

SeaScripts



The Newsletter of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association



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www.scmarineed.org



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Spring 2015



SCMEA

The South Carolina Marine Educators Association

Captain's Corner

President's Letter

Water, water everywhere...

As I watch the evening news each day, I am amazed by the tremendous amount of snow, ice, and freezing rain that has bombarded most of the country over the past several weeks. Who could have imagined a nearly frozen Niagara Falls? Picturesque photos of ice-covered landscapes in the Upstate are beautiful to behold, but have no doubt that warmer weather is on its way. With all of the melting in store, I pondered, "Where will all that water go"?

Over time it will meander, trickle, ebb, and flow into rivers, lakes and streams, then slowly wash into inlets and estuaries before finally rolling out into the sea. EUREKA! I just had a "watershed" moment.

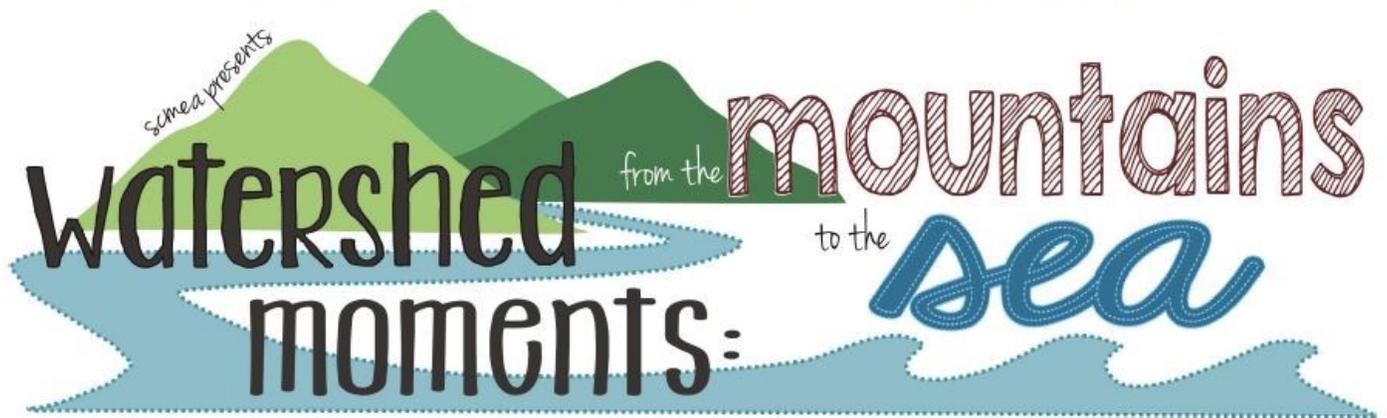
Nature has set the perfect stage for our 2015 SCMEA annual conference. Join us as we collectively experience "Watershed Moments: from the Mountain to the Sea" in Greenville on October 23-25. Learn about marine education from an Upstate perspective. Don't miss great networking and professional development too. Stay tuned to www.scmarineed.org for details.

From the Captain's corner,

Meika Samuel

SCMEA President

Save the Date!



Join us Upriver
at the
2015 SCMEA
Conference

October 23-25, 2015
Roper Mountain Science Center
Greenville, SC

Call for Presenters for Concurrent Sessions is Now Open!

Whether your experience is in classroom or informal education, scientific research, or program development and implementation, you or someone you know may provide an invaluable experience at the 2015 SCMEA conference. Please consider presenting a watershed-related session at this year's conference.

Interested presenters should complete and submit **this form** by **September 14**. Selected presenters will be notified by **September 25**. For questions, please contact **Rachel Davis** at herold@clemson.edu.

Upcoming Award

Jacques Cousteau Memorial NMEA Travel Award

This award provides funding to cover expenses associated with attending the annual NMEA Conference. Each year SCMEA gives up to two \$500.00 awards. To apply for a NMEA travel award, simply fill out **this form** and submit it to the SCMEA scholarship chair, **Austin Brown** at abrown@scaquarium.org, no later than **April 1, 2015**.

