

National NEMO Network

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An Occasional Newsletter

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First Annual NEMO U Meets

A Network is Born

The National NEMO Network converged on Haddam, Connecticut October 2000 to hold the first ever network-wide conference. Over 40 participants representing 20 states came to the conference, dubbed "NEMO University," to discuss how to collaborate, share methodologies and research, and develop new educational strategies. Representatives of the NEMO Network also heard updates from each of the states, as well as the latest from the Connecticut program.

Of course, NEMO U was not all work and no play. Attendees also had time to tour the fall New England landscape with a guided tour through the Eightmile Watershed, a NEMO sponsored watershed project, and a boat tour down the Connecticut River. "NEMO U is the first time we have all sat down together as a group to mull over successes and challenges, and map out what we wish to accomplish in the future," commented John Rozum, National NEMO Network Coordinator. "The National NEMO Network is attempting to create a truly interactive network of shared experiences among diverse state projects. In order for any interaction between projects to be successful, we must get to know each other"

"It was a great opportunity to learn about NEMO and related projects around the nation, and to meet and network with my colleagues in this field." observed Jeff Potent, EPA Region 2 Cooperative Extension Liaison. Currently, 19 states have active NEMO programs and additional states are organizing

and looking for funding. Network projects focus on issues ranging from impervious surface reduction, to quality of life and community character, to habitat protection in the face of suburbanization. The diversity of topical focus throughout the Network will help to build collaborative partnerships among member projects.



Network Members transfixed by Chet Arnold's presentation.

NEMO U was underwritten by a grant from NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program. The USDA and EPA also support the National Network, and many individual state projects are funded by CWA Section 319 funds.

"Over the past several years, many agencies and organizations have reached the conclusion that the key to protecting natural resources relies on better local land use

decisions," says Jim Gibbons, a Land Use Educator. "NEMO's focus on local land use decision makers represents a nonregulatory way to address the diverse range of issues now encompassed in catch phrases like 'smart growth' and 'liveable communities'." National Coordinator Rozum observed that a primary focus of NEMO U participants was promoting low impact development and natural resource-based planning. Participants also agreed to continue strengthening the Network by sharing information and materials, staying in close contact with other members, and signing the National NEMO Network Compact to define what it means to be a Network member. Concluded Rozum, "In many ways the conference really was the birthplace of the National Network." ■



NEMO National
1066 Saybrook Rd
Haddam, CT 06438
Tel: 860 345 4511
Fax: 860 345 3357
jrozum@canr.uconn.edu

Maine NEMO Project Continues Northern Campaign

Update submitted by Brad Guay, Maine NEMO Coordinator



Maine NEMO Coordinator in a contemplative mood.

Maine NEMO was franchised from the nationally revered, and locally worshiped, CT-NEMO in Oct 1999. Maine NEMO has vaulted itself to the head of the class by having of a full-time coordinator and a benign cover agency, the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. The majority of the substantial project funding comes from the U.S. EPA (319), which is funneled through the

Maine State Department of Environmental Protection, and the Maine Coastal Program bestows a more discriminating portion from the Maine State Planning Office. The solitary nonpoint educator in the entire State, at least in name, is Brad Guay, an affable Maine native, hydrologist, and doctoral student.

Spliced to Maine NEMO are elements of landscape architecture and watershed planning, all garnished in Maine scenery. In less than two years, Maine NEMO has been presented nearly 60 times to audiences such as Town Councils, Planning Boards, Shellfish Commissions, Conservation Commissions, Water Districts, Anglers Associations, Universities, and County Commissioners. It has been trumpeted from Kittery to Bar Harbor, and seen by LL Bean officials and a divorced Rockefeller. Two State Representatives, Tom Bull (Freeport) and Ted Koffman (Bar Harbor) are survivors of a Maine NEMO presentation and strong supporters. In upcoming months, Maine NEMO is being presented to the Maine Water Conference, the Northeastern Society of Professional Foresters, and the Town of Yarmouth.

