



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Winter-Summer Issue

2008

OCEAN TODAY KIOSK PILOT PROJECT

On September 27, 2008 the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History will open the doors to its newest permanent exhibit, and the largest renovation in the Museum's history, The Ocean Hall. The Ocean Hall will allow visitors to "See the Sea" through a variety of exhibits exploring all things ocean. It will advance ocean literacy and promote a citizenry of ocean stewards, claiming personal responsibility for how their actions impact our ocean. One of the keystone multimedia exhibits in this effort is the Ocean Today Kiosk. The Kiosk will take a highly visual and interactive approach to increasing ocean literacy by delivering up to date information about Ocean Life, Ocean News, Ocean Discoveries and Ocean Science and Technology. To further this effort, on the opening day of the Hall, Coastal America will help the Smithsonian reach a broader audience of people across the United States, who will be able to interact with the kiosk. Five of Coastal America's CELCs will concurrently launch an Ocean Today Kiosk. The CELCs' Kiosks will not only display the Smithsonian's multimedia information feed, but will have four additional feeds addressing regionally specific issues. Delivering this important information in one forum will allow visitors to learn and react to the multitude of ocean issues spanning the globe, from those that are in their back yard to problems thousands of miles away.

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (River Museum) and the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center



Screenshot image from the Ocean Today Kiosk prototype that was used for testing and evaluation by NOAA and the Smithsonian Institution.

-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (MEC) are collaborating to address the issues which plague the Mississippi watershed and the Gulf of Mexico. The Dead Zone in the Gulf is the second largest hypoxic zone in the world; the River Museum and MEC are working to address what causes it and what we can do to shrink it. Another topic, "Rivers to the Sea", will explore the interconnectedness of the streams and rivers within the Mississippi watershed to the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Aquarium of Baltimore will create a regional feed that addresses watershed issues, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic region and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

(see page 2 – Ocean Today)

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Photo Credit: NOAA

Partnership Stakeholders Meet in DC to “Think Outside the Box”

The National Coordinating Office (NCO) convened a stakeholders meeting in Washington, DC on June 9, 2008 to develop a draft strategy for building on our successes and enhancing the Partnership’s value to its customers. Representatives from our CELC and CWRP partners and our Regional Implementation Team (RIT) Chairs from the NERIT, GMRIT and MARIT joined NCO staff and leadership from the NOAA education office for the day long session.

The participants started early and finished late to accomplish the day’s ambitious goals. The strategy session led to a consensus on a clear set of goals and

action items for each stakeholder group. The participants focused on: identifying ways to enhance partnership processes, establishing milestones for future efforts

The draft Action Plan has been distributed to the Coastal America Partnership for review prior to the Annual Conference. The document will form the framework

for discussion of near and long term partnership efforts at the Annual Conference, in September, 2008.

The intent of the NCO was to make the day a substantive working session with participants who thought “outside the box” and produced real results. We are pleased to say that because of our stakeholders’ participation, commitment and great ideas, we succeeded.



Participants of the DC stakeholders meeting develop a preliminary action plan.

for the CWRP, CELC, RITs and NCO. The outcome from the session was a draft 2009-2010 Action Plan.

(from page 1 – Ocean Today)

The Shedd Aquarium is working on several pieces to address issues, concerns and solutions to the problems that face the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes form the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth, and the Shedd will explore how human and environmental factors affect our nation’s “third coast”.

The Aquarium of the Pacific located in Long Beach, California is focused on highlighting the top ten ocean issues in the Pacific. Some of the issues they have chosen to address



Rendering of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center’s new Center and kiosk.

include watershed management, biodiversity loss and ocean literacy. By introducing these important issues the Aquarium hopes to shed light on the challenges faced by the ocean, its inhabitants, and our ocean planet.

All of the CELCs participating in the project are looking forward to unveiling their own Ocean Today Kiosk in their home institutions and bringing the most up to date ocean information to their visitors this September 27, 2008.