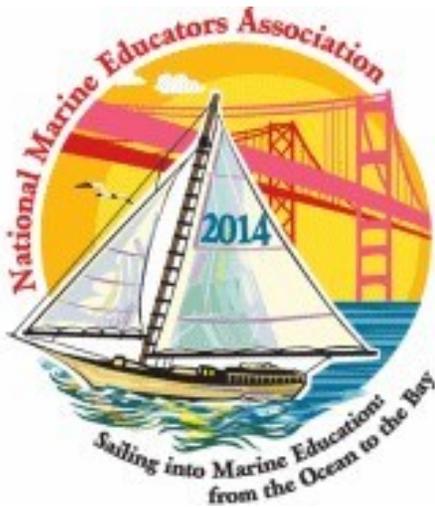
Awardees must initially pay for conference expenses and will be reimbursed after receipts and proof of attendance is submitted to the SCMEA treasurer. Additionally, recipients of this award are expected to write an article for the SCMEA newsletter that describes his/her experience or present a session at the annual SCMEA conference. The recipient is expected to attend the majority of sessions and events at the NMEA conference.

***Current officers and board members are not eligible to receive this award. Previous awardees must wait three years before reapplying for a travel award. Preference will be given to first time conference attendees.*

Look for more upcoming awards in the Summer 2015 issue of SeaScripts!

2014 NMEA Conference Reflections

Callie Van Koughnett, 2014 Jacques Cousteau Memorial NMEA Travel Award Recipient



Last summer I had the chance to spend a week at the 2014 NMEA Conference in Annapolis, MD. It wasn't my first education conference, but it was my first by NMEA. I wasn't sure what to expect. Someone once told me SCMEA is like a cult, and I think I would have to agree. A more fun-filled, like-minded, familiar, and adventurous (*legendary on occasion*) crowd would be hard to find. Imagining that at a national scale was both terrifying and exciting.

Nonetheless, I was determined to go. Based on my other conference experiences, I knew at the very least I would find a few new things to try out with my students and meet some new people. *Besides, taking a work trip to Annapolis was hardly something to complain about. By the time you add a side trip on the way there to visit friends in D.C. and off-shore fishing in NC on the way home, it was a perfect vacation.*

The conference itself was fairly routine--speakers, class sessions, workshops, dinners, optional excursions, networking--but there were a few things that stood out to me that I'd like to share.

There were programs for people other than teachers. Truly, it was a diverse program, for all types of members from researchers to aquarists. But, if you are a teacher you won't be let down.

My own students, those loveable, fickle, and distractible teenagers, were excited about the materials I shared. I got messages asking, "When can we start?" regarding building breed tank systems, Edie Widder's research, new labs for ocean chemistry, shark DNA typing, etc. Even the novels I brought back were a hit. Seriously, they were excited about reading. Thanks Ellen Prager.

I was excited about the materials I found. They weren't all massive curriculum changing ideas that would take months of planning and funding to execute, though I'll admit I'm still dreaming about how to implement a couple. It's always great to be excited about the future of your work and more to be around other people who are also excited about those things. Speaking of...

NMEA did indeed share the same sense of cult: fun-filled, like-minded, familiar, and adventurous... Networking at it's best. The legends continue.

It was worth the cost and time to travel. The regional chapters work for years in advance to make sure that your time (and money) are well-spent. See below for ideas on travel funding!

2015 NMEA Conference

This year the conference will be in Newport, Rhode Island, June 29-July 2. Based on a brief stint living in New England and working with the regional EPA Beaches coordinator, I can say that this will be a great place to visit and explore during the conference, so if you have the chance to attend, you should. (*Spend an extra day and fly in to Boston if you've never been! Check out <http://www.discovernewengland.org/> for more.*) The local SENEME group is excited and shared some great plans for this year with the crowd last summer. If I weren't getting married later that week I would definitely be attending myself. Also, if cost is a factor in your decision there are a few funding options you might consider.



Continued on page 5

SCMEA has a travel scholarship. The eligibility requirements and application are available at www.scmarineed.org/awards-scholarships/. You can get up to \$500 in expenses reimbursed. They do ask that you share with SCMEA locally, in the form of an article or presenting at the SCMEA conference.

NMEA also has a travel scholarship. The application and eligibility requirements can be found at www.marine-ed.org/?page=scholarships. Again, up to \$500, and they don't require anything extra afterward.

Your organization may actually have a budget for professional development and networking. Both my principal AND my school district have discretionary funds of this nature. The worst you can hear is "no" and even then you've shown initiative by wanting to become better at your job.

Bring friends! Travel and lodging can be a big expense. NMEA has a "roommate" finder of sorts to help you minimize that cost once you register, or check out SCMEA's Facebook page to see who else is going locally. You might find a travel buddy to share those expenses.

