

# SeaScripts



The Newsletter of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association



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## Captain's Corner

Hey Y'all!

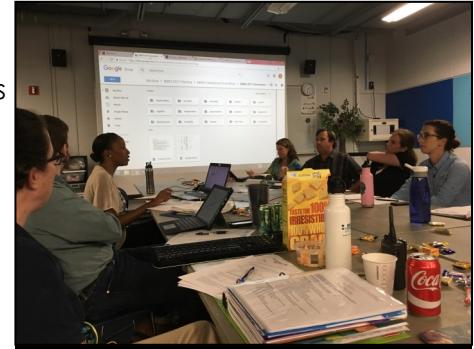
Where did the time go? It seems just like yesterday that we decided to host the NMEA 2017 Conference. Since then, almost two years have passed and the conference has come and gone! Although challenges arrived along the way, we persevered and accomplished something remarkable.

NMEA 2017 was a great success! Over 300 people visited the Lowcountry to attend this enriching experience. I heard many attendees rave about our conference kick off at McLeod Plantation Historic Site, the Coastal Cultural Connections Plenary, our Stegner Lecture, yummy food, and more! It was nice to see old friends and make new ones.

The best feedback I received from attendees was how smoothly the conference went. I can't say enough about the **PHENOMENAL NMEA 2017 Conference Planning Committee**. BRAVO! Additionally, I'm elated to have worked with two outstanding people: **Jaime Thom** and **Austin Brown**. You two have been my rock and YOU ROCK! Last but not least, thank you to all of you who attended the conference. SCMEA was well represented!



NMEA17 Co-chairs #Pied4aPorpoise



One of many NMEA17 Planning Committee meetings!

What's next? Because of the huge conference we just executed, in place of the SCMEA annual conference, we will host a **Meet up and Annual Business Meeting on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Sunset Cay Marina on Folly Beach. We'll briefly discuss SCMEA business and confirm our 2017-2018 Board of Directors. Additionally, the meet up will be fun to get together with our SCMEA friends to celebrate a successful NMEA conference with good food and entertainment. The cost is **\$25** which includes a SCMEA membership, food, and a drink ticket. What a deal! We'll also have sunset boat rides by Tideline Tours for an additional \$10. Visit <http://www.scmarineed.org/fall-meet-up.html> to register. Don't miss out!

Please know that the SCMEA Board will work to ensure that SCMEA members are able to feel the effects of a wonderful NMEA conference. This conference will assist SCMEA to continue to have a bright future. Since this is my last Captain's Corner, I want to say thank you all for trusting me to lead you as SCMEA's President during this sensational time! I'm filled with gratitude.

Joyful Thoughts and Ponderous Arks,



**Lindsay Patterson**

SCMEA Chapter President

NMEA 2017 Conference Co-Chair



# SCMEA Fall Meet Up

Friday, November 3rd, 2017

5:30PM

(Business Meeting @ 6:00PM)

**Location:**

Sunset Cay Marina

66 9th St. W

Folly Beach, SC 29239

Join us as we celebrate the success of NMEA 2017,  
elect new board members, & discuss the plans for the upcoming year.

Catch up with old friends as we enjoy live music by Aisha Frazier  
& take a spin on the water with Tideland Tours.

## Package Information

**Non-member: \$25**

Includes 1 year membership to SCMEA, food, non-alcoholic beverages, &  
1 ticket for beer or wine

