



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

SPRING 2003

Back River Restoration Team Receives 2002 Partnership Award

The Back River Restoration Team received a 2002 Partnership Award for their outstanding team effort to protect and restore valuable habitat at the Langley Air Force Base. The award was presented at the National Defense Industries Association's 29th Environmental and Energy Symposium and Exhibition in Richmond, Virginia on April 8, 2003. Honored team members included Langley Air Force Base, The Department of Defense, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The City of Hampton Public Works Department, National Aquarium in Baltimore, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Deputy Under Secretary for the Department of Defense Raymond F. DuBois represented the Administration during the ceremony, while Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environ-

ment, Safety and Occupational Health Maureen Koetz assisted with the award presentation. "This award reflects the dedication and professionalism of the team and is a testament to the Defense

stated, "on behalf of Langley Air Force base and the many partners and volunteers that made this effort a success, I thank you and the President for the recognition we are receiving today."



The restoration project at Langley Air Force Base provided unique open water diving and planting opportunities to educate and involve volunteers from the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Department's strong commitment to habitat conservation and protection of the environment," said Mr. DuBois.

As he accepted the award, Colonel Drew D. Jeter, First Mission Support Group,

The Back River Restoration Team mobilized a broad range of expertise and resources to restore aquatic environments and protect shorelines. The collection of water quality data provided the critical information necessary to support the restoration of eelgrass beds. A conservation oyster reef was constructed utilizing oyster shell as well as recycled porcelain materials and has now received almost 250,000 native seed oysters. Submerged oyster reefs not

only provide valuable habitat for the Chesapeake Bay, but also help to protect Langley Air Force Base from amphibious landings. Construction of a concrete revetment, made from recycled runway, was used in a demonstration project that stabilized valuable shoreline. A permanent water quality monitoring system continues to collect much needed data for the Chesapeake Bay.



Back River Restoration Team members receive a 2002 Coastal America Partnership Award on April 8, 2003, for their outstanding effort to protect and restore valuable habitat on Langley Air Force Base.

In This Issue:

Principals Meeting	2
Navy Earth Day Celebration	2
Conference on Habitat Restoration	2
Regional Updates	3-5
CWRP Highlights	6-7
CELC Updates	7
Calendar	8



Coastal America Principals discuss goals and measures at the quarterly meeting on March 12, 2003.

Principals Meeting

The Coastal America Principals met on March 12, 2003. The group approved a revised description of the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award and addressed several potential actions for strengthening the partnership at the national and regional levels. The Principals agreed to the formation of three work groups to examine: shared goals and measures; options for institutionalization of the partnership; and fostering compatible land uses in proximity to Department of Defense lands. They will meet again on June 3, 2003, to designate Coastal America Partnership, Special Recognition and Spirit Award winners.

Coastal America Participates in 2003 Navy Earth Day Celebration

Coastal America staff distributed materials on April 22, 2003, at the Navy Earth Day celebration in downtown Washington, DC. Students from area schools discovered that they could learn more about the coast by taking a trip to a local aquarium. They took home NOAA and USFWS posters, coloring books, pencils and bookmarks. Teachers also received manuals and other conservation education resources.

Other participants included the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education, Marine Corps Environmental, Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division, Office of Naval Research, and the US Naval Observatory. Participants visited a touch tank with sea urchin, seahorse, starfish, ray, mollusks and crabs and enjoyed the music of the Navy's rock band "The Cruisers."

National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

Restore America's Estuaries' inaugural national conference with the theme "Saving our Coastal Heritage" occurred April 13-16 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference was a great success with over 800 attendees from the full spectrum of the coastal and estuarine restoration community. The purpose of the event was to "mobilize the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community to advance our knowledge, practice, pace and success in habitat restoration."

Environmental ethicist and author Dr. David Orr presented the keynote speech, "Habitat Restoration: Inspiring a New Community Ethic," on Monday,

April 14, 2003. He stated that the ecological crisis is an education crisis, and a crisis of the mind. On the following day Hanibal Bolton (USFWS), Jack Caldwell (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources), David Gagner (USDA) and Tim Keeney (NOAA) spoke at the plenary session, "Leadership Visions in Habitat Restoration." Attendees chose between 52 workshop sessions on six themes: best practices; community outreach and participation; planning and priority setting; science and technology; monitoring and evaluation; and policy and funding.

