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From Your Editors

As the semester draws to a close we find ourselves busy, slightly stressed, and excited for break—but mostly proud of the work we’ve done to present you with your monthly dose of The Trail over these last few months. We hope you enjoyed reading our new and improved EPIB Trail as much as we enjoyed creating it. Now we can being looking forward to a Spring semester full of new features, new writers, and more great articles.

We’re still collecting donations in the EPIB department for our Kiva Microloan Fund. It’s a great way to give back during the holiday season, and it is truly a gift that keeps on giving—our donation will be put on auto-loan and forever cycled through the Kiva system, helping entrepreneurs throughout the world long after we make our contribution. Good luck on finals, and stay happy and healthy through the holiday season and into the new year! We’re looking forward to seeing you in 2011.

Chelsea and Kate

My Time on the Trail

By: Sara McClurg

I have always been a big fan of the EPIB Trail. Before writing for it, I enjoyed the articles. While I was in the EPIB department in the Cook Office Building sophomore year, I was asked to write an article for the Trail, and I was really excited about it! Now, I am graduating and I can’t believe that this will be my last EPIB Trail article.

Writing for the EPIB Trail has done a great amount of good for my writing skills. After Expository Writing, I thought I had no future in writing- but after this experience, I learned that grades in Expos are not the only indication of how good your writing is! Each month, I was able to pick a topic that I was interested in, and do some research in that area. Writing for the Trail really taught me how to capture the attention of a targeted audience, while portraying information on a topic of interest.

One of the most important things that I got from my writing for the Trail is in relation to research. Research is such a large aspect of what students do, especially EPIB majors. Good research, however, is seen quite infrequently. Writing for the Trail really forced me to weed through information that I was reading and decide which information was relevant and legitimate.

The best and most unexpected thing that resulted from writing for the Trail is the sense of community that I felt throughout the experience. Before I wrote for the Trail, I had been in the Cook Office Building a few times, knew some of the staff, and was friends with some of the other students. Once I started writing for the Trail, I became much closer with the people I worked with, the staff, and the department in general. Writing for the Trail really changed my college experience in an extremely positive way. Being a writer ultimately resulted in some of my closest friends at school, and it is something that I am truly thankful that I was able to be a part of.

Writing for the Trail has been one of my best experiences while at Rutgers. I would like to thank each of the staff writers: Chelsea K., Kate, Dara, Chelsea S., Rachel, and Dayna, and all of the other contributing writers for making this both a fun and educational experience that I will never forget.

Thank you for everything Sara, we will miss you!
Dr. Tom Rudel teaches a wide range of classes from Research Methods to Environmental History within the Human Ecology Department. Much of his research focuses on land use change with a strong focus on tropical deforestation and forest transitions. He has traveled through the Amazon and has published numerous books and journal articles on housing and energy use and land use planning in the United States and tropical deforestation in Latin America. He is currently working on publishing a book that focuses on how certain environmental behaviors may have a global effect. We would like to thank Dr. Rudel for taking the time to speak with us and congratulate him on being the Faculty Spotlight!

**Where are you originally from?**
I was born in North Carolina, but I grew up in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

**Where did you attend college and what was your area of study?**
I went to Princeton University and majored in Public and International Affairs.

**What is your current research focusing on?**
Currently, I am carrying out two projects, one on the spontaneous appearance of silvopastoral landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The other is a book length manuscript on the circumstances in which local environmental initiatives scale up into global efforts to regulate the environment.

**What interests you about tropical forests?**
I spent some pivotal years in tropical rain forests, as a Peace Corps volunteer, right after college. I had always felt the conflict between environment and development in an acute way, and this experience just reinforced those feelings.

**Which field research location was your favorite and why?**
My favorite place was Sinai in the Ecuadorian Amazon, a village on the edge of the jungle where over many years I have made many good friends.

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**
Trout fishing, skiing, both cross-country and downhill, and running.

