SeaScripts
The Newsletter of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association

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Greetings SCMEA Members!

I hope you’re all doing well and settling back into the school routine. Fall has always been my favorite time of year for many reasons. The weather is changing, birds and other wildlife are migrating and getting ready for the winter, and of course, Halloween candy shows up in stores. Growing up I was even secretly a bit excited to get back to school. Over the last several years, I’ve added one more thing to the list of why Fall is the greatest … it’s SCMEA Conference time!

I’m happy to report that this year’s President Elect, Meika Samuel, and all of the conference committees are busy bees doing a great job of organizing this year’s conference. We promise a great time this year surrounded by the history and beauty of the Penn Center. Conferences past held at the Penn Center are the stuff of legend and I have no doubt this year will be the same.

Here is a sneak peek at some of the activities in store:

Friday night social at the Beaufort Shrimp Festival: Experience the local flavors, sights, and sounds of the Lowcountry. We’ll have a SCMEA “meet-up” spot at the festival in downtown Beaufort where you can reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Presentations: Seashells, oysters, and hydrothermal vents. These are just a few of the many things you’ll learn about during the conference sessions. You’ll also have the opportunity to take a tour through St Helena Island with Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. She will highlight the living traditions of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and how she and her family have lived in balance with the natural environment for centuries.

Live auction: What would a SCMEA conference be without a little auction fun? I can only hope we will have a hula skirt in the mix again this year!

And this year we are debuting The Resource Roundabout – think “speed dating” marine education style! In this session we will learn about important resources to use in our classrooms or other educational settings. From field trip opportunities to learning tools, come find your perfect match. If you have a resource to offer and want to be featured in this session, please email scmarineeducator@gmail.com for more information.

I also want to give a huge “shout-out” to Ripley’s Aquarium, who, for the second year in a row is a Right Whale Sponsor for the Conference. Because of Ripley’s and other sponsors, cost for the participants is as low as possible, so THANK YOU!

Speaking of the conference, it’s coming up very soon! If you have not registered yet, visit www.scmarineed.org today!

I hope to see you all soon,

-Blaik Keppler
SCMEA President
This year I was able to attend the NMEA conference in Annapolis, Maryland because I was one of the lucky recipients of the Jacques Cousteau Memorial NMEA Travel Award. It was my first NMEA conference in six years, and it was a great opportunity to connect with old and new friends who share a passion for the ocean while learning about the latest in marine education.

If a conference is a buffet, then the dish I kept going back for at this conference were the sessions on educational technology. Though the rapid changes in technology can be overwhelming, they are also an opportunity to connect with a wider audience. Here are some of the highlights from the educational technology sessions I attended:

**Effective social media.** NMEA social media gurus Julie Henry and Lisa Tossey gave helpful tips about how to pay attention to the data trends of your social media audience to make sure each post/tweet/etc. is having the maximum impact. This includes using analytics programs (many social platforms have these built-in) to see which of your posts/tweets are getting the most attention. So for example, if posts that include photos receive more attention than posts without photos, it is an indication that most of your posts should have photos as they are more likely to be read. They also recommend paying attention to the time of day when you post on social media, so the posts are visible when your audience is most likely to see them. This blog post does a good job of reiterating some of the points they made about this: [http://blogs.constantcontact.com/product-blogs/social-media-marketing/best-time-post-facebook/](http://blogs.constantcontact.com/product-blogs/social-media-marketing/best-time-post-facebook/)

**Digital Badges.** NOAA's Planet Stewards program encourages online learning by giving learners the incentive to complete web quests by receiving digital badges (similar to what scouts get, except you can't sew it on a sash). You can see them here: [http://planetstewards.wordpress.com](http://planetstewards.wordpress.com). I thought it sounded like a great way to get learners to engage with online content. NOAA worked with app developers to create this, and it wasn't cheap, but I bet there is a low budget way for other organizations to make use of this idea.

**Interactive presentation tool for iPad classrooms.** If you are lucky enough to teach in a one-to-one iPad classroom, then you should check out the app Nearpod ([http://www.nearpod.com](http://www.nearpod.com)). This app allows you to present slides directly to each student’s individual mobile device while also receiving feedback from them so you can assess how well everyone is following the lesson.

Of course you can't go to an educator conference without attending sessions on new curricula. The curriculum I was most impressed by that week was Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)’s “Bringing Wetlands to Market” [http://wbnerwetlandscarbon.net](http://wbnerwetlandscarbon.net). Based on what I saw, it focuses on climate
change through the lens of salt marshes and their ability to sequester carbon, using real data and hands-on activities.

