



CREST
Community for Rural Education Stewardship and Technology

ISLAND INSTITUTE



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Issue: # 9

September/2009

Welcome back to school, everyone!

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year and the ninth edition of the CREST newsletter. In this newsletter, you can find all sorts of helpful information: highlights of what is happening at CREST schools throughout the state, tech tips, information about upcoming events, and, of course, links to new information on our website.

We look forward to seeing you soon during our site visit to your school. In the meantime, enjoy reading about the exciting things we have in store for you this year! See you soon - keep up the great work!

Cheers,
The CREST Leadership Team

SUMMER INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately 130 students and teachers descended upon the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) in Winter Harbor in July for the Summer Institutes. Students learned about facilitative leadership, teachers worked on how to integrate technology into their curriculum, and, of course, all participants spent many hours developing their skills in their technology of choice.



Middle School Week



High School Week

In the GIS classes, participants learned about Google Earth and QGIS (an open-source Mac-compatible GIS software), and worked on more advanced projects, such as 3D modeling using the ArcView software.

The web designers learned everything from creating a webpage using basic HTML to adding style using CSS, as well as some more advanced JavaScript codes. Projects were wide-ranging, including biographical and autobiographic websites, sites about favorite hobbies, and sites for their schools.

The ethnography classes learned all the ins and outs of the iMovie09 software by creating movies either about various aspects of CREST or the SERC campus, or about aspects of their own communities using footage they had collected throughout the school year.

Below are some examples of the participants' hard work!

"Saying Goodbye"

Film about the last CREST Summer Institute, produced by Megan Weed, Emmi-Jo Trundi, Mena Mattes, and Jen MacDonald from Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KyTPKAufMs>

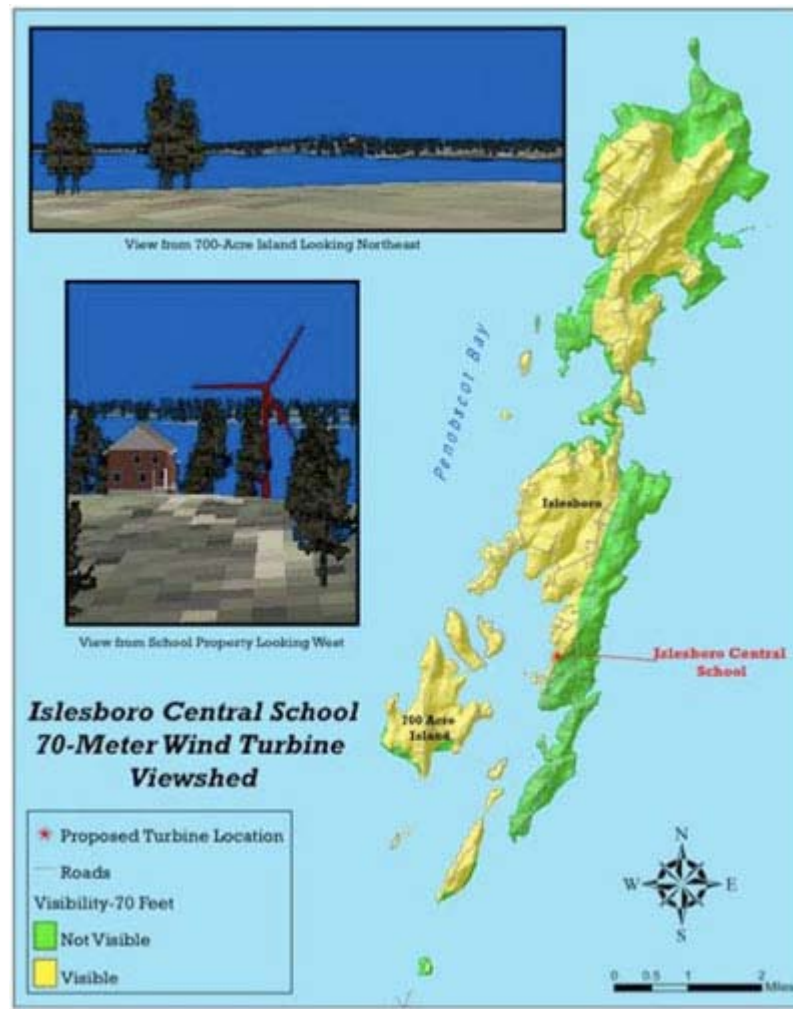
"Building 1"

