

NOAA WORLD



Highlighting the achievements of NOAA people around the world

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Sherman's Lagoon Visits NOAA Fisheries Service

Connie Barclay
NOAA Fisheries Service

Cartoonist Jim Toomey loves sharks. He recently made a bet with a friend that he wasn't alone in his love for the ocean creatures and kicked off a cartoon campaign to prove his point. The campaign, led by a shark named Sherman, has drawn a great deal of attention to the issue of shark finning and NOAA's efforts to help protect this important species.

Jim Balsiger, the acting assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries Service, invited Toomey, the creator of "Sherman's Lagoon," to visit him recently in Silver Spring to talk about sharks. The day they met happened to be the same day NOAA Fisheries issued a press release outlining new measures to prevent overfishing and rebuild certain shark species.

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NOAA Volunteers Help Restore Historic Fort McHenry

Jennifer Koss, NOAA Fisheries Service

More than 60 NOAA volunteers joined NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher and Representative John Sarbanes to celebrate Earth Day at Fort McHenry in Balti-



VADM and Mrs. Lautenbacher help clean up the marsh near Fort McHenry.
Photo credit: Kate Naughten.

more. They removed countless bags of plastic, Styrofoam, glass, metal, rubber, and large pieces of woody debris from the wetland; planted trees along the marsh's nature trail; maintained its butterfly garden; and broke ground on a new rain garden.

This event marks the ninth time NOAA volunteers have participated in the marsh clean up and restoration event. Over the past nine years they've collected an incredible amount of debris.

NOAA's history with the Fort McHenry wetland started with an initial grant to the National Aquarium in Baltimore in 1998 from the NOAA Fisheries Community-based Restoration Program. NOAA has since worked with the NAIB to plan and implement adaptive management measures to enhance the functioning of the marsh. The Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) and

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NOAA WORLD

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We welcome your comments and suggestions to make NOAA WORLD more useful. Please email our editors at noaaworld@noaaworld.noaa.gov.

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NOAA Hosts 2nd Annual “NOAA Day on the Hill”

Tim Bagley, NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs

On April 10th, NOAA held its 2nd Annual NOAA Day on Capitol Hill in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer. NOAA Day was designed as an opportunity to provide Members of Congress and their staff with the chance to learn more about NOAA’s programs and activities in a unique forum outside of the standard briefings and hearings that regularly occur on the Hill.

NOAA Day was the premier of the Eluminati (or NOAA Dome) display on the Hill,



Chairwoman Madeleine Bordallo viewing the exhibits at NOAA Day.
Photo credit: Jeanne G. Kouhestani

which gives visitors the feeling of being immersed in the video, and also featured interactive displays and exhibits of NOAA’s scientific achievements, staffed by NOAA professionals from every line office.

More than 250 people attended the event throughout the day, including more than 200 congressional staffers from the Senate and House. In addition, NOAA was honored by five Members of Congress who joined us and viewed the displays, including: Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Representative Vern Ehlers (R MI), Representative Mike Honda (D-CA), and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

Susan Solomon Named One of Time Magazine's Top 100

NOAA Scientist Susan Solomon was recently named by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

In naming her, Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change wrote in Time:

"All scientists like to believe they will leave the world better than they found it. Susan Solomon of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration surely will. Having helped save the earth's atmosphere already, she is now playing a role in doing it again.

"An atmospheric chemist, Solomon, 52, was one of the first to be stirred into action by reports in the 1980s of deterioration of the planet's ozone layer. In 1986 and '87, she led expeditions to Antarctica, working through the darkness of the polar winter and bringing back confirmation that there was indeed a growing ozone hole and that chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were causing it. Those conclusions helped lead to a global ban on CFCs.

"Last year she tackled an even bigger job. As a co-chair with Dr. Qin Dahe of Working Group 1 of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), she played a key role in producing the report that has helped the world understand the severity of global warming. Certainly Solomon was not alone. Three working groups drafted the report, and when the IPCC and former Vice President Al Gore were awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, it was an acknowledgment of the work of many. Still, it's hard to overlook Solomon among the many, both for what she has achieved in the past and for the achievements sure to come."



