

INSIDE SEA GRANT

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2

WINTER 2003

Thousands turn out for statewide cleanup

A hurricane almost caused the rescheduling of Beach Sweep/River Sweep. A mere two days before the cleanup, Hurricane Isabel landed in the Outer Banks of N.C.

Yet sunny skies prevailed during the 15th annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep, and more than 3,000 volunteers on the coast cleared about 12 tons of trash from beaches, marshes, and waterways—three tons less than last year's haul.

More than 100 site captains and their volunteers covered about 65 cleanup sites in every coastal county. Community involvement included support from Girl and Boy Scouts, K-12 schools and colleges, environmental and civic groups, museums, aquaria, state and federal agencies, resorts, and businesses. Statewide an estimated 6,000 people cleared trash and debris.

Cigarette butts continue to be the number one item found on the coast, followed by debris associated with recreational activities (bottles, cans, plastic ware, and fast food containers) and boating activities (ropes, nets, buoys, and fishing line).

Fireworks debris continues to be a problem in the Myrtle Beach area, as is styrofoam in the Charleston area. Some unusual items found this year included several bicycles, many tires and car parts, a boat and boat parts, a propane tank, a lawn mower, clothing, a hair dryer, an old Polaroid camera, cell phones, a calculator, fake vampire teeth, an

alarm clock, mattresses, a microwave, and a big-screen TV.

Special thanks go to Joanna Murray, College of Charleston communications student, who helped Susan Ferris organize the Sweep on the coast.



The Ohl (left) and the Hitchman families (right) clean near the pier on Folly Beach.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is part of The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, and is organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and S.C. Department of Natural Resources. South Carolina ranks fifth worldwide in the number of volunteers, saving taxpayers nearly \$300,000 each year, using calculations provided by Independent Sector, a coalition of non-profits based in Washington, D.C. The next Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2004. Detailed coastal results and photos can be found at <http://www.scseagrant.org> under the Education section.

Inside Sea Grant is published two times a year to inform interested constituents about opportunities, activities, goals and accomplishments of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is a university-based network supporting research, education, and outreach to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunity for the people of South Carolina.

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Science Serving
South Carolina's Coast

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INSIDE SEA GRANT

Sea Grant research pays off during Hurricane Isabel

In September 2003, researchers with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and Florida Sea Grant College Program collaborated on the deployment of mobile wind towers at four locations near the projected path of Hurricane Isabel along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The wind towers, built atop trailers, offer a chance to get high-resolution wind-speed data near the ground. Tim Reinhold of Clemson University and Kurt Gurley of the University of Florida worked with a team of undergraduate and graduate students to design, construct, and deploy the towers, which measure wind speed, wind direction, and barometric pressure at 15 and 33 feet off the ground.

As Isabel came ashore, the towers provided real-time data via a wireless Internet connection and posted data to the Web every 15 minutes. NOAA hurricane researchers, forecasters, and emergency-preparedness managers were able to access the data every 15 minutes and used it to monitor the changes in local conditions throughout the passage of the storm.

"The placing of the towers appeared just about optimal, and the reliability of the real-time reports . . . was fantastic," said Dr. Peter Black, a research meteorologist with the NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory's Hurricane Research Division.

"To my knowledge, your high quality observations constitute the highest wind speed for which continuous, high frequency, digital observations have been recorded in a U.S. landfalling hurricane," said Mark D. Powell, atmospheric scientist at NOAA Hurricane Research Division. "They represent a valuable contribution to hurricane research."

Accomplishments

Consortium secures nearly \$4 million in grants

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium has recently secured grants totaling \$3,828,206 during the past several months for both new and continuing programs.

The grants support studies by faculty and students in South Carolina research institutions, addressing issues such as effects of land-use on coastal ecosystems, coastal erosion and sources of nourishment sand, ocean science instruction, harmful algal blooms and algal toxins, and coastal ocean monitoring systems. For more information visit www.scseagrant.org/events/events_news.htm.

Snow elected to State Web Board

Patty Snow, the Consortium's art director, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the S.C. Government Webmasters Association. Snow developed and maintains the association's Web site located at <http://www.scgw.org/>. The association provides a forum for government Webmasters to share information and ideas. The group identifies and promotes best practices for state Web Sites, provides education for Webmasters, and evaluates Web-related technologies.

DeVoe appointed to SEACOOS Board

M. Richard DeVoe, executive director of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the SouthEast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEACOOS) by Molly Corbett Broad, president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. SEACOOS is a regional partnership, funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research, to coordinate ocean observing in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Member institutions will develop a better understanding of chemical, meteorological, biological and circulation processes of near-shore ocean environments.

