

National NEMO Network

Winter/Spring 2006 Newsletter
Volume 8, Issue 1

View of Middletown, Connecticut in early fall from the Connecticut River.

The Taco the Town

Doesn't it seem like just yesterday we were subjecting you to all kinds of U4ic punnery? Well hold on to your sombreros, because NEMO U5, a.k.a **Cinco de NEMO**, is only a few months away. For this 5th installment of the National NEMO Network conference, we are returning to foliage filled Connecticut in the fall—October 16-19, 2006 in Middletown.

The Network Hub has been busy working with the Conference Advisory Committee (the Cinco NEMigos) to craft an agenda that meets the standards for networking, ideas and camaraderie you have come to expect from a NEMO U, with an extra dose or two of training thrown in. In addition to the usual network updates, regional meetings, poster reception, presentations and a boat trip, we are including two full days of training along two separate tracks, one geospatial and one topical, to provide more bang for your scarce travel buck (see article, right).

Why Middletown? Well, with a theme like Cinco de NEMO, we figured what could be more apropos than a small New England town? Plus, Middletown is a delightful, walkable town on the banks of the Connecticut River, one of the so-called "Last Great Places in America". Chock full of restaurants with cuisine from all over the world, including two restaurants where you can order a chimi-changa, Middletown is sure to surprise. Honestly, you never sausage a place.

Be sure to visit the Cinco de NEMO website (see ad on page 4) for all the details. ☀

Technically Speaking

Pssst...hey you...yeah, you over there, in the NEMO hat—you need training? Well, you came to the right place. You name it, we got it. We got your RS, your LID, your GIS, your ISAT, your CommunityViz... whatever you need.

Last Fall, the Hub asked NEMO program coordinators to complete a Geospatial Expertise & Training Needs Survey to gauge use, proficiency and interest in a variety of geospatial tools, as well as interest in topical training. While practically all programs see a need for using geospatial tools, lack of proper software and technical knowledge were cited as the biggest barriers to their use (See graphs. Complete summary results can be found on the Network website's For Members home page.)

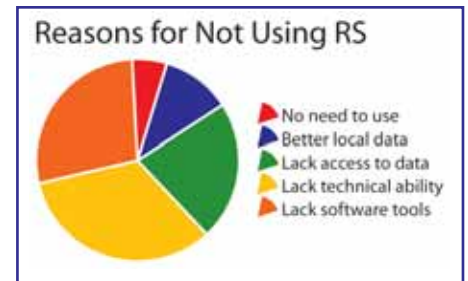
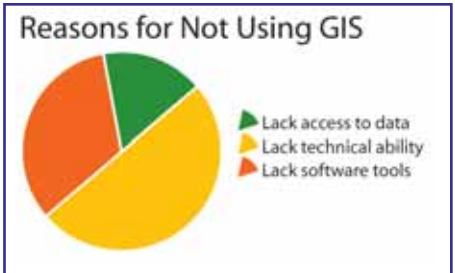
To help all Network programs take full advantage of the educational potential of geospatial technology, the NEMO Hub, in partnership with the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC), is seeking to develop technical training opportunities for the Network. Our first step is to offer basic GIS and Remote Sensing Training



to NEMOids this Spring (April 2-6) at the CSC in Charleston, SC. Educators from seven NEMO programs and two non-techie Hub staff (namely, Kara and Dave) will participate in the training. The hope is that the training will allow us to take advantage of more advanced training in the near future.

The next step is to beef-up training offerings at the next NEMO U, Cinco de NEMO, October 16-19 in Middletown, Connecticut (see article, left). Cinco de

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- Article by Joel Haden, Sustainable Development Project Manager

Tennessee NEMO Program Gets Results

Tennessee communities are growing and prospering in step with others in the Southeast. The pace of development is challenging the capacity of local governments to manage growth in economically and environmentally beneficial ways. Motivated by a growing concern about the health of municipal water sources, the introduction of new stormwater legislation and the enforcement of existing water quality requirements, community leaders are examining land use policies and the relationship between land use and the protection of water quality and water supply. **Tennessee Growth Readiness** is designed to help these decision makers manage growth and save money while protecting water resources and the quality of life in their communities.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture initiated the Tennessee Growth Readiness program, formulated from best practices including the University of Connecticut's NEMO program and the Center for Watershed Protection's Better Site Design principles and processes. Through funding from EPA, the Department made the program available to Tennessee communities, bringing together an excellent team to develop and deliver the program. The team, comprised of the Southeast Watershed Forum, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the University of Tennessee Water Resources Research Center, used insights from pilot communities and participants to craft a program that is fitting for Tennessee and the Southeast.