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Northeast (NERIT)

The NERIT meets almost monthly in support of the various Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) efforts in New England and has a fall 2008 meeting scheduled for the full team. Recently the NERIT Military Coordinator, Gary Andres, completed raptor management plans for New England navy bases. The state partners continue to implement significant salt marsh restoration and fish passage projects using Federal program funds and Coastal America CWRP funds to supplement their own budgets. These projects include construction of tidal marsh restoration in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, and fish passage projects in Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut. At the Yokum Brook Coastal America Partnership Award ceremony this spring, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs announced the release of the Massachusetts Aquatic Habitat Restoration Task Force Report which had significant support from the Coastal America NERIT. This year the team is seeking a replacement for the NERIT's Education and Outreach Coordinator to support the region's two CELCs, the New England Aquarium and Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration. The NERIT continues to be an interagency and interstate coordination mechanism to further habitat restoration and education efforts in New England.

Mid Atlantic (MARIT)

The MARIT has been making great strides toward developing the program in the states of Maryland and Virginia. The Mid Atlantic Regional Team-South, with EPA Region 3 and USFWS taking the lead, recently developed a business plan for the development of a strong, fully supported and sustainable structure.

The plan focused on their region of the MARIT and is fully coordinated with other members of the MARIT team. MARIT-South is working closely with the CWRP National Committee and the NCO to launch a new Maryland CWRP state chapter. A kick-off event for the chapter is scheduled to take place on October 24th. A leadership transition is also underway for the New York CWRP due to the recent departure of the chapter's strong chair, Scott Shupe of National Grid.

Southeast (SERIT)

The Southeastern Regional Implementation Team met on two occasions during the first half of 2008 and recently welcomed new members to the group, including Jennifer Derby with EPA, and Daphne McFarland and Steven O'Shields with NOAA. A new listing of potential Coastal America projects has been developed by Coastal America agency representatives, and efforts are underway to pursue involvement and funding. NOAA, EPA and several state and local agencies/organizations in coastal Georgia, led by the Georgia Coastal Resources Division, are working on a "living shorelines" initiative. Methodologies for environmentally beneficial shoreline stabilization projects are being developed, and will include salt marsh and oyster habitat restoration features. In addition, the project will map existing "hardened" shoreline structures along the Georgia coast such as bulkheads and rip rap in order to assess the extent of damage these types of structures may have on coastal habitats. EPA also developed a cypress and forested wetlands educational display and has made it available for SERIT members to use in public events, including the multi-agency Energy and Climate Change event at the Atlanta Federal Center in April, 2008. This display highlights the destructive and non-sustainable practices of cypress harvesting for the mulch product industries, and includes

recommendations for alternative mulch sources. The display is available for use by federal agencies, and many other groups: Contact, Jennifer Derby, 404-562-9401.

Northwest (NWRIT)

On April 17th the Northwest co-chairs met with representatives from the National Coordination Office to discuss program goals and examine how to enhance this regional governance structure. Discussion focused on current Coastal America endorsed projects in the region, how to establish a Washington CWRP chapter and improve federal participation in the regions CELCs: the Seattle Aquarium, the Hatfield Marine Science Center and the Oregon Aquarium.

Alaska (AKRIT)

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team held an annual meeting on February 14 in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment conference. The group reviewed the status of the 14 current Coastal America endorsed Alaska projects, heard a report on the Alaska SeaLife Center (the Alaska CELC), and discussed the Alaska CWRP Chapter.

At a Forum plenary session the previous day, Mayor Mark Begich of the Municipality of Anchorage Alaska accepted a 2007 Partnership Award from Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA. The Mayor received the award on behalf of the project team, Anchorage's "Salmon in the City" stewardship initiative. The Mayor later presented all project team members with plaques at a subsequent Municipal Assembly meeting. A break out session describing various federal granting mechanisms for coastal and habitat projects was also held as part of the Forum agenda.

(see page 9 – Regional Updates)

CELC Updates

Coastal America Ocean Art Contest

On May 30, 2008 the first phase of the Coastal America Ocean Art Contest commenced. Sixteen CELCs participated in the contest including the network's international partner, the Veracruz Aquarium in Mexico, making the contest an international success. The Art Contest challenged students of all ages to use art and essays to articulate the Essential Principles of Ocean Literacy, which are the principles every person should know about the ocean. Several thousand students participated in the contest, submitting all forms of art work including graphic designs, paintings, sketches and collages. Students created pieces that are not only beautiful and intriguing but convey how important the ocean is. Several pieces also called



Acuario de Veracruz staff members present awards to their Ocean Art Contest winners during a ceremony held in June.

for action to protect the ocean and it's precious resources.