The highlight of the conference for me was the presentation by Dr. Edith Widder ([http://www.teamorca.org/cfiles/about_edie.cfm](http://www.teamorca.org/cfiles/about_edie.cfm)). I had a personal connection to her work because, to film a live giant squid for the first time ever, she mimicked an animal I also wrote about in my A Day in the Deep book. Atolla jellies have a light display “burglar alarm” they use when they are threatened by a predator. This light display attracts large predators, such as squid, who rush toward the alarm to eat the predator attacking the atolla. By simulating the atolla’s display with artificial lights, Edith Widder’s team was able to attract and film the first live giant squid ever.

I am just scratching the surface, of course, of everything I participated in at the conference. It was a great experience and I am grateful to SCMEA for giving me the opportunity to attend.

Registration is open for the fourth annual Youth Ocean Conservation Summit!

This exciting event will be held on Saturday, November 8th, 2014 at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL. Youth participants attending this year’s Summit will learn from marine scientists and conservationists about current threats facing marine ecosystems, will work with mentors to develop action plans for their own ocean conservation projects, and take part in workshops designed to give them the skills necessary to successfully implement these projects. Participants will also get the chance to network with conservation organizations, and other young people who are passionate about ocean conservation! Exciting new workshops and sessions are offered for returning participants to further develop their ongoing ocean conservation work!

To register for the summit, visit [www.yocs.org](http://www.yocs.org) and complete the online registration form by October 3rd, 2014. The registration fee for the event is $13 per participant, and includes lunch, snacks, and program materials. On the site you’ll also find the complete Summit program where you can learn more about the sessions and speakers featured through the event.

Community Ocean Conservation Film Festival:
Immediately following the Summit at 6:30 PM on November 8th, Mote Marine Laboratory will host the third annual Community Ocean Conservation Film Festival. This event will feature a screening of the film Mission Blue! This ambitious film tackles the daunting challenge of how to protect the global ocean that is now under attack as never before. As a witness to changes that have occurred in the ocean over the past 60 years, Dr. Sylvia Earle is a steadfast warrior, who is leading the charge to restore the ocean to health before it’s too late.

*Mission Blue* – shot during a 3-year period in numerous locations around the world traces Sylvia’s remarkable personal journey, from her earliest memories exploring the ocean as a young girl to her days leading a daring undersea mission in the Virgin Islands and beyond. The film deftly weaves her unique personal history with the passion that consumes Sylvia today: creating a global parks system for the ocean that she calls “Hope Spots”.

Attendees will also have the chance to participate in a silent auction/raffle fundraiser with the chance to bid on marine themed artwork and other items. Proceeds will support youth-driven ocean conservation projects. Admission to this event is free but there is limited seating and participants must RSVP by completing the registration form at [www.yocs.org](http://www.yocs.org) to reserve a seat. The event will take place in Mote Marine Laboratory’s Immersion Cinema. Doors open and silent auction/raffle fundraiser, as well as student conservation project showcase begins at 6:30pm.

**2014 Youth Ocean Conservation Film Competition:** Through this competition, students will highlight ocean conservation issues by creating short films to raise awareness of these topics. Winning films will be shown to the public at the community film festival on November 8th! Full contest details and entry information are available at: [www.yocs.org](http://www.yocs.org).
Immerse yourself in an unique cultural and educational exploration of marine education in South Carolina. Nestled in the historic Sea Islands, Penn Center serves as the ideal location for an all-inclusive weekend of marine-filled fun and learning.

FULL Registration Includes:
* Meals
* Lodging for two nights (Friday and Saturday)
* Welcome Party at Beaufort Shrimp Festival
* Visit to York W. Bailey Museum at historic Penn Center
* Live Auction
* Island Tour hosted by Queen Quet, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
* Keynote Presentation & Book signing event by Kevin Kurtz, Children's Author & Educator
* Special Debut of Resource Roundabout

Register today at:
www.scmarineed.org
Beneath the Waves Youth Making Ripples Film Competition

The aim of the Beneath the Waves Youth Making Ripples film festival and competition is to engage K-12 students in marine science education, and to highlight the importance of scientific research related to ocean and coastal communities. Educators and students are challenged to incorporate film into their curriculum by adopting a hands-on approach to marine science education using 21st century technology. This year’s festival is open for submissions. Last year’s winners received cash prizes (up to $200) and this year we are excited to announce our partnership with Scuba Pro who has generously donated snorkel gear for the winners. Students should submit short films (< 5 minutes) on any marine science topic of their choice. The deadline for submission is December 5, 2014 and there is no fee. Guidelines and rules can be found at http://www.beneaththewavesfilmfest.org/youth-making-ripples/ or email us at youthmakingripples@gmail.com.

Free education resource:

One helpful (and free) education resource to get students to think about how scientists do their research is Natural Inquirer (www.naturalinquirer.org). Natural Inquirer is a science journal written at the middle school level and used by teachers from grades 6-10. The articles are written directly from published (USDA) Forest Service scientific papers, and the journal emulates a real science journal. Thirty editions are available, so a wide variety of topics and scientific methodologies are presented. Students "Meet the Scientists" who wrote the original paper, ponder "Reflection Questions," and participate in a hands-on activity following the article. Students should get a good feel for how scientists develop and conduct research. Each article is formatted similarly in the standard scientific format, and lesson plans (available at the end of each journal and online) can be applied to any article. Natural Inquirer will help teachers meet Common Core State Standards.

