



NY Sea Grant Welcomes the World's Marine Educators, Under Secretary to Brooklyn

The National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) brings together those interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water — both fresh and salt water. NMEA provides a valuable focus for marine and aquatic studies worldwide. The local chapter, the New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA), exists to promote marine awareness and encourage the growth and exchange of instructional resources within the scientific, commercial, and educational communities. Several New York Sea Grant (NYSG) staffers are members of NMEA and NYSMEA.

In July 2006, more than 500 educators from around the world attended the week-long NMEA annual conference, hosted by NYSMEA at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus and Kingsborough Community College. Vice Admiral (Ret.) Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, attended the conference, provided the keynote, and interacted with NY Sea Grant educators at a breakfast meeting.

NYSG staff was very involved in the detailed planning of the conference, staffed exhibit tables and provided presentations. NYSG Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator and NYSMEA board member Kimberly Graff served as exhibit chair. NYSG NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Outreach Coordinator Laura Bartovics and Peconic Estuary Program Technical Outreach Coordinator Shana Miller made a joint



*Learning about NYSG's educational efforts at the 2006 NMEA conference is keynote speaker Vice Admiral (Ret.) Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (center), with NYSG staffers (l to r) Kimberly Graff, Barbara Branca, Laura Bartovics, and Helen Domske.
Photo: Mark Oswell, NOAA Fisheries Service*

presentation on EstuaryLive and staffed an exhibit on the annual September web-based learning event. NYSG Coastal Education Specialist Helen Domske spoke on the newly-funded Centers of Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Great Lakes Program. NYSG Communications Manager Barbara Branca staffed an exhibit, provided event details to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, and coordinated a press release which brought a Fox News crew to the Kingsborough campus.

These NYSG efforts showcased to a globally-based audience NYSG's multi-faceted programming and demonstrated NYSG's commitment to education and service to marine educators.

New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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