Captain's Corner

Ahoy!

With summer well underway (or perhaps over by the time you receive this!) I'd like to congratulate all of us on completing another year of devotion to teaching marine science to our students! Many of you are taking on the student role during the summer months -- I commend you! It seems every teacher I have talked to this summer is enrolled in at least one institute or graduate course. There's so much to learn, isn't there? It's at times overwhelming, but at the same time very exciting.

Speaking of excitement, many SCMEA members had some of their own in June. More than 50 marine educators from South Carolina had a chance to go on a 6-hour cruise aboard a NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) research vessel! We had marvelous weather and took many samples of sediment and plankton at various locations within and near the Charleston Harbor, then we sailed beyond the jetties into the deep blue! See the article "Marine Educators at Sea!" on page 6.

This issue of SeaScripts also contains a special update on the MARE Program, beginning its pilot year this fall at Memminger Elementary School in Charleston. This program will be an exciting addition to marine education in the state. For details see page 3.

The National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Conference will be in Durham, New Hampshire in August. I know of several South Carolinians going. We're all trying to get ideas for 1999 when SCMEA will host the national conference in Charleston. We'll need help from everyone to make it the best NMEA Conference ever!

Fred James is working hard to get our fall conference all lined up. Fripp Island will be a great place to host a meeting -- I hope that we'll see many of you there! As with every SCMEA conference, many hands are involved and I'd like to thank everyone who has been able to find the time to contribute. Please consider donating items for the annual auction. We absolutely rely on the auction proceeds to fund the SCMEA scholarships and awards, as well as the next year's conference, so please show your support! An auction donation form is included in this issue.

Best wishes for the new school year - let's all make it another terrific year filled with active marine science!

Most sincerely,

Leslie Sautter
SCMEA President
SCMEA Board
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Leslie Sautter, Ph.D.
College of Charleston
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66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29401, (803)953-5586

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Denise Zecherl
Sangaree Intermediate
201 Schoolhouse Lane
Summerville, SC 29206, (803)871-3104

NMEA Chapter Representative:
Julie Cliff (address above)

The Reading Boat - A SCMEA Grant
by Carole McAlloy, West Pelzer Primary

"A boat in your classroom? You've got to be kidding!" This is one of the many reactions I have gotten from people when I tell them I have a 9-foot sailboat in my reading center.

After three years, several grants, and much leg work and planning, we christened our reading boat, Titanic, Jr., on November 22, 1995. It has been a big hit in our reading center, which is an underwater habitat (SC rocky reef) complete with marine aquaria, murals, fish nets, plenty of books, blue carpet, and yes, a boat! Students daily read, "fish," relax, or complete assignments in the Titanic, Jr. It is used for direct instruction, rewards, and silent and partner reading. (Occasionally we have an unsolicited reenactment of "Jaws.") Titanic, Jr. can hold a crew of six to eight at one time.

This year, thanks to a grant from SCMEA and an EIA teacher grant, I was able to obtain and repair the boat (with help from friends) and purchase a computer. Our classroom is now on-line and we think that is very exciting! I also led 75 fourth graders and adults on a field trip to Beaufort to study the history, culture, and environment of the sea islands and to meet pen pals from Port Royal Elementary.

Thank you SCMEA for believing in me and for supporting me and my students!

SCMEA Bulletin Board

Reminder!
Deadlines for all issues of SeaScripts are listed below. This is YOUR newsletter and you can help make it great! Feel free to contribute articles, students' work, artwork and/or information.

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

Please send all newsletter contributions to Elizabeth King.

Conference Date Set
The SC² (SC Science Council) Convention will be held this year on November 20-22, 1996 in Charleston.

HELP WANTED!!
The Conference Committee is in full swing under the direction of Fred James to prepare for the upcoming annual conference. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of the conference, contact Fred. (See his address in the Board Members list.)

One Last Call for Photos!
Fred James is producing a pictorial directory of SCMEA members and has extended the deadline for photo contributions. If you are new to SCMEA or missed last year's conference, send your passport-sized photo to Fred. We would like to include you, too! The directory will be available at this year's conference, October 4-6.

