

Restore America's Estuaries
**2nd National Conference on
Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration**

at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center and the Grand Hyatt Seattle
September 12-15, 2004 • Seattle, Washington

✠ Call for Presentations and Posters ✠

We invite you to address the second national gathering of the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community.

In April 2003, over 800 attendees representing the broad restoration community gathered in Baltimore for the Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The Conference featured three lively and engaging plenary sessions, 51 concurrent sessions and more than 200 presentations addressing six main themes in restoration. More than a dozen outdoor field sessions enabled participants to learn first-hand from challenges and successes at sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay region.

Once again, Restore America's Estuaries is gathering the restoration community to advance the knowledge, pace, practice and success of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. The Conference will address habitat restoration in coastal and estuarine areas of the United States, including the Great Lakes region, as well as international initiatives and issues. It will also feature a focus on restoration challenges and opportunities in the Pacific Northwest, with an emphasis on transferable lessons learned.

The Conference will explore all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. Coastal and estuarine habitats, such as sea grass beds, oyster reefs, salt marshes, mud flats, mangroves, kelp beds, open waters and rocky shores, are uniquely productive and essential natural systems. They create and nurture abundant life, and enrich the economies and spirits of coastal communities. Habitat restoration – manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning self-sustaining natural or historic structure and functions to former or degraded habitat – offers great promise for reversing trends of habitat loss and degradation.

Conference Audience

This conference is a national gathering of the broad coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community, including participants from both public and private sectors. Non-profit and community organizations, businesses and corporations from supporting industries, tribes, academic and research institutions, and agencies from all levels of government will be represented. Restoration practitioners, community leaders, consultants, scientists, educators, planners, volunteers, program managers, field staff, contractors, regulators and others involved in restoration efforts are all encouraged to participate.

Conference participants will vary widely in terms of areas of interest and experience level, and we plan to offer presentations of specific interest to each group. For this reason, it is very important to clearly

indicate your target audience – in terms of both interest area and skill level – in your proposal. We expect 800-1200 attendees, and 4-5 sessions will run concurrently.

Conference Themes

All proposals, for both posters and presentations, should relate specifically to one of more the Conference themes. In addition, presentations are strongly encouraged that address the topics listed under each theme. The Conference Program Committee will develop Conference Sessions that integrate various themes of restoration while providing a mix of presenters from the various sectors of restoration. When submitting a proposal, please indicate which theme(s) is being addressed.

People – The restoration and maintenance of our coasts and estuaries requires the long-term support of a broad cross-section of the public. Community involvement at all stages of restoration, from planning to implementation and evaluation, is essential to successful restoration. Presentations and posters in this theme should address how to involve community organizations during all stages of restoration, from planning and design to implementation and monitoring. Presentations in this theme might also address how to develop strong and unique partnerships that help move restoration from a cottage industry to a thriving movement. In addition, proposals for presentations are desired for the following topics:

1. Linking Restoration and Environmental Education
2. Environmental Justice and Restoration
3. Vibrant Coasts, Vibrant Communities – Making the Connection (can include economic, social and human health issues)
4. Successful Strategies for Engaging Volunteers in Restoration (and Keeping them Engaged)
5. Changing Attitudes and Behaviors through Habitat Restoration
6. Restoration and Education

Practice – The focus of this theme is on-the-ground application of habitat restoration techniques. Presentations are encouraged that address new restoration methods or techniques, or provide case studies and lessons learned from completed projects (successful or not as successful as planned). Presentations and posters in this theme should offer generally applicable lessons learned. In all cases, the emphasis of this theme is on moving the practice of restoration forward. Proposals may address restoration of a single habitat type or a restoration effort that involves multiple habit types. In addition, proposals for presentations are sought for the following habitat types and restoration activities:

1. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
2. Salt Marsh
3. Shellfish
4. Upstream of Estuaries (includes riparian and freshwater wetlands)
5. Coral Reefs
6. Beach and Shoreline
7. Urban (including brown fields and contaminated sites)
8. Beneficial Use of Dredge Material
9. Fish Passage
10. Water Quality (e.g. stormwater management, nutrient reduction, et al)

Science – The best restoration science is required for successful project design, implementation and evaluation, as well as for planning and priority-setting on a larger scale. Sessions in this theme should focus on applying the latest scientific advances in our understanding of healthy coasts and estuaries to the planning, practice and politics of restoration. How has our understanding of estuarine and coastal species, habitats and systems improved and what does this mean for restoration? How do we translate lab results into new or improved practices in the field?

Strategy – On-the-ground restoration is most successful when it is part of a watershed, estuary or regional strategic plan. Proposals in this theme may address the best practices in restoration planning at any scale and how to take restoration to the next level regionally and nationally. In addition, proposals for presentations are encouraged that address the following topics:

1. Moving from Smaller to Larger Scales in Restoration
2. Moving from Opportunistic to Strategic Restoration (What to Do When the Low-Hanging Fruit Has Been Picked)
3. Planning for Implementation (Avoiding the Plan that Sits on the Shelf)

Policy and Funding – At all levels, policies, funding, laws and regulations affect our ability to undertake restoration efforts; some impede our efforts, others advance them. Proposals in this theme should address how to improve the climate for restoration locally, regionally or nationally. In addition, proposals for presentations are desired that address the following topics:

1. The Connection Between Restoration and Conservation/Preservation
2. Realizing the Promise of the Estuary Restoration Act
3. Creative Ways to Fund Your Restoration Effort
4. Creating the Political Will to Secure the Future of Restoration

Evaluation – This theme addresses the monitoring and evaluation of restoration efforts. A strong future for restoration requires that we monitor, document, learn from and communicate restoration results. Proposals in this theme may address methods for monitoring and evaluation as well as how to determine project success or failure. In addition, proposals for presentations in the following topics are requested:

1. How to Adaptively Manage a Restoration Project
2. Using Monitoring Protocol in the Real World – Lessons Learned from Application in the Field
3. Restoration Metrics – How Do We Measure Success?

