Captain's Corner

Fall, with all of its bounty, is rapidly approaching as we begin a new school year after a fulfilling and relaxing summer. As we look out at all the new faces in our classrooms remember what it was like (not too long ago!) when we ourselves were in those desks wondering what the school year had in store for us. We all have a soft spot in our hearts for that special teacher whose smile made school just a little more comfortable and whose calm, reassuring voice let us know that we were capable of performing that seemingly impossible task. Teachers have incredible power to make a difference!

I recently attended the National Marine Educator’s Association Conference in San Diego along with several other SCMEA members. I hope that all of you will soon attend a national conference in order to gain from the perspective of educators from all over the United States and the world. It is truly an enlightening and invigorating experience. We will be holding the NMEA conference in Charleston at the new South Carolina Aquarium in 1999 or 2000 and I know all of you will want to be involved in the planning and the implementation of this event. We can expect over 1000 educators interested in the marine environment to attend! Let a board member know of your interest to become involved.

Leslie Sautter and her conference committee have been hard at work putting on the final touches for our Fall Conference: Contours of the Coast: The Variable Shape of the South Carolina Coastline" at beautiful Litchfield Beach. You will be receiving a brochure soon, but let me tell you about some of the highlights. Friday is filled with a "Living in Water" workshop, exciting field trips including an Explorer Cruise, barrier island tour and flights along the coast in chartered planes. Plan to put in for a professional day for sure! Friday evening includes a wine and cheese social, dinner, and a Keynote Address. Saturday includes Concurrent Sessions, Marine Meringue (start gathering things to trade), dinner by the pool, our annual auction (bring items to donate and those checkbooks!), and last but not least, our infamous PARTY!! with (back by popular demand) "The Island Trio". We had too much fun last year! Many of you requested that SCMEA sponsor adventures throughout the year so watch for the "Eco-Outings" session on Saturday if you like the outdoors; Sunday, if you still have energy left, brunch and more field trips await, or schedule a tee time at one of the many golf courses in the area. This will be a fun and educational weekend you'll remember forever! See you there!

Until next time,

Julie Cliff
SCMEA President
The child stands.
At the line between land and sea.
And thinks of the circle of life, of all that is born, of all that dies.
He feels very small.
And very whole.

A. Lindsay
Pritchards Island
July 1995

SCMEA Bulletin Board

Mark Your Calendar!
Deadlines for all articles and announcements for SeaScripts are listed below. All members are welcomed to contribute articles, announcements, artwork, students' work, etc.

Fall Issue  June 15
Winter Issue  November 15
Spring Issue  March 15

Please send all newsletter contributions to:
Elizabeth King
SeaScripts Editor
P.O. Box 333
Tybee Island, GA 31328

Photo Album Under Construction
Bring photos from past conferences for inclusion in the official SCMEA Photo Album. The album will be available to members for perusal at all conferences. It's a great way to preserve our history!

Bring Your Marine "Stuff"
Bring items for the Marine Merinique to be held at the SCMEA Conference. It's a great chance to swap and trade everything from fossils and shells to curricula and lesson plans.

SCMEA Committees Need Your Help
Are you interested in becoming more involved? Just contact the committee chairperson and he or she will let you know how you can help.

Scholarship Committee
Rhet Wilson
SC Aquarium
57 Hasell Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(803) 720 - 1990

Promotions/Publications Committee
Fred James (see Board List)

Conference Committee
Leslie Sautter (see Board List)
It has been said that teachers do not like to receive awards and be set upon a pedestal. We like to do our jobs without recognition and like the reward of seeing our students get the "Ah-ha" experience. I guess that is true to an extent. It is nice to receive an occasional pat on the back, however. The South Carolina Marine Educators Association has been able to achieve this goal through its “South Carolina Marine Science Educator of the Year Award.” This year I had the privilege of receiving this award. This award means a great deal to me because I live three hours from the ocean. We do not see many ocean organisms or waves in Aiken, SC. We do though, feel the effects of the ocean from the food we eat to the weather we have. It is on this premise, and my love of marine science, that I developed my curriculum for Earth Science.

