

SeaScripts



The Newsletter of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association



In This Issue:

**SCMEA / GAME
Conference**

page 2

**New Cape
Romaine
Program**

page 3

**Marine Education
News and Events**

pages 4-8

SCMEA
Calendar:

**SCMEA/GAME
Joint Conference:
Skidaway Island,
GA**

October 21-23, 2011
10:00am

**Winter SeaScripts
Deadline:**

November 15, 2011



SCMEA

The South Carolina Marine Educators Association

Letter From the President – Beth Burkett – SCMEA President

Hello SCMEA,

Salt marshes, sea breezes and sunsets over the ocean are just a few words to describe the setting of the 2011 annual SCMEA conference. This beautiful location and more will be available to you for just a short drive to coastal Georgia as we team up with Georgia Association of Marine Education (GAME) to offer a joint conference that celebrates “Our Shared Shoreline.” The folks at Skidaway Island, GA will be hosting us October 21-23 and, in case you haven’t filled out your registration form yet, here are a few reasons not to miss this event.

Conference planners EV Bell and Angelia Bliss have put together some fantastic speakers and sessions, including our keynote speaker Jim Jinkins. Mr. Jinkins is the award-winning *Doug* cartoonist whose bio includes producer, writer, director and production manager. During the conference keynote speech, he will be discussing “the art of the story” and explaining how to share information in a memorable way. As educators we strive to do this on a daily basis, and I look forward to this opportunity to learn new and innovative ways to teach about marine science.

Another great opportunity available to SCMEA members attending this conference is the chance to experience the ecology of a different region through planned field trips. The organizers from GAME have put together two outstanding trips that give participants a chance to experience either beautiful Wassaw Island or a

or a trawling trip aboard the *R/V SeaDawg*. Those who sign up will be able to visit familiar ecosystems like barrier islands and estuaries but will have the treat of discovering slight differences found a little farther south.

Lastly, what’s a conference without some traditions and fun? Attendees of recent SCMEA conferences will be happy to learn that we plan to carry on our new tradition of the Friday night Sustainable Seafood dinner as well as the much beloved, long-standing tradition of the Saturday night auction. These fun and exciting events will only be made better with the addition of our new Georgia friends.

If you would like to learn more about the 2011 conference or register for the event, see the attached registration packet or contact conference planner Elizabeth Vernon Bell at elizabeth.vernon@scseagrant.org.

Clear Sailing!

Beth





Dreaming About Nature at Cape Romain

By Natasha Frazier-SCA Intern
Cape Romain NWR

Earlier this summer, Coastal Carolina University launched a program with Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge to familiarize students from Conway, South Carolina with conservation and Earth stewardship skills. Through the grant-funded project initiative designated *Dream a Dream: Cultivating Environmental Stewards for a Better Tomorrow*, campers from the ages of five to 12 years old visited the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center as well as Bulls Island. During two separate day trips the kids were introduced to the refuge as well as the wildlife it aims to protect and conserve. At the Sewee Center, focus was placed on shorebirds, the Loggerhead sea turtle, and the importance of recycling.

The day began in the classroom where the kids eagerly volunteered to act the part of a shorebird. They did not hesitate to volunteer a peer who they cloaked as a “Red Knot” in a homemade costume that highlighted a shorebird’s amazing adaptations. After a quick lesson on the difficulties of life as a shorebird, the kids were put to the test in a migration simulation game. Outside, they experienced first-hand the hazards these birds face during their incredible journey. As the “Red Knots” tried to make their way north, and feed along the way, they dodged storms as well as dogs and people as they learned about the connections between the shorebirds, habitat needs, and the environment.

The afternoon presented the kids with the opportunity to, once again, engage in hands-on learning. They discussed how they could reuse materials and the importance of recycling for our planet before they proceeded to make paper tags from tissue paper, from time to time chanting “reduce, reuse, and recycle”! The *Dream a Dream* project appeared to be achieved when one of the children yelled out “I Love the Earth!”

Through programs like the Dream a Dream project; youth learn to appreciate science, nature, and the environment while promoting community involvement on issues such as climate change, pollution and habitat destruction. It is imperative that we continue to partner with community outreach groups in order to educate and to reinforce conservation of our natural resources with our leaders of tomorrow.

News and Events



Photo Credit: Alison Sill

For agenda and registration form to the SCMEA & GAME 2011 conference, download the PDF attached to the newsletter email!

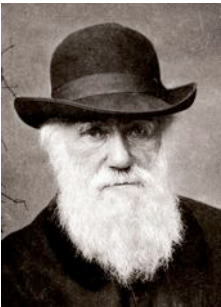
Support SCMEA: Donate to the Conference Auctions

Help support sending an educator to future SCMEA conferences by donating to the silent and live auctions that benefit our scholarships. From rare art to rain barrels, books to belly dancing lessons anything can become someone's unique treasure at the SCMEA/GAME auction.

If you're attending the fall conference you can bring your item with you to the conference. If you can't make it to the conference but would still like to donate or want to drop your item off early please contact Brian Thill at [843-425-5247](tel:843-425-5247) bthill@scaquarium.org or drop your item off at the South Carolina Aquarium Attn: Brian.

Interested in bringing cutting-edge evolutionary science to your school and community?

Apply to be a stop on NESCent's 2012 Darwin Day Roadshow.