SEACOOS members will create scientific, educational and outreach activities related to the project. Member institutions include University of

at a glance

North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of South Carolina, University of Miami, University of South Florida, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, N.C. Sea Grant College Program, S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, Georgia Sea Grant College Program, and Florida Sea Grant College Program. More information on SEACOOS can be found at www.seacoos.org/.

Spence recognized as AAAS Fellow

Lundie Spence, director of the SouthEast Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (SouthEast COSEE), has been elected a Fellow by the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). A Fellow is defined as a "Member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its application are scientifically or socially distinguished." Criteria include contributions in research, teaching, service to professional societies, and others.

SouthEast COSEE is funded by the National Science Foundation, with support provided by the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and the NOAA Coastal Services Center, and is administered through the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

S.C. NEMO Web site wins award

The S.C. Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (S.C. NEMO) Web site, a S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program project, won the first place Clemson Extension Web site Communications Award. April Turner, coastal community specialist with S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program, and Cal Sawyer, now the water quality coordinator for Clemson Extension, wrote the content. Patty Snow, art director with S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, designed the site. The S.C. Association of County Agricultural Agents sponsors the award.

S.C. NEMO is an educational program that provides information to help local decision-makers understand the impacts of nonpoint

source pollution on water quality, the link between those impacts and land use and some innovative ways to manage for those impacts.

The national NEMO network comprises 33 funded projects in 32 states. For more information about S.C. NEMO, visit <http://www.scseagrant.org/scnemo.htm>.

Coastal Heritage wins national publication award

Coastal Heritage, a quarterly magazine published by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, recently won an APEX Grand Award for its outstanding editorial content, graphic design, and communications effectiveness. There were 722 magazine and journal entries, of which 11 won the Grand Award. The APEX awards are sponsored by Communications Concepts, Inc.

This is the second time *Coastal Heritage* has won a Grand Award.

According to the APEX judges, *Coastal Heritage's* "simply superb writing" and "clean, classic design" . . . "pull readers in and won't let them go." *Coastal Heritage* is written by John Tibbetts and art directed by Patty Snow. The magazine covers issues of coastal and marine-resource policy, science, and history. For a free subscription, contact the Consortium office at (843) 727-2078.

Public Comment Sought on S.C. Sea Grant Consortium

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium will be evaluated by a national Program Assessment Team, appointed by the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, on June 14-17, 2004. As part of this evaluation process, the National Sea Grant College Program is inviting comments from the public on any aspect of the Consortium or its work by May 14, 2004. Written comments should be sent to: Mr. Jonathan Eigen, NSGO Program Officer, National Sea Grant College Program, NOAA R/SG, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program is a joint outreach program of Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

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The Consortium's Board of Directors is composed of the chief executive officers of its member institutions.

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Message from the Executive Director:

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium prepares for its next program review

As I have noted in previous issues of *Inside Sea Grant*, there is an increasingly strong emphasis on agency performance, accountability, and results at both the state and federal levels. A good example of this at the state level was the Governor's Commission on Management, Accountability, and Performance, which recently issued its final report. At the federal level, a series of mechanisms have been put into place to measure agency goals and outcomes.



Rick DeVoe

The NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, from which we receive our core funding support, is specific in requiring compliance with a merit review process for each of the nation's 30 Sea Grant College Programs, based on program evaluations performed every four years by an externally-constituted Program Assessment Team (PAT). The PAT review process focuses on how the program is administered and what has been accomplished. Specifically, the PAT evaluates Sea Grant College Programs in four major areas: (1) effective and aggressive long-range planning; (2) organizing and managing for success; (3) connecting Sea

Grant with users; and (4) producing significant results. Of these four categories, the primary emphasis of the review is on accomplishments and outcomes. The PAT process is geared towards fostering continuous program improvements; thus PAT reviews identify areas of program strengths and recommendations for program improvement. This process also influences the amount of Sea Grant funding the Consortium will receive in each of the next four years.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium's initial evaluation was conducted in 1999, and resulted in an "Excellent" rating from the PAT, meaning, according to National Sea Grant guidelines, that our program "substantially exceeds the benchmarks" established by the National Office and "does the things expected of it exceptionally well."

The Consortium's next PAT review is scheduled for the week of June 14, 2004, and we are hoping for a similar result. A new wrinkle in the PAT review this cycle is the requirement that we notify the public about the upcoming review, and solicit written comments on "any aspect of the program or its work" three weeks prior to the PAT visit. Therefore, you will find our invitation to you to provide input on page 3 of this newsletter, and we encourage you to submit your comments and thoughts.

Thank you.

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