I begin the year by studying the big picture: our universe. By concentrating on science and technology developed to study our solar system and universe, we look at previous, present and future missions of NASA. I try to develop the interest of students about space and technology. We then come closer to earth and study the atmosphere. We look at various layers of the atmosphere and their interrelationship to earth and life on it. We do an intense study of meteorology and draw connections between the atmosphere and earth’s hydrologic cycle. We then move to the planet itself and discuss land forms and the role that oceans play in developing and shaping land forms. We look at land and sea breezes, tides and currents, storms, and organisms. We study various geological and geographical features made by oceans and discuss why each is important.

We then apply these ideas to a study of pond life. We have been fortunate at Schofield Middle School to build a wetland area on campus by securing grants from various groups and organizations. We study pond life and its relationship to the land and draw parallels between the ocean (our pond) and the continents (the school grounds).

We also incorporate a series of labs developed by the University of California at Berkeley. The labs are issue-oriented and allow students to study such topics as toxic waste, and its effects on water and oceans. Students role play various viewpoints to see what problems they may face in the future and design possible solutions. They also do various labs with chemicals and everyday items to understand ideas such as waste hierarchy and the idea “Where is Away?” when they throw away trash.

I incorporate two trips into our curriculum. One trip is to Camp St. Christopher’s Barrier Island experience where students investigate a barrier island. We study organisms through scinting and crabbing, investigate salt marshes and maritime forests, and explore the interrelationship between land and sea (after discussing the principals and ideas in class). Our second trip is to Orlando, FL where we visit EPCOT, SeaWorld, and NASA. There we study various land and sea animals and draw connections between the study of space and earth. Our trip is conducted through “Earth Shuttle”, an organization based at the University of Boston. By its very name students and parents see the connection between earth and space. We end our trip with air boat rides through swamps and marshes around NASA to gain a close-up look at the effects of the ocean on rivers and vice versa.

By describing the above, I hope you can see that I try to achieve higher level thinking skills. Many teachers look at this curriculum and wonder where the money comes from. I can tell you that it is not from the district or state! Parents and students foot the bill. They know what I want to do and they work to get money together to travel. I also apply for various grants throughout the year.

I have a strong belief that students today like to study mysteries and intrigues. The ocean is a mysterious place full of intrigue. Students like to study topics unfamiliar to them. I try to build upon this interest and guide students to understand not only the complexity of the ocean, but the relationship between the town of Aiken and the ocean. The ocean plays such an important role on land and on life but many students, who live inland, fail to see any relationship. They fail to understand that all water eventually ends up in the ocean and that we need to ensure that we do not pollute the sources that empty into the ocean. We all need to realize that we live on this “Earth Shuttle” and will die on the shuttle if we fail to protect it. We have been able to see the beauty of a sunrise on the ocean and have witnessed the fury of the ocean. We all need to protect those scenes so that future generations can witness the might and beauty of the ocean. What a shame never to see the beauty but only read about it in literature! The challenge is ours! Are we up to it? I hope so.

The award offered by SCMEA has caused me to work even harder to teach my students about the ocean and its processes. Even though teachers receive the award, our students benefit the most. They feel the enthusiasm we have after receiving such an award and they reap the benefits. I am grateful for the award, but my students appear even more grateful.
Marine Happenings:

COASTeams Programs:
Unique graduate credit course in marine science for elementary teachers in Charleston County (June 19-29), Horry County, Richland I School District and Georgetown. Two participants (the COASTTeam) from a school must enroll concurrently and lead teacher workshops as part of their graduate work. Charleston County contact Dr. Leslie Satter at the College of Charleston, 953-5586; Horry County, contact Rob Young, at Coastal Carolina, 349-2277; Richland I, contact Phil Astwood, USC Center for Science Education, 777-6920; Georgetown County, contact Wendy Allen, Baruch Institute, 546-6219.

