

2013

ANNUAL
REPORT

C H A R T I N G T H E C O U R S E



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

2013

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



1,581
acres restored



19
stream miles
opened



15
states



24,895
volunteers



255,905
volunteer hours served



\$5.6
million
economic value
leveraged through
volunteers



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

CHARTING THE COURSE

Thanks in large part to the generosity and partnership of our member groups, allies, and supporters, 2013 was a remarkable year for Restore America's Estuaries. We were able to work with our member organizations to achieve significant on-the-ground restoration and conservation results through 77 projects in 15 states. These results included restoration of 1,581 acres and 19 stream miles of wetland and shellfish habitat.

But the numbers don't tell the whole story. We continued to provide national leadership in core program areas for the benefit of estuaries nationwide. For instance, we made significant progress toward advancing the potential of Coastal Blue Carbon, the ability of coastal wetlands to sequester atmospheric carbon, and encouraged the adoption of Living Shorelines over shoreline hardening. Further, with support and encouragement from our partners, we expanded National Estuaries Day to National Estuaries Week in response to enthusiastic interest and participation.

Finally, this year we were excited to welcome EarthCorps as the newest member of the RAE alliance.

Our successes over the past year allow us not only to look back with a sense of pride in our accomplishments but also to look forward with a sense of excitement at the possibilities for the future. In that vein, we are actively planning for the future by aligning our priorities and resources to respond to the most pressing challenges of tomorrow. In a time of complex environmental challenges, we are charting the course for continued success in our efforts to preserve and restore our nation's bays and estuaries. With your support, we can ensure that our coastal waters and the natural resources they sustain are available for generations and generations to come.

Jeff Benoit,
President
Restore America's
Estuaries

Capt. Peter Clark,
President
Tampa Bay Watch
and Chair, RAE
Board



JEFF BENOIT



PETER CLARK

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PROTECTING COASTLINES FROM HURRICANES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

In 2013, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana implemented two projects along the Gulf of Mexico as part of its hurricane recovery and restoration efforts. CRCL returned to the Cameron Parish shoreline, where it installed 1.7 miles of sand fence in 2012, and worked with 50 volunteers who planted 10,200 bitter panicum plants along the fence line. CRCL also hosted a planting project at Grand Isle through which 86 volunteers planted

14,300 plants. The beach shoreline and dunes of Louisiana's coast are the first line of defense against storm surge, and they have undergone significant reduction in size due to wave action and storm surge eroding the shoreline. By planting grass along the beach, sand and sediment can accumulate to build up the dunes, providing a habitat for nesting shorebirds and acting as a buffer from future hurricanes and storm surge.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES ACHIEVE MAJOR RESTORATION RESULTS

Restoration of our nation's estuaries is best accomplished at the local level, by the people and communities who have the strongest connection to them. RAE therefore works through our 11 member organizations to support restoration projects that are community-based from design to execution. In 2013, our Community-Based Restoration Program supported 77 projects in 15 states. Through these projects 9,432 volunteers contributed more than 33,000 service hours to bring about tangible results including the restoration of 1,581 acres and 19 stream miles. Projects completed by these volunteers included: 34 to create or improve fish passages and/or tidal flow; 17 to restore oysters; 8 to control erosion and stabilize shorelines, and 5 to install "Living Shorelines." Results such as these brought about by local community members demonstrate the importance of these natural resources to the people who live near them, as well as the on-the-ground impact that RAE and our member organizations are able to produce.



BLUE CARBON: RESTORING ESTUARIES FOR THEIR CLIMATE BENEFITS

Coastal wetlands store more carbon per acre than almost any other type of land but are not yet recognized by carbon markets. In 2013, Restore America's Estuaries submitted the world's first tidal wetland and seagrass restoration methodology for greenhouse gas offsets to the Verified Carbon Standard. This major milestone marks the completion of developing the requirements necessary for a project to receive credits. While formal review process is underway, approval is expected in late 2014. Once approved, investment in coastal wetland conservation for climate change benefits will be possible through carbon markets.

CLEANING AND RESTORING JAMAICA BAY

Since 2002, the American Littoral Society has been restoring Jamaica Bay's coastal marine habitats, including salt marsh, mudflats, and intertidal beaches, by removing hundreds of derelict boats, abandoned docks, and other large marine debris. By improving water quality and protecting salt marsh, this program, named Jamaica Bay CleanSweep, preserves habitat for wildlife and improves the recreational environment for

anglers, boaters, and community members. Hurricane Sandy greatly increased the amount of large marine debris. Continued monitoring and documentation ensures continued remediation of the most severely impacted and eroded sites in Jamaica Bay. In 2013, the American Littoral Society located, mapped, and documented more than 590 items of large marine debris. With help from 268 volunteers, they removed 35 cubic yards of marine debris.





