

## News from Betsy Damon and Keepers of the Waters May 2010



This year's Earth Day initiated the first project of the Eco Art Treasure Coast – a 15 month eco-artist mentorship project in Stuart, Florida. Four unique floating islands were constructed at the Florida Oceanographic Institute. These islands were designed and built by the six apprentices whom Betsy is mentoring, each measure roughly 10 square feet each and are made of bio degradable, organic materials such as bamboo, coconut fiber, glass bottles and aquatic plants. The islands provide shade and a living system for wildlife both above and underwater in an outdoor aquarium.

Betsy reports: "We started in early November with a workshop in which participants self-selected to be in the project. They began with readings and learning what it means to be eco-artists. In January, we met for two weeks and started the process of finding a workspace, building a cohesive group and meeting with potential partners such as the Florida Oceanographic Society, Audubon, South Florida Water Management District, Parks and Recreation, and the numerous departments of water management for the county and city.

"We are working closely with local scientists such as Jim Moir, a marine biologist/activist who is an essential advisor to our group. And, we are beginning a multi-layered initiative, Plastic Free Seas, with a community wide clean-up campaign to recycle all plastics large and small. The centerpiece of this campaign will be an installation, 'The Dinner Party of Death for Aquatic Life'. The Eco Art Treasure Coast project is the first in a series of the South Florida Environmental Art Project ([www.sfeap.org](http://www.sfeap.org)), conceptualized by Mary Jo Agerstoun."



**To learn more about EcoArt Treasure Coast project, please visit these links: [www.keepersofthewaters.org/EAT.cfm](http://www.keepersofthewaters.org/EAT.cfm) [www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/apr/24/islands-combine-art-and-science-to-bring-to/](http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/apr/24/islands-combine-art-and-science-to-bring-to/)**

Betsy continues her work documenting the Tibetan Water Culture creating a foundation for integrated solutions in remote villages and monasteries. While stopping for few days in Beijing enroute to Chengdu, Sichuan, Betsy has been asked to be a consultant to the Beijing Planning/Water Bureau on several large river projects. She writes, "perhaps we can design a plan to grow green, to harvest, recycle and reclaim all water in this water short place".



We are, as usual, seeking funding for the Keepers of the Waters Tibetan project and the Eco Art Treasure Coast project. Betsy receives no salary as director of Keepers of the Water and all your contributions go directly to the heart of these projects. The need for clean water is now a crisis. We are committed to preserving and restoring eco systems by addressing the foundation of life—our water systems. The earthquake area in China is desperately in need of water filtering systems, permanent clean water supplies, and collecting/filtering systems. We gratefully appreciate any donation!

**Check out YES! Magazine!. In the Spring 2010 issue there is an update of an article written 10 years ago about the Living Water Garden in Chengdu, China headlined with "has the promise of the stories we've published turned into reality?" Yes!, Betsy's work continues and is, without a doubt, the reality we need for water awareness and change. Here are links to the article and the original article by Anne Mavor.**

**[www.yesmagazine.org/issues/.../update-betsy-damons-living-water-gardens](http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/.../update-betsy-damons-living-water-gardens)  
[www.yesmagazine.org/issues/changing-the.../chinas-living-water-garden](http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/changing-the.../chinas-living-water-garden)**