



5th National Conference and Expo on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

“Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy”

November 13-17, 2010

Galveston, Texas

☞ Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations and Posters ☞

Restore America’s Estuaries is pleased to announce the *Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations and Posters for the 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration – Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy*

Proposals for Sessions, Presentations, and Posters are due March 2, 2010.

To submit a proposal, visit <http://program.estuaries.org>.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This is the only national conference that focuses exclusively on coastal habitat restoration, and we invite you to be a part of it. Healthy coasts and estuaries are essential to the social, economic and ecological well being of everything that depends on them. Successful habitat restoration at all scales is critical to ensuring vibrant coasts. The Conference will bring timely national attention to the challenges and opportunities for restoration and will bring together a unique blend of people who are involved in policy, science, strategy, business, and on-the-ground restoration.

The 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration will advance the science, pace, practice, and success of habitat restoration at all scales. Past Conference locations include Providence in October 2008, New Orleans in December 2006, Seattle in September 2004, and Baltimore in April 2003. The four previous National Conferences have been attended by more than 4,200 people.

The overarching theme for the Conference is “Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy.” For many regions and communities, climate change and all it implies is already a daily reality. For others, it is perceived to be on the horizon and something to be considered in longer-range planning. Wherever restoration occurs within this spectrum, every component will be affected by climate change. Because of its power to affect change, restoration can be a key element of an adaptive strategy in facing climate change and one that cuts across all disciplines. As such, the topic of climate change will be interwoven throughout the Conference and will serve as a unifying element.

The Conference Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration, in all habitats, at all scales, and all regions. Habitat restoration – the manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning self-sustaining natural or historic structure and functions to former or degraded habitat – offers great promise for reversing the trend of habitat loss and degradation, and is a crucial component of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, protection and management.

Conference Audience

The Conference is an international gathering encompassing all disciplines within the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. Restore America's Estuaries will work with 200 partnering and supporting organizations to develop and host the Conference, and we expect 1,000 attendees from the restoration community: non-profit and community organizations, tribes, academic and research institutions, corporations with an interest in the coast, and agencies from all levels of government. Restoration practitioners, citizens and community leaders, consultants, scientists, educators, planners, engineers, students, volunteers, philanthropists, program managers, field staff, contractors, regulators and others involved in restoration efforts are expected and encouraged to participate.

For More Information about the Conference

Visit www.estuaries.org

Sponsoring and Exhibiting Opportunities – Contact Harvey Potts at hpotts@estuaries.org

General Conference Information – Contact Elsa Carlisle at conference@estuaries.org

Conference Program - Contact Suzanne Giles Simon at program@estuaries.org

ABOUT RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Established in 1995, Restore America's Estuaries, is a nonprofit organization working to preserve the nation's coasts and estuaries by protecting and restoring the lands and waters essential to the richness and diversity of coastal life. Restore America's Estuaries and its affiliate members collectively represent millions of citizens in all coastal regions of the United States. Restore America's Estuaries authored and championed passage of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 – groundbreaking legislation providing strong federal commitment and resources toward a goal of restoring function to one million acres of estuarine habitat by 2010. Restore America's Estuaries led the design of *A National Strategy to Restore Coastal and Estuarine Habitat*, and defined and published the *Principles of Estuarine Habitat Restoration* in partnership with the Estuarine Research Federation (now the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation). Restore America's Estuaries has also been a leader in the economics of estuaries, with a number of reports and publications quantifying the effects of restoration on local perceptions and economies.

