

Jeanette Brunner of the Aquarium of Niagara Falls (left) and Kelly Rose of Gowanda Junior High School get pointers about exotic species from NYSG's Helen Domske.

Photo NY Sea Grant



Exotic Species Day Camp

On Earth Day, April 22, 1998, New York Sea Grant brought 28 formal and informal educators together to learn about exotic species and investigate educational resources related to these invaders of the Great Lakes. The Exotic Species Day Camp sponsored by New York Sea Grant is part of a Great Lakes Sea Grant Network project.

New York Sea Grant's coastal education specialist, Helen Domske, worked with the Aquarium of Niagara and the Erie 2 Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to make this project a success. Participants of the Day Camp spent part of the day exploring exotic species web sites on the internet and the rest of the day learning about exotic

species resources and educational products that have been developed by Sea Grant programs around the basin. The highlight of the afternoon was coming face-to-face with living Great Lakes fishes and exotic species with the help of Aquarium exhibits and displays.

According to participant's evaluations, this hands-on, interactive program was a worthwhile learning experience for educators. As a follow-up to the Day Camp, teachers from New York have been working to develop additional classroom activities focusing on exotic species. These activities range from team learning strategies to a song on exotics entitled, "Beware! Invaders!"

Agritourism— Consider It Successful

NOAA reports this year that coastal states earn 85 percent of all US tourism dollars, with beaches being the leading tourist destination. But on the shores of Lake Ontario or among other lakes in New York state, beaches can attract tourism for only parts of the year. Consider agritourism, says Diane Kuehn, New York Sea Grant's coastal tourism specialist. When tourism and agriculture, two of New York's leading industries, team up they spell Agritourism. Agritourism works to expand existing businesses and diversify farm operations to include services and products designed to attract visitors. Along with Duncan Hilchey, Douglas Ververs, Kara Lynn Dunn and Paul Lehman, Kuehn's 25 page booklet entitled *Considerations for Agritourism*

Development has four seasons worth of ideas for developing farm stands, u-pick operations, farm bed and breakfasts, agricultural events and regional agritourism initiatives. Kuehn's fanciful drawings also accompany this helpful publication which is useful to community leaders, rural economic development and tourism professionals, and entrepreneurs.



Diane Kuehn