From the Pilot House

By Craig Strang

Last summer, to launch our Strategic Planning process, NMEA administered a survey to learn more about the needs and interests of its members, former members, and others interested in ocean and aquatic science education. NMEA received 230 responses, including 69 from attendees of our spectacular Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to the surveys, we conducted several focus group interviews, and engaged both the current Executive Committee of the Board and the Past Presidents circle in a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. The results were fascinating, and provided us with thoughtful guidance that has influenced our planning and actions over the last year.

I would like to use my final Pilot House column to share with you some of the results from the survey. We will publish a report with all the details, but here are the highlights. Of the 230 responses, 26 percent came from teachers, 64 percent from informal educators, eight percent from scientists, and two percent from policy analysts.

The survey asked, **What are the most important ways that NMEA could address your personal marine education needs?** Here are the top two responses:

**NMEA should support the exchange of information and ideas among marine/aquatic educators, scientists, government agencies, and others.** Sixty-nine percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 98 percent said it was Very or Extremely Important. One hundred percent of the respondents from the Anchorage Conference rated this Very or Extremely Important. This consistent priority that our community places on exchanging information and ideas is both inspiring—a testament to our collaborative one-for-all and all-for-one spirit—AND a call to action to significantly improve the tools that our members have available to connect with one another. For the last year, led by Communications Consultant, Julie Henry, we have embarked on a dramatic and exciting overhaul of our presence online and in social media, explicitly to address this priority.

**NMEA should support professional growth opportunities for marine/aquatic educators that enable them to be more successful and effective in their jobs.** Fifty-one percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 91 percent said it is Very or Extremely Important. We know that most of our members associate professional growth with attending its National and Chapter Conferences, participating in workshops and reading our peer-reviewed journal. Increasingly, however, professional growth is also achieved through professional learning communities, online interest groups, and by reading blogs and other social media. In the coming years, NMEA must dramatically increase our ability to find each other just in time, so that we can learn from one another, collaborate together and help each other to grow and advance.

The survey asked, **What are the most important services and products that NMEA could provide to its members?** Here are the top two responses:
NMEA should have a dynamic and robust web site that provides access to marine education colleagues, educational resources, funding opportunities, and other marine education and science-related web resources. Fifty-five percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 90 percent said it is Extremely or Very Important. Beginning to see a trend yet? At the NMEA Executive Committee Meeting in January, we decided to move the NMEA web site and membership fulfillment services to an entirely new service, yourmembership.com. This association management system will allow us to speed up and automate many member services beginning with joining and renewing, allow members to create their own profiles, and participate in any of a host of social media experiences. We will complete transfer of our existing web site to the new system this summer, and then commence on a longer-term re-design of the entire site. Look for big changes soon.

NMEA should convene Annual Conferences of marine/aquatic educators and scientists. Fifty-five percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 83 percent said it is Very or Extremely Important. Not surprisingly, 97 percent of the respondents who attended the Anchorage Conference said this is Extremely or Very Important. If there is one thing that NMEA knows how to do, it is to conduct a great Conference. In recent years this, our greatest strength, has been at odds with the economic climate. Fewer government agencies, organizations, universities and schools are supporting travel. We can all see light at the end of this long and highly constrained tunnel, and we will continue to conduct great Conferences. Will I see you in Mobile?

The survey asked, What are the most important ways that NMEA works at the national level with other professional organizations, federal agencies, and Congress to make continuous improvements to marine and aquatic education? Here are the top five responses. More than 50 percent of respondents rated them all as Extremely or Very Important:

NMEA should serve as a highly trusted, inclusive, and visible advocate for marine environmental education. Sixty-six percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 92 percent said Very or Extremely Important. This is the essence of NMEA’s reason for being. NMEA is our professional home. The organization speaks on behalf of all of us, elevates the prominence and status of our field, and so, improves the context in which its members work. This non-partisan “advocacy” leads to enlightened policies and improved funding; it leads to the inclusion of ocean sciences in the mainstream curriculum, and it leads to respect among our peers in the various fields in which we collectively work: K-12 education, informal education, free-choice learning, university teaching, and more.

NMEA should lead efforts that promote the importance of Ocean Literacy to the general population. Fifty-eight percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 89 percent said it is Very or Extremely Important. This is no surprise for an organization with the tag line, “Making Known the World of Water!”

NMEA should support implementation of the Ocean Literacy Framework documents. Fifty-seven percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 89 percent said it is Very or Extremely Important. On the national scene of mainstream science education, NMEA is most well-known for its leadership, in collaboration with other partners, of the Ocean Literacy Campaign. The Ocean Literacy Framework, comprised of Ocean Literacy: The Essential Principles of Ocean Sciences K-12, and The Ocean Literacy Scope & Sequence for Grades K-12, have become the primary tool in our arsenal to Make Known the World of Water. It not only resulted in the inclusion of ocean sciences in the Next Generation Science Standards, but it catalyzed a thunderous cascade of scientists and educators in other disciplines to thoughtfully define for themselves what students and the public need to know about the Climate, the Atmosphere, Earth Science, the Great Lakes, Estuaries, Microbial Oceanography, Energy and even Neuroscience. The Ocean Literacy Framework has been translated into Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, and I believe, Australian! NMEA must, without a doubt, continue this work!

