



# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

FALL 2003

## 2003 Partnership Awards

Ending the year in celebration, Coastal America honored organizations with exemplary achievements designed to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems. Nine Partnership Awards, involving over 150 partners, were given in recognition of completed projects. Each project is an exceptional model of multi-agency and public-private collaboration. Seven Spirit Awards were presented in recognition of unique projects that demonstrate the Coastal America spirit of teamwork. See inside for a complete list of award winners, their accomplishments, and photos from Partnership Award ceremonies. For more information about the projects, please visit our web page at [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov).

## New York Aquarium Sponsors a Day on the OSV Anderson



NYC Students and educators aboard OSV Anderson. The Anderson was among the 2003 Partnership winners.

### Call for Nominations

*Coastal America is accepting nominations for the 2004 Awards Program. Partnership Awards recognize outstanding efforts to protect, preserve and restore coastal resources. Nominations are due to the Coastal America office by April 5, 2004. Visit [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov) for additional information.*

On September 20, New York City students and educators sailed from South Street Seaport to Brooklyn's Gravesend Bay, aboard EPA's research vessel, *OSV Anderson*. The students learned how over-the-side sampling equipment is used for monitoring ocean dumping sites and coastal environments. Under sail, crew engaged students in excellent discussions on coastal and ocean issues as they brought in crabs, sand shark, and skate. Students experienced first-hand how federal, state and local entities conduct research and protect the marine environment. EPA support of marine science education and the New York Aquarium's sponsorship aboard the *OSV Anderson* made this day of water research possible.

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## The 2003 Partnership Awards Highlights

### Partners to Revitalize Glen Cove's Waterfront

Leveraged \$40 million to transform 213-acres, containing brownfield sites and two waterfront miles in this New York community, into productive use through environmental, economic, infrastructure, and recreational improvements.



Tony Gallego

*HUD Assistant Secretary, Roy Bernardi, presented the Glen Cove Partnership Award.*

### Northwest Straits Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Team

Sponsored a comprehensive derelict fishing net and crab trap removal project to remedy the damage inflicted on marine habitat in Northern Puget Sound.

*The Northwest Straits Commission's Derelict Fishing Gear Team receives award from Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA, in conjunction with Estuarine Research Federation Conference.*



*Hawaii Marine Algae Group receives Partnership Award following an alien algae clean-up event at Waikiki Beach. Presented by Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA.*

### Hawaii Marine Algae Group

Community cleanup efforts have resulted in removing and recycling over 17 tons of alien algae biomass from coral reef at the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District in Hawaii.

### U.S. Virgin Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee

Orchestrated a collaborative process resulting in legislation that established the St. Croix East End Marine Park, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This dynamic process is designed to respect multiple uses while protecting magnificent reefs and marine resources.



*P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Interior, presented the U.S. Virgin Island Marine Park Team with 2003 Partnership Award.*



## The 2003 Partnership Awards Highlights

### Cameron Parish–Brackish Marsh Creation Team

Developed a transportation impact mitigation project using 26 miles of plowed terraces to protect over 3,226 acres of open water marsh lands, and more than 20 miles of salt marsh shoreline in southern Louisiana.

*Cameron Parish–Brackish Marsh Creation Project Partnership Award presented by Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary, DOT.*



*J.P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, presented a Partnership Award to the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Team.*

### Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Team

Designed a project to reconstruct Poplar Island to the size it was in 1847, using clean dredged material from an approach channel of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and creating 1,140 acres of wildlife habitat.

### OSV Anderson Partnership Team

Provided marine education trips aboard EPA's vessel to students and teachers in coastal areas, giving hands-on learning experience about the science and marine protection efforts of Federal, state, and local entities. The Massachusetts and Maine CWRP were also partners on the OSV Anderson educational team effort.

*OSV Anderson Partnership Team received a Partnership Award from P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior, at the New England Aquarium.*

*(continued on page 4)*



## The 2003 Partnership Awards Highlights

### Project GreenShores

Involved 60 organizations in Florida's Pensacola Bay habitat restoration project which created nearshore oyster reefs and salt-marsh habitats, and restored 8 acres to an intertidal elevation.

*Don Schregardis, Navy Deputy Assistant Secretary, presented the Partnership Award to the Project GreenShores Team.*



*J.P. Woodley, Army Assistant Secretary, presented Partnership Award to the Smelt Hill Dam Removal Team.*

### Smelt Hill Dam Removal Team

Involved a dam removal that opened 7 miles of the lower Presumpscott River in Maine to improve water quality and reestablish fish runs of approximately 6,000-24,000 adult shad, 150,000-200,000 alewives, 78,000 blueback herring, and 25-100 Atlantic salmon.

