

# National NEMO Network

Winter/Spring 2008 Newsletter  
Volume 10, Issue 1

## FREMO Leafing Out

Like the trees here in Haddam, the Network's effort to more fully integrate forests into the NEMO educational arsenal is beginning to blossom.

Last fall 30 folks from 12 NEMO programs and their partners participated in the Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials (FREMO) Workshop in Annapolis, Maryland. The workshop featured great discussions on the benefits of forests, the links between forested landscapes and healthy watersheds, and strategies for integrating forest-related issues into natural resource based planning. All of the presentations and resources from the workshop are now available on the "Members Only" section of the NEMO Network website (see "For Members" Website call out box, page 4).

Since the workshop, four NEMO Programs have launched FREMO projects of their own, with seed funding from USDA CSREES and the forest service via the Hub. The goal behind these projects is to develop a variety of forest related educational programs and materials that can be adapted by the rest of the Network.

**Northland NEMO** is developing a forests component to their award-winning "A View from the Lake" educational boat trips on Lake Superior. The program will help participants understand basic forest ecology, how forests protect water quality

in both Lake Superior and tributary streams (many of which are trout streams), and ways that communities can promote the retention, regrowth and maintenance of forests.

**Vermont NEMO** is collaborating with Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry program to develop a curriculum to educate town officials and land use planners on the benefits of forest cover in maintaining water quality, and to engage them in water conscious land use planning through protecting existing forest cover and integrating trees into stormwater management.

**Oregon NEMO** is developing both educational materials on the economic and ecologic benefits of forests and geospatial tools to help communities visualize changes in forest cover and water quality under various development patterns.

**North Carolina NEMO** is also developing new educational materials, which will focus on linking forests to water quality, green infrastructure and other valuable ecosystem services. The presentations will include economic data on the cost of community services under different development scenarios and the value of the community benefits forests provide.

All of the materials developed through these projects will be made available to the entire Network for adaptation and replication. So stay tuned! ☀

## Get Your Kicks at NEMO U6

Road Trip! The excitement (and minor angst) is building here at the Hub for NEMO U6. For this sixth installment we are delighted to finally be heading west to the Monterey Peninsula in California. U6 will be held October 19-22, 2008 at Asilomar State Park and Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove.

For those who have not been to this part of the country and Asilomar in particular, you are in for a real treat. And for those who know the area, rest assured we are taking full advantage of the beautiful landscape and amenities this area has to offer. We are working on educational

pre-conference kayaking and whale-watching expeditions in Monterey Bay. We have reserved the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium for a dessert reception on our first evening. And to top it off, we will have a beachside bonfire barbeque—complete with s'mores and an acoustic performance by John Rozum—on the final night of the conference.

Thanks to the newly formed Network Advisory Group (see



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# Spotlight On... CICEET

*New Network Partner Focuses on Coastal Tools and Technology*

Up to a dozen NEMO programs will be involved in new projects focused on land use planning tools, as part of a new initiative of the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). The Institute recently awarded \$2.8 million to build a better land use planning toolkit for coastal communities. Thirteen project teams working in 20 coastal states received grants under CICEET's *Living Coasts* Program, which seeks to provide coastal areas with more effective tools to grow in a way that preserves water quality, protects natural areas and improves quality of life.

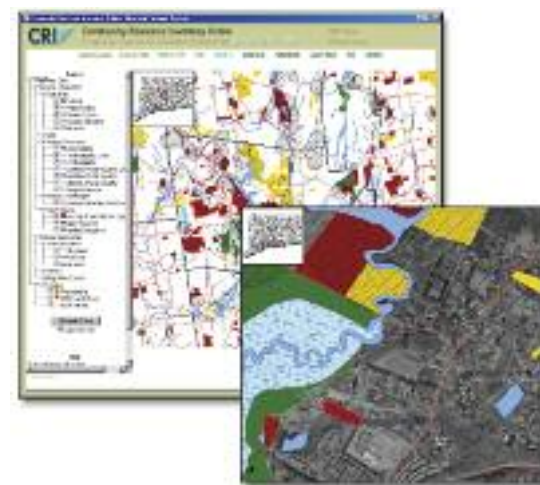
CICEET, a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of New Hampshire, develops and applies tools to protect and enhance coastal ecosystems and communities. Since its inception in 1997, CICEET has funded over 170 projects concerned with coastal tools, with a major focus on instrumentation and other field technology and a geographic focus on the reserves of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NEERS), a sister NOAA program. CICEET also provides funding and program support for the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, which is a familiar resource to most NEMOids in the Northeast.

