



Environmental Concern Presents:



NOW! News on Wetlands

A Quarterly Newsletter for Wetland Educators

Spring 2005

Featured Habitat: Environmental Concern's Stormwater Wetland

St. Michaels, Maryland is expecting a few hundred of its residents to relocate to a new development on the outskirts of town. As spring weather arrives, frogs, turtles, dragonflies, birds, and insects will move into Environmental Concern's newest wetland pond on the shore of San Domingo Creek.



Just two months after its creation, Environmental Concern's stormwater wetland is already an inviting habitat for local wildlife.

After years of planning and dreaming, this non-tidal wetland in Environmental Concern's backyard was created in August 2004, thanks in part to funding from the Waterfowl Festival. In conjunction with a POW! The Planning of Wetlands course for local educators, the wet

land was excavated and planted in three days, with course participants playing a role in every step. As the wetland continues to grow, it will help collect runoff from the property, while providing a habitat for wildlife and an outdoor classroom for our educational programs.

In August 2005, local educators will be invited to take part in another three-day POW! workshop at the site. This time, in addition to learning how to create wetlands step-by-step, participants will get to enjoy the fruits of the wetland creation, as they survey the flora and fauna of this new habitat.

MAY is American Wetlands Month!

It's the perfect time to wake up that hibernating book and teach the Wonders of Wetlands!

Upcoming Workshops:

April

- 16 – POW! Philadelphia, PA
- 16 – WOW! Londonderry, NH
- 29 – POW! Issaquah, WA
- 30 – WOW! Northbend, WA

May

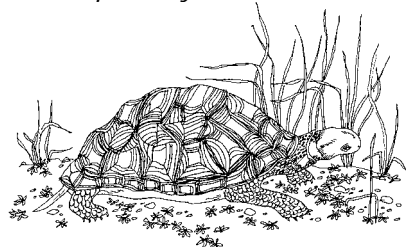
- 4 – WOW! Norwich, VT
- 5 – WOW! Burlington, VT
- 6 – POW! Burlington, VT
- 7 – WOW! Newport, RI
- 10 – POW! Charlottesville, VA
- 13 – Facilitator Monterey, CA
- 14 – WOW! Monterey, CA
- 14 – WOW! Harlingen, TX
- 15 – Facilitator Harlingen, TX
- 24 – WOW! Sandwich, MA
- 25 – WOW! Barre, MA
- 26 – WOW! Northfield, MA

June

- 9 – WOW! Edgewater, MD
- 10 – Facilitator Edgewater, MD
- 13 – WOW! Four Oaks, NC
- 14,15 – Basic Plant ID for Educators Four Oaks, NC
- 22 – WOW! Des Moines, IA
- 22 – WOW! Atlanta, GA
- 23 – Facilitator Des Moines, IA
- 23 – POW! Atlanta, GA
- 24 – WOW! GA
- 25 – Facilitator GA

To register for a workshop contact us at 410-745-9620 or order@wetland.org

We are still actively scheduling for 2005. Let us know if you're interested in setting up a workshop near you.



New Partner in Pensacola, Florida

Submitted by: Eleanor Godwin

A multi-jurisdictional organization in Pensacola, FL is making strides in environmental education for area youth. The Bay Area Resource Council, which coordinates environmental information for 2 counties and 3 cities, has organized the Resource Ranger Club, a curriculum-based club for kids grades 4 - 7. The club includes classroom activities, field trips, and a series of award-winning video shows that are currently airing in 4 different cable markets. Completed episodes cover

the watershed, wetlands, stormwater, seagrasses, the water cycle, and recycling. Funding has been secured for additional shows and curriculum on sharing our habitat, the urban forest, air quality, and stream restoration.

The group recently partnered with Environmental Concern to train area informal educators on the WOW! Wonder of Wetlands Cur-

riculum to enhance the program and its hands-on activities. The WOW! curriculum fits the needs of the group, as it provides a wealth of engaging lessons for a variety of age groups and learning situations. The club, started in 2001, was recently selected as the NW Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals "Environmental Project of the Year."

For more information about the *West Florida Regional Planning Commission* visit: www.wfrpc.dst.fl.us/

Wetlands are praised for saving lives and livelihoods in Southeast Asia

forests were immediately praised by locals for helping to slow the wave and reduce the severity of the impact saving lives and property.

Early damage assessments in severely affected parts of Sri Lanka showed that coastal regions with excess beachfront development saw far more damage and loss of life than regions where there was a protective natural buffer between communities and the sea.

As the affected communities slowly begin to rebuild

their lives, non-governmental agencies are hoping to convince local governments to include wetland restoration and conservation planning in their efforts. Restoring damaged and destroyed wetlands will prove crucial in restoring the livelihood of the people that depend on them for food, income and future coastal protection.

For more information visit www.ramsar.org/tsunami or www.wetlands.org



Wetlands helped to stave off the devastating effects of the tsunami that hit Indian Ocean communities in December of 2004.

In India, regions along the coast with healthy mangrove