Dr. Susan Solomon

Photo Credit: NOAA

Using NOAA Tech-knowledge to Inspire Young Scientists

Nadia Sbeih, National Ocean Service

The team from NOAA's Pacific Region is inspiring the next generation of scientists by bringing NOAA science to life. Recently, they have visited a variety of venues and wowed both young and old alike with several exciting education tools including Spherical Science on the Go!, NOAA's Second Life virtual world, and TERRI the educational robot.

The NOAA Pacific Region team was a major sponsor of the 51st Annual State of Hawaii Science and Engineering Fair. NOAA personnel from across the agency served as science fair judges, gave presentations, met with students and presented 14 awards for agency-related science projects. The biggest prize of the day was the "Discover Your World with NOAA" award which was given to a project about Watershed Restoration on the Island of Molokai. The award included a trip to a NOAA



TERRI the Robot

Photo credit: Jim Girardi

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Sherman's Lagoon

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Toomey is concerned about overfishing, but his particular passion concerns shark finning. He hopes that through his cartoon, he can raise awareness of the plight of sharks and can get children more interested in shark conservation. More than 200 newspapers around the country carry his cartoon, including the Washington Post, and it is printed in several languages around the world.

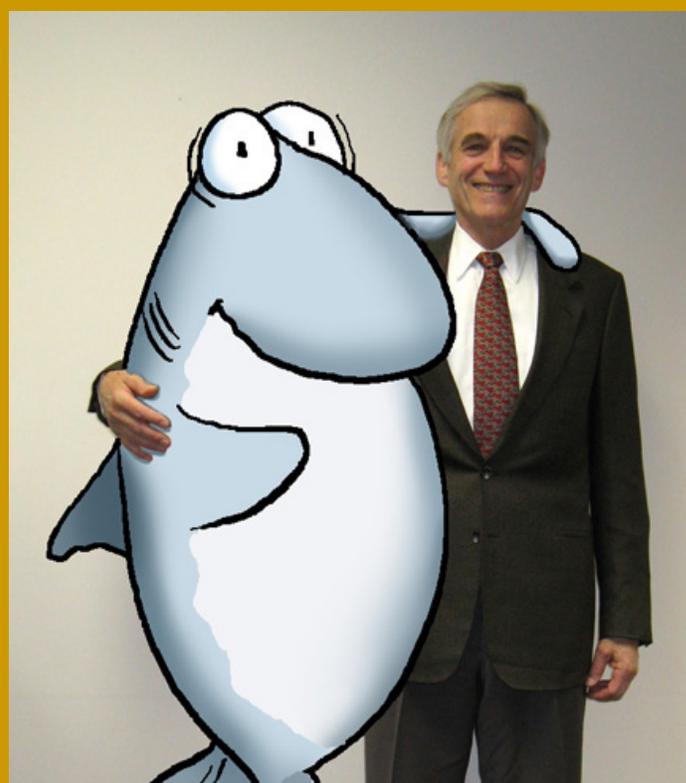
Sherman the shark lost his fins in the first week of a two-week story line built around a Sunday cartoon calling for kids from around the country to send drawings of sharks and pleas for NOAA Fisheries to continue working to conserve sharks.

Balsiger has asked his NOAA Fisheries' education department to respond to all letters with return addresses, and he even posed for an original drawing showing him and Sherman with their arms around each other to help bring more attention to this unique campaign.

On April 17, Toomey and Sonja Fordham from the Ocean Conservancy sat down with Balsiger at NOAA Fisheries Headquarters and answered questions from reporters and posed for photographs. Toomey presented Balsiger with an original copy of his cartoon calling for kids to contact NOAA Fisheries, and signed comic strips and books for NOAA Fisheries employees.

Balsiger assured Toomey that NOAA Fisheries scientists are working hard to continue to learn as much about sharks as they can and to stop finning and overfishing around the world.

