

Focal Points

Successful Summer Institutes

ASGI and Technology Get Rave Reviews

The Alliance Summer Geography Institute was a big success this summer, and changing the weeks of residence from past practice worked out well too. By all accounts Director Neil Webster and his staff of Terry Kopple and Mary Schoettinger, along with Peter Rees and MaryAnna Taylor had a great group of workers, though somewhat smaller than we would have preferred. As usual, several Teacher Consultants came in to present, and all did a wonderful job. All the field trips proved worthwhile, and the weather cooperated. Annette Rotellini was chosen to be the ASGI-2000 member of the Steering Committee. We all look forward to working with her and all the new Teacher Consultants; welcome to the fold.

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The Whole ASGI - 2000 Crew at Pearson

Technology

The technology institute was equally successful. Dawn Willis and Jacqui Wilson did their usual patient **leading** some of the class members gently by the hand and **holding** others back as best they could. It averaged out very well, and most could actually use both ArcVoyager and ArcView to real purpose by the end of the course. They were also able to map the Newark restaurants using Global Positioning System units!

Changes in the Future

The summer of 2001 will see some changes in the institute format and content. The Steering Committee is working on shorter, but more advanced institutes.

Conservation for GAW

Geography Awareness Week is November 12 -- 18, 2000. The theme is **Here Today, Here Tomorrow -- A Geographic Focus on Conservation**. This year the Society is using the beautiful cheetah poster and this GAW website -- www.nationalgeographic.com/gaw -- rather than a packet. There are several good lessons on the reverse of the poster, and NGS will be delivering activities for the week via the internet. The Alliance website for GAW is www.geocities.com/geogoggles.

TC Kelli Martin has done a great job in organizing Delaware activities; the two workshops in October attracted fifty participants and garnered positive evaluations.

Several TCs have volunteered to solicit media coverage, and you can call the one closest to you if you have activities planned. Call Joel Glazier, Cindy Baker, Barb Duffin, Patsy Warner, Linda Haley or Mary Schoettinger.

Wednesday the 15th will be the Twelfth National Geography Where-in. Encourage students in your school See GAW, page 6



Paulette Arnold and Kristin Wildes becoming expert with GPS

Seeger and Clearwater

During a lucky interview following a concert, Pete Seeger recounted the genesis and development of the Clearwater project. In 1963, Seeger felt he'd acquired enough money to get a seventeen-foot sailboat. The condition of the Hudson River thrust itself upon him forcefully and literally as "unpleasant objects accompanied by toilet paper" bobbed along with him as he thought of Galbraith's phrase: "private affluence and public squalor." Soon after, he gave up the boat.

A couple of years later his friend Vic Schwartz lent him The Sloops of the Hudson by William E. Verplanck and Moses W. Collyer, published in 1908. Enchanted by this entertaining account of the graceful cargo sloops that had plied the Hudson between New York and Albany, he wrote Schwartz a seven-page letter suggesting that they try to find five hundred to a thousand subscribers and build a full-size replica. Seeger sent the letter and dismissed it from his mind as a pipe dream.

Sharing the Dream Schwartz, however, was intrigued and came back four months later to ask when they'd get started. Seeger's immediate reaction was negative! Then he heard how Schwartz had been passing the letter around on the commuter train and had raised considerable interest; in fact, lots of people wanted to get started.



They held a concert on the lawn of a local businessman, and the project really got under sail. In three years the organization they had formed had two hundred members. That number has grown to about six thousand at present.

An architect in Maine was able to design a sloop as close to the classic ones as possible under Coast Guard guidelines. He had to give it a deeper keel to make it less liable to capsize, and he reduced the sail area to compensate for the less-experienced captains who would be sailing her.

Putting the Dream to Work The *Clearwater* has, of course, one mast, a deck length of seventy-six feet and a beam of twenty-four feet. She carries fifteen to twenty thousand school kids a year out on the river in groups of fifty. On her, they're introduced to sailing, pollution problems and history. As with so many subject areas, middle school is the most appropriate age group.