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**SOY JOY**

By Chelsea Kahn

This just in: paraffin candles may have adverse affects to your health. Although research isn’t conclusive, it’s been found that paraffin candles have at least four carcinogenic chemicals—which are likely to be released when burned. A new movement towards soy wax candles is underway. Especially in the holiday season, when we light so many candles, its good to be informed on the facts! Here are some benefits to switching to soy candles:

» Clean Burning—these candles give off much less soot and decrease the likelihood of zinc toxins seeping into the air.

» Fewer preservatives, additives and dyes are added to soy candles—which will decrease your risk greatly.

» Soy candles are known to be better smell throwers—meaning they get the scent out quicker than your regular candle.

If that doesn’t get you to switch, some mainstream companies are now producing soy candles, including, AAA Candle Supply, Febreze and soon Yankee Candle! Keep your air clean and your house fresh—wake the switch.

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We would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and a healthy break!

From the EPIB Trail Staff!
Student Section

Winter Break Hot Spots
By Dara Zaleski

Can’t make it to paradise this winter break? Spend the weekend at one of NJ’s many travel destinations. You’ll save money, use less gas than an airplane would, and get a chance to see many of the hidden treasures our very own state has to offer. Here are some great stops:

Lambertville, NJ
A gathering of antiques shops, eclectic galleries and comfortable coffee shops clustered on the banks of the scenic Delaware River makes Lambertville a haven for artists and craftsmen. And the town’s architecture is as interesting as its residents. Sports enthusiasts will find much to interest them here in addition to the Delaware River. The Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park run through the heart of the town, offering scenic recreation opportunities for all. While you’re there, check out New Hope, PA, just across the river with even more shops and cafes to visit to warm you up.

Red Bank, NJ
Red Bank is the Garden State’s own Greenwich Village, filled with trendy stores, funky coffee shops, a vibrant arts scene and eclectic cuisine. Music and arts are hallmarks of this town. The Count Basie Theater presents live music acts and the Two River Theater Company is the spot for new and original plays. West Front St. is where you’ll find a big draw — some of town’s 250 antique stores. Fun Fact! If Red Bank looks familiar, it may be because it has been featured prominently in films by director Kevin Smith. Smith’s production company, View Askew, is based on Broad Street. You can also visit his store, Jay and Silent Bob’s Secret Stash, where you’ll find comic books, movie swag and occasional appearances by Smith’s stable of actors!

Phillipsburg, NJ
At the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers and close to the Pocono Mountains, Phillipsburg is set amid beautiful landscapes with water, trees and mountains. The Black River & Western Railroad runs scenic trips along the Delaware River on a fully restored steam engine train. Being so close to the Poconos, you may want to rent a snowboard or a pair of skis relatively inexpensively and get some great exercise! Not a fan of the snow, check out the many lodges at the ski resorts. It’s as much fun to sit in the lodge with a hot cup of cocoa and watch the skiers as it is to be the one skating!

Other New Jersey attractions:
» Camden – Adventure Aquarium, Battleship NJ
» Wildwood – Doo Wop Experience Museum
» Barnegat Lighthouse State Park
» Monmouth Battlefield State Park

For more information, check out visitnj.org.

“Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one.”
—Eleanor Roosevelt

Trail Guide
Advice from visiting Scholar
By: Dr. Tanya King

For many graduating seniors the ‘finish line’ can’t come fast enough. The faster you can finish your degree the faster you’ll be done with the stress of studying and can get a job, right? However, sometimes racing through a degree can mean you miss some of the opportunities available to you. ‘Taking the time out of your study schedule to assist in your professors’ research, undertake internships, attend conferences and workshops, participate in peer reading groups, career-relevant blogs and departmental social activities can have tangible benefits for your post-graduation career.

My trail to Rutgers as a Visiting Scholar began in 2000, when I attended a political rally of fishermen in Melbourne, Australia with my 4th year advisor. Though frantically busy with my minor dissertation I went along to see how a ‘real’ anthropologist acted ‘in the field’. At the rally I met a group of charming fishermen who persuaded me to join their listserv, Fishfolk. Via deliberations and debates on, and about, Fishfolk, I developed strong relationships with the community of fishermen who would later feature in my PhD dissertation. It was also on Fishfolk that I heard of an anthropologist named Bonnie McCay…

Fast forward a few years (but not TOO fast!), and here I am! In between, I participated on a lot of student-staff committees, was a regular TA, organized a graduate student conference, met Bonnie at a conference, and attended many booze-filled outings with other nerdy types. All of this took time, and probably delayed my arrival at the finish line by a couple of years. However, the skills, friends, contacts and insights I developed along the way have continued to provide me with employment and career opportunities I would have foregone had I focused solely on reaching the end of my degree.

