

# NOAA WORLD



Highlighting the achievements of NOAA people around the world

## 2008 NOAA Restoration Day

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### NOAA Honors Shepherd Elementary Teacher as Environmental Hero

Jeanne Kouhestani  
NOAA Office of Marine & Aviations Operations

D.C. Public Schools just celebrated an event that proved that one teacher really can make a difference in instilling a love of learning about science.

At a ceremony at the Shepherd Elementary School auditorium, in Northwest Washington near NOAA's Silver Spring campus, NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher presented teacher Steven King with a NOAA Environmental Hero Award for his contributions supporting NOAA science education. King was jointly nominated for the award -- which is given to only 10 volunteers nationwide who make significant contributions to NOAA -- by Jennifer Hammond of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and Bob Hansen of NOAA's Office of Education.

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Alison Hammer, NOAA National Ocean Service  
Andrew Larkin, NOAA Fisheries Service



Several participants, including 20 interns from the Educational Partnership Program (in blue shirts) seine for fish along shoreline. They measure and identify what is caught in the net to track the diversity of species utilizing the area as habitat. Photo credit: Brandon Howe, NOS.

On June 2, 2008, hundreds of NOAA employees and partners participated in the 5th annual NOAA Restoration Day in two different states -- one in Maryland and the other in Virginia. This event has grown every year as NOAA employees in Maryland and Virginia work to restore habitat at two important sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

NOAA Restoration Day is one of the largest voluntary federal employee sponsored environmental stewardship events in the Bay watershed. This is a true one-NOAA event, jointly organized by the National Ocean Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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## NOAA WORLD

The NOAA WORLD newsletter is published monthly by the NOAA Office of Communications. Additional stories, news, photos, videos and other information resources, continuously updated, can be found at the NOAA WORLD website: [www.noaaworld.noaa.gov](http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov)

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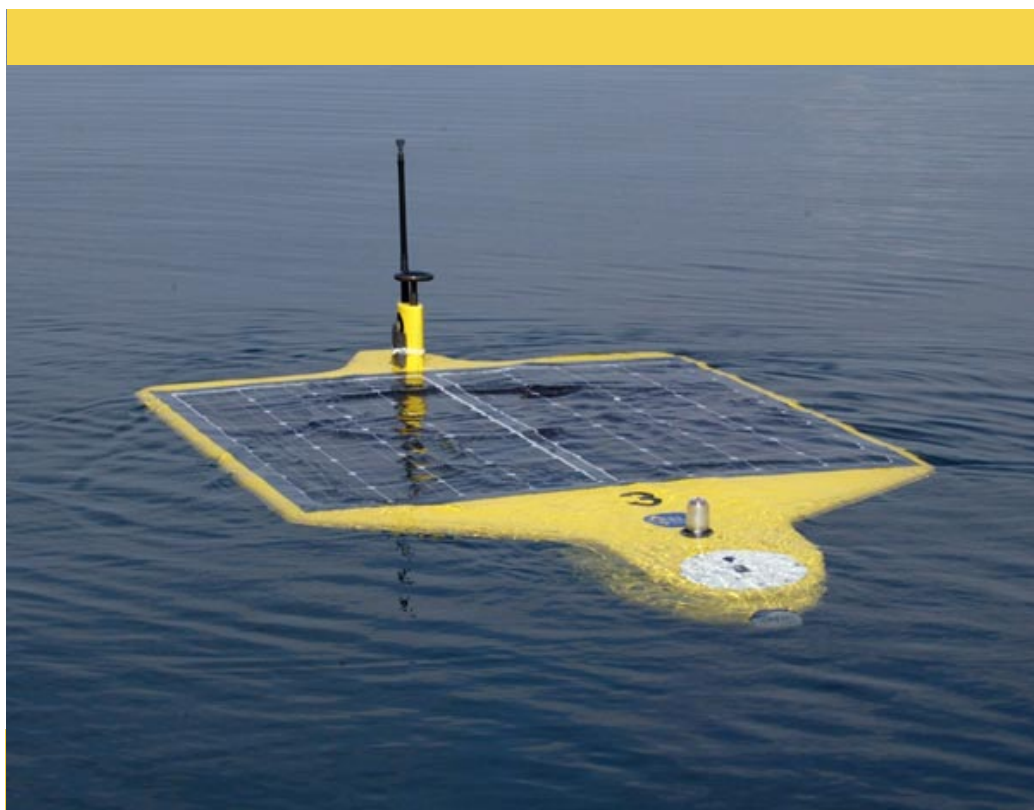
## Navy Mine-Hunting Technology Helps NOAA Find Sunken History

