

National NEMO Network

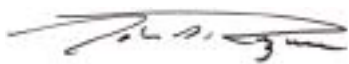
Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2003 Newsletter
Special NEMO U3 Issue

From the NEMO Hub

NEMO U3 was held on 4 glorious days in May 2003 at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point Campus situated on Fisher's Island Sound and was, by all accounts, a fabulous success. Sixty-five Network members, federal agency representatives and other notable guests met to discuss the future of the Network and to come up with ways we can better operate as a viable collaborative of educational programs. The success of this year's conference was dependent upon the efforts of the many speakers, panel leaders and participants. We thank you. We also thank the members of this year's conference planning committee for their sound advice and ideas.

Read on in this special edition of the Network newsletter to learn of the many activities and accomplishments of the conference. We're excited to begin work on implementing the many ideas put forth last May and are looking forward to our continued collaboration. Don't forget to mark your calendars for NEMO U4 in the Fall of 2004! ☀



John Rozum
National Program Coordinator

Top 3 Reasons Why NEMO U3 was a Great Success

Despite a spring full of bad budget news at home and war overseas, the Network turned out in force for the third Network conference, with 22 programs represented at the conference. Here are your Humble Hub's *Top 3 Reasons Why NEMO U3 was a Great Success*.

1. Networking. As most folks know, NEMO U is a true networking conference. The emphasis is on communication in all dimensions: between Network members, between the Network and the Hub and between the Network and its many partners. All indicators point to success on this front. From active breakout discussions to hallway conversations, interaction was plentiful. In the lunch lines and on the croquet field, the groundwork was being laid for regional collaborations, interstate partnerships and new directions for the Hub.

2. Distributed leadership is up and running. A major objective of U3 was to discuss and explore the idea of "distributed leadership" of the Network. While Connecticut continues to excel in its role as the Network Hub, many NEMO pro-

grams have developed expertise, programs and tools that could be of overall benefit to the Network. This was apparent in the "floor updates" that were part of many of the conference sessions, as well as in the forest of posters at the poster reception. In an effort to find ways to tap into these emerging leaders within our Network, the afternoon of the first day was given over to breakout sessions. Session participants were asked to help define Network needs in five critical areas, and devise plans for addressing these needs. Several new Network-wide initiatives are expected to grow out of these discussions (see related article). As a group, we have taken a huge step toward the goal of making the NEMO Network "more than the sum of its parts."

3. Ownership by federal partners was confirmed. More so than in past years, NEMO's many supporters and colleagues from federal agencies were front and center at U3. NOAA, USDA and EPA were all well represented, which was not only gratifying but added considerably to the range and quality of the discussions.

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Project Spotlight

Breaking Out at NEMO Central

Lesson #1 from U3: We are a real network now! And, as befitting an evolving entity, our needs have changed. Sharing information in all directions, as per the new model of “distributed leadership,” is the challenge of the day. Meeting that challenge by discerning the Network’s evolving needs was the objective of the breakout sessions that comprised the majority of U3’s first day. And, while your Network Hub staffers (being uptight Northeastern types) tend to break out whenever breakouts are mentioned, we feel that the results of those Day One discussions were critical to the health and growth of the Network. Here are brief summaries of the key findings and recommendations of the five breakout groups. More complete versions of the notes taken at these sessions are published in the conference CD.

What if we gave a haiku contest And no one entered? It didn't happen.

For no apparent reason that we can discern, we held the world’s first storm-water haiku contest at NEMO U3. Haikus are extremely simple verses to write. Generally consisting of 17 syllables, they test your ability to convey meaning in the most parsimonious way possible. The prize for our two first place winners? The honor of being published (here, that is). See your NEMO U3 CD to view all entries.

Stream rise stream fall, storm
Waters take all—off land off street
Land and water soon meet.
-Jessica D’Ambrosio (OH)

Floating upward free
Huddle and fall from the sky:
Orgy to the sea.
-Kevin Dobbs (KS)

Publications and presentations: As Network programs grow and evolve, they are beginning to develop their own educational publications and presentations in addition to adapting original Connecticut products. This situation provides a number of opportunities, and accompanying challenges, for the Network. First, there is a need within the Network to make these products available to fellow NEMO programs—but without giving NEMO material away to competitors in the private and public sectors. Second, there is a need to promote network-wide efficiencies by preventing duplication of effort, and stimulate regional or topical collaboration on educational products—but while also maintaining the independence and creative control of the originating programs. To these ends, the group recommended that the Hub create a password-enabled Network Resources web page that will post publications and presentations from around the Network. Of course, it’s not that easy. As with all listings of this type, there will be a number of challenges in creating an organized and useable system of categorizing the materials. Also, for new products there will have to be some consensus rules on things like peer review, credits, etc. However, with your support this site will become a major new resource for everyone. Look for a “call for submissions” to go out in the next six months.

