

## New York Sea Grant Teaches Bird's Eye View of Hudson River Estuary Watershed

Teaching teachers how to promote watershed stewardship of the Hudson River Estuary Watershed has taken on a new perspective - you might call it a bird's eye view.

In 2007, a team of educators from New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the Cornell University Institute for Resource Information Systems (CUIRIS) presented aerial photo interpretation and geographic information systems (GIS) data workshops at the "Teaching the Hudson Valley" Summer Institute held at the Henry A. Wallace Education Center at the FDR Historic Site in Hyde Park, NY. The images and data pertained to the lower 150-plus miles of the Hudson River tidal estuary that flows into New York Harbor.

More than 20 teachers representing several Hudson Valley School districts were introduced to the diverse uses of maps and



*Nordica Holochuck explains an estuary map to New York City teachers at the American Museum of Natural History.*  
Photo: S. Hoskins

aerial photos in classroom lesson plans, and how to promote watershed stewardship through the use of these materials.

The success of the Mid-Hudson workshops inspired continuation of the bird's eye view theme. In November, NYSG and CUIRIS, in partnership with the EPA NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, presented the mapping resources at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City (NYC). More than 400 NYC teachers attended the Educators Evening for the newly installed "Water Equals Life" exhibit.

Additional teacher training workshops were held in early 2008 in partnership with the Museum.



*Teachers in Hyde Park study air photos as part of a training exercise. The aerial photo above shows New York City's Central Park and the Hudson River. Photo above: USDA; right: N. Holochuck, NYSG*



*New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. This project summary was written by Nordica Holochuck, Hudson Estuary Specialist, 845-340-3983, nch8@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org.*