



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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July 2009, Issue 42



FOCUS ON FELLOWS: Andy Lanier



Oregon has answered to any number of nicknames: the Hard-Case State, by settlers exhausted from its rugged terrain; the Beaver State, for the once-plentiful animal over-trapped by settlers but now on the rebound; or the Webfoot State, by current inhabitants who gripe about its yearly rainfall average (180 inches).

To Coastal Fellow Andy Lanier, no nickname can quite capture

Oregon's grandeur. An admirer of its rainy afternoons and stormy seas, Andy's childhood was filled with experiences of backpacking alongside parents in the snow-topped Cascades and dashing into the salt-spray ocean waves with his sisters. Now Andy strives to preserve the state's natural splendor for tomorrow's children.

Andy admits that, as a biology major at the University of Oregon, he occasionally let his passion for the outdoors take precedence over academics. "One of my favorite lookouts is Cape Arago near Coos Bay, with its jagged sandstone cliffs and ocean coves," says Andy. "My girlfriend and I would take some barbeque and have a picnic on the cliffs. We'd take a spotting scope to watch the grey whales, and sometimes we were close enough to feel and smell the spray from their blowholes."

Following graduation, Andy decided to enter the Masters in Marine Resource Management (M.R.M) program at Oregon State University (OSU). "I was fascinated to read about the seafloor-mapping research done by OSU Professor Dawn Wright, so I worked hard to land a student project related to that topic," says Andy, who helped to collect and process seafloor sonar data with professor and mentor Chris Goldfinger. "In order to collect data, we had to

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charter a ship and build the remote sensing platform on the deck—all the home remodeling my dad made me do finally came in handy!” he laughs.

While working on his master’s degree, Andy added to his technological skills with cartography coursework and a geospatial information system (GIS) certificate, skills that have certainly come in handy during his fellowship. (Graduate school was a happy time, says Andy, because he met his future wife, now Jessica Cardinal-Lanier, while both were students in the M.R.M. program.)

How did Andy become interested in the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship? “My friend and roommate, Wes Shaw, had already started his fellowship with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and he gave me a glowing report, so I applied the next year.”

Placed as a fellow with the Oregon Coastal Management Program, Andy collects and processes data and information for the state’s coastal atlas. His Web products have encouraged Oregon’s residents to become involved in wave-energy decisions and a statewide marine-reserves process.

“While working on the marine reserves website [www.oregonmarinereserves.net], we spent a lot of time gathering



Andy enjoys the Oregon outdoors with his wife, Jessica.

information and feeding it into a marine policy process that was data-hungry and information-sparse,” Andy notes. One of his most rewarding project challenges was creating intricate charts and documents that were equally accessible to computer users and non-computer users. “One man in his 70s printed out all the forms and maps and handwrote information about the area where he lived, so he could participate completely using just the hard-copy resources.”

The rewards of the project have been many. “Before the website, people arguing both sides of the issue used hyperbole and ‘What If’ statements,” says Andy. “By putting the website out there, we’ve helped people focus on the facts and understand the process of approving marine reserves.”

In his work, Andy has depended upon the patience

and expertise of three agency colleagues: Tanya Haddad, coastal atlas administrator and a former fellow; Bob Bailey, program manager; and Paul Klarin, marine affairs coordinator. “They’ve really brought me under their wing and helped me to influence coastal policy,” he explains.

Another bonus of the project is that it has enabled Andy to present his conclusions at national coastal management conferences. Moreover, Andy has published an article, “Oregon’s Public Marine Reserve Process: The End or a New Beginning?” in the March/April 2009 issue of the *Oregon Planners Journal*.

And what are Andy’s plans when the fellowship ends? Not surprisingly, he would like nothing better than to continue working in the place he loves best. “I’ve grown so much in this position,” says Andy, “and the Oregon coast is where I feel most in tune with nature.” 

FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP:

2009–2011 Coastal Management Fellows Selected



Twelve finalists attended the 2009 Coastal Management Fellowship Matching Workshop.

From left to right: Fellowship Coordinator Margaret VanderWilt, Leigh Wood, Holly Elwell, Nicholas Dreher, Mandi McElroy, Danielle Brzezinski, Robin Pelc, Laura Mattison, Laurel Kellner (front), Kate Huckelbridge, Shanna Dunn, Chelsie Papiez, and Courtney Scarborough.

Five fellows were matched with five state coastal zone management programs at this year's matching workshop, which was held May 4 through 8, 2009, in Charleston, South Carolina. The topics to be addressed in these two-year fellowships include planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation, targeting tools and techniques for sea level rise adaptation, establishing a coastal resilience index, and constructing a diked lands vulnerability inventory.



California – California Coastal Commission

Laurel Kellner, from Oregon State University and nominated by Oregon Sea Grant, was matched with the California Coastal Commission to develop a collection of climate change information and use that information to develop a series of public workshops.



California – San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Courtney Scarborough, from the University of California–Santa Barbara and nominated by the University of Southern California Sea Grant, was matched with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to promote planning for adaptation to climate change for the San Francisco Bay and the California coast.