The projects funded through CICEET's *Living Coasts* Program are the result of a painstaking course of surveys, discussions and focus groups designed to help them assess priority technology needs related to land use change. The resulting request for proposals (RFP), *Land Use Planning Tools to Improve Coastal & Estuarine Environmental Quality*, announced at Cinco de NEMO in October of 2007, stated that it was seeking "projects to demonstrate the innovative application of technology for land use planning as a means to improve the quality of coastal and estuarine waters and habitats." In a first for the NEMO Network, the RFP specifically mentioned NEMO programs (as well as Sea Grant and NERRS programs) as recommended partners in the submissions.

CICEET Program Manager Kalle Matso stated that "As we learned more about land use plan-

ning issues in the coastal zone, we kept bumping into the great work that NEMO programs are doing around the country. The NEMO Network just seemed like a natural partner for us as we expanded our investments in the land use arena."

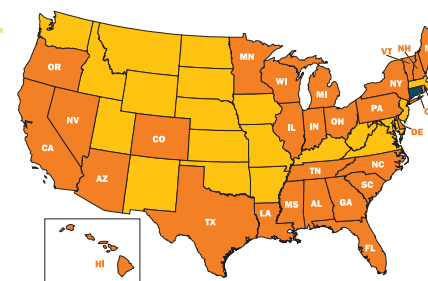
In all, eight of the thirteen projects funded involve NEMO. Oregon, Ohio, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and New Hampshire are all principal partners on projects, and Indiana, North Carolina, Minnesota and South Carolina are involved as well. Finally, the Center for Watershed Protection has a CICEET project that will involve a number of NEMO programs, as conduits for information between the Center for Watershed Protection and coastal communities.



CICEET is funding several NEMO-related projects around the country, including the franchising of Connecticut's online Community Resource Inventory (CRI) tool to Rhode Island, Minnesota and South Carolina.

The actual projects are too varied and wondrous to describe in this brief article, but they involve development, testing, dissemination and deployment of tools to assist communities with community resource inventories, stormwater modeling, watershed planning and coastal erosion.

Stay tuned for more at U6, where a CICEET project panel or discussion group is almost a certainty. Those who wish to learn more about CICEET can visit their website at: [ciceet.unh.edu](http://ciceet.unh.edu). ☀



## ▶ Indiana NEMO Launches POWERful Tool

The Indiana NEMO program (a.k.a. Planning with POWER) has launched a new online tool called *Local Community Decision Maker*. This massive website is filled with maps and research on environmentally sensitive areas, land use change, economic development, potential sources of contamination and more. The tool seeks to provide local planning officials with all the resources necessary to adequately balance growth and natural resource protection. It is definitely worth a look and sure to inspire POWER-envy. Check it out at [www.planningwithpower/dm](http://www.planningwithpower/dm).

## ▶ CT NEMO Completes Stormwater Trifecta

In March, CT NEMO unveiled a low impact development (LID) *regulation* website that allows users to search for and explore the entire text of LID-friendly planning and zoning regulations that their neighboring towns have adopted. This is the third of Connecticut's set of three integrated stormwater websites, collectively aimed at helping communities "get over the hump" in adopting LID and other innovative stormwater techniques. Much of the CT LID *Inventory* website (completed last year) is a portal to explore actual LID projects in other towns, this one helps them ensure their regulations permit or even encourage the use of LID practices. Go to [nemo.uconn.edu/tools.htm](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools.htm).

## ▶ New York - A State so Nice, They Signed the Charter Twice

The ink is now dry on the latest Charter member of the National NEMO Network—Hudson River NEMO. The Hudson River Estuary Program, which is coordinated by the State's Department of Environmental Conservation, has decided to launch a NEMO program focused on the commu-

# Around the Network

## NAG, NAG, NAG...

The Network Hub's 2008 New Year's Resolution was to find ways to solicit more input from Network members on where and how to steer this amalgam of like minded projects. With that in mind, we nominated six NEMOids (all of whom accepted) to serve on our Network Advisory Group (NAG)—Christy Perrin (NC), Tim Lawrence (CA), Bob McCormick (IN), Emma Melvin (VT), Al Wanger (CA) and Derek Godwin (OR).

Selected for their geographic and experiential diversity, we hope that the NAG will serve as adequate representatives of your interests, desires, hopes and dreams for the Network. They have already proven adept at this advising business—providing valuable feedback and ideas for NEMO U6.

And don't feel bad if you were not selected for this prestigious, resume-boosting appointment this time around. Half of the NAG will be replaced with new blood every year, so by 2014 all NEMO programs will have had the opportunity to serve. Let the politicking begin! (Bribes always considered.) ☀



NAG member Tim Lawrence (CA) reviews the latest NEMO U6 agenda.