## Spirit Awards Highlights

### Baytown Nature Center Management Team

Restored a condemned 450-acre neighborhood in Baytown, TX, which had been plagued by flooding, to its natural wetlands habitat, by generating over \$4 million for the Baytown Nature Center, creating four freshwater ponds, and completing marsh-planting projects totalling 80 acres.

### Alabama Cypress Planting Team

Created a successful conservation effort which includes tree planting and maintenance, with recent efforts involving 125 volunteers planting over 3750 trees throughout Alabama's coastal area.

### Texas Prairie Wetlands Team

Developed a dynamic partnership comprising 28 counties along the Texas Gulf

Coast that targets privately owned landowners who voluntarily establish wetland habitats that will increase waterfowl and bird populations.

### Watershed Signage Project Team

Implemented the first educational and stewardship watershed awareness signage program in the Southeastern United States and expanded efforts from roads to trails, fish and wildlife reserves, welcome centers, military bases, federal, and state lands.

### Birch State Park Team

Coordinated a project to eliminate invasive exotic plants in the only remaining coastal hammock in Broward County Florida by renewing the native flora and fauna with the planting of over 400 native trees, understory plants, and grasses in the Park.

### Karnowsky Creek Team

Restored a 2-mile stream channel on Oregon's Siuslaw River tributary by reconstructing the Karnowsky Creek channel with pools and riffles, constructing off-channel fish rearing ponds, installing wood complexes in the new channel for fish habitat, and planting riparian vegetation.

### Alaska Coastal Habitat Protection Team

Organized a voluntary conservation, land-trust program that collaborates with landowners to conserve important wildlife ecosystems in coastal Alaska, with a goal of protecting more than 2000 acres that protect open spaces, signature landscapes, and waters essential to a sustainable way of life.





## Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Updates

### Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project

On September 15, J.P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, joined a host of dignitaries including the Governor of Rhode Island and a Congressional delegation in Lincoln, RI. The celebration was held to celebrate the successful completion of the Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project in Lincoln, RI. This \$2.6M project restored the site of the former Lonsdale drive-in, located along the Blackstone River, into a 7-acre wetland and a 13-acre upland habitat area. The state has future plans of constructing a bicycle trail within the site. The partners for this project included: US FWS, US EPA, RI DEM, RI CRMC, and the local Blackstone River AHRI. The RI CWRP donated significant funds to the RI DEM to assist in the required cost-share of the project.

### Eastern Point

Over 100 gathered at a reception on November 20, at Gloucester City Hall to discuss impacts from constructing new culverts at the Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Gloucester, MA. Attendees also learned about construction of culverts at the Seaview Street salt marsh in Rockport and the Island Road salt marsh in Essex. Since the new culverts will replace older, inadequate culverts, positive impacts are expected. The new culverts will reduce tidal restrictions, allow for increased tidal flushing and salinity in local marshes, decrease invasive vegetation, and strengthen the natural marine ecosystem. This MA CWRP project included participation by Massachusetts Audubon, NOAA's Habitat Restoration Center, USDA's NRCS, Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program, the Eight Towns and Bay Committee and Ducks Unlimited.

*The Lonsdale Marsh Drive-in Project.*



*The Massachusetts CWRP culvert project will strengthen the natural ecosystem.*



*CWRP Partner Volunteers at San Jacinto marsh planting.*

### San Jacinto

On November 14 and 15, the TX CWRP combined their quarterly board meeting with a major volunteer effort at San Jacinto National Monument. Over 70 CWRP Partner volunteers, spouses and their children planted about 2500 marsh grass plugs in two locations in the San Jacinto park. Colonel John Baker and other members of the Texas Army

entertained volunteers with an excellent history of the Battle of San Jacinto. The San Jacinto Monument project, endorsed by the TX CWRP, includes several phases. Work included clearing small areas of brush, surface grading to install ground materials, installing eight park benches, and constructing 10 wood duck nesting boxes in the surrounding trail system.

## Other Chapter News

**The New Hampshire CWRP** has formed an advisory board and adopted bylaws. Recruitment and project evaluation ideas are underway.

**The York CWRP** Chapter met in September to discuss recruiting strategies and potential projects.

**The New Jersey CWRP** Chapter Advisory Board met in December to review funding contributions and the next phase for the Batsto River fish ladder.

**The Georgia CWRP Chapter** has been established thanks to the leadership of Oldcastle, Inc., and CH2M Hill. Other partners include ENSR International. The Chapter has drafted bylaws and has selected a project to support the Johnson Ferry Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The Chapter hopes that the project's success will encourage other companies to join the partnership.

