Mobile Citizen Science using the new Anecdata.org app

Dr. Jane E. Disney and Ashley Taylor
Maine Water Conference, March 29, 2018
Citizen Science at MDI Biological Laboratory
Why Eelgrass?

Eelgrass:
- Provides habitat
- Functions as a nursery
- Filters water
- Absorbs nutrients
- Stabilizes sediments
- Prevents erosion
- Sequesters carbon
Eelgrass in Frenchman Bay 1996
Eelgrass in Frenchman Bay 2008
Crowdsourcing Data: Eelgrass in Maine

Eelgrass presence and disappearance reports in the greater Acadia region.
Anecdota
Next-gen citizen science
Sign up now!

65 projects
10649 observations
2507 photos

Citizen science just got easier.

It's free
Anyone can create a project on Anecdota and get started crowdsourcing environmental data.

There's an app!
Use the free app to report (or manage your project!) from the field!

Know your participants
Want to know who your top participants are? Just check your project member list.

It's versatile
Collect reports ranging from bird censuses to water quality to beach sweeps.

Showcase your data
Beautiful project pages let participants find out what to do and where to go, check out recent photos, or explore and download data.

Anecdota.org
MDI Biological Laboratory
Where are we now?
Anecdata.org: How it works

Users join Anecdata

Project creation:
- Set up project page
- Design metrics and datasheets
- Designate optional data collection sites

Project Participation:
- Data readings
- Photos
- Species observations
- Written reports

Public data analysis and sharing:
- Maps
- Graphs
- Downloads
Project Creation: Project Pages

Eastern Meadowlark Survey, MA

Eco-Schools Bahamas: Shopping Bag Challenge, Bahamas

Maine Harbor Seals, ME
Project Creation: Datasheets

Maine Eelgrass Density, ME

Turtle Watch, Egypt
Project Creation: Hotspots

Acadia Learning Snowpack Project, ME

Green Crab Studies, ME
Project Participation: Collect & Report
Public Data Analysis & Sharing

Jordan River Monitoring Project, ME

Washington King Tides, WA

Anecdatal.org

MDI Biological Laboratory
Anecdota.org: Mobile App Launch

**App Features**

- Join an existing project or create your own.
- Develop custom data sheets.
- Upload images directly to your project.
- Browse, map, and comment on observations.
- Like what other people are posting.
- Push notifications keep you up-to-date when there's activity in your projects.

**Gulf of Maine King Tides**

*New England Aquarium*

Anyone can contribute!  
Started September 2014  
59 members  
206 observations  
502 photos

The Gulf of Maine King Tides Project helps communities in the Northeastern US and Atlantic Canada anticipate impacts from rising sea levels. Join in this international effort to document—via cameras and smart phones—extreme high tides, which will become average water levels in coming years. King Tides images help scientists and planners assess future flood risks and anticipate associated hazards.

*Add an observation*  
*About*  
*Observations*  
*Photos*  
*Analyze*  
*Members*
Community Engagement Tools

### Personal

- **ataylor7**
  - **TheOutsideFoundation** started an event in *Litter-free Digital Journal: Broad Creek Clean Up*
  - **Cheilakka** just joined: **Roadkill Reports!**
  - **Dutchgirl526** just joined: **Eelgrass in Maine!**
  - **dballey** just joined: **Eelgrass in Maine!**
  - **Anna** liked your observation!

### Project

- **TheOutsideFoundation** added the project on Mar 25, 2018:
  - **Project:** *Litter-free Digital Journal*
  - **Map Location:** Coligny Beach Park

  **Notes:**
  - 31 Volunteers in 4 hours also recovered a large plastic tarp, 2 5 gal buckets, 2 large cylinders (plastic), a plastic owl, crab trap and a long PVC pipe.

### Liked by
- Christi Hughes
- dballey
- ForrestLabAlum

### Comments
- **Christi Hughes** Mar 26, 2018 10:18AM
  - Love all the Palmetto Pride bags! Thanks for such a worthwhile effort, team. It looks like your crew had a lot of fun!

Anecdata.org
Closing the Citizen Science Data Loop

1. New questions and hypotheses
2. Collection of data and imagery
3. Data visualization and analysis
4. Data grappling and sharing
Anecdata is used in South Carolina to manage data on marine debris to lobby for

- Plastic and Styrofoam bans
- Sea Turtle Protection

Anecdatal.org
### Knowledge

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Metal Cans</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balloons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothing, Shoes + Fabric</td>
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<td>Utensils &amp; Dinnerware (spoons, cups, p)</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Cigars + Cigar Tips</td>
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</table>

### Action

Folly Beach passes ban on plastic bags, balloons, Styrofoam

Help us save the environment, let us know if you don't need a bag

Published: Tuesday, October 18th 2016, 11:31 pm EDT
Updated: Tuesday, October 18th 2016, 11:37 pm EDT
By Patrick Phillips, Digital Content Manager
Plastic Bag Ban: Folly Beach, South Carolina
What’s next for Anecdata?

Welcome to Gulf of Maine King Tides! By participating in this project, you can help raise awareness around shoreline flooding.

Share your observations
Ready to upload your King Tides observations? Share your photos right now.

Get started

Browse reports
Take a quick tour through recent King Tides photos on an interactive map.

Explore the map

King Tides Community
Learn more about King Tides, meet participants near you, and learn about upcoming events!

Join the discussion
Upcoming events

Civic Action Toolkit
Learn how to get civically engaged and share your activities and outcomes!

Civic Action Tracker
Resource Center
Questions?

Get in touch with the Anecdata team: anecdata@mdibl.org

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Anecdata.org

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