Captain’s Corner

We tend to think of growth as a sign of success. Whether it is a small business which grows into a larger one or a small organization which gains members, we assume each is growing because it is providing a needed service. In this vein, we have all been pleased to see SCMEA grow over the past five years, and we assume this means that educators in South Carolina are interested in the marine environment and want to learn more about it.

SCMEA began with a membership of about 100 in 1988 and has nearly doubled since then. Beyond simple numbers, SCMEA has grown in other ways as well. We have gained national recognition as a chapter of the National Marine Educator’s Association, and we have been recognized within the state as an affiliate organization of the South Carolina Science Council. Our treasury has expanded and our offerings at conferences have increased. All of this is important and as a young organization, we are proud of our accomplishments.

At our last board meeting and in conversations since that time, we have discussed another type of growth which I think is even more important. SCMEA is now in a position to take on a growing responsibility within the fields of science and education which have supported our growth. In the area of educational support, SCMEA plans to initiate an annual roundtable conference this spring. South Carolina’s leaders in marine education will be invited to the conference.

The conference will serve the dual purpose of allowing participants to become familiar with each other’s projects and products, while simultaneously providing the basis for a yearly publication describing the current offerings and initiatives in marine science education in the state. In this way we hope to assist South Carolina’s teachers at all levels in becoming better informed about the opportunities available to them. These teachers have supported us by attending our conferences and we have a responsibility to assist them in any way we can.

We have long believed that SCMEA should facilitate the meeting of marine scientists and marine educators. We have invited scientists to discuss their research at our conferences, but we have not yet been able to take an active part in the discussion of educational issues at professional scientific meetings. This fall the Estuarine Research Federation will hold its national annual meeting in South Carolina. All SCMEA members will be invited to attend the conference, and we hope to organize and take part in a session devoted to marine education. This session will not only assist interested scientists in learning what has been accomplished in marine education statewide, but will also convey what still needs to be done to educate South Carolina’s students.

I believe that these two initiatives are evidence that SCMEA is "growing" into an active and responsible member of the marine education community. This is certainly not all we can do, or all we want to do, but it is an important beginning. I would like all SCMEA members to think about what should come next. What is needed? How can SCMEA become an even more active partner in marine science and marine education?

Our Board of Directors meets quarterly (March, June, September, and December), and the meetings are open to all. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the board members are listed inside this newsletter. Contact me or any board member to find out when and where the next meeting will take place. Make suggestions or plan to attend. SCMEA has a lot of growing to do, and we want each member to take an active part in assisting us as we continue to grow into an organization of which we can all be proud.

Phil Astwood
SCMEA President
SCMEA Board

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NMEA Chapter Representative:
Phil Astwood (address above)

Newsletter Editor:
Paula Keener-Chavis
General Engineering
Laboratories, Inc.
POB 30712
Charleston, SC 29417

1993 SCMEA Annual Conference Planned at Camp Saint Christopher

Come spend the weekend of October 8 - 10 on a remote, scenic barrier island with other marine educators from throughout the state. This year's annual conference will be held at the Barrier Island Education Center at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island. Field trips include a visit to the ACE Basin, tours of a commercial clam mariculture facility, and interpretive walks on beaches and in freshwater and marine wetlands. A call for papers is included in this issue of Seascritps. Registration forms will be included in the August issue. For more information, contact Bruce Lampright at (803) 521-1807. See you there!

Funds for Learning

SCMEA's Marine Education Grant Program provides support for projects that further marine education in South Carolina. Two grants of $250 each will be awarded to active SCMEA members during the 1993-1994 school year. These funds can be used to defray costs of marine education projects planned for school groups. The project possibilities are limited only to the ingenuity of the applicants.

It is hoped that funds will be used for projects that will be valuable additions to science curricula in the state and will be used by other educators in their marine science teachings. Grant recipients are required to submit an article to Seascritps or make a presentation at the annual conference for the benefit of all SCMEA members. Deadline for applications is June 30, 1993. The awards will be announced by August 16, 1993.

Scholarships Available for NMEA's Annual Conference

The National Marine Educators Association's (NMEA's) annual conference is one of best opportunities in the country to keep current on the latest in marine education challenges and opportunities and to be inspired by the work of colleagues throughout the world. This year's conference will be held in New Orleans in early August.

SCMEA wants to assist members in keeping current in their field and thus offers a scholarship to assist an active SCMEA member with conference costs. One scholarship of $500 will be awarded based on demonstrated interest. An article for publication in Seascritps and/or a presentation at SCMEA's annual conference is required of the recipient. Those persons with scheduled presentations at the NMEA conference are encouraged to apply.

To request an application, call Rhett Wilson, Chair, Scholarship Committee, South Carolina Aquarium, (803) 720-1990, 57 Hasell St., Charleston, SC 29401.

