



# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

SPRING 2004

## First Inland Learning Center

On June 25th, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, in Dubuque, Iowa, was officially designated a Coastal America, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC). Coastal America Principal R. Mack Gray, Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture, was the designating official. Gray stated, "While this is the 16th CELC, it is the first inland facility to become a Learning Center." He noted that the Coastal America Principals approved the Aquarium for inclusion to the CELC network because its educational message portrays the relationship between our inland activities and the coastal environment. Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the Aquarium, said, "We are incredibly pleased to participate in this prestigious network of aquariums and museums. The federal partnership provides valuable resources to our efforts to educate the public about the history and ecological importance of the Mississippi River region and its vital connection and impact on the Gulf Coast." (See related story on page 3.)



*Signing the CELC Memorandum of Agreement (l-r) Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium; R. Mack Gray, Deputy Under Secretary for Department of Agriculture; Jeff Bertsch, President of the Museum & Aquarium.*

## President Bush Visits Restoration Project



*President Bush announced a wetlands policy initiative during his visit to a CWRP restoration project.*

President Bush delivered an Earth Day speech on April 22, 2004 at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, Maine. The President's speech highlighted two wetlands restoration projects at the Reserve, along with the Coastal America Partnership. The Drakes Island community salt marsh project is restoring hydrology and enhancing 77 acres of salt marsh habitat. The project is receiving Coastal America's Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership support. The President announced a new national wetlands goal of "moving beyond a policy of loss of wetlands to have an overall increase of wetlands in America each year." Event organizers included Patmarie Nedelka, Coastal America, Deputy Director for Policy and CWRP, and Bill Hubbard, Chair of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). Over half of the attendees

were Coastal America CWRP partners and volunteers. (See More Earth Day stories on page 2.)

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# Earth Day Celebrates Partnerships and Volunteers



*Coastal America partnered with the Navy to teach children about coral reefs, wetlands, and habitat protection.*

## U.S. NAVY CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIPS

For the third consecutive year, Coastal America joined the Navy's Earth Day celebration at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. H.T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Department of Navy, highlighted the Navy's "long-term partnership with Coastal America and the successful restoration efforts derived from partnering." Coastal America and NOAA partnered at the booth, engaging students in discussions about coral reefs, marine sanctuaries, wetlands, and teaching about local fish of the Chesapeake Bay through *gyotaku*, the Japanese art of fish printing.



*The Aquarium of the Pacific CELC provided extensive Earth Day activities for local school children and communities.*

## SECRETARY POWELL PRAISES ICWRP PILOT PROJECT

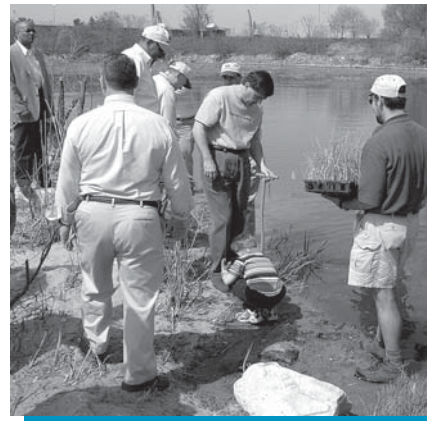
The Coastal America Partnership participated in the 2004 Earth Day Environmental Technology Business Exhibition at the U.S. Department of State. Secretary of State Colin Powell praised the ICWRP pilot project in Sian Ka'an, Mexico, remarking, "If this promising experiment works in the wider Caribbean, the United States is committed to helping introduce the model to other regions of the world as well." (See <http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2004/Apr/23-529600.html> for more information.)



*Former First Lady Barbara Bush mingled with CWRP partners and local children at Wells National Estuarine Reserve.*



*Monterey Bay Aquarium CELC developed Earth Day exhibits to raise children's curiosity in marine science.*



*Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. joined CELC volunteers in the mud at the Fort McHenry restoration project.*

## President Bush's Strategy For Increasing Wetland Acres and Quality

The President's new national goal for wetlands is to move beyond a policy of loss of wetlands to have an overall increase of wetlands. The President's goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years in order to increase overall wetland acres and quality. To meet this goal, the President called on Congress to pass his FY 2005 budget request, which includes \$4.4 billion for conservation programs that include funding for wetlands and \$349 million on two key wetlands programs – the Wetlands Reserve Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program. For further information about the President's policy, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040422-4.html>.