Come to a Board Meeting!
Quarterly Board Meetings are open to all members. If you would like to attend, please contact Leslie Sautter for dates and times. (See her address in the Board Members list.)
Marine Happenings:

Department of Natural Resources: The Educators Guide is a complete listing of DNR’s programs which include research vessel cruises, teacher training workshops, SC MAPS and Project Wild, and more. Contact: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

Explorers Fleet: Saltwater Marsh Explorer Adventure is a hands-on exploration of saltwater marshes surrounding Murrells Inlet or Charleston Harbor. Adventures are conducted by a marine biologist and include on-board collections, crabbing, fishing, and a beach walk. Vessels of the Explorer Fleet are used during adventures. Contact: Captain Dick, PO Box 306, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576, 1-800-651-3676, OR City Marina, 17 Lockwood Drive, Charleston, SC 29401. (803)852-4386.

Coastal Expeditions: Island Quest, a naturalist-led exploration of the coastal ecosystem, is conducted every Tuesday, year-round, for groups of 20 or more, first grade through college and beyond. Fee charged. Ferry to Bull Island Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Hands-on programs, shells, dolphin, birds, and barrier island dynamics. Lesson plans included for the guided trip. Contact: Anne Goold, 514-B Mill Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464. (803)884-7684.

Coastal Discovery Museum: Whale and turtle programs, field trips to the marsh and beach, workshops teaching basic use of simple lab equipment are available. Programs are curriculum specific with reinforcing activities and specimens for K - 8th grade. Fees charged. Also available, videos, field guides, scientific journals, stereoscopes with monitor hook-ups. Contact: Kim Washok, PO Box 23497, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925. (803)689-6767.


Medway Environmental Trust: Medway Environmental Trust Education Program dates to be announced. Student and teacher programs under development in 1996. Contact Susan Mertz at 821-3283 for more information.

The Berkeley Museum: Living History Workshops 1996: October 19, A Walk through Time; October 26, Gourd Working; November 9-10, Hide Tanning. Adults 18 years or older will experience hands-on experimentation and interaction with the natural environment while learning about the lifestyles of earlier cultures. Resources include items in the Heritage Shoppe, a wide array of historical theme items. Fees charged. Contact: Mark Butler, 950 Stony Landing Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.

SC State 4-H Leadership Centers: Teaching KATE (Kids About The Environment), offered September - December, March - May for grades 4 - 8, is a three-day, two-night program with a hands-on, fact-based curriculum. KATE emphasizes water, wildlife, forestry and soils while offering a camp-type experience. Resources include a teacher’s guide. Contact: DuValle Elliot, Rt. 1 Box 1225, Summerton, SC 29148.

The Harmony Project: Green School ’96, to be held September 13, 1996, is an extension of the concurrent Green Village Expo for students (grades 4-8), parents and teachers. Designed to help students discover ways that they can be a positive part of their environment through specific lessons and hands-on projects. Contact: Mel Goodwin or Beth Simmons, PO Box 21655, Charleston, SC 29413.

Dewees Island: People As A Positive Influence In The Environment is available every Tuesday, year round. The day-long tour of barrier island habitats emphasizes people as an integral part of the environment. Appropriate for grades 1-12, college and graduate level. Positive impacts such as recycled building projects and environmental building practices are shown. Contact: Mark Madden, PO Box 361, Dewees Island, SC 29451-2662.

S.C. Wildlife Federation: September 28, 1996, Federation Afield, is offering naturalist-led trips exploring the resources of Landsford Canal State Park. SC Wildlife Federation members attend free (non-members fee charged). Additional resources available from SCWF include a 12-page newsletter, various videos, slides shows, and more. Contact: Trish Jerman, 715 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC 29205.

Natural Resources, Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education Program (NRSMEEP) - USC-Aiken: NRSMEEP is offering a 3-hour graduate course in the Ecology of Wetlands, both freshwater and marine, to graduate and undergraduate students. Other resources at NRSMEEP include the teaching staff of Teddy Shuler, Norm Rischbieter and Pam Graves. All are available to work with schools as advisors on outdoor projects, for workshops, and more. Contact: Dr. Harold Ormes (803) 648-6851 or Pam Graves (803) 725-8712.
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**Clemson University:**
*Agricultural Sustainability: Environmental Factors:* August 22, 1996. Secondary school teachers learn about environmental factors affecting food production, and gain skills in use of Internet technology. **Contact:** West McAdams, SC Sea Grant Consortium, (803)722-3940.