As of May 1, 2008, NOAA Fisheries received more than 4,000 cards and drawings. Toomey believes that kids love sharks and that the bad reputation sharks had as vicious killers has passed. If he is right and wins the



Sherman the shark and NOAA Fisheries Service Acting Assistant Administrator, Jim Balsiger. Original drawing by Jim Toomey.

bet with his friend, NOAA Fisheries Service could continue to get hundreds of letters and drawings from around the world.

"At this point, we have letters and cards from children from all over the U.S., China, Brussels, Canada and Finland," Balsiger said. "Our youngest artist so far is three and our oldest is 80." Balsiger says he's ready to handle however many drawings and letters come in, and he's very pleased to be a part of this exciting program.

For more of Jim Toomey's fantastic cartoons, visit:
www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/education.html

Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory Receives Patent for DART System

Barry Reichenbaugh, NOAA Research

The United States Patent and Trade Office recently granted NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) a patent for their "System for Reporting High Resolution Ocean Pressures in Near Real-time for the Purpose of Tsunami Monitoring," also known as the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART®) system.

DART® system allows for the accurate monitoring of tsunamis following a possible 'tsunamigenic' event, such as an earthquake or deep ocean mudslide, in order to provide early warning of an impending tsunami as well as eliminate false alarms and costly unnecessary evacuations.

The system was developed in support of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, with the primary goal of reducing loss of life and property resulting from tsunami inundation.

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Sanctuary Sam, NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS)

I recently visited the White House for the 2008 Easter Egg Roll. What an experience! The theme of this year's Easter Egg Roll was "ocean conservation," a topic that is -- as you might have guessed -- near and dear to my heart. It was such an honor being invited to come to the White House to teach children about the importance of protecting our marine environment!

I arrived at the South Lawn of the White House bright and early on the day of the event with my friends from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and Marine Debris Program. They brought lots of cool activity books to hand out to the kids, along with Little Mermaid temporary tattoos and stickers featuring yours truly. While everyone was getting set up at the ocean conservation booth, I went over and got my picture taken with the rest of the mascots (*ahem* -- "spokes-characters"). It was all very official.

The gates were set to open at 8 a.m., so we headed over to the entrance to greet the first group of children and parents

to arrive. It was so great to see all their smiling faces!

I guess they were happy to see me, too, because before I knew it I was shaking hands, giving high-fives and posing for photos left and right. Now I know how the president must feel when he goes out in public!

Speaking of which, after introducing myself to the early-bird egg rollers I made my way over to the center of the lawn to see President Bush and the First Lady speak. They both talked about the importance of marine conservation, and how we all can do our part by helping keep the oceans clean -- like I always say, "Don't trash where you splash!"

After that, a steady stream of families continued to arrive throughout the day, so I decided to hang out around the ocean booth and mingle with the crowd. The kids all seemed to be having a great time, and I've never gotten so many hugs in my life! The most rewarding part was talking with these young people about our marine environment (the NOAA folks handled this -- for me, it's mostly about the nodding and barking). Seeing the understanding on their faces when we explained how the choices we make every day can help or hurt the ocean was really something special. I hope I get invited back next year!

There's more about Sanctuary Sam and friends at the Easter Egg Roll online at:
www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa.html

NOAA Decommissions "The Little Ship That Could"

Jeanne Kouhestani, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

After a storied career of 41 years, RUDE ended her service with NOAA on March 25 during a formal ceremony at the Marine Operations Center-Atlantic in Norfolk, VA. Former commanding officers and crew gathered for an emotional farewell to the smallest ship in the NOAA fleet.

Deputy Under Secretary Mary Glackin opened the ceremony, followed by remarks by OMAO's RADM Jon Bailey, NOAA, who also played an official role in taking the ship out of service. Additionally, remarks were provided by Kathryn Ries, Deputy Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey; first Commanding Officer CAPT Donald Florwick, NOAA (ret.); and first Executive Officer CDR Karl Kieninger, Jr., NOAA

(ret.). RUDE's last Commanding Officer, LCDR Rick Brennan, made closing remarks.

