

National NEMO Network

Volume 6, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2004 Newsletter

Introducing . . . Dave Dickson

David Dickson is the new National NEMO Network Coordinator. Dave comes to UConn from Washington, DC, where he was the Program Manager for the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP), a not-for-profit organization that represents local government personnel responsible for ensuring environmental compliance and developing and implementing environmental policies and programs.

Dave coordinated and/or contributed to a number of initiatives for NALGEP, among them the “Smart Growth for Clean Water” project, a partnership with the Trust for Public Land, U.S. EPA and the U.S. Forest Service that first brought NEMO to his attention (and visa-versa). Recently, he’s also been working with his NALGEP colleagues to establish the *Brownfield Communities Network*, a national network of local communities working to demonstrate how the cleanup and reuse of contaminated property can be an effective tool for community revitalization.

Dave’s experience with national coordination and community-level projects will

obviously stand him in good stead in his new job here at the Hub. As an added attraction, he holds a JD from the University of Colorado School of Law in addition to his Masters from the same University’s Graduate School of Public Affairs, so he will be available to (literally) bail out some of his new colleagues.

Dave will be steeping himself in NEMO-ology over the summer, and begin to acquaint himself with all of you by

summer’s end. He notes that “*Hopefully, all the nuts out there in the NEMO Network aren’t quite so cranky and unreasonable as Rozum and Gibbons say they are!*”

Dave impressed the NEMO Team not only with his background and expertise, but with the fact that he was able to navigate the excruciating UConn hiring process while becoming

a father for the first time. Low-brow team members admit to some trepidation when we then found out that he had authored an article in the *Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy*. However, when we discovered that the title of the article was “Fuzzy Wuzzy Was a Bear...,” we were reassured! If the spirit moves you, please drop a line or call to welcome him to the Network. ☀



*New National Coordinator,
Dave Dickson.*

U4-ia Begins!

Euphoria—however spelled—is the watchword of the day here at the Network Hub. For one, with the addition of Dave Dickson as our new National Network Coordinator (see lead article), we are finally up to full strength at all NEMO line offices. As I ride (once again) into the sunset, let me say that I have enjoyed my brief stint as the Interim Part-time Provisional Network Coordinator. It gave me a renewed appreciation for the great work that you folks are doing out there, and what we yet might accomplish as a network.

Second, of course, we are gearing up for NEMO U4, to be held April 4-7 in Washington, DC. Between euphoria and U4-ia, a whole lot of reality will set in, what with the many details of conference sessions, field trips (can we find a boat trip?), receptions, etc. U4 will have a Big City feel, yet keep the homespun quality that has characterized NEMO U in the past. As John Rozum (remember him?) said to me this spring, “the agenda of NEMO U is almost irrelevant.” By this, we mean that NEMO U is not about topical training, but about strengthening the bonds of communication and collegiality that keep the NEMO Network alive, well and fun to be a part of.

So, I entreat, encourage and otherwise invite all of you to attend U4 in April. I think you’ll be surprised at the quality and diversity of what your Network colleagues have been up to. We’ll have new Network members to indoctrinate, community-level impacts to highlight and, of course, ample interstices for socializing.

Look for a total U-4 work-up in our next issue, and see you in DC. -Chet ☀

In This Issue

Project Spotlight

Ohio NEMO, a Success Story

Around the Network

- Vermont Joins Network
- New Products
- Workshop Updates

New & Noteworthy

NEMO Highlighted in the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Preliminary Report

Program Spotlight *Ohio NEMO*

-Article by Tim Lawrence, Ohio NEMO Program Director

As Ohio NEMO celebrates its fifth anniversary, the program's success and longevity has been attributed to its emphasis on finding areas of need for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution education that augment other programs within the state. Collaboration with partners, (see left column) and the assistance of four district-level watershed Extension agents, have helped Ohio NEMO assess the needs of communities attempting to address NPS pollution, and develop and deliver programs to meet these needs.

One of Ohio NEMO's primary contributions is to establish examples for mitigation of stormwater, and establish the scientific bases for regulatory approaches. An early example of this effort includes working on the use of bioretention landscape areas with the Clark County SWCD and the Village of New Albany. Another is work with the City of Columbus on establishment of a stormwater overlay in the Hellbranch watershed, a tributary of Big Darby Creek.

Ohio NEMO has also played an integral part in the Ohio State University (OSU) *CampUShed* project, the recipient of a Campus Ecology Award in 2003 from the National Wildlife Foundation. *CampUShed* applies NEMO principles to the OSU campus, integrating them into the teaching and research mission of the University. The project provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to learn about environmentally friendly concepts in construction, land use and daily activities on campus. Because the OSU campus faces many of the same challenges related to the NPDES Phase II program and low head dam removal that are confronting many communities, the project is also applicable in the "real world."

The work with *CampUShed* has opened many avenues into other University programs. Examples include the Ohio Stream Restoration, Ecology and Aquatic Management Solutions

(STREAMS) project, the internationally recognized Olentangy Wetland Research Park and the Waterman Farm Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center. These resources have in turn allowed Ohio NEMO to provide new and diverse water quality programs to communities throughout the state.