The winning art work from each of the CELCs will now advance to the national level. A panel of ocean experts and marine artists will select the final winners. Judges

include, Jean-Michel Cousteau, ocean explorer; Sylvia Earle, oceanographer; Michael Lawrence, Chief of Exhibit Design for Smithsonian Museum of Natural History; Bob Talbot, photographer; Jim Toomey, cartoonist and Wyland, painter and sculptor. NOAA Administrator VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher is the Honorary Chair of the contest. The winning artwork will be displayed at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History from December 2008 through March 2009. The winners will also be recognized in September during the opening week of the Smithsonian's Museum of National History's Ocean Hall. Coastal America and all of the CELCs look forward to the results of the National Contest!

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (River Museum)

In honor of Earth Day, the River Museum held a river clean-up day and storm drain stenciling event on April 19 at the Port of Dubuque, around the Ice Harbor. The cleanup and marine debris awareness education event was extremely successful. Over 100 volunteers joined in to pick up trash, recycle bottles and cans, and stencil storm water drains in the Port area.



Volunteers sort through trash collected from around the Ice Harbor in the Port of Dubuque, IA.

South Carolina Aquarium

The South Carolina Aquarium recently opened two new exhibits to promote conservation and action, one is entitled "Camp Carolina" and the second is a new exhibit on marine debris. The Aquarium has been working to enhance the Integrated Ocean Observing System with Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence and NOAA Space Environment Center partners. Aquarium staff recently installed an interactive game on all touch screens that features ways to use buoy data and includes live data feeds from coastal South Carolina buoys. Both the game and data will be available on the internet in the coming months.

Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) and Oregon Coast Aquarium (OCA)

Shawn Rowe, Learning Specialist for Oregon Sea Grant and Assistant Professor of Science and Math Education

at Oregon State University taught a professional development course for HMSC and OCA staff entitled "Communicating Ocean Sciences for Informal Audiences." The material was modeled after a course developed by the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley. The 5-week, hands-on, inquiry-based course was a huge success and has already had impacts on programming at both OCA and HMSC.

International Game Fish Association (IGFA)

On May 17, IGFA was invited to give free fishing clinics during the 3rd Annual Southwest Florida Council Kayak Classic, a tournament benefiting the Boy Scouts of America. In these clinics, beginning anglers learn and practice casting, knot tying, fishing regulations, and proper catch & release techniques. Over Memorial Day weekend the IGFA conducted kid's fishing clinics at



A student participates in an IGFA fishing clinic.

KidStock in New Smyrna Beach, FL, over 350 students attended the course over two days. The students learned fishing basics such as how to tie knots and everyone received a free rod and reel combo courtesy of Fish Florida. The students also received a cup of bait and were able to fish off the pier immediately afterwards.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Discovery Day

On April 19 the Sea Lab hosted “Discovery Day”, an open house with 10-20 exhibitors in the main hall. The event was a great success with perfect weather and over 2000 people in attendance. A new marine debris exhibit sponsored by the Mississippi-Alabama



NOAA Meteorologist Gary Beeler demonstrating his “lightning machine” during Discovery Day at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.



Students enjoy the new marine debris exhibit at the DISL.

Sea Grant Consortium was unveiled at the event. In addition to the Sea Lab’s daily marine education programs and activities, visitors will now be able to learn how marine debris is not only an eyesore but also an active agent in destroying marine life and habitat.

Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium celebrated its 10th year facilitating the Regional Oceans Conference for Students (ROCS), a one-day workshop for middle and high school students and teachers. ROCS participants joined scientists, agency representatives, university faculty, and Aquarium staff for a day of discussion about environmental issues and opportunities for students to effect positive change in their communities. ROCS is preceded by a teacher workshop



Students and teachers participate in the ROCS at the Florida Aquarium.

that helps educators prepare their students to attend ROCS. On May 6, 2008, the Florida Aquarium was able to bring back many of the students who had participated in the ROCS in November. This ROCS follow-up event provided a forum for students and teachers to share what they have done as a result of their ROCS experience. Projects and initiatives resulting from the program include, but are not limited to; starting a school recycling program, participating in a long-term river clean-up, launching a water quality education program for a local elementary school (facilitated by high school students), and invasive species removal on school property and local parks. ROCS continues to be sponsored by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and this follow-up event, made possible for the first time in ROCS’ history, was supported by the Bank of America.