Christine Patrick, NOAA Research

This May, the Navy and NOAA teamed up to demonstrate and test the applications of autonomous underwater vehicles, or AUVs, for both mine countermeasures and archaeological research. AUVfest 2008 took place in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, and was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and NOAA, and hosted by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center.

AUVs are unmanned, underwater robots akin to the Exploration Rover NASA uses on Mars. They operate independent of humans, using their sensors to create maps of the ocean floor, record environmental information, and sense what humans have left behind. In military applications, such as hunting for underwater mines, AUVs can literally save lives. Since World War II, more U.S. Navy ships have been damaged or lost due to mines than all other causes combined.

AUVs and sensors developed for mine countermeasures can also be very useful



**This AUV runs on solar power. The amount of power available and the weight of the power source are major factors for AUV designers and users. Image courtesy of AUVfest 2008: Partnership Runs Deep, Navy/NOAA, [OceanExplorer.noaa.gov](http://OceanExplorer.noaa.gov).**

to maritime archaeologists. Acoustic sonars scan broad areas of the bottom and provide fine-detail images of objects, while creating bathymetric maps, the aquatic equivalent of topographic maps. Below-bottom imaging systems can generate tomographic, or sectional, images of buried objects. The technology can enable maritime

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## NOAA Inspection Finds Samples of Canned Tuna to be Dolphin Safe

Jim Milbury, NOAA Fisheries Service

A survey completed by NOAA Fisheries Service personnel found cans and pouches of tuna sold in supermarkets, advertising a dolphin-safe label, accurately described the product. The label designator indicates that dolphins were not intentionally encircled with nets nor harmed when the tuna were caught. This survey is the largest ever conducted at the same time across the United States.

NOAA's Tuna Tracking & Verification Program (TTVP) monitors nationwide the domestic production and importation of frozen and processed tuna products and traces the product back to where the fish were caught to verify accurate labeling.

"This survey should certainly help the public feel more confident in the authenticity of the U.S. dolphin-safe label," said Rod McInnis, NOAA Fisheries Service Southwest Regional Administrator and a U.S. commissioner to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. "We could never have accomplished such a broad snapshot of tuna samples across the United States without the collaboration of our sister agency, the Weather Service."

Previous sampling methods relied on NOAA Fisheries personnel traveling from California to only a few states at a time each year to gather cans or pouches of tuna to track back to their original source. By using volunteers from the Weather Service, with offices throughout the country, 25 states were sampled in approximately one week without travel beyond the local area. The remaining states will be sampled in the near future.

The Weather Service volunteers randomly purchased two cans or pouches of tuna and sent them to the TTVP in Long Beach, Calif., where personnel collected documentation that traced the product back to the vessel and location where the tuna was caught. All samples were found to consist of tuna caught in compliance with U.S. dolphin-safe label regulations.



A typical can of tuna advertising a dolphin-safe label.  
Photo Credit: Ed Gorecki, NOAA Fisheries Service.

Nikki Harding, daughter of Ken Harding, a National Weather Service employee, purchasing tuna for the 'Dolphin Safe' program.

Photo Credit: Ken Harding, NOAA National Weather Service.



Visit the Tuna Tracking web site at [www.dolphinsafe.gov](http://www.dolphinsafe.gov).

## NAVY AUVs

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archaeologists to "see" below the seafloor, in new resolutions and at new depths, so they can better understand buried artifacts without disturbing those sites.