NMEA should support the development and dissemination of high quality marine education materials to educators, scientists, policy-makers, and the public. Fifty-six percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 91 percent said Very or Extremely Important. This response is closely related to the next one below.

The NMEA should support efforts to connect marine sciences with the Next Generation Science Standards. Fifty-three percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 88 percent said it is Very or
Extremely Important. Now that NGSS includes some ocean, climate and earth systems science, it is more important than ever for NMEA to step assertively forward to assist every state and school district with implementation of these new forward-thinking standards. NMEA must quickly step outside its comfortable boutique, and become visible to mainstream educators who have not previously perceived a need for ocean sciences materials and resources. This wave of opportunity, this watershed event, this turning of the tide (had enough?) won’t last forever, and won’t soon come again.

**NMEA should foster and cultivate quality relationships and information sharing between the marine education and the marine science communities.** Fifty-one percent of respondents said this is Extremely Important, and 92 percent Very or Extremely Important. Many of us, in recent years, have experienced the tremendous power and mutual benefit of bringing together scientists and educators in meaningful collaborations. We have moved beyond the day when educators call on scientists solely to review the content of our materials and exhibits after they are developed, and scientists use museums and aquariums solely as a venue for an occasional evening lecture. NMEA must strengthen its position as THE home for all those interested in teaching and learning about our Planet Ocean. NMEA members include teaching faculty in colleges and universities, research scientists in agencies and institutes, funders and policy wonks in NOAA, NASA, and NSF, as well as teachers and informal educators in more settings than most can imagine.

NMEA is at a crossroads. We need to step up and re-invent ourselves as a vibrant 21st Century, nimble, communications and media-savvy organization, poised and ready for the challenges described above, or slowly drift off the map of players in science education. I think I know which road we will choose—because I know and am inspired by so many of you on a daily basis.

Have I asked you lately—have you renewed your membership in the National Marine Educators Association? Come on, it’s the best $50 you’ll ever spend! [http://www.marine-ed.org/member.html](http://www.marine-ed.org/member.html)

## Johnette Bosarge Endowment Fund Established

**By Don Hudson**

The decision to create a permanent endowment fund in Johnette’s memory was made within days of her sad and untimely death. The Executive Committee recommended, and the board approved establishment of a named endowment fund that quickly reached nearly $5,000.

The purpose of Johnette’s fund is to support a new Conference Scholarship/Award, adding to NMEA’s ability to help members attend the annual events that Johnette loved so much. In order to provide $500 annually for this purpose, a fund of $12,500 must be established. If more than $12,500 is raised, the fund will also provide some small support for the National Office, which Johnette served so ably for so many years.

The overall endowment contributes five percent of its market value annually to NMEA operations; roughly one-third of its value to support the general NMEA scholarship fund, the National Office, and the publication of CURRENT respectively. Since Johnette’s fund is a scholarship/award fund, slightly more than one-third of the endowment now supports scholarships. The amount transferred to the operating account each year is determined by calculating the average market value of the trailing 12 quarters and taking five percent of that value. As of June 11, the endowment stands at $455,629 and it contributes more than $20,000—and growing—to the operating account annually.

It is important to remember the endowment is not a reserve or “rainy day” fund. NMEA’s endowment provides a stable source of income for program and administration and its principal cannot be spent.

Nine chapters representing hundreds of members, the National Office host institution: the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, and 23 individuals contributed $10,780.25 to Johnette’s fund by mid-June. The goal to reach $12,500 by the end of the Conference in Mobile is well within NMEA’s grasp. Less than 10 percent of the goal remains to be raised. And, the fund will be open to contributions forever. Who knows? In time, Johnette’s fund will grow to support multiple award scholarships as well as a portion of National Office expenses.

All contributions to the Johnette Bosarge Fund should be mailed to Don Hudson, NMEA Treasurer, 26 Mosquito Run, Arrowsic, ME 04530-7421. Checks may be “made out” to NMEA with a notation “Johnette
Bosarge Fund” on the memo line. Electronic contributions can also be accepted, and anyone interested can contact Don at: don@backriver.me for more information.

Thanks to everyone for helping establish the Johnette Bosarge fund. It is a meaningful and permanent way to celebrate her life and her love for NMEA.

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Sea the Gulf Join the Roux!

Sea the Gulf Join the Roux! Have you registered yet? Don’t be left out of what promises to be a fantastic time on the Gulf Coast! The Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME) is heading into the home stretch, and is looking forward to showcasing some warm Southern hospitality to its NMEA colleagues. With more than 100 Conference sessions offered, a keynote address from Richard Louv, great Southern cooking, culture, music, and field-trips for just about any interest, it is hoped participants will enjoy their time in the Deep South. For more details, visit: http://nmea.disl.org.
As I was prepping to write this article, I retrieved an old email that Bill Hastie sent me reminding me of the purpose of Gamming: “Gamming is meant to inspire, create, and pass on wisdom; to give recognition to unsung stars; to pass on stories, ideas, and dreams; to give meaning to our work; and to learn from seasoned and experienced marine and aquatic educators.”

