



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Summer-Winter Issue

2008

COASTAL AMERICA OCEAN ART CONTEST WINNERS VISIT DC

Coastal America held its first ever Ocean Art Contest in the fall of 2008. The Ocean Art Contest's aim was to encourage students to visually express, through art, the importance of the ocean, as well as their understanding of the seven essential principles of ocean literacy. These principles were created by the Ocean Literacy Network and articulate the fundamental elements that everyone should know about the ocean. The contest gave young artists the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of the oceans, and encourage stewardship through their paintings, drawings and photographs by helping convey how a person's individual action affects the ocean. The contest, conducted by fifteen Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC's) throughout the United States and one in Mexico, drew thousands of entries - paintings, drawings, photographs and collages from students of all ages - kindergartners through college students.

Each of the sixteen aquaria conducted their own regional contests and advanced their regional winners to the "National Contest." From there, a panel of ocean experts and marine artists selected the final winners. The judges selected the winning pieces based on visual impact, communication of the principle, and artistic merit. After an extremely competitive judging process, twenty artists were selected as the final Ocean Art Contest winners.

The winners were invited to Washington, DC for an awards ceremony that recognized their accomplishments. In addition to the Coastal America



Art contest winners along with Dr. Sylvia Earle and cartoonist Jim Toomey celebrate their achievements at the Capitol Hill award luncheon.

ceremony, the students were invited to attend President Bush's speech at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History where they were recognized by the President for their work in promoting ocean literacy through art.

After the President's speech the students went to Capitol Hill for the Ocean Art Contest Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony several Coastal America Principals, CELC Executive Directors and contest judges discussed the importance of ocean literacy and how our everyday actions affect our oceans and coasts. Students had the opportunity to ask the panel questions about important issues such as offshore

oil drilling hazards to the future of deep sea ocean exploration.

(see page 2 – Ocean Art)

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Annual Conference

The 2008 Coastal America Annual Conference was held September 24-26 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the opening of the Sant Smithsonian Ocean Hall on September 27. Federal national and regional representatives, CELC Directors, corporate and non-governmental partnership representatives were in attendance for the meeting. Participants discussed the draft 2009-2010 Action Plan and developed specific actions for the three goal areas set by the Coastal America Principals in the 2005-2010 Strategic



Annual conference participants celebrate Partnership successes.

Plan. Those goal areas are: 1) Provide assistance for Federal Coastal Programs 2) Coordinate efforts to improve public understanding and 3) Strengthen and grow the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). Improving Ocean Literacy was a key focus of the conference and several collaborative actions were identified for the 2009-2010 time frame. The Ocean Art Contest Awards Ceremony and the Ocean Today Kiosk Pilot Project kick-off were held on the final day of the conference.

Partnership Action Plan

The development of the 2009-2010 Partnership Action Plan began in June 2008 when the National Coordination Office (NCO) convened a stakeholders meeting in Washington, DC. to develop a draft strategy for building on our successes and enhancing the Partnership's value to its customers. Representatives from the CELC and CWRP components of the partnership and our Regional Implementation Team (RIT) Chairs from the Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT), Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team (GMRIT) and Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team (MARIT) joined NCO staff and leadership from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) education office for the day-long session.

The draft Plan was then developed further by the NCO in consultation with Coastal America's partners in preparation for the annual conference. Several sessions of the annual conference were dedicated to discussing the draft framework and formulating a plan to direct Coastal America action in the coming years.

One panel session in particular allowed the co-chairs of the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR), Coastal America's guiding federal body, to speak to the partnership and help align federal agency mission goals to achieve mutual benefit through the Coastal America Partnership process. That session, along with focused discussions of CWRP and CELC members led to further development of the Action Plan. After the annual conference a federally focused workgroup was formed to flesh out the draft bring it closer to a consensus document that will guide agency partnership efforts through 2010.

In addition, the Terms of Reference (TOR) document was also discussed at the annual conference. The TOR formally integrates Coastal America into the federal governance structure known as the Committee on Ocean Policy, established as a result of the President's Ocean Action Plan of 2004. This alignment codifies the federal leadership, providing guidance to the Partnership and expanding it to include the remaining resource agencies

-- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Science Foundation (NSF).