During AUVfest 2008, a team of maritime archaeologists from federal and state agencies and from universities learned how these technologies can help find sunken history by participating in AUV archaeological missions. The AUVs surveyed four objects of archaeological interest, including two 20<sup>th</sup> Century wrecks, as well as the wrecks of the *HMS Cerberus* and the *HMS Lark*, British frigates intentionally destroyed in August 1778 during the Revolutionary War.

"AUVfest was a huge success, built on a relationship we started with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center five years ago," said Craig McLean, NOAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration, who attended the event. He said the demonstrations showed how ready the industry is to cover multiple missions, which currently are still performed with decades-old methods.

## Hawaiian Monk Seals Have Their Day

**Wende Goo**  
NOAA Fisheries Service

Hundreds of volunteers recently teamed with NOAA researchers to honor the first ever Hawaiian Monk Seal Day in Hawaii. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle proclaimed April 19, 2008, Hawaiian Monk Seal Day in an effort to bring attention to the dire condition of the population.

Hawaiian monk seals are found only in Hawaii and their numbers have been in a 20-year decline. Today, there are only approximately 1,200 individuals remaining. Although most of the animals reside in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a small and potentially growing population estimated at about 80 monk seals calls the main Hawaiian Islands their home.

On Hawaiian Monk Seal Day, over 350 volunteers around the state participated in the third, semi-annual Hawaiian Monk Seal count. Volunteers on all seven main Hawaiian islands scoured the beaches in search of monk seals and successfully found 38.

Volunteers who spotted seals completed a data sheet to record the time, location, and behavioral information. Volunteers with cameras photographed seals, while others recorded markings which may help NOAA researchers identify and better track the individual seal. In addition to collecting information, the volunteers reached out to other community members that they encountered by answering questions and sharing information about monk seals.

NOAA was honored that Hawaii State Representative Kimberly Pine participated in the count. Rep. Pine has been a passionate advocate for monk seals and guided the effort



**On Kauai, RK06 (pup) and R028 are blissfully unaware they're being counted.**  
Photo Credit: Mimi Olry.

to raise its plight in the state legislature after receiving overwhelming testimony from hundreds of students ranging from elementary to university levels, the dedicated legion of NOAA volunteers, environmental organizations and state agencies.

Although NOAA Fisheries Service is charged with the ultimate responsibility for the management and recovery of this endangered species it could not be done without the coordinated effort of several government and community organizations, all of which recognize the importance and uniqueness of the Hawaiian monk seal to the Hawaiian Islands.

## Congratulations to June's Employee and Team Member of the Month

### **Timothy Bagley** Employee of the Month

As a Legislative Affairs Specialist, Tim Bagley has worked hard to increase the range, scope, and effectiveness of his position to be the best asset he can be to NOAA. Over the past two years Tim has developed a series of resources to help NOAA's Line and Program staffs prepare better testimony for Congress, and to assist them during their preparations for congressional hearings.



### **Dr. H. Stefan Maus** Team Member of the Month

A world renowned researcher, Dr. Maus has earned the respect of his scientific peers, and has been appointed to prestigious positions within the American Geophysical Union and the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy. A superior and prolific researcher as well as an excellent mentor and role model for junior scientists and students.



## NOAA Engages Gulf Region to Support Hazard Resilient Communities

Caren Madsen, NOAA Office of Communications

Just days after Hurricane Katrina battered the Gulf Coast in 2005, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour set the tone for recovery. He vowed that his state would emerge from the tragedy better and safer than before. Almost three years later, the topic of community resilience was prevalent in Biloxi where NOAA assisted the State of Mississippi in engaging local officials as part of a Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) stakeholder meeting. This was the first in a series of regional workshops that GOMA States will conduct with support from NOAA and EPA. The meetings are designed to gather feedback on seven proposed actions that governors of the five Gulf States will consider for the 2009 update of the GOMA action plan.

NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center Director Todd Davison led a review of projects proposed by the GOMA resilience team. This meeting provided members of the public, local decision makers and business communities with the opportunity to comment on the GOMA resilience recommendations before the plan is developed later this year. The stakeholder workshop was part of the *Ninth Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference* organized by the Partners for Smart Growth in Southern Mississippi. Speakers included U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, MS Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, historian and author Douglas Brinkley, Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway, Former Mayor of Gloucester, MA John Bell and MS State Sen. Deborah Dawkins. Community leaders emphasized the opportunity to rebuild with hazard resilience and well-planned sustainable development as cornerstones of Katrina recovery.

“Out of the ashes can come life and it’s happening here now in Mississippi,” said Brinkley, author of *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*. “Mississippi leadership chose to be proactive instead of feeling victimized by the storm. That has made a big difference.”

Although rebuilding efforts may span a decade or more, signs of recovery are abundant along the coastal highway. The recently opened Biloxi Bay Bridge was de-

signed with a flood-resistant elevated deck and connects the communities of Biloxi and Ocean Springs. One of



Mississippi Lt. Governor Phil Bryant speaks with constituent after his speech. Photo credit: Caren Madsen.

many community fishing piers destroyed by Hurricane Katrina was rebuilt and dedicated in Biloxi in recent weeks. Revisions to the flood maps convey greater risk and new homes in floodplains are being built with resilience techniques. Many building facades have been repaired. New businesses are opening and pre-Katrina businesses are returning.

“We are due for a renaissance,” said urban planner Ann Daigle. “Every planner dreams of being here along the Gulf Coast and part of what’s happening here. Comprehensive planning is change by choice, not by chance. We have new opportunities to do better planning and make sound choices about the future of this community.”

Visit NOAA WORLD online for additional stories, photos, videos and more ...

[www.noaaworld.noaa.gov](http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov)

## Challenge from NOAA Official Spurs Historic Effort

Jennie Lyons, NOAA National Ocean Service

A historic ocean observing effort is underway, thanks to a challenge given two years ago at a UNESCO conference in Lithuania from Dr. Richard Spinrad (then-NOAA Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service). At the conference, Dr. Spinrad challenged professors at Rutgers University, a leading partner in the Mid-Atlantic region for the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, to modify one of their underwater gliders so that it could make the first ever cross-Atlantic "flight."

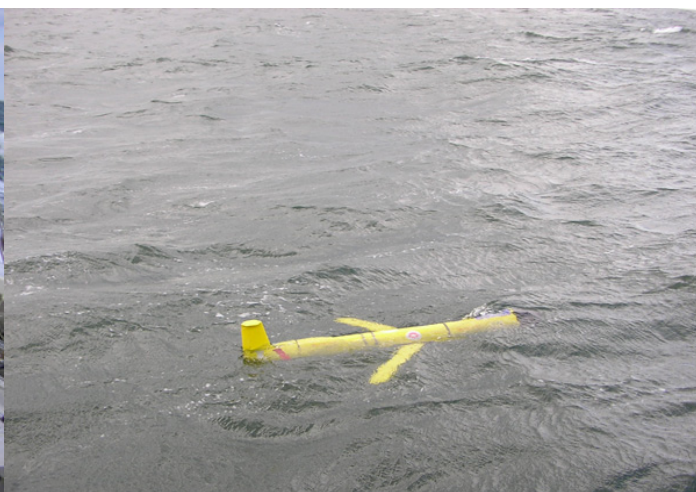
The flight launched from New Jersey on May 21, as part of a coordinated effort among the National Ocean Partnership Program, Puertos del Estado (Spain), and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System through Rutgers University. It reached the Gulf Stream on May 31, on its way to crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

The Rutgers glider is a seven-foot-long, torpedo-shaped

underwater vehicle that repeatedly dives to collect ocean and coastal data including temperature, salinity, and density. This data is used to provide a more comprehensive picture of the ocean, so decision makers can take action to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment.

Rutgers plans to 'fly' this mission south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, then across the Northern Divide, a continental divide where water flow changes direction, before landing in Spain this fall.