Maryland – Chesapeake and Coastal Program

Chelsie Papiez, from Evergreen State College and nominated by Washington Sea Grant, was matched with the Maryland Chesapeake and Coastal Program to target tools and techniques for sea level rise adaptation and response.



New Jersey – Coastal Program

Leigh Wood, from Clemson University and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the New Jersey Coastal Program to establish a comprehensive coastal resilience index for New Jersey's Delaware Bayshore.



Oregon – Coastal Management Program

Laura Mattison, from Brown University and nominated by Rhode Island Sea Grant, was matched with the Oregon Coastal Management Program to construct a diked lands vulnerability inventory to support strategic planning for the impacts of sea level rise.

FOCUS ON THE CENTER: Atlases: Keys to the Coast



Current and former NOAA Coastal Fellows rendezvoused in Seattle, Washington, while attending the West Coast Coastal Atlas Workshop, hosted by the Washington Department of Ecology (left to right: Greg Benoit, Andy Lanier, Deborah Purce, Tanya Haddad, and Jordan Gass).

Coastal atlases unlock barriers to information, so that resource managers can make smart coastal decisions that are also legally sound.

Coastal professionals and regional ocean councils cannot truly safeguard the natural treasures of the coast unless they keep current on coastal and ocean laws.

The NOAA Coastal Services Center's Legislative Atlas, part of the on-line Digital Coast initiative, makes this information available at the touch of a button (see www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/legatlas/). Legislative Atlas customers just select an area on the map to view the applicable coastal and ocean laws and jurisdictions.

What's more, the Legislative Atlas has recently been updated.

Summarized laws can now be coupled with mapping capabilities, enabling users to illustrate and analyze the jurisdictional boundaries for various "georegulations" (i.e., federal and state laws). These new capabilities are a boon for coastal professionals who must make lively, easy-to-understand presentations to a wide array of stakeholders.

Fellows Do Their Part

The Center also supports state-level atlas efforts through projects undertaken by two NOAA coastal fellows.

Coastal Fellow Andy Lanier at the Oregon Coastal Management Program is assembling a geographic information system (GIS) inventory and database for the state's coastal atlas that will make marine reserves information more accessible and will assist stakeholders with making

wave energy decisions (the marine reserves component is at www.oregonmarinereserves.net).

In Washington State, Coastal Fellow Deborah Purce is developing the public-access component of the Washington Coastal Atlas (see the atlas at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/atlas_home.html). As part of her duties for the Washington State Department of Ecology, Purce helped to organize a May 2009 workshop for coastal atlas developers and managers hailing from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Canada's province of British Columbia.

The workshop was a great success and hopes are high that it will mark the beginning of formal coastal atlas coordination and data sharing among the West Coast states. 

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

JULY

11 to 14:

2009 ESRI Education User Conference
San Diego, California
www.esri.com/events/educ/index.html

19 to 23:

Coastal Zone 09
Boston, Massachusetts
www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/

20 to 24:

3rd National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Los Angeles, California
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2009/>

24 to 28:

National Association of Counties 2009 Annual Conference and Exposition
Nashville, Tennessee
www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Annual

For more information on upcoming events, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html.

AUGUST

2 to 7:

**Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting:
Ecological Knowledge and a Global Sustainable Society**
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<http://esa.org/albuquerque/>

SEPTEMBER

14 to 16:

Clean Pacific 2009
Portland, Oregon
www.cleanpacific.org

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

CanVis Workshop

July 19
Boston, Massachusetts

August 19
September 16
Via WebEx

Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS

July 30 to 31
Charleston, South Carolina

October 1 to 2
Portland, Oregon

Coastal Community Planning and Development

August 24 to 25
Apalachicola, Florida

Coastal Inundation Mapping

July 21 to 22
Corpus Christi, Texas

August 13 to 14
Dover, Delaware

Introduction to ArcGIS

July 23 to 24
Corpus Christi, Texas

July 28 to 29
August 3 to 4
Charleston, South Carolina

August 11 to 12
Dover, Delaware

September 29 to 30
Portland, Oregon

Negotiating for Coastal Resources

August 4 to 5
St. Petersburg, Florida

Planning for Meaningful Evaluation

June 18 to 19
Staatsburg, New York

July 9 to 10
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

August 11 to 12
Fairhope, Alabama

September 1 to 2
Honolulu, Hawaii

Project Design and Evaluation

July 15 to 16
Fairhope, Alabama

September 29 to 30
Annapolis, Maryland

Public Issues and Conflict Management

July 16
Charleston, South Carolina

July 28 to 30
Oakland, California

September 15 to 17
St. Augustine, Florida

Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts

July 28 to 29
Gautier, Mississippi

For more information on virtual and site-specific trainings, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/training/.

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CREDITS AND INFORMATION

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Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to
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**Attention all current and former fellows:
Are you attending Coastal Zone 2009?**

The Coastal Zone conference will be held July 19 to 23, 2009, in Boston, Massachusetts. Our current fellow in Massachusetts, Daniella Hirschfeld, and another former fellow, Julia Knisel, are organizing an event in Boston for current and former fellows attending CZ09. If you are interested in participating, please contact *Daniella*. Hirschfeld@state.ma.us or Margaret.VanderWilt@noaa.gov



**COASTAL
ZONE 09**
Boston, Massachusetts