Teachers may order a sample pack that contains one copy of each available edition.

For more information, contact: Babs McDonald, Ph.D. at mdonaldbabs@gmail.com
Why Do We Explore?

Professional Development - Part One

for Educators of Grades 5-12

Saturday, November 8, 2014

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

In Partnership and hosted by
South Carolina Aquarium
Charleston, South Carolina

All life on Earth relies on the ocean—yet, the ocean is 95 percent unexplored, unknown and unseen by human eyes…
Webinar Invitation: Coral Bleaching
Learn how to use NOAA’s new Data in the Classroom module

Register Today! For Science & Marine Educators Grades 6th - 8th
Join us for two webinars for an introduction to our newest NOAA Data in the Classroom curriculum module – Investigating Coral Bleaching Using Real Data. You’ll hear from NOAA experts about coral bleaching and how scientists use remote sensing tools to study stresses on coral health. The NODE curriculum developers will introduce the new lesson plans and demonstrate how our unique scaffolding can help students develop skills to access and use online data.

The NOAA Data in the Classroom Project develops curriculum designed to help teachers and students use real scientific data to explore dynamic Earth processes and understand the impact of environmental events on a regional or global scale. Each curriculum module features easy-to-use curriculum materials and specially designed websites that enable students to access and use real data. Our newest curriculum module – Investigating Coral Bleaching Using Real Data – is being developed for grades 6-8.

NOTE: You are welcome to attend both webinars, but if you only have time for one, you can just register for the one that works the best for you. See topics listed below for each of the webinars offered.

Webinar 1: Tuesday, October 7 - 6:30 pm EST / 3:30 PST / 12:30 HST (90 min)
• Introduction to the NODE Project
• Coral Bleaching 101 with NOAA Experts
• Coral Reef Watch: Studying Corals from Space
• Overview of the entire curriculum module

REGISTER Webinar 1 - Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/coralbleaching/event/registration.html

Webinar 2: Tuesday, October 21 – 6:30 pm EST / 3:30 PST / 12:30 HST (90 min)
• Guided walk-thru of curriculum lesson plans
• Building students' capabilities using real data
• Using NGSS, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Cross Cutting Concepts
• Climate Literacy and Coral Bleaching

REGISTER Webinar 2 - Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/coralbleaching2/event/registration.html

Ocean Acidification: A Washington State High School Curricular Framework
Presenters: Meg Chadsey & Paul Williams, Washington State Sea Grant
Primary Audience: Teachers, formal educators
Date/time: Wednesday, Oct. 14th 3pm PT (6pm ET)

This new webinar series provides ocean acidification communication tools to formal & informal educators, and stakeholders across the country. One of its primary goals, is to promote a more integrated and effective ocean acidification education community by sharing ocean acidification education and communication activities virtually. With awareness of and access to these resources, the ocean acidification education and communication community will be able to utilize and continue to create cutting edge communication tools that incorporate current scientific and communication research.

Please check here for registration info http://oceanacidification.noaa.gov/AreasofFocus/EducationOutreach/SOARCEWebinarSeries.aspx
SCMEA Contacts

President:
Blaik Keppler
SC DNR/ACE Basin NERR
kepplerb@dnr.sc.gov

President Elect:
Meika Samuel
Girl Scouts of South Carolina
Msamuel@gssc-mm.org

Past President:
Beth Thomas
North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR
beth@belle.baruch.sc.edu

Treasurer:
Sarah Piwinski
Trident United Way
spiwinski@gmail.com

Secretary:
Cindy Lilly
Ocean Bay Middle School
clilly001@horrycountyschools.net

Membership Coordinator
Allie Kreutzer
Sewee Association
sewee.educator@earthlink.net

Media Coordinator:
Julie Binz
SC DNR/ACE Basin NERR
binzj@dnr.sc.gov

Board of Directors:
Karen Beshears
KDB Consulting
kbeshears@earthlink.net

Dr. Brandis Hartsell
Roper Mountain Science Center
bhartsel@greenville.k12.sc.us

Rachel Herold
Anderson County
Clemson Extension
rherold12@gmail.com

NMEA Representative:
Jaime Thom
South Carolina Aquarium
jthom@scaquarium.org

Scholarship/Awards:
Brian Thill
South Carolina Aquarium
bthill@scaquarium.org

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- Spring Issue - February 15th
- Summer Issue - May 15th
- Fall Issue - August 15th
- Winter Issue - November 15th

Becoming a member of NMEA is easy!
Click here to join and learn about the membership benefits:
https://marine-ed.site-ym.com/?page=mbr_benefits