The Action Plan was again the focus of discussion during a partnership meeting on December 10th at the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Participants agreed that the bulk of the primary focus areas had been captured in the document and supported the motion to proceed with further revisions. It is expected that the draft final Action Plan will be ready for review and discussion by the SIMOR prior to their January 13th meeting, with final approval by early February.

(from page 1 – Ocean Art)

In further celebration of the Art Contest and the opening of the Sant Ocean Hall, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History will be displaying the twenty winning pieces of art and their accompanying essays from December 8, 2008 through March 29, 2009. Stop by the exhibit to see the beautiful pieces of art and read the artists' essays. To see all of the Ocean Art Contest winners' art work see pages 6-7.

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Northeast (NERIT)

In the summer and fall of 2008 the NERIT coordinated new projects throughout New England that will provide training opportunities for the military construction units. Several projects being considered include dam removal and salt marsh restoration opportunities, and can be implemented through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program of the Department of Defense. The NERIT IRT coordinator has produced many successful projects, such as the Ninigret sand plain restoration, and the Plymouth and East Machias Dam removal projects; and the NERIT looks forward to many more.

The December 3rd NERIT meeting focused on the regional IRT program and support to the 5 NERIT CWRP's. Replacement of the previous Education and Outreach Coordinator will allow resumption of close collaboration with both the New England Aquarium and Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration – our CELC's. Future challenges in the region include finding projects that support the intersection of two or three of the Coastal America tools (CWRP, IRT and CELC). The NERIT is working closely with the CWRP to encourage continued funding for environmental education projects, to implement dam removals, restore anadromous fisheries and fund student salt marsh education/restoration projects. One such project is Broad Meadows Marsh, which will restore an 80 acre dredged material disposal site to salt marsh and coastal grassland in Quincy, MA.

Several exciting projects underway in the North East region are supported by state and federal resources agencies. In Massachusetts a significant collaborative effort is underway to restore the Herring River system on Cape Cod. The

project is led by the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NOAA, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Executive Office of Energy and Environment - MA, with the support of town organizations looking to revitalize salt marsh and estuarine habitats. In Rhode Island oysters are being transplanted into Town Pond by local university researchers to assist in the restoration of that system. Both of these efforts are being supported by the relevant state's CWRP.

Mid Atlantic (MARIT) and Mid-Atlantic - South (MARIT-South)

With significant regret, the MARIT says farewell to one of its founding co-chairs, John Wright, of the North Atlantic Division, Corps of Engineers. John retired this past fall after 36 years of federal service. He was an active and strong supporter of Coastal America and the CWRP state chapters since its inception and his presence as a RIT co-chair will be greatly missed. John, even though retired, is working out ways to continue to be involved in Coastal America activities.

This past year, U.S. EPA Region III and the Chesapeake Bay Program Office expanded the scope of the MARIT by adding two co-chairs to work within the states of MD, VA and DE. This group is referred to as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Team - South (MARIT-South). The MARIT's efforts within NY and NJ are to continue to work in close collaboration with the NJ CWRP on Coastal America projects, and with the NY CWRP to assist them in identifying new leadership to replace their past co-chair Scott Shupe.

The primary leaders of MARIT-South, in conjunction with various CA colleagues, have articulated the lessons learned from their experience in a national RIT



Left to right: CEQ Chairman James Connaughton recognizes the hard work of MARIT leadership Mario DelVicario and Tai-Ming Chang with the help of Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water and Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America – Jennifer Greiner is also a MARIT co-chair.

Best Practices Guidance document. This guidance is designed to help agencies evaluate the various aspects of RIT operation, and clearly articulates resource commitments along with potential benefits. If you need help with your RIT or if you would like a copy of the RIT Best Practices document, please contact Tai-ming Chang or Jennifer Greiner, Co-chairs of MARIT-South.

Southeast (SERIT)

The states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida have recently announced an agreement to form a regional alliance focusing on ocean and coastal science and management priorities such as healthy coastal ecosystems and communities, clean coastal waters, working waterfronts, and disaster resilient communities. The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance has requested that federal government leads and co-leads be designated through CEQ and the SIMOR process. Once established, SERIT will actively look for ways to support this effort.

