



# GREEN EGGS & SAND FAQ's

Please read all that follows and sign off on the line of your registration form to affirm you have done so.

## *What is Green Eggs & Sand?*

*Green Eggs & Sand* is an innovative workshop experience and set of curriculum modules designed to explore the Atlantic Coast horseshoe crab (HSC)/shorebird phenomenon and management controversy. The first workshop was launched in the spring of 2000 by aquatic education specialists from Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey in response to the escalating HSC management controversy on Delaware Bay. Many of the teachers participating in that inaugural workshop stayed on to help write, pilot and implement the lessons that form the heart of the GE&S curriculum. In the years since, interest in HSCs and GE&S has spawned workshops up and down the coast, serving educators from 19 states and 2 foreign countries.

## *What typically happens at a Green Eggs & Sand (GE&S) workshop?*

*Green Eggs & Sand* workshops differ fundamentally from traditional teacher workshops. The focus is more on promoting understanding of the issues, science, and management of the HSC/shorebird controversy, rather than on demonstrating use of the curriculum itself. Consequently, much of the agenda involves listening to presenters and stakeholders – including leading HSC and shorebird biologists, fisheries managers, commercial fisherman and biomedical experts - share their knowledge, insights and perspectives on the issues. Activities from the curriculum are sprinkled in-between these expert sessions, both to serve as a break from the sitting/listening mode and to provide a flavor for the curricular content offered. A field trip, involving observation of spawning horseshoe crabs at a nearby beach (featuring hands-on interpretation by experts on HSC biology/ecology) is also an integral part of the experience.

## *Where, when and how often are GE&S workshops offered?*

Initially, *Green Eggs & Sand* workshops were limited to Delaware Bay. In recent years, as interest in the HSC management controversy expanded, GE&S has offered sessions up and down the Atlantic Coast. Typically, three workshops are offered annually, one in the Southeast, one in New England, and the other in the Mid-Atlantic. These are timed to coincide with new/full moon events in April, May and June, when HSC spawning is most readily observed.

## *Who attends GE&S workshops?*

Since *Green Eggs & Sand* workshops are geared for teachers and other environmental educators, they are given preference in terms of reserving spots at workshops offered. Since the curricular focus is middle school and up, and strong on life science, biology teachers and non-formal educators (including those who work at marine aquaria, parks, wildlife refuges and other interpretive centers) typically comprise the lion's share of participants. However, given the inter-disciplinary flavor and flexible design of GE&S, elementary and other subject matter teachers have also benefited from attending. Over the years, GE&S has also attracted and opened its doors to a diverse assortment of other individuals interested in learning more about the HSC, including writers, artists, media people, scientists, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in the resource. The cast of characters congregating at GE&S is always interesting and the networking opportunities that result are an added bonus of attending.

### *Is there a limit on how many educators from a given school, nature center or organization can attend?*

Due to the recent explosion of interest in GE&S workshops, and the fact that nearly all sessions fill up quickly with a waiting list, a restriction of 3 educators per workshop from a particular school, nature center or other environmental education organization has been instituted. This restriction was put in place to ensure that GE&S can be introduced to as many venues, and thus as wide an audience of students, as possible. Should additional educators from a given school/center/organization wish to attend, they will be placed on a waiting list for participation in the event that spaces are still available for the workshop a week prior to its occurrence. Should that not pan out, we encourage those educators to sign up for a workshop in the following year, as this will also allow them to bring new information back to their colleagues. Exceptions to the three-teacher limit will be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for teams of teachers planning to implement use of the GE&S curriculum to a wide audience of students.

### *Can previously-trained GE&S participants return for a subsequent workshop?*

The answer for this is similar to the previous. Because of the high demand for GE&S workshop spots, and our goal of making GE&S available for use by as many educators in as many settings as possible, we give first priority to new educators for workshop reservations. In other words, returning educators (GE&S workshop alumni) can sign up for a session, but will be placed on a waiting list, for participation if (and only if) the workshop does not fill up with new participants, by a week prior to its occurrence.

### *How can one get a copy of the GE&S curriculum?*

The only way to receive a copy of the *Green Eggs & Sand* curriculum is through attendance at a GE&S workshop in its entirety. There are no exceptions to this rule and we appreciate educators understanding and support in maintaining the integrity of this approach.