Looking as those who are members of NMEA, I am hardly one to pass on wisdom or impart knowledge to the more experienced and seasoned marine educators of NMEA. But, I can pass on stories.

My youngest son, Duncan, is getting ready to begin his senior year of high school. We are making the college circuit to visit campuses he is interested in attending. One campus is the University of Chicago. I love telling him the story of his first visit to Chicago. He was three months old. I was President of NMEA and the Annual Conference was in Chicago that year. I held Duncan in my arms for most of the daylong board meeting, making sure not to knock him when I wielded the gavel. But for me, the best part of the Conference was an impromptu field-trip, with the Board of Directors and my two young sons and husband, to a Cubs game at Wrigley Field.

We took the “L” out to the ball game. We joined the “Bleacher Bums” in left field, ate hotdogs, and sang “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” with Harry Caray. We saw Sammy Sosa and Barry Bonds swing at home plate. It was magical! It was a blast! It was fantastic to share such a great time with such wonderful colleagues and friends. It was like a family reunion. I have come to view most of the NMEA Conferences as that—a great big family reunion. I looked forward to connecting with my marine family each year.

Over the years, I have porpoised “in and out” of NMEA. My career has taken me away from the day-to-day of marine education. Yet, I still know that at my core, NMEA and its members have been and are key to me. In the past few years, we have lost some very dear members of NMEA. It is this family that continues to be there for each other as we grieve their loss and celebrate their contributions to marine education and to all of us. I am happy in the knowledge that my sons are part of this marine family. It would be very fitting for Duncan to go to the University of Chicago; after all, he has some family ties in the city—dating back to his first NMEA Conference.
Coming to the 2013 NMEA Conference in Mobile?

By Susan Haynes

Since the early 1970s, the NMEA has been “where people representing all aspects of marine education get together to discuss common (ideas and concerns in the field), and share expertise, resources, and experience.” (NMEA, 1976) On Monday, July 22 at 8:45 a.m., during the first round of concurrent sessions, many people who play roles in the NMEA on the national level will share a brief history of the organization, NMEA’s primary goals, some of the association’s major activities and achievements, the work of the many NMEA committees and how one can get involved, and what to expect during the week via social media. Come meet (and tweet) with the current NMEA leadership and learn what is new with the organization and how you can become more involved.

NMEA Announces Keynote Speakers for 2014 Conference

By Tami Lunsford

Keynote speakers for the NMEA 2014 Conference to be conducted July 21-25 in Annapolis, MD include Dr. Edie Widder, Dr. Michael Wysession, and Dr. Rita Colwell.

Dr. Edie Widder is a biologist and deep-sea explorer who is applying her expertise in oceanographic research and technological innovation to reversing the worldwide trend of marine ecosystem degradation. She is a specialist in bioluminescence and has been a leader in helping design and invent new submersible instrumentation, and equipment to enable unobtrusive deep-sea observations. In addition to her many accomplishments and speaking engagements, she has given three “Ted talks” (http://www.ted.com/speakers/edith_widder.html).

Dr. Michael Wysession is an Associate Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. For more information on Dr. Wysession, visit his Web site at: http://epsc.wustl.edu/seismology/michael/web/index.html. His research specialty is seismic waves and he is very involved in Earth science literacy on a national level. He was also team leader for the Earth and Space Science Design team for the National Research Council project to create the new framework for K-12 science education, and then served on the organizing committee for the writing of the Next-Generation Science Standards.

Dr. Rita Colwell is Chairman of Canon U.S. Life Sciences, Inc. and Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (http://www.cbcb.umd.edu/~rcolwell/). She has been President of the University of Maryland and Biotechnology Institute and Professor of Microbiology and Biotechnology at the University of Maryland and was the 11th Director of the National Science Foundation.

2013 “Living on the Ocean Planet” Divisional Winners Announced

By Amanda Holloway, Lauren Rader, Susan Haynes

The divisional winners of the 2013 National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) “Living on the Ocean Planet” video contest have been announced. The NOSB collaborated with the NMEA to select and award prizes to both the divisional and national winners.

For the 2013 contest, students created a video on this year’s NOSB theme, A Window into Freshwater Science. The students contributed fun and creative videos. To view them, visit: http://www.nosb.org/2013/2013-living-on-the-ocean-planet-divisional-winners-announced-and-entered-into-fan-favorite-contest/. Appreciation goes to all the regional NMEA Chapters for their sponsorship of the awards for these young ocean stewards!
NMEA is Searching for a Social Media Rockstar!

By Julie Henry

Do you have experience in social media and a passion for all things marine and freshwater? Are you dreaming of ideas concerning how the NMEA could shape its digital influence using blogs, posts, tweets, and pins? Are you excited when you hear about a scientist going to sea and thinking how the NMEA could use live tweeting to get others excited and one day support and join this organization?

The NMEA is looking for a creative, entrepreneurial-minded person to coordinate its digital community engagement in the role of Social Media Community Manager and Editor. The Association has developed a position with flexible location requirements and work hours (part-time/contract) to cast the net far and wide for talent and expertise. If this position peaks your interest, “check out” the job description at: http://marine-ed.org/docs/community_mgr.pdf and submit your cover letter and resume to: dreinke@imms.org. The Search Committee began reviewing applications July 1 and the position will remain open until filled.