Director Virginia Tippie described "The Role of Coastal America in Habitat Restoration" as a panelist at the "Who's Who in Habitat Restoration at the Federal Level" session. Other panel members included NIT representative Dave Mason (USDA) and Regional Chair Bill Hubbard (US Army Corps of Engineers).

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) served as a sponsor for the conference. Patrick J. Hester (Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline) presented an overview of the involvement of Duke Energy Corporation in CWRP as a panelist at the "Corporate Perspectives on Coastal Habitat Restoration" session.

Regional Updates

Northeast

Over the past several months the NERIT has defined upcoming military opportunities for the region and supported the CWRP efforts in each state. NERIT team member LT CMDR Gary Andres identified over 30 military training exercises that will provide ecological benefits, laying the groundwork for hundreds of miles of riverine restoration and numerous wetlands enhancements. The Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program continues to lead the nation in initiating habitat restoration projects such as Stewarts Creek, Bridge Creek and National Marine Life Center salt marsh restoration projects. The federal and state agencies participating in Coastal America have identified technical experts for each state CWRP advisory board. This assures the corporations that their funds are going toward projects with regionally significant outputs. The NERIT meeting took place on April 29, 2003.

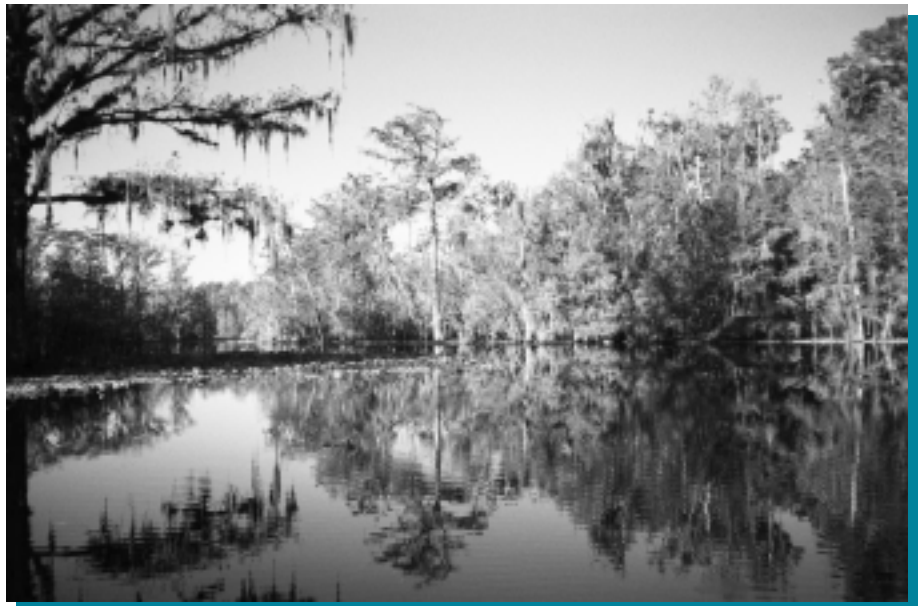
Mid-Atlantic

Representatives from Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) and Lawler, Matusky & Skelly Engineers met with MARIT and CA representatives to discuss Coastal America and the CWRP on April 8, 2003. On May 5, 2003, MARIT and Coastal America staff will meet with the New Jersey CWRP in Edison, NJ. Three days later the entire MARIT team will hold a meeting at the New York Aquarium to discuss how to effectively work with the CWRP and to refresh its working list of Coastal America projects. The Jamaica Bay project has been submitted through the proper military channels to obtain Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) support. The project involves the removal of derelict vessels, old piers, and fill from marshes in Jamaica Bay.



Upper Mississippi/ Great Lakes

As a result of an April 10, 2003, meeting with Bob Bosenberg (GMRIT), Owen Dutt will present to the Midwest Natural Resources Group on the connection and added value of the application and opportunities of the Coastal America process at the regional team level.



