

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



— RAE — MISSION | VISION | VALUES



RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

MISSION

To preserve the nation's network of estuaries by protecting and restoring the lands and waters essential to the richness and diversity of coastal life.

VISION

To empower the RAE member organizations to increase the scale and pace of coastal and estuarine restoration and to act as the cohesive force and guiding beacon for coastal and estuarine habitat restoration across the country.

OUR VALUES:

Honesty
Commitment
Integrity
Professionalism



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— A — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, to say the least, 2012 proved to be a year full of both challenges and successes for Restore America's Estuaries.

Like most folks these days, I'm not usually surprised by some of the ridiculous happenings that come out of Washington, but I really had to scratch my head in disbelief when the President released his 2013 budget proposal in February. The proposed budget for NOAA slashed most of the agency's stewardship programs, including Community-based Restoration, the one program that accomplishes on-the-ground results! Needless to say, such a proposal was deplorable and totally unacceptable—the response from Restore America's Estuaries was swift and direct. Our advocacy campaign kicked into high gear and after countless meetings at NOAA, Department of Commerce (the home agency of NOAA), Office of Management and Budget, supporters in the U.S. Senate and House, I definitely sense a sea change taking place. We remain vigilant and watchful, and will not give up until we right an unfathomable wrong.

But 2012 also proved to be a year full of accomplishments for Restore America's Estuaries. The 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, "Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities," was held October 20-25, 2012, at the Tampa Convention Center. Co-hosted with RAE's local alliance member, Tampa Bay Watch, nearly 1,000 people from across the United States and internationally participated in this five-day biennial event. The conference kicked-off on Saturday with a salt marsh restoration planting at Cockroach Bay, with more than eight sponsors and 100 attendees from the Conference and local community participating.

On April 12, 2012, RAE released the landmark report, "Restore-Adapt-Mitigate: Responding to Climate Change through Coastal Habitat Restoration," which documents the nexus between ecologically important coastal habitat restoration with adaptation and mitigation strategies as a way

to reduce the impacts of ongoing global climate change. The response to the report was hugely positive and reinforces the national leadership role we play in advancing the science and practice of coastal restoration nationwide.

Most importantly, our 11 member organizations continue to deliver innovative, community-driven, restoration projects. It's the on-the-ground work done through these organizations—their staff and hundreds of citizen volunteers—that makes RAE so unique and important. Our alliance continues to amaze me at how much they can accomplish each year. You can read all about these great achievements later in the report under "Restoration Accomplishments," but a few highlights include: Galveston Bay Foundation hosted Marsh Mania with 225 volunteers planting four acres of estuarine marsh; American Littoral Society started a new oyster reef in Barnegat Bay with 12,000 bushels of surf-clam shell; Chesapeake Bay Foundation planted 15.4 million young oysters in the Bay; and Tampa Bay Watch had 351 citizen volunteers build 732 oyster domes for new Bay habitat.

Finally, we are forever grateful for the cooperation and collaboration of our many partners that provide the foundation for our commitment to motivate, nurture, educate, empower, celebrate, and also fund and implement on-the-ground habitat restoration projects while also building a national habitat restoration voice and movement. Without the help of all these friends—your help—we could not be as successful as we are.

Sincerely,

Jeff Benoit
President and CEO



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

The HISTORY OF



RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

Founded in 1995 and established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1999, Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) serves as a national alliance of 11 community-based organizations that protect and restore coastal and estuarine habitat.

Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups work closely with governments, businesses, and volunteer and conservation organizations to restore our nation's coasts and estuaries. Our member organizations are leaders in estuary habitat restoration and have built lasting partnerships with scientists, universities, community organizations, government agencies, schools and teachers, non-profit organizations, and businesses to better promote and facilitate critical habitat restoration along our coasts. Since its founding, Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups have restored more than 56,000 acres of coastal habitat and engaged more than 300,000 volunteers nationwide.

Community participation, education, and outreach are at the heart of what makes Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups effective and influential. We believe that an involved and educated community leads to an informed citizenry with an increased

awareness of coastal and estuarine issues, and fosters a stewardship ethic within local communities.

As the leader of this alliance, whose influence spans the length and breadth of America's coastline, Restore America's Estuaries is an important national force for the conservation of estuarine and coastal habitats.

*Restore
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Our RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



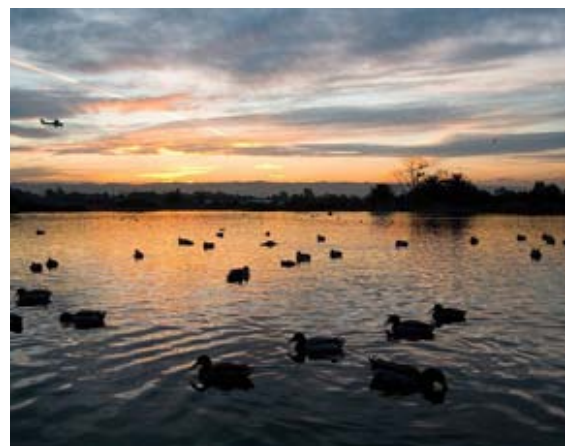
Driving Restore America's Estuaries success—and the flourishing restoration movement nationwide—is the alliance of 11 member organizations that engage coastal communities to protect and restore coastal and estuarine habitats along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts.



Since 1961, the American Littoral Society (ALS) has empowered people to care for the coast through advocacy, education, and conservation. It has pioneered new environmental laws, fostered new advocates, and fought against powerful special interests to insure public access to beaches and protection of

wetlands, dunes, and other coastal habitats. The Littoral Society has more than 13,000 members in 49 states and each year it engages and educates thousands of students and volunteers.