Northwest (NWRIT)

In August and September the Army Dive Company from Ft. Eustis, VA, and Army Landing Craft units from Tacoma, WA, partnered with the Northwest Straits Commission to conduct a month of marine debris removal in Puget Sound,



An Army Diver from Ft. Eustis, VA, suits up for a challenging dive in Puget Sound, WA, working to remove derelict fishing gear at depths beyond the limits that civilian divers have accomplished.

WA. The divers conducted some of the deepest manned-diving for derelict fishing gear recovery ever attempted in WA. The Coastal America NCO worked with the Army's Soldiers Media Center to produce radio and TV stories about the mission. A '60 Second Army Now' update of the story can be found online at: http://www4.army.mil/AMP/index2.php?video_items_id_key=8808

Alaska (AKRIT)

The AKRIT met on November 18 in Anchorage to review the status of implementation activities nationally and in Alaska. The group also worked to prepare for the annual joint AKRIT/Regional Principals meeting scheduled for February 5, 2009, in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment. The AKRIT is examining how agencies and the Alaska SeaLife Center, the CELC in Alaska, can partner to develop and prepare regional input to the nationwide Ocean Today Kiosk network. The AKRIT co-chairs met with the new SeaLife Center director in December

to discuss this and other avenues for collaboration.

Pacific Islands (PIRIT)

The PIRIT continues to partner with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Hawaii Marine Option Program to develop and broadcast Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). This work will contribute to a TEK Summit to be held this summer in Hawaii, and will later aid in an American Planning Association Indigenous Community Planning Conference in Alaska. The purpose of that conference will be to develop practical ways for employing TEK in public policy development and education -the "how" and not the "why." The PIRIT has developed partnerships with the Maui Land & Pineapple Company to support projects in the Pu'u Kukui watershed involving soil erosion control, replanting of native species, educational institutions, and community volunteers.

Additionally, the PIRIT is joining the Hawaii Nature Center in the restoration, maintenance and protection of the

Pouhala Marsh on Oahu. This project involves the U.S. Navy Hawaii Region based at Pearl Harbor, the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, citizen volunteers, and faculty and students from public and private schools. The PIRIT continues to explore ways to meld the efforts of the CWRP with the region's CELC, including the design of a regionally-based public information/education display that is similar to the Waikiki Aquarium's portable kiosk project that was funded by the PIRIT in 2006. The regions TEK-based activities continue to be inclusive of all indigenous cultures in the hopes of bridging their collective values with western practices of science, education, policy and decision making.



Native Hawaiian Marshland.

CELC Updates

Ocean Today Kiosk Project Launched and Expansion Announced

Since August 2006, Coastal America has collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution and NOAA to expand the technology of the Ocean Today Kiosks (Kiosk) beyond the walls of the Smithsonian and into aquariums across the country.

The Kiosk, an interactive display developed by NOAA, was created specifically for use in the Smithsonian's newest permanent exhibit, the Sant Ocean Hall. A multimedia display that takes a highly visual and interactive approach to increasing ocean literacy by delivering up to date information about ocean life, news, discoveries and ocean science and technology, the Kiosk includes a large

touch screen and echo display which allows multiple groups to simultaneously interact with the content.

On September 27, 2008 the Ocean Today Kiosk pilot project was launched across the country through the Smithsonian and the CELC network. The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, IA, the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD and the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center in Ocean Springs, MS all held public events for the unveiling of these interactive displays.

In addition to the Kiosk's pilot project's launch, Panasonic announced their intent to collaborate with Coastal America to expand the project throughout the



A visitor to the Aquarium of the Pacific navigates the Ocean Today Kiosk.

entire CELC network. Panasonic will contribute the hardware necessary to operate Kiosks in each of the 22 learning centers in the Coastal America network, reaching an annual audience of approximately 25 million people by 2010. The CELC Kiosks are unique in that they will have both the national feed developed for the Smithsonian's Sant Ocean Hall as well as regional data and information developed by individual aquariums and the Coastal America network.

