



A Newsletter from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

Consortium Receives Historic Trust Funding for Headquarters Accessibility Study

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) will partner with the National Park Service to produce a master plan to guide future efforts that would make the NJS GC headquarters in Barracks Building #22 (as well as other similar Fort Hancock historic structures) accessible to handicapped and disabled persons. NJS GC was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant by the New Jersey Historic Trust through its Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The funding became official on August 15th, when Governor Christie signed legislation guaranteeing state support for this and 57 other historic management and preservation projects.

Initially constructed in 1898 as an Enlisted Men's Army Barracks, Building #22 was not designed to accommodate disabled individuals, a condition which remains unchanged. A major restoration of the building exterior was undertaken in 2007, with major funding support from the New Jersey Historic Trust. Completed in 2009, this restoration provided a critically needed stabilization of the entire exterior of the building and rebuilt the main entrance to its historic condition. With the building being used extensively for business, educational, and other public purposes, granting access to all citizens is now the top priority and

logical next step in NJS GC's restoration plans.

According to NJS GC's Executive Director Claire Antonucci, "This master plan will identify an appropriate rehabilitation program for meeting the goals and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) that respects the historic nature of the structure and supports the programmatic needs of the organization. We're very excited to see this plan developed and eventually implemented. With our headquarters accessible to everyone, NJS GC will be able to offer all its facilities, services, interpretive programs and tours to a more diverse and greatly increased audience. We'll also gain the ability to recruit, hire and accommodate handicapped and disabled staff and volunteers."

The National Park Service will provide matching funds for the study, which will take nine months to complete.



New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Welcomes Two New Staffers



**CAROLINE
McLAUGHLIN**

New Coastal Communities Agent Caroline McLaughlin will conduct outreach activities and provide technical assistance to address environmental and economic issues. She'll also work with NJS GC Assistant Extension Director Mike Danko to engage the marina and boating communities in addressing environmental and economic issues.

Ms. McLaughlin is a lifelong New Jersey resident who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Miami with *cum laude* honors with a double major in Ecosystem Science and Policy and Geography and a minor in Political Science. She recently completed a dual master's degree in Natural Resources and

Sustainable Development at the United Nations' University for Peace and in International Affairs from American University.



**LISA
CALVO**

Lisa Calvo, the newly named Aquaculture Extension Program Coordinator, will focus on shellfish aquaculture issues specifically within the oyster industry in Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties. Her NJS GC outreach work will focus on the transfer of culturing techniques being developed and tested at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory to the oyster aquaculture industry in New Jersey.

Ms. Calvo received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware in Biology and Geography and her master's degree in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary. She has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on over 20 research, extension and education grants focused on shellfish and aquaculture and the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and technical reports.



NJSGC Serves Up Support for Sustainable Seafood Placemats



Winning student artists with Jay Cosgrove, owner of Moby's Restaurant.

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) has partnered with the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and others to introduce a pilot placemat project spawned by a student art

served as an advisor on the project and helped select the winning artwork.

Several elementary school students recently unveiled their award-winning educational posters on the deck of Moby's Restaurant in Highlands. The posters were reformatted into educational paper placemats that artfully promote the importance of buying and eating local seafood. The front features the students' artwork while the back offers more scientific information about surf clams and ocean quahogs. The winning student artists were Luke Fifick and Carli Green (James Monroe Elementary School), Adrian Morelra (South River Elementary School) and Katie McDonnell (Cranbury School).

The project was developed through Rutgers Marine Activities, Resources and Education (MARE) interdisciplinary science program. The short-term goal is to teach more about science but ultimately to create informed decision-makers and leaders to help ensure a sustainable world. The placemat program is supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the National Science Foundation and Sea Watch International LTD, which funded translating the posters into thousands of educational paper placemats.

Stormwater Mangement: A Trickle Down Success Story

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Water Resources Agents, Amy Boyajian and Jillian Thompson, from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program, have spent much of the past summer coordinating stormwater management programs for stakeholders in New Jersey and throughout the region.

The high percentage of solid surfaces, such as roadways, driveways, and rooftops, make stormwater management programs a necessity in New Jersey. When it's dry, these surfaces accumulate nonpoint source pollution, such as fertilizers, pet waste, sediment, motor oil, and litter. When it rains, these pollutants are washed off the surface and may ultimately wind up in local waterways. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this stormwater runoff is the number one threat to water quality in our lakes and streams. One of the best ways to prevent this is to educate all stakeholders, from youngsters to senior citizens, about managing runoff at their homes or in their communities by creating rain gardens, rain barrels, and green infrastructure.