Committee Updates

Education Research Committee

By Meghan Marrero

The Education Research Committee encourages all NMEA members to submit proposals to the Education, Research, and Evaluation session for the NMEA 2013 Conference in Mobile. This strand will include typical research-length sessions of 15 minutes, an ideal venue for members to share their on-going projects in the areas of marine or aquatic education research, program evaluation, the learning of sciences, and more. Graduate students are especially welcome to share their research results or literature reviews and acquire ideas and feedback from seasoned professionals in the field. Anyone interested in joining the Education Research Committee is asked to contact Meghan Marrero at: megconk@yahoo.com.

Expanding Audiences Committee

By Tami Lunsford

The Expanding Audiences Committee is pleased to announce it will send six awardees to the NMEA 2013 Conference. If you meet LuAnne Ashley, Nermeen Dashoush, Deirdre Englehart, Dieuwertje (DJ) Kast, Lezlie Silverstein, or Darrell Walker at the Conference, please give them a warm NMEA welcome. They will be first-time NMEA attendees. For more information on the EA Committee, or to become involved, please contact the EA Chair, Tami Lunsford, at: tami.lunsford@gmail.com.

Membership Committee

By Lynn Whitley

The Membership Committee’s goal is to increase and retain the membership of the NMEA. Everyone is invited to participate. Share the word with friends and organizations and let them know of the value of NMEA membership. CURRENT journal with relevant and informative information, NMEA News for updates, networking opportunities, amazing conferences, and many popular aquariums and science centers offer substantial discounts to NMEA members. As always, ideas are welcomed. Please contact Lynn Whitley or Bill Andrake, or any member of the Committee with input. Anyone attending NMEA in Mobile may join the Membership Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 23 at 7 a.m. The location will be announced at the Conference. Hope to see you in Mobile!
Social Media Committee Update

By Laura Diederick

The Social Media Committee hit the “pause” button as the organization re-evaluated its communication and marketing strategies, but is “jumping back into action” just in time for the Annual Conference in Mobile. If you are not already following us on Facebook and Twitter, be sure to visit us at:/NatlMarineEd to stay connected. Those not attending the Conference can stay connected by following the official Conference hashtag - #nmea14.

The Social Media Committee is always open to new members. It will be conducting a meeting via conference call on Tuesday, June 18 at 2 p.m. EDT. Anyone wanting to participate may email Laura Diederick at: Diederick@si.edu for the call-in information. The Committee will also meet during #nmea14, so be sure to find us if you’re there!

Chapter Reports

Florida Marine Science Educators Association (FMSEA)

By Laura Diederick

The Florida Marine Science Educators Association (FMSEA) “wrapped up” a busy spring season with multiple events around the state and a successful Annual Conference. Its Regional Directors organized several FMSEA outings in their areas, including a tour of Riverview High School’s fin-tastic science facilities in Sarasota and kayaking and hiking in St. Petersburg’s Fort Desoto State Park. Several other regional events are already in the works, so be sure to visit the Chapter Web site for details. The Annual Conference was conducted May 2-5 in Fort Pierce, hosted by the Smithsonian Marine Station and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. The theme, “Changing Environments: Old Florida, New Science,” aimed to underscore new technologies and novel approaches to adapting to the ever-changing natural, academic and economic environments.

The 125 Conference attendees were treated to an exceptional line-up of keynote speakers: Smithsonian researcher, Dr. Candy Feller, spoke about her work on mangroves around the world and how climate change is influencing their range expansion; NMEA President, Craig Strang, addressed the changes in science education across the country with the release of the Next Generation Science Standards and the adoption of the Common Core Standards, highlighting the impacts on and of the marine science education community; and deep-sea explorer, Dr. Edie Widder, spoke on her role in capturing the first video footage of a live giant squid. Additional highlights included an exhibit hall, five concurrent sessions on a variety of education topics, resources and programs, and a research track with nine presentations by Smithsonian and Harbor Branch scientists.

The Annual Silent Auction also raised almost $1800 for the FMSEA Scholarship fund, which provides members with financial support to participate in professional development activities, including the FMSEA and NMEA Conferences.

The FMSEA has continued to take strides in improving communications with its membership and maintaining transparency. The redesign of it Web site, www.fmsea.org, several years ago was a great first step, and updates and improvements to the site continue. In addition to blog posts by Regional Directors and board members, the FMSEA has added a new History section: http://fmsea.org/about/history. This page will not only be home to stories and pictures of activities past, but will also serve as a virtual library of the FMSEA archives. Current entries include the History of FMSEA, written during the 30th anniversary year of the organization, and the first annual Year-End Journal. As historical documents continue to be digitized, the library will grow, so be sure to “check back” often.