Program results in two short years are impressive. Officials from over 275 of Tennessee's 480-plus cities and counties have benefited from the program's training and technical assistance. Officials from nearly 200 of these communities have evaluated their existing development rules



Local officials receive training and technical assistance from the Tennessee Growth Readiness Program.

against the Center for Watershed Protection's Model Development Principles. Of these, more than 40 are changing their community's development rules, including reducing required street widths, clearing the way for developments that preserve open space, establishing aquatic buffers, etc.

One participant, Robert Karesh, Williamson County's Storm Water Coordinator, said of the program, "Tennessee Growth Readiness has given us a systematic way to think beyond traditional engineering approaches to managing stormwater and to work in partnership with our planning department."

The program has benefited from state agency support. State development district directors and state environmental regulatory agency staff promoted program participation. Dan Hawk, Director of the State

Local Planning Assistance department said of the program, "My staff serves 212 communities in Tennessee. Since our training, we've presented to planning commissions in 45 communities. Also, we're evaluating zoning, subdivision and site design regulations in 155 of our contract



Tennessee communities are changing the way they develop to protect water resources and the quality of life in their communities.

"Tennessee Growth Readiness has given us a systematic way to think beyond traditional engineering approaches to managing stormwater and to work in partnership with our planning department."

*- Robert Karesh,
Williamson County's Storm
Water Coordinator*



Around the Network

► NROC Rocks!

The NH NEMO program, NROC—Natural Resources Outreach Coalition, has received a glowing assessment of its effectiveness in helping the state's coastal communities address conservation and growth. The assessment was conducted independently by the Institute for New Hampshire Studies at Plymouth State University and consisted of a review of NROC materials and presentations, interviews with the program's partners and a community survey. The Institute concluded that the program has energized local officials to address conservation and growth, enabled them to more effectively address land use and water quality issues, and is the most cost effective option for using available resources to effect land use.

Rock on, NROC!



Delaware NEMO's new Guide to Natural Resource Based Planning.

► **Delaware NRBP Guide & Training**
Delaware NEMO is pleased to announce the availability of their new publication *Delaware NEMO: Guide to Natural Resource Based Planning*. The resource guide provides an overview of natural

resource management principles and practices to help guide local planning commissions and councils as they weigh the decisions of what to preserve and where to develop. It will be distributed throughout the state and is being used as the basis for a half day course on Natural Resource Based Planning as part of the University of Delaware's Local Government Leadership program. The Guide draws from the expertise of DE NEMO's advisory committee members, as well as natural resource based planning materials from the CT and Northland NEMO programs.

While hard copies are reserved for Delaware officials, Joe Farrell, Delaware NEMO Coordinator, has offered to send CD versions to all NEMO partners who want one. Just send him an email with your mailing address at jfarrell@udel.edu. The manual will also be available in a web version on DE NEMO's new website, nemo.udel.edu, which will be up and running in April.

Delaware NEMO is also sponsoring an ongoing **Conservation Design Roundtable** to bring together local government officials, developers and design consultants, and state agencies to encourage the

use of low impact development (LID) approaches and to bridge institutional barriers. The next Roundtable workshop in March will feature NEMO partner Lynn Richards in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation.

► National Journal Highlights RI NEMO & VT NEMO Partner

Small Flows Quarterly, an EPA-funded publication by West Virginia University that is focused on small communities and their wastewater issues, ran a front page article highlighting the RI NEMO program in their Winter 2006 issue. The article, entitled *Wastewater Planning is an Integral Part of Smart Growth*, features RI NEMO Director Lorraine Joubert, and her programs and publications on wastewater management and planning. It also features Juli Beth Hinds, Director of Planning and Zoning for South Burlington, Vermont. Juli is a key advisor to the new VT NEMO program.

The article makes a strong case for wastewater system planning as an overall community planning tool. To quote Lorraine: "...a wastewater treatment system is a tool for the community to use to achieve their land-use goals, whether that means controlling sprawl in rural areas or whether it is redeveloping or revitalizing an existing historical downtown area or growth center."

The Article can be found on the web at: www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc/nsfc_sfq.htm. Congrats to Lorraine and RI NEMO. ☺



Having knocked over potted trees in their haste to get a first-hand look at newly installed alternative wastewater technologies, NEMOids pay rapt attention to peat filter system operation and maintenance. This demonstration site is located in Charlestown RI.

Florida Joins the Network

Florida Sea Grant, in collaboration with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), has launched a NEMO program and signed on as a Charter member of the NEMO Network. The program is led by Brian Cameron (Sea Grant) and Rosalyn Kilcollins (the Reserve) and will focus its efforts, at least initially, on the rapidly growing areas of the panhandle and Northern Florida. After officially joining the Network in December, the program has already demonstrated it is no Mickey Mouse operation. They are already seeing impacts! After a few basic NEMO presentations, the town of Carrabelle strengthened its stormwater management plan.

For those who keep NEMO Bingo cards in their desk drawer, the Sunshine State NEMO makes 32 programs in 31 states that have joined the Network.

Welcome Florida!