Additional information about SCMEA's Scholarship and Grant Programs can be addressed to one of the following Scholarship Committee Members: Phil Astwood, Leslie Madden, or Sarah Wilson.
Annual T-shirt Design Contest

The 1992 SCMEA T-shirt Design Contest was a huge success, with Scott Kennedy of the Bellefield Nature Center winning the contest with his wonderful red hermit crab design. It is time again to ask SCMEA members to break out pen and paper, put on creative hats, and produce a new SCMEA T-shirt design for this year's conference.

The design may be produced by anyone, any age, and is not limited to SCMEA members. The only requirement is that the design must pertain to coastal South Carolina and marine science. This is a great end-of-the-year project for marine biology students, art students, or even their teachers!

The designs must be camera-ready, with directions on color schemes and/or a colored design included with the submittal. All designs will be judged by local marine biology and elementary school teachers. Designs must be submitted to Sarah Wilson, Bellefield Nature Center, Rt. 5, Box 1003, Georgetown, SC, 29440, (803) 546-4623, by June 30, 1993.

SCMEA Member Receives NSF Research Grant

Dr. Leslie Sautter, a College of Charleston geologist, received a $95,000 three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study seasonal changes in microorganisms which live in surface waters of the equatorial Atlantic Ocean.

Sautter is studying species of planktonic foraminifera which are indicators of current climate conditions. To understand how seasonal variations affect the microorganisms, she will analyze the chemical composition of their shells. Shells of the same species, buried in sediments of the deep ocean, are indicators of past climate conditions. Comparing the shells of specimens could help unlock mysteries of past climate conditions which are present in the ocean's sediment record.

Sautter holds a joint position with the College of Charleston and the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, and is program manager for the Coastal Ocean Boundary Interactions and Assessment (COBIA) program, a research initiative of the Consortium and the Georgia Sea Grant College Program.

PROGRAM FOCUS: Marine Education at the Marine Resources Center

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department's (SCMRD's) Marine Resources Division is responsible for the conservation and wise development of the state's marine resources through planning, research, management, and public education.

The Marine Resources Center (MRC), located on historic Charleston Harbor, has the facilities, equipment, and expertise to provide a unique marine science educational opportunity to students, teachers, and the general public who are interested in broadening their understanding and appreciation of our state's valuable coastal resources.

The Marine Resources Division encourages participation in the educational programs described below. Reservations are required for all programs. Picnic facilities overlooking historic Charleston Harbor are also available. For more information, call (803) 762-5077.

Tours:
Educational tours of the Division's Marine Resources Research Institute are available to the general public, civic organizations, and educational groups. The tour includes a video and observations of fish culture tanks, aquaria, research equipment, and vessels. Tours for school groups are available for students at the fourth grade level and above and to teachers of all grade levels.

A Coastal Adventure:
A 2-hour educational cruise on board the Division's 50-foot research vessel in Charleston Harbor is available to students (ninth grade and above) and teachers of all grade levels. See a variety of sampling procedures used by marine scientists and learn about ecological concepts and life histories of marine organisms collected during the cruise. Cruises are best combined with a brief tour of the laboratory facilities.

Marsh Classroom Adventure:
Teachers are trained in the salt marsh at the MRC to use a variety of hands-on marine education activities. Teachers can later lead their own students on field trips in the marsh classroom.

Educational Outreach Activities:
The MRC offers, on a limited basis, classroom programs (career day and special environmental week presentations) in the Charleston area.

Project WILD - Aquatic and Terrestrial:
Training programs are available for Project WILD. For information, contact the Education Coordinator, SCWMRD, POB 167, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 734-3964.
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Training programs are available for Project WILD. For information, contact the Education Coordinator, SCWMRD, POB 167, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 734-3964.
team from the University of Michigan found a new subspecies of blind fish living in the blue hole. The students jumped off a 15-foot ledge into the blue abyss below. The beach around the blue hole was covered with bath sponges. We saw only one black tipped shark on the reef. I am always hopeful that if I am ever eaten by a shark, I will be wearing a Timex watch and when they dissect the shark the watch will still be ticking!

We then sailed to Bimini. Hurricane Hugo left most of the lighthouses out of service and the Bahamian government is not anxious to spend the funds to put them back into operation. Captains hesitate to sail in coral areas during the night without a good lighthouse to aid them in their navigation in some of these waters. We ate conch fritters and visited the Hemingway Museum in Bimini.

One of our last stops in the Bahamas was to observe the "cement" ship, the Saponia, which ran aground south of Bimini before World War II. The ship was constructed by pouring concrete around steel rods. She has served many purposes since running aground, from storing booze and opening as a night club. She has even been used by the British for bombing runs. We snorkeled in and out of the Saponia and saw schools of French grunts, blue tangs, and many lizardfish. We snorkeled in and around the 5,000 lbs. solid brass propeller lodged in the sand.

We left the Islands to beat the storm of the century which was coming down from the west. We arrived back on campus tanned but freezing in icy, rainy weather. The seven-day experience cost the students $350. I am hoping in the future that we can make this program a graduate course on the geology and marine biology of the Bahamas for elementary and high school teachers.

