

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.
- [Information Resources](#) - Books, journals, fact sheets, videos, and other information resources to aid you in your restoration project are provided here.

Feature Article

High School Students Help Restore a Washington, DC, River

On Thursday, May 24, 2001, students from two Washington, DC, area schools, Theodore Roosevelt High School and H.D. Woodson Senior High School, saw their hard work pay off. Over the past semester, they had been growing and caring for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in their classrooms. To conclude their project, the students participated in planting the underwater grass in the Anacostia River, just north of Anacostia River Park in Washington, DC.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay worked with the two DC schools for the past 16 weeks to increase local high school students' awareness and knowledge of their environment and to restore critical aquatic habitat in the Anacostia River. Alliance staff taught the students and teachers about the Chesapeake Bay watershed and trained and supervised them in raising wild celery (*Valisneria americana*) in the classroom. The primary focus of this project was to engage high school students in environmental stewardship and education, with an emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. By addressing real issues that have negative impacts on aquatic living resources, such as pollution and water quality degradation, the students learned how to combat negative trends affecting natural ecosystems. The Alliance hopes to use this project as a model that will be transferable to other DC schools for use in their science education programs.

A variety of factors unique to the Anacostia River combined to bring about the educational success of this program. The river, which drains more than half the land of the nation's capital, is one of the most severely degraded systems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In addition, it flows through a part of the city that has witnessed some of the worst socioeconomic disparity in the area. This project makes an ecological contribution to the river system while offering the students an educational experience they would not otherwise have had.

As part of the science education curriculum in their schools, students learned about aquatic ecosystems and the factors that affect them. While working alongside active bay scientists, the students also learned the principles of scientific inquiry, thereby fulfilling a requirement in their education standards. In addition, the students earned community service hours, which are part of their graduation requirements. Throughout the project, the Alliance tried to instill a sense of stewardship toward the local river by conveying core Chesapeake Bay messages—the social and cultural environment of the bay watershed, the watershed concept, and the bay as an ecosystem. Additional partners in this project included the Earth Conservation Corps, the District of Columbia government (Environmental Health Administration), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which supported the planting effort by donating boat use for the planting and providing additional volunteer support. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided guidance on the growth of SAV in the classroom. The Underwater Adventure Seekers, the oldest African American scuba diving organization in the District, donated their time to assist with the planting of SAV, along with volunteers from the DC Harbor Patrol and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Student participated in the planting process by preparing the plants for transplant from the boats. The DC Environmental Health Administration's Watershed Protection Division has agreed to monitor the planted SAV as part of its continued water quality monitoring program. The plants are located at a site where routine water samples are collected, allowing for easy monitoring of SAV growth.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay believes that the students of today are the adults of tomorrow that will make decisions that will affect their environment and their quality of life. The Anacostia watershed can benefit only from an educated constituency with the power to make informed decisions and act as stewards for their river.

For more information about the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, visit their web site at www.AllianceChesBay.org. Information about the SAV project can be obtained under Programs and Projects or by contacting Jamie Keefer at jamiekeefer@erols.com.

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

Peat Bog Returns with a Little Help from Some Friends

In the 1960s a wetland peat bog at the headwaters of Seattle's Longfellow Creek was filled in and later dedicated as a community park. The ground at the park, however, was frequently wet and not suitable for recreation. As a result, during the 1990s community members suggested that the project area be converted from parkland back to its natural state. Realizing the potential water quality benefits the bog could provide downstream, the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods agreed. The project was organized by the Westwood Neighborhood Council, with the support of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods through a \$100,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund award and many other sponsors. In September 2000, Seattle Parks and Recreation excavated the fill from part of the park site to allow community volunteers to restore a part of the bog. The Westwood Neighborhood Council and the Starflower Foundation provided technical support for the planting days and purchased the majority of the native plants for the project. Many local businesses contributed by donating funds, food, coffee, and volunteers for the planting days. The Westwood Neighborhood Council and other event coordinators focused on education and outreach to attract volunteers for the planting days. They printed and distributed hundreds of flyers, hung dozens of posters in businesses and schools, made hundreds of phone calls, and worked closely with a local newspaper to spread the word. By spring 2001 more than 300

volunteers of all ages had helped plant more than 10,000 native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses on the 3-acre site during four community-organized planting events.

Community involvement in the bog project will continue indefinitely. Citizens meet on the second Saturday of every month to tend to the new plantings. Citizens are also invited to participate in the Bogkeepers Program, an educational program that emphasizes the importance of ecology and responsible land stewardship. For more information, contact Mary Quackenbush at (206) 938-1318 or visit www.scn.org/westwood.

Little Conestoga Project Complete

Community members in Lancaster Township, Pennsylvania, recently completed a riparian restoration project along the Little Conestoga Creek in Maple Grove Park. Lancaster Township received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to support the project, which is located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The township's ultimate goals for the project include restoring the health of Little Conestoga Creek, providing a better habitat for aquatic and terrestrial animals, and establishing riparian vegetation that will reduce streambank erosion and shade the stream to make it cooler. The project also helps to achieve the goal of restoring 2,010 miles of riparian forest buffer in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by the year 2010.