Shedd Aquarium Receives Award for Great Lakes Awareness

On October 13, 2008 the Shedd Aquarium was recognized for their outstanding work in Great Lakes conservation with a prestigious Coastal America Special Recognition Award. The ceremony was held at the aquarium in Chicago, IL. Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water presented the award.

Listen to Your Lakes, Shedd's Great Lakes public awareness campaign, has reached 65 million people thus far. From beach sweeps to blogs, from lake learning programs to media messages, Shedd continues to open new opportunities for the public to get involved in Great Lakes conservation. In addition to their

Listen to Your Lakes campaign, Shedd also continues to provide a venue for many important Great Lakes meetings, workshops, discussions and media events.

For more information visit <www.listentoyourlakes.org>. Congratulations to the Shedd Aquarium for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the Great Lakes!



Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, presents a Coastal America Special Recognition Award to the Shedd Aquarium. Debra Kerr Fassnacht, Executive Vice President of the Shedd received the award on behalf of the Aquarium.

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Designated as a Coastal America CELC

On October 29, 2008 Coastal America designated the Audubon Nature Institute's Aquarium of the Americas as the network's 22nd CELC. The designation ceremony was held at the Aquarium in New Orleans, where Louisiana's U.S. Congressman Steven Scalise welcomed participants. Designating official Mr. John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), welcomed the Aquarium of the Americas to the CELC network. Mr. Woodley applauded the work of the Aquarium and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. "Today marks a significant milestone in our joint efforts to preserve, protect and restore the coastal and marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico. I am pleased with the addition of the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas into the CELC network,

and I appreciate the efforts of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance in achieving this important milestone," Woodley said. "Lifelong education remains an essential component to maintaining healthy ecosystems in the Gulf Region. Coastal America, through its CELC program, seeks to encourage and support community efforts that promote good stewardship of our coastal resources, and we are thrilled that the CELC network now includes the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas."

The Aquarium, located on the Mississippi River in downtown New Orleans, was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, with severe damage to the roof, and Entergy IMAX Theatre. With the help of other Aquariums around the country, along with hundreds of volunteers, donations, and tremendous support from other marine centers around the country, the Aquarium reopened on Memorial Day in 2006. The designation of the Aquarium is significant not only because it is an excellent education and outreach facility but also because it completes a Gulf of Mexico network of CELCs. Now each of the five Gulf of Mexico states and Mexico has a learning center.



John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army presents Ron Forman, President of the Audubon Nature Institute and Steve Scalise, U.S. Congressman with designation plaque.

Aquarium of the Pacific

On November 15, the Aquarium of the Pacific celebrated the grand opening of its newest exhibit *Our Watersheds: Pathway to the Pacific (Our Watersheds)*. The watershed environmental exhibit,

(see page 8 – CELC Updates)