The North Carolina Aquariums at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores and Fort Fisher

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), has designated 2008 as the Year of the Frog to inspire a major conservation effort to address the amphibian extinction crisis. Frogs, salamanders and newts are in trouble, at least one-third of known amphibians are threatened with extinction. In recognition of the “Year of the Frog” the North Carolina Aquariums held a variety of programs and events. This summer, August 4-8, the aquarium at Roanoke Island will celebrate all things amphibian throughout Amphibian Week. The aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores hopes to raise awareness on the plight of amphibians worldwide through their new amphibian exhibit housing local North Carolina species, special programs and events, and comprehensive conservation messages regarding the current amphibian crisis. At the aquarium in Fort Fisher more than 1000 toads have been raised and released back into their normal habitat thanks to New Hanover County students and NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher staff. The aquarium provided the toad eggs for classrooms at seven area New Hanover County schools, where tadpoles, then toadlets, and finally tiny toads were raised. Students then released the toads into habitats near the NC Fish Hatchery in Watha, NC.



A tiny toad before it is released at the North Carolina Fish Hatchery in Watha.

(see page 10 – CELC Updates)

CWRP Updates

National Overview

On February 26, 2008, the first ever joint CWRP National and State Chapters Meeting was held in Washington, DC. Twenty-nine people participated from the National CWRP Committee and state chapters around the country, as well as co-chairs from federal Regional Implementation Teams and staff from the Coastal America National Coordinating Office. The theme of the meeting, "Building on Success for a Strong Future" provided the day-long event's overall tone. Discussions took place on building strong, sustainable state CWRP chapters, partnering with educational institutions, and identifying key issues for moving forward in 2008. The discussions led to the identification of ten action items by the conclusion of the meeting. Follow-up actions under development include several blueprint documents that will help clarify and expand upon existing strategies for growing state CWRP programs and better tracking of program accomplishments.

In addition, the National CWRP Committee has made significant headway in advancing collaborative opportunities between the CWRP and Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network toward supporting key educational initiatives. The National CWRP is playing a key role in preparation for activities this coming fall related to the opening of the Ocean Hall, the Coastal America Art Contest and the Ocean Interpretive Stations project. Several state chapters are enthusiastically engaged in educational activities in their communities as well.

Due to extensive recruitment efforts on the part of the National CWRP Committee, a new corporate champion has come on board in Maryland. The Brick Companies (TBC), a corporation known for its environmentally sustainable practices, plans to host a kick-off/press event in late October at one its "green"

golf courses in Queenstown, MD. Constellation Energy, which was the first company in MD to step up to the plate, will also provide leadership for the new state chapter. Several additional companies are expected to join the new state chapter prior to the fall launch event.

Several state chapters have recently joined other states by launching their own state chapter websites, an exciting development as state chapters continue to grow and expand their opportunities through the use of online technology.

Connecticut CWRP

The CT CWRP recently launched a new chapter website. (See www.ctcwrp.org.)



The website features the chapter's operating principles, lists participating members, details ways in which corporations can get involved in the chapter, and describes projects supported, completed and ongoing by the CT CWRP. The latest project approved for chapter funding is the Poquetunuck Cove phragmites removal project.

Maine CWRP

The Maine CWRP, chaired by Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, recently announced its 2008 slate of approved projects. Three salt marsh and river restoration projects vital to the state's aquatic resources will receive financial support from the CWRP partnership. Project SHARE will restore fish passage and stream connectivity in the Machias River Watershed by replacing culverts. The Phippsburg Center Pond Alewife

Committee will replace a fishway extension chute that was damaged in recent years. The Town of Addison will undertake the second phase of the West Branch Pleasant River Tidal Restoration project. The first phase of this project also received key funds and services from the Maine CWRP.

On June 2, Maine CWRP partners joined in the dedication of the Somesville Fish Passage Restoration Project on Mount Desert Island. The celebration brought together supporters of this successful collaboration that provides habitat for native diadromous fish passage within the Somes-Long Pond watershed.