### *Will the GE&S activities and experience be appropriate to where and what I teach?*

The GE&S curriculum was developed to target the middle school through college level teacher and student. Elementary teachers are welcome, and have enjoyed and benefited from the experience, but should be aware that the activities in the curriculum would need to be simplified and adapted for classroom use. It should also be understood that GE&S was developed with a Delaware Bay focus – that being the epicenter of the controversy and place of genesis for the project. Although many of the activities and accompanying video segments reference Delaware Bay, the material is sufficiently generic and applicable to other locales. This is especially true of the first two (horseshoe crab and shorebird) modules – which feature universal biology/ecology components, as well as allusions to the globally significant and connected focus of the phenomenon and issues. The third module introduces the 3B's (birds, bait & biomedical) of recent human valuing of HSCs. The management module, featuring the greatest wealth of video material, is the most time and location centered – referencing the chronology of the management controversy on Delaware Bay from the late 1990's through 2002 – but if approached as a case study of a natural resource management challenge, this too offers universally meaningful and rich ground for learning.

### *Are the GE&S activities correlated to curriculum standards?*

Lesson plans in the GE&S curriculum are correlated to national learning standards in science, social studies, math and language arts. With the exception of Maryland (where state standard correlations have been formulated), correlations of GE&S lessons to individual state standards has not been undertaken.

### *Can a teacher receive professional development credits for attending a GE&S workshop?*

Certificates of completion are available (by request) to all teachers following full attendance at a GE&S workshop. In Delaware, credits are obtained by registering, and completing the required paperwork with, the Delaware Teacher Center (800-282-8770). In New Jersey credits can be received through contacting Karen Leskie (mailto:MKaren.byrne@dep.state.nj.us).

### *How much does it cost to attend a GE&S workshop?*

A nominal fee is required for attendance at a *Green Eggs & Sand* workshop, the amount depending on the host location, lodging options and other expense variables. Typically, a fee of \$100-150 (the variation depending on lodging venues at respective localities) per participant is charged for the full weekend workshop, including all meals, materials and camp/dorm-style lodging. For those preferring more plush and private accommodations, a list of nearby motels/hotels is available on request, but costs for such are the responsibility of the participant, and this does not replace or reduce the workshop registration fee.

### *What does one need to bring for a GE&S workshop?*

"What to bring" lists appropriate to the respective workshop venues will be provided, along with directions, agenda, and other pertinent information, as part of the pre-workshop packet e-mailed to all registrants. For Delaware Bay sessions, a pillow, bed linens (twin bed size), blanket and bath towel will be needed. For the field trips, layered clothing (things can get windy and brisk on the Bay), sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, wading shoes or boots (for wading along the bayshore - please do not wear sandals or other open footwear, as these are not safe for the evening HSC survey work), and a flashlight or (preferably) low-light intensity headlamp are recommended. A camera and binocs also come in handy.

### *What are the chances of seeing lots of horseshoe crabs at a GE&S workshop field trip?*

Since *Green Eggs & Sand* workshops are timed around peak spring lunar event times for horseshoe crab spawning, the chances of seeing HSCs on the beaches are usually pretty good. But, mother nature being what she is, conditions in any given year or season can vary greatly, and along with more localized weather events, can result in occasional excursions where few, or even no, HSC's are observed on the beaches.

### *What position does Green Eggs & Sand take on the horseshoe crab/shorebird controversy?*

*Green Eggs & Sand* is about education, not advocacy – education in the sense of promoting critical thinking, providing the most accurate and up-to-date information possible, and exploring multiple points of view on the issues in a fair and balanced manner. The issues surrounding horseshoe crab use and management, and the connections to migratory shorebirds, are complex and ever-changing. In recent years, media hype has been intense and led to dissemination of much misinformation about the state of the resource and its management, and this has further polarized divergent opinions and heightened emotions regarding what should be done. Participants come to GE&S with many of these views and emotions, and not uncommonly, the expert presenters will express substantially varying views and perspectives on what is going on. GE&S sees this as grist for the environmental educational mill, and encourages participants to bring an open mind to what they hear, a discerning eye to what they read, and a sense of fairness to the position they ultimately decide to take. We also hope that these kinds of attitudes and approaches will be passed on to the students in exploring these issues through the video and curricular materials provided.