

EARTH DAY 2022 EDITION

OSEEP News



Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs
Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality
U.S. Department of Commerce



Check out the Earth Day Photo Challenge highlights on pages 3-8

A note from OSEEP

Happy Earth Day from the Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP)! We were delighted to receive more than 100 incredible photos in the 2022 Earth Day Photo Challenge. It's inspiring to see so many Commerce employees embracing the great outdoors—whether they're scuba diving in the Florida Keys, exploring an enormous glacier cave in Iceland, or hiking the colorful trails of Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park.

We hope you enjoy these photos as much as we did. Wishing you a happy Earth Day filled with admiration and appreciation for our beautiful Earth!

Sincerely
The OSEEP Team

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Meet Meredith Reilly, Green Store Intern

The Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs is excited to introduce its newest Green Store intern, Meredith Reilly. Originally from Texas, Ms. Reilly is a combined degree student at American University, where she is working towards a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration. Fun fact: Ms. Reilly studies beekeeping in her free time! She looks forward to seeing you in the Green Store at the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) and providing sustainability

updates via the Green Store Listserv. Stay tuned to broadcasts for hours of operation upon the upcoming return to office. Regular sustainability tips and messages will resume soon, so make sure you're subscribed to the listserv (instructions below). If you have any questions, please contact gogreen@doc.gov.

How to Join The Green Store Listserv

1. Go to list.commerce.gov.
2. Log in using your Commerce Connection account information.
3. In the search bar, type "the-greenstore" and then select "Subscribe."
4. After subscribing, you will receive an email asking you to click a link to verify your email address – you must click the link to complete your subscription.

Coming Up: 2022 SEE Ambassadors Call for Nominations

Next month, the Department of Commerce will announce its annual call for nominations for the Sustainability, Energy, and Environmental (SEE) Ambassadors Program. The SEE Ambassadors program recognizes individual Departmental employees for outstanding performance in implementing exceptional projects and/or programs helping the Department meet sustainability, energy and water reduction, clean energy, climate change adaptation, resilience, and/or environmental performance goals. Stay tuned to broadcasts for more information and email Sarah Yardley (syardley@doc.gov) with questions.



Pictured above: Members of the 2021 Class of SEE Ambassadors (left to right): Chante' Sawyers, Census; Victoria Yue, ITA; Dr. S. Kalei Shotwell, NOAA; Kurt Gruell, USPTO; Jason Lott, USPTO; and Craig Morris, USPTO

Online Training with OSEEP

OSEEP offers training via Commerce Learning Center to provide education on environmental compliance, sustainability, climate literacy, and technical development topics. Stay tuned to broadcasts for more information and join us for our next session:

Vegetable Gardening 101 with Fairfax Master Gardeners Association
May 17, 2022 at 2:00pm ET

Environmental Compliance

Sustainability 101

Climate Literacy

Technical Development

Questions about OSEEP training? Contact Sara Smith (formerly Lake) at slake@doc.gov.

2021 Earth Day Photo Challenge: Featured Photos

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2nd annual Earth Day Photo Challenge! Please enjoy the featured photos in the following pages. Other photos not used here may appear in future newsletters and Departmental publications. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Yardley at syardley@doc.gov.



Above: Ashley Dicks, NOAA, and her fiance look out towards the Milky Way on the shores of frozen Bear Lake at Rocky Mountain National Park.

*Left to right:
John Kim, USPTO, provides a
tour of Bryce Canyon
National Park in Utah.*



*Lydia Wasmer, NOAA, scuba
dives off Key Largo in the
Florida Keys.*





Above: "My daughter sounding the conch at sunset on the beach while her father paraglides in the background."
Jennifer Leo, NOAA



Above: Husband-and-wife Commerce employees Luke and Brianna Evancoe, NOAA, take in the majestic beauty of a humpback whale while kayaking in Maui. "The Department of Commerce is made up of a diverse and insightful cast of employees, and we all collectively honor Earth in our own way. Brianna and I choose to pay our respects to nature in every way possible - be it from land, sea, or air!"
Luke Evancoe, NOAA



Above: Libby Gilbert-Horvath, NOAA, poses inside of a glacier cave in southern Iceland.



Above: Chelsea Parish, NOAA, hikes "The Windows" at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah during a change-of-station move from California to Florida.



Above: "Members of Team Atmosphere and a bear guard were dropped off by a helicopter at a remote Arctic ice station about 12km from the Germany icebreaker Polarstern. The team was there to do repairs and maintenance on an Atmospheric Surface Flux Station (ASFS) during the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) expedition. A successful three hours on station during polar night at -28C."

Dave Costa NOAA CIRES Engineer, photographer (left), Hans Honold AWI polar bear guard (middle) and Ola Persson CIRES Scientist (right)



Above: A photo of Jack Larter, NOAA, surveying near a small river just outside of Valdez, Alaska.