In 2012, ALS planted 2,500 culms of beachgrass with the help of 853 students; expanded a conservation reef in Delaware Bay by two acres and planted it with 2,400 bags of spatted shell; removed 218 metric tons of debris, including derelict boats and floating docks, from



shorelines of Jamaica Bay; recruited and trained 109 Spill Spotters to document existing habitats in advance of a potential oil spill in New Jersey; and constructed four new osprey platforms in Jamaica Bay. More than 200 volunteers harvested 250 pounds of smooth cordgrass seed, which will be grown and planted in Jamaica Bay's marsh-island restoration sites. ALS



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RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

also engaged 5,645 people in removing 62,634 pounds of debris from 244 miles of shorelines in New York; started a new oyster reef in Barnegat Bay with 12,000 bushels of surf-clam shell spread over one acre; and assessed the impacts of Superstorm Sandy on natural areas spanning Cape May, NJ, to Montauk, NY.



**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is the only non-profit organization

dedicated solely to restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Since their founding more than 40 years ago, CBF has been

working to improve the capacity of rivers, streams, and the Bay to treat pollution. For years, CBF has been a leader in planting trees and vegetation along stream banks to filter polluted runoff. CBF has also been working to restore the Bay's oysters and menhaden populations.

CBF's highlights in 2012 include the following: Restoration- CBF planted 15.4 million young oysters in the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and Virginia and built and submerged 554 cement "reef balls," which serve as oyster habitat. CBF and its allies mobilized supporters who submitted 92,000 comments to protect menhaden to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. In response, the Commission took a strong step forward by adopting stronger standards for managing menhaden. In Pennsylvania, CBF concluded 43 runoff pollution-control projects on farms, including the planting of forested buffer strips along streams. These projects are preventing 798,608 pounds of nitrogen pollution per year from entering the Bay tributaries, as well as 273,369 pounds of phosphorous, and 468 tons of sediment. In Maryland, CBF helped build a 640-foot "living shoreline" on Back Creek, planting marsh grasses that protect the shore from erosion while also providing habitat for animals. In Virginia, CBF helped restore Upham Brook

near Richmond, which was listed as impaired by the State because of high bacteria levels. CBF and partners improved the stream's water quality by planting vegetation in key areas to absorb stormwater, installing flowing wetlands and rain barrels, and educating neighbors about the importance of picking up pet waste.

Education- CBF's award-winning environmental educators led 35,423 students, teachers, and principals on hands-on field experiences. Among their most successful and innovative efforts were three projects to develop environmental literacy initiatives in MD and VA. The first was a partnership with the Maryland Association of Student Councils, which named CBF as 2011-2012 "Charity of the Year."

Advocacy- CBF's top priority is to defend and implement the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. CBF and their allies have been working hard to stop legislation that would dramatically set back efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. CBF's advocacy efforts are designed to help and to hold States and the federal government accountable for staying on the course



RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

of restoration. In 2012, CBF worked in Virginia to secure \$87.6 million in State funds to pay for sewage treatment plant upgrades and runoff pollution control projects on farms. In Maryland, CBF partnered with activists in Charles County to defeat a sprawl-inducing highway that would have polluted Mattawomen Creek, a fragile fish-breeding ground. In Pennsylvania, CBF was one of four environmental groups appointed to the Governor's Marcellus Shale Commission, an advisory panel that made recommendations on how to better control pollution from the Marcellus Shale drilling boom.

clf

conservation law foundation

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is the oldest regional environmental advocacy organization in the nation. Since 1966, CLF has worked tenaciously to solve the most significant environmental challenges threatening New England. CLF uses law, economics, and science to create innovative strategies to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and promote communities in the region. For more than 30 years, CLF has been devoted to restoring the legendary fish populations of New England's coastal fisheries, a critical economic engine for the region

and the cornerstone of our coastal culture.

CLF provides funds to local partners in New England and advocates for increased federal funding for salt marsh protection and restoration. Over the years, RAE and CLF have distributed close to a million dollars to numerous communities and watershed organizations in the region, including: Addison, ME, to understand options for a large dam removal project; Sandwich, MA, to expand tidal passages under highways and railroad beds to return saltwater flows to its iconic marshes; Quincy, MA, to replant salt marsh plants on barrier beaches; and Merrimack, NH, to provide critical funding to remove an abandoned inland dam.

In 2012, CLF removed three dams along Wellingsley Brook to improve in-stream habitat conditions for native fish populations. CLF also removed culverts along Shoreys Brook which restored fish passage to approximately 4.2 miles of stream channel within the watershed. In northern Maine, CLF assisted in the completion of two important Atlantic salmon restorations projects: the opening of 5,462 lake-acres at Pushaw Lake in Bar Harbor, Maine and the restoration of 2.77 stream miles of fish passage at Barrel Brook in Hancock County, Maine.

CLF believes that restoring New England's estuaries is critical to the health of the region's natural ecosystem and that healthy marshes will be a critical defense against sea level rise and increased storm activity while contributing to

health, thriving wildlife, and fish populations. Increased federal funding, wetlands education, and successful community restoration efforts are showing us the way.



The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) fosters participation of businesses,

local governments, scientists, and concerned citizens. Since 1988, CRCL's mission has been to preserve, restore, and steward the wetlands and barrier shorelines of coastal Louisiana.