COASTAL AMERICA OCEAN ART CONTEST NATIONAL WINNERS



ANDREW AVILA
Aquarium of the Pacific
3rd Place, K-2nd Grade



CINDY LEE
Aquarium of the Pacific
3rd Place, 6-8th Grade



SOPHIA GUEIROS COSTA
Waikiki Aquarium
3rd Place, University



CHELSEA FINICAL
North Carolina Aquarium
3rd Place, 8-12th Grade



KAREN CHEN
National Aquarium in Washington, DC
3rd Place, 6-8th Grade



YUKGEE LI
New York Aquarium
3rd Place, University



NICOLE LEE
Waikiki Aquarium
3rd Place, 9-12th Grade



JAN FAHLBUSCH
North Carolina Aquarium
2nd Place, 6-8th Grade



MALINALI RAMIREZ MARTINEZ
Acuario de Veracruz
1st Place, 3-5th Grade

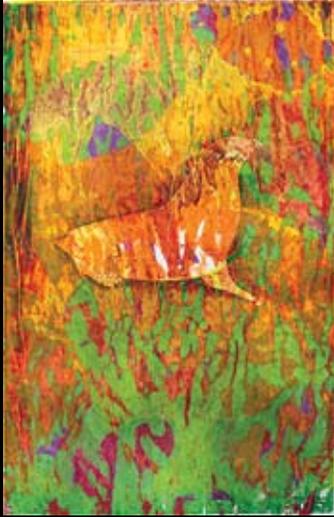


ZOE MALISZEWSKYJ
National Aquarium in Washington, DC
3rd Place, 3-5th Grade



CAROLINE PARK
Aquarium of the Pacific
1st Place, 9-12th Grade

COASTAL AMERICA OCEAN ART CONTEST NATIONAL WINNERS



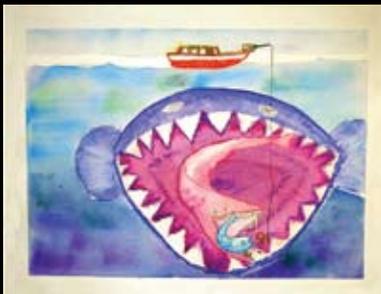
ANSLEY NURKIN
North Carolina Aquarium
2nd Place, K-2nd Grade



EMELINE PRINCE
Aquarium of the Pacific
1st Place, University



JESSICA XU
Aquarium of the Pacific
3rd Place, K-2nd Grade



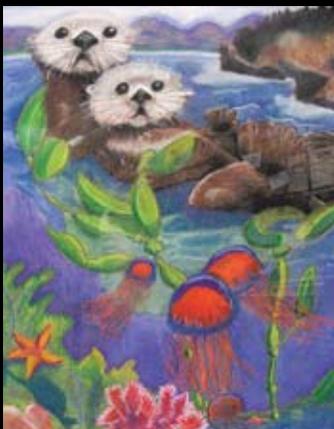
HAEDYN STANDRIDGE
Texas State Aquarium
3rd Place, 9-12th Grade



OWEN FREEMAN
Aquarium of the Pacific
3rd Place, University



ALLISON CHEUNG
Aquarium of the Pacific
1st Place, 6-8th Grade



PARIS SHEWELT
Monterey Bay Aquarium
1st Place, K-2nd Grade



PAULA ALBANEZE
Waikiki Aquarium
2nd Place, 9-12th Grade



ANISHA SHAH
Aquarium of the Pacific
2nd Place, 3-5th Grade

(from page 5 – CELC Updates)

classroom, and native garden, give visitors an opportunity to learn about local watersheds and what people can do to protect them. It also teaches guests about sustainable water use, both now and for the future. *Our Watersheds* tells the story of the changing relationships of people within the San Pedro Bay drainage basin and their environment. Exhibit stations feature photos, hands-on interactives, and information about where our water comes from, what people can do at home to conserve the most water, and what the options are to sustain the Southern California water supply.



Children enjoy learning about watersheds at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The *Our Watersheds* exhibit is surrounded by native plants found along the coastal areas of the San Pedro Bay watersheds. The classroom features a living roof adorned with coastal shrubs and grasses. The Aquarium expects that the classroom will receive a LEED-platinum rating—the highest rating for a green design. In addition to being a fully functioning carbon-neutral classroom, this building serves as an example of alternative energy use, sustainable design, and water conservation. The classroom will be used for school and

community groups to learn about watersheds through a program called It All Flows to Me. To learn more about watersheds, visit their interactive website: http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/ourwatersheds_site/

The Florida Aquarium

Using equal parts conservation, innovation, education and animation, the Florida Aquarium is proud to present its newest gallery: *Ocean Commotion* which opened on October 18. The gallery, celebrating the amazing energy of our oceans, represents the culmination of over a year's work of planning and design. Visitors walk through a fog screen as they enter a gallery flowing with lights, sounds and interactive content. Visitors meet Raldo, an intrepid reporter with a nose for news, as he interviews the six nominees for the coveted Golden Gill Award—each character earning the nomination via their colorful stories and intriguing qualities. Curious visitors can use a cell phone to call and listen to more information, and for added excitement, a wireless device connects to additional Internet-based content. From clownfish to scorpionfish, sharks to cephalopods, the gallery highlights diversity at its best.



Students interact with Ocean Commotion, the Florida Aquarium's newest exhibit.

As visitors come to the end of the new exhibit, a final surprise allows them to dive into an unexpected environment of light and sound where they can play with virtual dolphins or call over a virtual whale for a closer look.