The first biologist who worked with the students tried to communicate with the whole group, but he soon learned the classroom method of stations. The students are divided into five rotating groups. One group nets fish for the aquarium; another group closely observes the tanked fish, finding out about their structures and habits; a third group uses a fine net to scoop up and examine "slime" which they learn to know as plankton; a fourth group gets to man the tiller, a twelve-foot pole with a fist for grasping; and the fifth group goes below and gets some instruction and practice in reading charts and in following the radar. And they sing songs! Could you doubt it?

The Dream Lives On Over *Clearwater's* years, the river has improved so dramatically that Seeger is now proposing that New Yorkers once again have floating swimming pools such as those in use from 1890 to 1930. New ones could be of modern materials rather than wood. Seeger feels that the state could mass-produce them, and local swimming clubs could take charge of them. Financing might come from the state, from local communities and from individuals.

Communities up and down the river have formed organizations to clean up their own local areas. The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. has many volunteers -- musicians, scientists, lawyers and other experts. Their website -- www.clearwater.org -- will explain more of their work.

See **Clearwater**, page 4



Treasures on the Bookshelf

The Perfect Storm, by Sebastian Junger, Harper Collins, 1997 (paperback)

If you've seen the movie, don't make the mistake of assuming the book has nothing more to offer you, beginning with much deeper insights into the characters. The movie does Billy Tyne a gross disservice in portraying him as a poor fisherman. He was one of the best; his last trip was not reluctantly undertaken to compensate for a poor run but a routine turn-around the swordfish boats were all doing.

One of the greatest values of the book is placing the drama in historic, geographic and meteorological contexts. Gloucester is an old, old fishing town that has been home to many sailors and has experienced countless tragedies. Gloucester fishermen have always been admired as skillful boat handlers; after all, it was Gloucestermen who managed to get Washington's army across the Delaware at night in the dead of winter.

The one really important geographic detail is that the Grand Banks of Labrador where the *Andrea Gail* had been swordfishing is a huge area far beyond the reach of rescue boats or helicopters, even supposing they could have spotted the boat and carried out a rescue in the conditions that arose. Although Billy was bringing her home, *Andrea Gail* was still too far out for help to arrive.

The elements converging to cause havoc were hurricane Grace, which was moving north from Bermuda rather than taking the more usual path over the Carolinas; a strong cold front coming south off the Canadian Shield; and a storm that had

formed over the Great Lakes and was moving east. The nexus of the three created a "perfect storm," a term meteorologists use to denote a storm that could not possibly be worse.

The *Andrea Gail* and her crew were not alone as the cataclysm developed. The entire fleet was on the Banks, though Billy had gone out earlier and had had good luck; so he was heading back to Gloucester and was far to the west of them. The book gives us events as they unfolded for Albert Johnston, skipper of the *Mary T* who headed north into the cold Labrador Current; he says, "Cold water is heavier and seems to lay better in the wind." Ray Leonard, with a crew of two on the sloop *Satori*, had decided not to run for port at the first reports of bad weather; he reluctantly, and his crew thankfully, were eventually rescued. The *Eishin Moru 78*, a Japanese longliner with Canadian observer Judith Reeves the only English-speaking person aboard, was hit by one of the monstrous waves and lost four windows, shorting all her circuits. All communication equipment was lost except the radio. Reeves was pressed into service to man the radio and learned just how precarious their position was when the Japanese radio operator pointed to the English phrase book to show her what message she should broadcast: "We are helpless and drifting. Please render all assistance." That was how Reeves found out that the steering linkage had failed. They lay dead in the water and were taking waves broadside. They were in grave peril.

These are merely a few of the people and ships who figure in the catastrophic events of late
see **Storm**, page 6

The Hungry Ocean, by Linda Greenlaw, Hyperion, 1999 (paperback)

Linda Greenlaw captained the *Hannah Boden*, sister ship to the *Andrea Gail* and is mentioned in *The Perfect Storm* as "one of the best sea captains, period, on the East Coast." She would certainly not have written this book had it not been for that mention.

