

ASLO Hawaii

By Sukey Padawer

Several members of the COSEE-NE team presented at the 13th annual Ocean Sciences Meeting held February 20-24 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and organized by ASLO (Association of Limnology and Oceanography), AGU (American Geophysical Union), TOS (The Oceanography Society) and ERF (Estuarine Research Federation). The program included approximately 3,450 presentations - posters, oral sessions and plenary sessions. Many of the Education sessions were an outcome of regional COSEE-initiated projects.

The COSEE-NE team presented at the session *Making Science Fun: Scientists and Educators Working Together*. Sessions were organized into four 90-minute blocks each day. Each 90-minute block consisted of six back-to-back 15 minute presentations. It was challenging to prepare a compressed, high-caliber presentation, especially if it also included an interactive component - a new element introduced this year at ASLO for this particular topic. Each syllable was carefully choreographed and rehearsed.

Bob Chen (UMass Boston, COSEE-NE) and Valerie Saucer (Boston Public Schools) co-chaired the session along with Laura Murray (University of Maryland) and Sharon Walker (U. Southern Mississippi, COSEE-Southeast). At least 50 participants arrived for the morning session; when the session continued into the afternoon it was standing-room only (estimated 100-plus). The consensus is that Education and Outreach sessions at ASLO are becoming more popular and well-attended each successive year.

Kim Frasure (co-authors Bob Chen and Sukey Padawer) presented on successes and lessons learned through COSEE-NE's OSEI program. The presentation included an interactive concept mapping exercise.

Valerie Saucer led the session on *Mud Snails - a Local Marine Replacement in Diversity of Life, a FOSS Module*, along with Sukey Padawer, Marilyn Decker (Science Director Boston Public Schools, and Bob Chen (co-authors: Jacqueline Steinback, URI and Brittany Wilson, UMass Boston). But first, challenges had to be met. A few months ago the presenters were told that Hawaiian marine snails are very rare and found in only a few habitats, and that mailing New England mud snails was not allowed because of strict import regulations. But thanks to Brittany Wilson, Mark Heckman and University of Hawaii contacts, the team was able to collect three dozen local marine snails representing three species. Valerie (and later Sukey) spent a few days on her hands and knees collecting the rare and elusive Hawaiian snail species, and later tended them in her hotel room. (And quickly learned from observation that these species are master escape artists!)

The COSEE-NE team continued with the *Making Science Fun: Scientists and Educators Working Together* theme during the afternoon poster sessions, highlighting some of the projects that were outcomes of COSEE-NE's OSEI. Sukey Padawer and Juanita Urban-

Rich (UMass Boston) presented a poster on *Diversity and Plankton in the Classroom* (co-author Phil Manna, BPS.) Jody Gould-Calabro (BPS) presented a poster on *The Stellwagen Bank Ecoscenario: A FOSS Populations and Ecosystems Module for New England* (co-authors: Marilyn Decker, Valerie Saucer, Eric Zettler, Bob Chen.)

Bob Chen also presented at one of the oral sessions on *Reaching Out: What's in It for Scientists?*. Researchers from around the country shared their successes and lessons learned, many of them COSEE collaborators.

COSEE members networked at a COSEE council session, and later in the week met for an informal evening buffet overlooking the sun setting over Waikiki Bay. They had the opportunity to share posters and meet members from two new COSEE centers, Great Lakes and the new Ocean Systems center, which is a collaboration of the University of New Hampshire and Bigelow Labs, based in Maine.

[Download](http://www.agu.org/meetings/os06/cd/) the 2006 Ocean Science meeting PowerPoint presentations
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