

SeaScripts



The Newsletter of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association



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Summer 2016



SCMEA

The South Carolina Marine Educators Association

Captain's Corner

President's Letter

Hello!

I was recently involved in an exciting stormwater project to convert an existing dry detention pond to a bioretention cell. This low impact development (LID) practice essentially uses plants and soil to provide flood storage while also facilitating water infiltration and pollutant removal. The plants are small right now, but they will grow into a lovely garden that adds a touch of beauty to an otherwise functional site.

LID practices like bioretention, rain gardens, and permeable pavement slow stormwater runoff and minimize the amount of pollution that makes its way into our rivers, lakes, and oceans. This particular bioretention cell will trap sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, and bacteria before it flows into Lake Hartwell.

Working in the upstate, I sometimes get asked how and why I am involved in marine education. I am involved because our watersheds connect us all. Lake Hartwell is in the Savannah River Basin Watershed, which flows from the mountains of North and South Carolina along the South Carolina/Georgia border to the Atlantic Ocean at Savannah and Hilton Head. If I work to keep pollution out of Lake Hartwell, I am contributing to the health of the Atlantic Ocean.

As marine educators, I think it's important for us to get the point across that our upstream actions make a difference. It may be hard for people to make the connection and understand their role in ocean health, but no one said this job was easy!

Happy educating,

Rachel Davis

SCMEA President

Water Resources Agent

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service



Rachel (far right) with Clemson Extension coworkers

SEAS of change:

lowcountry lessons in resiliency
NMEA 2017 ★ CHARLESTON, SC



The **South Carolina Marine Educators Association** invites you to join us for NMEA

★ **June 25-29, 2017** ★

Drink some tea, eat a peach, and shag your way to *Charleston, SC!*

For more information

Visit NMEA2017.org



Contact info@nmea2017.org



NMEA AUCTION NEWS



Is your nest feeling crowded?

Let us help!



Photo credit: Keith McCullough

We are currently accepting donations for the NMEA 2017 conference auction.

Donations may be tax deductible and will generate good karma!

If you would like to contribute contact Beth Burkett at bburkett@ccprc.com or 843-762-9917.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Don't miss out on all the SCMEA fun, to renew your membership visit scomarineed.org



When you renew your SCMEA membership, you can receive a discount to apply to your NMEA membership at marine-ed.org, the perfect way to prepare for NMEA 2017 in beautiful Charleston!



Linneaus' Quarters

A light distraction for the taxonomically preoccupied



Every summer, visitors and locals alike are tickled to find manatees in our state's rivers and estuaries. West Indian Manatees generally make their way to South Carolina from Florida in the late spring, once waters approach



70° F, and will spend their summer days eating aquatic plants until they begin to move south in September and October. While manatees often aggregate around sources of fresh water, it must be noted that it is illegal to 'water' manatees. Watering manatees from docks often places them in danger of boat collisions, one of the main causes of manatee mortality in the southeast.

The manatees found in South Carolina belong to the genus *Trichechus*, combining the Latin *trich-* meaning hairs, and *-echein*, meaning to hold. Of course all mammals have hair at some stage of development, however most marine species not as prominently as the manatees. The species of the West Indian Manatee is the Latin *manatus*, likely a reference to 'having hands'.

It is one of four living species in the Order Sirenia, which includes the manatees and the dugong. They were often described as mermaids by sea-weary sailors (perhaps while wearing two eye patches), even Christopher Columbus in 1492. The legend of the mermaid has its origins in the Greek Sirens popularized in Homer's *Odyssey*, who would lure doomed sailors to shore with their alluring charms, only to have their ships dashed on the rocks.



Photos from the May 21st SCMEA meet up in the ACE Basin

The SCMEA Spring Meetup at Bennett's Point was a huge success with great weather and a great catch in the shrimp net about an SC DNR educational vessel in the ACE Basin! We had a great lunch and afternoon on the water, with lots of excitement about gearing up for NMEA 2017 in Charleston.



Upcoming SCMEA Awards!



Renkas Marine Education Grant

You'll thank us for the Renkas!

School is back in session! It's time to make all of those project ideas you cooked up over the summer a reality- and we can



help! Each year, we award up to six \$250 Renkas Awards. To apply for funding, visit <http://www.scmarineed.org/awards-and-scholarships.html> and complete the attached application form by October 1st. We are not able to award those that were selected last year. Awards are funded through proceeds from the annual SCMEA conference auction

SCMEA Marine Educator of the Year

Do you know a sea STAR?

Nominate a fellow educator for this prestigious award- the SCMEA Educator of the Year! The award winner will be presented with a \$250 check, a 5 year membership to SCMEA, an engraved plaque, and of course- celebrity status. Complete the form found here: <http://www.scmarineed.org/awards-and-scholarships.html> The recipient of this award will be announced on November 5th at the Charleston "meet-up."



2015 Marine Educator of the Year Beth Burkett

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For those in the lowcountry, consider attending the Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium Stormwater Pond Management conference this fall. Stormwater ponds are one of the most important best management practices in the region for protecting water quality. This is a great opportunity for community members to learn about protecting downstream water quality in their own neighborhood.

Save the Date

STORMWATER pond MANAGEMENT conference 2016

The 2016 Charleston Area Stormwater Pond Management Conference will be held on **NOVEMBER 3, 2016** at Trident Technical College, North Charleston, SC. To find out more, visit: www.ashleycooper.org

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SeaScripts Spring 2016 Cover Photo courtesy of SeaScripts editor and SC DNR Biologist Nick Wallover, taken above one of the many beautiful beaches of Beaufort County.

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, wallover@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:Nick.Wallover@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