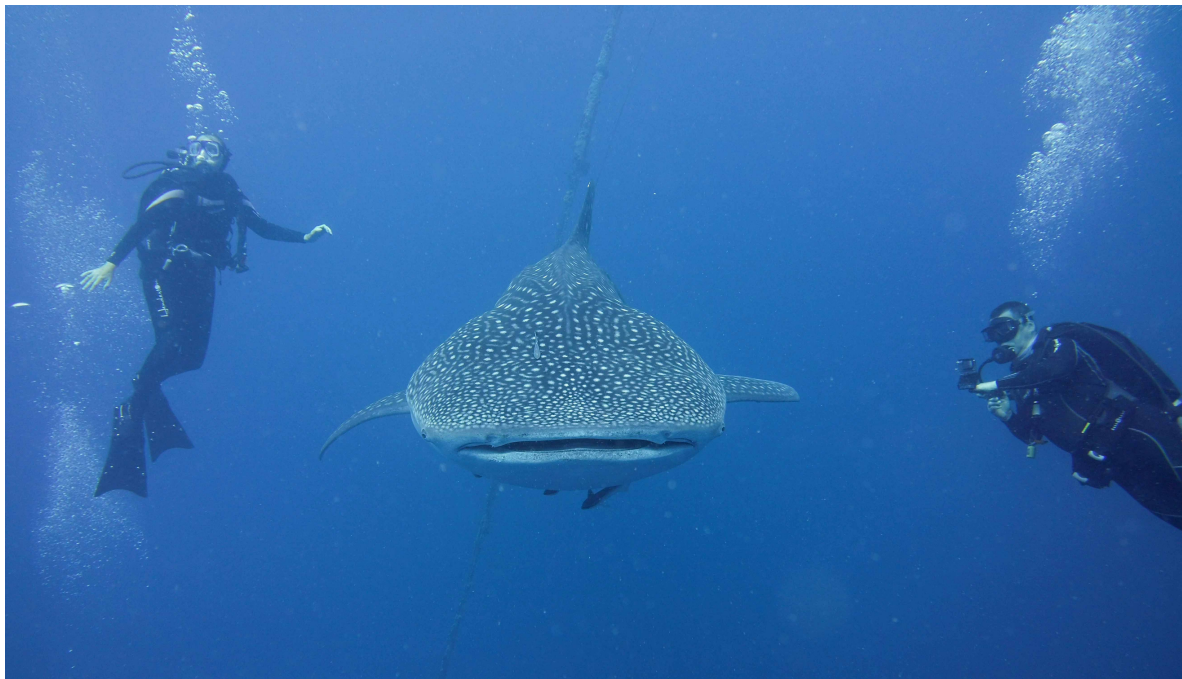


Above: Robert Schwemmer, a maritime archaeologist for the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, "making a deep dive" 282 feet below sea level at Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park, lowest point in North America.



Above: "Hiking Mount Ballyhoo in Dutch Harbor Alaska while on assignment on NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson. It was on a very rare clear day where you could see for miles and even catch a glimpse of a glacier in the distance. Alaska!"

Stephanie Stabile, NOAA



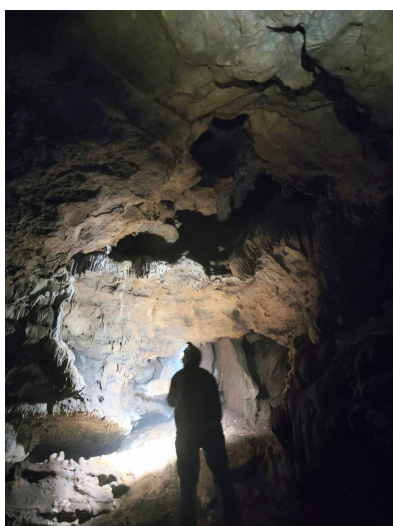
At left: Jennifer Christensen (OS) and Greg Christensen scuba dive with a whale shark in the Philippines.



Above: "Iceland's Fagradalsfjall Volcano erupting. I took the picture of my life partner Iriana Cruz Lozada after we hiked up to the lookout."
Christopher Leiby, USPTO



Above: Krishnan Menon, USPTO, poses in front of a penguin colony during a trip to Antarctica.



Left to right:

"This is a picture inside 'Low Water Cave' outside of Ash Grove, Missouri. National Weather Service (Springfield) radar helped identify this cave as a transient gray bat cave habitat. Following this designation, multiple Federal-State-Non Profit Conservation agencies funded and built a bat-friendly cave gate to protect both the cave and the bats which use it during the spring and summer. The gate also helps protect other sensitive wildlife adapted to the cave environment."
Drew Albert, NOAA

"This photo was taken of me at one of our beach cleanups with my 'ohana (family) at Sandy Beach, O'ahu. Every little bit helps as we mālama (care for) our earth and its oceans."
Kahi Jujii, NOAA



Above: "A picture from the top of Snake Mountain in Aleknagik, Alaska."
Kayla Gunther, NOAA



Above: "Warrior 1 pose overlooking Canyonlands National Park, Utah."
Diane Pancoska, NOAA Contractor



Above: "A picture of my brother and his fiance enjoying nature and flying a kite at the sand dunes near Duck, North Carolina in the Outer Banks."
Zohaib Rauf, NOAA



Above: Casey Garner, USPTO, visits The Wave located near the Utah-Arizona border.



Above: "A photographer focuses at Colorado National Monument."
Ping Sun, OIG



At left: "This is a photo of NOAA Office of Law Enforcement's (OLE) patrol vessel during the 2022 protected species operation within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary off the west coast of Maui. The mighty Haleakala is in the background. What better way to honor the earth than protecting its wildlife? On board are two U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers, one OLE Enforcement Officer, and one OLE Special Agent."
John Barylsky, NOAA



Above: "A picture of my son, Dylan, and I at the summit of Gunsight Pass in Glacier National Park, Montana. My son and I did a 4-day, 3-night backpacking trip through the park. Some of the haze is from the wildfires burning west of the park at that time."
Jeffrey Bratcher, NTIA



Above: A photo of hikers trekking the South Kaibab Trail in the Grand Canyon.
Gary Haney, OS



At left: "This is was taken in Zion National Park during a photography workshop. I'm standing in the Virgin River capturing the canyon during the fall colors. Also firmly gripping my tripod because the water was moving so fast it was very difficult to stand in. Our instructor snapped this photo of me."

We started before dawn to catch the first shuttle to the top, then hiked all day in the river, soon followed by hundreds of other people. The best shots are the ones before the crowds. "
Kristin Begun, NOAA