



2009 NOAA Preserve America Initiative (mini) Grant Recipients

Lake Effect: Past, Present and Future **\$12,000**

Project Lead: Dave Guenther, NOAA National Weather Service, Marquette, Michigan.

The NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) will be partnering with the Marquette County History Museum to create an interactive station that illustrates the effect of Lake Superior on the daily lives of the people living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, past and present. The project will include the construction of the interactive station and a model of a weather buoy, as well as the creation of a menu driven touch screen computer that will display photographs, historical records, map, and current weather and radar information. The display will illustrate the important role that the NWS plays in the daily lives and local economy of Marquette County citizens. As part of a larger Lake Superior diorama, images and artifacts of shipwrecks, commercial fishing, shipping and navigation, lake commerce, and Native American settlements will also be on display.

The Importance and Role of Salmon in the Pacific Northwest **\$4,000**

Project Lead: Stephanie Ehinger, NOAA National Fisheries Service, Northwest Regional Office, Lacey, Washington

This project will bring presentations about the biology and cultural importance of salmon to the classroom of children grades 2-6 at Prairie Elementary (a title school) in Yelm, WA. In-school classroom presentations by NOAA Fisheries Habitat staff will educate the children about the life cycle of salmon and the ecosystems they live in; Nisqually Indian Tribe members will give a presentation on the importance of salmon to native people; the students will have an opportunity to visit the Nisqually Nature Center to learn about the estuarine habitat of salmon; NOAA staff from the NOAA Fisheries Northwest Science Center will give research related presentations to the 5th and 6th graders; and finally, all 280 kids will participate on a field trip to local Kennedy Creek to watch chum salmon spawn. Kennedy Creek has 11 viewing stations and interpretive signage developed by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and volunteer trail guides from the group will lead the class field trips.

"Earth, Water, Wind and Fire: Monitoring & Observing Environmental History in the Los Angeles Area" Exhibit at the NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office in Los Angeles, California

\$9,700

Project Lead: Dessa Emch, NOAA National Weather Service, Oxnard, California

The NOAA National Weather Service in Los Angeles, California has a unique opportunity to share a wealth of local historical resources with the 11 million residents in a four county area that the forecast office provides weather forecasts, watches and warnings. The weather and ocean awareness and outreach potential in this region rivals no other in terms of population and diversity. Working collectively with two local universities, this project will fund the construction of a permanent exhibit that will protect the historic heritage resources and provide exciting opportunities for the public to learn more about NOAA's weather observational history. An outdoor exhibit will represent the forecast office programs of climate, aviation, marine, hydrology, and fire weather. An indoor exhibit will house a vast array of historical weather equipment, photographs, historic climate

records, maps and significant local records. The two exhibits will be accessible to a multitude of tour groups that visit the facility, most notably local schools.

The History of the World Data Center for Glaciology in Boulder, Colorado **\$12,000**

Project Lead: Christopher G. Fox, NOAA Satellite and Information Service, National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, Colorado

In 1957, the World Data Center was created as a repository for glaciological data collected during the International Geophysical Year for Glaciology. Since that time, custody of its holdings have changed several times ending up at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder under the auspices of NOAA. These records have not been professionally curated and are not readily available for research. This project will rescue these important documents by sorting through 34 cubic feet of materials. The records will be added to the existing National Snow and Ice Data Center on-line catalog and a user-friendly website will be developed to promote the history of the World Data Center, collections and value to the research community. The website will also include a historical timeline of the World Data Center. Pertinent documents and photographs will be digitized and added to the web site to illustrate the history of the Center.

History of African Americans in Georgia's Coastal Fisheries **\$6,500**

Project Lead: Dionne Hoskins, Ph.D., NOAA National Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Savannah, Georgia

African American participation in marine-related careers began as early as 1796, when the federal government issued Seamen's Protection Certificates to merchant mariners defining them as "citizens" of the United States effectively making maritime employment one way for Blacks to shape their identities. In particular, fishing, crabbing, and shrimping were prominent parts of the slave economy and continued long after the Civil War. This project will characterize the fishery-related occupations of African Americans in coastal Georgia 1865 to present and gather information for future work that may ascertain the relationship between their decreased participation and changes in regional fish populations and the fishing industry. Using historical literature, landings data, field interviews with fishermen and their families, as well as interviews with former and current fish wholesalers and processors, the project will identify trends in the Georgia African American fishing community. The interviews will be conducted by trained volunteers from Alfred Ely Beach High School in Savannah, NOAA-supported students at Savannah State University (SSU), or high school campers in SSU's Coast Camp for Youth, incorporating a strong education and outreach approach.

Northwest Fisheries Science Center 16mm Film Conversion to Digital Format **\$2,500**

Project Lead: James Peacock, NMFS, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington

From the early 1950s to the 1970s the Northwest Fisheries Science Center documented many research projects on 16mm film. With the advent of digital imaging, these films are now obsolete, unusable and are slowly degrading in storage. This project will convert approximately 2 hours of 16mm film footage into digital format for preservation and/or editing. The films include (1) "Salmon: An International Problem" produced in the 1950s; (2) raw footage showing commercial fishing stern trawling for whiting and subsequent processing in frozen fish blocks – a film made to document the first automated fish filleting machine used in the U.S.; and (3) footage of various research activities along the Columbia River in the late 1960s and 1970s that portray anchovy, salmon, tuna, sturgeon, water sampling, gillnetting, seining, and dam passage.