Since 2003, the RCE Water Resources Program has provided communities with workshops where people learn how to design, install, and maintain rain gardens and as a result over 125 demonstration rain gardens have been installed in New Jersey. To virtually tour and learn more about rain gardens, visit http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/demoraingardens.html.

Rain barrels can also be used to capture runoff from rooftops before it enters nearby waterways. A rain barrel is placed under a gutter's downspout next to a house, small shed, or other outdoor structure to collect rain water from the roof. Harvesting rainwater provides an alternative to utilizing the drinking water supply for gardening and other uses. Water that overflows from the rain barrel can also be directed to an area where it can be absorbed into the ground.

Since 2009, the RCE Water Resources Program has provided communities with workshops teaching people to build, install, and maintain rain barrels and coordinated several rainwater harvesting educational programs, including the *Rain Barrel Train-the-Trainer* program, the *One Barrel at a Time Co-op* program, and the *4-H Rain*

Barrel Art program. Over 1,225 rain barrels have been distributed in New Jersey in the past two years.

Rain gardens and rain barrels not only help manage stormwater, but can be used to transform cities and towns from traditional stormwater infrastructure (e.g., concrete pipes and channels) to green infrastructure. These techniques include rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement, tree plantings, and green roofs. The RCE Water Resources Program has been working with communities in Camden and Newark to retrofit existing stormwater infrastructure with green infrastructure. For example, a roadway median in the Parkside community of Camden has been converted into a rain garden to capture and filter stormwater runoff, plus provide beauty to the surrounding neighborhood. A 1,100-gallon cistern has been installed at a community garden in Newark that captures rainwater from the adjacent building and stores it onsite to be used for watering the community gardens. These green infrastructure pilot projects not only reduce nuisance flooding, but instill community pride and involvement.

For more information on rain gardens, rain barrels, green infrastructure and how you or your community can become involved in managing stormwater, visit www.water.rutgers.edu. Amy Boyajian can be reached at boyajian@envsci.rutgers.edu and Jillian Thompson can be reached at jthompson@envsci.rutgers.edu.



Lawnside-Wayne R. Bryant Community Center Rain Garden

CURRENT EVENTS

Calendar Will Focus on Coastal Photo Contest Winners



To help carry on the momentum of its New Jersey Top Ten Beaches Survey (NJTTB), NJSGC developed a photo contest as part of this year's project using social

media and the njtoptenbeaches.org web site to send out the call for photo entries and followed up by marketing the contest online.

A panel of judges was recruited, consisting of three of the state's most notable photographers: Al Campbell representing southern New Jersey (ascnikon.picasa.com); Paul Scharff from central New Jersey (paulscharffphotography.com) and Dwight Hiscano from northern New Jersey (dwighthiscano.com), to help in the photo selections. The

judges rated and culled photos from the hundreds received for consideration and narrowed the final field down to 27 images. Those finalists were then posted on the NJTTB web site where visitors voted for both their favorite beaches and photos. The twelve top photo vote-getters were revealed at NJSGC's annual *State of The Shore* showcase media event on May 26th.

The winning images will get even more exposure in the months ahead as the focal point of a special edition 2012 *New Jersey Shore Shots* calendar and other projects created by NJSGC. Each of the winning images will be featured for a selected month and a brief bio of the photographer will be included in the publication. The images will also be made available as downloadable computer desktop calendars, so they can be appreciated and enjoyed throughout the year. The calendar is scheduled to be introduced to the press and public on October 9th at NJSGC's twelfth annual *Coast Day NJ – Celebration of the Sea* in Cape May.

The NJTTB creators hope that both the print and wallpaper desktop 2012 calendars will reinforce a positive image and sense of responsibility toward the Jersey Shore and help people recognize New Jersey's beaches and coastal resources as an important natural and economic treasure.

Annual Report Captures Coveted APEX Award

NJSGC and its graphic designer Rory Joyce have been recognized with a prestigious APEX Award for its first exclusively electronic Annual Report publishing effort. The award was given for the report's excellence in graphic design, editorial content and success in achieving overall communications excellence. This year's competition was exceptionally intense, according to John DeLellis, Editor and Publisher for Virginia-based Communications Concepts, Inc, which presents the annual national awards. "More than 3,400 entries were received in 11 categories and they all displayed an extraordinary level of quality", DeLellis said.