**Medway Environmental Trust:**
Medway Environmental Trust Education Program dates to be announced. Student and teacher programs under development in 1996. **Contact** Susan Mertz at 821-3283 for more information.

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**Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center:**
Grand Opening Weekend will be held in December, 1996, for anyone interested in the environment. Look forward to guest lectures, tours, open house, and workshops. **Contact**: Cheron Rhodes (803)887-3257 or Larry Davis, 5801 Highway 17 North, Awendaw, SC 29429. (803)928-3368.

**S.C. Wildlife Federation:**
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SC Sea Grant:
The annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep will be held on September 21, 1996. Join in SC's largest one-day clean-up of aquatic debris. All ages welcome!
Contact: Leigh Handal, 287 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401. (803) 727-2078.

SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC):
Champions of the Environment will host a Student Award Competition, April 1997. The award offers recognition and scholarships to students, teachers and classes working on programs and projects that offer solutions to environmental problems. Programs are available October 1996 - May 1997 for grades 1 - 12. Also available, Turning the Tide newsletter.
Contact: Phil Hayes, DHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. (803)734-5078.

Galapagos/Ecuador Excursion:
Teachers and/or students travel to Ecuador during the last two weeks of June 1997 for a five-day adventure to learn about cultures, rainforests, and mountains. Then fly to the Galapagos Islands to board your 60-foot yacht for a week-long cruise to visit the islands and wildlife Darwin made so famous. All inclusive cost with round-trip airfare from Charleston is $2495. Contact Julie Cliff at (803) 849-8367 for more information.

Thanks to the Staff of the South Carolina Aquarium for their help in compiling this section of SeaScripts!

(SC)² Convention 1996 is Set!!

The site for the upcoming annual South Carolina Science Council meeting November 20-22, 1996 is Charleston, South Carolina's most historic city. The area offers numerous opportunities to explore the sciences. Proximity to the College of Charleston will allow participants invaluable interaction with the local professors. The newest ideas in the field of medicine may be found at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). You may explore the flora and fauna of nearby barrier islands, discover a rich cultural history, and visit gardens, swamps, and beaches.

Participants will experience the hospitality of four hotels surrounding Marion Square, site of the convention. All sites are within walking distance. The Francis Marion Hotel will serve as convention headquarters. The Embassy Suites (formerly the old Citadel), Hampton Inn, and Quality Inn offer a wide range of accommodations. The College of Charleston Lightsey Conference Center, adjoining the Francis Marion Hotel, will serve as the exhibits area. The College will also host many concurrent sessions. For the first time ever, SCMEA has reserved a room for an entire day of marine science activities. Join fellow SCMEA members at the (SC)² Convention for a fun and educational experience! For more information and a registration form contact: Mary A. Levens, 3608 Sherwood Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29302, (864) 582-4766 FAX.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ....

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 1996-97 SCMEA Awards. The following members will each receive the $250 Education Grant Award to be used for a marine education project:

Lisa "Lou" Gaines, Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville
Lou Gaines will use her environmental education experience to take her students on a Mountains to the Sea Field Trip.

Carmelina Livingston, Jennie Moore Elementary School, Mt. Pleasant
A recipient of past SCMEA education grants, Carmelina Livingston is designing an Aquatic Habitat Center with both fresh and salt water aquaria. Eventually the display will be open to the entire school.

Robin Rutherford, Goodwin Elementary School, North Charleston
Robin Rutherford will conduct several specimen collecting field trips to stock a new salt water aquarium, exposing her students to habitats they have never experienced.

