



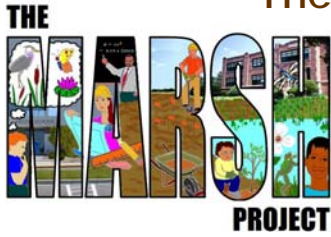
Environmental Concern Presents:



# NOW! News on Wetlands

A Quarterly Newsletter for Wetland Educators

Fall 2005



## The MARSH Project is Born!

Environmental Concern (EC) has launched **The MARSH Project**, a comprehensive approach to schoolyard wetland habitat design, construction, and utilization that engages the entire school—administration, faculty, facility managers and most importantly students. **The MARSH Project** is a 5—step process - The first

step is 1.) a teacher training including our WOW! and POW! curriculum guides. During the training participants will learn about wetlands, how to integrate the wetland into the curriculum and participate in collecting data that will be used by EC to 2.) create a detailed design portfolio. The portfolio will give participating schools the knowledge and information needed to 3.) build a schoolyard wetland.

Once the wetland is built, 4.) it will be designated as a *Wildlife Friendly Schoolyard*

through a partnership with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). Finally, participation in **The MARSH Project** will grant you access to 5.) on-going technical support from EC and AZA.



For more information about **The MARSH Project**, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/2005.kids.garden.news/current.html> or <http://www.wetland.org>

Check out our website [www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org) for upcoming courses in your area. We are currently filling our 2006 calendar. Contact us if you are interested in scheduling a course!



## Wonders of Wetlands Makes Its Wisconsin Debut



Wisconsin Wetlands Association is one of the oldest wetland-focused organizations in the country. The organization has been working for 36 years to protect wetland resources through education, training, research and advo-

cacy on key issues that affect Wisconsin's wetlands. Their mission is considerable. While Wisconsin's wetlands are numerous (5 million acres) and diverse, so are threats to the health and

continued existence of wetlands that remain on Wisconsin's landscapes (*NOTE: Wisconsin had more than 10 million wetland acres before European settlement*).

Education is a central tool being used by Wisconsin

Wetlands Association's to meet its mission. In early August, Wisconsin Wetlands Association partnered with Environmental Concern to bring *WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands* to Wisconsin for the first time. More than twenty educators participated in a day-long *WOW!* workshop at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison.

Participants learned basic wetland ecology as well as how to lead students in a variety of hands-on classroom and schoolyard activities. More than half of the participants spent a second

Submitted by: Laura England

day getting trained as certified *WOW!* Facilitators, and became part of Environmental Concern's national network of wetland educators, eligible to lead *WOW!* workshops for educators in their own communities.

For more information about the *Wisconsin Wetlands Association* visit [www.wiscwetlands.org](http://www.wiscwetlands.org) or contact Laura England, Outreach Programs Director at 608-250-9971 or [programs@wiscwetlands.org](mailto:programs@wiscwetlands.org)

## Wetlands as Hurricane Insurance

This year hurricanes, Katrina & Rita have brought a lot of much needed attention to the issues of coastal management and wetlands. As the nation continues to put the pieces back together after these devastating storms and become more prepared for others in the future, it is important to think about those natural ecosystems perfectly designed to prevent such disasters, coastal marshes.

Experts estimate that every 2.7 miles of wetland can absorb one foot of storm surge. Wetlands are natural storm buffers that slow incoming

water and minimize its impact. Wetlands can also act in the same way that land does to slow a hurricane's force as it comes ashore. Louisiana has lost up to 40 square miles of marsh a year for several decades, think how much less damage there would have been if those wetlands been there!

As plans go into action to rebuild New Orleans and the surrounding areas affected by these hurricanes, it is up to all of us

to remind congress to include and fund coastal wetland restoration as part of the rebuilding process along the gulf. What better insurance to have by your side in the wake of a huge storm?



Image from: [www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org/images/marshland.jpg](http://www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org/images/marshland.jpg)

### Bittersweet Educator Update

In September, Suzie Hershberger said goodbye to Environmental Concern. She and her family are heading south to Florida for warmer weather and wetlands aplenty. Suzie's hard work helped to expand and shape the department's many programs. We will certainly miss her dedication and passion for wetland education.

Fortunately, we have the great opportunity to welcome Sarah To-man to the department. She brings to Environmental Concern an abundance of knowledge from her previous position at the Wetlands Institute in New Jersey. Sarah has been welcomed with open arms and a wealth of wetland work!