Call it networking, procrastinating, brown-nosing — any of those terms with negative connotations — but making friends, collaborating with like-minded peers, being proactive, excited and creative (by, say, editing a student newsletter!), is all part-and-parcel of the opportunities which appear laterally on your college journey. So while you probably shouldn’t spend all your time at the Scarlet Pub drinking with your classmates, or start a student newsletter the day before your exams, make the most of your college years by getting involved, being proactive and energetic, taking opportunities and making friends. Even if your journey takes a little longer than anticipated, you’ll benefit well beyond the college finish line.
HOLIDAY GUIDE

EDITOR'S GIFT GUIDE
socially and environmentally conscious gifts

Chelsea Kahn

for dad: Earth Golf Balls ($39.95) High-Performance golf balls with a thin Eco-cover provides exceptional feel and increased durability. The Dixon Earth golf ball outperformed the Nike One Platinum, Callaway Tour ix and Titleist Pro V1, in independent testing by PGA TOUR Partners Club, and received an incredible 92% Approval Rating.

for mom: Rwandan Salad Servers ($20.00) - At the foothills of the volcanic Virunga Mountains in western Rwanda, there is an artisan village known for woodcarving cooperatives. Incorporating gorillas into their crafts, they pay homage to the gorillas that are found deep in the mountains. These salad servers are made from sustainably harvested wood sealed with natural oils. This gift and more can be found at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

for sis: Buffalo Horn Frame ($20.00) - This frame is hand made in India from recycled Nu wood and Buffalo horn. This frame and other Fair Trade products can be found at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

for the youngster: The Lorax, By Dr. Suess ($8.97) This great kids books is an amazing story about saving the environment disguised as a colorful tale!

for your boss: Elephant Poo Paper (Journal and Notebox, $14 each) – Stationary set from Uncommon Goods helps spread the message about renewable resources without saying a word. Elephants’ fiber-heavy diets make their dung a natural fit for paper production: The waste is collected, rinsed, boiled, dyed, separated and dried in the sun and become paper. But don’t worry, the finished product is odorless!

for the pet: WWF Collars ($25) - Easy to clean, sky blue collar embroidered with WWF panda logo, come in a variety of sizes. Your dollars will go to the WWF foundation and 82 cents of every dollar will go straight towards conservation. Visit www.worldwildlife.org.

for bro: CamelBak Better Bottle ($18.99) - This water bottle will not only be an awesome gift, but you will also be helping give clean water to a family--to give them hope and transform their lives forever. 100% of the profits, about $10, will go to fund the life-changing work of Water.org. More styles and information can be found on water.org.

FUN FACTS
for the Holiday Season

THE MISTLETOE MYSTERY -
American mistletoe, the kind most often associated with kissing, is one of 1,300 species of mistletoe worldwide but one of only two that are native to the United States. Sadly, the translation of the word “mistletoe” itself isn’t very romantic. A few centuries back, some people apparently observed that mistletoe tended to take root where birds had left their droppings. “Mistal” is an Anglo-Saxon word that means “dung” and “tan” means “twig,” so mistletoe actually means “dung on a twig.”

C-H, H, OR K-H??? -
Technically there are 17 correct ways to spell the Jewish holiday! Chanucah, Channuka, Channukah, Chanuka, Chanukkah, Chanuco, Hannuka, Hannukah, Hanuka, Hanukkah, Hanukka, Hannukka, Kanukkah, Khannuka, Khannukah, Khanukkah, and Khanukkah.

DID YOU KNOW - The roots of Kwanzaa are from the black nationalist movement. African Americans were encouraged in the 1960’s to reconnect with the African culture of their ancestors. They were urged to meditate and study African traditions, along with the “seven principles of blackness.”

