, anywhere. Join a field trip and teach by experiencing the nation's coasts without ever leaving your school. During the programs, naturalists from NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the U.S. EPA's National Estuary Program take participants on a journey through each unique ecosystem. Participants

interact with the tour guides by emailing questions during the field trips. Most questions are answered live during the broadcast. An educator responds to any questions not answered live during the internet broadcast by emailing the recipient directly.

<http://www.estuaries.gov/alive.html>

Field Guide to the Future

Field Guide to the Future is a practical, step-by-step manual describing methods that can help communities think ahead and prepare for changes in their environment and natural resources. The guide is applicable for communities who depend on natural resources and all of us who work with them. The authors have collaborated with communities in the management of forests, land, and water in many parts of the world, but particularly in tropical forest margins. In this manual they share their experiences and lessons learned about methods that can help communities prepare for the future. Spanish and French translations will be available later this year.

Contact Sandra Velarde at s.velarde@cgiar.org

Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series

The Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series provides a forum for on-line publication and discussion of complex issues the National Marine Sanctuary Program faces. Topics of published reports may include descriptions of educational programs, discussions on resource management issues, and results of scientific research and monitoring projects. The Series will facilitate integration of natural sciences, socioeconomic and cultural sciences, education, and policy development.

<http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/welcome.html>

The Mollusks: A Guide to Their Study, Collection, and Preservation

This new volume, entitled *The Mollusks: A Guide to Their Study, Collection, and Preservation*, is the work of 29 international contributors. The book includes chapters on collecting and cleaning shells, SCUBA, dredging, archival methods, digital and film imaging, dredging, and more. There are chapters covering all seven extant classes of mollusks as well as fossil mollusks. The book is geared to the amateur as well as the professional biologist. The first 25 pages may be downloaded for free. (Note that the non-profit American Malacological Society earns more if the book is ordered from the publisher than through commercial ventures.)

<http://universal-publishers.com/book.php?method=ISBN&book=1581129300>

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

The website of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa offers visitors the opportunity to navigate the site in English or Maori. A good place to start is the "Learning" section of the site. First-time users will want to take a look at Tai Awatea, or Knowledge Net, which offers interactive modules that offer insight into the peoples of the Pacific Islands along with other materials. The website also allows visitors to explore some of the hazards that happen in New Zealand - earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunami. *The Big One* online game tests some basic knowledge of disaster preparation. Note that some of the web pages may display best using Internet Explorer.

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/>

NOAA Ocean Film Festival - Georgia

NOAA Ocean Film Festival: Coastlines is a National Estuaries Day celebration in Brunswick, Georgia, on September 30, 2006. Sponsored by Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve in partnership with Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary,

the festival will feature a series of award winning films that highlight the nation's rich coastal habitats and maritime heritage.

http://www.sapelonerr.org/film_festival.htm

Ocean Science Links from NSTA

The issue of the August 2006 elementary and high school editions of NSTA's Science Class features the theme *Ocean Science*.

http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2006-08/member_elementary.htm

http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2006-08/member_high.htm

Tracking Narwhals in Greenland

A new expedition, Tracking Narwhals in Greenland, is available on NOAA's Ocean Explorer website. From August 2006 to March 2007, scientists from the University of Washington and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources will instrument 8-10 narwhals with satellite-linked time-depth-temperature recorders to track whale movements, diving behavior, and ocean temperature structure in Baffin Bay. The work will be conducted in two phases, first with a tagging expedition along the coast of Melville Bay (where narwhals are known to travel) during late summer of 2006; the second phase will involve tagging and observing whales in their winter habitat in Baffin Bay in March 2007. Web coverage for this mission includes content essays written especially for this expedition and mission summaries posted in October/November and April/May, contingent upon when the whales migrate.

<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/06arctic/welcome.html>

U.S. Antarctic Program

This website from the National Science Foundation offers information about the world's coldest, windiest, driest, and harshest continent - its ecosystems and its effects on global processes such as climate. Read breaking news from a newspaper written in McMurdo Station, Antarctica. See articles about a killer crater found under the ice, the melting of polar ice sheets, video clips, maps, images, and much more.

<http://www.usap.gov/scienceAndEducation.cfm>

Washing Away

Washing Away: Losing Louisiana will air nationally on TV on September 7, 2006 at 9:00 p.m. EST. This story of Louisiana's disappearing coastline and how this unfolding crisis affects all of America is told through the eyes of people affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You can see a trailer of *Washing Away* and download lesson plans on the website.