**Current Member: \$15**

Includes food, non-alcoholic beverages, & 1 ticket for beer or wine

**Children (Ages 3-13): \$10**

Includes food & non-alcoholic beverages

**Children (Ages 0-2): Free**

**Sunset Boat by Tideline Tours: \$10**

30-minute ride/ Max of 18 per boat ride

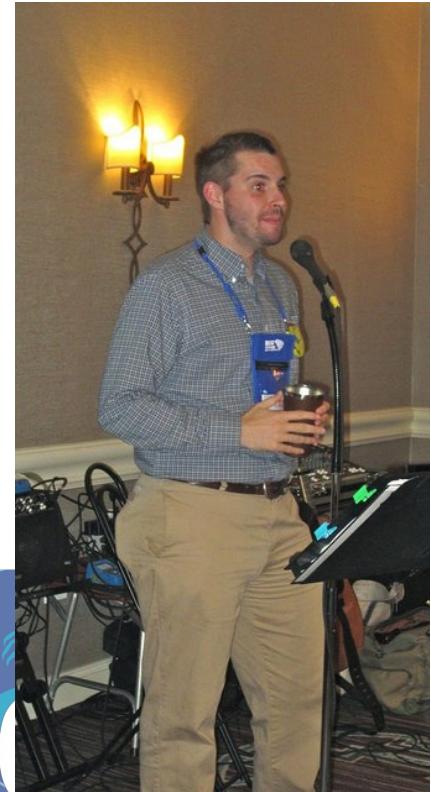
**For more information:**

Visit [www.scmarine.org](http://www.scmarine.org) or

Contact us via email at [scmarineeducator@gmail.com](mailto:scmarineeducator@gmail.com)

# Snapshots from NMEA 2017



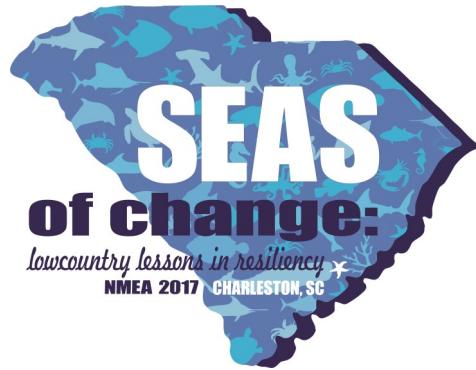






*Lowcountry Seafood & Beverage*





## Reflections on NMEA 2017 in Charleston, SC From the winner of the 2017 SCMEA Cousteau Memorial Scholarship, Lea Caswell

As my first conference in my career field, I was a little nervous about the whole thing and did not know what to expect. But my South Carolina Aquarium coworkers reassured me it was a lot of fun and a great way to gain knowledge as well as network with amazing colleagues. Now that the conference is over, I could not agree more! It was incredibly educational and fun; I was blown away with all the conference had to offer!



I attended all of the sessions I could ranging from citizen science programs to zooplankton in a changing world to marine debris to hands-on activities explaining the ocean's chemistry and so much more (barrier island ecology, ocean upwelling, community resilience assessment, etc.). There were so many to choose from that I found myself wishing I was Hermione Granger from *Harry Potter* with a Time Turner so I could go to all of them! All of the session were truly inspiring, educational and encouraging. It is so important to encourage each other in our field especially since the subject matter may be disheartening at times. But I think all of the presenters took this to heart and I came away very encouraged by what our colleagues are doing locally, nationally and even globally! During the Awards Lunch on the last day, I found myself so inspired by those who gave so much to our field and continue to give. I was moved to tears even though I don't know the individuals!

The evening events were also very engaging and provided delicious southern food, which was a great way to represent the Charleston spirit. At the McLeod Plantation we learned about the history of the plantation as well as the South. By waterfront, we were serenaded by a local bluegrass band and enjoyed incredible BBQ and a Low-Country Boil (shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn). *Continued on Page 9*

In the more relaxed atmosphere of the night I was able to meet many colleagues from all over the country and learn about what they do and why marine education is so important to them. Tuesday night was the silent and live auction, and even though I promised I wouldn't spend any more money (I had to buy a gorgeous silk batik by speaker Mary Edna Fraser of the South Carolina coastline), I found myself in a silent auction bidding war for a stack of children's books. I am happy to say I came out victorious

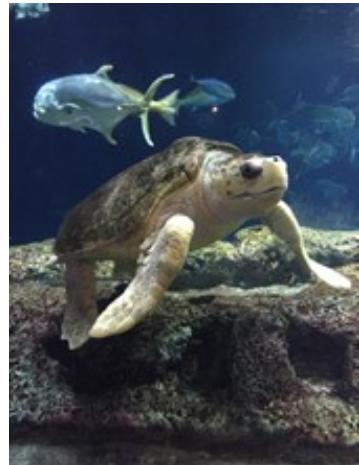


and now have a great selection of books for my nieces and nephews!

