

Welcome to the Biweekly Restoration Information Update Page. This web site

- Provides current information on wetland and river corridor restoration projects
- Recognizes outstanding restoration projects
- Provides a forum for information sharing

We welcome the submission of articles and announcements related to your restoration project. Just send your write-up to EPA's contractor at restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com or mail it to Kathryn Phillips, Biweekly Restoration Update Coordinator, Tetra Tech, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, VA 22030. We will carefully consider your submission for inclusion in a future update. If your submission is selected, please note that it might be edited for length or style before being posted. Because this web site is meant to be a public forum on restoration information, we cannot post any information that is copyrighted or information that serves or has the appearance to serve as advocating or lobbying for any political, business, or commercial purposes.

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- [News and Announcements](#) - This section includes up-to-date information on regulatory issues affecting restoration, conference and workshop announcements, and other newsworthy tidbits.
- [Restoration-Related Web Sites](#) - Check out other groups on the Web that are helping in the effort to restore wetlands and river corridors.
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Feature Article

Urban Marsh Restoration Underway

Nahant Marsh, a 513-acre urban wetland adjacent to the Mississippi River in Davenport, Iowa, is undergoing extensive restoration. River Action, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting environmentally responsible riverfront development, has been leading efforts to have this wetland area converted from its previous use as a shooting range to the Nahant Marsh Outdoor Education and Research Center. A portion of the wetland was acquired in 1969 by the Scott County Sportsmen's Association (SCSA), which operated the site for about 25 years as a trap and skeet shooting range. Activities at the site caused the deposit of several hundred tons of lead shot into the soil and sediment, leading EPA to declare 13 acres of the marsh a Superfund site in 1998. EPA, through its Superfund Program, completed sediment and soil cleanup at the site in August 1999. The \$2 million cleanup included excavation, treatment, and disposal of the top 6 inches of topsoil and 1 inch of marsh soil in two lead-contaminated areas.

In September 2000 EPA, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, issued a consent decree requiring the SCSA to place a conservation easement on its property to preserve the natural resources. The SCSA then sold its 79-acre property to the city of Davenport, which made the land available for the Education and Research Center. Since then, River Action has been

working with the city and private landowners to acquire additional acreage in the 513-acre wetland area. Through land purchase and donations, River Action expects to expand the Education and Research Center acreage to 200 acres in the near future. In 2000 River Action received a \$10,000 Five-Star Restoration Award from EPA to fund additional restoration work in the marsh. River Action and its partners, including the city of Davenport, the Scott County Regional Authority, the McKnight Foundation, local schools, and others, planted native trees and shrubs to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the marsh and renovated an existing building that will be used for educational programs. Some additional work associated with the grant will be completed this spring and summer. It includes planting trees and shrubs and the installation of a water control structure to protect the wetland in times of drought. "The wetland's water comes primarily from runoff and river backup. However, the poor placement of a nearby bridge and culvert can cut this water supply off, allowing the wetland to dry up in a drought year. The water control structure will help restore and maintain proper water levels," notes Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action.

River Action has noticed a difference since the restoration effort began. "The wildlife numbers have increased. In fact, we recently saw a flock of 600 white pelicans--the first ever," says Wine. "We're not sure what portion of the project is responsible for the increase. We think the improved environment has led to greater fish numbers, which in turn has led to more birds." River Action is closely following an ongoing survey of frogs and toads to see if their populations, once very low because of the lead contamination, have rebounded.

In addition, the recent efforts of a nine-member AmeriCorps team have furthered the ongoing restoration work at Nahant Marsh. AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in full-time and part-time community service and provides education awards upon completion of a term of service. This team of young people has constructed decking and railing on a boardwalk and a viewing platform at the marsh. For more information, contact Kathy Wine, River Action, 822 East River Drive, Davenport, IA 52803. Phone: (563) 322-2969; e-mail: riveraction@netexpress.net; Internet: www.riveraction.org.

If you'd like your project to appear as our next Featured Article, e-mail a short description to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

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Community-Based Restoration Partnerships

New Partnership Is a Powerful Source of Wetland Restoration Resources

In the fall of 1999, Coastal America launched a collaborative initiative known as the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) program. CWRP seeks to pool resources for the purposes of restoring impacted priority coastal wetland sites. The CWRP is a voluntary public-private partnership that joins together corporations, state and federal agencies, private organizations, local communities, and members of academia who are interested in protecting and restoring wetlands. Corporations and other organizations contribute to a participating private foundation or state trust fund. These funds are used to support a site-specific wetland restoration project and are usually leveraged with federal funds. (Usually every dollar can be matched with \$3 in federal funding.) Participants may also contribute in-kind services like equipment or labor. Through CWRP, Coastal America hopes to restore 100,000 acres of wetlands and coastal areas annually by raising \$1 million a year for restoration in every state. With leveraging Coastal America could raise up to \$4 million a year for restoration for each state.