Maine NEMO has organized two stream teams in Freeport to provide on-the-ground reinforcement for

planning board action. This effort was heralded in local headlines, "First Stream Team in State, Freeport." The teams are used for water quality advocacy and monitoring. To avoid fieldwork, Guay has twice beguiled Bowdoin College hydrology students into investigating local stormwater problems.

Maine NEMO has been featured in several press articles. *The Ellsworth American* recently (3/1/01) featured Guay's presentation in the Town of Northeast Harbor, a coastal hamlet on Mount Desert Island, bordering Acadia National Park. "He used GIS to identify threats to water quality, labeling point source discharges red, nonpoint discharges yellow, and conservation areas in green . . . we now know how to prioritize our ordinance review process," says town planner, Bobbi Williams. "The clammers were happy to see him come, because

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NEMO means more flats can be eventually opened." Guay was also featured in the *Forecaster* earlier this year where the town planner later exclaimed, "we strongly support the continuation of year two of the NEMO project . . . the planning board was very enthusiastic about the presentation and invited him back to discuss innovative ways of dealing with impervious surfaces."

NAUTILUS Website Sports New Features

The NAUTILUS Website has been undergoing some significant improvements over the past year thanks, in part, to the coordination of program specialist, Jeff Bolton. New to the site is an interactive G.I.S. mapping interface, using ESRI ArcIMS, designed to help officials access and manipulate geospatial information in four of NAUTILUS's target watersheds. Another new feature is an Image Map Server which provides access to remote sensing information: from 1995 and 1999 LandSat imagery to high resolution (1 meter) IKONOS data. Stop by the website and see what the NAUTILUS team is up to.

www.resac.uconn.edu



Maine NEMO Collaborators

- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dept of Environmental Protection
- Office of State Planning
- EPA Region 1

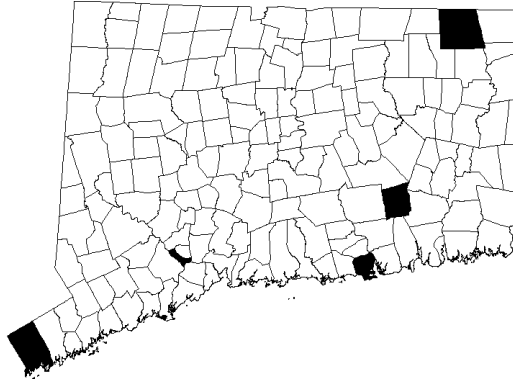
Connecticut's Municipal Initiative

A New Model Helps Towns Implement the NEMO Message

Over the next year (2001-2002) five Connecticut towns, **Greenwich, Derby, Old Saybrook, Salem and Woodstock**, will be participating in a program that will result in the implementation of land management policies and practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and protect natural resources. The Connecticut NEMO Project, through a partnership with the CT Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Program and US EPA Region 1, will be helping local officials understand the basic principles of nonpoint source pollution, the various options available to address nonpoint source issues, and the connections between these options and other vital community issues like "sprawl."

Our project strives to put local officials "in the drivers seat" when balancing development and conservation. In striking this balance a municipality must take a comprehensive, natural resource-based approach towards land use planning. This approach includes: **FIRST** knowing what resources a municipality has; **SECOND** incorporating this knowledge into their planning documents (open space followed by comprehensive plan); and **THIRD** giving "teeth" to their planning efforts via their land use regulations.

The five CT towns were selected as a result of a statewide request for participation. Each town entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NEMO program agreeing to follow a comprehensive planning approach and showing their commitment by establishing a NEMO Task Force. Each town's Task Force is made up of representatives from each of the land use boards and commissions in addition to staff and the chief elected official.



The Five Towns chosen for the first year of the Municipal Initiative. Towns will conduct an in-depth review of municipal regulations and practices for compliance with NEMO principals.