Preserving Research & Cultural Heritage for NOAA/Cooperative Oxford Laboratory \$11,550

Project Lead: Shawn McLaughlin, NOAA National Ocean Service, Oxford, Maryland

Since 1960, the NOAA Cooperative Oxford Laboratory has been making significant contributions to coastal ecosystem health issues in the mid-Atlantic region, beginning with its early research focus on devastating oyster diseases. This project will consolidate, catalog, and preserve a number of historic photographs, documents, and other artifacts (scientific tools, notebooks, specimens, etc.) that are stored and dispersed across multiple organizations. Exhibits of the items will be shown at outreach events such as Oxford Day and Bay Day, local museums and environmental centers, and in a permanent display at the Laboratory. The exhibits will include informational video-loops as well as video recordings of short interviews of key staff people. The project will help document the cultural and scientific importance of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory to the town of Oxford and Talbot County, MD; is cross-cutting for NOS and NMFS which currently share resources there; and will partner with numerous local and regional museums, historical societies, and environmental resource agencies and centers.

Tampa Bay Weather History – Our Harrowing Past

\$7,500

Project Lead: Charles Paxton, NOAA National Weather Service, Tampa Bay Area, Florida

Two frail, leather bound U.S. Weather Service Bureau mean books dating back to 1890, will be scanned and rebound and teamed with other records, old original weather maps, news articles, and photos of major past events to create a dynamic web viewing experience that uses past weather events to help inform and educate current Bay area residents of the hazards of the severe weather that can assault the Bay area. Since many area residents were around during Hurricane Charley in 2004, they believe they experienced a category 4 hurricane. In reality, due to its small size, most residents only experienced outer peripheral winds and not the true force of a category 4 hurricane. Research for this new weather heritage web page will engage a meteorological student from the University of South Florida and will feature hurricanes, floods, tornados, and freezes of the past two centuries.

Chronicling the Past: Preserving NOAA's Links to the Maritime and Cultural Heritage of Lahaina, Hawaii

\$12,000

Project Lead: Allen Tom, NOAA National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Island Region

Lahaina Town on Maui was the capital of Hawai'i for Hawaiian royalty in the 19th century and has a rich cultural and maritime heritage, from its early notoriety as a provisioning port for whalers to its current prominence in whale research. This project will focus on several overlooked historical areas: its local native Hawaiian seafarers history, NOAA's important work in Lahaina, and the connections between whaling the NOAA whale research and rescue efforts. The project will include the recording of oral histories, and will collect, preserve, and transform historical materials for displays to be installed in a new regional exhibit space in the 150 year old Lahaina Courthouse, a popular historic site located prominently near the waterfront. Project partners include the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Tri-Isle Resource and Conservation Development Council, and the County of Maui Department Economic Development. The NOAA exhibit and experience will reach hundreds of visitors from across the U.S. and around the world that enter the Courthouse each day.

Return to Shipwreck Beach: A Coastal Resources Awareness Project

\$10,350

Project Lead: Hans Van Tilburg, Ph.D., NOAA Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Islands Region Office

Set on the island of Lana'i, this is a collaborative learning/outreach event designed to raise awareness of preservation of marine heritage resources to students and the public. Shipwreck Beach spans eight miles of coastline where numerous historic 19th century vessels wrecked or

were abandoned. The area is visited by tourists who hike the rough beach to see un-surveyed shipwrecks and by locals who camp and fish there. During this project, a group of University of Hawai'i Marine Option Program students will receive classroom orientation to NOAA's marine resource heritage surveys methods and will conduct a preliminary field survey of selected shipwreck sites using the methods. These students will also share their knowledge with local students from Lana'i Elementary and High School who will be participating in a shore side survey. Additionally, Hawaiian kupuna or teachers will share traditional and cultural values of the region and public presentations will be conducted to reach many of the island's 3,000 residents. Website and brochure materials produced following the project will highlight the preservation and conservation issues for this special natural, cultural, and historic place.

Pribilof Islands Historical Photographs Exhibits **\$12,000**
Project Lead: John Lindsay, NOAA Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration, Seattle, Washington

The Pribilof Islands fur-seal industry has had a direct impact on the economic, social, and environmental history of Russia, the United States, and Native Alaskans and its history is recorded in photographs and other archival documents. This project will create two unique exhibits: portraits of St. George Island residents taken in 1923 to be housed at the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association Cultural Heritage Center (Anchorage), and images from the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Pribilof Islands Photographs taken in the 1910s and 1920s at the Anchorage Native Heritage Center. These previously unavailable images that come from the original glass plates (cataloged, digitized, and preserved by NOS archival activities) will become accessible to the Unangan (Aleut) people whose history they document, as well as the greater public through this project. In addition to these centers, the project partners with two Pribilof Islands village corporations and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Total project funds: \$100,100