Exploring Earth System, Climate Change and Human Health Connections Using GLOBE Observer

Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) Workshop at AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans

The NASA GLOBE Observer Mosquito Habitat Mapper App is a mobile platform used to identify and locate mosquito breeding sites. The app also supports the identification of mosquito larva taxa via a built-in key. Citizen science data can be used to track the rate of range expansion of invasive vector species and associated health threats at fine grain resolution.

Twenty teachers and outreach professionals attended the workshop. Presenters discussed how the mosquito data collected using the app can be used by public health officials and citizen scientists alike to reduce risk of vector borne disease in communities. Scientists can use the data to improve models that employ satellite data in projecting future disease outbreaks. Teachers were provided with clip on microscopes to take home with them to use with their classes.
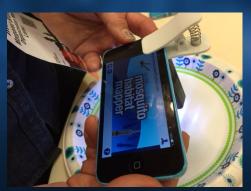
Participants were introduced to educational materials that support integration of the app in their classrooms (see Zika Zapp Bingo Game, right). There was special interest in the workshop because AGU has opened a new section this year, GeoHealth, and teachers are now learning about how the geosciences play an important role in maintaining healthy communities.

The teacher workshop was led by teacher-scientist team, Ms. Cassie Soeffing and Dr. Russanne Low, IGES (GLOBE Observer Team/NASA Earth Science Education Collaborative and NASA ROSES Earth Citizen Science project)

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