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Summer's almost here and it is time to enjoy water!!!!

Can you remember the last time you visited an aquarium without being on a field trip? Have you strolled along the beach lately? Enjoyed a relaxing kayak trip in the Upstate recently? Taken a professional development workshop on a marine education topic? Our state offers so many ways to "engage with water." Challenge yourself to embrace water in a unique way.

Don't miss the 2015 SCMEA Conference in Greenville this October! Be sure to make plans to attend this year's conference. Travel scholarships and educators grants are available. Call for Presenters is now open.

Big things are on the horizon. We are pleased to announce that SCMEA will be the host for the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) annual conference in 2017.

We are thrilled to highlight our state's numerous marine resources. There is a lot of work ahead and we need your help. If you are interested in volunteering for a special planning committee please contact scmarineeducator@gmail.com.

From the Captain's corner,

Meika Samuel
SCMEA President
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 SCMEA Awards

SCMEA Marine Educator of the Year
This award recognizes the most outstanding marine educator in South Carolina. The recipient of this award will receive a $250.00 check, a five year membership in SCMEA, and an engraved plaque. To nominate an individual for this award, fill and submit this form no later than August 20, 2015.

The recipient of this award will be acknowledged at the annual conference and it is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the recipient is present during the awards ceremony. Traditionally, the award is a surprise to the individual receiving the honor.

**Only active members of SCMEA are eligible. Current SCMEA officers and members of the SCMEA board are NOT eligible. Previous awardees cannot receive this award. Tell us about a great Marine Educator that you know!**

Renkas Marine Education Grants
This award provides funding assistance for individuals implementing educational projects or programs and is named in honor of Cindy Renkas and her children, Brock and Jenna. Cindy was the first SCMEA Marine Educator of the Year, a NMEA Educator of the Year, and along with her children, has played a very active role in SCMEA.

Each year SCMEA gives several $200.00 grants. To apply for an education grant, fill out this form and submit it to the scholarship committee chair by August 31, 2015. Awardees must write an article describing the project for the SCMEA newsletter and submit copies of receipts to the treasurer within one year of receiving a grant.

**Only active members of SCMEA are eligible. Current SCMEA officers and current members of the SCMEA board are eligible. Previous awardees cannot receive this award two years in a row. Attendance at the annual conference awards ceremony is strongly encouraged. Award recipients will be notified by September 20, 2015.**

For any questions or concerns on SCMEA awards, please contact the SCMEA scholarship chair, Austin Brown at abrown@scaquarium.org.
Barrier Islands on the Move!
Teacher Workshop

Join South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium education staff and University of South Carolina scientists as we explore Hunting Island’s barrier island ecosystem! Teachers attending this workshop will:

- Learn about the dynamics of barrier island ecosystems;
- Understand how wave energy and currents influence erosion;
- Engage in hands-on, field-based activities that incorporate Google Earth technology and historical Hunting Island data;
- Gain new resources for use with their students; and
- Receive 5 renewal credits!

When: July 28, 2015
9 AM - 3 PM
Where: Hunting Island State Park, Beaufort, SC
Who: 5th—12th Teachers
Cost: FREE!
Deadline to Apply: July 15, 2015

To register: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K7G8THQ.
Or, scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone

Questions? Contact EV Bell at ev.bell@scseagrant.org

Stay up-to-date with other educational opportunities! Sign up for our education e-newsletter http://goo.gl/forms/hfw3JelB2H. Or, scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone.
My NMEA 2015 Conference Reflections

Where do I start? At the beginning of course! I attended my first NMEA conference in Newport, Rhode Island this summer. Additionally, this was my first summer visit to New England. If you are unaware, Newport, Rhode Island is beautiful. It’s a delightful ocean town with a tremendous history, and boats at every turn.

I enjoyed the many concurrent sessions, with themes ranging from ocean exploration to microplastics. I was inspired by fascinating people who shared their ideas and opinions on marine education. The NMEA conference provided a great amount of activities and information that I will definitely use in future programs.

The sessions were excellent but the evenings were the most fun! I attended an evening event at Fort Adams State Park that included a brief tour of the historic site and a dinner filled with New England staples: fish and chips, lobster roll, and clam chowder. The second evening was the hilarious live and silent auctions, where I won a raffle for the Tennessee Educators of Aquatic and Marine Science (TEAMS) chapter basket, also known as the “boozy basket.” The auction was followed by entertainment from the band Green Season featuring the NMEA president-elect, Bob Rocha. The last evening was a ticketed event to the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT. I danced with Juno, a beluga whale, and I had the opportunity to check out the travelling exhibit, Washed Ashore. This exhibit has over 20 sculptures created with marine debris. It was both profound and captivating to see.