Our eleven alliance organizations are leaders in regional efforts around the country to restore bays, estuaries, and coasts. They are:

- American Littoral Society
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- People For Puget Sound
- Save The Bay – San Francisco Bay
- Tampa Bay Watch
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Conservation Law Foundation
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay
- Save the Sound –a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The National Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 5th National Conference. The Program emphasizes lessons learned and best practices in every aspect of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. There are three opportunities to present:

- **Dedicated Sessions** – Potential session chairs may propose three or four presenters in a 90 minute session. Dedicated Sessions must include multiple perspectives and we strongly encourage proposals to address multiple aspects of restoration within the chosen topic. Submissions must be made by the proposed session chair, and must identify all proposed presenters. Session chairs may propose themselves as one of the presenters in the session.
- **Presentations** – Please propose one 15-20 minute presentation within one or more of the Conference themes and topics. The National Program Committee will organize selected presentations into cohesive 90 minute Contributed Sessions and assign session moderators. If you would like to propose more than one presentation, you must submit each proposal separately.
- **Posters** – Posters will be displayed throughout the Conference, and dedicated time periods will allow Poster presenters to directly interact with Conference participants. To the greatest degree possible, posters will be arranged and displayed by topic or theme. If you would like to submit more than one poster, you must submit each proposal separately. We strongly encourage student submissions. A Student Poster Contest offers cash awards to the best student posters. For more contest information, please visit the Conference website.

Themes and Topics

Restore America’s Estuaries and the National Program Committee seek proposals for sessions, presentations and posters that relate specifically to one or more of the following Conference themes. While presentations and posters that address the specific topics identified in each theme are encouraged, you may also submit a proposal that falls outside of the suggested topics and themes. Please keep in mind that the term coastal also extends to Great Lakes ecosystems, as the challenges and hurdles are similar to those faced in brackish and saltwater systems.

I. Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy

The world is facing uncertainties associated with climate change and restoration plays a unique role in adaptation and mitigation. Communities, economies, habitats, and cultures worldwide will all be affected. As a result, restoration will change, as well. This topic serves as the overarching theme for the Conference but will also be the focus for a series of sessions and presentations. The goal is to provide a multi-sector and multi-pronged analysis of restoration

in the context of climate change. As a result, a wide variety of perspectives and topics are encouraged. Example topics include, but are not limited to:

- Latest understanding of how our coasts and estuaries are changing and are expected to change
- Economic benefits of restoration (e.g. erosion prevention, mitigation of storm surges) in the context of climate change
- Restoration as a preemptive approach to climate change
- Restoration as a way to increase coastal resiliency
- Engaging individuals and local governments in restoration as a response to climate change
- Effectively choosing policy and on-the-ground restoration goals in a changing environment
- Socioeconomic elements of restoration in the face of climate change
- Response to date on the part of government at all levels (international, federal, state, and local) to address climate change
- Effectiveness of existing regulatory and legal frameworks to accommodate restoration as part of a climate change agenda
- Addressing invasive species issues in a changing environment
- Implications of ocean acidification on restoration
- Sea level rise and its impacts on restoration
- Altering restoration policy and funding priorities to accommodate climate change
- Using historical ecology and past human experience to inform current and future restoration
- Conversion of habitat due to climate change – what role should restoration play?
- Ecological forecasting as a part of restoration planning and implementation in a climate change context
- Carbon sequestration aspects of restoration
- Utilizing models (e.g. SLAMM) to assist restoration planning efforts in the face of sea level rise

II. Values and Impacts of Restoration

Our coasts and estuaries play a large role in society. Whether a source of food, livelihood, or spiritual well-being, they have and will continue to shape cultural identities on many levels. One of the challenging aspects of restoration is determining if, why, and to what degree a project succeeded. Quantifying and justifying the values and impacts of restoration is particularly critical in challenging economic times. Proposals are sought that examine the many aspects of judging “success” and determining the impacts of restoration at all scales. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches to describing and evaluating restoration are encouraged. Example topics include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstrating effects of restoration on human uses and perceptions
- Defining and measuring the ecosystems services of restoration
- Implementing an effective monitoring program
- Differences in conceiving of and valuing restoration across cultures
- Incorporating coastal restoration as a cornerstone of multi-faceted urban societies