RUDE Executive Officer LCDR Holly DeHart planned the ceremony and served as MC. In keeping with tradition, presentation of the ship's commissioning pennant was made to LCDR Brennan, and of the ship's National ensign to Chief Boatswain Gordon Pringle as the longest-serving (14 years) crew member. The ship's sign board was presented to Gilbert Rude's granddaughter, Mrs. Julia Thomas, who was RUDE's sponsor.

Other former RUDE commanding officers attending the ceremony included

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RUDE

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RADM Chris Andreasen (ret.), CDR Grady Tuell (ret.), CDR Andy Snella (ret.), CAPT Bob Smart (ret.), CDR Merrit Walter (ret.), CAPT Alan Anderson (ret.), CAPT Don Winter (ret.), CDR Richard Moody (ret.), and LCDR Larry Krepp.

RUDE is best known for her round-the-clock efforts to find the wreckage from TWA Flight 800 in July 1996 and John F. Kennedy, Jr's aircraft in July 1999. Attending the ceremony were the commanding officers (respectively) during these two national tragedies: RADM Sam De Bow, NOAA (ret.) and CDR James Verlaque, NOAA. Former RUDE Commanding Officer CDR Tod Schattgen, NOAA, who quickly found the tanker BOW MARINER after it sank off the coast of Virginia in 2004, also attended.

RUDE's future has not yet been determined. NOAA intends to dispose of the ship pending completion of congressional notification requirements. One federal agency -- the EPA National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in Duluth, Minnesota -- has expressed potential interest in acquiring RUDE for future use on the Great Lakes for ecological research and to fulfill their mission of developing monitoring and assessment approaches for environmental protection.

NOAA is building a new hydrographic survey ship -- FERDINAND R. HASSLER -- to replace RUDE next year.



Aboard RUDE, officers and crew await the decommissioning of the ship. Photo credit: Dave Miller.

DART System Patent

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NOAA has placed DART® stations at sites in regions with a history of generating destructive tsunamis. The original six-buoy operational array was completed in 2001 and has now expanded to a full network of 39 stations. Operational responsibility for the DART® system has been transferred from PMEL to NOAA's National Data Buoy Center, part of the National Weather Service, which provides access to all real-time data.

More online at: www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/scitech.html

Fort McHenry Cleanup

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the NOS National Geodetic Survey (NGS) were instrumental in helping to re-plumb the marsh, thereby creating a better hydrological flow through the wetland. The new design promotes regular, natural tidal flooding to the site, controls the accumulation of debris, and has enhanced its habitat value to plant and animal species.

In the past ten years, this unique urban marsh has become a wildlife magnet for everything from migratory birds to fish and muskrat. Aquarium volunteers have logged over 240 species of birds every year that use the marsh to nest, forage, or just rest. Other more exotic urban wildlife also call the marsh home, if only temporarily, including the dozen or so young beaver who stop in the marsh every spring on their way downriver. NOAA looks forward to continuing to model good stewardship of our nation's valuable ecosystems through the annual Ft. McHenry Restoration Day.

Restoration Experts Use Google Earth™ to Map San Francisco Bay Oil Spill

Sarah Waters, NOAA Fisheries Service

Google Earth™ is being used to map possible impacts to fish, birds, and coastal habitats from the *Cosco Busan oil spill*, which occurred in San Francisco Bay in November 2007. The damaged container ship released 58,000 gallons of oil into the Bay. Scientists from NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program, are taking stock of the damage caused by the spill in order to help develop a comprehensive restoration plan.

Google Earth™ has been useful for marking areas where sampling data has been collected for each of the injured resources such as eelgrass beds, sandy beaches, mud flats, salt marshes, and for wildlife such as fish, birds, and invertebrates.

The web-based mapping application is helping scientists identify which locations within the Bay were hit hardest by the spill and determine whether or not more sampling is needed. Each of nine resource teams can

keep track of new data collected in specific areas and coordinate their results. The tool will also aid in identifying the geographic scope of the injury -- not just where the oil was found. Ultimately, Google Earth™ maps will help pinpoint where restoration efforts should take place.