Resources

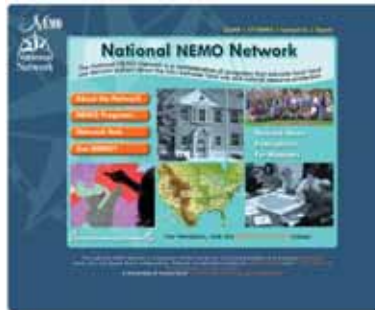
Don't wait for our next newsletter, visit the Network News section on our website and read news from around the Network throughout the year.

Hub Unveils New Network Website

The NEMO Hub has just completed a redesign of the Network website. The aim was to make it easier for folks to find out what the NEMO Network is, learn about the 32 NEMO programs across the country, and explore starting a NEMO program of their own. We have also redesigned the For Members secure section to make it easier for our members find and share resources, and enhance their programs.

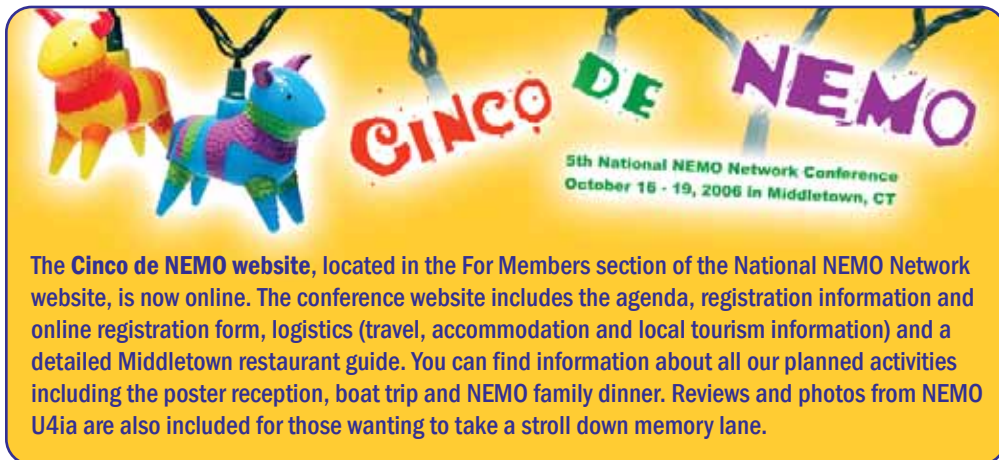
Many thanks to Kara Bonsack, our illustrious Network Communicator, for the fantastic new look, navigation and functionality.

Check out the new site at our new url: nemonet.uconn.edu. ☀



The new National NEMO Network website home page. Visit the website today at nemonet.uconn.edu.

Cinco de NEMO Website



The **Cinco de NEMO website**, located in the For Members section of the National NEMO Network website, is now online. The conference website includes the agenda, registration information and online registration form, logistics (travel, accommodation and local tourism information) and a detailed Middletown restaurant guide. You can find information about all our planned activities including the poster reception, boat trip and NEMO family dinner. Reviews and photos from NEMO U4ia are also included for those wanting to take a stroll down memory lane.

For easy access, enter the Cinco de NEMO website from the scrolling announcement at the bottom of the Network website home page (nemonet.uconn.edu).

Tennessee NEMO continued from pg 2 . . .

communities. The results are helping us make our work plans for these communities."

Through the efforts of the Southeast Watershed Forum and the Tennessee Valley Authority, other states and communities in the Southeast are benefiting from lessons learned in Tennessee. As part of their Commonwealth Water Education Project, Kentucky's Division of Water introduced a statewide training program adapted from Tennessee. Georgia's

Department of Community Affairs is piloting program activities in North Georgia as part of their Urban Nonpoint Source Reduction Program. Pilot projects in Southwest Virginia are underway. To help ensure these pilot efforts work in collaboration with existing and developing NEMO programs, the Tennessee Growth Readiness program has helped organize a meeting of the Southern Regional NEMO programs in Pine Mountain, GA this April. ☀

Technically Speaking continued from pg 1 . . .

NEMO will include 2 full days of training in two tracks, a **geospatial track** and a **topical track**. The geospatial track will include training in the use of Community Viz planning software, the NSPECT nonpoint source modeling tool, and, of course, our own ISAT, which estimates impervious coverage. The topical track will include a full day of Low Impact Development (LID) training and a day on the use of land cover indicators (impervious cover, forest cover, riparian buffers) to assess watershed health. We have enlisted the help of our friends from the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Center for Watershed Protection, Placeways (the maker of CommunityVis) and a small fleet of LID experts to lead these training sessions.

We hope that Cinco de NEMO will also provide an opportunity to further discuss training needs within the Network and develop a plan for a full-fledged NEMO Training Academy with trainings in "off years" as a counterpoint for NEMO Universities. ☀

National NEMO Network

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