In 2012, CRCL completed 16 volunteer-based restoration projects that resulted in restoring 51.5 acres of coastal wetlands; 730 volunteers contributed 5,154 hours to assist with restoration projects, planting 119,000 plants and installing 10,400 linear-feet of sand fence. CRCL constructed 26,000 linear-feet of terraces (earthen ridges that are built up in degraded marshes to help increase edge habitat in the marsh, reduce water flow, slow erosion, and improve habitat for





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RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

fish and wildlife). This project directly restored 7 acres, with an additional 400 acres benefitting from the project. CRCL worked with 87 volunteers to plant the terrace edges with 40,000 plugs of marsh grass. The grass will help anchor the terraces, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and prevent erosion. Traditional terrace projects usually contract out the planting component. This was the first large-scale terrace planting project that was conducted only through volunteer labor.

CRCL also led the largest volunteer-based sand fence installation in Louisiana in June, 2012. 87 volunteers installed 9,000 feet of sand fence during a three-day project. Also in June, CRCL implemented the 2nd bi-annual State of the Coast Conference which brought together more than 900 scientists, policy-makers, stakeholders, business leaders and citizens concerned with the future of the Louisiana coast.

www.stateofthecoast.org

In 2012, CRCL and their partners played a leading role in drafting and passing the RESTORE Act that will return 80 percent of Deepwater Horizon civil penalties back to the Gulf States, as well as served on the Framework Development Team for the State's Coastal Master Plan. The plan allocates \$50 billion over the next

50 years to construct restoration and protection projects and was unanimously approved by the state legislature.



The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) was founded in 1987 to preserve, protect, and enhance Galveston Bay—one of the world's most productive estuaries. Through advocacy, conservation, education, and research GBF seeks a balance between the ecological needs of the Galveston ecosystem, and the increasing demands of commercial and recreational users.

In 2012, GBF hosted Trash Bash at Bay Area Park with 748 volunteers, who collected 7,480 pounds of trash, 25 tires, and 2,440 pounds of reusable or recyclable materials from the Armand Bayou watershed. GBF also constructed a living shoreline project consisting of a 150-foot breakwater with smooth cordgrass planted behind; doubled the number of schools participating in the Get Hip to Habitat program, with 14 schools and 1,279 students who raised 8,480 pots of smooth cordgrass

at their campus nurseries and transplanted these to nearly two acres at local marsh restoration sites; hosted Marsh Mania events in the spring with 225 volunteers planting four acres of estuarine marsh at the Baytown Nature Center and again in the fall in celebration of National Estuaries Day and the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act with 178 volunteers.

GBF also launched the Volunteer Water Monitoring Team with 32 certified monitors at 29 sites around Galveston Bay (<http://goo.gl/maps/kH6Bv>); set up an on-site Bacteria Monitoring Lab for GBF staff and volunteers to process samples; and received approval the U.S. EPA for their volunteer monitoring quality assurance project plan. GBF also created the Galveston Bay Action Network (www.galvbay.org/gban),



RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



an interactive mapping tool that allows citizens to report water quality concerns such as boat sewage discharges and pet waste, as well as positive actions like pumping out their boat using an approved pump-out.

In 2012 GBF also received recognition by Congressman Gene Green, who addressed the U.S. House of Representatives to acknowledge GBF's 25th anniversary and to congratulate GBF's board of trustees, staff, and volunteers on 25 years of service in preserving, protecting, and enhancing Galveston Bay and its surrounding communities. GBF hosted a 25th anniversary luncheon at the River Oaks Country Club with keynote speaker, former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III.

GBF hosted their annual Bike Around the Bay, with a record 781 riders participating in the 180-mile route that circumnavigated Galveston Bay for the first time. They continued the pilot Oyster Shell Recycling program with Tommy's Restaurant by collecting more than 50 tons of shell in 2012, and received a CMP grant to expand the program to allow for the participation of more restaurants.

In 2012, GBF completed the first phase of a Seafood Consumption

Advisory Education Campaign, which placed 112 signs at 56 locations in upper Galveston bay. They kicked off GBEP's "Back the Bay" campaign at Bay Day 2012 at the Kemah Boardwalk, with more than 40 exhibitors, thousands of attendees, and support from nearly 100 volunteers and developed Clean Water Partnerships with Marina del Sol, the City of Nassau Bay, and Ball High School as the first participants in their new water quality outreach strategy.



For 27 years, the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) has worked with citizens to safeguard the coastal rivers, sounds, and beaches of North Carolina. In 2012, NCCF celebrated 30 years of coastal conservation and restoration; increased membership by 14 percent; conducted the 9th Annual Native Plant Festival, attracting more than 1,000 visitors; engaged 2,222 volunteers of all ages who donated 16,860 hours to dune, salt marsh, and rain garden plantings, oyster habitat creation, advocacy, clean-ups and other projects; conducted wetland nursery, oyster, rain garden, and other environmental education programs, educating 3,426 additional students and teachers (4,056.25 hours) in 32 schools in 12 counties; and educated an additional 18,051 individuals through tours, programs, events, and through presentations and displays at conferences, workshops, and festivals.

In 2012 in the Northeast Region, NCCF constructed a 300-foot living shoreline at Springer's Point, creating valuable oyster habitat and protecting and enhancing 0.2 acres of marsh by planting 4,500 marsh grass plugs; enhanced 1.3 acres of marsh at Durant's Point and Jockey's Ridge by planting 12,000 marsh grass plugs; and worked in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to secure 50 acres of private lands on the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula for the planting of Atlantic white cedar.

In the Central Region, NCCF created 150-linear-foot oyster shell bag sill and 6 patch oyster reefs; planted 0.45 acres and enhanced 0.65 acres with 25,918 plugs of salt marsh grass; and monitored and maintained the restoration efforts at Jones Island. NCCF also constructed 393.5-linear-feet of marsh toe revetment using 4,785 bags of oyster shells at Beacon Island; constructed a rain garden at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center; planted 10,850 sea oats at Bogue Banks; and coordinated two dune restoration workshops. In 2012, NCCF also installed a greenhouse at White Oak Elementary School for students to grow native plants for rain gardens and held the 2nd Annual Cycling for the Coast event on Bogue Banks as part of National Estuaries Day.