A sample screen capture of Planning for POWER's new online tool, Local Community Decision Maker. The image depicts land cover change between 1992 - 2003.

nities of the Hudson River Watershed. Barbara Kendall, a Cornell Extension employee with the Estuary program, will lead the effort.

Of course, this is now the second NEMO program in New York with NY Sea Grant already coordinating a very successful program focused on Long Island. While this is great news for New Yorkers and the Network, we must admit that we are slightly bummed that we don't get to color in another state on the National Map. Oh, well, we take solace in the hope that the prehistoric-looking sturgeon (the "mascot" of the Hudson River Estuary) will soon join the list of cool NEMO program logos.



## NEMO Wins National Water Resources Award!

The NEMO program, comprised of CT NEMO and the National NEMO Network, was awarded the 2008 *Water Resources Team Award* from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for "Outstanding Integrated Program" at the USDA Water Quality Conference in Reno, Nevada in February. The NEMO Team was recognized for establishing an "outstanding program that has had a significant impact on the protection of water resources in urbanizing areas across the country." While the lovely vase resides here in a place of honor, we view it as a collective award for the entire Network (maybe we should have it travel around the country a la the Stanley Cup). Many thanks to the USDA CSREES for the award and to our colleagues for nominating us.

"As we learned more about land use planning issues in the coastal zone, we kept bumping into the great work that NEMO programs are doing around the country. The NEMO Network just seemed like a natural partner for us as we expanded into the land use arena."

- Kalle Matso, CICEET Program Manager

# New & Noteworthy

## Tech Training Troika Tested

In November of 2007, a sterling subset of NEMO Network members helped to beta-test a new three-day geospatial training workshop that focused on remotely sensed land cover information and how to use it. The training was developed as part of the NEMO Network's ongoing partnership with the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC), and also included partnerships with the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Geospatial Technology Extension Network (NGTEN) and the Institute for Applied Geospatial Technology (IAGT). The training session was under-



written by a grant from NASA to the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR), NEMO's parent organization.

The workshop was comprised of three one-day modules that were designed to be combined in various ways, or stand alone as one-day sessions. The November "test trial" went through the Full Monty of all three modules:

- *Understanding and Accessing Remotely Sensed Information*
- *Land Cover-Driven Landscape Analysis Models*
- *Disseminating Your Data: Putting Maps and Data on the Web*

Five stalwarts each from the NEMO, NACo and NGTEN networks participated (photo), and helped to evaluate the modules and their potential. Feedback was solicited both from the official testers and from the various partner organizations who helped to develop the program.

Overall feedback was very positive, and CSC and your faithful Hub are now wrestling with ways to fine-tune the workshops and make these modules available, perhaps working with NGTEN to provide trainers on a regional basis. We hope to broaden these conversations at NEMO U6. Also, a shorter form of the glowingly-reviewed "Putting Data and Maps on the Web," developed by CT NEMO's own Emily Wilson, will be offered at U6, so stay tuned.

Thanks again to our sterling group of Network guinea pigs: Patrick Beggs of North Carolina, John Rozum of Connecticut, Monique Myers of California, Emma Melvin of Vermont and Frank "Bust a Move" Burriss of Oregon. Anyone interested in the training sessions should contact Dave Dickson. ☀

*Get Your Kicks at NEMO U6 continued from pg 1 . . .*

article, page 3) and our CA NEMO (a.k.a. WALUP) hosts, the conference agenda itself ain't too shabby either. We are putting together some great training sessions on the economics of low impact development, getting maps and data on the web, conducting a build-out analysis and more.

One thing that will be slightly different from years past is that we are seeking

abstracts from NEMO programs for conference presentations. This will provide NEMO programs an opportunity to share a new tool, a new approach or a raging success with the rest of the network. Check the NEMO listserv for details. Abstracts are due on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Surfs up! And so is the website (see "For Members" Website call out box, above). ☀

## "For Members" Website

### Calling All FREMOids

The Hub has compiled and posted presentations from last fall's FREMO workshop as well as links to other useful materials including, publications, fact sheets and CLEAR's forest/landscape fragmentation tool. The materials are available to all who are interested (and have access to the secure section of the website).

Visit the Build Your Program's new Forested Watersheds Resources section.

### U6 Website

The NEMO University 6 website is online and registration is open! Conference information including; registration, agenda, logistics, organized events, area attractions, location, sponsors, contest and more can all be found on the site. (Please remember the conference is open to Network members and their partners only.)

Visit [nemonet.uconn.edu](http://nemonet.uconn.edu).

### Training/Conferences

Don't forget to check out upcoming Network training and conference events, and read about past events in the secure section of the Network website!

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