Massachusetts CWRP

In April the Dominion Foundation announced a major contribution to CWRP for the Town of Somerset's marsh restoration project. The Horsley Witten Group donated permitting services for the Eel River headwaters restoration project in Plymouth. National Grid and The Gillette Company recently donated funds through the CWRP to help complete a final design for removal of the Briggsville Dam on the North Hoosic River in Clarksburg. A cash contribution to CWRP from Spectra Energy will enable the purchase of materials to repair a weir inside a culvert under Central Street in Newbury. Herring, eel, and lamprey need the weir to access upstream passage at the Woolen Mill Dam on the Parker River. The Woods Hole Group has responded to a CWRP request for additional technical assistance on the Stony Brook salt marsh project, sponsored by the Town of Brewster. The City of Gloucester, with the technical assistance of CWRP project contributor Metcalf & Eddy of Wakefield, has now completed the feasibility study for increasing the tidal volume through a tidegate on the Mill River. The Boston Foundation provided the CWRP with funds to cover the costs

of three years of monitoring the impact of improved tidal exchange upon soft shell clams and worms in the Mill River's mud flats. The Gillette Company and Ducks Unlimited provided cash contributions that leveraged state and federal funds for the restoration of the South Cape Beach salt marsh in Mashpee.

In addition to all these activities, the MA CWRP chapter was recognized by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) at a dedication event on May 21, 2008, to celebrate the installation of an educational kiosk in Watertown, MA. The MA CWRP contributed funds to the project that were matched by the DCR Urban Trust Fund.



CWRP members Lisa Standley (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin) and John Lefebvre (Polaroid) unveil sign describing aquatic habitats of the Charles River, MA. Donations from CWRP leveraged \$5,000 in state matching funds to construct the kiosk.

New Jersey CWRP

NJ CWRP continues to focus on growing the organization, expanding its project base and enhancing recognition of the chapter's successes. The chapter has continued its work on the installation of rain gardens as demonstration projects at locations of different geologic and ecological significance. The first stage of this effort led to several completed rain gardens in the Raritan basin. Since then, signage has been designed and an information brochure drafted to further enhance the project.

The rain garden project in the City of Linden has progressed as well. Further

demonstration sites are planned for the NJ Coastal Plain and Central NJ region. The chapter's various rain garden projects are aimed at controlling non-point source pollution, which has been identified as a primary problem for NJ's waterbodies including coastal bays and estuaries. They will demonstrate how this type of storm water control can be successfully used in an urban environment. USEPA and NJDEP are the primary agency partners.

As a follow-up to the support for the construction of rain gardens, NJ CWRP members are developing a workshop program for presentation to the public in the second half of 2008. Other outreach activities include participation in the NJ Land Conservation Rally in March and a symposium at Monmouth University "The Future of Coastal Lakes in Monmouth and Ocean Counties" on June 19, 2008.

Looking ahead, NJ CWRP is evaluating several projects for future chapter support, including several dam removal projects, an oyster restoration project, restoration of wetlands habitats and a grasslands restoration project. Each of these projects will build upon previous efforts and will expand NJ CWRP's role as a partner in protecting and restoring NJ ecological habitats. The next meeting of the NJ CWRP is scheduled for September 18, 2008 at NJDEP.

New York CWRP

The New York CWRP 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 CWRP 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. In addition, the chapter continues

to update its recently launched website. (See www.ny-cwrp.org.)

Rhode Island CWRP

The Rhode Island CWRP state chapter participated in a ceremony on June 16, 2008 that marked the completion of the Town Pond Environmental Restoration Project. The RI CWRP partnered with federal, state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations to help restore 23 acres of salt pond and salt marsh habitat in the wildlife sanctuary at Town Pond in the town of Portsmouth. The pond was a tidally influenced salt pond and salt marsh prior to a 1950's Corps navigation improvement project that placed dredged material in the area. The project partners recognized the potential value of the site and joined together to restore the marsh using a US Army Corps of Engineers program that restores aquatic habitat.

"The Town Pond Environmental Restoration project has been a true collaborative effort, with DEM and the Army Corps of Engineers working together with many partners to assure its success," noted Department of Environmental Management Director W. Michael Sullivan, PhD. "The restored salt pond supplements and enhances the productivity and ecological value of the area by providing habitat for coastal fish and wildlife such as shellfish, flounder and other finfish, herons, egrets, and waterfowl. With this project, we have been able to restore a significant part of Aquidneck Island's natural heritage."