In the Southeast Region NCCF published an Environmental and Essential Fish Habitat



RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assessment for the Coastal Federation's "Restoring Coastal Estuarine Habitat in Four North Carolina Estuaries Project" funded under the Estuary Restoration Act. The project will restore 10.5 acres of intertidal and shallow subtidal patch oyster reefs and fringing salt marsh habitats. NCCF also created 6,000 bags of oyster shell and marl for living shoreline projects; celebrated National Estuaries Day at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve on Stump Sound with a volunteer oyster shell bagging event and estuary education programs; worked with volunteers to enhance a living shoreline project consisting of a 200-linear-foot oyster shell bag sill and coastal marsh at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve; and worked with the N.C. Division of Water Quality, City of Wilmington, Town of Wrightsville Beach and the University of North Carolina Wilmington to develop a comprehensive voluntary watershed restoration plan to reduce pollution in Bradley and Hewletts Creeks.



People For Puget Sound (PFPS) is working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound through education and action. This effort combines education, advocacy, habitat protection, and restoration to ensure all of Puget Sound's shorelines are restored to health and are protected for future generations.

SOUND STEWARDSHIP:

Sound Stewardship is a community-based program that contributes to the long-term success of restored shoreline habitat while engaging citizens of all ages and all walks of life. Sound Stewards provide critical monitoring and maintenance of restoration sites managed by People For Puget Sound. Events at these sites also provide avenues to engage the larger community in shoreline restoration activities. Participants include groups from local businesses, volunteer organizations, universities, community colleges, and high schools. 2012 Sound stewardship results:

- # of active sites: 15
- # of events: 75
- # of volunteers: 793
- # of volunteer hours: 3,207
- # of Steward hours: 1,584
- # of native plants installed: 4,140
- Sq meters of invasive plants removed: 89,409
- Total acres Stewarded: 70

INVASIVE SPARTINA SURVEY:

The focus of this project is to assist the Washington State Department of Agriculture in the Puget Sound-wide eradication of invasive Spartina through targeted, citizen-based shoreline surveys and widespread education and engagement of the general public. Staff prioritizes Puget Sound shorelines for surveys, and trains volunteers to conduct the surveys. The majority of the shoreline surveys are conducted by kayak-based volunteers. 2012 survey program results:

- # of volunteers: 34
- # volunteer hours: 253
- # shoreline miles surveyed: 70
- Sq meters of Spartina found: 73.5



Since 1970, Save The Bay (STB) has been working to ensure that the environmental quality of Narragansett Bay and its watershed are restored and protected from the harmful effects of human activity. Save The Bay leads the community by initiating programs and activities that increase the environmental awareness and knowledge of the public.

In 2012, STB collaborated on the Hopewell Mill dam removal on the Mill River, the first of three dams to be removed that will open up 37 miles of free-flowing habitat for anadromous fish. STB also established a bay scallop spawner sanctuary in a coastal pond with the help of more than 1,000 volunteer hours and counted more than 800 juvenile scallops through monitoring spat lines. Through a collaborative effort with state and federal partners, STB also mapped 1,342 acres of eelgrass in Rhode Island.

STB conducted an 8th year of eelgrass monitoring as part of the international Seagrassnet effort; developed and conducted a peer reviewed regional assessment of



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RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

salt marshes to determine the effects of sea level rise on plant communities; and engaged more than 200 students and volunteers in salt marsh planting and restoration projects including creek excavation projects to allow water impounded on the surface to drain and re-vegetate. STB also engaged eight RI and MA towns in planning for sea level rise and coastal hazards, developing adaptation projects to protect vulnerable shorelines; collaborated with a town to remove a dilapidated boardwalk from a beach and re-graded the beach to create a more dissipative slope; and coordinate 34 cleanups, engaging 1,505 volunteers and removing 21,441 pounds of debris from the coastline.



Save The Bay - San Francisco (STB) is the largest regional organization working to protect and restore San

Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, STB protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife. STB restores habitat and has helped secure strong policies designed to re-establish 100,000 acres of wetlands essential for Bay health. Each year, STB engages more than 25,000 supporters, advocates, and volunteers to protect the Bay, and inspires the next generation of environmental leaders by educating thousands of students in Northern California.

In 2012, STB launched their Virtual Marsh, an interactive citizen science tool that lets users engage with the plants, animals, and soil of the marsh online. STB also began restoration work on a new site at Hal Brown Park at Creekside in Marin County; expanded their capacity to restore more wetlands with the December 2012 grand opening of a new work shed at Palo Alto Baylands; and extended the reach of regional and local plastic bags and polystyrene bans throughout



the Bay Area by working with cities to enact smart bans that work to keep toxic trash out of our waterways.



Save the Sound – A program of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment
The mission of the

Connecticut Fund for the Environment is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and, through its program Save the Sound, Long Island Sound (STS), using legal and scientific expertise and bringing people together to achieve results that benefit the environment for current and future generations. Save the Sound works to restore critical habitats that have been degraded over time through several types of habitat restoration projects, including marsh restoration,





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RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

migratory fish passage, fish counting, and vegetation planting.

In 2012, STS completed the largest urban tidal restoration project in New England by re-establishing more than 50 acres of tidal marsh and nearly six miles of river habitat for fish and other wildlife. Three self-regulating tide gates were installed which will restore tidal flow to the West River. To further help, volunteers planted about 6,000 marsh plants that will hold back sediment and provide nutrients and a food source for wildlife.