<http://www.lpb.org/programs/washingaway/>

INITIATIVES and JOURNALS

Bringing Coastal Issues to the Public Eye

Here are a couple of initiatives that bring ocean and coastal issues closer to the broader public eye:

- Ohio License Plate: Ohio drivers can purchase a new *Fish Lake Erie* license plate. A portion of its sale will support research and education programs of Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab. http://bmv.ohio.gov/vehicle_registration/fish_lake_erie.htm
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is now included in the upcoming Combined Federal Campaign, number 9255.

- The July 9 issue of the Sunday comic, *Mark Trail*, focused on the threats to coral reef ecosystems. <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/marktrail/index.html>

California Coastweeks

Join the California Coastal Commission's Public Education Program in celebrating Coastweeks from September 16-October 8, 2006. The Commission features the events of participating organizations in a special section of their website, and conducts targeted outreach to publicize it with an on-line calendar of events. The kickoff for the celebration is Coastal Cleanup Day.

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html>

Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States

The National Science and Technology Council Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology is developing *Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States: Research Priorities for the Next Decade*, a draft document that outlines the national ocean research priorities for the United States for the next ten years. Called for in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, this draft document, along with a follow-on implementation strategy, will describe a vision for U.S. ocean science and technology, highlight key areas of interaction of our society and the ocean, and identify critical ocean research priorities for these areas. The draft document is scheduled to be released for public comment late summer 2006. Public briefings will continue to be held throughout September, 2006.

http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup_jsost_orpp_outreach.html

The Future of Sustainability

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is hosting *The Future of Sustainability: Have Your Say!*, an e-discussion forum between August 21-September 15, 2006. The four themes are:

- global challenges to sustainability
- human wellbeing and sustainability
- the new economy and biodiversity, and
- shaping the future

A summary of the e-Discussion Forum will be made available on the website later this year.

http://www.iucn.org/members/future_sustainability/

GIS Day 2006 – New Hampshire

Whether your students are interested in earth science, ecology, ocean science, biology, computer cartography or other computing or science technologies, this year's GIS Day Conference and College Fair offers much to spark their interest. The University of New Hampshire hosts GIS Day on November 1, 2006 with a geo-spatial science career and educational presentations, professional mapping exhibitions, hands-on activities, and more. This year's featured GIS Day map exhibition is the NOAA Ocean Mapping and Ocean Exploration cartographic exhibition.

<http://gisday.sr.unh.edu>

Maryland Coast Day

Maryland Coast Day, September 16, 2006 in Berlin, Maryland is celebrated with a festival at the beach, replete with Eastern Shore eats, arts, crafts, live animal touch tanks, canoe rides, surf casting, sand castle building, along with more than 30 conservation organizations showing what they do to protect the coast.

www.mdcoastalbays.org

MedPAN

MedPAN is an European Union-funded initiative to network MPA managers in the Mediterranean whose aim is to facilitate exchange between Mediterranean marine protected areas in order to improve the efficiency of the management of these areas. The website, available in English and French, features a directory of Mediterranean MPAs by country, MPA-related documents, a gallery of Mediterranean MPA photos, and the project newsletter. There is also an "extranet" resource center that is accessible to Mediterranean MPA managers. Documents on the website include the proceedings of a workshop on Education and Communication in Marine Protected Areas.

<http://www.medpan.org>

National Estuaries Day

The last Saturday in September is National Estuaries Day; this year it is celebrated on September 30, 2006. It began in 1988 as part of Coast Weeks to educate the public on the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them. The annual event has matured into a national campaign with festivities across the country. The website also links to EstuaryLive, a free, interactive field trip over the internet hosted by the NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Programs.

<http://www.estuaries.gov/>

National Public Lands Day

Participate in National Public Lands Day, September 30, 2006, and help build upon the lasting legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans. National Public Lands Day provides an opportunity for volunteers across the nation to work together in improving our public lands.

<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

Teens for Planet Earth

This program, developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, supports teens and teen leaders/educators as they carry out environmental service-learning projects. The website provides a resource library, news articles, and a Take Action section. There's also a special section for Girls for Planet Earth.

<http://www.teensforplanetearth.org/>