Presenters get admission to the conference. You don't have to have groundbreaking research or projects to present. The best presenters had an engaging project that was relevant to the audience. Since my current role is in curriculum/teaching, I looked for new labs and STEM options at the high school level, but there were many, many other options at other levels. You'd be surprised at what you have to share.

Still not sure? Check out last year's program for ideas at www.nmea2014.com/concurrent.html or even partner up with a colleague. [SCMEA's Facebook page](#) would be a great place to share ideas or find a co-presenter.



ACE Basin NERR Stewardship Spring 2015 Coastal Exploration Series



The ACE Basin NERR's Coastal Exploration Series is back this spring with a variety of great offerings. They will be adding dates and details as the season goes on so keep a close eye on the calendar. Please remember that event registration opens 30 days prior to each event, closes one week prior to each event, and registration does not guarantee participation.

Current upcoming events include visiting the Dennis Wildlife Center and Fish Hatchery, Horseshoe crab tagging, Reptiles and Rattlesnakes, and Night Sounds.

To access the Spring Calendar and registration information, visit www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/seminarseries.

For more information, contact **Lauton Sutley** at (843) 953-9354 or at sutleyl@dnr.sc.gov.

clean marine

protect our coast from debris

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:



DNR



We Appreciate Your Support!

About the Program
 The Clean Marine and abandoned vessel removal programs are made possible by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program to the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, which is partnering with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control—Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to achieve the grant objectives. There are two main objectives: to remove abandoned vessels in Charleston Harbor (this is already underway) and to engage volunteers to assist with Clean Marine disposal events in Charleston County.

For more information on the Clean Marine project, visit www.scseagrant.org/cleanmarine or contact E.V. Bell at ev.bell@scseagrant.org.



S.E.A.S.T.A.R.

(Sharing Educational And Scientific Topics Across Regions)

Virtual Field Trip Program

Invite Florida Oceanographic Society's Education Staff into your classroom for a live, interactive, virtual field trip experience focused on sea turtle biology and conservation.

“Turtle Tracks”

Grade Level: 6th - 10th grade

Time frame: 45 minute program includes multiple Q&A opportunities with educators and marine biologists

Classroom Requirements: Computer with internet access, webcam, microphone, speakers, and digital projector

Virtual Field Trip Overview:

◊ **Biology and ecology of sea turtles**

Learn about turtle adaptations, behavior, diet, and nesting

◊ **Conservation of the world's sea turtles**

Discuss threats to sea turtles and what we can do to help

◊ **Florida Oceanographic's non-releasable sea turtles**

Learn how Florida Oceanographic Society cares for and enriches the resident “non-releasable” sea turtles that call our facility home



Thanks to the generous support of the Marmot Foundation, these virtual field trips are available FREE of charge to the first 36 classrooms. (Normal program fee: \$125)

For more information or to schedule a virtual field trip, please contact:

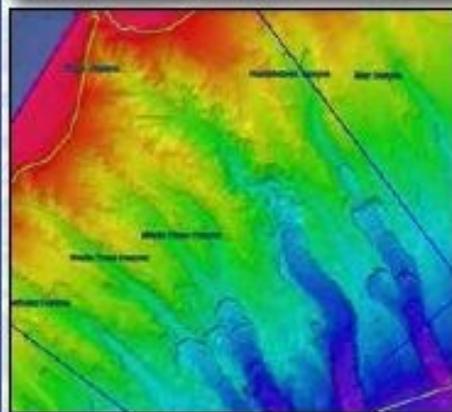
Michelle Byriel at 772-225-0505 ext. 116 or mbyriel@floridaocean.org

Florida Oceanographic Society is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education and research.

772-225-0505 | FloridaOcean.org



Florida
Oceanographic
Society



Top to bottom: The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, America's Ship for Ocean Exploration; composite multibeam image of Tarr's Canyon Complex; the control room aboard the *Okeanos Explorer*; grapping the CTD rosette; NOAA OER's new ROV, *Deep Discoverer*. All images courtesy NOAA.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Office of Ocean Exploration and Research
oceanexplorer.noaa.gov

NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* Education Materials Collection

How Do We Explore?

Professional Development - Part Two

for Educators of Grades 5-12

Saturday, March 14, 2015

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

In partnership with 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...