Wednesday night was the ticketed event at the South Carolina Aquarium where guests learned about cephalopods with PRI's Science Friday, dissected squids and could make beautiful squid prints. Guests also learned about the brand new Sea Turtle Recovery center at the SCA where they rescue, rehabilitate and release sea turtles.

Everything about the NMEA 2017 conference was so well done, the Events XD app was really useful for participants to learn about sessions and any last minute schedule changes. I loved every minute of the conference, but I think my favorite part was the Coastal Cultural Connections Plenary session as attendees were able to see firsthand how art, culture and science can be blended together in such beautiful and powerful ways. I was so inspired by the conference, I even purchased a raffle ticket for the NMEA 2018 conference in Long Beach, CA! Although I did not win the ticket, I hope that I will be able to attend next year's conference to deepen the relationships I made this year and to continue to learn about the incredible field of Marine Education! So thank you for awarding me the Jacques Cousteau award, it was an amazing experience and I am grateful to have participated.

Thankfully,  
Lea Caswell



# Linnaeus' Quarters

## A light distraction for the taxonomically preoccupied

Decades ago, the Bald Eagle was a rare sight in South Carolina. The symbol of the strength and majesty of this great nation of ours had been reduced to a scant 42 pairs in the lower 48 states, with 13 pairs in South Carolina.



Today, a patient observer with a keen eye can catch a sight of one of these majestic birds on many of our state's protected wildlife areas or even the Bi-Lo parking lot, as DNR now reports that there were over 350 pairs in SC last year.



*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* is the name you will find describing this bird in the literature. Fitting for a bird so commonly found along the rivers and islands of coastal SC, the genus *Haliaeetus* comes from Latin roots “*hali*” and *aetos*, “sea” and “eagle” respectively. The genus root “*leuco*” and “*cephalos*” translates to ‘white head’. The cause of great consternation among countless elementary students, the species derives its “Bald” moniker from the largely discarded term “piebald”, having patches of, or contrasting, colors.

This time of year, Bald Eagles will be migrating back to their breeding territories to repair and improve their nests and defend their territory along with their monogamous partner. Usually eggs are laid in December in South Carolina, which will then be incubated for 5 weeks by both adults. After they hatch, it will be another 10 to 12 weeks before fledgling, so plenty of opportunities for the curious birder to observe a clutch still in a nest.



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UNCW *MarineQuest* is seeking a marine biology, science education, environmental science or engineering major/graduate to serve as an educator for our National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation grant

## Ghost (net) Busters *Successful candidate must:*

- Be a team player who enjoys working with students in grades 5-9 and is not afraid of early morning starts and long days.
- Have a passion for marine environmental conservation and be willing to share it with students.
- Be able to drive a 12 passenger van (at least 21 years of age with a clean driving record).
- Be able to help lift 65 lb. inflatable life-size whale classroom and accompanying equipment.
- Be able to meet a flexible work schedule involving 10–30 hours per week and taking place on different days of the week.

For more information: [Sirakschaafferl@uncw.edu](mailto:Sirakschaafferl@uncw.edu) or (910) 833-0867

[www.uncw.edu/marinequest/ghostnetbusters.html](http://www.uncw.edu/marinequest/ghostnetbusters.html)

Cover Photo of Roseate Spoonbills provided by Dr. Al Segars of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Taken at Donnelly Wildlife Management Area in Green Pond, SC/

**SeaScripts** is published and distributed on a quarterly basis. Articles and announcements from SCMEA members are greatly appreciated. Please send them to the editor, [Nick Wallover, wallovern@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:Nick.Wallover.wallovern@dnr.sc.gov). 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**