To complete my trip, I joined the sea kayak tour around the historic Wickford Village. The scenery and charm of Wickford was incredible. I had to get on the water at some point!

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the NMEA 2015 Conference. I highly recommend you attend a NMEA conference, if you have not already. I plan on attending the NMEA 2016 Conference in Orlando, Florida, June 27-June 30. I am eager for SCMEA to host the NMEA 2017 Conference in Charleston, South Carolina and to continue to raise the bar of successful NMEA conferences! I hope you will join SCMEA in conference planning and be a vital part of this remarkable event!

Thankfully,

Lindsay Patterson
NMEA 2017 Conference Co-Chair
FREE Field Trip Opportunity at the South Carolina Aquarium!

Win a free field trip to the South Carolina Aquarium for a Structured School Program (SSP) during the 2015-2016 school year!

Application Deadline: Friday, Sept. 4

Winner receives free admission and a free standards-based classroom program. Classroom programs run from October 13, 2015 to May 13, 2016. Winners are chosen in September.

For more information and to apply, visit http://www.scaquarium.org/teachers/.

Contact Jaime Thom at jthom@scaquarium.org with any questions!

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Horsin’ Around on the USS Yorktown
An “Educator Science Café”
Monday August 3rd, 4-6pm

Cost: Free (Note: there is a $5 parking fee)
Registration required: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDGWROX

Registration includes:
- admission to USS Yorktown
- attendance to horseshoe crab lecture and exhibits
- educational giveaways
- refreshments

Registration deadline July 31st

Questions? Contact HGiddens@patriotspoint.org
The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, in partnership with the National Association for Interpretation, is offering a professional certification course for individuals who have public contact at interpretive sites.

The CIH Program
The Certified Interpretive Host program is designed for new hires, seasonals, docents/volunteers, maintenance workers, receptionists, law enforcement or anyone who has public contact but does not deliver interpretive programs to the public. It covers the basics of interpretation, customer service and hospitality, and using informal interpretation to support the agency mission.

This 16-hour course includes:

- History, definition, and principles of interpretation
- How to provide great customer service
- Hospitality and communication skills
- NAI Certification requirements (open book exam; video exam)
- All materials and workbook

Sessions begin at 8:00am and end no later than 5:00pm daily. Meals are not included and participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. To save resources, please bring a water bottle and a coffee cup. Sessions will be held in the classroom at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center.

To register for this class follow this link to the Park’s online registration site. Once there, click on the Certified Interpretive Host class listed under Interpretive Training or search for course 37552.

For more information about the course, please contact Beth Burkett at bburkett@ccprc.com or call 843-889-8898.
Schedule a School Program with Nonfiction Children’s Author Kevin Kurtz
October 7-14, 2015 & February 29-March 4, 2016

Kevin is a nonfiction children’s author who has over fifteen years of experience teaching school groups from kindergarten to high school. Kevin is available to do live school visits in South Carolina in October 2015 and March 2016. A visit from Kevin can include:

- A reading of any of his children’s books.
- An informative discussion of the content of the books based on grade-level science standards.
- A discussion about the process of writing a children’s book, to reinforce literacy skills and meet Common Core Curriculum standards.
- A question-and-answer period.
- A book signing.

*A Day in the Salt Marsh*, *A Day on the Mountain* and *A Day in the Deep* are about habitats and the plants and animals that live in them. To preview the books, read reviews and download standards-based, supplemental educational materials specific to each book, visit www.arbordalepublishing.com

*Uncovering Earth’s Secrets* was written through a National Science Foundation grant and is about the scientific research vessel, the JOIDES Resolution. It is available as a free eBook at http://joidesresolution.org/node/2998

Rates for live school visit:

- Schools may need to provide a hotel room in addition to program rate. All other travel fees are included in the program rate.
- All day visit at one school. Includes five 45-minute reading programs or writing workshops and book signings. $650
- Schools near each other can split a day into separate morning and afternoon visits. Each school visit would include two 45-minute programs and book signings. $325 for each school.
- Evening, family night programs also available.

For more information on scheduling a school program, contact Kevin at:
kevkurtz@gmail.com
or visit his website
http://kevinkurtz.homestead.com
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Enhance Your Classroom!

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!

South Carolina Aquarium

SeaScripts Summer 2015 Cover Photo
courtesy of Lindsay Patterson. Portuguese Man-o-War at Isle of Palms County Park.

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