Communications and web: How well do we communicate as a network, and what improvements can be made to this process? How do we currently market NEMO awareness and what can be done to improve this? How do NEMO programs

reach their target audience, what can the Network Hub do to help? The group discussed answers to these questions, focusing on use of the web and internet as the prime vehicles for intranetwork communication. Among the ideas: network templates for websites; presentations and fact sheets; a password protected website for sharing materials, including presentations, publications, photos and example plans and ordinances.



Sandy Prisløe (CT) and Eileen Keenan (NY) head the Data, Software and Technical Tools breakout session.

Data, software and technical tools: The group discussed issues of data processing, availability, cost, scale, resolution and accuracy and how these factors limit the utility of various data sets. The development of the Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT) and the National Geospatial Datasets web page (see pg 3) were cited as positive examples of what the Hub and its partners can provide for the Network. Basic GIS tips via fact sheets and newsletter articles were identified as one broad categorical need; in-depth training workshops on special topics such as visualization techniques/software were another. Look for the Hub to try to address these needs in the next several years (we are already working with the NOAA Coastal Services Center on ideas for the in-depth training).

New topical areas: The group identified a long list of possible topical areas, organized around several themes. With the growing number of Network members in new states, regional foci on unique natural features related to water resource protection will be important. These include

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Around the Network

New States Join the Network

California - Formally called the CA NEMO Partnership, this group is coordinated by the CA Coastal Commission and Mission Resource Conservation District. Last we heard, CA coordinators Tracy Duffey and Cindy Mallet were not on the ballot for governor.

Louisiana - The LA NEMO program is led by the LSU Extension and the Louisiana Sea Grant program. Still in the pilot phase, this project is focusing on parish officials in a coastal watershed.

North Carolina - This joint project between the North Carolina Sea Grant program and NC State University, builds on the success of some existing efforts. Focusing on coastal North Carolina, the organizers are planning to have Chet and John down in October to help with project scoping and to lead the assembled in the project fight song.

Utah - This program also builds on existing efforts out of Utah State University's Extension program. Look for more information about this program in upcoming issues. ☀

Maine NEMO Newsletter

For those of you who haven't seen it, go to the Maine NEMO website and download their first-ever newsletter! This 6-page periodical contains articles about ISAT, urbanization, Phase II and, of course NEMO U3. Nice work, Jodi! ☀

www.mainenemo.org/publication.htm

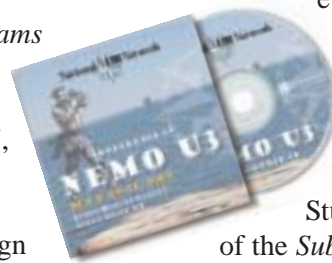


Network Workshops

Alabama NEMO - Watershed Academy: Principles of Water Quality Monitoring, Planning, and Restoration to be held on March 1-4, 2004 in Fairhope, Alabama. This workshop is sponsored by the USDA CSREES Southern Region Water Quality Program. To learn more or reserve a space visit www.aces.edu/waterquality/streams/academy.htm or contact Eve at brantef@auburn.edu.

Maine NEMO - Stormwater Management in Cold Climates: Planning, Design and Implementation to be held on Nov. 3-5, 2003 at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. This first-of-its-kind North American conference will focus specifically on the challenge of managing stormwater in cold climates. Leaders in the field will be featured, presenting the latest information and technologies addressing stormwater in cold climates. To learn more or reserve a space visit www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/coldsw.html.