A recent project in Massachusetts is the first example of CWRPs power. Under the leadership of the Gillette Company, 20 companies, 25 non-governmental organizations, and dozens of state environmental groups contributed more than \$1 million in cash and in-kind services to support restoration of a 50-acre salt marsh on Cape Cod. The CWRP contributed \$500,000 of the estimated \$1.6 million project cost; the remainder was funded with federal matching funds. For more information, contact Coastal America, Coastal America Reporters Building, 300 7th Street, SW, Suite 680, Washington, DC 20250; Phone: (202) 401-9928; Internet: www.coastalamerica.gov.

Indian River Lagoon Benefits from Multiple Restoration Efforts

The Indian River Lagoon on Florida's east coast is the recipient of ever-increasing efforts to restore valuable wetlands, control storm water runoff, and improve water quality. The St. Johns River Water Management District has seen funding for its Indian River Lagoon Program increase from \$6.7 million in fiscal year 2000 to \$18.2 million in FY 2001. The funding is being used to implement projects recommended in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the lagoon. Key plan activities include reconnecting more than 18,000 acres of impounded marsh wetlands, tackling storm water discharge problems, removing more than 2.6 million cubic yards of sediment from lagoon tributaries, and establishing pollution reduction goals. The St. Johns District has formed partnerships with other state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, and local community members to ensure continued restoration of the lagoon system.

Local governments along the lagoon are equally active in lagoon protection efforts. They are spending more than \$20 million annually in habitat restoration initiatives, water quality improvement and stormwater management projects, and land acquisition. Volusia County, for example, is participating in marsh enhancement projects and is cost-sharing sediment trap (filter) installation to improve the water quality entering the Indian Lagoon system. Martin County is removing nonnative plants and restoring habitats in Kitching Creek, Salerno Creek, and Manatee Pocket.

Federal and state agencies are also contributing important resources and funding toward CCMP implementation. For example, the Indian River Lagoon Program received a \$2.3 million section 319 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Once combined with matching dollars, this grant will yield more than \$11 million to fund lagoon projects. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to restore impounded wetlands in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, located in the lagoon. Many other agencies, including the FDEP, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the US Department of Agriculture, are also implementing projects in the watershed. For more information, contact the St. Johns River Water Management District, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429. Phone: (800) RALLY-22; Internet: <http://sjr.state.fl.us/>.

Ohio Lake Erie Buffer Program Includes Riparian and Wetland Restoration

Ohio's ongoing Lake Erie Buffer Program strives to establish 50,000 acres of new conservation buffers on agricultural cropland using available conservation reserve programs by the end of 2005. The Buffer Program works with private landowners in the Lake Erie watershed to install several different types of buffers, including grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian forest buffers, windbreak buffers, and wetlands. In some cases, riparian and wetland buffers were removed in the past to make way for farmland. These areas simply need to be restored to provide environmental benefits and count toward the buffer goal. The Buffer Team originally anticipated the installation of 90 percent grassed waterways and filter strips and only 10 percent of the buffer types that require more labor and time to implement. However, "Almost 20 percent of the practices we've installed have been the more permanent type like tree planting and wetland development, even though these require a longer contract agreement with the landowner," explains Steve Davis, Ohio Buffer Team Coordinator. "We've been extremely pleased with the response." Since the program was formally launched in Summer 1999, the Buffer Team Program has made significant progress toward its 50,000-acre goal. For more information, contact Steve Davis, Ohio Buffer Team Coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 39000 Campus Drive, Lima, Ohio 45804. Phone: (419) 222-0614; e-mail: steve.davis@oh.usda.gov.

If you are part of an innovative community-based partnership that is working to restore river corridors or wetlands, we'd like to hear from you. Please send a short description of your partnership to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

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Funding for Restoration Projects

Chesapeake ReLeaf Funds Riparian Restoration and Other Projects

A project to restore the riparian zone along the Monocacy River Basin in Frederick County, Maryland, is one of seven projects recently selected to share \$84,000 in grants from Chesapeake

ReLeaf, a project of American Forests and the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with state foresters. Chesapeake ReLeaf provides funds to public and private organizations for projects ranging from planting trees in restoration projects to taking action to protect existing forests and to manage those forests to maintain forest health. In addition to planting 5,000 trees, which will filter the air and water, provide habitat for wildlife, and sequester climate-changing carbon dioxide, the Monocacy River project will help fund local education and outreach to landowners about the importance of riparian buffer conservation and restoration and provide tools for managing suburban forests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The other six projects are located throughout Maryland and Virginia. A complete list and description of the projects can be obtained from Heather Campbell at (202) 955-4500 ext. 204 or by e-mail: hcampbell@amfor.org.