## ◀ 55,000 Marsh Grasses Planted

During Earth Week, the National Aquarium in Baltimore Learning Center led over 500 community volunteers in planting an eight-acre wetland near Fort McHenry National Monument. Nearly 55,000 newly planted marsh grasses now provide nursery grounds for fish and help filter the waters flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

# National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium Designation

*Ol' man river.  
That ol' man river.  
He don't say nothin'  
But he must know somethin'  
Cause he just keeps rollin' along.*  
— From the play *Showboat*

Breezes, barges, steamboat whistles, and some June bugs were a few signs to Coastal America folks that they were inland on the mighty Mississippi. The tent on the lawn at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium was filled with federal, state, and local officials and communities to celebrate the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center designation. Dubuque Mayor, Terry Duggan, welcomed guests to the City, while Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the Museum & Aquarium expressed appreciation to their new federal partners.



*Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America and Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium poured the water from 31 river watersheds into the Mississippi.*



*Pete Fee, Ioway Indian, offered an Indian blessing at the CELC Designation.*

Ioway Indian, Pete Fee, gathered the 100 or so guests into the sunny part of the lawn by the River's edge as he offered an Indian blessing.

A highlight of the ceremony was the *Mingling of Waters* from the 31 states belonging to the Mississippi watershed, organized by Teri Goodman, Director of Development for the Museum & Aquarium. While two

children stood on stage announcing each state, 31 children paraded forward emptying a bottle of water from the state's river into a ceremonial bowl. Mark Davis, Executive Director, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, emptied the final bottle which he carried from the Gulf of Mexico to symbolize the merging of the Mississippi waters. John Lease, Associate Professor of Music, Clarke College, performed a terrific solo of *Ol' Man River*.



*Regional Federal partners pledged long-term commitments to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium Learning Center.*



*Children poured river water during the Mingling of the Waters.*

Jerry Enzler expressed sincere gratitude to the regional federal partners, whose gifts included: a framed copy of the original land patent for the land the museum is built on from the Bureau of Land Management; boating safety classes from the Coast Guard; educational opportunities aboard Army Corps vessels; lab equipment from EPA; workshops and curriculums for school children and teachers; and much more. Virginia Tippie noted, "It is a bit like Christmas in June."

# Coastal America Annual Meeting



*Principals take a break to pose with participants during Strategic Assessment session.*

The Coastal America Annual Meeting was held May 24–28 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Southeast Regional Implementation Team, under the leadership of Dennis Barnett (USACE) and Wesley “Bo” Crum (EPA Region 4), hosted this year’s meeting. Our congratulations and gratitude to the SERIT team for making the annual meeting an enjoyable and productive week!



*Panelists Hazel Groman, Attorney, EPA Office of Water; Dawn Miller, IGFA Education Director; Melissa Ladd, NOAA Coastal Services Center; and John Bowie, Manager, Texas CWRP and Duke Energy, discussed education tools and Learning Centers.*

The meeting focused on the State of Partnership which included discussions on Strategic Assessment, CWRP, CELC, and education and restoration. U.S. Ocean Commissioner Dr. Paul Sandifer was the keynote luncheon speaker at the opening session. A panel discussion followed led by Kameron Onley from the White House Council on Environmental Quality; Penny Dalton, Vice President, Consortium for Oceanographic Research &

Education; and Kathleen DeBettencourt, Executive Director, Environmental Literacy Council. Billie Causey, Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary (NOAA), provided an overview of the sanctuary program at an evening reception.

On Wednesday, Bryon Griffith (EPA) presented the Strategic Assessment to the



*Craig Vogt, EPA Deputy Director of Oceans and Coastal Protection studies a map of Birch State Park, a restoration site that received a 2003 Coastal America Partnership Award.*

meeting participants and to a subgroup of Coastal America Principals. The Principals asked that Mr. Griffith present a summary of the assessment to the full quorum of Principals at their June 14th meeting. Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, NOAA, made a keynote speech about ocean issues, programs, and cross-agency budgeting, as well as Coastal America’s many successes. The SERIT team arranged several informative field excursions during the meeting, including a boat tour of the Munyon Island and Peanut Island restoration sites, the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Everglades.



*A tiny fish is shown to partners as a healthy indicator of restoration efforts at Munyon Island.*



*A walking tour and discussion of restoration efforts on Peanut Island.*

The IGFA hosted an evening reception that included updates by several students who participated in the National Student Summit on Ocean Issues in January.



*SERIT provided briefings at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades.*



Corporate Wetlands  
Restoration Partnership

### Delaware Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt joined the State of Delaware and Conectiv to launch the Delaware Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership on May 20, 2004. Administrator Leavitt praised Coastal America's efforts to expand the CWRP partnership nationally, citing it as an example of how we can begin to meet President Bush's goal "to move beyond 'no-net-loss' to restore, improve, and protect at least three million acres of wetlands over the next five years." Also attending were Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Secretary John Hughes of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC); Thomas Shaw and Bill Spence of Conectiv; James Wolfe of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce; and Stan LaBruna, PSEG and regional lead for the CWRP.

