

## Bringing Science to the Shore and Into Classrooms

**N**ew 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. By using a “teach the teacher” approach, NYSG can reach thousands of students by increasing the environmental expertise and enthusiasm of classroom teachers and non-formal educators.

Utilizing innovative approaches and third year funding for Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes (GL), more than 4,200 students and teachers took part in NYSG education programming in the Great Lakes region.

The mission of COSEE GL 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 National Science Foundation, NOAA and the National Sea Grant College Program.

NYSG organized two week-long COSEE GL programs for teachers during 2008. One project took 16 teachers aboard the USEPA’s research vessel, *Lake Guardian*, on Lake Ontario; the other had 15 teachers explore the underwater world in Honduras. Other workshops helped an additional 100 teachers learn about invasive species and other Great Lakes topics. These teachers received curriculum materials and information to share with their students, including copies of a new curriculum CD, *The Greatest of the Great Lakes*.



Above: Teachers collected water, mud and soil samples alongside researchers aboard the *Lake Guardian*; right: a Syracuse Post-Standard photographer snapped David Chizzonite of Chittenango Middle School, and Patricia Burns of Dr. King Elementary School, Syracuse, on shore in Oswego, NY. Photos: Paul Focazio, NYSG



Other successful NYSG-sponsored or coordinated educational programs in 2008:

- The Seventh Great Lakes Student Summit involved 250 teachers and “student scientists” engaged in learning about the Great Lakes.
- Science Exploration Day, brought 900 high school students and teachers to the University at Buffalo to learn from scientists on topics from invasive species to environmental engineering.
- A NYSG distance learning program that introduced 1,400 students and their teachers to the impacts of invasive species through the Authentic Learning program at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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*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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