Greenlaw was out on the *Hannah Boden*, but farther east, when the *Andrea Gail* came to grief. Her book is not about the storm except peripherally. She does make an effort to clear Bob Brown, owner of the sister ships, of some of the "cheap shots born of jealousy" leveled at him. "There will always be people who question extreme success, and with everything Bob touched turning to gold, there was a lot of talk." She herself had always found him honest in his dealings and not more demanding of his employees than of himself.

The Hungry Ocean is essentially a day-by-day, sometimes a minute-by-minute, account of a typical trip on a swordfishing vessel. She starts with the myriad details of unloading the catch of one trip, making necessary repairs, and restocking the ship for the next trip. Most times she and Bob Brown did two-day turn-arounds.

Waiting for the crew to show up on sailing day, Greenlaw decided to go for coffee. As she stretched across from the boat's railing to the ladder on the pier and began to pull herself to the dock, she glanced down and saw that "a human body was suspended in an upright position between me and the ocean floor, only the crown of the head breaking the frigid surface." This was her introduction to Uncle Patty, the replace-

See **Ocean**, page 6

Two TCs and Their Students Get Recognition Katie (and Linda) Bring Honor to Delaware

TC Linda Hart, her student Katie Majewski and St. John the Beloved School are still recovering from the excitement of a visit from the National Geographic Society bus to honor Katie for her grand-prize winning essay in a contest run by "National Geographic World" magazine.

In the October, 1999, issue the magazine challenged students to write on "What's Great About Your State?" Katie wrote a poem and turned it in the day before the deadline, not even knowing whether a poem would be accepted. On April Fool's Day she heard the good news and naturally didn't believe it at first, but indeed it was true.

The Birthday Tour Bus made its second stop at the school, and everybody enjoyed a gala assembly. Katie received \$1000. and one hundred state quarters. The school has already been given a large NGS atlas and will be receiving more educational resources.

Can You Bear It?

TC Becky Reed and her seventh graders have stood up to painful suppression of something they hold dear and have fought the good fight and won!

It seems the "Kids Discover" magazine printed a United States map showing towns with animals' names. The map caption stated that there are no United States towns named Bear, although there are many Bear Mountains or Bear Wallows, etc. Becky went into action, mobilizing her Gunning Bedford students, many of whom live in Bear, and they began collecting evidence of Bear's existence. A big problem is that it's not incorporated, but the kids found that Bear Tavern had hosted George Washington on August 10, 1795; Bear Station was built in 1882; and Bear Post Office opened in 1888.

The students wrote letters to Peter Muller, the map editor, and he immediately capitulated. In fact, he said that he had once lived in Southeastern Pennsylvania and had driven through Bear many times.

Persistence, hard work and scholarship have won the day. Bear exists!

Clearwater, from page 2

Communities on the banks of the Hudson flock to the shore when *Clearwater* comes in for the shad, strawberry, corn and pumpkin festivals held annually in many of the shore towns.

A number of sailing ships have been built by community groups, on the Hudson and other waterways; they are dedicated to the same kind of educational and activist outreach as the *Clearwater*. So far there's no Delaware project, but New Jersey has the *A.J. Meerwald*, a Delaware Bay oyster schooner, which has been meticulously restored. Her home port is Bivalve, and she does have public sailings, but alas not to Delaware ports. For further information, see these websites: www.ajmeerwald.org and www.shipstosavethewaters.org.

JASON PROJECT for 2000

The Delaware Geographic Alliance and the Science, Mathematics and Technology Alliance (the former Science Alliance) have teamed up to offer a workshop to prepare middle school teachers, ideally science/social studies teams, to bring the excitement of JASON to their classrooms.

JASON, begun by Robert Ballard in 1987, is focusing on Hawaii this year, with emphasis on understanding volcanoes, geologic processes, the island ecosystem, and how island residents adjust to their environment.

The workshop will demonstrate using the 250-page curriculum guide as well as instructional materials, videos, maps, CDs and online interaction with JASON scientists. It will stress ways to teach science, social studies and language arts in an integrated fashion.