An example of this interaction is the *NEMO for Streams* program being developed with Ohio State University's STREAMS program (streams.osu.edu). This

collaboration has already led to the City of Columbus enacting a "river rules" concept into their new city stormwater overlay to protect the "streamway," in addition to riparian areas. NEMO programs can help to reduce the energy flow and pollutant loads into streams but often stop at the banks. *NEMO for Streams* plunges NEMO into the

creeks (eeeeek - it's cold in there!) providing educational programs that address issues of stream form and function. Local developers are now integrating the river rules concept into their site plans.

This positive collaboration has opened even more opportunities between NEMO and OSU Extension in water quality education. Ohio NEMO is now working with one of the major developers in Central Ohio and introducing them to the OSU Urban Landscape Ecology Program, which works to develop environmentally sound technologies and approaches to landscape planning, establishment, and maintenance. Next year, the 30 faculty members of the Urban Landscape program, the Franklin County Extension office (who will work with the homeowners association to continue the program) and Ohio NEMO will work with the developer to develop an Eco-Friendly (or NEMOesque) neighborhood. Without the trust developed through the Ohio NEMO and *NEMO*



Ohio NEMO provides new and diverse water quality programs to communities throughout the state. (Photos courtesy of Jodi Miller, Ohio State University.)

▶ Ohio NEMO Partners

- *The Ohio Watershed Initiative (a state supported effort between Ohio State University Extension)*
- *Ohio EPA 319 Program*
- *The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water*
- *The Ohio Storm-water Task Force (a coalition of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Extension educators, state agencies and private consultants)*
- *The Great Lakes Commission and their partners*
- *Numerous watershed groups and regional planning agencies.*



Students learn about farming practices during a lab held at the Waterman Farm on the campus of The Ohio State University. The city of Columbus is visible in the background.



Around the Network

Vermont Joins the Network

We are pleased to welcome Vermont's newly funded NEMO Program. Vermont's program is headed by Jurij Homziak, *Extension Assistant Professor*, from the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Extension Project UVM, located in Burlington. Email Jurij at jurij.homziak@uvm.edu. ☀

New Products

Northland NEMO, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to introduce two new products to help local communities incorporate natural resources into their activities: a brochure, "*A Quick Guide to Using Natural Resource Information*," and a companion CD, "*Guide to Using Natural Resource Information in*

Local Decision Making." Northland NEMO would like to extend a big thank you to the Network Hub for sponsoring Open Space Boot Camp and for sharing much of the information that appeared in this guide. ☀

Local Decision Making."

The Guide illustrates how using natural resource information in the local planning process can ensure that land use decisions are made in an environmentally sensitive and fiscally responsible way. It outlines a step-by-step Natural Resource-based Planning Process designed to provide planning guidance for people with a wide range of backgrounds and interests, including: local officials, local staff, concerned citizens, developers and other land use professionals.

For more information or to order the guide and companion CD, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/nrig or contact Julie Westerlund directly. Julie can be reached at julie.westerlund@dnr.state.mn.us or call 651-772-7938.

Northland NEMO would like to extend a big thank you to the Network Hub for sponsoring Open Space Boot Camp and for sharing much of the information that appeared in this guide. ☀

Workshops & Conferences

• **NEMO U4** will be held in Washington, DC, April 4-7, 2005. The conference will be housed at the historic Hotel Washington, across from the White House and near to the many cultural and aesthetic attractions of the National Mall.

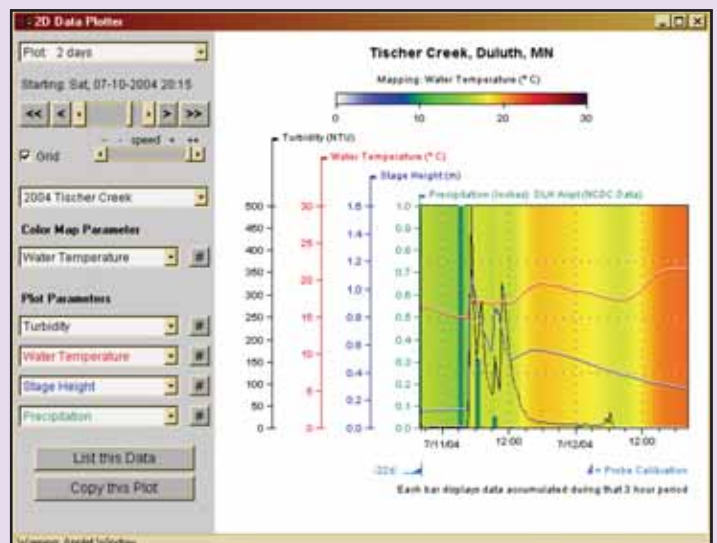
• **MN Sea Grant/Northland NEMO's** Jesse Schomberg will give a keynote on NEMO's role in protecting water quality at the International Exchange Symposium "Lake Environment and Civic Life in Harmony and Adjustment," held this November 6 & 7 in Ami-machi Japan.