International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

In October of this year the IGFA unveiled a new Catch and Release exhibit in the Changing Gallery. Historically, anglers would often boat impressive fish not only to take photographs, but also mount the fish as a commemorative trophy. This practice made it more and more difficult to find and catch the surviving larger game fish. In contrast, today's marine artists can construct a near exact life size replica of the fish with a few quick measurements and some clear photographs, encouraging anglers to instead release the fish back in the water to live for another day

With the help of King Sailfish Mounts, this new exhibit displays several impressively sized fish mounts including sailfish, yellowfin tuna, swordfish, and mako and hammerhead sharks. On display along with mounts in various stages of completion are the molds used to cast them, glass eyes, and other elements used in creation of the displays. This exhibit recognizes the recreational need to retain the memory of catching one of these incredible game fish and the conservation need to protect these important creatures.

The IGFA has teamed up with Mercury Marine to bring a series of free fishing clinics to families in the area. Held at the IGFA, these clinics provide an introduction to a sport they can participate in together for years to come and help the IGFA reach its mission to make people better anglers and better stewards of their environment. Each clinic includes educational stations such as knot tying, cast netting, and fishing instruction and allows families the



A replica of a King Sailfish mount on display at the IGFA.

opportunity to put their newly acquired skills to use by fishing in the front ponds of the IGFA Headquarters. The clinics also include face painting, free food and drink and prize giveaways. Mercury Marine provides professional fisherman who give educational seminars about fishing and boating during the event.

For more information about the IGFA or its education programs, please call David Matagièse at 954.924.4247 or email at dmatagièse@igfa.org.

North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher hosted an “Aquababies Weekend” from November 22-23, 2008. The event highlights the Aquarium’s tremendous success in facilitating the birth of several baby animals. The Aquarium introduced ‘youngsters’ including: jellyfish, sea turtles, alligators, sea horses, fishes, snakes and more. “This is a unique opportunity for the community to see babies that were either born here at the Aquarium or came to us

as babies,” said Hap Fatzinger, Aquarium curator. Baby animals were all on view as well as stingray, turtle and snake x-rays from pregnant mothers. The Aquarium’s education department provided activities to help visitors appreciate the animals on display as well as the challenges to on-site propagation.



Visitors get an up-close look at a baby salamander during the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher’s “Aquababies Weekend”.

CWRP Updates

National Overview

The CWRP National and State Chapters Meeting was held on September 25th in conjunction with the Coastal America Annual conference. Approximately 30 participants gathered together to collaborate on key CWRP issues such as growing membership, preparing for the new administration and discussion of the 2009-2010 action plan. Pat Hester, National CWRP Chair, reminded

the group that the overall goal for 2009-2010 is to double the funds collected and distributed by the CWRP national and state chapters. Participants discussed a draft document developed by the National CWRP management subcommittee titled, CWRP Corporate Lead/Co-Lead Responsibilities which will provide guidelines for corporate involvement in the program and serve as an important recruitment tool. Growing the membership will also be promoted through recruitment efforts such as improving tracking of projects, creating proper documentation and media outreach. New National CWRP Committee member, The Castle Group, provided a presentation about potential media opportunities to expand CWRP visibility. The board voted to elect American Petroleum Institute as the newest member of the National CWRP management subcommittee. Meeting participants also discussed and approved the Coastal America draft Strategic Plan and 2-year actions for CWRP for 2009-2010. The group agreed to initiate efforts to inform new political and career level ocean and Great Lakes leadership

on CWRP and Coastal America’s efforts. CWRP members look forward to working with the new Administration to help them accomplish their coastal restoration priorities and produce real results for the environment. For more information about CWRP please go to: www.cwrp.org.

Maryland State CWRP Chapter Launched

The new Maryland CWRP (MD CWRP) chapter was successfully launched during a kick-off event held on October 24, 2008 in Queenstown, MD. The MD CWRP is chaired by Charlie Birney of The Brick Companies, with the support of two additional companies, Constellation Energy and Biohabitats which will also serve in leadership roles. Nonprofits such as Ducks Unlimited, MD State agencies like the Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources, and federal agencies such as EPA and USFWS were all involved in the kick off event.

