

National NEMO Network

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Summer/Fall 2005 Newsletter

Network members pose for a group photo at NEMO University 4 (a.k.a NEMO U4ia).

Charting a Course for Better Land Use

This summer the National NEMO Network released its second progress report, *Charting a Course for Better Land Use*,—kind of the Network's Greatest Hits Volume 2. The Report provides a sampling of local actions that have been catalyzed by NEMO programs.

The first Network progress report, issued in 2003, focused on how the various NEMO programs developed, how they were structured and what they had begun to accomplish. Now that the Network and many of its programs have been around for a few years, those accomplishments have grown into what we feel is a truly impressive body of work. Therefore, this report focuses on "impacts"—the local actions that have been catalyzed, initiated, supported by or in some other way set into motion by NEMO programs.



In compiling this report, we at the Network "Hub" were delighted and impressed by all that our colleagues around the country have accomplished and the wide range of local actions that they have helped set into motion. From changes to community plans to improved land use regulations to on the ground

education is working in communities across the country.

The report has been distributed far and wide within the Extension and Sea Grant networks, to our many federal and state partners, to a few folks in Congress, and all members of the Network Coordinator's extended family over age 3. Nevertheless,

there are still plenty available in the catacombs beneath the Hub's Humble Haddam home for anyone interested. Contact Kara Bonsack at 860-345-5227 or kara.bonsack@uconn.edu to request copies of the report. ☀

After the U4ia Subsides

Well, it took a while, but the U4ia has subsided. This fourth iteration of the Network's national conference was certainly the largest, with participation from 53 existing and potential NEMOids and an equal number of NEMO partners from federal agencies and national organizations. In its wake, U4ia has left a pleasant hang-over in the form of new ideas and energy that is guiding the Network forward.

First, U4ia has helped **regional networking** take hold. The Great Lakes/Midwest folks have been meeting regularly via conference call and are considering a face-to-face confab later this year. The Northeast NEMO programs are participating in a regional Stormwater LID Training Workshop in early November. In the South, NEMO programs are meeting at the USDA Regional Water Quality Conference to discuss bringing the NEMO message to the rural south.

Second, we are in the process of **revising the National NEMO Network website** to better highlight the great things NEMO programs are doing, while also bulking up and streamlining (if that is possible) the member resources section. We welcome any and all ideas you may have for improving the site, but let us know soon as the ball has already started rolling.

Third, since U4, we have been in discussions with the NOAA Coastal Services Center and Center for Watershed Protection to find new ways to bring their resources to the Network. One idea is to

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Program Spotlight

New York NEMO

- Article by Eileen Keenan, Water Quality Educator and Steven Mikulencak, Water Quality Specialist

The New York Sea Grant NEMO Program (NYSG NEMO) is based on Long Island, where vast aquatic resources fringe the nearly 1000 miles of Long Island coastline. Long Island Sound, the South Shore Estuary Reserve and the Peconic Estuary sustain economic, recreational, cultural and environmental resources that are integral to the quality of life for Long Islanders.

However vast these resources are, the threats to them are equally great. Spreading east from New York City with a population topping 2.8 million, land use regulations on the island are carried out by over 100 independent cities, towns and villages. After decades of rapid growth, Long Islanders now face impaired surface water quality, restricted or closed bathing beaches, closed shellfish beds, reduced navigability, declining shoreline aesthetics and degraded wetlands and wildlife habitats. Not surprisingly, nonpoint source pollution has been identified as a primary cause.

Initiated in May 2000, NYSG NEMO started in support of two intermunicipal watershed management programs to reduce the impacts of runoff on Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay. Using presentations and fact sheets adapted from CT NEMO materials, NYSG NEMO illustrated the regional context of local land use decisions. A three-tiered strategy of watershed-based planning, site design and BMPs were recommended, and several villages responded by making changes to village laws and pollution prevention practices.

In 2001 when EPA Phase II stormwater regulations came on the scene, the Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay Protection Committees' municipal officials recognized NYSG NEMO's ability to synthesize Phase II implementation with existing resource protection initiatives, and in 2001 they requested NYSG NEMO's help

again. Comprehensive in scope and applying to nearly all localities on the Island, these new regulations dovetailed nicely with existing NEMO themes. Perhaps most importantly, the New York Phase II program, like the federal program from which it originates, encourages watershed-based intermunicipal implementation.