If you’re headed home for break…

DONT FORGET TO

» turn off your power strips
» unplug your appliances
» turn off the heat AND
» make sure the lights are out!
HOLIDAY GUIDE

MYTH BUSTERS: ARTIFICIAL VS. REAL HOLIDAY TREES
BY RACHEL PLUNKITT

The holiday season is already underway, which means beautiful symbols and icons of all different origins will be displayed in homes all across the world. Traditionally, decorations were once hand-made. Of course, this is not so much the case today when anything and everything can be mass produced and stuck with a label.

“Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree! How Lovely are Thy Branches”. The evergreen is supposed to be a symbol of resiliency and longevity because of its ability to survive the harsh winter months. While many households stick with the tradition of bringing home a cut tree, a surprising number have switched to buying fake trees either to be more eco-friendly, to save money, or simply to avoid the daily chore of sweeping up fallen pine needles. Obviously, the most eco-friendly choice is to simply not have a Christmas tree at all, but for those who just can’t do without, the question still remains as to which green is greener?

Artificial trees would appear to be the best choice simply because they are reusable. When we hear the word “reuse” these days, we automatically think something must be eco-friendly. Realistically, we have to consider the types of materials used in production, wastes generated, and how it is later disposed of. The raw materials used to make a fake Christmas tree are mostly non-renewable. Also, a petroleum-based plastic called polyvinyl chloride (PVC), is used in the manufacturing process. During the production of PVC, harmful carcinogens such as vinyl chloride, dioxin and ethylene dichloride are emitted. Even worse, lead-based additives are often used to make the foliage more flexible.

FUN FACT: The first fake Christmas trees were manufactured by a toilet brush company. Yes, they were basically giant green toilet brushes.

So how about the real trees? It seems tragic that millions of conifers are cut down each year, kept just barely alive in our living rooms, and then kicked to the curb a few weeks later. While this is by no means an act of kindness towards the environment, it is still less harmful than fake trees in terms of resource use. Ultimately, we’re talking about renewable vs. non-renewable resources.

The impact of getting a real Christmas tree is made less severe when we consider the improvements to tree farms since they first began. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, many tree farms are purposefully located in areas with poor soil conditions where other plants can’t grow. The all-mighty conifers can handle shoddy soil, and will help to stabilize it. Also, regardless of the purpose for planting a tree, it will inevitably increase biomass and help remove carbon from the atmosphere. Finally, the emergence of tree recycling programs helps by turning trees into mulch for fertilizer.

If you plan to have a real Christmas tree please visit earth911.org to find your nearest tree recycling center!

Tis the Season

By: Chelsea Simkins

Oxfam America Unwrapped is nationally known for their efforts. As part of Oxfam International, they work as a confederation of 14, in more than 90 countries. They look at long-term solutions rather than short-term aid. They pride themselves on the fact that they are independent and take no governmental funds for they believe it will compromise their decision-making or to speak freely about injustice. Donations can be sorted by interest, occasion, recipient or by price to help you pick the best gift. (www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com)

Heifer International’s goal is to “bring an end to world hunger”. They do this by empowering disadvantaged communities. The unique quality about Heifer is that the gift you give, keeps giving because the families that received the Heifer gifts become donors themselves by passing offspring of their gifts to other families in need. Heifer International teaches the community-valuable skills of sustainability and self-reliance through training and education. (www.heifer.org)

Harvest of Hope allows you to donate livestock, medical supplies, homes, water, even therapy, education supplies, etc. The difference here is that your gift is “delivered in the name and love of Christ by a local believer”. There is an option to involve your whole congregation involved as well. This is through the Giving Tree, each gift that is purchased an ornament is hung on the tree. Gift certificates are available, so the individual can choose a gift themselves. (www.harvestofhope.org)

Garden Harvest This organization is a lot smaller and it is fully run by volunteers. They help communities establish community farms that teach people methods of organic, sustainable production of crops, mainly in rural areas of India and Appalachia in the US. They also train them in animal husbandry that they will use with donated livestock. Through Garden Harvest you can donate a farm animal, farm equipment or your farm (if you have one) to help the cause. (www.gardenharvest.org)