- Restoration as a tool to heal communities and shorelines following hurricanes and other phenomena
- Importance of coastal waters to economies
- Cultural linkages between coasts and communities
- Assessing economic value to “intangible” restoration aspects
- Measuring the cumulative effects of smaller projects
- Identifying the best metrics for evaluating a restoration project
- Economic benefits of restoration to local communities
- Quantifying the sequestration value of restoration

III. New Approaches to Education, Partnerships, and Involvement

Education, partnerships, and involvement are all critical aspects of fostering a citizenry engaged, excited about, and supportive of restoration. Education for all ages is a critical component of this effort, as is involving a wide range of communities. “Hands on” education is increasingly being hailed as an important way for people to make a meaningful connection to their natural world. Restoration is one such avenue. Proposals are sought that explore ways of building constituencies, public will, and partners via formal and informal means. Topics in this theme may include, but are not limited to:

- “No Child Left Inside” as a component of restoration education
- Best practices and lessons learned in restoration education for all ages
- Connecting and working with typically underrepresented constituencies in restoration, such as faith based groups, human rights organizations, and “underserved” communities
- Fostering strategic partnerships with commercial fishing and shellfishing interests
- Art as a way to engage and communicate about restoration
- Assessing and improving public awareness of restoration issues
- Developing public support for restoration
- Best uses of remote learning methods (e.g. webinars) to advance restoration
- Creative and innovative ways of engaging communities
- Use of conflict management mechanisms to promote involvement in restoration
- Best approaches to partnering with private property owners
- Recruiting and working with volunteers
- Engaging the corporate and business communities
- Strategies for effectively working with large land owners to promote restoration
- Innovative ways of working with schools: elementary, middle, and high schools and beyond
- Inspiring stewardship and restoration
- Working with the press to promote and generate public will for restoration
- Social networks as a communication tool to advance restoration

IV. Restoration in Practice: What's Working, What's Not, and Innovations

“What worked?” is a question repeated throughout conversations about restoration. This theme focuses on practices and approaches that have directly affected on-the-ground restoration of coastal and estuarine habitats. Field techniques, science, funding, and technology are all critical and may be addressed within this theme. Often realizing what did not work is as critical as identifying what did, so “lessons learned” sessions

are encouraged. We welcome information and sessions related to all types of habitats, including those of the Great Lakes ecosystems. Example topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Telemetry and autonomous technology in restoration
- Managing invasive species
- Successful strategies with SAV
- Lessons learned with salt marsh restoration
- Dam removal and fish passage efforts
- Shellfish restoration
- Funding restoration: where's the money and how do you get it?
 - State/local/regional perspectives
 - Public - private partnerships
 - Donors and foundations
 - Business partners
- Upstream restoration
- Urban waterways and shoreline restoration
- Restoring hydrology
- Mangrove restoration
- Water quality restoration
- Coral reef restoration
- Restoration of fish habitat
- Restoring coastal forests
- Web-based applications to support on-the-ground restoration
- Fostering long-term funding support
- Lessons learned with use of beneficial dredge material
- Use of remote sensing in restoration
- Development and use of seed banks
- Implementation of “natural” approaches, such as living shorelines and intertidal oyster reefs, to address coastal erosion
- Use of new substrates in restoration

V. Integrating Science, Policy, and Planning

The restoration process contains many stages and elements, all of which are needed and all of which can be advanced or thwarted to varying degrees. Identifying and overcoming roadblocks is a critical element of advancing restoration as whole. Similarly, decision making processes, policy, science, and regional issues are all important to ensuring that the best restoration is implemented at all scales and throughout all regions. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing the adequacy of government programs to protect and restore estuarine and coastal areas
- Recovery Act (ARRA) and restoration, including funding efforts by NOAA, USFWS, and other entities
- Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) and restoration
- Implementing sustainable restoration
- Adapting policy and legislation to promote sequestration aspects of restoration
- Enacting more effective permitting methodologies to encourage and promote habitat restoration
- Innovative uses of mapping in restoration planning