Marine Happenings:

Events:

NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program. Spend up to 3 weeks on a NOAA research vessel participating in research vessel cruises. Teachers translate their experiences into classroom applications that can be shared with students and colleagues. Cruises run through Sept. 30. Contact NOAA's Education Office, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115-0070, (202) 526-6622.

South Carolina Science Council's 1993 Convention. Nov. 3-5, Spartanburg, SC. SCMEA and the Environmental Education Association will co-sponsor another "Environmental Activities" Sharathon at the convention. Contact Wendy Allen, (803) 546-3623, if you have an activity you would like to share.

12th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation Conference: "The Science and Management of Estuarine Coastal Systems" - Nov. 14 - 18, Hilton Head Island. Subthemes: Society and Estuarine Coastal Systems; Technical Applications; Dynamics and Processes; Regional Problems and Solutions; and Education and Other Topics. Registration forms available by writing ERF '93, c/o Rick DeVoe, SC Sea Grant Consortium, 287 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401.


Publications:

Our Earth: The Water Planet, 1992. Introduces concepts and terms, then uses activities and experiments to test their application. Beautiful illustrations. Middle and elementary grade levels. $14.95 plus $3.25 UPS. Puppetools, Box 3200, Richmond, VA 23261.
Publications: (continued)...

All About Oceanography: A Fun-Filled Coloring and Activity Book, 1992. Middle and junior high grade levels. $1 each for up to five copies. Contact WHOI, Sea Grant Communications, Clark 260, Woods Hole, MA 02543, (508) 457-2000.


Videoclips:


"Oceans Alive." Filmed in oceans around the world, five 30-minute, single concept videos for middle grades levels and up. Topics include marine mammals, sea birds, the salt marsh, food web, plankton, mollusks, sand country and homes.

"The Beaches are Moving." 60-minute program that examines barrier island geological processes in relation to coastal population explosion. Contact NC Div. of Coastal Management, POB 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687, (919) 733-2292

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South Carolina Marine Educators Association
Outstanding Marine Science Teacher Award

SCMEA’s Board of Directors is well aware of the fine teaching going on in marine science classrooms statewide. We hear about great ideas and wonderful projects at SCMEA’s annual conference and read about innovative teaching strategies and laboratory activities in Seascapes. We are impressed by this skill and ability and have established an Outstanding Marine Science Teacher Award which will allow good teachers to be recognized statewide. We will present the award at the South Carolina Science Council’s annual meeting in Spartanburg, SC this fall. Please assist us in locating and rewarding these teachers. If you know a creative, skilled, and dedicated marine science teacher whom you would like to nominate for this award, please fill out and return the form below.

Nominee’s Name:

Home Address __________________________________ Telephone __________________________

City & State __________________________________ Zip Code__________________________

Name of School __________________________________

School Address __________________________________

City & State __________________________________ Zip Code__________________________

Nominator’s Name: _________________________________

Home Address __________________________________ Telephone __________________________

City & State __________________________________ Zip Code__________________________

Please attach names and addresses of others who should be officially notified if nominee is selected (principal, supervisor)

On separate sheets of paper (two pages only) please respond to the following:

1. Briefly describe the nominee’s background
2. Describe your reasons for recommending this person for this award.

Letters of recommendation from others are welcome.

Submit nominations to: Phil Astwood
(no later than Sept. 1, 1993) Center for Science Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-6920

Seascapes • Spring 1993
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!

Date: ____________________________

Name ____________________________ Occupation ____________________________

Home Address ____________________________ Place of Employment ____________________________

__________________________ ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Home Telephone Number ____________________________ Work Telephone Number ____________________________

Are you currently a member of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA)? ____ yes ____ no

Please send completed form with the $10.00 membership fee
(make checks payable to SCMEA) to:

Stan Rachelson, Secretary-Treasurer, SCMEA
Center for Science Education, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

Join NMEA . . .

. . . 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 or Title: ____________________________

__________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________

(Street or POB) (City) (State) (Zip)

--- Student - $15 --- Associate - $40
--- Active, 1 year - $25 --- Sustaining - $100 or more
--- Active, 2 years - $48 --- Life - $300 or more
--- Active, 3 years - $68 --- Patron - $500 or more

Institutional Memberships

--- Affiliate (includes libraries) - $35
--- Corporate - $250 or more

Are you currently a member of a regional chapter? ____ yes ____ no. If yes, which one? ____________________________

Please make check payable to NMEA and mail to: National Marine Educators Association
POB 51215, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
Are your dues current?
Check the one-digit number above your zip code on your mailing label. If it is not a "2" then it is past time for you to renew your membership. Please send your renewal check of $10 to SCMEA Secretary-Treasurer, Stan Rachelson, Center for Science Education, USC, Columbia, SC 29208. 1993 dues are payable at the Annual Fall Conference at Camp Saint Christopher.

SCMEA
c/o Center for Science Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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