The presenters will be TCs Maureen Greenley and Barbara Prillaman of Alfred I. DuPont Middle School; they are JASON-trained presenters. (They had to make the terrible sacrifice of going to Hawaii for the training this past summer!)

FOCUS ON PLACE: Using the JASON PROJECT to Integrate Social Studies and Science Standards in the Middle School Curriculum will be offered on December 5 and 7, from 4:30 to 8:00 at Pearson Hall on the U of D campus and at Milford Middle School on December 11 and 13, from 4:30 to 8:00.

Registration forms are being distributed in the schools, or you can call the Alliance office. For further information: baprillaman@yahoo.com or mojogreenly@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

Nov 12-18 Geography Awareness Week

Nov 15 Where-In Day

Nov 17 GIS Day

Nov 29-Jan 12 School Bees

Feb 10 mid-winter TC workshop

Reminder: NGS has extended the deadline for Geographic Bee registration. If you school has not registered, you can still get it done. If you have nobody to run the school bee, contact the editor for assistance.

This Old Blue Planet

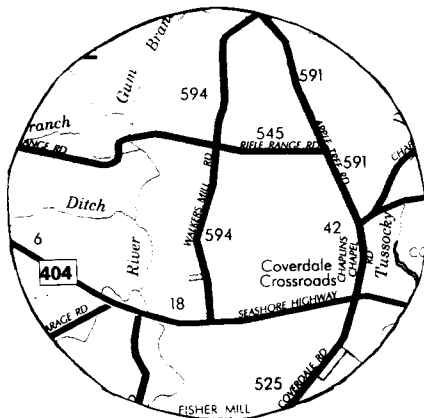
This old blue planet twirling,
 She's parent to us all;
 Her restless clouds unfurling
 Feed her mountain falls
 That tumble down each twist,
 To rivers give assist,
 And rise as lacy mist
 Through endless cycles swirling.

This old brown world a-turning,
 She feeds the human race,
 In spite of how we're spurning
 The lessons on her face.
 We've fouled her running rills
 And scarred her ancient hills.
 She gives us succor still,
 And slowly we are learning.

This old dear earth a-keening,
 She mourns her lovely youth,
 But in her springtime greening
 She writes a signal truth:
 She is a precious gift
 We've nearly cut adrift.
 So we must now be swift
 To act upon her meaning.

Dela-Where?

Below you will find a section taken from one of the county maps. Can you locate it in your mental map? The object is to name the town nearest to this area. The answer appears elsewhere in these pages in the form of enough more of the map to make it easy.



BASE INFORMATION PREPARED AND COPY-RIGHTED BY THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION GROUP

A Contest for All Ages

The poem at the left might give you some ideas for one of your own. The theme must be related to conservation, and the deadline is March 31, 2001. Very modest prizes will be awarded on or around Earth Day, April 22, 2001. There will be a prize for each age group -- K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and adult. There are no restrictions as to length, but the judge believes that if it does not have a discernible meter (beat), it is not poetry.

Teachers, this could be a good project for integrating science, social studies and language arts in your classroom. Entries may be mailed or e-mailed to the editor.

Geography on the Airwaves

If you are not addicted to National Public Radio, you may not know that WSCL is broadcasting the BBC-WGBH, Boston newscast "The World" each weekday afternoon from 5:00 to 6:00. In the last 15 minutes or so they run a Geo Quiz. You are asked to name a place from clues which might be physical, cultural or economic geography. The place is almost always involved in a follow-up story, and usually they interview a person who is living there. This is too easy for Peter, but TCs should be able to get passing scores.

Good News

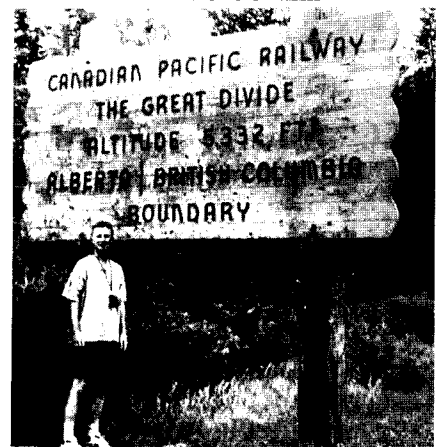
The White Clay Creek Watershed has won permanent federal protection. That makes it Delaware's first National Wild and Scenic River.