And don't forget about the EPIB Trail's fund for Kiva—check out the back sheet for more details!
Eco Updates

Hang Your Clothes...not the planet

By: Chelsea Kahn

Second to the refrigerator, the electric dryer is the second biggest household user of electricity. For the last fifty years, Hills, an Australian brand, has been advocating line drying. Now, they are bringing their cause to the states, educate (or re-educate) Americans about the benefits to line drying clothes. Not only is line drying better for the environment, but it can benefit your wardrobe too.

Clothes generally last longer when hung, rather than run in the machine. Also, the sun’s UV rays are known to act as a natural bleach and antiseptic; all while saving nearly 6% of your total household electricity usage. If you don’t want fading or have no lawn to dry, inside works too. All you need is a line and some air!


Student Research

Thinking global, acting local!

By Dara Zaleski

In collaboration with the Green Purchasing department here at Rutgers, many students are taking innovative steps conducting research that is leading our university in the right direction of sustainability. In one research project, the aim is to convert at least one bus to use waste vegetable oil from the dining halls, cafes, and student centers here at Rutgers. While working out the kinks of financial issues, long-term use, and oil quality, these Rutgers students are hoping to be successful in using over-looked fuel sources.

There is also a project aimed at increasing recycling within and beyond the Rutgers community. They hope to do this by promoting recycling and environmentally friendly behavior at large sporting events, particularly football games. By educating the community and boosting our efforts we can reduce our environmental and carbon footprint. This also helps reduce the university’s energy usage; the US EPA considers recycling as energy conservation due to the amount of energy resources it takes to manage and recycle waste.

One last project to mention is a student proposal to lower energy usage in student dorms. The students living in the Rutgers dorms do not have individual utility bills, which makes students less likely to be conscious about their energy use. The students on this research team propose a system that rewards the students for saving energy. The researchers plan on evaluating how much energy is used per dorm, per room and then calculating a standard so that money could be given back if the student is below the standard. For example, for a 100 watt light bulb, if it was used for 4 hours a day rather than left on for 24, it would save 60 kilowatt hours in a month, which at 10 cents a kilowatt hour would be 6 dollars saved in one month (or about $25 a semester)! Who doesn’t love some extra cash in their pockets?

Well done, Rutgers students, on taking big steps to help our University make a change for the better!

GREEN MUSIC

...to my ears

By Kate Gardella

A basic checklist for any avid concert-goer usually includes food, coals for the grill, plastics cups, drinks, drinks and more drinks, tickets, and a full tank of gas. What it likely does not include is a formula to calculate your concert-going footprint, which might just have a little more impact than you’d think.

If you’re heading to a local venue like the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, 24,499 others will be doing the same amount of consuming on concert day. On a larger scale we can investigate the Live Earth Concert Series, essentially a concert series to save the world, which took place in 9 different arenas around the globe on 07/07/07. Despite its call for environmental activism, carbonfootprint.com calculated Live Earth as resulting in 31,500 tons of carbon emissions from everything from performer’s flights to the energy output of the millions strong TV audience.

Green Music Group, coalition of various well known artists, labels, and venues is in an effort to mitigate the effects the live music that so many enjoy is having on the environment. Boasting well known names like Dave Matthews Band, Maroon 5, Willie Nelson and Sheryl Crow, and partners such as Oxfam, the Sierra Club and Goodwill, Green Music Group is taking steps to bring about large scale climate change in the music industry and around the world.

Members of the music industry involved in GMG fuel tour buses with bio-diesel, offset their flight emissions, recycle and compost, use local and organic food when catering, stay at environmentally conscious hotels, and use recycled and organic materials for merchandise. GMG also provides small grants for new artists to be green from the get go. Not only is GMG reducing their environmental impact, they are creating a new trend across the music industry worldwide with every member that joins their coalition.

Next time you’re buying concert tickets, consider checking to see if the artist is a GMG member. If they’re not (and even if they are) make sure to do your part in reducing your personal environmental impact.

