

# Arrivals and Accolades

## *Domske Receives Dual Recognition*

For the first time in NYSG’s near 30-year history, one of its extension specialists received two Program Leader Awards at April’s Great Lakes Sea Grant Network (GLSGN) Conference. During the annual event, held in Milwaukee, WI, NYSG Coastal Education Specialist **Helen Domske** accepted the GLSGN Program Leader “Outstanding Program Award” for her role as part of a network team in developing the Exotic Species Day Camp.

Domske, who is also Assistant Director of the Great Lakes Program, received a

consortium of state universities and land grant institutions providing high-tech education programs and services — bestowed upon Domske and eight others in the region the honor of “Outstanding Educational Program.”

Along with her project member counterparts, Domske educated teachers in remote locations of the Great Lakes region about the availability and benefit of classroom teaching resources focusing on the biology, spread and impact of aquatic exotic species. Their “train-the-trainer”

Photo by **Barbara A. Branca**



**Helen Domske on Lake Ontario in Oswego**

Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Program Leader “Superior Award” as well for her work in developing the Lower Lakes Reference Charts. These charts, now at <[wings.buffalo.edu/glp](http://wings.buffalo.edu/glp)>, pinpoint state and federal government organization contacts that address the issues of fisheries, water levels and quality, tourism, and exotic species.

This Sea Granter’s six-plus years of exotic species outreach efforts — most recently illustrated in the collaborative Great Lakes Sea Grant Exotic Species Day Camp Education project — were also acknowledged last August by the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC). The ADEC — an international

approach incorporated the latest technology, including CD-ROMs and web sites.

Domske says she is grateful for all the attention she and her regional Sea Grant counterparts have been receiving for the project. “This project has been innovative in providing educational information for teachers nationwide with its award-winning multimedia educational kits and curriculum.” She is currently embarking on a national extension of the Great Lakes aquatic nuisance species education project targeted to geography and social studies teachers and students.

# *NYSG welcomes three more to the fold*

In May, three new extension specialists joined the Sea Grant ranks, two of whom filled newly created positions. **Antoinette Clemetson** came on board as Sea Grant's Marine Fisheries Specialist at Cornell University's Research and Extension Center in Riverhead, Long Island. SUNY Stony Brook's NYSG extension office welcomed **Eileen Keenan** as the program's new Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Support Specialist. And at SUNY Oswego, **Molly Thompson** signed on as Sea Grant's new Dune Habitat Educator.

Photo by Paul Focazio



**Antoinette Clemetson and Eileen Keenan**

As Sea Grant's "downstate" fisheries specialist, Clemetson will plan, conduct and evaluate regional programming related to fisheries biology, management, conservation, restoration and aquaculture for Long Island, New York City and the Hudson River estuary. Clemetson will collaborate with Sea Grant-funded researchers to educate government agencies responsible for fisheries management as well as elected officials with an interest in fisheries. She will also target her efforts to audiences directly affected by fisheries — anglers, organized fishing groups, charter and party boat operators and coastal communities.

Keenan will work closely with the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee and the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee to adapt materials for local governments from the Connecticut Cooperative Extension NEMO program. NEMO, a water quality education program started at Connecticut Sea Grant, is currently being implemented nationwide. "Given the success of the program in Connecticut," says NYSG Director Jack Mattice, "we are really looking forward to having Eileen work with Long Island communities."

At SUNY Oswego, Thompson will partner with Eastern Lake Ontario community leaders to establish education and outreach programs on issues of concern regarding the area's dune ecosystem. This barrier system, which consists of beaches, sand dunes, embayments and wetlands, extends for roughly 16.7 miles and contains the largest and most extensive freshwater sand dune formations in New York State.

By engaging local citizens, school administrators, town boards, chamber of commerce employees and others in the process of dune management, policy and use, Thompson will develop a variety of educational materials. Sea Grant-produced information in the area of dune habitat education will include an annual newsletter and maintenance of the "Lake Ontario Sand Dunes and Wetlands" web site. In cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and The Ontario Dune Coalition, this New York Sea Grant web site serves to inform visitors of the integral part that Lake Ontario's eastern shore sand dunes play in their surrounding coastal barrier environment.



**Build a dune like this one at the dunes' website:**  
<[www.cce.cornell.edu/seagrant/dune/dune.html](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/seagrant/dune/dune.html)>.

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