Ohio NEMO - The Streams Channel Protection and Restoration Conference to be held on October 6 and 7, 2003 in Columbus, Ohio. Learn about all aspects of stream restoration and design from some of the leading experts in the field and help kick off the new "NEMO for Streams" training module. To learn more or reserve a space visit www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~streams. ☀



National Geospatial Datasets Web Page

If you've ever felt the need for geospatial data on a broad geographic scale, or needed to compare your area with other areas around the country, you should take a trip to the Geospatial National Datasets web page, created as a collaboration of CT NEMO, the UConn Geospatial Technology Program and your friendly NEMO Network Hub. Emily Wilson and Sandy Prisloe have done a great job of not only directing you to these NEMO-friendly datasets, but providing value-added, plain English information about such things as cost, scale projections, availability, downloading quirks, etc. Check it out:

clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/datasets/ ☀

NEMO U3 CD Now Available

After it became clear how informative, fun and action-packed U3 was, the Bonsack Production Group snapped up the rights (for the cost of two BLTs) and has now produced *NEMO U3: the CD*. It's all there:

everything that was in the registration packet, plus presentations, extensive photos, the conference poster and much more! Of special note: an absolutely stunning Rozum Studio digital video production of the *Subdivisions* field trip, featuring bravura performances by EPA's own Mel Cote and Dov Weitman, UConn's Jenifer Gilbert and others. If you haven't received a CD in the mail, call or email Kara for a copy. Sorry, the CD's for Network Members only. kara.bonsack@uconn.edu ☀



Breaking Out at NEMO Central continued from pg 2...

programs that give special attention to arid climates, clay/hardpan soils, cold climates and high water table areas. Another theme is new target audiences; expanding the NEMO focus on local land use officials to include key players in land development such as contractors, attorneys, developers and landscape architects will help to accelerate change. Programs using indicators other than impervious surface

were discussed, with some of the candidates being nitrogen (as per the Rhode Island model), phosphorous and storm water quantity. Finally, topical expansions into specific water resources (lakes, rivers, aquifers, estuaries) and/or protection techniques (low impact development) were identified. This is one topic area that depends much more on individual Network projects than on the Hub (phew!). In fact, many Network members are already forging ahead on some of these ideas—note the listings on page 3 for the upcoming Maine *Cold Climates* and the Ohio *Stream NEMO* conferences!

Impact evaluation and reporting: Everybody's favorite topic! This session began with reviews of the Connecticut and New Hampshire efforts to create frameworks for characterizing, collecting and reporting NEMO program impacts. Last year, the Hub sent out the CT NEMO evaluation framework, which focuses on

an impact scale that ranges from documenting educational success to “bottom line” local public policy and landscape impacts. NH is working on a NOAA-funded project that adapts their “Logic Model” of Extension program evaluation specifically for

NEMO programs. At this stage, with the NH work still ongoing, it appears that both frameworks are complementary. The plan is to integrate the two and send the

results out to the Network for comment. A critical need was identified for the Network to better aggregate impacts, including community impacts but also things like leveraged dollars and partnerships. An impact evaluation website on the Network home page was discussed, but as we say in the science game, “more research is needed” before this is implemented.

We realize that breakout session reports do not make for fascinating reading. BUT HEY, THIS STUFF IS IMPORTANT! Here at the Hub, we will be undertaking as much of the above as possible, because we can see the light at the end of the tunnel—the day we all start to realize, big-time, the enormous benefits of a true national network sharing resources and ideas. So, look for us to be bugging you on these multiple fronts, and we'll look for you to let us showcase your smarts, experience, tools and impacts for the Network to see. ☀

Ca·ma·ra·de·rie, *n* comradeship or good fellowship.

By all appearances, a good time was had by all. Ample documentation for even the most skeptical is provided in the mosaics throughout the newsletter.



With tears in their eyes, Chet and John reflect on the huge success of U3.

Top Three Reasons continued from pg 1...

From NOAA's Strategic Plan to the Smart Growth movement to the revamped USDA Water Quality Program, conference participants were able to triangulate on where their NEMO effort can, should or might fit into what's going on “inside the beltway.” Fittingly, the conference ended with discussions of the “319” Nonpoint Source Program and the Stormwater Phase II program, two sections of the Clean Water Act that are intertwined with NEMO in many states. Many thanks to our agency colleagues for coming to the conference and spending time with the Network. ☀



National NEMO Network

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The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published randomly by the National Network Hub.

The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated programs that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, with funding from USDA, EPA and NOAA.

The National NEMO Network is a program of the Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR), based in UConn's CES.

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