During the spring of 2001, volunteers helped cut and gather stakes and branch material from dormant tree saplings and shrubs in Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. They then planted some of the live stakes and branches along the Little Conestoga Creek. They also used some of the stakes and branches to make fascines (cigar-shaped bundles of branches that are installed in shallow trenches and covered with soil). Now that the planting portion of the project is complete, the township plans to monitor and maintain the new plantings indefinitely. For more information contact the Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors, 1240 Maple Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603. Phone: (717) 291-1213; Internet: www.twp.lancaster.pa.us.

Citizens Encourage Legislators to Restore Protection for Wisconsin's Isolated Wetlands

On May 7, 2001, Wisconsin's governor signed into law a bill that provides Wisconsin with permitting authority over its isolated wetlands, those wetlands not associated with a navigable waterway such as a stream, river, or lake. The bill had originally been introduced in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's January 9, 2001, ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction over "isolated, non-navigable, intrastate" wetlands. The Court suggested in their decision that jurisdiction over these isolated wetlands should lie with the state and local governments, not the federal government.

The bill gained the widespread support of organizations and community members statewide. The Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Sierra Club alerted citizens to the importance of the bill by mailing out 50,000 postcards around the state. Thousands of citizens responded by voicing their support of the bill through letters, phone calls, faxes, and e-mails to their legislators and the Governor's office. Eventually more than 70 national, statewide, and local organizations, with a combined membership of some 320,000, signed a letter calling on the legislature to pass the bill to restore protection to Wisconsin wetlands.

To be passed, the bill had to be acceptable to all stakeholders. Consequently, environmental groups, development and agricultural interests, and lawmakers worked closely to agree on specific language. After weeks of debate and discussion, a compromise was reached. According to the Wisconsin Realtors Association, the final compromise bill "provides protections for nonfederal wetlands and addresses many of the concerns raised by the regulated public related to the wetlands permitting process." For more information about the bill, see "2001 Wisconsin Act 6" under "01 Acts" at: <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us/>.

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

Great Lakes Protection Fund

The Great Lakes Protection Fund seeks to fund projects that enhance the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Applicants should propose projects that will return the greatest ecosystem benefits.

The fund also considers the following principles when evaluating requests for support:

- Projects should be driven by environmental results.
- Projects should be collaborative in nature.
- Projects should anticipate and prevent impacts on the health of the ecosystem.
- Projects should develop solutions that improve both the environmental and economic health of the basin ecosystem.
- Projects must be based on sound science, should utilize the results of existing research, and should apply the skills of the basin's scientific community.

Applicants eligible under the Fund include nonprofit organizations (including environmental organizations, trade associations, and universities), for-profit businesses, government agencies, and individuals.

More information can be found at the web site: www.glpf.org/.

The Native Plant Conservation Initiative Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is accepting proposals for plant conservation projects in 2002. The foundation emphasizes on-the-ground conservation projects that provide immediate results and benefits. The goal of this year's effort is to have high-quality projects from across the United States that involve as many government agencies and non-governmental partners as practical and deliver on-the-ground conservation results.

Information about previously funded projects can be found at the NFWF homepage (www.nfwf.org). Additional requirements and the full text of the request for proposals are available at www.nps.gov/plants/nfwf/02rfp.htm. If you cannot access this page, you may request a printed copy of the Request for Proposals by sending an e-mail with your name and address to olivia_kwong@blm.gov.

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

Wetlands Show Strength in Diversity

On June 7, 2001, the Environmental News Service of Logan, Utah, released an article highlighting research that indicates that the more diverse a wetland, the better it can serve as a natural water purifier. Researchers Katharina Englehardts and Mark Ritchie of Utah State University in Logan discovered that the more species of rooted, submerged aquatic plants, known as macrophytes, a wetland ecosystem contains, the better able it is to perform its function as a water purifier. The research was completed by manipulating the diversity of four different aquatic plant species in experimental ponds. As species richness increased, so did the total combined biomass of macrophytes and algae and thus the ponds' ability to support animal life. These experiments suggest that wetlands should be managed through human disturbance to prevent competitive species from dominating the ecosystem.

Upcoming Conferences and Events:

NEW LISTINGS:

Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring: A Technical Training Workshop
Two sessions: July 23-27, 2001, and July 30-August 3, 2001
Forest Grove, Oregon

This 5-day workshop will train participants to use and to teach the use of data collection

equipment and techniques for school- and citizen-based volunteer monitoring programs. Participants will work alongside scientists and Student Watershed Research Project staff in both lab and field settings.