Spinning off from these experiences, NYSG NEMO began to work with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to assist in the development and dissemination of State-specific municipal Phase II guidance information. NYSG NEMO has also spoken at conferences, seminars and workshops at the state and local level and has provided Phase II presentations to the Suffolk County Planning Commission, the Nassau and Suffolk County Legislatures and the Long Island Regional Planning Board. NYSG

NEMO was also a primary sponsor of the 2002 Long Island stormwater conference, which was endorsed by both county executives and attended by over 130 officials.

In addition to the overlap between the "classic NEMO" message and the EPA Phase II regulations, NYSG NEMO identified similar cross-initiative overlaps with the three estuary programs on Long Island. NYSG NEMO now advances a proactive watershed-based management strategy that leverages the objectives of a flexible Phase II program alongside the objectives of the Estuary programs in order to better respond to local concerns about funding, staffing, expertise and generating practical results. Specifically, NYSG NEMO demonstrated that watershed-based intermunicipal delivery of Phase II activities could extend Phase II budgets, promote consistent intermunicipal approaches to land use planning and maximize resource protection.

NYSG NEMO is now progressing with



NY NEMO utilizes satellite images to help demonstrate the need for stormwater management partnerships.



Around the Network

Kudos and Awards

► The Hub was impressed to learn that **Kristine Uhlman**, coordinator of the Arizona NEMO Program, has recently been **named by Governor Janet Napolitano to the State's Water Protection Fund Commission**. The Commission oversees an annual pot of funds for measures to maintain, enhance and restore rivers and streams and associated riparian habitat. Congrats Kristine!

► **Northland NEMO's multimedia Guide to Using Natural Resource Information in Local Decision Making** (above) has been honored with a **Merit in Planning Award** from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In addition, the regional planning agency for the seven county Minneapolis/St. Paul area is using the guide to help communities prepare a required update of their comprehensive plans. The idea/inspiration for the guide came out of the NEMO Network's 2002 *Open Space Planning Boot Camp*.



► The **Nevada and Connecticut NEMO programs have been honored with "Outstanding Educational Materials Awards"** from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). Susan Donaldson with NV NEMO won a Silver award for her adaptation of the NEMO Fact Sheet series in the "Long Publication" category (she also copped a Gold award for her *Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group Public Outreach Campaign* and a Silver award for her *Are Invasive Weeds Ruining Your Neighborhood?* publication). The CT NEMO Team received a Bronze award for the Connecticut's Changing Landscape (CCL) website in, appropriately enough, the



A selection from the NV NEMO fact sheet series and CCL website home page.

"Web Page" category. Link to Susan's NEMO fact sheets in the Publications section of the National website (nemonet.uconn.edu) and the CCL site can be found in the Projects section of the CLEAR website (clear.uconn.edu).



Tim and his advisor pose for a graduation photo.

► After years of hard work and stunning academic achievement, **Ohio NEMO's Tim Lawrence has earned his PhD** from The Ohio State University. The ceremony was even broadcast live over the internet, certainly due to his national reputation Dr. Lawrence has received as a result of his illustrious work as coordinator of Ohio NEMO. Seriously, Tim, congratulations! ☀

Relive Old Times on the List

We recently discovered that UConn has been keeping an archive of the NEMO Network listserv. So if you remember seeing something on the listserv, but have long since deleted it from your inbox, you can go to the archive, look at all the postings for any particular month, search them, and even post a new message from there. The archive can be found at: listserv.uconn.edu/nemo-1.html. ☀

Welcome New NEMOids!

Several new NEMO coordinators and staff have joined the Network over the past few months. Many of you met **Steven Mikulencak** and **Christy Witters** of NY NEMO at NEMO U4. While Christy has since moved to Vermont, Steven continues to work with Eileen Keenan to expand NY NEMO's work on Long Island.