Check out more at: www.greenmusicgroup.org
OpEd: Current Events Wiki Leaks - Whistleblowers or Foreign Terrorists?

By: Christian Rathbone

Wiki Leaks, an internet-based whistleblower organization, plans to release over 250,000 cables containing sensitive military, corporate and diplomatic information. Founder Julian Assange of Australia, claims they are investigative journalists whose job it is to go public with credible information as a democratic responsibility. But when does it go too far? Would banking documents containing bailout money expenditures and mortgage fraud be constructive for the public to know? Most likely yes, because bailout money came from the pockets of American taxpayers and we deserve to know. But what about information vital to national security such as the locations of hundreds of manufacturing plants and pipelines, which enemies of the state could use against us? Most would agree no, and that information pertaining to the security of our homeland and our troops should remain a secret.

So how did all of this get out anyway? The Pentagon has a separate, secure internet accessible only to diplomats, government agents and members of the military. The “leaker”, Pfc. Bradley Manning accessed the secure information, in breach of his military contract, and downloaded the files to a blank disc labeled “Lady Gaga”. Copied were sent to the NY Times, Washington Post, the Guardian and other news outlets. The files include: 1) Videos of an Apache helicopter in Iraq gunning-down unarmed civilians 2) Evidence of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay 3) Iraq/Afghan war crimes as told by US troops 4) Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China concerns about possible war with N. Korea, just to name a few. Wiki Leaks plans in early 2011 to release Bank of America mortgage and financial records pertaining to the financial meltdown of 2007 and their plan to profit from our current recession.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a press statement said “The US strongly condemns the illegal disclosure of classified information...it puts American and Allied troops in danger...and that this information is an attack on the US and international foreign policy”. The activist group Syracuse Peace Council says the 91,000 files on the Afghan war gives an unfiltered view of the true role of the US and NATO in the region. Organizer Jessica Maxwell says “It’s time to drop the illusions, there are no more pretenses, the evidence is there documented in excruciating detail of what the US role is...it has been made clear that it is time to get out and to end the foreign occupations”. No matter your opinion on this issue, all the proverbial cards are on the table, putting the US and its allies in a tough diplomatic position. You can bet that the world is watching how the superpower handles having its privacy stripped away.

Check out wikileaks.org or their “mirror sites” if the main page is down for more information.

Rutgers' own glider RU-27, affectionately named “Scarlet” was added to the collections of the National Museum of Natural History on December 9th.

This Slocum Autonomous Underwater Gliding Vehicle made its dangerous trek across the Atlantic, and was the first vessel of its kind to make it across!

Check out more of this amazing story at: rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/atlantic/about_atlantic.html
New Soap, Old Bottle. Detergents now come in a Heineken, Coke or Dr. Pepper Bottle

by Petz Scholtus, December 9

Researching innovative packaging solutions the other day, I stumbled on New Soap, Old Bottle. Similar to this green way of drinking (old bottles, fresh wine), Scott in the States sells new liquid soap packaged in old plastic bottles. That way, he saves an old bottle from landfill or recycling (which, let's just remember, also has an impact on the environment), and a new bottle from being manufactured.

If I understand correctly, New Soap Old Bottle works with different brands of liquid soap that they by in barrels, to then repackage the soap in handy sizes in a reused package. It is an initiative to help soap companies offer a greener packaging to their customers.

We especially like the refill that comes in an old Heineken beer bottle, although the plastic bottles would have a much lower impact during transportation due to the lower weight. If you're lucky and you live near a refill station for soap, like the Green Depot store in Manhattan where you can buy soap on tap, you can just reuse your own bottles. But for busy people and places where no 'green detergent stations' are available, New Soap, Old Bottle might just be the solution to reducing packaging waste.

Unusually cold weather killing Florida's manatees

By Robert Green, Fri Dec 10, 2010

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (Reuters) - Unusually cold weather last winter killed Florida's endangered manatees at a record rate, a report said on Friday. During 2010, a record 699 manatees have died in Florida, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Research Institute. Of those, 244 were attributed to cold weather and many of the 271 undetermined deaths were also likely caused by weather. In most years, the leading cause of manatee deaths is from collisions with power boats. The latest surveys estimate there are only about 5,000 of the chubby marine mammals left in Florida waters.