Film about the historic Rockefeller Building at the Schoodic Education and Research Center, produced by Nicole Cochary, Elise Roberston, and David Keefe, of Conners-Emerson School.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I2rrHstDSc>

"ICS 70 meter Wind Turbine Viewshed"

Map showing where on Islesboro a 70-meter turbine at the school would be visible, along with 3D simulations of what the turbine would look like, created by students and a teacher at Islesboro Central School.



Additional photos from the 2009 Summer Institutes may be found by [clicking here](#).

TECH TIPS

As many of you know, the DMR Garmin program that downloads data from a GPS only works on Windows, not on Macs. In fact, Macs are notoriously not very compatible with many GPS units. However, thanks to the efforts of Tom Heath from Camden Hills Regional High School, at the Summer Institute this year, you can now use the web tool he created to download your GPS data to your Mac in a format recognizable by QGIS, following the steps below. Thanks Tom!

- 1) Connect the GPS to your computer with the USB cord, and turn on the GPS
- 2) Open Firefox; the tool won't work in Safari
- 3) Navigate to <http://webapps.fivetowns.net/gps/>
- 4) If you get a message saying Device Not Found, click the Look Again button a couple of times until it finds the GPS.
- 5) Click the Load Waypoints/Tracks From Device button
- 6) Right-click on the Download Your GXP link, and choose Save Link As...

- 7) Navigate to your data folder and click Save
- 8) Open QGIS
- 9) Add the downloaded .gpx file to your map with the Add Vector Layer tool
- 10) Right-click on the layer in the Table of Contents, and choose Save As Shapefile...
- 11) Navigate to your data folder, give the file an appropriate name, and click Save
- 12) Delete the original .gpx file

New video tutorials have been added to the CREST YouTube Channel! There are now thirteen instructional videos covering ArcView, QGIS, HTML, and CSS available for viewing, check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/IslandInstituteCREST>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

October 8th - 9th

[Island Teachers Conference, Belfast](#)

October 15th -16th

MAINEducation Technology Conference, Augusta Civic Center
www.actem.org

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Toyota Tapestry Grants

Deadline: January 18, 2010

The Toyota Tapestry Grants program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that will enhance science education during the 2010-11 school year. The program will award 50 large grants and a minimum of 20 mini-grants, totaling \$550,000 in all, for projects in the categories of Physical Science Application, Environmental Science Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science.

The URL is: <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry>

Gannett Foundation Community Action Grants

Grant applications are reviewed twice a year: February 16th or August 17th.

The Gannett Foundation Community Action Grants support local groups involved in education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation, and cultural enrichment. Average grant ranges from \$1,000 - \$5,000. See eligibility and other rules for application:

The URL is: <http://www.gannettfoundation.org/guidelines.htm>

DonorsChoose

DonorsChoose's model of citizen philanthropy begins with a teacher who wants to provide his or her students with an activity that school funds would not cover. At this Web site, the teacher can describe a student project and list the materials needed to make it possible. DonorsChoose staff and volunteers review the proposed student

project. Civic-minded individuals can then browse teachers' submissions. A donor can make a tax-deductible contribution that fully or partially funds a chosen proposal.
<http://www.donorschoose.org/>

CREST CALENDAR

November

November 6th & 7th

Final Cut Express Training at the Island Institute in Rockland

November 8th

CREST Teacher Curriculum Development Day in Rockland

November 20th

CREST Career Fair at University of Maine, Farmington

January

January 9th

CREST Teacher Professional Development day in Rockland

January 15th

Mid-year Progress Report due

January 29th

STEM conference in Augusta

April

April 15th

CREST Day at the State Capitol (an opportunity to share your school's great work with our state legislators)

May

May 10th

End-of-year report due

May 10th

Registration for CREST Summer Celebration Due

June

June 23rd - 25th

CREST Summer Celebration location TBA

Sincerely,

The CREST Team
Island Institute

In Partnership with UMM. Funded by NSF.





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