The Rodman Reservoir on the Ocklawaha River south of Jacksonville, Florida has filled with aquatic weeds.

Southeast

The SERIT met on March 18, 2003. The SERIT has been undergoing a period of turnover in membership as a result of reassignments and transfers. Consequently, the team has worked in recent meetings to refine and clarify the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of SERIT members. This process should benefit existing and new team members as well as their respective agency leaders in the region.

The team is in the process of refreshing its working list of projects to provide a more current, accurate, and realistic picture of Coastal America project activities in the region. The newest and most significant project opportunity for Coastal America and SERIT involves

restoration of the Ocklawaha River ecosystem by way of removal or breaching of Rodman Dam, which was associated with the de-authorized Cross-Florida Canal Project. This dam located 60 miles south of Jacksonville, blocks the passage of several species of migratory fish and led to the creation of Rodman Reservoir which

filled with aquatic weeds. The SERIT will seek to actively support the efforts of the State of Florida to restore the river. Federal agencies with a primary interest in this restoration project include the US Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

SERIT and the St. Johns American Heritage River Navigator have been collaborating on several initiatives, including potential restoration projects and Florida CWRP opportunities. The SERIT intends to pursue efforts to revitalize and strengthen its relationships with the two CELCs, the South Carolina Aquarium and the International Game Fish Association's Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum.

Regional Updates

Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico region produced nine nominations, one third of the national total, for the 2003 Partnership Awards. The GMRIT recently sent a list of potential Coastal America projects to the Texas CWRP. The team continues to solicit projects for 2004 and 2005 in the Gulf of Mexico. The Program Offices in all five Gulf States held project call meetings for fiscal year 2005. Several of these projects may be designated as Coastal America projects since they are potentially linkable with Federal partners. The team collaboration with the Navy on the Greenshores project and others assures that the project remains on time and within budget. GMRIT is reexamining the relationship between the regional CELCs and the team and looking for new ways to provide meaningful support for the CELCs while furthering the goals of the regional team.

Southwest

The SWRIT continues to work on many projects as part of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project master plan that includes over 60 projects from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border involving acquisitions, restoration, and planning. Many projects have been



In the final stages of the Pensacola Bay, Florida GreenShores Project, volunteers plant saltmarsh grass behind the newly created oyster reef/breakwater.

recently approved to receive grants. The California State Coastal Conservancy approved a \$1.3 million grant for eradication, surveillance, monitoring, and data collection for the *Caulerpa Taxifolia* Eradication Program and a \$642,000 grant for the San Luis Rey Arundo Removal. Additional Conservancy grants include \$167,000 for Big Canyon Creek, \$200,000 for Colorado Lagoon Restoration, \$130,000 for Coyote Creek Watershed Plan, and \$250,000 for Malibu

Lagoon Habitat Restoration. The first phase of the Serrano Creek Stabilization project is complete and the habitat restoration elements will begin soon.

Northwest

A NWRIT meeting will occur Tuesday, May 6, 2003, in Portland, Oregon. The meeting will focus on the draft strategic plan, state teams, CWRP development and strategic communications plans. New contacts have been made with the EPA, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Division, the Oregon National Guard and the Navy. The team proposes to involve IRT efforts in dam removal projects in 2005 and 2006. The Savage Rapids Dam and Gold Hill Dam are currently in the planning stage with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The team will attend the first Regional Tribal Roundtable hosted by the Yakama Nation May 7-8, 2003. The NWRIT and American Heritage River navigators will participate in a panel session on collaboration between federal agencies and share exhibit space at the River Network's Fourth Annual National River Rally 2003 at Columbia River Gorge, May 10-12. The Association of Washington Businesses is helping find corporate sponsorship for the Washington CWRP kickoff.



The Los Cerritos Wetlands are part of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

Regional Updates



The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to remove the Savage Rapids Dam to allow for fish passage in Oregon.

Alaska

AKRIT continues to make progress on a variety of restoration projects. The first phase, the relocation of utilities, for the Ship Creek project was completed. A bridge, still under design, will be constructed this fall to allow removal of the

road berm that currently blocks the creek. The fish passage should be restored by the end of the year. NRCS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will continue additional Willow Creek projects this May and June. Ducks Unlimited is designing the fish passage and estuarine restoration for the Klawock Estuary Project.

