

Atlantic Coast Joint Venture News

February 2004

Volume 1, Number 1

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture vision

Partners working together for the conservation of native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway

Upcoming meetings of the joint venture:

Integrated Bird Conservation Committee
February 9 and 10, 2004
Savannah, Ga.

Management Board
February 10 and 11, 2004
Savannah, Ga.

Waterfowl Technical Committee
February 29, 2004
Jekyll Island, Ga.

Grant proposal deadlines:

2004 NAWCA standard grants
March 5 and July 30, 2004

2005 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grants
June 2004

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants
June 1, 2004

NAWCA grants approved in 6 states within the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in September approved North American Wetland Conservation Act grants totaling nearly \$5 million for six projects in five states in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Project partners in New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida matched the grants with nearly \$20 million. More than 20,000 acres of important habitats for migratory birds will be protected through acquisition, conservation easements and restoration. Two additional NAWCA grants were selected by the North American Conservation Council in December. If these two grants are approved by the Commission in March, they will result in the conservation of another 23,000 acres in New Jersey and North Carolina.

Coastal wetlands grants awarded



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in December awarded more than \$6.5 million in National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants to six states in the Atlantic Flyway – Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida – for projects to conserve, restore and protect

coastal wetlands. State resource agencies and other project partners contributed \$30.8 million in matching funds to the federal grants, which are awarded annually.

Project Profile: Great Bay estuary

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership among state and regional conservation groups, land trusts, public natural resources agencies and communities over the last decade has protected 6,339 acres within New Hampshire's seacoast region providing critical habitats for wintering, migrating and breeding waterfowl. The vast majority – 85 percent – of New Hampshire's residents live on or near the seacoast, where the population is expected to double by the year 2020.

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**The joint venture online
including partners
directories**

www.acjv.org



**The submission deadline for the
next quarterly issue of Atlantic**

According to Dea Brickner-Wood, who has served as coordinator for the partnership since it was formed, “I compare the 80 properties the partnership has protected since 1994 to pieces of a landscape-scale puzzle that 10 years later we can see fitting together. It is extremely gratifying to see these lands becoming connected, providing habitats for wildlife and open space for the people living in the Great Bay area.”

Since 1994, the partnership’s efforts to protect significant habitats along the Atlantic shore and within the five river systems flowing into Great Bay have been supported by five NAWCA grants, federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and matching contributions from organizations and individuals. Brickner-Wood explained that as state funding continues to diminish, communities are dedicating funds for resource protection. The Great Bay partners make every attempt to align their conservation priorities with those of the towns to maximize the benefits of federal funding.

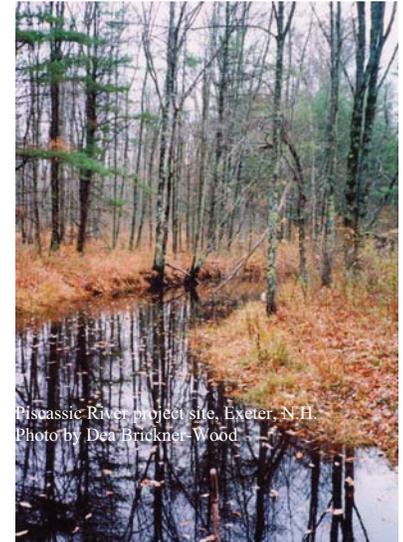
As land managers, the Great Bay partners focus much of their attention on stewardship and habitat restoration. They develop conservation plans for each property to ensure a balance between resource protection and public use.

The partnership is currently overseeing habitat studies in two watersheds, which once completed will help identify priorities for future NAWCA funding requests.

The primary organizations in the partnership are the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy’s New Hampshire chapter, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The joint venture provided some administrative funds for several years to help support the partnership.

Science news

Judd Howell, director of the U.S.G.S. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, has created a team of nine scientists, all experts in the studies of avian ecology and conservation, to work with the joint venture in enhancing the biological foundation of its bird plans in the Atlantic Flyway. According to Tim Jones, the joint venture’s science coordinator, the team will provide support during the development of a scientific needs assessment. It will also conduct applied research that will benefit the joint venture. Graham Smith and Marshall Howe will chair the team, which also includes Don



Coast Joint Venture News is April 1. Send press releases, comments and subscription inquiries to Terri_Edwards@fws.gov.

Cahoon, Deanna Dawson, Mike Erwin, Mike Haramis, Matt Perry, Michael Runge and John Sauer. As part of this partnership, Howell or his designee from the research center will sit on the joint venture's management board.

Staff news

Chuck Hayes left the joint venture in fall 2003 to accept the Partners for Fish and Wildlife coordinator position for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in northern Mississippi. His e-mail address remains Chuck_Hayes@fws.gov.

Vacancies for assistant joint venture coordinator positions in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions were recently advertised and should be filled by March.