President Clinton signed the bill on October 23, 2000, thus bringing a long struggle to a successful close. In the mid-1960s the DuPont Company planned to dam and flood the White Clay Creek Valley for a reservoir. That's when citizens, labor groups and politicians joined to fight the plan. DuPont eventually deeded the 1,700 acres sprawling across the arc boundary to Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Bears and Boundaries

Fran O'Malley sent us some pictures of him and Anabelle in Canada. We like best the one of him showing the Great Divide, a natural boundary as well as a provincial one.

Anabelle was handling the camera and still managing to keep her bear bells ringing out a wilderness anthem.



Storm, from page 3

October, 1991. In spite of the movie's version, we can never really know what happened to *Andrea Gail* and her crew, but Junger writes chillingly of possible scenarios. By all means, see the movie, but read the book for a truly gripping account the storm, the people and machines that met it and the ones who were not able to survive it.

Ocean, from page 3

ment cook for the trip. The regular cook was in jail. Uncle Patty wasn't dead, just dead drunk, as were all the other crew members when they finally arrived. Drunk and sick! Greenlaw goes on to give a lively account of the trip and includes stories from other trips she'd taken in her seventeen-year career. Along the way she describes the life sailors lead, the frustrations, conflicts, and humor.

You get a close look at the work, the hours, the dangers and the skills that swordfishing demands. The reader may easily wonder why anyone would choose so hard a life's work, but you catch a glimpse when she says, "The thrill of fishing is in the catching of the fish."

GAW, from page 1

to wear a T-shirt that identifies some place in the world. Remind them that a sports shirt qualifies if it mentions the home place of the team. TC Mary Alice Aguilar, founder of Where-In is hoping for 80,000 participants nationwide this year.

Report your results to the Alliance office by mail or by e-mail to mataylor@udel.edu. Include your name, school, grade, district, number of participants, and other GAW activities. Submission will enter you in a December 8 drawing.

Two Programs for Secondary Teachers

ARGWord has a number of activities ready to be field tested, and interested teachers are being sought. The activities are varied, both in the places they involve and in the skills they exploit and develop.

The eight activities ready for testing involve:

1. making decisions as to land use in West Africa;
2. isolating long-term trends in the economic geography of oil production and trade;
3. using choropleth maps to examine population change in Bolivia;
4. judging the similarity of map patterns to make generalizations about causes and effects of malaria in Africa;
5. tracking a submarine to learn where several strategic chokepoints are, as well as measuring distances and computing travel times;
6. using watershed forecasting models to predict flood volumes under a variety of conditions;
7. using the Universal Soil Loss Equation to predict soil erosion under a variety of conditions; and
8. choosing sites for a factory at three times in history.

If you are interested in doing this field testing, you can write:

J. Stoltman
Department of Geography
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
or
Stoltman@wmich.edu.

US Trek is a free internet program being made available by The Odyssey. More than two thousand teachers participated in World Trek last year, and many received awards and press attention.

US Trek allows students to travel around the United States via the internet to bring United States history and current events to life. Students follow along with a group of eight diverse educators who are doing a trek around the United States to visit historic places, interview historic figures and meet experts in history.

Those interested can find more information at the website www.ustrek.org or call Gemma Horner at (414)659-3178.

Update on Michael Oates

Michael Oates, the documentary film maker who gave us such a fascinating view of his work at our spring dinner last year, is having an exhibition of his photographs at the William A. Carter Partnership Center Lecture Hall at Delaware Technical & Community College in Georgetown through November 4. It will be over before our publication date, but try to catch it when it goes on tour.

The show is a real course in one aspect of cultural geography as the communities of the San Marcos region of Guatemala and the town of Georgetown both struggle with the adjustments they must make to the changes the migration of Guatemalans out of their home villages and into the Georgetown have caused.