Restoration of Town Pond in Portsmouth, RI.

(see page 11 – CWRP Updates)

2007 Coastal America Partnership Awards

Duwamish Alive! Coalition Seattle, WA

On April 19th the Duwamish Alive! Coalition was recognized for their outstanding achievements to restore the heavily polluted urban river, declared a superfund site by the EPA. The Coalition was awarded during an earth day event which gathered over 700 volunteers at 8 locations along the Duwamish River near Seattle, WA. The Coalition



Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA and Coastal America representatives participate in Duwamish Alive! restoration event.

established a partnership of over 26 organizations including federal agencies, local conservation groups and private corporations to remove invasive species, plant new vegetation and create successful river habitats in a formerly degraded urban river and watershed. Kathy Fletcher of the People for Puget Sound received the award which was presented on behalf of the Partnership by Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA.

National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium (River Museum) Dubuque, Iowa

On May 30th Ben Grumbles (Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA) presented the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium with a 2007 Special Recognition Award during

Partners to Restore Yokum Brook Hadley, MA

On May 2nd the Partners to Restore Yokum Brook were awarded the 2007 Coastal America Partnership award for their efforts leading to the restoration of the cold water Atlantic Salmon habitat stream. DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary Christopher Kearney presented the award to the 27 project partners at a ceremony held at the USFWS Region 5 Conference Center in Hadley, MA. Restoration of Yokum Brook cost over \$600,000, required thousands of hours of partner staff and volunteer time and included the removal of two dams, paid for in large part by the regional CWRP chapters. This effort has been acknowledged as the beginning of a new era of innovative and collaborative approaches to habitat restoration in the state of Massachusetts.



The Partners to Restore Yokum Brook receive honors at USFWS region 5 in Hadley, MA.

their Captain's Ball celebration. Jerry Enzler, Director of the River Museum and member of the CELC executive committee, received the award on behalf of the River Museum for their leadership in establishing partnerships in the Mississippi River watershed. "The Mississippi River Network", a coalition of 35 stewardship organizations is developing a Restoration Plan for the Mississippi River to the Gulf. This plan



Jerry Enzler receives 2007 Coastal America Special Recognition Award on behalf of NMRMA from Ben Grumbles (Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA).

will lead to a public campaign to raise awareness of the value of the Mississippi River, its communities, tributaries, bluff lands and the coastal delta. "The Great River Road Network" of 62 museums reaches millions of people through educational exhibits and programs along the Mississippi River that tell the story of rivers to the sea.

Upcoming Award Ceremony John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois Special Recognition Award

The Shedd Aquarium has an overarching campaign that reaches residents of Chicago and the entire Great Lakes basin (eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces) with strategic messages on Great Lakes awareness, stewardship, and action. The Aquarium has taken a leadership role in advancing the goals of Great Lakes-focused programs by involving senior staff members in the work of various committees, projects, and programs.

(from page 3 – Regional Updates)

Subsequently, a new project, the Alaska Sea Train elementary school educational project, was endorsed as an AKRIT partnership project. The project was also nominated by the AKRIT for a 2008 Coastal America National Award.

Pacific Islands (PIRIT)

The PIRIT continues to partner with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Hawaii Marine Option Program (MOP) to develop and broadcast Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). This work will contribute to a TEK Summit that will be held this summer in Hawaii, and will later aide in an American Planning Association Indigenous Community Planning Conference in Alaska. The purpose of the 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 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 regional team 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 similar to the Waikiki Aquarium kiosk alternative project 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.

Innovative Readiness Training Program

US Naval Academy Senior Design Course partners with CWRP to plan for the preservation of Bloodworth Island.

Professor David Kriebel of the US Naval Academy has for years led the effort to align the Academy’s educational curriculum with real-world experiences. In 2006 Professor Kriebel encouraged two groups of students to explore engineering design needs at the NC Aquarium CELC. This spring semester four midshipmen examined methods to protect Bloodworth Island, MD from erosion. Bloodworth Island is an eroding naval range on the Chesapeake Bay that has significant ecological value for fish and wildlife. In light of the extent of the island’s erosion problem, the students focused on the preservation of the wildlife management area located



Conceptual design for adding dredged material to preserve crucial upland habitats.

on the NE portion of the island. Loss of upland and wetland habitats is of particular concern to Navy natural resource managers. Arcadis, which has provided key leadership and support as a member of the National CWRP and several state chapters, provided biological expertise and oversight for the project as a corporate donation.