Additional Topics – Presentation proposals are welcome in the following areas.

1. International Challenges and Successes in Restoration
2. A Comparison of Estuary/Coastal Health Report Cards
3. Tribal Restoration Efforts
4. Restoration from a Watershed Approach
5. Case studies of restoration that include lessons learned from various phases of restoration, as well as various partner perspectives (these should be 90 minutes in length).

Presentation Format

Conference sessions will last 90 minutes each and include three presentations of approximately 20 minutes, with 30 minutes of each session dedicated to a moderated dialogue between presenters and the session attendees. One of the primary goals of the program is to enable cross-sector dialogue within the restoration community.

Poster Session

Posters will be displayed on a 4' x 4' board from Sunday evening, September 12th to noon on September 15th. During a Poster Session on Tuesday morning, September 14th, presenters can informally discuss their work with attendees. No other Conference activities will be scheduled during the Tuesday morning Poster Session.

Instructions

Posters

Proposals are requested for Posters that address one of the above themes. To submit a poster for consideration, complete and return the attached Poster Proposal form by March 1, 2004.

Presentations

Proposals for Presentations are requested that either (1) address one of the above themes and/or (2) address one of the specific topics identified within a theme. Proposals should be for 20-minute presentations. To submit a proposal for a presentation, complete and return the attached Presentation Proposal form by February 2, 2004.

Sessions

Proposals for 90 minute sessions are welcome that (1) present a restoration case study that addresses various phases and perspectives, or (2) address one or more conference themes or topics provided above. Proposals for sessions must include multiple perspectives and are strongly encouraged to address multiple aspects of restoration (e.g. implementation and community involvement, or science and policy). To submit a proposal for a session, complete and return the attached Presentation Proposal form by February 2, 2004. Be sure to list all proposed speakers and their affiliations. We also recommend that you coordinate with Restore America's Estuaries prior to submitting a session proposal.

Timeline and Due Dates

February 2, 2004 – Presentation and Session Proposals due

March 1, 2004 – Poster Proposals due

March 15, 2004 – Speakers and poster presenters are notified of proposal status

Selection Process and Criteria

A program committee will review proposals in conjunction with Restore America's Estuaries' staff, and proposals will be evaluated for their significance to the habitat restoration community, relevance to conference themes, ability to provide generally applicable, take-home lessons, and credentials of presenters. Accepted Presentations will be grouped to create sessions that provide speakers from different perspectives (e.g., community leader, field practitioner, consultant, scientist) as well as multiple aspects of restoration (e.g. practice, people and policy). The process will be competitive, and not all submitted proposals will be accepted in the Conference Program. Unless you request otherwise,

presentations not selected for inclusion in the Conference Program will receive strong consideration for inclusion in the Poster Session.

Presenter Responsibilities

Once a presentation, poster or session has been accepted, Restore America's Estuaries will communicate due dates for additional information, including A/V needs, biographical information and poster / presentation descriptions for the conference program. **All speakers and poster presenters are responsible for registering for the conference and should be prepared to cover their own registration and travel costs.** Restore America's Estuaries will offer the early bird/discounted registration rate to all accepted presenters. Please contact Restore America's Estuaries if you require financial assistance to attend, as some scholarships may be available. Reasonable audio-visual equipment will be provided as needed.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Please contact Steve Emmett-Mattox at Restore America's Estuaries, sem@estuaries.org, 703-524-0248.

About Restore America's Estuaries

Restore America's Estuaries, established in 1995, is a nonprofit organization working to preserve the nation's coasts and estuaries by protecting and restoring the lands and waters essential to the richness and diversity of coastal life. Restore America's Estuaries and its affiliate members collectively represent more than 250,000 citizens in all coastal regions of the United States. Restore America's Estuaries authored and championed passage of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 – groundbreaking federal legislation providing strong federal commitment and resources toward a goal of restoring function to one million acres of estuarine habitat by 2010. Restore America's Estuaries led in the design of *A National Strategy to Restore Coastal and Estuarine Habitat*, and defined and published the *Principles of Estuarine Habitat Restoration* in partnership with the Estuarine Research Federation. Restore America's Estuaries hosted the Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, attended by more than 800 people, in April 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, visit www.estuaries.org.

Presentation Proposal for the 2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

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Washington State Convention & Trade Center

I. Contact Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

Organization's website address (if applicable): _____

II. Proposal Information

Presentation title: _____

Themes Addressed: _____

Co-Presenter(s) (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, e-mail address): _____

Co-Author(s) (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, e-mail address): _____

Target Audience: _____

Presentation format (e.g. lecture, interactive, outdoor learning, panel session): _____

Which A/V equipment would be used in your presentation?: _____

Have you given this presentation before? _____

If so, where and when? _____

III. Please attach to this form:

1. Presentation description (500-word maximum)

2. Presenter qualifications (50-word maximum)

***E-mail* your proposal to: Steve Emmett-Mattox, sem@estuaries.org**

Restore America's Estuaries

3801 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 53, Arlington, VA 22203

(703) 524-0248 (phone)

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I. Contact Information

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

Organization's website address (if applicable): _____

II. Poster Information

Poster Title: _____

Themes Addressed: _____

Co-Author(s) (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, e-mail address): _____

Have you presented this poster before? _____

If so, where and when? _____

III. Please attach to this form:

- 1. Poster description (500-word maximum)**
- 2. Presenter bio/qualifications (No resumes, please)**

E-mail your proposal to: Steve Emmett-Mattox, sem@estuaries.org

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