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); Champions of the Environment: a two-part scholarship program for students to exhibit their knowledge/contributions to the environment. The students' portion has five categories (poster, essay, spokesperson, bowl and projects) for 6-8 graders. The monthly winners aspect of the program is for grades 1-12 and winners selected are featured on television spots. Resources available: Champions of the Environment Updates and newsletter, Turning the Tide. Contact: Phil Hayes, DHEC, 2600 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29201. (803) 734-5078.

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management; COASTWEEKS '95, September 17 - October 9, National celebration offering the public ways to understand and enjoy coastal our environment. All ages are welcomed to participate in programs that include marsh walks, boat cruises, beach clean-ups, and lectures. Resources available: Carolina Currents, Legislative Updates newsletters and numerous coastal publications including "How to Build A Dune." Contact: Donna Bates, SC DHEC-OCRM, 4130 Faber Pl., Suite 300, Charleston, SC 29405. (803) 744-5838.

USCB Coastal Zone Education Center: Field studies and outreach programs are offered for school groups K-12. The Maritime Education Center, 211 Sawmill Creek Rd., Bluffton, SC 29910. (803) 837-4848.

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary:
All day education celebration, "Coastal Ocean," demonstrations and activities for ages 5 and up. Topics include the right whales, turtles, coastal birding and more. Resources available: "Whales, Turtles, Sharks and Snails," an elementary handbook. Posters: Rivers to Reefs and Invertebrates of Gray's Reef. Contact: Sarah Mitchell, 10 Ocean Science Cir., Savannah, GA 31411. (912) 598-2381.

South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Division of Parks:
Numerous programs are offered at the state's many public parks. Become a member of Wildlife Watch by participating in five "wildlife watch" programs. Enjoy festivals, recreation and educational programs. Get on the mailing list for the State Parks programs! Contact: Delene Marsh, 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia, SC 29201.

Roper Mountain Science Center:

South Carolina Wildlife Federation:
"Backyard and Beyond: Wildlife In Your World" October/November, call for specifics. A workshop for the general public and for teachers on backyard habitats. A special session is included for teachers on school yard habitats and use of the outdoors to enliven classroom studies. Resources available: Numerous National Wildlife Week programs and materials, slide shows and videos on wildlife and conservation issues of local and national note, topics include ethical use of resources, air pollution, energy use, etc. Great resources for teachers! Contact: Trish Jerman, 715 Woodrow St., Columbia, SC 29205. (803) 771-4417.
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium/
SC Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Water Resources:
BEACH SWEEP/RIVER SWEEP '95:
September 16, 9 am-noon. An annual
statewide event to clean up South
Carolina's beaches and waterways.
Resources available: Coastal Connection
newsletter, Coastal Heritage newsletter,
numerous resource brochures. Contact:
Coastal zone: Leigh Handal/ Susan
Cornwell (803) 727-2078. Inland: Becky
Riendeau (803) 737-0800.

SC Institute of Archaeology and
Anthropology, University of South
Carolina:
South Carolina Archaeology Week 1995:
September 30 - October 7. Over 140
programs, exhibits, tour guides, and
demonstrations for all ages/groups.
Programs include studies of Native
American village sites, tours of waterways
to explore Native American lifestyles and
studies of the historic period. Contact:
Nena Powell Rice, SCIAA, 1321
Pendleton St., Columbia, SC 29108.
(803) 777-8170.

South Carolina State Museum:
"Sea Turtles: Older Than Dinosaurs!":
October 1, 1995 - May 31, 1996. Why are
turtles becoming extinct and what can we
do to stop their disappearance? This
photographic exhibit will help visitors
understand turtles such as: Kemp's
Ridley, Loggerhead, Green, and many
more. Programs in conjunction with the
exhibit are offered. Contact: Michael Ray,
Chief Curator of Natural History, (803)
737-4943.

SC Department of Education:
Video available that demonstrates some of
the exemplary science teaching methods
the department is encouraging teachers in
South Carolina to adopt. Contact: Linda
Snelgar, SC Dept. Education, 507
Rutledge Bldg., 1429 Senate St.,
Columbia, SC (803) 734-0887.