Also in 2012, STS completed the Wallace Dam Fishway project in Wallingford, CT. The fishway will restore more than 17 miles of river and 171 acres of lake and pond to migratory fish foraging and spawning by providing a corridor for fish to swim around the dam.



STS continued work on the Pequonnock Fish Passage project. The concrete apron on the Pequonnock River impedes fish passage because at most tides the water is too shallow for fish to swim upstream safely. Save the Sound will build a step pool-style fishway, which will allow enhanced fish passage at all tides. This will let species such as alewife and blueback herring reach their upstream spawning grounds.



Established in 1993, Tampa Bay Watch (TBW) trains and organizes citizen volunteers, students, at-risk youth, and civic organizations to participate in environmental projects while heightening community awareness of the fragile nature and importance of the environment. By expanding community involvement in hands-on restoration and protection projects around the bay, TBW strives to counteract the huge loss of Bay wetland habitat over the past 100 years.

Accomplishments for TBW in 2012 include: Salt Marsh: 356 volunteers planted 22,300 plugs to restore 13 acres of habitat; Oyster



Bars: 596 volunteers shoveled and installed 180 tons of oyster shell to create 1,850 feet of new oyster shell bar habitat; Oyster Domes: 351 volunteers helped build 732 domes that will be used to rebuild habitat in bay waters; Derelict Crab Traps: 200 acres of the bay were searched to remove 85 derelict traps with the help of 28 volunteers on 11 airboats; Storm Drain Marking: 175 storm drains were marked by 54 volunteers in bay-area neighborhoods; Cleanups: 503 volunteers removed 4,825 pounds of debris; 104 monotubes in 52 locations helped collect 325 pounds or three miles of dangerous discarded fishing line; and Bay Grasses in Classes: 1,526 students in 16 schools grew and harvested 8,810 plugs of salt marsh to restore 11 acres of shoreline.

RAE 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Amongst the backdrop of Florida's Tampa Bay, Restore America's Estuaries hosted its 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, "Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities," October 20-25, 2012, at the Tampa Convention Center. Co-hosted

with RAE's local alliance member, Tampa Bay Watch, nearly 1,000 people from across the United States and internationally participated in this five-day biennial event. RAE's national conference

The conference began on Saturday, October 20th with a salt marsh restoration planting at Cockroach Bay, involving more than eight sponsors and 100 attendees from the Conference and local community. During the five hour restoration event, volunteers planted more than 10,000 salt marsh plugs throughout 10-acres of Cockroach Bay.

On Sunday, October 21st, more than 100 conference attendees participated in eight field sessions across Tampa Bay. From Oyster Reef Shoreline Stabilization & Ecosystem Restoration (McDill Air Force Base) to Weeden Island Preserve-Mangrove Canoe/Kayak and Upland Hiking Excursion, participants learned more about the local wildlife, coastal habitat projects, and variety of collaboration going on between state/city government, non-profit organizations, and local grassroots associations.

Majora Carter keynoted the conference's opening plenary, Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities – A First Hand Experience, to a full house on Monday, October 22nd. Ms. Carter shared her experiences in urban habitat restoration and what it can do for the communities that depend on them. Restoration presents a fantastic opportunity for engaging a wide—and sometimes seemingly disparate—variety of members of society. She discussed what she has learned as an on-the-ground restoration leader and provided food for thought as to how we, as a restoration community, can dig deep in these challenging economic times.



has been climate-neutral event since 2006, and thanks to support from Tampa Electric, we were once again able to offset 100% of the conference's greenhouse gas emissions.





— Cont'd — 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The conference's legendary Expo and Poster Hall encompassed more than 120 exhibitors and 175 posters, including the debut of six interactive digital LCD poster presentations. More than 160 companies and organizations helped to support the 6th National Conference, including federal, state, and local governments; business; non-profit organizations; academia; foundations; and grassroots associations

During the 5-day program, the 6th National Conference engaged more than 320 presenting

speakers, participating in 80 concurrent sessions, addressing the theme—"Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities," while looking at the economic and job-creating arguments behind public and private investment in coastal habitat restoration nationwide.

The second plenary held on Wednesday, October 24th, addressed the topic: Framing the Future of Ecosystem Restoration—Staying Relevant in a World of Changing Priorities. This engaging and energetic panel discussion featured leading thinkers and future forecasters from four key "pillars of tomorrow" for coastal habitat restoration and protection: Science and Technology, Communication, Cultural Studies, and Funding. The panelists addressed current trends and identified strategies to ensure restoration gains relevancy and advances in a changing world. Panelists included: Peter Dykstra, Moderator (Publisher of

Environmental Health News and the Daily Climate), and panelists: Dr. Dawn Wright (esri), Kristin Grimm (Spitfire Strategies), Dr. Don Davis (Louisiana State University), and Scott Burns (The Walton Family Foundation).

We are now beginning to make plans for the 7th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Inspiring Action, Creating Resilience, which will be co-hosted with our local alliance member, Chesapeake Bay Foundation at the Gaylord National Convention Center, November 1-5, 2014, in Washington, DC-Metro.





Strategic INITIATIVES

ADVANCING COASTAL BLUE CARBON - LINKING RESTORATION AND CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Coastal Blue Carbon refers to the greenhouse gas benefits of protecting and restoring salt marsh, seagrass, mangroves, and other tidal wetlands. These coastal marine ecosystems remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at rates three to five times greater than forests, making them important carbon ‘sinks.’

Restore America’s Estuaries launched a national coastal blue carbon initiative in 2009 to catalyze restoration across the coastal United States. In 2012, we continued to lead the effort to develop new concepts, policies, and market-based tools that utilize coastal blue carbon as a new incentive for coastal habitat restoration.