"We are very concerned about the unusually high number of manatee deaths this year," Gil McRae, the director of the institute, said in a statement. "The cold-related deaths this past winter emphasize the importance of warm weather habitat to the Florida manatee." The previous record of 429 manatee deaths was set in 2009 but only 56 of those were caused by cold weather.

Manatees are protected under the Endangered Species Act and the state of Florida has enacted laws to require slower motor boat speeds in some waters to prevent manatee accidents. Manatees require warm, shallow water to survive. They often swim near power plants in the winter for warmth.

Rutgers Gets $2 Million to Develop 3-D Offshore Wind Map

By Tom Johnson, October 6

New Jersey is taking another step to assess its potential for developing offshore wind farms, a strategy that has emerged as a top priority of the Christie administration and many environmental groups.

The state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) yesterday awarded a $1.87 million contract to Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Science to build a three-dimensional map to detail the offshore wind potential of the Jersey coast.

The grant comes at a time when three developers of offshore wind farms are launching pilot studies to determine whether their projects are feasible based on how much electric capacity offshore wind farms can generate.

The latest project will complement those efforts and will be provided to other offshore wind developers once completed. The Rutgers' map could lower the cost of future offshore wind projects, according to Michael Winka, director of the BPU's Office of Clean Energy. The grant will fund a two-year project by the institute, which has been in the forefront of efforts to assess offshore wind potential.

According to the U.S. Energy Department, the U.S. has vast offshore wind resources, particularly off the eastern seaboard and in the Great Lakes. There are approximately 5,000 megawatts of projects that have been proposed in the U.S., including about 1,100 off the New Jersey coast.

To date, the Christie administration has embraced efforts to attract offshore wind developers to New Jersey, endorsing legislation that would create $100 million in tax credits if a wind turbine manufacturer located in either the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey or the South Jersey Port District.

The state’s Master Energy Plan calls for 3,000 megawatts of electricity to be generated from wind farms by 2020, a prospect some in the business community call unrealistic. They also warn that if that goal is met it could lead to big spikes in customer's electric bills, because offshore wind is more expensive than conventional power. The three projects in New Jersey have a projected pricetag of $7 billion, according to estimates by the BPU.

BPU Commissioner Jeanne Fox noted the state has been very aggressive in assessing the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms, a policy that has put New Jersey in the lead in efforts to attract the clean energy technology.

While the latest study will only complement the efforts of projects in the state to develop offshore wind, Winka said the research should lower the cost for other developers who want to build the renewable energy technology offshore.

From: http://www.njspotlight.com/
Entrepreneurship in China: BBC profiled Wei Xinpeng, 55, a boatman in a village near industrial Lanzhou, who collects bodies (the murdered, the suicides, the accidental drowners) and offers them to grieving relatives. He charges a look-see fee for the distraught to check his inventory and has wound up selling about 40 of his 500 collected corpses (over seven years) for up to the equivalent of $500 each.

In October, police arrested a man arriving at the Madras, India, airport from Sri Lanka, bringing precious stones into the country in his stomach. After employing laxatives, police recovered 2,080 diamonds.

Kiva.org connects people with low-income entrepreneurs in the developing world through loans. By investing in their businesses, people empower these entrepreneurs to achieve economic independence. By making a donation to the Human Ecology Department, we can use this money and lend it to a group or entrepreneur to fulfill their needs. The Kiva Microfunds allows us to lend this money, and as it is repaid throughout the year, it will be automatically relented to another entrepreneur or group. This way, your one time donation will forever be helping people worldwide.

All donations can be sent to the 2nd Floor of the Cook Office Building (55 Dudley Road, New Brunswick NJ, 08901) in the form of cash or checks. Please make checks payable to Chelsea Kahn or Cash, with EPIB Kiva as the memo.

If you have any questions you can get in touch with us at epibtrail@gmail.com or chelkahn@gmail.com.