Florida is a great place to earn CEUs through professional development workshops. Anyone looking for hands-on, feet-wet educational opportunities this summer, be sure to peruse the Regional Blogs for upcoming opportunities at: http://fmsea.org/news/.
Georgia Association of Marine Educators (GAME)
By Angela Bliss

The Georgia Association of Marine Educators (GAME) is preparing for its annual Fall Conference which will be conducted Sept. 27-28 on Georgia’s Jekyll Island. The 2013 Conference theme will be “Coastal Collaborations: Working Together for Marine Education” and will focus on how members are using limited, to no-funds for projects and programs, forging new partnerships, and utilizing networks and collaborations. The GAME is soliciting proposals and researching options for the Friday evening keynote and Saturday morning panel. Additionally, it will be offering participants one Professional Learning Unit (PLU) for attending the Conference and field-trips. GAME President, Alicia Marin, and President-Elect, Gale Lizano, are leading the organization in Conference coordination and planning.

The GAME welcomed its newest member, Marin Shell, daughter of Alicia Shell. Marin was born April 8, and is absolutely gorgeous. Her mom will most definitely teach her a love of the marine world. Congratulations, Alicia!

In addition to volunteering in the February NOSB and assisting in the NOSB video judging, the GAME explored options to increase its visibility and accessibility to a larger audience, particularly undergraduate and graduate students. It is also encouraging conference attendance and assisting its members with marine science needs. The GAME’s Inland Representative, Kim Morris Zarneke, planned an inland meeting, “Manta Mania,” at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

Since last fall, the GAME Board finalized Conference scholarships available for new and existing GAME members and created mini-grant awards for GAME members interested in marine science-based experiences. The Chapter now offers student rates and early bird rates on Conference Fees.

The GAME conducted its annual Sapelo Island field-trip and is working with its new Field-Trip Coordinator, Nathan Williams, to offer at least two field-trips throughout the year.

The GAME has a new Web page: http://gamarineeducation.org/ that allows board members to update content directly. Paul Medders, GAME Web Communications coordinator, has led the efforts in this tedious process. The GAME has also migrated to a new newsletter format offered through Gov Delivery. Its historic printed newsletter and emailed newsletter, Whale Tales, is now known as eNews.

Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association (GOMMEA)
By Mary Cerullo

The Gulf of Main Marine Education Association (GOMMEA) co-hosted a Science Café on May 13 that featured a researcher who is studying chambered nautilus populations. The event also featured two young boys who have raised nearly $10,000 to help fund this research through a Web site they created: www.savethenautilus.com.

Gregory Jeff Barord, a PhD student at City University of New York, and Maine students Joshua and Ridgeley explained their campaign to protect the nautilus, an ancient animal that has roamed the deep ocean virtually unchanged, for nearly 500 million years. Yet a mere 50 years of unregulated harvesting has severely depleted nautilus populations across the Indo-Pacific. Underwater videos taken by the scientists document the extent of population decline, as well as providing insights into their habitat, species diversity, and some of the first observed behaviors of nautiluses in the wild. Many thanks to GOMMEA Board member, Cynthia Randall, who arranged for Cornerstones of Science, the Portland Public Library, and the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association to host this inspiring presentation.

May 18 and 19, trip leaders Carol Steingart, of the GOMMEA, along with Lisa Lavalley of the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association, hosted educators for a weekend at the Shoals Marine Lab. Activities included seal watching on duck island, tidepooling and microscopy, a bird banding demonstration, and a natural history walking tour. A sustainability tour put into perspective the advances the lab has undergone since the mid-1960s to conserve valuable and limited island resources, while making great strides to “get off the grid.” Worthy of recognition was the delectable food Chef Charlotte prepared for every type of herbivore and carnivore. Participants left the island on Sunday with an overview of the Lab, new ideas to share with their students, many photos, new friendships, and a few extra pounds!

June 19 GOMMEA members toured the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Gray, ME. The guide, Dr. Lightning (AKA Dr. John Jensenius), explained how his office coordinates weather information for northern New England. He discussed how they forecast rain, snow, hurricanes, and, of course, thunderstorms, using new and traditional methods, including satellites, weather balloons, and the Dual-pol radar, which tracks storms as well as bird and bug

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**Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)**

*By Tami Lunsford*

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) conducted its Delaware Mini-Conference with 12 educators from Delaware, D.C., and Virginia, gathered for “Hulls, Hops, and Horseshoe Crabs,” a day of kayaking on the Broadkill river, touring and tasting at the Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, and then helping count horseshoe crabs during the high tide mating extravaganza. It was an educational day for members who have participated in many MAMEA events and for teachers who were new to MAMEA and NMEA.


The MAMEA has also announced that Terri Kirby-Hathaway has co-authored a book coming to bookstores near you soon: *North Carolina’s Amazing Coast: Natural Wonders from Alligators to Zoeas!* Terri, along with Kathleen Angione, teamed with Georgia writers David Bryant and George Davidson, and illustrator, Charlotte Ingram. To learn more about North Carolina’s Amazing Coast, visit: [www.ncseagrant.org/s/AmazingCoast](http://www.ncseagrant.org/s/AmazingCoast). Information on all MAMEA events, grants, and awards can be found on the MAMEA Web site: [www.mamea.org](http://www.mamea.org).