In 2012, RAE organized and led the scientific and technical team which worked with the Verified Carbon Standard, a leading greenhouse gas offsets standard, to create a new project category for crediting climate mitigation benefits from the restoration and conservation of a broad range of wetlands, including mangroves, freshwater tidal coastal wetlands, salt marshes, seagrasses, floodplains, peatlands, and other wetland types.

RAE also met with public officials, private companies, non-profit organizations, and others to educate them about blue carbon concepts and opportunities. RAE represents U.S. interests as a member of the International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group and as a participant in the Science Working Group, both of which are organized by Conservation International and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

NOAA HABITAT BLUEPRINT WORKSHOP

In August of this year, Restore America’s Estuaries convened a workshop with key stakeholders to provide input to NOAA on their new “Habitat Blueprint,” a cross-agency policy and decision framework to improve habitat for fisheries, marine life, and coastal communities.



— Cont'd — STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The workshop was designed to solicit stakeholder input on a list of important questions beginning with getting their initial reactions to the Blueprint, addressing questions framed around the three core approaches in the Blueprint, and finishing with their feedback on how best to engage stakeholders. In addition to convening the workshop, RAE President Jeff Benoit participated as a key stakeholder.

The facilitated gathering was a focused and lively exchange of ideas, recommendations, and strategies. In particular, stakeholders emphasized the need for strong leadership and visibility, more vivid examples of success stories and expected benefits in terms that resonate with the public, and more information about how the Blueprint will be implemented in terms of actions.

Information on the NOAA Habitat Blueprint is available at <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint>.

RESTORE-ADAPT-MITIGATE: RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION



through Coastal Habitat Restoration,” which links ecologically important coastal habitat restoration with adaptation and mitigation strategies as a way to reduce the impacts of ongoing global climate change. The report demonstrates that large-scale coastal wetland

On April 12, 2012, RAE released the landmark report, “Restore-Adapt-Mitigate: Responding to Climate Change

restoration can be an integral part of public and private initiatives to combat climate change.

The report examines the current state of U.S. coasts; likely effects of climate change on those coasts; coastal planning, design, and policymaking considerations; why coastal habitat restoration is essential to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and new findings that indicate that tidal wetlands are efficient carbon sinks for greenhouse gases responsible for much observed global warming, making them essential components of efforts to reduce climate change impacts.

Among the report’s key findings and recommendations are:

- America’s coasts face unprecedented stresses as a result of ongoing global climate change; early and swift action is essential if we are to reduce its effects.
- Coastal restoration does not exist apart from coastal communities and their



— Cont'd — STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

residents. In fact, the fate and, in some cases, existence of these communities is inextricably linked to healthy coasts and estuaries. Coastal residents must be made aware of and invested in the need for preservation and adaptation where possible, and restoration and mitigation where needed.

- Many of the expected effects from climate change—global warming, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and an increase in the number and intensity of major storms—may not happen gradually and incrementally. Current evidence suggests that there may be a sudden tipping point, beyond which major and potentially catastrophic changes in weather, temperature, and sea level occur.
- Science indicates that coastal wetlands—particularly tidal-saline wetland systems—are incredibly efficient carbon

sinks for greenhouse gases (GHG). This makes coastal restoration, adaptation, and mitigation essential elements in government planning and policy, and has profound ramifications and opportunities for government and commercial investments in domestic and international carbon markets.

Particularly important are the findings regarding the efficacy of coastal wetlands in carbon sequestration. While forest ecosystems can store large amounts of GHG carbon—popularly known as “Green Carbon”—and help reduce global warming, new research is focusing on so-called “Blue Carbon” in coastal wetland ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes. Recent findings suggest that coastal wetlands can sequester carbon at rates 3-5 times greater than temperate forests, making them efficient—and essential—carbon “sinks,” as world temperatures and sea levels rise.

Report contributors included: Stephen Crooks, Director of Climate Change Services at ESA PWA; Janet Hawkes, Managing Director of HD1 LLC; Brian Needelman, Associate Professor of Soil Science at the University of Maryland/Department of Environmental Science and Technology; Carol Shumway, President of CAS Environmental Solutions; Richard Takacs, NOAA Fisheries Biologist; and James G. Titus, a Lawyer-Applied Mathematician with the U.S. EPA.

Funding for the report was provided by the Henry Phillip Kraft Family Memorial Fund of the New York Community Trust, the Marisla Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Coastal Program.

The report is available at http://estuaries.org/images/stories/RAE_Restore-Adapt-Mitigate_Climate-Chg-Report.pdf.



— RAE — GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Restore America's Estuaries is a respected and effective voice in Washington, D.C. for the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. Working closely with our 11 member organizations and the broader conservation community, Restore America's Estuaries is increasing awareness of the importance of habitat restoration among key stakeholders and decision makers as well as elevating the priority placed on habitat restoration at the National level.



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO THE COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION COALITION

Over the past year, RAE strengthened and regularly convened the Coastal Habitat Restoration and Protection Coalition. The coalition represents a broad and diverse set of organizations working to defend and strengthen public investments in coastal habitat restoration and protection efforts in the best interest of communities across the nation. The coalition represents states, businesses, and organizations totaling millions of hunters,

anglers, kayakers, hikers, fish and wildlife professionals, and others who are united by a shared commitment to restoring and protecting our nation's coasts, estuaries, and rivers. RAE worked with the coalition on joint outreach to Members of Congress, top officials at the Department of Commerce, Office of Management and Budget, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Members of the coalition include: American Rivers, American Sportfishing Association, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of National Estuary Programs, Coastal States Organization, Ducks Unlimited,

— Cont'd — GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and Trout Unlimited.