Topics to be covered include

- Ecosystem monitoring methods for biological, chemical, and physical attributes of streams and watersheds.
- Strategies for data management, reporting, and quality control.
- Watershed connections to enhance programs through curriculum integration and community resources.
- Program design and assessment, including site selection and safety.

Registration forms and other information are available on-line at www.swrp.org or contact Stacy Renfro by e-mail at renfro@admin.ogi.edu or by phone at 503-748-1363.

The Society for Conservation Biology: Ecological Lessons from Islands

July 29-August 1, 2001

Hilo, Hawaii

The Society for Conservation Biology will host its annual conference, focused on the theme *Ecological Lessons from Islands*. The conference will include discussions on figurative islands of isolated fragments of habitat within altered landscapes. A variety of field trips are planned to give participants an opportunity to gain familiarity with the highly endemic Hawaiian biota, the agents acting to diminish it, and the efforts of local conservation biologists and managers to develop strategies for providing long-term protection for what remains. For more information on the conference, visit the web site

www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~scb.

Watershed 2002

February 23-27, 2002

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

The Water Environment Federation and the Florida Water Environment Association will sponsor the conference Watershed 2002, with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District, American Water Works Association, and Audubon of Florida. Watershed 2002 will explore the challenges of managing the world's watersheds while highlighting the unique issues of the Conference's host region, the southeastern United States.

For more information on the conference, visit the Water Environment Federation's web site at www.wef.org/Conferences or e-mail Greg McNessy at GmcNelly@wef.org.

PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

8th International Waterfowl and Wetlands Symposium

The Waterfowl Legacy: Links to Watershed Health

July 21-22, 2001

Memphis, Tennessee

Ducks Unlimited hosts the International Waterfowl Symposium every 5 years. Experts from around the world gather to share their research findings and their opinions on a range of issues affecting waterfowl, wetlands, and their management. The four sessions this year will cover Watershed Health and Waterfowl, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Checkup, The Future of Waterfowl, and Beyond North America. The symposium will be held at the Hyatt Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. For more information, see www.ducks.org/conservation/symposium_conference_2001.asp or contact Brenda Carlson, Ducks Unlimited, at One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120. Phone: 901-758-3707; e-mail: bcarlson@ducks.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 will address 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@american.rivers.org.

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

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Restoration-Related Web Sites

<http://science.kennesaw.edu/~jdinber/lake.html>

The Georgia Lakes Society was created by representatives of lake associations, state and local governments, academics, conservation agencies, and interested citizens in response to the many problems faced by lakes in Georgia. The group provides a statewide forum for the exchange of information on lake management strategies and seeks to foster the development of local lake and wetland restoration and protection programs in accordance with appropriate management strategies and techniques.

<http://www.desplainswatershed.org>

The Des Plaines Watershed Team is an organization of volunteers focused on flooding, water quality, and related storm water issues in the Des Plaines River watershed in Illinois. This site contains an informative page on what you can do to protect your watershed that has suggestions for anyone interested in watershed protection.

<http://gabuffers.org/>

Georgia Buffers. Georgia Buffers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving citizens access to technical information and helping them to preserve and restore the banks and vegetation along waterways. This web site offers information about laws and ordinances, restoration techniques, educational resources, funding, the Georgia Stream Buffer Initiative, and many other restoration-related topics.

<http://www.darp.noaa.gov>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Damage Assessment and Restoration Program. NOAA's Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (DARP) conducts natural resource damage assessments and restoration of coastal and marine resources injured as a result of oil spills, releases of hazardous materials and ship groundings.

<http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/cerpi/default.htm>

California Ecological Restoration Project Inventory. A combined private/nonprofit/government database containing information on restoration projects in California. Projects can be viewed by counties or by vegetation/habitat type.

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

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Information Resources

Wetland Functions and Values

A web-based training module available through the Watershed Academy. This module reviews the contributions that wetlands make to our water quality, economy, recreation, environmental health, and other areas. At the end is a self-test and a printable list of every wetland function/value discussed in the module. You can access this module at www.epa.gov/watertrain/wetlands as part of the Watershed Academy Web on-line training program. For more information contact Bill Sipple at 202-260-6066.

The Ripple Effect: How to Make Waves in the Turbulent World of Watershed Cleanup Plans

Published by the Clean Water Network

This new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) handbook is designed to help citizens get involved in the development and implementation of TMDLs. The handbook walks citizens through the cleanup plan process and suggests questions to ask, policy and technical issues to raise, organizing and media tactics to try, and more.

The handbook can be downloaded in pdf format from www.cwn.org under the impaired waters section. Hard copies of the handbook are free for Clean Water Network members and \$10 each for nonmembers. To order your copies, contact Merritt at mkfrey@micron.net or 208-345-7776. Bulk orders are accepted.

Conservation Biology in Practice

Published by the Society for Conservation Biology

The Society for Conservation Biology is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. It offers a quarterly magazine dedicated to bridging the gap between conservation science, practice, and policy. For more information visit

<http://cbinpractice.com/CBiP/>.

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