SC Department of Natural Resources:
With the consolidation of several
agencies, DNR offers a wide variety of
environmental education programming.
An Educators Guide is available. Contact:
Don Winslow, SC DNR, PO Box 167,
Columbia, SC 29202.

SC State Ports Authority-Port of
Charleston:
National Port Week-School days: October
1995. Activities include a harbor tour,
displays, speakers, and take home items.
For SC students/teachers grades 1-5 only.
Reservations required and taken after
Labor Day. Also available: Port related
videos and publications. Contact: Suzanne
Kaiser, SCSPA, PO Box 817, Charleston,
SC 29402.

South Carolina Aquarium:
A major environmental education center
scheduled to open in 1998. Resources
now available: Newsletter and speakers.
Contact: Rhett Wilson, Program Manager,
South Carolina Aquarium, 57 Hasell St.,

Travel to Hawaii, A Trip for High
School Students:
Students experience the true Hawaii by
hiking, camping, snorkeling, sailing,
horseback riding and studying the natural
and cultural history of the tallest
mountains on earth. You will see
humpback whales breaching and active
lava flows tumbling into the ocean.
This nine day all inclusive tour of Kauai, Maui,
and the Big Island of Hawaii takes place
April 5 - 15, 1996. The land cost is $1295
with the round trip air fare yet to be
determined, however frequent flyer miles
may be used. Contact: Julie Clift, (803)
849 - 8367.

Living in Water Comes to the
Lowcountry

Living in Water is an aquatic science curriculum
developed by the National Aquarium in Baltimore.
Applicable to grades 4-8, the curriculum
emphasizes student-directed, classroom-based
experiments, collection and analysis of data, and
written and oral communication of results. Cindy
Renkas, a science teacher at Mason Preparatory
School and former South Carolina Marine Educator
of the Year, has been selected to attend a 2 week
training session in Living in Water curriculum
session in Charleston in September at the Marine
Resources Center at Fort Johnson for those
teachers interested in bringing the world of water
into their classrooms.

Living in Water combines physical, earth and life
science in its examination of the physical
properties of aquatic ecosystems and the impact
of these characteristics on living organisms.
Applications to environmental problems and their
solutions are stressed. The curriculum has been
adopted in rural, suburban, and urban districts as
a complete science curriculum, but individual
activities stand alone and have been borrowed for
use in other resources such as Voyage of the
Mimi, Sea Things...Objectively, and Project WILD
Aquatic.

A 1-1/2 hour harbor cruise on board a marine
research vessel, "The Great Salinity Game"
contest with prizes, and activities on plant and
animal oxygen use in water, classification of
aquatic habitats, floating and sinking, and
photosynthesis in aquatic plants are just a few of
the day's highlights. Don't miss this opportunity to
learn more about aquatic habitats with Cindy!
Details on the training session follow.

Date: Saturday, September 16, 1995
Time: 8:15 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Marine Resources Division, Fort
Johnson
Cost: Free
Materials: 300 page Living in Water
Curriculum

Workshop is limited to the first 20 participants.
Call the Charleston Math & Science Hub at (803)
963-5812 to register.
SCMEA Conference is right around the corner...

The 8th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), "Contours of the Coast: The Variable Shape of the South Carolina Shoreline", will be held October 20 -22 at the Litchfield-by-the-Sea Resort Hotel and Conference Center on Pawley's Island.

Join Marine educators from throughout the state for three days of field trips, hands-on activity workshops, demonstrations, and great information on marine and aquatic environments.

Highlights will include hour-long overflights of the coastline, educational cruises and guided beach walks to nearby barrier islands, printmaking workshop, the Annual SCMEA Auction, Marine Meringue swap meet, a poolside reggae party and much more! Dr. Jerry Sexton of Athena Technologies, Inc. will present this year's keynote address, "Contours of the Coast," guaranteed to be both an enjoyable and educational experience.