The success of this mission marks an important milestone in advancing ocean observing and opens up new frontiers in the ocean. It is through efforts like this that we will continue to learn more about the wonders of our waters.



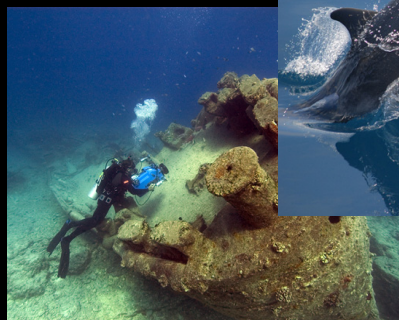
Glider RU-17 awaiting practice deployment from the deck of the R/V Arabella and shortly after the launch on May 19. Photo credit: Ken Branson, Rutgers University.

### NOAA Photographers and Videographers!

Have your work showcased on NOAA WORLD online.

Submit photos with credit information and captions to: [noaaworld@noaaworld.noaa.gov](mailto:noaaworld@noaaworld.noaa.gov).

Videographers, please contact [noaaworld@noaaworld.noaa.gov](mailto:noaaworld@noaaworld.noaa.gov) for submission guidelines.



## Saving Abe

Don Bolton and Paul Whitmore, NOAA National Weather Service, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center

So what does an electronics technician do with his free time when he's not maintaining equipment at remote sites? Don Bolton, electronics technician with NOAA's West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, likes to hike and fish the local area. After work on April 23, Don was in Old Harbor on the island of Kodiak, when he decided to take a hike to the local landfill in hopes of getting a picture of a three year old brown bear that likes to frequent the area. What he found instead was a juvenile Bald Eagle that had been shot through the wing.

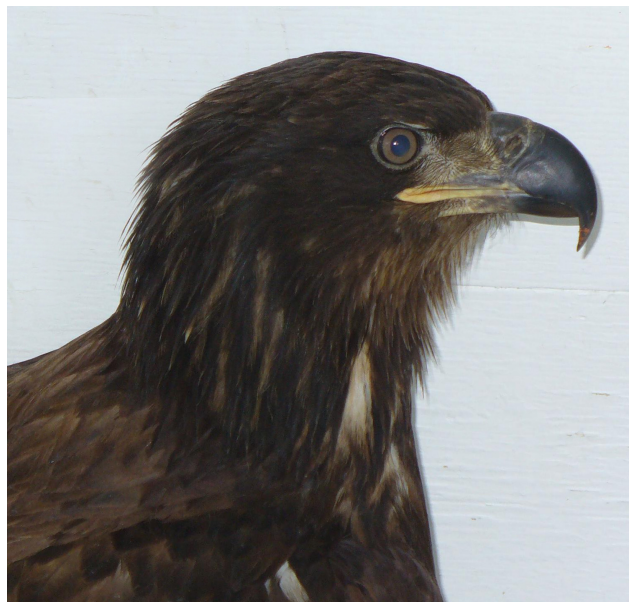
The scared eagle had crawled up underneath the engine compartment of a discarded truck. Don hooded the eagle's head with a shirt, safely put it into a cardboard box, and then hitched a ride from some local fishermen to the bed and breakfast where he was staying. The owners of the bed and breakfast, Ray and Stella Krumerey, let Don put the eagle into one of their unused dog kennels where it was coaxed to eat some fresh halibut.

The bird had been on the ground for quite some time and its feathers were matted with mud and feces. Don cleaned the bird as best he could. The next morning the Wildlife Refuge in Kodiak City was contacted and arrangements were made to transport the wounded eagle to Kodiak via Servant Air. At Kodiak, the Wildlife Refuge shipped the eagle to the Bird Treatment and Learning Center (TLC) in Anchorage where its bad wing was amputated just below the elbow.

When Don visited the bird on May 1, he learned it would probably be used as an educational bird outside of Alaska when it regained its health. At the Bird TLC, the eagle is identified as BE 08-54, but Don prefers to call him "Abe," after Abraham Lincoln.