Jim Balsiger, Acting Assistant Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service comments: "The *Cosco Busan* spill assessment process is a good example of how NOAA collaborates with various stakeholders, uses new technologies to avoid duplication of effort and serves as leader with regard to protecting our trustee resources."

The Ocean Today Kiosk will be a highly dynamic and visitor-friendly experience on the floor of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's new Ocean Hall.

To learn more about the Ocean Today Kiosk and how to submit story ideas, visit http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/announcements/may2008_announce_2.html.

Thousands Turn Out for 2008 Gulf Coast Hurricane Awareness Tour

Ron Trumbla, NOAA National Weather Service

Thousands of students, visitors, local officials and representatives from the media turned out to tour NOAA's WP-3 Orion Hurricane Hunter aircraft on its five-day, five-city hurricane awareness tour around the Gulf Coast.

In addition to the flight crew and hurricane specialists, National Weather Service Southern Region Director Bill Proenza, National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, and numerous staff members from National Weather Service forecast offices were on hand to greet the visitors and answer questions.

The tour included stops in Corpus Christi and Galveston, Texas; New Orleans, La.; and, Apalachicola and Fort Myers, Florida.

Local and state emergency management officials and various non-profit organizations, such as the American Red Cross joined the team of hurricane experts. Over the last 25 years, the hurricane awareness tours have alternated between the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.



(L to R) MIC Paul Trotter, WFO New Orleans; MIC Alan Gerard, WFO Jackson, Miss.; WCM Frank Revitte, WFO New Orleans; WCM Roger Erickson, WFO Lake Charles, La.; MIC Andy Patrick, WFO Lake Charles; NWS Southern Region Director Bill Proenza; MIC David McShane, WFO Mobile, Ala.; WCM Gary Beeler, WFO Mobile; and, WCM Steve Wilkinson, WFO Jackson. (Photo credit: WFO Mobile)

Inspiring Young Scientists

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research facility to meet with agency scientists and researchers.

NOAA's Pacific Services Center developed a series of visualizations to show global patterns

More About TERRI

at:

www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/education.html

and data sets on climate change, plate tectonics, and seasonal weather to use with the "Spherical Science on the Go!" exhibit. Magic Planet, as it is known, is like a miniature Science on a Sphere and it dazzles while educating people about NOAA's research. This stunning exhibit was a crowd pleaser as it traveled to the State Science Fair, the Bishop Museum's Mad About Science event, and a reception held at the Outrigger Hotel reception in support of the week long series of events.

The Pacific Region team also sponsored demonstrations of the NOAA Second Life islands, an online virtual world that highlights NOAA's science. Students were able to fly virtually aboard a hurricane hunter aircraft, experience and learn about tsunamis, and explore marine sanctuaries.

When they weren't visiting NOAA's virtual world, students spent time with TERRI, an interactive educational robot who knows nearly everything there is to know about NOAA. With his trademark wit and sarcasm, TERRI answered students' questions about NOAA and quizzed them on what they had learned. During his visit, TERRI found time to visit several local weather forecasters, judge an ocean-themed art contest, make several classroom visits, and serve as a special guest at the Bishop Museum's Mad About Science event.



Students at the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair view the *Magic Planet* exhibit. Photo credit: Nadia Sbeih.

Congratulations to May's Employee and Team Member of the Month



Adrienne Antoine Employee of the Month

Adrienne Antoine embodies the one-NOAA concept by working across disciplines and line offices. Adrienne recently helped lead the effort towards NOAA's climate goal for the FY10-14 planning cycle, coordinating and synthesizing vast amounts of information that span the broad scope of NOAA's climate mission.



Jeff Cotterman Team Member of the Month

Jeff Cotterman efforts for the Alaska Aviation Weather Unit and Volcanic Ash Advisory Center have allowed it to meet and exceed customer expectations. Jeff developed a new Web site for the international users, and created new and inventive ways to streamline and simplify operations.