Beth Day, graduate student in the marine science education Ph.D. program at the University of South Carolina, Columbia and Carole McAfee, teacher at West Pelzer Primary, West Pelzer were each awarded a $500 Travel Assistance Award to attend the 1996 NMEA Conference in New Hampshire.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!
During the week of June 10, more than 50 marine educators had the opportunity to be oceanographers! Through funding from Project COAST and the COASTeam Program (sponsored by the South Carolina Marine Educator's Association), I was fortunate to secure 3 days of ship time aboard the NOAA Ship Ferrel, a 133-foot research vessel. It took two years to acquire the time, but it was well worth the wait! On each of the three days we sailed from the former Charleston Naval Base on the Cooper River with between 15 and 20 marine educators from around the state (including Greenville!), most of whom had participated in the COASTeam Program. Each day we cruised up the Cooper River, then back through the Charleston Harbor and on out through the Charleston Jetties to the open sea! Many of the participants had never been on a ship before and most had never sailed on the ocean. We met with some rolling swells on a couple of days and many participants were pleased to return to the harbor!

To make the most of this oceanographic opportunity, we made stops at three sampling stations each day to compare and contrast the physical (temperature, salinity, turbidity, water depth), biological (plankton diversity) and geological (surface sediments) characteristics. Stations were located in the river, in the harbor, between the harbor jetties and offshore. Some of the instrumentation used included a plankton net, a secchi disk, a CTD (conductivity-temperature-depth recording devise), a sediment grab sampler and the ship's global positioning system (GPS) that gave us our latitude and longitude position.

We observed tremendous variability in the temperature and salinity "profiles" (changes in each from the surface to the seafloor): at the river stations we were able to see the "wedge" of salt water pushing under the river's fresh water. As we sailed through the harbor and offshore salinities increased but the wedge was no longer evident due to the increased mixing from the tidal eb and flood. Sediments increased in grain size along our river-to-the-sea transect, particularly within the jetties, as the water flow is strongest there, transporting coarse shell "hash" material, and removing the finer sediments.

And the plankton! Fred James would have loved all those spineless wonders as well as those that possessed spines! Generally, in the river part of the transect we saw many zoza, or juvenile crab larvae (they are planktonic, or "drifters" when they're very young). This region must be a nursery ground for crabs! In the harbor the net was loaded with small crustaceans, or "comb jellies". These jelly-fish-like invertebrates have rows of beating cilia, giving them their name. Under the microscope we saw bioluminescence within the cilia! It was quite a thrill, even for this geologist! The oceanic station yielded more comb jellies, but also many juvenile fish, no more than 5 mm in length. We lacked an ichthyologist to identify them! We also caught hundreds of copepods, the miniscule crustaceans that dominate much of the open ocean zooplankton. There was, of course much more in each sample, and we enjoyed exploring for new critters.

The ship's crew thought we were great! They loved having short days with many enthusiastic (not to mention charming) participants. We were commandeered by Chief Officer Susan McKay, the second female ever to command a NOAA ship -- make sure to tell your students! The cook really showed off for us with shrimp stir-fry, lasagna, seafood gumbo, cheesecakes, chocolate tortes, carrot cakes and much more (believe it or not). We thought it was a Carnival Cruise for a while!

I'd like to thank Dr. Mitchell Colgan (Dept. of Geology, College of Charleston) and his students from the College and from the University of South Carolina who assisted with the physical measurements. The cruises were a perfect training ground for them, as they were preparing for their own amazing adventure to Siberia's Lake Baikal in late June!

Without question, the highlight of the three days for me was on our final steam back through the jetties on the last day. Six playful bottlenose dolphin escorted us into the harbor by "surfing" the ship's bow wave for over 10 minutes. There is something magical about dolphins - one is never tired of seeing their smiling faces. I could swear that one of them was inspecting us - he'd leap out of the wave on his side so he could see those crazy marine educators who were all draped over the bow rail above him.

It was a wonderful experience for me to see so many "turned on" educators, as I often take my sea-going experiences for granted. A cruise for me is the ultimate "hands on" experience. I believe that the participants took home with them not only memories of the adventure, but also a better understanding of the methods of data collection and the process of research. Marine Science is such a marvelous "medium" for demonstrating how intricately integrated the different science disciplines are and how strongly each discipline contributes to the entire system being studied. With each oceanographic investigation there's always a discovery made, questions that are answered, and always many new questions that are raised. That's why it's such an exciting and ever-changing field.