DEMONSTRATING MILLIONS OF AMERICANS SUPPORT HABITAT RESTORATION FUNDING

Restore America's Estuaries lead outreach efforts to gain the support of more than 300 businesses, nonprofit and advocacy groups, industry trade groups, and tribal associations, representing millions of members and constituents. The organizations called upon the Administration and Congress to support federal habitat restoration programs because they are good for both the economy and the environment. The supporting organizations, "Who's Who" of nationally prominent environmental, outdoor trade, and sporting organizations, as well as concerned coastal businesses, also coordinated Hill and Agency outreach to educate key decision makers and voice their support for federal restoration funding.

ACTIVATING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS IN SUPPORT OF NOAA'S COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM

In August, RAE led a strategic social media campaign in support of NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program targeting The Department of Commerce, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Office of Management and Budget. The one-day campaign reached more than 260,000 social media users on Twitter and Facebook. This campaign increased awareness among traditional and non-traditional supporters. Some non-traditional supporters included: Mississippi Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Sportsmen Channel, and Online Hunter Magazine. Through the campaign, RAE was also able to demonstrate an active and vocal constituency which caught the attention of high-level Administration officials.

ADVANCING NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY AND PROVIDING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

National Estuaries Day is part of a campaign by Restore America's Estuaries to encourage better collaboration by coastal stakeholders, educate key policy and decision makers, and increase community awareness and engagement through on-the-ground restoration projects. Restore America's Estuaries led outreach efforts in collaboration with Association of National Estuary Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves Association to educate and engage people through beach clean-ups, hikes, canoe and kayak trips, cruises, and workshops. These activities directly engage people on-the-ground and will help to create the long-term support that is necessary to achieve watershed-scale restoration and conservation. In addition to local events, RAE lead outreach to coastal Governors resulting in 14 coastal states issuing a Gubernatorial Proclamation recognizing National Estuaries Day. Finally, at the National level, in close coordination with Senator Whitehouse, RAE led efforts to introduce and secure unanimous passage of S. Res 566, designating September 29th, 2012 as National Estuaries Day. We were very pleased to have a bipartisan group of 22 coastal Senators co-sponsoring the resolution.





— Our — HIGHLIGHTED PARTNERS



ROCKEFELLER & CO.

With 130 years of experience, Rockefeller & Co.'s history dates back to 1882 when John D. Rockefeller established a New York family office to manage the Rockefeller Family's personal assets and philanthropic interests. In 1980 the family registered with the SEC as an investment adviser, thus making available to a broader clientele the same investment and professional resources that continue to serve Rockefeller family assets today.

Today, Rockefeller & Co. is a global investment advisory and asset management firm with a team of high quality professionals providing a wide array of comprehensive, objective and tailored investment services to a selective group of clients with varying asset levels. They **assist nonprofits** to achieve and maintain strong governance, oversight, and investment performance of their financial assets.

Rockefeller & Co. is organized around three primary areas of expertise:

- **Rockefeller Wealth Advisors:** Objective investment advice and consulting coupled with an open-architecture investment management platform, along with fiduciary and financial planning services.
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Rockefeller & Co's commitment to the nonprofit community dates back to 1889 when John D. Rockefeller, Sr. founded and endowed the University of Chicago and has remained a vital part of Rockefeller & Co.'s clientele. Indeed, much of the Rockefeller Family's charitable and social principles are embedded in the firm's culture and values.

A recent example of Rockefeller & Co. commitment to working with nonprofit institutions is the establishment of the "Rockefeller Ocean Strategy". This strategy seeks to identify investment opportunities in public companies that have demonstrated a tangible positive impact on protecting and restoring the health of the world's oceans. Combining thoughtful research with its internal asset management capabilities, Rockefeller & Co.'s investment team seeks to identify best-in-class public companies whose businesses are involved across the broad spectrum of the ocean network globally. The strategy seeks investment opportunities in areas such as maritime transportation, manufacturing and industrial services, healthcare, ocean energy, and water and wastewater utilities.

Rockefeller & Co. is proud to be a new partner with RAE through support of the 2012 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration which was held in Tampa, Florida October 20-25, 2012.



— Cont'd — HIGHLIGHTED PARTNERS



United Airlines and United Express operate an average of 5,446 flights a day to more than 370 airports across six continents. As a leading global airline, United is committed to the environment, sustainability, and addressing greenhouse gas emissions. Since 1994, United has improved aircraft fuel efficiency by 32%. United successfully launched the first U.S. passenger biofuel flight powered with a mixture of renewable algae-derived jet fuel and conventional jet fuel. United is committed to reducing fuel use and further improving fuel efficiency of its aircraft and vehicles through technology and process innovation; advancing and utilizing environmentally responsible and cost-efficient alternative fuels; improving the sustainability of their products and facilities; and work with its co-workers and stakeholders — customers, airports, business partners, suppliers, governments, and NGOs — to promote accountability and protect the environment while achieving their business goals. United is also working toward collective industry goals, including 1.5% average annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2020, carbon neutral growth beginning in 2020, and a 50% reduction in CO₂ by 2050 relative to 2005 baseline levels.

Additional accomplishments include:

- More than 330 aircraft in its mainline operations equipped with winglets that deliver up to a 5% reduction in emissions and noise.
- More than 24% of its ground service equipment vehicles are electric or alternatively fueled.
- Conducted the first U.S. biofuel and synthetic fuel demonstration flights and signed letters of intent with various alternative jet fuel producers in the U.S. to purchase more than 50 million gallons of cost-efficient and environmentally responsible alternative jet fuels derived from biomass feedstock.
- Over the last six years, United recycled more than 20 million pounds of cans and plastic items from waste generated inflight and at its facilities.

