

Teaching the Next Generation of Concerned Citizens

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. Our educational efforts are part of the goals and strategies outlined under the Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area.

In 2010, NYSG worked with 18,160 students and 900 teachers. By using a “teach the teacher” approach, NYSG was able to reach an additional 27,700 students, making the statewide total more than 45,000 students who learned about critical environmental issues such as water quality and invasive species.

Utilizing innovative approaches and fifth-year funding from the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Great Lakes (COSEE GL), NYSG conducted teacher training workshops, and conference presentations.

The mission of COSEE GL is to foster lasting relationships through networks that link Great Lakes educators with ongoing research in the region and connect freshwater science with its marine (saltwater) equivalent. COSEE GL is co-funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric



Teachers participating in a COSEE GL tour learn about the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes & Wetlands Area. Photo: Paul Focazio, NYSG

Administration, and the National Sea Grant College Program.

Highlights of the training in 2010 under this successful partnership include:

- Lake Ontario Workshop for Teachers – a week-long COSEE GL workshop along Lake Ontario for 15 educators that involved 19 scientists from around the state (<http://coseegreatlakes.net/weblog/>),
- a week-long teachers workshop on Tropical Marine Ecology,
- Science Exploration Day that brought 500 high school students and teachers to the University at Buffalo to learn from scientists about topics varying from invasive species to environmental engineering, and
- a NYSG distance learning program that introduced 1,000 students and their teachers to the impacts of invasive species through the Authentic Learning program at the Buffalo Museum of Science.



Tour leader Helen Domske, at the microscope, helps teachers identify lake invertebrates. Photo: Paul Focazio, NYSG

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant’s Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area.

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