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**Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME)**

*By Bill Andrake*

As another school year came to a close, the Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME) looked back at an active spring with a variety of events and programs for its students and educators. For the first time in its 30-year history, the MME conducted two High School Marine Science Symposia simultaneously on March 20. The “South” event took place, as it has for many years, at the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth. For the first time, the MME conducted a “North” symposium at Endicott College in Beverly which helped reach students and teachers on the north shore of Massachusetts. The two events brought more than 500 high school students, with their teachers, to these campuses. More than 30 presenters conducted workshop sessions in marine-related areas for the students with each program, highlighted by keynote speakers.

With its theme, “The Global Ocean,” the MME conducted its 27th Annual Meeting and Conference April 6 at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The program was highlighted by presentations from three Woods Hole scientists. Carole Anne Clayson discussed her research into the changing water cycle while Kevin Anchukaitis linked the records in tree rings to El Nino and La Nina events. Michael Polito revealed how climate change is impacting the marine food web in the Antarctic. In addition to the presentations, the day offered a reception for new members, exhibits, teacher share, oceanography cruise, and tours.

Along with its annual awards, the business portion of the day included the transfer of the Presidency to Conference Chair, Erin Hobbs, and the opportunity to honor MME friend and mentor, Jack Crowley. Jack is a founding member of MME and has been the Executive Director of the organization for more than 40 years. Jack officially “stepped down” this spring and MME Past President and NMEA Board member Bob Rocha will now assume this position. The Summer 2013 issue of the MME quarterly on-line journal, *Flotsam and Jetsam*, has been dedicated to the “Changing of the Guard.”

The MME will conduct its annual Boston Harbor Educators Conference at UMass Boston Sept. 28. The event will include keynote presentations, teacher workshops, and an afternoon cruise to Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor.

The MME has once again worked with Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary to offer a Marine Art Contest to K-12 students. The contest has been very successful as the MME has received more than 800.
entries from students throughout the United States and as far away as China! Award-winning art is exhibited throughout the year at major venues in Massachusetts. A calendar featuring the winning art entries from last year can be downloaded from the MME Web site:

Along with conferences and contests, the MME has sponsored social events. May 18 members took an afternoon sail in Gloucester aboard the schooner, Ardelle. Built by volunteers in Essex, MA, this wooden vessel is a celebration of traditional boat-building methods and has become an important part of the educational programs offered through Maritime Gloucester. To learn more about the MME and its activities, visit: www.massmarineeducators.org.

Northwest Aquatic Marine Educators (NAME)
By Bill Hanshumaker

The BC Chapter has been preparing for the Annual Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators (NAME) Conference in Crescent Beach, BC. The organizing committee has been meeting biweekly since October and has completed much work. The Conference was set to be conducted from July 14-18 at Camp Alexandra. The plenary speakers include the Federal Green Party leader, Elizabeth May. The NAME has been utilizing flashmail, email, personal networks, and Facebook to advertise the Conference. For more information, visit the Sky-2-Sea Web site.

The NAME is finalizing dates for its 2014 Conference to be conducted in Oregon. Currently, the two weeks “on the board” are July 6-10 (with better times for paddle trips during the week) or July 13-17 (better morning low tides for intertidal activities. The preferred location is in Bandon, located on the Southern Oregon Coast where the Coquille River meets the Pacific; it is 90 miles north of the California border, about a 90-minute drive to Interstate 5 at Roseburg, and five hours by car from Portland. While the location is farther south, the area provides a wealth in terms of habitats within reach, numerous community partners, and accommodations perfect for an annual NAME Conference.

The NAME Web site, www.pacname.org, is now hosting both modules from the Oregon Coast Education program (OCEP) as well as registration and promotion for three upcoming OCEP workshops in June and August. For more information, visit: http://www.pacname.org/OCEP/ocep_mod.shtml.

New Jersey Marine Education Association (NJMEA)
By Melanie Reding

“Every year you outdo yourselves” was one of many positive responses from the New Jersey Marine Education Association’s (NJMEA) annual professional development opportunity, “Teach at the Beach (TATB),” conducted May 17. This year’s TATB was co-hosted by NJ Academy for Aquatic Sciences at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden and the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, PA. During this daylong event, participants were connected to these two waterfront locations by ferry. This unique dual location brought marine science education to two very different inner cities, connected to the ocean by way of the same historical and vital Delaware River.

Seventy participants attended the event, choosing from a variety of activities that included: “Building Underwater Vehicles,” “Science Literacy,” “Sharks: The Big, the Bad, the Toothy,” “Simple Machines at Sea,” “Ocean Science in the Special Education/Inclusion Classroom,” and many more.

This year’s location was chosen to increase participation, in NJMEA, of educators teaching in urban environments both in New Jersey and Philadelphia. “Reaching-out” to urban educators is one of many new strategies NJMEA is pursuing to increase participation and awareness of the organization. NJMEA’s June meeting focused on strategic planning and planning the fall workshop, “Science Education at Sea,” scheduled for Oct. 3.

New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA)
By Merryl Kafka

What do tectonic plates, fish tanks, estuaries, and Albatross have in common? They all were included in topics presented at the April 28 Marine Science Share-a-thon Workshop conducted at Mercy College, located in Dobbs Ferry, NY on the Hudson River. The New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) teamed with Mercy College and New York Sea Grant Extension to conduct this marine and aquatic education event.