A Bonus Book Recommendation!! **Islands at the Edge of Time**, by Gunnar Hansen, Island Press, 1993. easy-going style -- barrier islands and their people from Texas to the outer banks

NCGE in Chicago

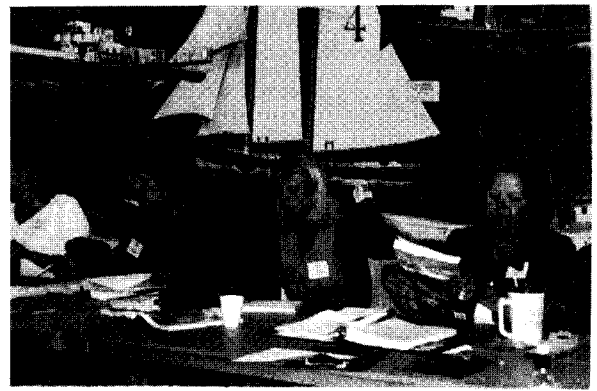
The National Council for Geographic Education held its 85th convention in Chicago in August. Coordinator Lewis Huffman and project coordinator MaryAnna Taylor attended as well as TCs Cindy Baker, Pat Killalea, Dawn Willis and Jacqui Wilson. Dawn and Jacqui made Delaware proud with their technology workshop; they deserve special recognition, since this fell right in the middle of the Technology Institute in Delaware and immediately after a presentation in California!

Cindy was a first-time attendee, and she wants to encourage everybody to consider joining NCGE and attending the August 2001 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. If you're especially flush, you could join the pre-convention Alaska cruise. This convention is always helpful, both with classroom lessons and other ideas and for making and/or renewing TC friendships and building a network.

Cindy's enthusiasm might just possibly have something to do with the fact that she received a Distinguished Teaching Achievement award, the only Delaware recipient this year. Congratulations, Cindy!



Cindy and Lewis at the NCGE Banquet



They don't look too puzzled! Janet Smith, Judy Winters, Angela Melasecca and Sharon Richardson tackle a problem.



Behold the Scavenger Hunt Winners!

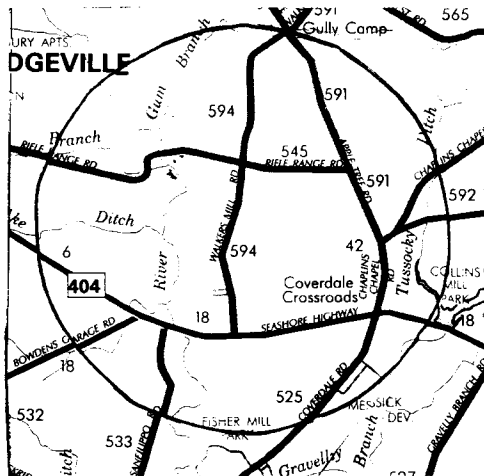
TCs in the Delaware Voice Column

Kevin and Sharlene (ASGI-94) Dunion are activists in the fight against juvenile diabetes. Their daughter has the disease, and they have seen fit to do what they can to see that researchers have the wherewithal to carry on their fight. Kevin is a board member of the First State Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in Wilmington and wrote a very informative column in the October 17 News Journal. Sharlene was the 1999 Volunteer of the Year.

Keven J. Sullivan, ASGI-90, lays a few truths on the line in discussing in his October 11 column on the difficulties, to put it kindly, that the Brandywine and Christina Districts are having. Kevin contrasts them and their ideas with Ashley Coleman, who was Miss Teenage America last year. She said, "I want to be the cool teacher. I want the kids to say, 'You want Miss Coleman for calculus. She's hard, but she's cool.'" As Kevin says, "Wow!"

Delaware Invades Hawaii

As we saw already from the article about the JASON Project, Maureen Greenley and Barbara Prillaman were in Hawaii this summer for training. But they were not Delaware's only TCs there. Becky Reed was on Maui with a colleague, researching stream degradation and its impact on freshwater organisms. She was a Verizon-funded Earthwatch Teacher Fellow. Congratulations to all three!



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