If you were one of the cruise participants, I'd like to ask that you write a brief letter of support for the project and to encourage future similar opportunities aboard NOAA vessels. Please address and send your letters to me and I'll send a whole package to the necessary folks at NOAA. Thanks. I'd love for these cruises to become an annual event here in Charleston, available to educators from throughout South Carolina. I hope to be able to offer more trips next year (although I won't know for some time if it'll be possible) and wish that the Ferrel were more readily available to all. Should future cruise opportunities become available, I will make sure to advertise them here in Seascrrips, so keep your eyes open!
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
- Art/Frame shops
- Bed and Breakfast
- Curricula
- Movies
- Book stores
- Camera shops
- Florists
- Coffee shops
- Cruises - ship, canoe, kayak
- Beer from your local microbrewery
- Garden shops or Nurseries
- Fabric shops - marine theme notions and fabrics
- Aquarium supplies - water testing kits, nets, food, etc.
- Recreational goods stores - binoculars, etc.
- Computer stores - software, accessories
- Learning materials
- Clothing stores
- Surf shops
- 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.)

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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: ________________________________

Street or PO Box ________________________________ 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.

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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: ________________________________

Street or PO Box ________________________________ City ________________________________ State ________________________________ Zip ________________________________

Individual Memberships

Active Membership: Any person who supports the goals of NMEA.

___ Active, 1 year - $40 ______ Active, 2 years - $78 ______ Active, 3 years - $118

Chapter Affiliate: Any person who belongs to a regional chapter. Chapter: ________________________________

___ Affiliate, 1 year - $35 ______ Affiliate, 2 years - $68 ______ Affiliate, 3 years - $103

Please make check payable to NMEA and mail to: National Marine Educators Association

PO Box 51215, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

SCMEA FALL 96
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live and breathe under the water? What is life really like for all those creatures that live in our tidal creeks, estuaries, and deep oceans? Join us at this year's annual conference and begin to discover some of the amazing lifestyles of underwater creatures of the marine environment as well as organisms living at the edge of the sea.

The 9th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), "The Underwater World," will be held October 4 - 6, 1996 at the Fripp Island Resort and Beach Club Meeting Facilities. Join marine educators from throughout the state for three days of workshops, concurrent sessions, exciting field trips, and hands-on exploration of marine and aquatic environments. Highlights will include cruises aboard the 57' motorized sailing vessel, Bahama Star, beach walks, coastal bird and plant identification treks, a beach night hike featuring constellation identification, SCUBA diving, pool-side Reggae party, the annual SCMEA auction, and much more! Dr. Jim Wetzel of Presbyterian College, the world authority on sea horse development, will present this year's keynote address, emphasizing a fascinating underwater creature.

The conference will be held at a new resort on Fripp, a private, gated, island community. The resort consists of clusters of condos with a wide range of room styles. Some condos may be one-bedroom efficiencies while others may have four bedrooms opening into a common living room, kitchenette, etc. Some bedrooms face the ocean and others overlook the tennis courts. Due to the configuration of the resort and space available, it will be necessary that you share condo space with a friend or group of friends. Fred James will take on the daunting task of assigning rooms and handling reservations on a first come, first served basis. In order to keep expenses as low as possible, participants will reserve a bed at $47 per night. (If you should choose to share a bed with someone your cost will be halved.) A "bed" reservation form will be included in the conference brochure, so be sure to register early to get your first choice in accommodations. For assistance arranging roommates, contact Fred at 1-800-476-7272.

SEE YOU THERE!!
South Carolina Marine Educators Association

AUCTION DONATION FORM

Thank you for your auction donation to the South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA). The SCMEA auction, held at our annual conference, is an important fund raiser for our organization as we work to promote marine education in the state. This year's conference will be held at Fripp Island Resort on Fripp Island, SC from October 4 - 6, 1996.

This completed form will serve as a receipt for your records. Again, thank you for your support.

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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Item</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Value</th>
<th>Signature of SCMEA Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check here if acknowledgment to donating business/organization should be sent by SCMEA. □