“Six presenters shared their knowledge and expertise with more than 25 participants, including K-12 classroom teachers and informal environmental educators at this half-day workshop,” said Nordica Holochuck, Hudson Estuary specialist at New York Sea Grant.
I was happy to work with fellow NYSMEA members to pull this event together along the shore of the Hudson,” added Megan Marrero, NYSMEA President. “This event was a great opportunity for educators to share with other educators. Teachers are excited to incorporate marine and aquatic science in their curricula.”

The NYSMEA is a platform for connecting its community of marine science educators and supporting and encouraging people new to marine education. This is the second Share-a-thon New York Sea Grant has organized. In March the NYSMEA Share-a-thon event was hosted by Columbia University in New York City. This type of event is proving to be successful and worthy of replication. The NYSMEA is interested in forming marine science education partnerships and welcomes participation from all interested. For future information about Share-a-thons and NYSMEA, contact Holochuck at: nch8@cornell.edu, or visit the New York State Marine Education Association Web site at: www.nysnea.org.

Beside the Verrazano Bridge, the entry to the port of New York, is a little-known landing called Denyse Wharf. Historically used for military boats during the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776, the Civic War, and World War II, Denyse Wharf, with its robust Belgian blocks and crumpled concrete slabs, can tell stories of past victories and of current neglect—until Tom Green from the NYSMEA came along.

On a breezy Sunday, dozens of schoolchildren and their parents joined forces with Thomas F. Greene and Blanca Ching, both Executive Board members of the NYSMEA and co-founders of the Friends of Denyse Wharf. Tom and Blanca, colleagues, dedicated activists, and educators, have been organizing annual clean-ups of Denyse Wharf for many years, along with teaching hundreds of students how to measure oysters, use microscopes, identify plankton, and conduct basic water-quality assessments. These field techniques were a new and fun experience for the students. Not only does it build science content and process skills in situ, rather than in school, it leaves students with rewarding feelings that they can make a difference and help protect our coastlines. This year the youngsters were introduced to kayaking and loved it.

Tom Greene is the former (Ret.) Assistant Principal from Ft. Hamilton High School in Bay Ridge and currently an Adjunct Professor of Oceanography at Kingsborough Community College, and Past President of NYSMEA. Blanca Ching teaches Earth Science and Marine Science at Ft. Hamilton High School and is an Adjunct Professor at the College of Staten Island, and is on the NYSMEA Conference Committee.

The NYSMEA has a change in its Conference season, venue and theme, and will embrace fresh water ecosystems. Scheduled Sept. 20-22, the Conference title is “SEA Where Rivers Run: The Hudson to the NY Bight.” With the help from its upstate partners, NYS Sea Grant and the DEC, the NYSMEA will offer workshops, field-trips, and expert speakers on Hudson River denizens. The host of the Conference is Black Rock Forest Consortium, a not-for-profit, privately owned 3,850-acre preserve dedicated to advancing the understanding and preservation of our natural world through conservation, education, and research. With labs, classrooms, field stations, and lodging in new green-designed buildings, the NYSMEA will “get its minds and hands wet” in fresh water explorations that have a connection to the sea.

OCEANIA

By Mark Heckman

Following a great spring (thanks to members who helped judge the NSOB videos), OCEANIA has launched into summer with its members leading a variety of marine science programs:

At the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), Dr. Malia Rivera has begun a five-week intensive “Research Experiences in Marine Sciences” program for local high school students. During the program, students work in small research teams with graduate level mentors. Instead of doing a standard marine science survey course, the focus is on learning and utilizing authentic research methods and experience. Community programs for Marine Science overnight at the research facility and education programs for grades 5-12 are also “packed.”

The Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE) and the University of Hawaii’s School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) are “stepping up” efforts to stimulate interest in ocean and Earth science majors and careers among students in Grades 6-14, particularly those from underrepresented and underserved populations. Recent and upcoming events include Ocean FEST and TECH science events for middle and high school students, a summer bridge program with Kapiolani Community College, and career fairs for undergraduate students featuring ocean and earth science professionals. For more information, contact Barb Bruno at: barb@hawaii.edu.

COSEE Island Earth (Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence) celebrates its first year of the “All Things Marine” radio program, and the launch of “Sea Harmony.” This is an online site where OCEANIA members, educators, marine managers, and scientists can find each other and connect. To be more specific, “Sea Harmony” aims to:

- Help ocean scientists identify and develop broader impacts opportunities and collaborators for their research.
- Improve ocean literacy, public understanding, and decision-making by connecting scientists, educators, cultural practitioners, and resource managers in compatible, successful partnerships.
- Enhance interest in ocean science career pathways by facilitating interaction of scientists with teachers and students.

Colleagues on all of the Hawaiian islands continue with a similar pace. OCEANIA looks forward to meeting this summer at the Hawaii Environmental Education Alliance meeting prior to the Annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. This year’s session, organized by OCEANIA Board Member, Carlie Wiener, will be “Mauka to Makai” on July 15. The topic of the session will focus on the communication of marine sciences to classrooms and informal audiences.

Finally, OCEANIA is looking to fall when members will host a collaborative marine science session at the Hawaii State Science Teachers Association Annual Conference instead of conducting its own meeting after the Conference, as it has done in the past.

Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME)
By Tricia LeBlanc

The Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME) has announced that Belinda Matlock is the recipient of the SAME NMEA 2013 Scholarship Award. Belinda has been leading students on field-trips along the Gulf coast for more than 20 years and shared her experiences through professional development meetings and conferences. She has also grown the fourth grade science programs at both Lamar School and Meridian Public Schools. Belinda promotes the SAME and the NMEA at all of her professional meetings and shares her passion for making known the world of water both salt and fresh anytime, anyplace, and anywhere. She is a walking testimonial for our world’s ocean.

South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA)
By Samuel Meika

The South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA) board members conducted its most recent quarterly board meeting in May. The Chapter is applying to the IRA for 501(c)3 status and will be updating its Articles of Incorporation. The SCMEA was represented during a concurrent session at the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEAC)’s annual conference in June at Camp St. Christopher, Johns Island, SC.

This year’s recipient of the Jacques Cousteau Memorial NMEA Conference Travel Award is Robin Sheek, a teacher at Laing Middle School in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Please give Robin a warm welcome to Mobile! Scholarships and awards are funded through proceeds from the annual SCMEA Conference Auction and through the generous matching support of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. The 2013 Annual Fall Conference will be conducted Nov. 1-2 at Fr. Johnson Marine Complex on James Island with the theme, “A Look into the Future of Ocean Science.”

Southwest Marine/Aquatic Educators Association (SWMEA)
By Judith Coats

Around the Southwest, the Southwest Marine/Aquatic Educators Association (SWMEA) members have been busy. In San Diego, Linda Chilton from USC Sea Grant organized an Aquatic Invasive Species workshop for formal and informal educators. The two-part workshop began on May 11 at the Ocean Discovery Institute along Mission Bay with presentations from Dr. Jeff Crooks from Tijuana River Estuary National Estuarine Research Reserve System and Theresa Talley from Sea Grant, Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Participants then scoured the shoreline identifying plant and animal species. The second follow-up session on June 1 was conducted at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center with a focus on creating citizen science-based projects for middle schools students.

Traveling up the coast, The Aquarium of the Pacific has teamed up with Cascadia Research Collective since 2010, creating an interactive database of images identifying blue, fin and humpback whales swimming offshore. For more information, visit: http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/whaleproject.

Educators who “happen to be” in Northern California this summer in late July—and not attending the Annual NMEA Conference in Mobile—are invited to consider enrolling in the GEMS Curriculum Sequences: Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 6-8 to be conducted July 22 and 23 at the Lawrence Hall of Science. To register, visit: https://www.regonline.com/OSS68workshop2013.

Current SWMEA board Members and the Past President have been busy soliciting candidates for upcoming elections. Positions open include: President, Chapter Representative, and Membership/Treasurer. The term will be served for two years. Elections should be conducted within the next few months. The SWMEA has 81 members.
The Tennessee Educator of Aquatic and Marine Science (TEAMS) Professional Development Conference was conducted May 3-5 at Paris Landing State Park on the banks of the Tennessee River. The TEAMS members met new friends, saw old friends, and learned new ideas. A variety of sessions provided information, including how to prepare for teacher evaluations in the science classroom, using children’s literature and foldables to teach the water cycle, a project WET watershed activity, and ocean classification and food chains. The Next Generation Science Standards were reviewed and discussed. Phosphil samples from a North Carolina phosphate mine were given to all participants. Many different fossils were found and identified during this session.

A “water quality” session was conducted to determine the health of a local stream. Participants used chemical tests and electronic probes to discover dissolved oxygen, pH, and nitrogen levels of water from a nearby stream. Stream health was determined by collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Another field-trip encompassed a tour around Paris, TN that included a stop at the Paris Winery.

The TEAMS Board Members will meet in August to prepare for presentations at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association Conference, to be conducted Nov. 7-9 at Murfreesboro, TN. TEAMS members will conduct an entire day of sessions for Tennessee teachers.

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**Join NMEA!**

ACTIVE: Any person who supports the goals of NMEA.
1 year—$50; 2 year—$98; 3 year—$148.

CHAPTER: Any person who belongs to a regional chapter.
1 year—$45; 2 year—$88; 3 year—$133.

FAMILY: Active members receiving only one set of mailings per household.
1 year—$75.

ASSOCIATE: Any person providing additional support to NMEA.
1 year—$65.

LIFE: Any person who wishes to join as an active member for life. $600 or more.

INSTITUTIONAL: Any active nonprofit organization with goals similar to NMEA.
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CORPORATE: Any company or organization involved with the marine education market.
$300 or more.

STUDENT: Any full-time student, 1 year—$25.

Name___________________________________________________
Title/Occupation___________________________________________
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You may join online at [http://nmeaweb.org/membership.html](http://nmeaweb.org/membership.html).

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Please make check payable to NMEA and mail with this form to: NMEA, P.O. Box 1470, Ocean Springs, MS 39566-1470, (228-701-1770), Web site: [http://marine-ed.org](http://marine-ed.org). International members: please add $10 U.S. currency only, drawn on a bank with a U.S. branch.