SCMEA President

Gaye Christian

This is all of you for the new year—
should work to be a blessing to others. Please—
say we are all so happy, pleased that you can make 2009
and your support so that we can make 2009
a successful year. As a result, I'm very happy with
the membership and your support. Thank you for your
helpful information and feedback. Please give us your
information and ideas for 2009. I'm very happy with
the membership and your support. Thank you for your
helpful information and feedback.

The website is www.scmea.org. Please check
the website for the most current and updated information.

The conference was sponsored by the College of Charleston.

The conference was a huge success. Many thanks to our//@ sponsors.

Best wishes for the new year. I'm looking forward to 2009.
From the West Coast

Kevin Kurz

While pursuing my studies, I had also hoped to have time to continue writing children's books. So far, this has mainly been worthwhile thinking, but I have been working on manuscripts for magazine articles and new children's books as well as reading "A Day in the Salt Marsh" to school groups.

Kevin is an amazing place. I live about fifty miles from the coast, so I don't get to go every day, but what I have seen is also delightful. Forty-foot waves. Dunes taller than the 70's. The pounding white waves claw against the concrete. The wind howls through the boats, the weeds sway wildly. The entire landscape is alive with movement. It is a life that is being done with a group as supportive, talented, and fun as SCMEA.

Hopefully, I will be able to see you soon either in South Carolina or Oregon.
Discovering Marine Phytoplankton

By Dr. Steve Morton

Phytoplankton are found in fresh, brackish, estuarine, and marine waters. They are microscopic algae that produce their own food through photosynthesis. Phytoplankton play a crucial role in marine ecosystems, providing food for other marine life and serving as an important component of the ocean's biological community.

Phytoplankton are photosynthetic organisms that live in the ocean's surface layers. They are among the smallest plants on Earth, with some species measuring less than 0.1 mm in diameter. These tiny organisms are responsible for producing about half of the Earth's oxygen through photosynthesis.

Phytoplankton can be divided into two main groups: diatoms and dinoflagellates. Diatoms are single-celled organisms with a glass-like shell, while dinoflagellates are more complex, with two flagella that give them a whiplike motion.

Phytoplankton are categorized based on their size and the presence of pigments such as chlorophyll-a, which is the green pigment responsible for photosynthesis. Different species of phytoplankton have different light requirements, which allows them to occupy different layers of the ocean, from the surface down to the aphotic zone.

The study of phytoplankton can be a fun hands-on way to learn about basic biology. Plan the cell structure and function, and explore the diversity of marine life.
A Marine Mystery

By Keith McCullough

A Google image search of Tilby bones will produce hundreds of pictures of dogs named Tilby with their favorite bone. Keep digging (sorry about that, however) and you will find that these fish bones are named after Dr. Tilby Edinger who came up with the idea in the 1967's. Another bone has unique characteristics that are taught about by his students at Harvard. What is that thing we call a Tilby bone? It's a bone from an Atlantic Spadefish, known as a Tilby bone. A Tilby bone can be found in many fishes actually 92 species spanning 22 families so far! In Atlantic Spadefish it shows up in adults as an interal bone with a bulbus end. The teeth that are actually connect to it, in other fish, a Tilby bone shows up as something completely different. For example, in a certain species of snapper, it causes a large bump on the head. Yes, I've had my own experience with this.

The important thing to note here is that these changes in bone growth and development occur predictably within each species of fish. This seems to indicate that hypostoses in these fishes is a result of natural aging and not environmental factors such as disease or pollution. Still, the process is not fully understood. Research is still needed to help us understand how and why this occurs.

Save the date for the:

2008 SCMEA Mini-Conference
April 19, 2008 in Columbia

The conference will be a one-day event full of information, collaboration, discussion, and a field trip. Visit www.scmareec.org to learn more.

More information about Tilby bones can be found in:
Get your copy today!

(Scotland) accommodations were on the island and on the mainland. Scottish-accented tour guides explained the history of Scotland and its people. There were no problems with busy streets or traffic. But the city was not as polluted as expected. The air was fresh and clean, and the water was clear.

"I love Scottish landscapes and history. They are so different from what I'm used to."

"I hate Scottish food. It's too bland and boring."

"I don't understand Scottish culture. It's too different from what I'm used to."

"I love Scottish people. They are so friendly and welcoming."
Marine Happenings

SCMEA Calendar
February 9, 2008: Board Meeting in Santee
April 1, 2008: Deadline for Sea Scripts submissions for the Spring Issue
April 1, 2008: Deadline to apply for the NMEA travel award
April 19, 2008: Spring Mini-Conference in Columbia
May 31, 2008: Board Meeting at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Charleston
July 21-24, 2008: NMEA Conference in Savannah

Green Eggs and Sand
The Green Eggs and Sand/Horseshoe Crab & Shorebird Workshop
UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium
May 2-4, 2008
Looking to infuse a global biodiversity and current real-life resource management challenge into your classroom? Interested in meeting and learning firsthand from a select and diverse group of experts and stakeholders offering a wealth of knowledge and experience with the issues? Join the Green Eggs and Sand Team for a 2-day workshop at the University of Georgia Marine Education Center and Aquarium on Skidaway Island Savannah. Contact Dodie Sanders at sandersd@uga.edu to learn more.

Become a Master Naturalist
The Charleston County Master Naturalist Program is being hosted by the Caw Caw Interpretive Center. We will visit a number of important sites including Congaree National Park, Francis Marion National Forest, the ACE Basin, and the Santee Delta—the second largest river delta in the United States. The Master Naturalist program will meet every Tuesday from March 4 to May 27. For more information or to register for the program please visit www.scmarineed.org.

Ocean Sciences Education Leadership Institute
The Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence SouthEast (COSEE SE) invites middle and high school teachers, informal educators, and undergraduate and graduate students majoring in science education to participate in the sixth Ocean Sciences Education Leadership Institute in Wilmington, NC. Twenty-five selected participants will experience undersea research and technology and learn new information about the undersea habitats and features of the South Atlantic Bight. Participants will leave this Institute armed with new ideas, curricula materials, posters, and other resources for their students. The workshop will take place June 22-28, 2008 and the deadline to apply is March 17, 2008. For more information, see: http://www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting two exciting events this spring, May 2nd and 3rd at the Marine Resources Center on James Island.

Friday evening, May 2nd, the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund's Marine Conservation Banquet and Auction will be held at the Marine Resources Center’s facilities, located at Fort Johnson. The Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund Inc. was established in 1981 as a private, non-profit corporation to help support causes that directly relate to the conservation of wildlife, marine and other natural resources in South Carolina. The annual event raises significant funds for many education, research and management programs ongoing at DNR. For more information, visit www.hamptonwildlifefund.org.

The event will be hosted prior to the Marine Resources Center’s Open House on Saturday, May 3rd. Open House will also be held at the Marine Resources Center, and will feature seminars, demonstrations, informational displays, tours, exhibits and educational cruises. Exhibits will feature ongoing programs and projects, and the public will have an opportunity to interact with DNR biologists about their work. All events will be showcased throughout the day. The DNR would like to invite the public to Open House at the Marine Resources Center as an opportunity to explore how our stewardship, outreach, management and research efforts and decisions are protecting South Carolina’s coastal resources and its people.