Join NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research's Judith Coats as you are introduced to Volume 2 of the *Okeanos Explorer* Education Materials Collection: *How Do We Explore?* Learn how to use standards-based lessons and online resources that guide classroom discovery into the innovative exploration strategies, underwater robots and other ocean tools used onboard the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*. Topics include selecting sites for exploration in a largely unknown ocean, underwater mapping, and exploring the water column. Deep ocean exploration with remotely operated vehicles and telepresence technology that enables participation during ocean exploration missions from shore in real time is also addressed. This is Part Two of a two-part professional development series, Part One in which you should have already participated. If space is available, educators who have not yet participated in Part One are welcome to register for Part Two.

Registration is required and space is limited. Educators attending the full day will receive Volume 2 of the *Okeanos Explorer* Education Materials Collection, *How Do We Explore?*, other resources, a NOAA Ocean Exploration Certificate of Participation, a continental breakfast, and lunch. Educators who have completed both *Why Do We Explore?* (Part One) and *How Do We Explore?* (Part Two) will receive a \$100 stipend.

Registration Deadline is February 20, 2015

To register:

Email Jaime Thom at JThom@scaquarium.org

Or call 843.579.8562

UNCOVERING EARTH'S SECRETS:

Science and Adventure on the JOIDES Resolution



OWN THIS INFORMATIVE AND INTERACTIVE EBOOK FOR FREE!



Uncovering Earth's Secrets is a nonfiction children's eBook about one of the world's most important research vessels, the *JOIDES Resolution*. Kids explore how scientists use the amazing technology on this ship to learn new things about volcanoes, earthquakes, the extinction of the dinosaurs, and more.

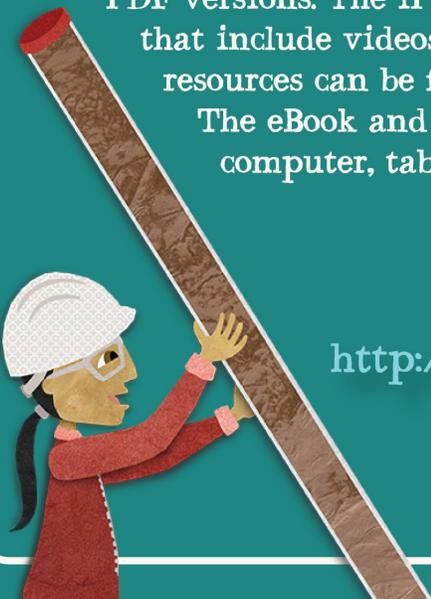
This eBook was created through a National Science Foundation grant and is available for free. It was written by award-winning children's author Kevin Kurtz (www.kevinkurtz.homestead.com) and beautifully illustrated by award-winning illustrator Alice Feagan (www.alicefeagan.com).

Uncovering Earth's Secrets is both a read-aloud children's story and an interactive learning experience that is available in both iPad and PDF versions. The iPad version is filled with interactive pop-ups that include videos, photos, audio files and more. The same resources can be found online for free for PDF readers.

The eBook and its resources can easily be shared on any computer, tablet or classroom interactive whiteboard.

To download the iPad
and PDF versions, visit:

<http://joidesresolution.org/node/2998>



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Enhance Your Classroom!

Schedule a Classroom Visit from Kevin Kurtz!

Fellow **SCMEA** member, **Kevin Kurtz**, author of *A Day in the Salt Marsh*, *A Day on the Mountain*, *A Day in the Deep*, and *Uncovering Earth's Secrets* is currently accepting inquiries for classroom visits for the **2015-2016** school year! Classroom visits include inspiring students to read and write and assisting with grade-level science and language art standards (including Common Core Curriculum). For **more information** about school programs, availability, and rates, please visit <http://kevinkurtz.homestead.com>. Questions can be emailed directly to Kevin at kevkurtz@gmail.com.



Need to pep up your classroom? The South Carolina Aquarium website has many curriculum activities for all grade levels. Each curriculum activity includes an activity overview, addressed science standards, background information, printable color pictures, tables, graphs, and worksheets. Relevant resources such as booklists, videos and websites are also available.

Visit <http://curriculum.scaquarium.org> to access these excellent resources!



SeaScripts Spring 2015 Cover Photo courtesy of Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. Sand dollar and Knobbed whelk at Beachwalker County Park at Kiawah Island.

SeaScripts is published and distributed on a quarterly basis. Articles and announcements from SCMEA members are greatly appreciated. Please send them to the editor, **Lindsay Patterson at lpatterson@ccprc.com**. To ensure that your submission is included in the proper issue, please observe the following deadlines:

Spring Issue: February 15th

Summer Issue: May 15th

Fall Issue: August 15th

Winter Issue: November 15th