American Forests' Global ReLeaf Offers Forest Cost-Share Grants

American Forests offers grant monies for tree planting or environmental improvement projects that involve an organization and other public or private sector partners that are interested in tree planting and forestry or riparian restoration. Groups must be willing to partner with American Forests. The projects may be on public land or certain public-assisted private lands that meet special criteria. The planting area must be 20 acres or more and must have been damaged by wildfire, hurricane, tornado, insects, disease, or misguided treatment by humans. Only projects for which funding from regular programs or sources is not available qualify. The next deadline for proposal submission is July 1, 2001. For more information, contact American Forests, Heather Campbell, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013. Phone: (202) 955-4500 ext. 204; e-mail: hcampbell@amfor.org; Internet: www.amfor.org

Please send any news you have on funding mechanisms available to local community organizations to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

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News and Announcements

Revised Draft of *Interagency Guidance on Wetland Restoration, Creation, and Enhancement* Available for Comment

A revised draft of the *Interagency Guidance on Wetland Restoration, Creation, and Enhancement* is available for public comment through July 10, 2001. The first draft of this guidance was circulated for comment in April of 1999. The document may be downloaded from the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation web page at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatconservation/publications and EPA's Wetlands web page at www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/draftintro.html. To submit comments or to request hard copies, contact Susan Marie Stedman, NOAA Fisheries F/HC, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; e-mail: susan.stedman@noaa.gov.

New Estuary Stamp Series Under Consideration

The National Estuary Program's Long Island Sound (LIS) Study Citizens Advisory Committee is spearheading a campaign to develop a new stamp series focusing on America's estuaries. The LIS Study Citizens Advisory Committee cooperated with the USEPA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Association of National Estuary Programs, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association to submit a proposal to the U.S. Postal Service in late March 2001.

If selected by the U.S. Postal Service as a new series, the "America's Estuaries" postage stamps would illustrate bays, inlets, and harbors from across the nation. The series would also highlight the most ecologically significant plant and animal life found in estuaries of national significance. This postage stamp series would inform citizens about the natural beauty of America's estuaries; call attention to the diversity of living creatures, their habitats, the unique ecosystems, and the threats to those systems; and provide a platform to promote the study, preservation, and conservation of these valuable, and fragile national resources.

The U.S. Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee meets quarterly to decide on stamp subjects and makes recommendations to the Postmaster General. To support the "America's Estuaries" stamp proposal, write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, 475 L'Enfant

Plaza, SW, Room 4474E, Washington, DC 20260-2437. For more information, see www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/.

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Upcoming Conferences and Events:

NEW LISTINGS:

Fourth Annual Wetlands Regulatory Workshop

October 29 - November 2, 2001

Atlantic City, New Jersey

The purpose of this workshop is to investigate contemporary wetland regulatory issues and increase dialogue and foster partnerships between federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations and the regulated community. This year's key topics include:

- Definition of "Fill"
- TMDL'S and Wetland Protection
- Isolated Waters
- Functional and Biological Assessment Methods
- Wetland Monitoring
- New Nationwide Permits
- State Wetland Programs
- Development of State Wetland Programs
- New Indicators for the 3 Parameters
- Delineation and Identification Tools
- Development of a New Manual
- Mitigation "Success" Criteria/Ratios/Banking
- Regional General Permits

If you wish to present a paper, you must submit an abstract by June 29, 2001. For more information about format and content of abstract, please contact spagnolo.ralph@epa.gov.

Coastal and Estuarine Wetland Restoration in the New Millennium

June 18-21, 2001

Baton Rouge, LA

Conducted by the Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy, Association of State Wetland Managers, the overall goal of the conference is to improve the effectiveness of coastal and estuarine wetland restoration in the new millennium. The conference includes a 2½ -day symposium and a ½-day workshop focusing on the regulation of "isolated" wetlands. For more information, see www.aswm.org/meeting/coastal01.htm or contact the Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy, Association of State Wetland Managers, P.O. Box 269, Berne, NY 12023-9746. Phone: (518) 872-1804; fax: (518) 872-2171; e-mail: aswm@aswm.org.