USC Beaufort Coastal Zone Education Center Closes

Due to gubernatorial budget cuts Coastal Zone was notified in July that their contract with DHEC - Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (formerly the South Carolina Coastal Council) would not be renewed. Ninety thousand dollars contributed by the state funded approximately half of the operating budget of the center while fees charged to participants made up the difference. As of September 15, 1995 Coastal Zone will be closed indefinitely.

This unfortunate turn of events will be felt throughout the state and especially in Beaufort County. Although Coastal Zone conducted a variety of programs year round, the bulk of the educators' time for nine months out of the year was dedicated to school children in grades K-12. In fact, more students than ever were reached during the 1994-95 school year. A total of 7,477 students participated in programs conducted by three educators.

Coastal Zone hosted 2,632 students from 119 classes in field studies and labs during the fall and spring. Field study programs are designed with grade appropriate experiential activities. Labs involve exploring the microscopic world of the "fouling community", observing blue and fiddler crab behavior, and studying the anatomy of fish.

Over the winter Coastal Zone educators conducted 208 classroom presentations and taught a total of 4,775 students with outreach programs. Outreach offerings are also grade appropriate and designed to fit into a class period. These programs include opportunities to study living reptiles and marine invertebrates; to explore misconceptions held about sharks; to construct a dolphin skeleton; to investigate the effects of coastal garbage on ocean life; and more.

The educators are saddened and disappointed that teachers will no longer be able to incorporate the center's programs into their curricula. Without the interest and support of schools and the public in addition to state funding, Coastal Zone would not have been able to fulfill its goal of introducing students to the fascinating natural world found on the South Carolina coast.
WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING TO THE AUCTION?

If you've ever been to a SCMEA conference, you probably know our auctions are fun-packed, slightly rowdy events which serve as our major fund raiser. SCMEA is your organization and we need you to help make our auction a success. Every person attending the convention is asked to bring at least one item for the auction. Please leave your items at the registration desk when you arrive.

Need some donation item ideas? Think about the businesses you frequent - they may be a good source for donations. Here are some suggestions:

- Artist supplies
- Coffee shops
- Cruises - ship, canoe, kayak
- Art/Frame shops
- Beer from you local microbrewery
- Bed and Breakfast
- Garden shops or Nurseries
- Curricula
- Fabric shops - marine theme notions and fabrics
- Movies
- Aquarium supplies - water testing kits, nets, food, etc.
- Book stores
- Recreational goods stores - binoculars, etc.
- Camera shops
- Computer stores - software, accessories
- Florists
- Learning materials
- Clothing stores
- Surf shops
- Leisure materials
- Para-sail rides
- Photography stores
- Sporting goods stores
- T-shirt shops
- Jewelry stores

Look for the auction donation form in this newsletter. Make copies as needed and go forth and obtain auction items!! (Bring the SCMEA portion of the form with your auction item.)

Become a Member of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association

...and join a group of dedicated teachers, naturalists, scientists and others interested in studying and teaching about the world of water, both fresh and salt. SCMEA provides a communication network for members to share information and ideas through newsletters and an annual statewide conference. Membership dues are $10.00 a year and include three newsletters, a discount on the registration fee for the annual conference, and an opportunity to interact with some of the most dynamic educators in the state!

Name: ___________________________ Place of Employment: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ City ___________________________ State Zip ___________________________

Home Telephone Number ___________________________ Work Telephone Number ___________________________

One year - $10 Three years - $25 Five years - $40

Please send completed form with your membership fee (make checks payable to SCMEA) to:
Phil Astwood, Treasurer, SCMEA, Center for Science Education, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Join the National Marine Educators Association

...and begin to network with educators around the country sharing a common love and concern for our water world. Membership benefits include a subscription to Current: The Journal of Marine Education, the newsletter, NMEA News; and registration discounts for some of the best annual conferences you will ever attend!

Name: ___________________________ Occupation: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ City ___________________________ State Zip ___________________________

Individual Memberships

Student - $15 Active, 1 year - $25 Active, 2 years - $48 Active, 3 years - $68

Please make check payable to NMEA and mail to: National Marine Educators Association PO Box 51215, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 SCMEA FALL 95