Tire Reef Project used to Highlight Marine Debris Cleanup and Coral Protection on Earth Day

Earth Day 2008 efforts in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Tallahassee, FL; and Washington, DC highlighted the importance of marine debris cleanup, linking to one of Coastal America’s significant marine projects: the recovery of the failed artificial tire reef in Broward County, FL.



Photo Credit: Will Nichols

Efforts to remove thousands of tires from the seafloor in Ft. Lauderdale continues to capture the attention of people around the world. Pictured is German public television cameraman Ulf Marquardt as he films the tire reef on May 26, 2008.

During the months of April and May of 2008, 19 Army divers (Army Dive Company, Fort Eustis, VA), 21 Navy divers (EOD OSU TEN, Fort Story, VA; and NEDU, Panama City Beach, FL), 12 Navy patrol boat operators (EOD OSU TWO) and the crew of the Army Landing Craft Brandy Station (97th Transportation Company, Fort Eustis, VA), assisted on deck by 4 soldiers (89th Transportation Company, Fort Eustis, VA) came together under the DoD Innovative Readiness Training Program for a two-month training exercise in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This was the first year of full-scale salvage recovery of the failed artificial tire reef to protect nearby living coral reefs. Although weather delays hampered this year’s efforts, 43,934 tires were still recovered from the sea and converted into tire derived fuel, or TDF, which is used in lieu of coal in industrial boilers. The on-land transportation of



Photo Credit: MC3 (AW) Jose Avante, U.S. Navy

Don Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment), does his part to reduce marine debris on Earth Day 2008 as he collects bags full of debris collected from the water's edge at the Washington Navy Yard on the Anacostia River.

the tires and subsequent conversion into TDF were made possible by Florida Governor Charlie Crist's \$2 million contribution to the multi-year joint county-state-federal project.

On Earth Day, while Army and Navy divers were removing tires from the seafloor, outreach efforts were underway in the capital of Florida and at the Washington Navy Yard in DC to highlight the importance of cleaning up legacy marine debris. Members from the tire cleanup project team used their visibility to engage the public on the importance of marine debris and proper solid waste disposal. At the Washington Navy Yard, William Nuckols, Coastal America Project Coordinator, was joined by Coastal America's Principal from the Navy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment), Donald Schregardus. DASN Schregardus' involvement was

hands-on on Earth Day, as he and scores of Navy volunteers scoured the water's edge collecting plastic and other marine debris that had washed up from the Anacostia River onto the shoreline of the Washington Navy Yard.

Additional public awareness of the tire cleanup project continues and U.S. efforts to address legacy marine debris problems are a focus of international media attention in 2008. This summer in Europe a story will air on Thalassa, a French documentary focused on the sea and on German ARD, Europe's biggest non-commercial TV station. The international coverage highlights this one project which is emblematic of our commitment to both marine debris cleanup and coral protection. This is a timely message as the U.S. is hosting the International Coral Reef Symposium in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in July 2008. It is also the International Year of the Reef (IYOR).

(from page 5 – CELC Updates)

National Aquarium in Baltimore

What includes 1103 students, 38 buses, and 100 chaperones? The National Aquarium in Baltimore's 2008 field season for the AquaPartners program! The National Aquarium in Baltimore partnered with the Baltimore City Public School System to create the AquaPartners outreach program. The goal of AquaPartners is to engage 4th and 5th grade students and teachers from 11 Baltimore City elementary schools in learning about the Chesapeake Bay using science, math, and language skills. This project features in-school programming, field trips to the Aquarium, as well as field study trips to the Chesapeake Bay.

The AquaPartners field season lasted from April 20-June 6 this year and included 22 field trips that allowed Baltimore City students to see the Bay up close. At Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and adjacent wetland, 4th

grade students learned about characteristics of wetland soils, plants and animals in a marsh, and marine debris at different stations in the marsh. The 5th graders visited Sandy Point State Park where they seined for small fish and invertebrates in the Bay, used microscopes to identify animals that grow on oyster shells, and learned about water quality testing.