### International CWRP

The State Department is leading Coastal America efforts to develop an International CWRP. It is anticipated that the initiative will be announced at the White Water to Blue Water Conference to be held March 23-26 in Miami, Florida.

## 2004 CALENDAR

**January 14-16**  
National Student Summit on  
Ocean Issues  
Washington, DC

**January 14**  
CWRP National Advisory Council  
Baltimore, MD

**March 8-12**  
Association of National Estuary  
Programs Meeting  
Washington, DC

**March 9-11**  
Annual Ocean and Coastal  
Program Managers Meeting  
Washington, DC

**March 16**  
Principals Meeting  
Washington, DC

**March 21-26**  
White Water to Blue Water  
Conference  
Miami, Florida

**March 27**  
MPA Workshop  
Seattle Aquarium  
Seattle, WA

**April 5**  
Nominations Due  
Coastal America  
Partnership Awards

**May 23-27**  
The Coastal Society Meeting  
Newport, RI

**May 24-28**  
Coastal America  
Annual Meeting  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

## Principals' Meeting

The Coastal America Principals met in Washington, DC on October 30, 2003 at the Council on Environmental Quality. Subcommittees highlighted the need for future planning that further improves the Coastal America Partnership. The Principals requested the development of several visionary and action-oriented documents for consideration at their next meeting. These include a strategic plan with measurable goals and measures of success; annual updated work plans for each Coastal America region; improved support and resources for Coastal America; opportunities for shared budget presentations; and institutional considerations. The Partners agreed to participate in the January 14-16, 2004 National Student Summit on Ocean Issues, inviting students to submit their recommendations and commitments to action. The Principals will meet again on March 16, 2004.

## Joint Ventures Partnership Conference

Coastal America staff and Partners participated in the Joint Ventures - Partnerships 2003 Conference in Los Angeles, CA. A panel, including Jim Colby, Deputy Director for Regions, Steve Bredthauer, NWRIT Co-Chair, John McCord, Aquarium of the Pacific Education Manager, and Joan Hartman, Director for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, discussed how Coastal America's Partnership works around the country. A panel discussion about the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership at the national, regional, and international levels included Patmarie Nedelka, Deputy Director for Policy for Coastal America; Kameran Onley, Associate Director for Oceans at the Council on Environmental Quality; Garry Hollands, Vice President for ENSR; Kurtis Schlicht, Project Manager for ENSR; and Mark Wolf-Armstrong, President of Restore America's Estuaries.

## Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers



## CELC Updates

### New England Aquarium

When the EPA *OSV Anderson* was unexpectedly sent to Florida for a research priority, an innovative Partnership team quickly charted a lively curriculum for local students. The Aquarium graciously provided space, interns, and behind-the-scene tours for the day. EPA ran a living-lab session off the dock at the Aquarium, with Federal partners teaching about coastal ecology and management. Students got a hands-on view of Boston Harbor, ranging from issues facing the Harbor to actions underway to nurse it back to health. Coastal America partners on hand included the New England Aquarium, the MA CWRP, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA.

### Monterey Bay Aquarium

The Aquarium is embarking on a major research program to discover the underlying causes of the California sea otter population's slow growth. The research is focused on the declining otter population and the release of a new comprehensive federal sea otter recovery plan. While the Aquarium will still par-

ticipate in its extensive recovery and rehabilitation efforts, they will strive to release only animals that can contribute to the recovery of the wild population. Additionally, the Aquarium has announced the opening of a new exhibit entitled "Sharks: Myth and Mystery." Opening in April 2004, the exhibit will showcase how people around the world celebrate sharks and rays through art, dance and other traditions. The exhibit will include some of the largest live-animal displays ever created by the Aquarium.

### Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC)

Students throughout the United States participated in a live, interactive webcast on November 14. The webcast included live video, question-and-answer sessions, games, and opinion polls. ASLC joined Sea Center Texas for this historic, distance-learning program, along with biologists and researchers from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This very interesting curriculum included:

- Comparing the fascinating worlds of the Gulf Coast's warm waters and Alaska's frigid waters.
- Learning how researchers are seeking to understand the decline of the Steller sea lion and Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle.
- Witnessing fishery biologists balance the needs of people and sea populations.
- Interacting with students who monitor migrating coastal birds.

### Aquarium of the Pacific

The Aquarium of the Pacific hosted the first of four workshops to be held at the CELCs on Understanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in September. The workshop was offered by the NOAA's National MPA Center's Training and Technical Assistance Institute. The workshop provided 30 participants the opportunity to learn more about MPAs, including what they are, why they are established, the science behind MPAs, and how to get more involved. The day was a success, and other CELCs are exploring the possibilities of hosting other workshops in 2004. A Seattle Aquarium MPA workshop is scheduled for March 27.

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Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



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