



New York Sea Grant teach-the-teacher training supports NY's coastal water quality interests by engaging and educating future Great Lakes citizens

Educating for the Future of the Great Lakes

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) makes a “splash” in Great Lakes education with “teach-the-teacher” training that engages educators in experiential learning and provides them with information and classroom-tested curriculum developed by Sea Grant and NOAA.

NYSG Responds

In 2014, 109 teachers participated in five NYSG-led workshops focused on Great Lakes watersheds, the Buffalo River, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie. The teachers agreed to conduct stewardship activities with more than 11,325 elementary-high school students.

The workshops took teachers into the field to interact with scientists and environmental specialists. They plunged into learning by monitoring fish populations with seine nets, estimating fish age by examining otoliths (ear bones), collecting and identifying plankton, and taking water samples.

Teachers, Students, Ecosystems Benefit

After the Buffalo River workshop, high school teacher Amanda Jasper of the Global Concepts Charter School, Lackawanna, NY, concentrated instruction in her Advanced Placement Biology curriculum on the history and environmental concerns of the Buffalo River. Her students created a public service announcement video for YouTube to raise awareness of issues and restoration happening locally. View it at <http://youtu.be/WqZ-kJ6rl1s>.

Williamsville High School students took a “LEAP” forward with teacher Kim Preshoff, who started a Leaders for Environmental Awareness and Protection/ LEAP Club. They established a plastic water bottle



NYSG teach-the-teacher workshop participants benefit from hands-on learning opportunities, Photo: NYSG/Helen Domske



NYSG-organized field trips provide teachers with instruction from Great Lakes coastal science professionals, including US Geological Survey Research Fishery Biologist Dr. Maureen Walsh (above left). Photo: NYSG/Helen Domske

recycling program to reduce the waste stream and protect local water sources. To encourage use of refillable water bottles, the club developed a fund-raising campaign to convert a water fountain to a refilling station that counts the number of plastic water bottles saved through its use.

New York Sea Grant efforts empowering teachers to advance Great Lakes literacy help teachers realize they can help their students become the next generation of accurately-informed Great Lakes citizens.

Partners:

- US Environmental Protection Agency
- USGS Great Lakes Science Center Lake Ontario Biological Station at Oswego
- Center for Great Lakes Literacy
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Buffalo-Niagara Riverkeeper
- Cornell University
- Buffalo State College

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats

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

New York Sea Grant Extension

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