Don says that they are doing wonderful work at the Bird TLC for our feathered friends. He thanks the Krumereys, Mr. Zwiefelhofer at the Wildlife Refuge in Kodiak City, Servant Air, and the Bird TLC for helping Abe.

For more information about the Bird Treatment and Learning Center, go to [www.birdtlc.net](http://www.birdtlc.net).



Abe the Bald Eagle

## Restoration Day

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The Maryland event took place at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the site of the first Restoration Day event in 2004. Participants included 120 volunteers from all NOAA line offices, 25 NOAA staff leads, and 10 CBEC staff leads. Staff were divided into ten teams to complete a variety of restoration science projects. These activities were taking place simultaneously in four different areas of the property. Restoration activities included planting underwater Bay grasses grown previously within 22 NOAA office tanks, native oyster seeding on an offshore reef, planting over 2,000 wetland plants, performing coastal bottom mapping via boat, and fish seining.

The Virginia event took place at York River State Park, a component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Virginia, with approximately 50 volunteers. Participants planted over 8,000 square feet of beach grasses along the park's river shoreline, removed marine debris, observed educational demonstrations, and explored the river on interpretive kayak trips.

NOAA leadership participated in both events and included Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere; Captain Steve Kozak, National Ocean Service Chief of Staff; Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs; and Craig McLean, NOAA Research Deputy Assistant Administrator.

This event provides an opportunity for employees to put into action the NOAA mission they support in their office work, and to demonstrate their commitment to restoration and protection of the Bay, restoration theories, and NOAA science.

## Steven King

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Shepherd is OMAO's adopted school. For five years King has spearheaded the school science fair, and partnered with NOAA to provide mentors, judges, and a venue for the fair. He named the fair after the late James D. Martin of OMAO, who obtained surplus NOAA computers for the school and provided career fair and other support until his tragic death in 2002. For the past several years the fair has been held at the NOAA Science Center in Silver Spring, Md. Despite the logistical challenges of moving more than a hundred science fair projects to NOAA, King believes strongly that the effort is valuable because the students have been excited to display their projects in a professional venue and to discuss their projects with NOAA scientist-judges.

The school auditorium was decorated for the ceremony with colorful ocean-themed artwork by the school's students. Science fair projects were set up in the lobby area for visitors to admire. The pride of the students, teachers, and parents in King's accomplishment and in the recognition for the school was palpable...and his acceptance of the award was followed by a standing ovation. Also participating in the ceremony were D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, D.C. School Chancellor Michelle Rhee, D.C. Councilwoman Muriel Bowser, Instructional Superintendent Francisco Millet, and Principal Shannon Foster. OMAO's Director, RADM Jonathan Bailey, also attended.

In his remarks, King said that as one of 11 children living in a rural area, his playgrounds were the nearby fields where his love of science and nature was born.

During an interview after the event, King said, "it is a great honor to be recognized by NOAA. I have enjoyed working with everyone -- especially Jennifer Hammond, Liz McMahon and the mentors who have lasted through the years. I especially appreciated that my NOAA friends, along with VADM Lautenbacher, took the time to honor me. I found the ceremony to be touching and a great tribute to James Martin and his legacy. It was also great to see so many parents and students supporting me as well as Chancellor Rhee, Mayor Fenty and Councilwoman Bowser."

King's commitment to science education and willingness to put in the extra effort to promote it has sparked real interest and enthusiasm by some of Shepherd's students. One of his former students, Blair Brown -- now in sixth grade -- did a project this year that won a place at the DC-wide science fair. Students who have gone on to middle school have reported back that they learned a lot more from King at Shepherd through their participation in the science fair than they have in their new school!

King has been an elementary school teacher for the past 13 years and received his second master's degree (in teaching science) from George Washington University two days after he received his Environmental Hero award.



VADM Lautenbacher, Blair Brown, Steven King, and OMAO Director RADM Bailey.  
Photo credit: Iris Harris, DOC.