



Environmental Concern Presents:

NOW! News on Wetlands



A Quarterly Newsletter for Wetland Educators

Summer 2005

Featured Habitat: Jefferson County Ninth Grade Complex

Spring brought new life to a corner of the Jefferson County Ninth Grade Complex (JCNG) schoolyard in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia (WV). Located in the panhandle of WV, one of the nation's fastest growing areas, the school is a bastion of greenspace in a region where new developments pop up seemingly every day.

Marsha Coggins, a wildlife teacher at the school, participated in a POW! The Planning of Wetlands Class at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in 2003. After attending the training, she explored her schoolyard and discovered a stormwater pond tucked away behind

the soccer field. She established a "no mow" area and plants quickly began to colonize. Wanting to do more, Marsha approached Environmental Concern about possible funding opportunities. As part of our commitment to alumni, EC included JCNG in its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant for schoolyard habitat creation.



Three ninth-graders discover what it takes to restore a wetland habitat.

On April 19th, 100 students had an opportunity to plant the wetland. They planted lizard's tail, cardinal flower, cypress trees, willows, and many other native WV species. Within days, fresh great blue heron tracks were spotted.

The wetland is now an established part of the landscape and a place the students are proud of. In June, Marsha reported that the wetland is looking very green and healthy. Birds, dragonflies, and bees have been spotted along with "two large piles of scat." Good luck, Marsha!

For more about POW!, visit: www.wetland.org/educ_pow.htm

Upcoming Workshops:

August 5-6 - WOW! & Facilitator training: Davis, California

August 10-12 - Know'em & Grow'em: Cambridge, Maryland

August 11-12 - WOW! & Facilitator training: Madison, Wisconsin

August 20 - WOW!: Holland, Michigan

August 25-26 - WOW! & Facilitator training: Cleveland, Ohio

Check www.wetland.org for our complete fall schedule!

New Partner!: The Nature Conservancy in Brownsville, TX

In celebration of American Wetlands Month this May, Environmental Concern headed south – way south – to the southernmost tip of Texas, The Nature Conservancy's appropriately named Southmost Preserve. This over 1,000 acre preserve is located on a meandering bend of the Rio Grande near the university town of Brownsville. With such abundant flora and fauna, the preserve set a perfect backdrop to

the WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands Facilitator workshop. Thirty local educators were trained to provide wetland workshops for their communities. In addition to exploring the local resacas, the local term for oxbow lakes formed by former paths of the Rio Grande,

workshop participants enjoyed finding wildlife in a unique wetland created by the preserve. Referred to familiarly as the "cement pond," an old loading dock which periodically fills with rainwater, has become a wetland oasis for water lilies, herons, frogs, and snakes.

For more information about the Southmost Preserve, contact Donna Berry at (956) 546-0547 or dberry@tnc.org.



Life in "cement pond" at the Southmost Preserve.

EC Participates in Poplar Island Restoration: A Habitat in Progress

In 1846, Poplar Island was a 1000 acre island located about 34 miles south of Baltimore, Maryland in the Chesapeake Bay. A bustling fishing community, it thrived with human and wildlife activity. However, in less than 150 years, erosion reduced Poplar Island to a mere 4 acres of islets, forcing all of its human inhabitants to leave and displacing much of the wildlife.

In a historic effort, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has teamed up with the Maryland Port Administration and other Federal and State agencies to restore Poplar Island to its former size in hopes to increase much needed wildlife habitat. Approximately 40 million cubic yards of dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor is being



placed on the island to develop 570 acres of wetlands. The island is now a national model for habitat restoration and the beneficial use of dredged material.

Environmental Concern has joined the project by helping to

grow and plant over 500,000 plants for the first full scale cell. The project is scheduled to continue for the next 10-15 years.

Check for updates on our progress at www.wetland.org.

NEW!!

Alumni Discussion Forum

•Do you want to share your wetland education experiences?

•Do you have unanswered wetland questions?

Log on to www.wetland.org/community to share your knowledge and learn from others around the country who are interested in wetland education. From cattails to created wetlands, the Alumni Discussion Forum is the place for all marshy matters.

Wetland Gift Ideas: Now Available from Environmental Concern!

Natural Plant Candles (scents of Sweetbay Magnolia, Wild Rose, Oak Leaf, & Lotus) & Wetland Note Cards

Visit www.wetland.org for more information.