The Gulkana River Salmon Habitat Restoration Project received survey services through the Alaska CWRP and will be constructed in 2003. This project is spearheaded by a local NGO, the Copper River Watershed Project, with assistance from the USFWS, US Bureau of Land Management, the Alaska Department of Transportation and the Alaska Conservation Fund.

The Swift Water Creek project involves the replacement of perched and undersized culverts with a bridge. This will open up eight miles of spawning and rearing habitat for several species of Pacific salmon. The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (NOAA) and the USFWS provide funding and intend to complete the fish passage project by the end of the year.

Pacific Islands

In addition to the Waikiki Aquarium led Alien Limu project, the PIRIT team is involved with many restoration and preservation efforts. In the Pacific Islands the loss of sandy beaches affects recreational activities vital to attracting tourists, the economic base of the region. Current coastal erosion and beach loss projects at Bellows Beach and Waikiki Beach examine coastlines with both stable and eroding portions. The team is determining if there is any interrelationship, the factors that lead to stability versus erosion and whether nourishment is possible.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve involves cooperation between NOAA, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to protect sea turtles and the Hawaiian monk seal.

The Sustainable Management of American Samoa Mangroves examines the five remaining mangrove stands on American Samoa. The majority of this once prominent system has been filled with sediment since the 1900's. The project involves two phases over the next three years starting with the creation of a taskforce to oversee the planning and implementation of the project. The second phase involves the continuation of the establishment and implementation of locally managed sites, the management program, project evaluation and adaptive management of the mangroves. The next PIRIT meeting will occur May 8, 2003.



PIRIT is examining coastal erosion and beach loss at Waikiki Beach, Hawaii.

Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) Highlights

NAM Receives 2002 Special Recognition Award for their Leadership in CWRP

James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Chair of Coastal America, was the special guest speaker for the Resources, Environment and Regulation Policy Group Meeting at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Board of Directors Meeting on February 7, 2003, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He pointed out that while the wetlands loss rate has decreased in recent years, "there is so much more we need to do to achieve our goals of a net increase of 100,000 acres per year by 2005."

Mr. Connaughton presented the 2002 Special Recognition Award to NAM for their leadership role in sponsoring the CWRP on the national level. Jerry Jasinowski, President of the NAM, received a plaque and a letter from President Bush stating, "you have set an example for our Nation by demonstrating how important it is for companies to take a pro-active role in protecting and restoring our valuable coastal and aquatic habitats."



James L. Connaughton presents the 2002 Coastal America Special Recognition Award to Jerry Jasinowski, President of the National Association of Manufacturers on February 7, 2003.

Texas CWRP Kickoff

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steven Griles spoke February 18, 2003, at the Texas CWRP kick-off campaign to restore coastal wetlands. "The corporate partnership is an excellent example of how federal and state agencies can



Deputy Secretary of the Interior Griles and members of the Texas CWRP enjoy the informative field trip to San Jacinto National Monument on February 18, 2003.

communicate, consult and cooperate toward the goal of conservation," said Mr. Griles. The celebration included a field trip to the Partnership's second project, an expansion of the interpretation trail at San Jacinto National Monument.

Duke Energy and ENSR International are leading the corporate efforts to establish the Texas CWRP. The Partnership's project aims to return the historic San Jacinto battleground/marshland to its original 1836 appearance. Emilio de Cardenas, Duke Energy Vice President of Environment, Health and Safety and chair of the Texas CWRP, described the overall project: "It will include marsh improvement, restoration, extension of the boardwalk and creation of an observation deck for visitors to better understand one of the state's most popular attractions. Last year, about one million people visited the monument, battlefield and/or the nearby Battleship Texas. Our project should enhance the experience for years to come."

A key purpose of the Texas CWRP is to identify and remove unnecessary policy or regulatory barriers to wetlands and aquatic habitat restoration and protection. In addition, monetary donations

from corporations are generally matched with federal and state grants increasing the financial resources of Texas CWRP supported projects.

