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The Biodiversity Conservation Center is a Russian non-profit, non-governmental organization aiming to preserve the biological diversity of Northern Eurasia. BCC's programs help to conserve wilderness, endangered species and ecosystems, promote public environmental education, and assist other nature conservation groups to achieve these goals.

VOICE FROM THE WILD

(A letter from the Editors)

In this issue of *Russian Conservation News*, we highlight some of the conservation work and activities that were undertaken in the field season of 1995. We draw your attention to the "Focus" section, in which a few partnerships and training programs in conservation education in Russia are discussed. In the past few years, many of our colleagues - from Nature Reserves, National Parks, NGOs, and some nature protection agencies - have participated in some kind of tour or seminar in the west. There are some general agreements among these "alumni" about what makes a program effective. One of the first rules is: Participants should be involved in planning! A useful "training" program should be based on the needs and priorities of those who will participate.

Once again, we remind you that *Russian Conservation News* was founded to facilitate the development of partnerships and contacts between conservationists in the former Soviet Union and western colleagues. We encourage you to respond to authors' inquiries about your professional experience (in this issue, see the article from Laplandski Zapovednik and Ecoclub) and to requests for support. For instance, conservationists in the Republic of Georgia are anxiously awaiting their head of State to sign the CITES convention. In many cases, you could help by simply writing a letter, or making a phone call! You can make a difference!

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On the Cover: A new invertebrate species was discovered in June 1995 in the White Sea (of the genus *Amphipoda*) not yet described, is shown here perched on the hydropolyp *Tubularia indivisa*.



Illustration by D. Zhadan and A. Melnikov.

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