

Palmer LTER Outreach: A Diverse Group with Common Goals

Karen Baker, UCSD, Palmer LTER

A marine science technician, an Eagle Scout and an adult basic skills teacher have in common plans this season to participate in Antarctic science research efforts and to share their experiences through field journals.

This diverse group of individuals is united by the common quest to participate in Antarctic and long-term research, to explore ecosystem and partnership science, as well as understand and use technology to facilitate the integration of information across language, community and datasets. The Palmer Station LTER site through its schoolyard education outreach program (<http://pal.lternet.edu/education>) bridges these participants and their respective networks: the public schools, the Boys Scouts of America (BSA) and the Teachers Experiencing the Arctic and Antarctic (TEA) Program.

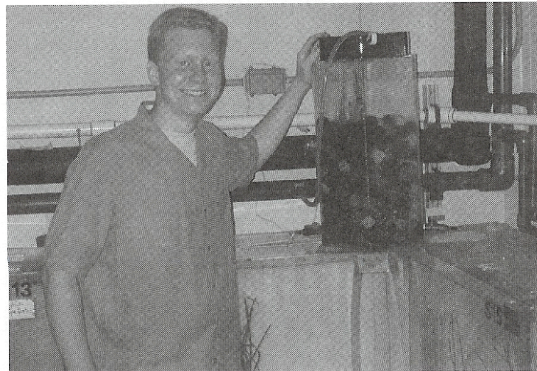
Marine Science Technician Participates in LTER Ice Cruise

Richard Iannuzzi, a marine science technician and computer programmer with experience in physical oceanographic data collection and analysis, is participating in an ongoing Palmer LTER winter ice cruise West of the Antarctic Peninsula. The cruise focuses on sea ice because of its importance in the dynamics of the Antarctic ecosystem.

Rich's journal is sent home daily from the ship via satellite. The project developed from his outreach experiences on a previous cruise as well as from discussions with his father. His father, a fourth grade teacher, is coordinating journal communications with four New York elementary school classrooms as well as



Ice Drilling



Tim Brox displays his research project on bioremediation and oil spill clean up. This project won 3rd place in Environmental Science in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, 2001.

sharing the Antarctic connection in a variety of additional school forums.

Scout Prepares for Antarctic Deployment

Tim Brox, a recent graduate of Clovis West High School (Fresno, CA) and an Eagle Scout, was selected in April by BSA to participate in an NSF Office of Polar Programs sponsored program. The precedence for this program which now sends a Boy Scout and Girl Scout to the Antarctic in alternate years, can be traced to Eagle Scout Paul Siple who joined an expedition in 1928 at the request of Admiral Byrd. Tim's selection is particularly appropriate given his interest in science and the marine environment.

Tim will visit the three US Antarctic research stations (Palmer Station, South Pole and McMurdo Station) in addition to a variety of field camps. Projects that he will interface with while in the US include the two Antarctic LTER sites (Palmer Station and the McMurdo Dry Valleys) as well the marine Santa Barbara Coastal LTER. As an introduction to Antarctic research and marine as well as information management and technology, Tim traveled to San Diego in September to begin his training. Hosted by Palmer LTER information manager and outreach coordina-

tor Karen Baker, he met with researchers at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Stephen Birch Aquarium and the San Diego Supercomputer Center. Tim will deploy mid October via New Zealand to McMurdo Station and South Pole aboard a LC130 Hercules cargo plane and in February through Chile to Palmer station aboard the Research Vessel Laurence M. Gould.

Teacher Deploys for Antarctic Summer

Susan Cowles, a teacher of adult

basic skills development and high school completion classes at Linn-Benton Community College, Corvallis Oregon, was selected by the NSF/OPP TEA Program (<http://rice.tea.edu>) to visit the Antarctic early next year. In preparation for her trip, she visited the laboratory of Dr. Hugh Ducklow, a Palmer LTER Principle Investigator at William and Mary College, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, this summer. Susan will conduct research alongside Dr. Ducklow and his team on the subject of microbial biology and persistent organic pollutants.

Participating in math instructional reform and the use of technology in adult literacy programs, her work incorporates use of the Internet as a teaching and learning tool; she now maintains an online special collection in science and numeracy resources for the National Institute of Literacy (<http://literacynet.org/sciencelincs>). Susan will work at Palmer Station beginning in January-February 2002 with Dr. Ducklow and his team focusing on the role of airborne organic pollutants in Antarctic coastal seas.

The Antarctic ecosystem undergoes extremely large seasonal changes in both light and sea ice. While the Palmer LTER team has been working to understand the impacts of sea ice change on the Antarctic marine ecosystem since 1991, this season Rich, Tim and Susan will observe for themselves just how this unique ecosystem is dominated by the advance and retreat of sea ice. They will participate with researchers documenting and investigating the Antarctic ecosystem and its change over time. Through online journaling (<http://pal.lternet.edu/field/0102season>), they will share their insights and adventures with Scouts, students, teachers, and the public.



Susan Cowles, a participant in the Teachers Experiencing Antarctica program, models her new foul-weather parka.