Managing River Flows for Biodiversity: A Conference on Science, Policy and Conservation Action

July 30-August 2, 2001

Fort Collins, Colorado

Sponsored by American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, and other nonprofit organizations and federal resource agencies, this conference addresses the challenges of protecting natural river flows as competing demands for water increase. Participants will benefit from new information, tools, and networking opportunities to advance flow restoration and protection goals. For more information, visit www.freshwaters.org/conference or contact Jamie Mierau, American Rivers, at e-mail: jmierau@americanrivers.org.

To post your restoration news and announcements, please send information to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Wetlands Law and Regulation Course

May 31-June 1, 2001

Washington, DC

Presented by the American Law Institute - American Bar Association, this course covers in depth the Clean Water Act's section 404 regulatory program. Special attention is paid to the newly revised nationwide permits as well as to regional conditions that are still evolving. The professionals making the law address recent regulatory changes and case decisions in this complex arena. The course includes science and policy perspectives, including the latest information on wetland restoration and mitigation. Enforcement actions for regulatory violations and defenses, as well as Fifth Amendment and Commerce Clause challenges to federal regulatory power, are covered in depth. Professional responsibility issues and ethics concerns in the wetlands law practice context are addressed. A special panel highlights the regional law and policy issues and developments in several key U.S. regions. Time is reserved throughout the program to address registrants' questions.

Tuition for this 2-day course is \$795. Tuition entitles registrants to admission to all sessions, a set of study materials, daily continental breakfasts, and a reception. To register, call 800-CLE-NEWS (800-253-6397) or visit the web site at www.ali-aba.org. Registrations will be accepted at the door if space is available, but please call in advance to avoid disappointment.

Wetland Conservation and Sustainability Workshop

June 3, 2001

Rome, New York

This introductory wetland workshop will focus on wetland ecology, functions and values, and stewardship. Participants will learn about regulations affecting wetland conservation and will experience wetland monitoring in the field. Volunteers, nonprofit organizations, government agency personnel, and consultants with an interest in wetland conservation are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Robert Ragazzo, President, Rome Chapter Izaak Walton League, 1311 North James Street, Rome, NY 13440. Phone: (315) 337-1703.

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Restoration-Related Web Sites

www.ECBarRanch.com

Riparian Restoration in Action. Over the past 5 years, private landowner Jim Crosswhite has implemented an extensive conservation plan for his 300-acre ranch in Arizona's White Mountains. This web site documents his efforts to restore the degraded riparian areas along Nutrioso Creek.

www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek

National Wildlife Week. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is honoring National Wildlife Week on June 16-23, 2001. This year's theme is "Explore Nature in your Neighborhood." Celebrating National Wildlife Week since 1938, the NWF educates, inspires, and enlightens the public about wildlife conservation issues and encourages them to become environmental stewards. National Wildlife Week is an effort to preserve wildlife and their habitats by targeting students, families, and adults through fun and informative hands-on activities. This web site provides detailed information about National Wildlife Week events and educational opportunities.

Let us know about your restoration-related web site. Please send relevant URLs to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

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Information Resources

American Wetlands Month Kits Available

In honor of American Wetlands month, the Izaak Walton League of America is offering American Wetlands Month kits for free on the Internet (<http://www.iwla.org/SOS/awm/awmkit.html>). The kits help local groups initiate on-the-ground projects, and they include fact sheets, project ideas, contact information, logos, case studies, and web links to informative wetland sites. The League also provides technical and networking assistance to anyone interested in working for wetlands. For more information call (800) 284-4952 or e-mail: awm@iwla.org.

2001 Educator's Guide - Explore Nature in Your Neighborhood

Kids often think nature is something they have to drive to. The National Wildlife Federation's *2001 Educator's Guide* contains more than a dozen fun, hands-on activities for grades K-8. The interdisciplinary activities are designed to introduce students to wildlife they can find in their backyard, schoolyard, local park, local coastal area, local pond, and other habitats. Activities encourage observation and action such as pollution prevention and habitat restoration and creation. Developed as part of the National Wildlife Federation's National Wildlife Week, the guide is available in English and Spanish on the Internet at www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/

Wetland Literature Review Available

What is an "isolated" wetland? What functions do they perform? The Association of State Wetland Managers has put together a list of literature to assist you in your efforts to answer these types of questions. The list is available at www.aswm.org/science/isolated.htm

If you'd like to publicize the availability of relevant information resources, please send information to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.