Left to Right: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Governor Lincoln Chafee, NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Peter Hanney (Save the Bay, RAE Member), Rebecca Roth (National Estuarine Research Reserve Association), and Senator Jack Reed.

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK ENGAGES MORE THAN 15,000 VOLUNTEERS

During National Estuaries Week, Restore America's Estuaries and our partners hosted 61 events in 24 states. National Estuaries Week 2013, which occurred September 21-28, directly engaged more than 15,000 volunteers in 222,712 hours of service. We believe educating and engaging people in estuary restoration is essential to reversing habitat loss and influencing change at the ecosystem scale.

Our 2013 signature event on Prudence Island, R.I. recognized U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse and Jack Reed for their national and state leadership efforts to help protect and restore estuaries and was also attended by Governor Chafee and Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA Administrator.

MARSH MANIA VOLUNTEERS PREVENT SHORELINE EROSION

Galveston Bay Foundation is protecting Shipe Woods Preserve, a 14.26-acre wooded conservation property adjacent to Trinity Bay in Chambers County, TX, from continued erosion. Within the past 15 years, an estimated 100 feet of Shipe Woods' shoreline has eroded, severely impacting the fringing shoreline marsh and riparian forest. In 2013, the Galveston Bay Foundation constructed a 725-foot breakwater to

reduce wave energy, halt erosion of the shoreline, and promote deposition of suspended sediments landward of the structure to protect the Shipe Woods Preserve from continued erosion. In September, 55 community volunteers participated in GBF's Marsh Mania community-based marsh restoration event and planted 22 18-gallon buckets of smooth cordgrass at the Shipe Woods project site.





RAE CONVENES MID-ATLANTIC LIVING SHORELINES SUMMIT

In December, RAE partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Chesapeake Bay Trust to convene the Mid-Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit, in Cambridge, Maryland. Among the nearly 250 participants were resource managers, regulators, marine contractors, scientists, policy makers, consultants, journalists, and representatives of non-profit organizations. Participants shared research, best practices, and lessons learned on the use and implementation of “Living Shorelines” as a means of protecting coastal areas and their natural systems from erosion, climate change, sea level rise, and a host of other threats. Outcomes from the Summit will feed directly into creation of a nationwide information-sharing platform, advancing RAE’s goal to provide support on emerging issues of interest to the coastal and estuarine communities. Additional information on the Summit can be found at <http://www.estuaries.org/2013-mid-atlantic-living-shorelines-summit>.



300-FOOT “LIVING SHORELINE” PROTECTS SALTMARSH AND OYSTER HABITAT

In August, the North Carolina Coastal Federation built a 305-foot “Living Shoreline” that will restore, enhance, and protect saltmarsh and oyster habitat along a section of eroding shoreline longer than a football field in southeastern North Carolina. As part of this project, 170 volunteers, contractors, and NCCF staff used oyster domes to build two

oyster reef sills and a vertical wall sill in the Morris Landing area of Stump Sound, located in coastal Onslow County. A third oyster reef sill was built using 3,000 oyster shell and marl bags, and more than 3,500 saltmarsh plant seedlings were planted behind the sills to create marsh.

EARTHCORPS BECOMES NEWEST MEMBER OF RAE ALLIANCE

Early in 2013, Restore America's Estuaries made the exciting announcement that EarthCorps had joined our alliance, becoming our 11th member organization. Seattle-based EarthCorps, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013, trains emerging environmental leaders from across the United States and around the world and engages more than 10,000 volunteers

each year to restore natural areas around the Puget Sound region. Projects include urban reforestation, salmon habitat restoration, backcountry trail work, and ecological mapping, monitoring, and science, as well as nearshore habitat restoration. Additional information on EarthCorps can be found at www.earthcorps.org.



SPONSOR RECOGNITION: THE BOEING COMPANY

In 2013, The Boeing Company provided generous support to Restore America's Estuaries to research and create the report, *Coastal Blue Carbon Opportunity Assessment for the Snohomish Estuary*. This report is a first-of-its-kind assessment of the climate mitigation benefits of restoring tidal wetlands in the Snohomish estuary in Puget Sound. Boeing's support of this project reflects the company's strong commitment to corporate citizenship and environmental stewardship, which can be seen in everything from the company's products and services to its business practices and community engagement.

As a committed, responsible environmental leader focused on healthy global growth, Boeing collaborates with research institutions, customers, universities, and governments to solve problems and educate communities about the importance



of environmental protection and preservation. Boeing is the aviation industry's leader in the development of sustainable aviation biofuel and is accelerating improvements in the environmental performance of the company's products, services and operations, as its business continues to grow. Increasingly, Boeing is seeking opportunities to incorporate energy conservation technologies and sustainable materials into its products as well as new building designs, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and waste generated as well as water used. Boeing has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's designation of "ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year" for the past several years. Learn more about how Boeing is building a better planet at www.boeing.com/environment.