In 2010, United became the Airline Partner for RAE's 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. Their support of the Conference included discounted airfares for Conference attendees. In 2012, United renewed its support as the Airline Partner for the 6th National Conference and experienced first-hand the dynamic nature of the Conference through exhibiting and interacting with conference participants. RAE is proud to welcome United Airlines to the coastal habitat restoration community.



— 2012 — SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Restore America's Estuaries is appreciative of the many organizations and individuals who have supported our work over the last year.

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Custom cartoon strip courtesy of Jim Toomey.

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If we have inadvertently left you off our acknowledgement list, please let us know. Thank you.

hpotts@estuaries.org



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OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Dillingham, Exec. Dir. (RAE Chair)
American Littoral Society
18 N. Hartshorne Rd, Sandy Hook, Bldg. 18
Highlands, NJ 07732
732-291-0055; fax 732-872-8041
tim@littoralsociety.org

Peter Clark, President (RAE Vice Chair)
Tampa Bay Watch
3000 Pinellas Bayway South
Tierra Verde, FL 33715
727-867-8166; fax 727-867-8188
pclark@tampabaywatch.org

Jonathan F. Stone, Exec. Dir. (RAE Treasurer)
Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905
401-272-3540; fax 401-273-7153
jstone@savebay.org

Donald S. Strait, Exec. Dir. (RAE Secretary)
Save the Sound – a program of Connecticut
Fund for the Environment
142 Temple Street, 3rd Floor
New Haven, CT 06510
203-787-0646
dstrait@cfenv.org

Kim Coble, VP of Env. Protection & Rest.
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
6 Herndon Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-268-8816; fax 410-268-6687
kcoble@cbf.org

Tom Bancroft, Executive Director
Kathy Fletcher, Executive Director (retired)
People For Puget Sound
911 Western Avenue, Suite 580
Seattle, WA 98104
206-382-7007; fax 206-382-7006
tbancroft@pugetsound.org

David Lewis, Executive Director
Save The Bay – San Francisco
1330 Broadway, Suite 1800
Oakland, CA 94612-2519
510.463.6850; fax 510.463.6851
dlewis@savesfbay.org

Todd Miller, Executive Director
North Carolina Coastal Federation
3609 Highway 24
Newport, NC 28570
252-393-8185; fax 252-393-7508
toddm@nc coast.org

Steven Peyronnin, Executive Director
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
6160 Perkins Road, Suite 225
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-767-4181; fax 225-768-8193
stevenp@crcl.org

Peter Shelley, Vice President
Conservation Law Foundation
62 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110
617-850-1754; fax 617-350-4030
pshelley@clf.org

Robert Stokes, President
Galveston Bay Foundation
17330 Highway 3
Webster, TX 77598
281-332-3381 x 211; fax 281-332-3153
cell 713-898-8843
bstokes@galvbay.org

Jeff Benoit, President and CEO
Restore America's Estuaries
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 603
Arlington, VA 22201
703-524-0248 x105; fax 703-524-0287
jbenoit@estuaries.org

RAE STAFF MEMBERS

Jeff Benoit
President and CEO

Meg Beiter
Development Associate

Kimberley Burke
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Sr. Director of Restoration and
Administration

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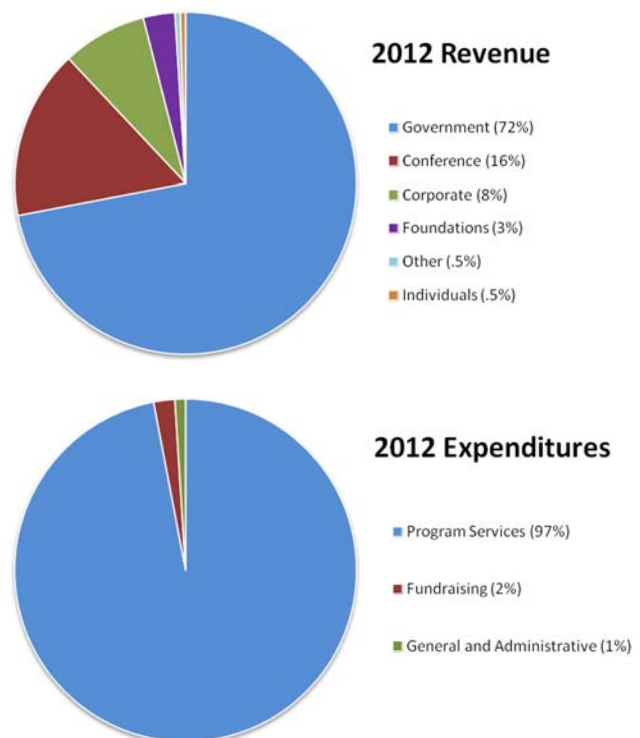
Harvey Potts
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Communications Specialist



2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Years Ended December 31	2012	2011
Revenue		
Grants	\$2,449,292	\$2,685,330
Contributions	523,465	253,285
Conference	580,991	98,531
Other Income	0	0
Investment Income	7,996	15,197
Total Revenue	\$3,561,744	\$3,052,343
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$3,386,470	\$3,233,783
General and Administrative	43,108	43,504
Fundraising	73,694	95,682
Lobbying	0	279
Total Expenses	\$3,503,272	\$3,373,248
Change in Net Assets	\$58,472	\$(320,905)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$991,366	\$1,312,271
Net Assets at End of Year	\$1,049,838	\$991,366





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NATIONAL OFFICE:
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 603
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel: (703) 524-0248
Fax: (703) 524-0287

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