- **Michael Dietz** has joined the **CT NEMO** team in the unofficial position of Dr. Stormwater (officially he is an Extension Educator specializing in low impact development (LID) stormwater practices). Mike earned all of his degrees at UConn, including his recently completed PhD from the Natural Resources Management and Engineering Department.
- The new **VT NEMO** Program, which is coordinated by the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program, recently hired **Emma Melvin** to coordinate their efforts in the state. Emma was formerly a hydrologist with the USGS in NJ and grew up along the Neshaminy River in Newton, PA (the focus of one of the PA NEMO projects). In the small world department, her boyfriend works with Christy Witters at the VT DEP.
- The **GA NEMO** program has tapped **Katie Hoover Alvarado** to take over the reigns from Lee Sutton. Katie is a Duke alum (which we at UConn will try not to hold against her) who grew up in Virginia, and has a background in environmental management.

New & Noteworthy

New Publications

► **Mississippi NEMO** (a.k.a. Community Growth Readiness-NEMO), in partnership with the Mississippi Forestry Commission and Mississippi State University, has developed a package of educational materials designed to help communities use urban forest management plans to manage stormwater and heat effects in urban areas. The package includes a manual on developing urban forestry management plans and several related presentations. For more information contact **James MacLellan** at james_maclellan@deq.state.ms.us.

► **Texas NEMO** recently released *Choices for Growth*, a primer on urban growth. The primer seeks to help Texas communities consider open space, smart growth principles, best management practices (BMPs) and low impact development techniques as they grow. The



Cover of the TX NEMO publication *Choices for Growth*.

publication was funded by NOAA's 2002 *Coastal NEMO Enhancement Grant* program. While focused on Texas, it is a good resource for other NEMO programs as well. Contact John Jacob at jjacob@tamu.edu to request a copy. ☀

NEMO: the New TV Show

Minnesota's Lakes at Risk is a brand new television program about the impacts of development on lakes and the importance of long term investments to protect our valuable lake resources. The program talks about how increasing development, on the shoreline and in the watershed, impacts habitat and water quality. It goes on to discuss what citizens and local officials can do to restore and protect lakes.

The program (which debuted October 30 on PBS's Minnesota Channel in the Twin Cities) is based on **Northland NEMO's** *Linking Land Use to Lake Quality* presentation.

The Northland NEMO Program will

be making DVDs of the video and distributing them to lake associations and local officials in Minnesota in early 2006. They are also happy to share with the Network. For more information or to reserve a copy, contact **Julie Westerlund** at jwesterlund@minnehahacreek.org. ☀

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institute a **NEMO Training Academy**, that would serve as a complement/counterpoint to the more networking-focused NEMO U conference and help infuse the Network with new tools, ideas, skills and resources. Thanks to all the Coordinators who filled out our web survey on training needs. We are currently in the process of evaluating your feedback and hope to get started on some form of Network-wide training by the spring.

Finally, we have already begun casting our sights on **Cinco de NEMO** (a.k.a. NEMO U5), coming to a location near you in the fall of 2006. Look for a "Save the Date" announcement soon! ☀

Don't forget to check out the NEMO and National Network websites' News sections for additional information & articles throughout the year.

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Phase II implementation support. They have developed a focus topic presentation entitled, "*Protecting Water Resources: Pollution Prevention and Good House-keeping for Municipal Employees*," (now available to Network members on the NEMO Network website) which was delivered to nearly 100 municipal staff and officials from throughout Nassau County in November 2004. The session included information on road and storm sewer system maintenance, illicit discharge

detection, landscaping practices, transportation, yard pollution prevention and hazardous materials control. NYSG NEMO recommendations emphasize regional operations, consistent practices, clear standards, joint service contracts, cooperative acquisition and use of equipment and effectiveness evaluation. All the while, they continue to stress how land use activities affect water quality, and that the best management practice really is a deliberate and comprehensive planning program. ☀

National NEMO Network

Contact NEMO at: University of Connecticut, CES, 1066 Saybrook Road, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438
 • Phone: (860) 345-4511 • Fax: (860) 345-3357
 • Email: nemo@uconn.edu • Web: nemonet.uconn.edu
 • Editor: Dave Dickson • Designer: Kara Bonsack

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