## CWRP Updates



*Erika Feller and Royall Mack receive a Coastal America Award for their work with ICWRP by Virginia Tippie (l) and Timothy Keeney (r).*



*Stan LaBruna (l) and John Balletto (c) are recognized by Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA (r) for their work with the CWRP partnership.*

The delegation toured a potential CWRP project site, the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge in southern Wilmington.

### Gulf of Mexico CWRP

Bob Bosenberg reported that corporations in Louisiana and Mississippi have expressed interest in establishing state CWRP chapters. The Texas Chapter of CWRP, along with the Coastal America office, will be assisting both states as these chapters evolve.

### CWRP Award

CWRP participants received several awards at the Coastal America Annual Meeting. Stan LaBruna and John Balletto, PSEG were recognized for their work in the Mid-Atlantic region, while Erika Feller (The Nature Conservancy) and Royall Mack (The Gillette Company) were recognized for their work in the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

## Coastal America Strategic Assessment and Model Business Plan

On October 30, 2003, the Coastal America Principals commissioned, through the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team, a strategic 11-phase assessment of current and future capabilities and structure of the partnership. The Principals established goals and measures for the Partnership to focus the assessment. Phases 1-7 of the study were systematically completed during November '03-May '04 and were the primary focus of the Partnership's workshop and annual meeting held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on May 24-27, 2004. All Coastal America partners and all Coastal America teams participated in developing the assessment. On June 14th, the summary finding and recommendations were presented to the Coastal America Principals. The

Principals have taken the results under advisement and will be addressing the findings and recommendations over the next several months.



*John Naughton, NOAA/Alaska RIT, Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA, and Melissa Ladd, NOAA Coastal Services Center, listen to the presentation of the strategic assessment.*

## Capitol Hill Oceans Week

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership's National Advisory Council, in cooperation with Coastal America, was one of the sponsors to the Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW) in Washington D.C. on June 9, 2004. Coastal America staff showcased the CWRP exhibit and spoke with Congressional staff, NGOs, and industry about the CWRP partnership and opportunities for involvement. Jean-Michel Cousteau, President of Ocean Futures Society, made a keynote speech, calling on all parties to help educate the public about ocean issues.

## 2004 Award Winners

Coastal America is pleased to announce the winners of the Coastal America 2004 Awards, selected by Coastal America Principals during their June meeting. Award ceremonies will be scheduled throughout the year in conjunction with respective Regional Implementation Teams (RIT).

### Partnership Awards

- Bridge Creek Salt Marsh Restoration (NERIT)
- Barn Island Wildlife Management (NERIT)
- Embry Dam Removal (MARIT)
- Big Egg Marsh Restoration (MARIT)
- Webster Field Shoreline Stabilization (MARIT)
- South Carolina Oyster Restoration (SERIT)
- Festival Park Restoration (SERIT)
- Breaux Act Task Force (GMRIT)
- San Jacinto Marsh Restoration (GMRIT)
- Sarasota Bay Reef Enhancement (GMRIT)
- Skagit River Basin Group (NWRIT)
- Silver Salmon Creek Restoration (AKRIT)

### Spirit Awards

- Navy/Atlantic Wood Industries JARA
- Navy Paradise Creek Restoration (MARIT)

### Special Recognition Awards

- Schoolyard Spartina/National Aquarium in Baltimore CELC (MARIT)

For additional information about award ceremonies, contact: Project Coordinator for Coastal America [William.Nuckols@usda.gov](mailto:William.Nuckols@usda.gov).

## Principals' Meeting

The Coastal America Principals met on June 14, 2004, at the White House Conference Center. The meeting was chaired by James Connaughton,



*Jim Colby and Bryon Griffith (center) are recognized for their work in conducting the Strategic Assessment by Virginia Tippie (l), Director, Coastal America, and Anthony Moore (r), Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Water, EPA, at the Annual Meeting.*

Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Chair of the Coastal America Partnership. The Principals unanimously approved the winners for Coastal America 2004 Partnership and Spirit Awards. The meeting focused on the Strategic Assessment of the Coastal America Partnership, presented to the Principals by Bryon Griffith, Acting Director of the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team. The Principals discussed the recommendations and agreed to consider the suggestions over the course of the summer and into their next meeting. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the cross-cutting budget, and a new subcommittee has been created to move this concept forward.

## Other News

**Acting Director.** For the month of June, Bill Hubbard served as Acting Director, Coastal America. Jim Connaughton, Chair of CEQ chose Bill for this temporary assignment because of Bill's 12 years of devotion to Coastal America and his loyal commitment to the partnership. Bill serves many roles as Chair of the Northeast RIT, President of Coastal America Foundation, Chief, Evaluation Branch at the USACE, and the father of five children. Coastal America extends its heartfelt sympathy to Virginia Tippie on the loss of her husband, Charles Patrick Farrell. We wish Virginia much deserved peace and comfort during her absence.