MD CWRP has already proposed six restoration projects throughout the state,



National CWRP Chair Pat Hester receives leadership award from White House CEQ Chairman James Connaughton.



Participants listen as MD CWRP chair Charlie Birney explains the value of the CWRP which has aided in the restoration of over 20,000 acres and 7,000 stream miles since the program began in 1999.

four of which are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A significant shoreline restoration project, located at Hail Point on the Chester River, home of the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, is one of six proposed environmental restoration projects being considered by the MD chapter of the CWRP. MD CWRP is looking for other corporations to join the partnership and help with new ideas and energy to accomplish restoration projects, particularly involving oyster habitat restoration and projects in urban areas.

Massachusetts CWRP

Tides have been restored at the 15-acre salt marsh at South Cape Beach, Mashpee. Two restrictive culverts were replaced with a 10 foot open bottom culvert and a 28 foot span footbridge over an open channel. In addition, an open bottom culvert replaced a restrictive culvert higher up in the marsh at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. As the marsh becomes better connected to the more saline water of Waquoit Bay, it is expected that post-construction monitoring will



MA CWRP donors Procter & Gamble and Ducks Unlimited helped leverage state and federal funds to build this footbridge to restore tidal flow to the South Cape Beach salt marsh.

reveal increases in estuarine fish use of the upper marsh and decreases in Phragmites density, are expected according to Andrew Tweel, stewardship intern at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Prior tidal restriction was damaging too many of the marsh's native inhabitants, which are specifically adapted to natural cycles of flushing. MA CWRP donated \$20,000 to Massachusetts's Partnerships Matching Funds program, which added \$40,000. Subsequently, NOAA's 1:1 grant added another \$60,000 for a total of \$120,000 (out of total construction costs of over \$210,000). Thank You to CWRP donors Ducks Unlimited and Procter & Gamble for helping leverage funds.

New Jersey CWRP

Members of NJ CWRP participated in a white cedar tree-planting event in Woodland Township, NJ at the 9,400 acre Parker Preserve. The Preserve is a former cranberry bog on which the NJ Conservation Foundation is implementing the first phases of a long-term plan to re-establish areas of a historic white cedar swamp.

The NJ CWRP also co-sponsored a rain garden workshop on September 23 to help interested parties learn more about rain gardens and how they might design and construct rain gardens to better manage stormwater. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, included a tour of an existing on-site rain garden and provided information on funding sources.

New York CWRP

The NY CWRP recently awarded the New York State Wetlands Forum funds to support their annual meeting. Over the past few months, the NY CWRP has been coordinating between their member companies and project sponsors to match funds and services with potential projects. The NY CWRP has received a number of tentative endorsements from new member companies and several proposals have been submitted for exciting wetland restoration projects both up- and down-state. The chapter continues to update its recently launched website: www.ny-cwrp.org.

Rhode Island CWRP

The RI CWRP recently donated \$25,000 to help restore anadromous fish to the Pawtuxet River by reconstructing a 1870's fish passage system at the Pawtuxet Falls dam in Pawtuxet Village. The project will remove part of the concrete dam spillway at the mouth of the Pawtuxet River. The concrete structure was built in 1924 atop a bedrock outcropping which formed a natural waterfall before construction of the dam. By removing a section of the dam on the Warwick side, the project will allow migratory fish to swim upstream, will return a natural flow to the River, and restore the historic ecological connection between the river and the Bay. The restoration will also reduce upstream flooding that is harmful to private property.



The existing Pawtuxet Falls dam spillway to be removed through the restoration project.

In addition to the RI CWRP, support and funding for the restoration project are provided by the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Rivers, USFWS, NOAA, USEPA, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, RI Department of Environmental Management, Save the Bay Inc., and the RI Rivers Council.

ESS Group, Inc. and Narragansett Electric Company are lead corporate sponsors of RI CWRP. Corporations can donate through a simple partnership agreement expressing the type and amount of the donation. Contact Bob Erickson at (401) 330-1202 for details and see more information online at: <http://www.cwrp.org>.

