



New York Sea Grant teach-the-teacher training exponentially extends Great Lakes literacy to thousands of students in NY's freshwater region

## NYSG Teach-the-Teacher Training Extends Great Lakes Education to 12,000 NY Students

New York's K-12 educators interested in teaching about local resources often do not have first-hand knowledge to do so. Through experiential professional development opportunities, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) provides state-of-the-art research and environmental information so educators can infuse their newfound knowledge and Great Lakes Literacy into classrooms.

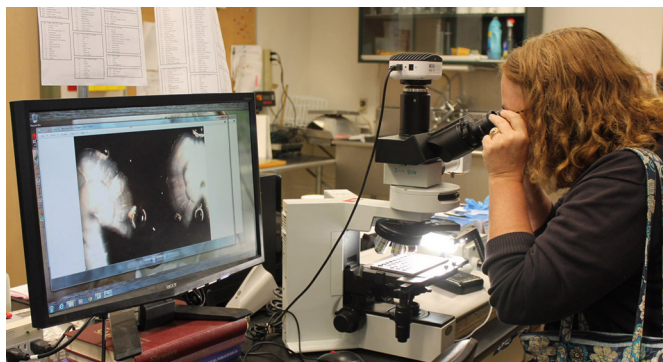
### NYSG Responds

NYSG-led educator workshops include field trips, classroom exercises, and hands-on learning with local, state and federal researchers. In 2013, NYSG provided Great Lakes science workshops for 115 teachers who engage more than 11,000 students in lessons on critical environmental issues.

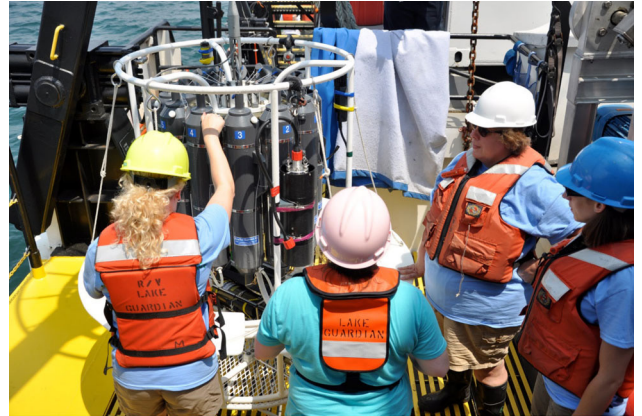
One workshop organized by NYSG in cooperation with the US EPA and Center for Great Lakes Literacy provided the opportunity to work alongside scientists aboard the US EPA *Lake Guardian* research vessel. One teacher dubbed the week-long training "the chance of a lifetime."

A four-day land-based program (part of the NOAA-funded B-Wet Project) included seining for fish, working in a USGS fish laboratory, and fish hatchery and Lake Ontario dunes tours for 15 educators.

NYSG participation with the 2013 Science Exploration Day in Western New York educated another 56 teachers who work with 900-plus students.



Examining fish otoliths in USGS Lake Ontario Biological Field Station fish lab; photo: Kara Lynn Dunn



NYSG workshop participants aboard the *Lake Guardian*, photo: NYSG/Paul Focazio

### Great Lakes Literacy Advances

According to 2013 workshop evaluations, participants will change how and what they teach. Several have already involved students in local waterway clean-ups and stewardship activities to slow the spread of invasive species.

"This (NYSG) workshop is perfect for helping students understand the local environment and that they can make a difference right here at home," said Kimberly Preshoff, Williamsville North High School.

Newfane High School Living Environment teacher Timothy Lanighan noted, "This Sea Grant workshop provides resources, ideas and contacts that will help develop Newfane's new environmental science advanced placement curricula."

**Partners:** US EPA, USGS Great Lakes Science Center Lake Ontario Biological Station, Center for Great Lakes Literacy, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

### The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

New York Sea Grant Extension

112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

This project summary was written by

Coastal Education Specialist Helen Domske

716-645-3610, hmd4@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org 1/14