Like many other organizations and private sector businesses, NJSGC has shifted from hard copy to electronic, web-based

publishing. The move is more cost effective, allows for greater creative flexibility and reflects NJSGC's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and reducing paper use in its future marketing and outreach activities. The award also demonstrates that new technologies and online publishing can be just as, or even more effective and attractive as publishing using conventional printing methods.



EDUCATION

K-12 Students to Study Beach Grass

NJSGC's Rosemary Higgins and Dr. Michael Peek from William Patterson University are collaborating on lesson plans and a field activity for K-12 students that will bring Dr. Peek's Sea Grant-funded research on Cape American beach grass into classrooms statewide.

The effort will include a basic lesson plan for K-12 audiences that will provide an overview on dunes and dune plants. It will describe the social, economic and biological significance of beaches and dunes and include directions for related hands-on activities that can be re-created in the classroom. Another lesson will be geared towards elementary school students and focus on understanding plant life using Cape American beach grass as the example. That plan will include directions

on growing beach grass in the classroom and provide suggestions for experiments and data-gathering activities.

A workshop session at the Ocean County Environmental Educator's Roundtable in April 2012 is planned to introduce the project to teachers. It will also provide feedback, including ideas and suggestions, to guide the development of the final lesson plan in the series, which will describe Dr. Peek's research in-depth. Dr. Peek has also designed a field activity on dunes and American beach grass to be piloted in October 2011 with NJSGC's staff of field instructors. The participants will be asked for feedback that will be incorporated into the final written plan for the activity.

Research Projects Ready for Final Review

The NJSGC is set to select the final group of research proposals to be included in the 2012-14 Omnibus package. The selection process began a year ago when the NJSGC Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) determined research priorities relevant to the state of New Jersey. Those priorities formed the basis of a Request For Proposals released in December 2010. In response, NJSGC received 18 pre-proposals from researchers at seven Consortium member institutions. Seven were from investigators that have not previously received funding from NJSGC. A Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) composed of academic and agency research scientists from outside the state as well as the program's SAB

reviewed the pre-proposals for scientific merit and relevancy. The input from these two groups resulted in nine pre-proposals moving forward to the full proposal stage in late March. After reviewing the nine full proposals in May, the SAC and a select group of external peer reviewers scored the proposals in preparation for final review and selection. The proposals address issues from marine fisheries and stormwater or nutrient impacts on our coastal estuaries to socio-economic impacts on our coastal communities and changes in our wetlands as a result of climate change and sea level rise. The projects selected will be incorporated into the final proposal package submitted to the National Sea Grant Office in late October.

Researchers Reach Out

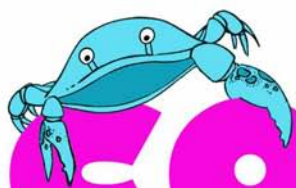
One of the primary goals of the Research and Extension Programs at NJSGC is to encourage Sea Grant scientists to become more involved in outreach to coastal constituents. Many researchers regularly contribute articles to the NJSGC *Jersey Shoreline* online magazine. In addition, the program has successfully worked toward this goal through increased scientist participation in major public and press events like *Coast Day NJ*, *Ocean Fun Days*, and *The State of The Shore Media Event*. Researchers and topics that Sea Grant scientists have



shared with the public include Dr. Michael Peek from William Paterson University (Cape American beach grass); Dr. Olaf Jensen from Rutgers University (fisheries stock assessment); Dr. Louise Wootton from Georgian Court University (invasive dune plants) and Dr. Josh Kohut from Rutgers University (rip currents).

NJSGC will continue to work with researchers to incorporate innovative ways to share their scientific efforts and their results with stakeholders around the state.

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium invites you to



COAST DAY NJ

A CELEBRATION OF THE SEA

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 9 11-4**

- Exhibits
- Eco & Dock Tours
- Live Music
- Kids' Activities
- Touch Tanks
- Crab Races
- Research Demonstrations

Lobster House Restaurant - Cape May, NJ

FREE Admission FREE Parking

For more info: njseagrants.org 732-872-1300 x19



22 Magruder Road
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732
732-872-1300
Fax 732-291-4483
njseagrants.org

This publication is the result of work sponsored by New Jersey Sea Grant with funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Sea Grant, U.S. Department of Commerce, under NOAA grant #NA100AR4170075 and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of New Jersey Sea Grant or the U. S. Department of Commerce. NJSG-11-803