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## NOAA Restoration Day in Virginia

More than 50 NOAA employees, state partners, and local high school students participated in the first annual NOAA Restoration Day in Virginia last month, co-sponsored by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay office in Virginia and the NOAA Restoration Center. The event gave NOAA employees in the lower Chesapeake Bay an opportunity to restore portions of Virginia Commonwealth University's Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Studies in Charles City, Va., a 342-acre "living laboratory" for the University's undergraduate and graduate students which borders the James River. During Restoration Day, volunteers planted underwater grass in the river — grass they had grown in their offices and classrooms. Participants also built and installed more than two dozen nesting boxes for migratory prothonotary warblers, removed more than 750 pounds of marine debris from the James River shoreline, and educated participants on collecting and understanding water quality data.



*NOAA employees, state partners, and local high school students planted underwater grasses they had grown in their offices and classroom as part of NOAA Restoration Day on Virginia's James River.*

## NOAA Donates Katrina Artifacts to Smithsonian

Replicas of tools used by NOAA's forecasters during Hurricane Katrina have joined artifacts from the September 11th terrorist attacks in the Smithsonian Institution's collection of items from a significant national event.

Included in the donation to the National Museum of American History in Washington is a dropwindsonde, identical to those dropped into Katrina by NOAA aircraft; an exact replica of the Katrina tracking chart used by NHC hurricane forecasters; an enlargement of the Urgent Weather Message issued on August 28th by lead forecaster **Robert Ricks** at the