NESCent (The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center) is an NSF-funded evolution research center. To celebrate Charles Darwin's contributions to science and society, we send our scientists on the road every year during "Darwin Day" (the annual, world-wide celebration of Darwin's birthday on Feb. 12th) to talk to students, teachers and the general public about their research and career opportunities in science. Our focus is on small, rural communities (i.e., places that wouldn't likely have a Darwin Day celebration if they weren't a stop on our Roadshow). There is no cost to you, the teachers, and we'll even leave you with a collection of evolution teaching resources.

For more information, and to apply to have your school considered, please visit roadshow.nescent.org or contact Jory Weintraub (jory at nescent dot org). Applications are being accepted now through Oct. 31st.

New Online Marine Life Encyclopedia

Oceana, the international ocean conversation organization, recently launched a searchable marine life encyclopedia found at <http://na.oceana.org/en/explore>. The encyclopedia contains easily digestible information about more than 500 fascinating marine creatures, from the acorn barnacle to the zebra shark, and many of them are accompanied by stunning photos as well, with content licensed from an ocean encyclopedia by Dorling Kindersley, one of the world's leading educational publishers.

Your Students Solve Environmental Challenges and Win Prizes

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge (<http://www.wecanchange.com/>) invites students in the U.S. to team up with classmates under teacher/mentors to solve environmental problems, such as phantom-power load reduction, systematic behavior change, erosion control, wildlife habitat restoration, and sustainable agriculture, in their school (grades K-5), community (grades 6-8), and world (grades 9-12). Now entering its fourth year, the challenge is a collaborative effort of the Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, the National Science Teachers Association, and the College Board.

Student and teacher/mentor prizes, which vary according to grade level and value more than \$250,000 total, include scholarships, savings bonds, school grants, adventure trips, and a chance to present their idea at the United Nations. A panel of environmental experts and science educators will judge teams based on their research, analysis, and the ability of the solution to be replicated on a larger scale. High school students are specifically challenged to address energy, biodiversity, land management, water conservation and cleanup, or air and climate. Deadline is March 15, 2012.

Teachers and mentors can register for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, add their student teams, and begin formulating their projects at the We Can Change Web site. The challenge Web site is also designed to help teams begin their projects, offering a resource section that includes lesson plans, e-books, virtual labs, and other materials from Discovery Education to accompany each stage of the challenge.

America's Home Energy Education Challenge (AHEEC) is a new nationwide student competition to help families save money by saving energy at home. AHEEC engages students in elementary and middle schools to make smarter energy choices that reduce U.S. reliance on fossil fuels and put money back in their parents' pockets. This initiative aims to educate America's youth about the benefits of energy efficiency, motivate students to play a more active role in how their families use energy, and help families across the country reduce their energy bills. Participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes distributed at the regional and national levels of the competition. Official registration for the Challenge ends October 7, 2011. Students, teachers, and principals are encouraged to register to participate at <http://homeenergychallenge.org/>. Participation in AHEEC is broken into two parts, the Home Energy Challenge and the Energy Fitness Award. Each is designed to encourage students to learn about science and home energy savings. Visit the website for more details and updates.

Disney's Planet Challenge is a project-based environmental competition for elementary and middle school (grades 3-8) classrooms developed in collaboration with NSTA and the WestEd K-12 Alliance. Classrooms are empowered to make a difference in their homes, schools, or communities and compete for a trip to Disneyland, classroom grants, Disney DVDs, student eco-friendly prize packs and more. Disney's Planet Challenge also provides matching grants through Donors Choose for classrooms participating in this program. Disney's Planet Challenge is a great way to get students involved with their environment in a fun and creative way. Visit the competition website to register now. Registration closes December 23.

Annual **Keep the Sea Free of Debris!** **ART CONTEST**



What are
you doing
about it?

How does
marine
debris
affect you?

The NOAA Marine Debris Program would like your help in raising awareness about the global problem of marine debris. Students are encouraged to *be creative* in showing us just how marine debris affects them and what they are doing about it in their communities.



All students in grades K-8 from all U.S. states and territories - recognized public, private, and home schools are eligible to participate.



For details please visit www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov

SCMEA Board

President:

Beth Burkett

Charleston County Parks
bburkett@ccprc.com

President Elect:

Elizabeth (EV) Bell

SC Sea Grant
elizabeth.vernon@scseagrant.org

Past President:

Scott Meister

SCDNR
meisters@dnr.sc.gov

Treasurer:

Kattie McMillan

SCDNR
mcmilank@dnr.sc.gov

Secretary:

Margaret Spignet

West Ashley High School
margaret_spigner@charleston.k12.sc.us

Membership Secretary:

Kattie McMillan

SCDNR
mcmilank@dnr.sc.gov

NMEA Representative:

Louis Heyward

SCDNR
heywardl@dnr.sc.gov

Board of Directors:

Julie Binz

SEWEE Center
juliebinz@earthlink.net

Karen Fuss

Coastal Carolina Center for Wetland and
Marine Studies
kfuss@coastal.edu

Edna Mills

Aiken School District
emills@aiken.k12.sc.us

Brian Thill

South Carolina Aquarium
bthill@scaquarium.org

Beth Thomas

The Baruch Institute
beth@belle.baruch.sc.edu

SeaScripts Editor:

Kevin Kurtz

kevcurtz@gmail.com

Cover Photo by SCMEA Member

Allison Sill

To see more of her photography,
visit her website at:

www.etsy.com/shop/allisonsepmn



Join SCMEA and NMEA Today



Joining SCMEA is easy!

Just visit our website

<http://www.scmarineed.org/join.html>

and fill out the registration form.



Joining NMEA is also easy!

Just visit their website

<http://nmeaweb.org/membership.html>

and fill out the registration form.