Bryon Griffith will be Acting Director for the month of July.

**Information Library.** Coastal America staff produced a diskette entitled: *Coastal America Partnership Library (CAPL)*. CAPL was developed to provide partners with "at your fingertip" access to Coastal America Partnership information. Content examples include policy memos, memorandums of understanding, contact information, and instructions for applicants. The diskette was

distributed at our National Meeting and is available at [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov). A big thanks to the good efforts of Executive Development Leadership intern, Linda Goodman of EPA, for making this happen.

**Book Nook.** If you have not yet grabbed those summer vacation books, here's a few recommendations from fellow partners. *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 & How it Changed America* by John Barry; *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World* by Mark Kurlansky; *Honoring Our Detroit River* by John H. Hartig (former River Navigator); *The Mississippi and the Making of a Nation* by Stephen E. Ambrose & Douglas G. Brinkley; and *One Fish, Two Fish, Crawfish, Bluefish: The Smithsonian's Sustainable Seafood Cookbook* by Carol Baldwin. We welcome further recommendations — please share.

**"After the Storm" Video.** Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA, has provided copies of the video co-produced by the Weather Channel and EPA to our 16 Learning Centers for use in educating the public about watersheds.

## Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers



## CELCS Updates

**Texas Aquarium**

The Texas State Aquarium celebrated World Ocean Day on June 8th. Guests to the Aquarium were invited to celebrate the world's oceans, and reflect on its importance in their lives. Professionals from various organizations and industries were on hand to help educate and answer questions, including two Coastal America partners – the National Weather Service and the U.S. Navy.



*Dawn Miller, Education Director of IGFA CELC, and students receive a Coastal America Award for their work with the Regional Ocean Conservation Clubs following the National Student Summit.*

**Hatfield Marine Science Center**

The Hatfield Marine Science Center CELC opened its doors for the third annual SeaFest on June 19th. SeaFest gave the community a chance to learn about marine science and interact with the Hatfield CELC and its partner agencies. Coastal America partners involved in the event included the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Oregon State University President Edward

Ray and former Oregon Governor and Senator Mark Hatfield were keynote speakers at the opening ceremony.

**Mystic Aquarium**

Kudos to Kimberly Standish at the Mystic Aquarium CELC for providing our Learning Centers live-webcast access to *Titanic Live* during the month of June. *Titanic Live* featured 24 broadcasts from a research vessel, where people could talk to Dr. Ballard and his team about what they were finding at the Titanic. The CELC network and other museums and aquariums, science centers, school districts, and Boy and Girl Scout Clubs participated in the Immersion Project. NOAA was the chief sponsor of the expedition, held to determine how badly the Titanic had deteriorated since Dr. Ballard's discovery and whether the chief causes of this deterioration were man-made or natural.

**National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium**

Following the designation ceremony and luncheon, Museum & Aquarium officials, including their Director of Education, Mark Wagner, held its first meeting with the Upper Mississippi Focus Team, chaired by Bill Franz of EPA. It was decided that the Learning Center will organize a watershed/hypoxia focus group to include participation from its new federal partners.

## Calendar of Events

**July 11-13**Blue Vision Conference  
Washington DC**July 17-20**National Governor's Association  
Seattle, WA**July 18-22**National Marine Educators  
Association Annual Conference  
St. Petersburg, FL**Aug 1-31**

U.S. Congress Recess

**Sept 12-15**National Conference on Coastal  
and Estuarine Habitat Restoration  
Seattle, WA**Sept 18-23**AZA Annual Conference  
New Orleans, LA**Sept 18-25**

National Coast Week

**Sept 21-23**National Low-Impact  
Development Conference on  
Stormwater Management  
College Park, MD**Sept 25**

National Estuaries Day

**Sept 26-30**12th National Nonpoint Source  
Monitoring Workshop  
Ocean City, MD**Oct 3-5**Environmental Council of  
States Annual Meeting  
Oklahoma City, OK**Oct 5**Great Lakes Commission  
Annual Meeting  
Toronto, ON**Oct 12-15**Coastal States Organization  
Annual Meeting  
Michigan**Oct 17-20**National Association of Estuarine  
Research Reserves Annual Meeting**Oct 17-20**Association of National Estuary  
Programs Annual Meeting  
Corpus Christi, TX**Oct 18**

World Water Monitoring Day



## COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

*"We are proud to help people develop a better understanding of the Mississippi River and how it contributes to the heritage and future of our country."*

Jerry Enzler, Executive Director,  
National Mississippi River  
Museum & Aquarium



*Coastal America welcomes its newest partner and Learning Center, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium.*

### Regional Chairs

#### NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard ..... 978-318-8552

#### MID-ATLANTIC

Mario DelVicario ..... 212-637-3779

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

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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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