

Educating the Next Generation of Citizen Stakeholders

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is dedicated to ensuring a scientifically and environmentally informed citizenry for the future by making science/environmental education a priority issue. NYSG utilizes teacher training, curriculum enhancement and education programs to involve classroom teachers and non-formal educators and their students in meaningful learning experiences.

Utilizing innovative approaches and second-year funding for the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes, more than 4,000 students and teachers took part in NYSG education programming in the Great Lakes region in 2007.

The mission of COSEE Great Lakes is to foster lasting relationships through networks that link Great Lakes educators with ongoing science research in the region and with connections of that science to marine equivalents. COSEE GL is co-funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Sea Grant College Program.

900 Attend Science Exploration Day

Working with the WNY Science Supervisors, NYSG helped coordinate Science Exploration Day, which brought 900 high school students and their teachers to the University at Buffalo to learn from scientists on topics from invasive species to environmental engineering.

Distance Learning Teaches 1,400

A NYSG distance learning program introduced 1,400 students and their teachers to the impacts of invasive species in conjunction



Teachers use NYSG-developed materials to learn about invasive plants and animals aboard a canalboat as part of the Educators, Exotic Species and the Erie Canal workshop. Photo: Helen Domske, NYSG

with the Buffalo Museum of Science and their Authentic Learning program. Senior Extension Specialist Helen Domske serves as the “resident scientist” who provides an interactive lesson on aquatic invasive species and answers questions from students.

Teacher Workshops Create Catalysts

More than 125 teachers took part in five COSEE GL sponsored teachers’ workshops on the Great Lakes, climate change and invasive species during 2007. These teachers received curriculum materials and information to share with their students. An additional 12 teachers took part in a week-long field course on tropical marine ecology in Curacao, that taught them about marine ecosystems as part of the COSEE GL Marine Immersion project. The teachers return to their classrooms to share their knowledge of and enthusiasm for marine environments and education with their students and colleagues.

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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