

## Educating the Next Generation of Concerned Citizens

To ensure a scientifically and environmentally informed citizenry for the future, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) makes science/environmental education a priority as part of its Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area goals and strategies.

By using a “teach the teacher” approach in 10 workshops in 2011, NYSG was able to educate 207 teachers who will engage 15,400 students in lessons on critical environmental issues such as water quality and invasive species.

In-school presentations, college lectures, and career day presentations reached an additional 2,100 students, bringing the total of students to 17,500 for the year. These students will go on to become the next generation of voters and concerned citizens who will make decisions to protect the Great Lakes.

Utilizing innovative approaches and the final-year funding for the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes (GL), NYSG was able to offer a week-long teachers’ workshop on Tropical Marine Ecology and several conference presentations. A curriculum project entitled *Great Lakes To Go!* was developed to provide educators with free presentations they can use to infuse Great Lakes materials into their own classroom teaching.

The COSEE GL mission is to foster lasting relationships through networks that link Great Lakes educators with ongoing science research in the region and connections of that science to marine equivalents. COSEE GL is co-funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Sea Grant College Program.



Teachers work on creating a watershed model at a NYSG workshop.  
Photo: Helen Domske, NYSG

### Other Successful NYSG-coordinated Great Lakes Educational Programs in 2011

- A semester-long undergraduate course on Great Lakes Ecology was taught at the University at Buffalo for 30 students.
- Science Exploration Day, brought 900 high school students and teachers to the University at Buffalo to learn from scientists on topics from invasive species to environmental engineering.
- A NYSG distance learning program that introduced 1,000 students and their teachers to the impacts of invasive species through the Authentic Learning program at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant’s Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area.

*New York Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.*

*This project summary was written by Helen Domske, NYSG Coastal Education Specialist,*

*716-645-3610, hmd4@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org.*