Virginia CWRP

In December MARIT-South and the VA CWRP, in partnership with James River Association and the USFWS, celebrated the completion of the Ducking Stool Project in Charles City County, Virginia. This wetlands protection project, involves stabilization of severely eroding shoreline and provides protection for over 500 acres of tidal freshwater marsh. The project team installed a 1,825-foot long, sloping structure of stone between the James River and the marsh that will help prevent vegetation and sediment from further eroding at Ducking Stool Point. Stabilizing the shoreline helps safeguard habitat for anadromous fish, protects the

recreational fishery in Herring Creek, and provides feeding sites for important wildlife.

The Ducking Stool Point project is an example of an effective partnership in action. In 2004 the USFWS Virginia Office proposed the project for funding through the DOI Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI). A \$100,000 grant was provided through CCI, and the James River Association was selected to coordinate and execute the project. Vulcan Material Company provided 3,600 tons of material, valued at \$69,000 and the VA CWRP provided \$30,000. The engineering firm selected to construct the revetment, Coastal Design

and Construction, also donated \$10,000 worth of service toward the project. The VA CWRP includes: Dominion Virginia Power, Philip Morris USA, Smithfield Foods, Smurfit-Stone, Waste Management, Virginia Commonwealth University and VMA Outreach.



Ducking Stool Point Restoration Project.

2008 Coastal America Partnership Awards

The Coastal America NCO received seventeen nominations of teams seeking this prestigious honor this year. A detailed and difficult selection process followed involving federal members of the partnership. Partnership Award criteria require that the project team involve at least one federal agency partner, as well as one non-federal entity. The project must also clearly demonstrate the “value added” of the partnership effort, reflect an innovative or unique way of accomplishing stated goals and objectives with positive environmental results, and provide a contribution to accomplishment of Coastal America’s objectives to protect, preserve and restore the Nation’s coastal resources and/or increase public awareness and education. Six Partnership Awards and five Spirit Awards were approved, they are listed below.

2008 Partnership Awards

- Sesuit Creek-Bridge Street Salt Marsh Restoration Team – Dennis, Cape Cod, MA
The Sesuit Creek-Bridge Street restoration project is the largest proactive salt marsh restoration effort completed thus far in Massachusetts.
- South Coast Habitat Restoration Project Team – Ninigret, RI
This Project was initiated in 1997 and has restored forty acres of eelgrass habitat within Ninigret Pond, the largest of the salt ponds in Southern Rhode Island.
- Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project Team – Delaware Bay
Since 2005 the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Team has planted approximately 1,771,000 bushels of shells in Delaware Bay.
- Florida Artificial Tire Reef Cleanup Team – Broward County, FL
The team is cooperating to remove a failed tire reef in order to protect the living reef community adjacent to the site of the tire pile.
- North Deer Island Protection Team – Galveston Bay, TX
This project began in 2000 to protect a 144 acre natural island from rapid erosion in West Bay of the Galveston Bay system.
- Partners for the Carpinteria Salt Marsh – Carpinteria, CA
The project team restored historic tidal circulation to the 230-acre salt marsh; created submerged cobble beds; removed nonnative invasive vegetation, and planted over 18,000 locally native wetland and upland plants.

2008 Spirit Awards

- Carmans River Fish Ladder Partnership – Southaven County Park, LI, NY
The project team installed an Alaskan Steepass style fish ladder on the Hards Lake Dam Spillway on the Carmans River.
- Merrimac Farm Encroachment Project Team – Prince William County, VA
The Merrimac Farm team worked to permanently conserve the 312 acre property for public use including hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and environmental education.
- Crocodile Lake NWR Habitat Restoration Team – Key Largo, FL
The team worked in the 6,700 acre refuge to restore historic elevation and create a hardwood forest important to endangered species.
- East Bay Wetland and Water Quality Protection Project Team - Galveston, TX
This project restored and protected over 8,000 acres of important habitat along the Texas coast along Galveston Bay.
- Sea Train - Alaska SeaLife Center – Anchorage-Seward, AK
The Sea Train program was conceived as a way to provide a science-based field learning experience for Anchorage students, using Alaska Railroad cars as unique mobile classrooms.



President George W. Bush meets and congratulates the winners of the Ocean Art Contest (winning artwork is shown on pages 6-7).

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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: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and The National Science Foundation .



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