Each municipality entered into a MOU . . . agreeing to follow a comprehensive approach, and to show their commitment by establishing a NEMO Task Force.

The CT NEMO team will provide educational workshops, publications, and Internet resources to guide the towns through a review of planning documents and regulations incorporating natural resource protection/impervious surface reduction. Other assistance may be provided based upon the nature of the project. Staying true to our educational message, we will NOT prepare plans, conduct natural resource inventories, or write regulations.

An additional goal of the Connecticut Municipal Initiative is to provide models for other CT municipalities, and even for communities in other states, through the work of the National NEMO Network. Consequently, part of the selection process involved choosing towns that can best serve as model communities, both individually and as a group. This led us to look for municipalities in different watersheds with various resource protection issues, municipal land use staffing levels and demographics (see map above). Through this program, we hope to further strengthen our commitment to Connecticut communities while ensuring the implementation of better land use practices. ■

To learn more about the Municipal Initiative and other Connecticut projects go to NEMO's website:

[nemo.uconn.edu/
edprog.htm](http://nemo.uconn.edu/edprog.htm)

Municipal Program Participants

- University of Connecticut
- CT Dept of Environmental Protection
- Town of Greenwich
- Town of Derby
- Town of Old Saybrook
- Town of Salem
- Town of Woodstock

Other News of Note

Interagency Work Group Meets in Washington D.C.



Stu Tuller (in yellow) at NEMO U preparing for his new life at sea.

The National NEMO Network Interagency Work Group held its annual meeting on December 7, 2000 in Washington D.C. EPA Office of Water hosted the meeting, which was attended by Work Group members from EPA, USDA/CSREES, NOAA, and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Robert Wayland, Director of the EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, welcomed the group and reiterated EPA's support for NEMO and the National Network. John Rozum and Chet Arnold then unveiled a new 10-minute videotape on NEMO,

produced by USDA, that showcases NEMO's work in several Connecticut communities.

Next, Chet and John updated the Work Group on the growth of the Network and the success of NEMO U, emphasizing the desire of NEMO U participants to move forward together as a true national Network. The discussions that followed were very upbeat, focusing on how to continue to increase awareness of, and bolster funding for, the Network. Short-term follow up to the meeting includes a NEMO presentation to the annual Coastal Zone Managers meeting in March, and a NEMO presence at upcoming national NACo conferences.

The meeting was also a send-off of sorts for Stu Tuller of the Nonpoint Source Control Branch, a stalwart NEMO supporter who is retiring after many years of service to EPA (see photo to left). Best of luck, Stu! ■

Resources

Nation-wide Land Cover Dataset Available

(Reprinted from USGS News Release-12/19/00)

The USGS and EPA have teamed to compile the first seamless National Land Cover Dataset using satellite 30 meter resolution Landsat Thematic Mapper imagery and other data sources. Eight CD-ROMs are currently available, providing 21 categories of land cover information for states east of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. USGS plans to release 21 more CD-ROMs that contain data for the remaining lower 48 states by spring 2001. The CD-ROMs can be ordered from the USGS EROS Data Center. The map showing currently available data is at

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/programs/lccp/mrlcreg.html>

Additional information about the program is at

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/programs/lccp> ■

The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated programs protecting natural resources through land use education. Support for Network projects comes from a variety of state and federal sources. Support for Network coordination comes from USDA/CSREES and EPA Nonpoint Source Control Branch.

NEMO and CWP Sign M.O.U.

NEMO and the Center for Watershed Protection cemented their growing partnership recently with a Memorandum of Understanding that lists agreement between the two groups on a number of actions and principles. CWP Executive Director Tom Schueler and NEMO Directors Jim Gibbons and Chet Arnold signed the M.O.U. during Schueler's February 13th visit to the NEMO offices in Haddam, CT (photo below). The signing was immediately followed by an exchange of program sportswear. ■



Chet Arnold and Jim Gibbons attempt to injure Tom Schueler in an ugly moment at the M.O.U. signing ceremony.