The AquaPartners field season is part of a three year program that began in



Fourth grade students from Medfield Heights Elementary School use binoculars to identify different bird species found in the Fort McHenry marsh.

January 2008 and will end in June 2010. AquaPartners is offered to schools thanks to a generous grant from the Toyota USA Foundation that funds all bus transportation, materials, and supplies for each school participating in the program.

(from page 7 – CWRP Updates)

Virginia CWRP

The VA CWRP held a meeting in late April with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), members of the Southern Mid-Atlantic RIT, Coastal America's National Coordinating Office, the VA Department of Environmental Quality, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the James River Association, and other



Aerial of historic James River.

project partners, to discuss a wetland and stream restoration project at the VCU Rice Center (<http://www.vcu.edu/rice/>). The Rice Center serves as the university's research and education field station and is located along the lower James River in Charles City County, VA. It encompasses over 340 acres of forest and wetland habitats. An impoundment that was built on the Rice Center site in 1928 destroyed 70 acres of tidal and non-tidal freshwater wetlands. The university is spearheading a partnership effort to remove the dam that created the impoundment and restore the wetland and stream to its natural hydrology and ecology. Another major component of the overall project is an extensive outreach program focused on wetland ecology and restoration.

Progress has also advanced on the Ducking Stool Pond project, which is being spearheaded by the James River Association, in partnership with the USFWS and the VA CWRP. The permit process is being finalized and construction is due to begin this fall to restore 1,900 linear feet of shoreline in Charles City County, VA. Timing is critical to the implementation of the marsh toe revetment project in order to be in compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and avoid altering roosting sights and foraging areas. A celebratory project kick-off event is preliminarily scheduled for early to mid-September.

2008 Coastal America Annual Meeting L'Enfant Plaza Hotel - Washington, DC September 23-27, 2008

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, September 23

- Welcome Reception at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

Wednesday, September 24

- Plenary Session
 - ♦ State of the Partnership
 - ♦ Strategic Plan: The Federal Partnership
- Luncheon – “Enhancing Federal Collaboration and Forging New Partnerships”
- Plenary session: Federal Ocean Priorities
- Evening Event – National Aquarium Reception

Thursday, September 25

- Concurrent Meetings
 - ♦ CELC Directors Meeting
 - ♦ CWRP National and State Chapters Meeting
- Plenary Session: CELC Update on Ocean Literacy Initiatives
- Luncheon – “Strengthening the Partnership and Ensuring Success” and Leadership Awards Presentation
- Plenary Session: CELC, CWRP, and Federal Partnership:
 - ♦ Building an even stronger Partnership
 - ♦ Strategic Plan: CELC and CWRP Partnerships
- Evening Event – Waterfront Reception and Sunset Cruise

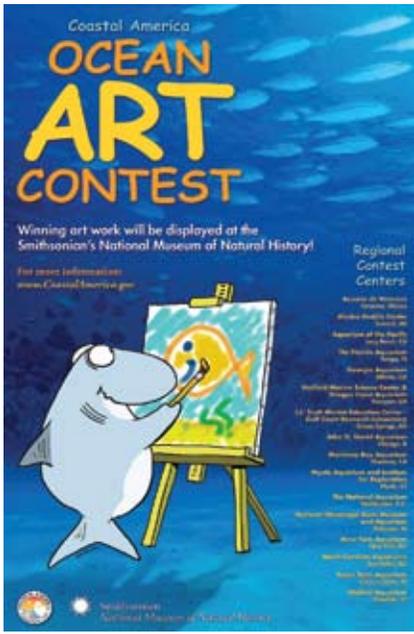
Friday, September 26

- Ocean Art Contest & Ocean Today Kiosk Media Event
- Plenary Session: Improving Ocean Literacy
- Luncheon and Ocean Art Contest Awards Ceremony

Saturday, September 27

- Smithsonian Ocean Hall Grand Opening

Please join us! For more information go to: coastalamericafoundation.org



Sherman's Lagoon Cartoonist, Jim Toomey, provided imagery for this poster to promote the Coastal America Ocean Art Contest.

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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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