- Incorporating beneficial use of dredge materials into restoration decision-making and policy frameworks
- Solving the disconnect between science, practice and the legal system for habitat protection and restoration
- The role of agriculture policy in restoration
- Connecting the estuaries, watersheds, and upstream systems in a restoration context
- Impacts of freshwater quality and quantity on coastal restoration
- Regional sediment management and its impacts on restoration
- Use of wide-ranging observation systems (e.g. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)) to assist with restoration assessment and planning
- Aspects of successful regional restoration planning
- Lessons learned with cross-boundary restoration planning and management, including international efforts
- Addressing policy and funding hurdles in implementing large-scale restoration
- Incorporating restoration into spatial planning and coastal watershed management
- Restoration of large scale ecosystems
- Assessing and using models in restoration
- Restoration as a component of global sustainability

INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a proposal for a dedicated session, presentation or poster, visit <http://program.estuaries.org> to complete the proposal form and submit it online. You will be required to provide full contact and biographical information for all presenters and the session chair (if a dedicated session). **The deadline for proposals for all sessions, presentations, and posters is March 2, 2010. Please mark your calendar!**

Presentation and Session Format

Conference sessions will last 90 minutes each and will include three or four presentations of approximately 15-20 minutes, with the remainder of each session dedicated to a moderated dialogue between presenters and attendees. The Conference program will be structured to enable cross-sector dialogue within the restoration community.

Poster Setup and Display

Posters will be displayed on a 4' x 8' board from 5 p.m. Sunday evening, November 14th through Wednesday afternoon, November 17th. Poster set-up will occur on Sunday afternoon. To the degree possible, posters will be arranged by topic or theme. If you would like your poster displayed with others – either your own or by a different presenter – please indicate this in your proposal. The Conference schedule will include two times during which posters will be featured.

Student Poster Contest

All students with Posters at the Conference will be entered into the Student Poster Contest. Cash prizes will be awarded. If you are interested in judging the student posters, please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@estuaries.org.

Things to Consider Before Applying

- Dedicated sessions should have 3-4 presenters and a session chair.
- Presentations are allowed one presenter and one co-presenter.
- Do not upload the proposal information until all information is complete.
- Please do not submit proposals with “placeholder” information – gather all of the requested information well in advance of the deadline.
- If your proposal is accepted, you are required to register for and participate in the Conference.

Timeline and Due Dates

- March 2, 2010 – Proposals for Sessions, Presentations, and Posters due
- June 1, 2010 – Presenters notified of selection status.

Selection Process and Criteria

The National Program Committee will review proposals in conjunction with Restore America’s Estuaries’ staff. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria, among others:

- Significance to the habitat restoration community
- Relevance to Conference themes
- Ability to provide generally applicable take-home lessons
- For science-based presentations - extent to which the research is described in the context of general ecological theory and practice to allow broad application in the restoration community
- For dedicated sessions - inclusion of diverse perspectives – an interdisciplinary approach to the restoration theme(s) addressed.

The selection process is competitive, and not all submitted proposals will be accepted in the Conference Program. Unless you request otherwise, presentations not selected for inclusion in the Conference Program will receive strong consideration for inclusion in the Poster Session.

Presenter/Chair Responsibilities

Once a presentation, poster or dedicated session has been accepted, Restore America's Estuaries will communicate due dates for additional required information for the printed Conference Program guide, as well as A/V needs. Session chairs are responsible for providing all required information related to their sessions to Restore America’s Estuaries. Reasonable audio-visual equipment, including projectors and screens, will be provided as needed.

Please note: **All presenters, session chairs and poster presenters are responsible for registering for the Conference and should be prepared to cover their own registration and travel costs.** Restore America's Estuaries will offer the early bird/discounted registration rate to all Program participants. Please contact Restore America's Estuaries if you require financial assistance to attend.

Questions?

For more information, please contact the following people:

- For poster and presentation information, please contact Suzanne Giles Simon at program@estuaries.org
- For sponsorship and exhibition information, please contact Harvey Potts at hpotts@estuaries.org
- For general information, please contact Elsa Carlisle at conference@estuaries.org