The Texas CWRP held their first meeting on April 10, 2003, to review their by-laws, select officers, establish committees and review potential Coastal America projects recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Updates

Aquarium of the Pacific – The Aquarium of the Pacific and NOAA will host a public meeting on Marine Protected Areas on September 6, 2003.

IGFA – James L. Connaughton, Chair of Coastal America, visited the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum on February 7, 2003. The IGFA will host a Student Ocean Conference on November 20-21, 2003.

Mystic Aquarium – The Mystic Aquarium is making plans for Long Island Sound Day in June. They are already making plans with Narragansett Bay for Estuary Day 2003 in September.

New England Aquarium – The New England Aquarium will host a second Student Ocean Conference on May 1, 2003. They are finalizing their strategic plan and are working with the conservation department to highlight key issues in their exhibits.



Mr. Connaughton observes a student reeling in a sailfish at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum.

Hatfield Marine Science Center – Hatfield Marine Science Center is preparing for the H.M.S. SeaFest on June 21, 2003.

Texas State Aquarium – The Texas State Aquarium continues to have success with the sea turtle education project. Mexican teachers will visit the aquarium for a workshop this May. The Dolphin Bay exhibit will open Memorial Day weekend.

South Carolina Aquarium – The South Carolina Aquarium is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service on International Migratory Bird Day activities. They recently received grants from NOAA for distance learning equipment and for updating the lab exhibit with a new theme of protecting reef habitat.

Waikiki Aquarium – The Waikiki Aquarium is hosting a spring lecture series on science and culture, starting on April 3, 2003. Over 120 community volunteers attended the fifth alien limu clean up event on April 5, 2003. The 4.5 tons removed increased the total to over 22 tons of alien algae removed from the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District. They hope to develop a mechanized pump system to use at the reef and other trouble spots around the state.

CWRP Presentation at Global Environmental Management Initiative Conference

Coastal America Director Virginia Tippie and Hilary Davidson, Manager, Environmental Health and Safety Issues, Duke Energy spoke at the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) Conference on March 20, 2003, in Orlando, FL. The overriding theme of the conference was “Sustainability through Strategic Partnerships” and the session highlighted federal level partnership programs that help corporations leverage their environmental programs and initiatives.

Ms. Davidson shared Duke Energy’s partnership experiences with the federal government through the CWRP. Ms. Tippie discussed the CWRP and how it brings together business, government agencies, conservation organizations, community groups and academia to protect, enhance and restore our nation’s wetlands, coasts and waterways. On average, every corporate dollar invested generates three or more dollars in matching governmental funds.



Corporate Wetlands
Restoration Partnership

For current information on CWRP see www.cwrp.org or e-mail cwrp@coastalamericafoundation.org

Or contact Coastal America at 202 401-9928

The National Association of Manufacturers is the national sponsor of the CWRP.

For more information see www.nam.org/cwrp

CALENDAR

May 14-16

American Heritage Rivers
Initiative Conference
Hanalei, HI

June 10-12

Capitol Hill Oceans Week
Washington, DC

June 16-20

Coastal America Retreat
San Diego, CA

July 13-18

Coastal Zone 2003
Baltimore, MD

July 20-24

National Marine Educators
Association Conference
Wilmington, NC

Regional Chairs

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard 978 318-8552

MID-ATLANTIC

Mario DelVicario 212 637-3781

John Wright 718 765-7062

SOUTHEAST

Dennis Barnett 404 562-5225

Bo Crum 404 562-9352

GULF OF MEXICO

Robert Bosenberg 504 862-2522

Bryon Griffith 228 688-1172

SOUTHWEST

Paul Michel 415 972-3417

Steve Thompson 707 575-6067

PACIFIC ISLANDS

John Naughton 808 973-2935

Jim Tayon 808 448-0209

NORTHWEST

Steve Bredthauer 503 808-3756

Rosy Mazaika 503 808-6076

ALASKA

Guy McConnell 907 753-2614

Mike Roy 907 786-3925

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI/
GREAT LAKES**

Owen Dutt 314 331-8450

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.



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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