Left to Right: Sean Cosgrove (Conservation Law Foundation), Diane Hoskins (RAE), Congressman Bill Keating, Peter Shelly (Conservation Law Foundation and RAE Board Member), Jeff Benoit (RAE President and CEO).



CONGRESSMAN KEATING RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP ON COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION

Restore America's Estuaries and our Massachusetts-based member group, Conservation Law Foundation, recognized Congressman Bill Keating (MA-09) for his leadership in Congress to support coastal habitat restoration efforts and advocate for funding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Community-Based Restoration Program. Congressman Keating has worked closely with us to lead efforts to garner support for coastal habitat restoration from his colleagues in Congress for several years.

NEW REPORT: More Habitat Means More Fish with NOAA Fisheries and American Sportfishing Association

Restoring and expanding coastal and estuarine habitat leads to increases in fish populations, which have a positive impact on the communities and the industries that depend on thriving and sustainable fisheries. A report released in May by RAE and the American Sportfishing Association and co-authored with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—*More Habitat*

Means More Fish—makes a powerful case that investing in protection and restoration of our nation's coastlines and estuaries leads to healthy habitat and strong fisheries. These in turn have a positive impact on the businesses and industries, both recreational and commercial, that need healthy fisheries to survive and thrive. The report can be found at <http://www.estuaries.org/reports/>.



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR 2013 SUPPORTERS

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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American Sportfishing Association
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Bryan & Sons Landscape
Camille Majors
Cheniere Energy
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Chesapeake Bay Trust
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Will Baker

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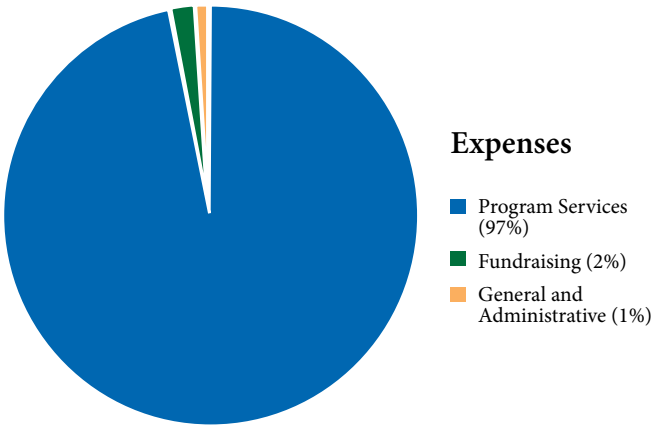
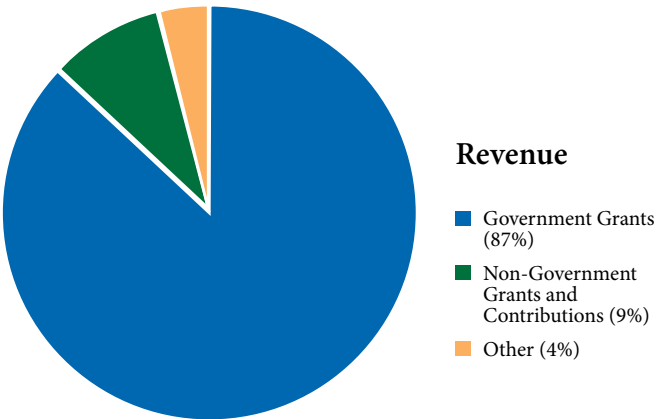
DONATE NOW

The support of our generous donors makes possible all that RAE does. To learn more about how you can help RAE protect and restore bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation, please contact Harvey Potts at hpotts@estuaries.org or Lance Speidell at lspeidell@estuaries.org.

You can also donate online at:
<https://www.estuaries.org/donation-form>.

FINANCIAL REPORT: OUR REVENUE & EXPENSES

Years Ended December 31	2013	2012
Revenue		
Government Grants	\$2,365,356	\$2,449,292
Grants and Contributions	\$251,350	\$523,465
Conference and Meetings	\$65,588	\$580,991
Other Income	\$19,597	\$0
Investment Income	\$6,941	\$7,996
Total Revenue	\$2,708,832	\$3,561,744
Expenses		
Program Services	\$2,760,620	\$3,386,470
Fundraising	\$57,217	\$73,694
General and Administrative	\$44,309	\$43,108
Total Expenses	\$2,862,146	\$3,503,272
Change in Net Assets	\$(153,314)	\$58,472
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,049,838	\$991,366
Net Assets at End of Year	\$896,524	\$1,049,838



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Photo Credits: American Littoral Society, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, EarthCorps, Galveston Bay Foundation, North Carolina Coastal Federation, Save the Bay - Narragansett Bay, Tampa Bay Watch, Bruce Berrien, Daniel X. O'Neil, Jason Lugo