• This past May, **Texas NEMO** (John Jacob) hosted the "Density by Design; Building a Great City, Preserving a Great Environment" conference. A full summary and presentations from the conference can be viewed at www.densitybydesign.com. ☀

The Importance of Water Quality Monitoring

- Article by Jesse Schomberg, Duluth NEMO Coordinator

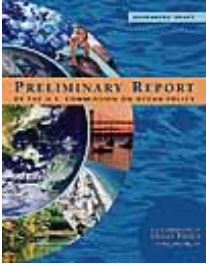
One of the fundamental pieces of NEMO is giving local communities information on water resources in their area. We use GIS to show watersheds, land use, streams, wetlands and, of course, impervious surfaces, among other things. One piece that's often missing is information on the actual water quality. In Duluth, Minnesota, we're involved with a project called **DuluthStreams.org**. A comprehensive, unbelievably useful and just plain snazzy website complements the project, as the name suggests. However, the exciting part is the three stream monitoring units placed in local creeks, which are feeding data in near-real-time to the website with the water depth, conductivity, temperature and turbidity in each of the streams. We've developed some nifty data visualization tools so people can see how the various parameters change over time and in relation to one another. We can watch, in movie-style, water temperatures exceeding Brook Trout lethal limits (10 times within 14 days in one of our trout streams last summer), stream temperatures jumping 10 degrees Fahrenheit



The graph above, created using the 2D Data Plotter on the duluthstreams.org website, shows turbidity, water temperature, stage height and precipitation over a two day span for Tischer Creek.

... continued on pg 4

New & Noteworthy



We're Famous!

The National NEMO program is highlighted in the preliminary report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, the first presidential

commission to review and make recommendations on national ocean policy since the Stratton Commission report was released in 1969.

Recognizing that "land use decisions dramatically affect the health of coastal waters," the Commission applauds NEMO for educating land use officials about the effects of their actions and policies on water quality and recommends an expansion of such efforts. Specifically, the Commission recommends that: **State and local governments should revise their codes and ordinances to require land use planning and decision-making to carefully consider the individual and cumulative impacts of development on**

water quality, including effects on stormwater runoff. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency¹ and other appropriate entities should increase outreach programs that provide local land use decision makers with the knowledge and tools needed to make sound land use decisions that protect coastal water quality². (Recommendation 14-11.)

A final report has been approved by the Commission and is expected to be released this fall. This recommendation is certainly a testament to the importance of the efforts of all the NEMO Network members and partners in their communities.

The full report can be found at website www.oceancommission.gov.

Note 1: The Network Hub provided comments to the USCOP that EPA should be joined by NOAA, USDA and NASA in the Recommendation, just as it was in the preamble.

Note 2: According to the USCOP website, key changes to the Preliminary Report include a recommendation for "significant expansion of the National Sea Grant College Program" (!!) ☀

The Importance of Water Quality Monitoring continued from pg 3...

in 15 minutes and turning into muddy torrents from small rains and salinity levels spiking well above trout lethal limits after snowstorms. We also have some limited data from some of the rural watersheds up the shore showing up to 300% + increases in phosphorus and sediment in rural developing watersheds over the past 30 years, and steady or declining levels in an undeveloped watershed.

This information lets us directly link land use to water quality, displays the impacts of local land use on our streams, is critical to showing that the problem is occurring here and now and really gives the imperious/land use story some teeth. Unfortu-



Screen capture from the unbelievably useful and just plain snazzy website duluthstreams.org.

nately, there's so very little of this data around. We gather every scrap, and still come up short. Long-term monitoring is difficult to fund and time consuming to maintain. From our experiences in Minnesota, though, it's well worth the effort and time, not only for our NEMO work, but also as an effective public education tool for schools, agencies and local communities. We're working now to expand

the monitoring stations to include upstream-downstream sites and rural watersheds, and to make sure everything's maintained into the future, so we can eventually see the fantastic successes of our NEMO program on local water quality. ☀

Ohio NEMO continued from pg 2...



for Streams program, it is unlikely that the eco-friendly neighborhood program would have even made it to first base. And, while the project is still a long way from home plate, the bases are loaded and Barry Bonds is at bat. If the developer implements the river rules and the eco-friendly neighborhood concept, it will set an example for communities and developers throughout the state to follow.

After five years, the NEMO approach (or whatever you call it) is clearly alive and well in many communities throughout Ohio. Ohio NEMO has demonstrated the benefits of working with others, collaborating to get the job done and finding solutions that make both economic and environmental sense. As a result, the impressive accomplishments of the program and its partners in addressing water quality in Ohio are only matched by the bright future that surely lies ahead. ☀

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: nemo.uconn.edu
 • Editor: Dave Dickson & Chester Arnold
 • Designer: Kara Bonsack

The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published randomly by the National Network Hub. The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated projects 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 UConn Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR, based in UConn's CES).

© 2004 University of Connecticut. The University of Connecticut supports all state and federal laws that promote equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination. 8-04



University of Connecticut

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources