

NMEA News

NMEA Mission...To make known the world of water, both fresh and salt.

Volume 25, Issue 4, Winter 2009 www.Marine-ed.org Newsletter of the National Marine Educators Association

From the Pilot House

By J. Adam Frederick

By the time this article appears, it will be nearing the start of winter along with a question, “where did fall go?” Time has slipped quickly through our collective grasp, but the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) activity has been moving right along. First, I would like to officially welcome the members of the Executive Committee for 2009-2010. These members have already been busy with a number of items and their time and effort are greatly appreciated.

The members of the new Ex Comm are: Adam Frederick, Justine Glynn, Eric Simms, Don Hudson, Beth Jewell, Sharon Walker, Diana Payne, Craig Strang, Courtney Kroll-Thompson, and Susan Haynes. As always, we are greatly assisted by Johnette Bosarge. Again, the Ex Comm members are called upon for approval and advice concerning all things NMEA.

To back-track a bit, I have some information from Rita Bell concerning the NMEA 2009 Conference. First, some information on demographics: there were 398 attendees at Asilomar and the break-out related to the chapter membership consisted of: 35 percent from states supported by the Southwest Marine/Aquatic Education Association (SWMEA), 13 percent from states supported by the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA), and 9

percent from the Florida Marine Science Education Association (FMSEA). Of these, one third are formal education teachers (Pre K – university level). One third are informal educators (at aquariums, zoos, and nature and outdoor centers). One third are educators or other staff at government agencies or non-profits. Rita noted that according to the survey, there were few scientists and researchers.

The post-conference survey was completed by 120 respondents. Some of the highlights: One third were first time attendees and 60 percent presented. Top reasons for attending: networking, professional development, presenting, and finding out what’s new in the field. Ninety-five percent plan to attend future conferences. That is certainly great news!

And now for what you’ve all been waiting for, the budget summary. You might want to “sit down” for this. The beloved NMEA auction made \$15,000 and the 2009 Conference Committee received \$35,000 in grants: \$30,000 NOAA and \$5,000 from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A total of \$6,360 was collected for NMEA membership dues. Drum roll.....the total profit for NMEA is about \$60,000. There certainly were questions about how the conference would do financially and accomplish the break-even point (which I think was originally estimated at approximately 270 attendees). Once again, thanks to Rita and her excellent Conference Committee.

Switching gears, there has been extensive feedback and a number of reviews of the nomination form developed by the Expanding Audience Committee lead by Mellie Lewis and Tami Lundsford. The nomination form was “voted on” and approved during the board conference call in October. Congratulations to Mellie and Tami for “hanging in there” during this process and providing NMEA with the ability to offer another opportunity for individuals to participate and get involved.

Moving right along, requests have been received steadily for a variety of collaborative efforts. These requests have brought to the forefront the process by which requests for collaboration and the use of the NMEA name is approved. One of these opportunities was related to the recent support of the national BWET legislation HR3644 BWET/ELG. An inquiry from Jean May-Brett (Past NMEA President) made the organization aware that NMEA was not a signatory on the support letter for BWET legislation. Some inquiries from Sharon Walker regarding how to become a signatory and simultaneous review for approval by the NMEA Ex Comm led to NMEA becoming a signatory on Nov. 11. The NMEA made sure to consider whether this is a lobbying effort that would preclude the organization from signing and Don Hudson assured NMEA that becoming a signatory to the letter does not constitute NMEA lobbying. Other

collaborative efforts have been pouring into the NMEA Office and have required review. One interesting effort is from a television production group known as “Cookie Jar Entertainment” and a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a TV pilot called “Shark Key.” The pilot will be “the first television series that teaches science to upper elementary and middle school children with live action stories about marine animals.”

Other collaborative efforts are being investigated as formal requests are received from other groups including the Ocean Classroom Foundation, the Aqua Kids TV show, and the Sant Ocean Hall.

Thanks again for all the efforts of those that make NMEA “tick” and are increasing its visibility in the science education community.



The Bridge

Coral Snapshots

By Chris Petrone & Noelle Relles

Investigating the use of autonomous underwater vehicles to survey coral reef structure and diversity, marine protected areas, and land use in *Coral Snapshots*, the newest Data Analysis Teaching Activity (DATA) from the Bridge.

In January 2008, a team of scientists from five institutions around the world proposed to map the relatively pristine reefs off the coast of Bonaire, located in the southern Caribbean Sea. These coral reefs are under heavy federal protection as No-Take Areas (NTAs) because they are so important to the country’s economy as a tourist attraction. Scientists were tasked with devising a method to measure coral cover and species

composition off the coast of Bonaire and compare it to earlier work done in the area by Dr. Fleur van Duyl in 1985.

Data were collected by scuba divers using a digital camera on video setting in an underwater housing, GPS, and dive computers, which were all synched in time. Upon returning to the lab, the videos were separated into still frame images and then analyzed by implementing a computer program that allows users to overlay random points on each image and visually identify the species or substrate underneath each point. Based on the user’s identifications, the program produces an accompanying spreadsheet, which provides values of percent coral cover and species diversity, allowing for faster processing of the images.

The resulting data set will be compared to a reef map of Bonaire published in 1985; data which were collected from 1980-1983. Since the Bonaire National Marine Park was established in 1979, the change over two decades is a demonstration of the effectiveness of marine-protected areas. A comparison of changes in coral cover in Bonaire versus the rest of the Caribbean is useful in determining whether Bonaire’s NTA has been successful in conserving its coral reef ecosystem on which it depends for tourism. The information from this study will be used by marine park managers to focus on future areas of concern. It will also be taken into consideration by the island government when making future decisions, particularly regarding development on the island.

In this activity students will analyze images from the coral reefs of Bonaire, identifying coral, fish, and bottom type using an identification key. From this analysis, students will calculate common measures of diversity including species evenness, species richness, and the Shannon-Weiner Index using prefilled Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Upon

completing the quantitative portion of the DATA, students will answer questions pertaining to biodiversity and marine protected areas.

For the full DATA, please visit: http://www2.vims.edu/bridge/DATA.cfm?Bridge_Location=archive1109.html.



NMEA 2010: From the Mountains to the Sea

By Courtney Thompson

As we prepare for winter, let’s take a moment to think toward summer, warmer weather, and “NMEA 2010: From the Mountains to the Sea, July 19-23 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.”

The Call for Papers will open on Dec. 15 and close on Feb. 26. Concurrent sessions will fall into one of eight focus strands. Focus strands include: Expanding Audiences, Scientific Breakthroughs, Partnerships, Educational Research, STEM Education, Sustainability, Teaching, and Traditional Knowledge. Additional information regarding these strands will be posted on the Conference Web site along with the Call for Papers in December.

Registration will open on the Conference Web site in December. Registration fees will begin at \$450 for NMEA members and \$500 for non-NMEA members. Please remember NMEA membership dues increase in January so members may want to renew before the increase. The deadline for “Earlybird” registration is April 1, so plan to register by then to take advantage of the savings. The deadline for Advanced registration is May 1 and registration will close on July 12.

Remember to apply for an NMEA Scholarship. The application will be posted on the Conference Web site and the deadline to apply is April 1. Also available are Expanding Audiences Stipends. The nomination form for the stipend will be available on the Web site and the deadline to apply is March 12.

The Conference hotel will be the Glenstone Lodge with a conference rate of \$99 plus tax per night. Be sure to use the Scuttlebutt Listserv in seeking a roommate. The hotel does offer free internet, free parking, and two pools.

Gatlinburg, is within a day's drive for half of the US population. For those planning on flying to the conference, two options are available: flying into Nashville and renting car driving to Gatlinburg, or flying into Knoxville and using the shuttle service, or renting a car.

The Tennessee Educators of Aquatic and Marine Science invite you to NMEA 2010. Information will continue to be posted as it becomes available at: www.nmeaweb.org. For questions, contact: nmea2010@ripleys.com.

Conference Committee

By Justine Glynn

Chapters are planning their hosting of NMEA Conferences earlier and earlier! With one exception, all years through 2015 are at least unofficially claimed.

Showcasing three of the four coasts (if the Great Lakes coastline is included), future conference hosts and sites will be: TEAMS – Gatlinburg, TN 2010; MME – Boston, MA 2011; NAME – Anchorage, AL 2012; SAME – Moblie, AL 2014; and SENEME – Newport, RI 2015.

A 2013 host is being sought. The Conference Committee is “eager to help” chapters decide to “take on” this project. For more information, email Justine Glynn, Conference Committee Chair, at: Justine@gmri.org.

Treasurer's Report

By Don Hudson

The NMEA is weathering these difficult financial times, largely as a result of the continued success of the chapters to design, develop, and deliver successful annual conferences. The conference is not only a great time for friends to come together, to meet new people, and to develop new friendships; it is a time to strengthen the organization. The income earned as a result of the conference supports a strong and responsive National Office, as well as the publication of *Current*.

Whereas there were declines in reserves of nearly 25 percent this past year, the value of the endowment and “rainy day fund”—capital reserve account—has rebounded. The endowment supports financial aid for annual conferences, the production of *Current*, and the National Office. The total of all assets in the endowment is now close to \$320,000, returning to positive growth after the dip to below \$270,000 a year ago. The capital reserve account is now back over \$55,000, having dipped below \$49,000 in the last quarter of 2008. The reserve account was established with an initial allotment of \$50,000, and it is good to see it back in positive territory.

Cash flow for operations has also been stronger in 2009 than the previous year. As known from personal experience, there is nothing quite like a shrinking checking account to send a wave of concern through the house. Currently, NMEA has sufficient cash on hand to pay bills for more than half a year (approximately \$50,000)—if nothing else were to come into the account. This is a great buffer for a small, non-profit organization. NMEA's bank balance ebbs and flows through the months, sometimes rising higher than it is at present, and dipping to as low as \$10,000 or \$15,000. Management

gurus recommend retaining a bank balance of no less than two months expenses, which for NMEA would be a little less than \$20,000.

So far, so good in 2009! Thanks again to Rita Bell and the great team who organized NMEA 2009 in Monterey. Your efforts are a huge help as NMEA endeavors to stay on track, fund an efficient and responsive National Office, deliver a great journal to the marketplace of ideas about marine and aquatic education, and make participation at the annual conferences possible for a broader and deeper audience—one that truly reflects the country and the world.

Expanding Audience Committee

By Mellie Lewis and Tami Lunsford

A strategic goal of the NMEA is to increase the number of members who represent and/or educate underrepresented minorities, including, but not limited to: people of color, indigenous people, island people, international communities, inland areas, and English-language learners. The first awardees attended the 2009 NMEA Conference. They are now successfully working with staff from the Monterey Bay Aquarium on a product, based on their experiences with NMEA. Recently, a few modifications were made to the nomination process to better meet the goals of the *NMEA Strategic Plan*.

The intent of the new stipend program is to recruit and assist qualified individuals to share their expertise, experiences, and perspectives through active participation in NMEA Annual Conferences and the creation of a product that will benefit the larger marine and aquatic education community. Any current NMEA member may use the form to nominate an interested candidate for the stipend and self-nominations are also encouraged and welcomed.

Please look for the nomination form at;
<http://www.nmeaweb.org/gatlinburg2010>. For more information, contact committee co-chairs Mellie Lewis (mellieleewis@hotmail.com) and Tami Lunsford (tami.lunsford@gmail.com).

Scholarship Committee

By Mare Timmons

Scholarship application forms are available to NMEA members and are based on financial need. Geographical location and order of receipt of the completed applications are not considered in the decision to award scholarships. Applicants must be an NMEA member in good standing. Chapter membership is a plus, but not required.

The NMEA Officers, other voting members of the Board of Directors, Institutional or Corporate members, and scholarship recipients within the past three NMEA

Annual conferences are not eligible. Please see website <http://www.marine-ed.org/scholarships-stipends.html> for a scholarship application form. The deadline is April 1.

Traditional Knowledge (TK) Committee

By Sylvia Spalding

Efforts are ongoing to develop a *TK Literacy Guide* to supplement the *Ocean Literacy Guide*. Discussions have been held with the Education through Historical and Cultural Organizations, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Native Indian Education Association, and National Congress of American Indians and at the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit on Kauai. The TK Committee is also assisting in the development of TK strands and symposia at the International Pacific Marine Educators Network Conference, Fiji, July 6-9; National Marine Educators Association Conference, July 19-23, Tennessee; and the

Wildlife Society Conference (through its Native Peoples Working Group), Oct. 3-7, Snowbird, Utah.

Teleconferences are being planned to develop the *TK Literacy Guide*. For more information, contact: TK Committee co-chairs Sylvia Spalding at: Sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov or Don Hudson at: donhudson@chewonki.org.

History Committee

By Sarah Richards

Sarah Richards announces that NMEA now has a Group Photo-Sharing site on Flickr! Those wanting to upload pictures from NMEA events, such as the Savannah or Monterey Conferences, may send their email addresses to: Sarah at: srichards@saintannsny.org and she, in turn, will make them "Group Friends." Anyone wanting to view the pictures at the Group (called NMEA Photo-Sharing), may visit: www.flickr.com/groups/nmea.

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. 1 year—\$50.

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 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

You may join online at <http://nmeaweb.org/membership.html>.

Credit card payment:

Name of card holder: _____

Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Amount to be charged to card: _____

Please make check payable to NMEA and mail with this form to: NMEA, 703 East Beach Dr., Ocean Springs, MS 39564, (228)818-8893, website: <http://marine-ed.org>. International members: please add \$10.00 U.S. currency only, drawn on a bank with a U.S. branch.

Gamming

Gam (gam) n. 1. a social visit; 2. an exchange of visits between the crews of whaling ships at sea.



**NMEA
people are...**

With Rita Bell

More than a year ago, when I agreed to write this article, members of the NMEA 09 Conference Planning Committee and I were in Savannah at NMEA 08, taking notes, talking to GAME volunteers, asking questions, attending sessions, and making checklists. We felt pretty confident that your planning timeline was on track, that we had anticipated most of the big issues and hard work that was ahead of us, and that we had a great team of staff and volunteers “lined-up” that would help us “pull-off” the following year’s conference. We knew that we would learn a lot during the upcoming year—about organizing a conference and about ourselves. But I didn’t anticipate all that I’d learn about the people who are NMEA.

NMEA people are generous – with their time, talents, and advice.

The NMEA 09 Conference was hosted by the Southwest Marine/Aquatic Education Association (SWMEA). If you look at the map on our NMEA Web site, you’ll see that SWMEA is huge. Our more than 250 members hail from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah, so it’s challenging to get us all together. Nonetheless, members from all over the chapter provided suggestions and moral support, reviewed concurrent session descriptions, created, gathered and donated fabulous items for the auction, and

“showed up” early to carry boxes, run errands, and take care of last-minute details. Additionally, so many “benind-the-scenes” people supported the efforts of the planning committee.

Johnette Bosarge, our NMEA Secretary, masterfully organizes the board, keeps track of millions of details, ships boxes and bundles, instantly answers countless emails, helps wherever she can, and continues to smile throughout. I don’t think NMEA could function without Johnette.

The officers, board members, and committee chairs, especially this year, provided extremely supportive and sound advice, as well as participating in every aspect of the conference—auction, concurrent sessions, professional development providers, and registration. Not only did they dig into their pockets to “come-up” with registration and housing fees; they encouraged staff, friends and family members to come along. During the conference there were numerous examples of individuals helping one another find sessions, carrying boxes and activity materials, decoding the Asilomar Conference Grounds Map, and making sure that everyone felt welcome.

NMEA people are passionate – about the ocean and their work.

Of the 398 people who attended NMEA 09 this year, 245 presented or co-presented at the conference. In fact, one of the primary reasons that people attended was to share their enthusiasm about what they do for the ocean and how they do it. Sixty percent of those who attended the conference this year have been “in the business” of marine education for more than 10 years and most have attended multiple NMEA

Conferences—a significant number have attended 15 or more over the past 33 years! When asked why people come to NMEA Conferences, the primary reason they cited was to network with one another. And, there was a great deal of networking taking place at NMEA 09!

NMEA people are flexible.

Trying to reduce our impact meant that we provided much less in the way of printed materials. The Conference program was greatly reduced, saving more than 12,000 pieces of paper and about \$6,000 in printing costs. But, it also required people to rethink the way they chose sessions and meant that they had to rely on the Web site for more detailed information. It reinforced the fact that “walking the walk” is more challenging than simply “talking the talk.”

NMEA people really are everywhere.

Nearly 20 international visitors attended NMEA 09—and we had representatives from all the US coastal states and most of the landlocked states as well. States that have no NMEA Chapters—South Dakota, Missouri, and Kentucky--sent representatives. Perhaps it’s time for a Mississippi River Chapter.

There are some things that just can’t be anticipated.

Between the economic meltdown and its frozen budgets, eliminated travel funds and generally tightened belts, and the H1N1 virus causing people to reconsider air travel and exposure to crowds, the Planning Committee was wondering if their members would be the only ones at the Asilomar Conference Grounds at the end of June. But, as the year progressed, NMEA received generous funding from NOAA and the Monterey Bay

National Marine Sanctuary; reservations began to “flow in,” and the flu headed south for a while.

Thanks to all of you who attended, who helped, who advised, and who shared your time, ideas, enthusiasm, and hope for the future. The NMEA 09 Planning Committee was “thrilled” to have the opportunity to showcase the Monterey Bay and to meet so many marine educators from around the world. The experience didn’t just meet my expectations, it exceeded them!

Members of NMEA’s Presidents’ Circle, comprised of former presidents and leaders, contribute to this feature. Gamming is meant to 1) inspire, create, and pass on wisdom; 2) give recognition to unsung stars; 3) pass on stories, ideas, and dreams; 4) give meaning to our work as marine and aquatic educators; and 5) learn from seasoned and experienced marine and aquatic educators.

Comments may be directed to President’s Circle Coordinator Bill Hastie at: hastiestuff@mac.com.

NMEA Special Report Coming Your Way

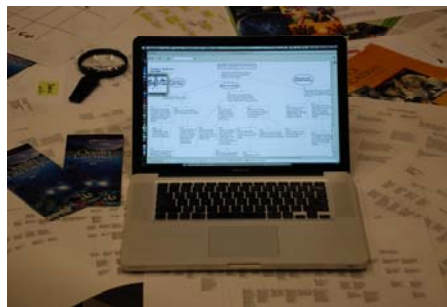
By Craig Strang

The *NMEA Special Report on Ocean Literacy* is due to “hit the streets” in December. This third *NMEA Special Report* features the long-awaited *Ocean Literacy Scope and Sequence for Grades K-12*.

The *NMEA Special Report* will contain a series of articles on the history of the Ocean Literacy Campaign, the impact and accomplishments of the work to date, the strategic partnerships between scientists and educators that gave birth to the Campaign, the educational research on learning ocean sciences, the theoretical

framework behind the use of conceptual flow diagrams, and of course, some important perspectives on how some real teachers are using the *Ocean Literacy Framework*. These engaging articles make for a “tasty appetizer,” but the main course is the *Ocean Literacy Scope and Sequence* itself, comprised of 28 full color conceptual flow diagrams that describe what students should understand about each of the seven, *Ocean Literacy Principles* at each of four grade bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. This document has potential to both assist teachers in the classroom, and to influence curriculum developers, textbook writers, standards committees, and informal science education institutions well into the future.

Funds for the *NMEA Special Report on Ocean Literacy* were generously provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and NOAA Office of Education. Developing the *Scope and Sequence* has been supported since 2006 by the College of Exploration, COSEE, Lawrence Hall of Science, NMEA (especially the NMEA Ocean Literacy Committee), and NOAA. This tremendous collaboration is a tribute to the longstanding ability of NMEA and its members to convene colleagues from around the country to work together for the common good.



Development of the Ocean Literacy Scope & Sequence is finally complete!

Photo Complements of Craig Strang

Banana Slug String Band Sing for Ocean Literacy

**By Craig Strang and
Solar Steve Van Zandt**

The Banana Slug String Band, renowned children’s music group, performer of many Stegner Lecture Concerts at NMEA Conferences, and famed NMEA auctioneers, (<http://www.bananaslugstringband.com>) is producing a new, music CD focused on the content found in *Ocean Literacy: the Essential Principles of Ocean Sciences K-12*. The CD, *Only One Ocean*, is being produced with financial contributions from NMEA, Ten Centers in the National COSEE Network, the NOAA Office of Exploration & Research, The College of Exploration, and Dr. Sue Cook. This unprecedented musical/educational collaboration resulting from the *Ocean Literacy Campaign*, will be available to the public in spring 2010 and features several well-known guest artists who have contributed their time to the project.

Following are comments from the Slugs head songwriter, Steve Van Zandt, known to most NMEA members as “Ze Professor from Slugania:”

“I like to view environmental science education as affecting us in three ways: the head, the heart, and the hands. *Ocean Literacy* lends itself well to this holistic approach. Our planet’s ‘only one ocean’ continues to be an inspiration for human expression and, the more we learn with our heads, the more we use our hands to work for the health of the ocean, for it is essential to our health—and our hearts. In our *Ocean Literacy* CD project, we’ve tried to capture these ideas of knowledge, beauty, and a call to action. Music is powerful that way.

In ‘Down, Down, Down,’ the music of Michael Franti, will take listeners on a content-filled rhyming

extravaganza to ‘walk the ocean floor’ learning about geology and bathymetry. In that same song, two-time Nashville Music Awards Bassist of the year, Victor Wooten plays a delightfully funky bass line. In a song that was inspired from the IMAX movie, ‘The Living Sea,’ we’ve invited Jack Johnson to be a guest singer. The song evokes a sense of mystery, marvel, and celebration for the ocean. This is enhanced by the music of Karamo Cissshoki whose stunning Cora playing brings it to an ethereal plane.

The hatching of this project began a few years ago at the NMEA Conference in Maui. Just outside our accommodations was an amazing reef where we snorkeled every day and witnessed the activities of a turtle cleaning station. One of the calls to action in this album is in the song, ‘Turtle Ate a Jelly.’ This song sends the message that turtles will mistake plastic bags for jellies. So, with the cutest kid voices, we are encouraged to keep plastic out of the sea. Thanks to the COSEE/NMEA members in the Great Lakes who gave us the idea to write a song showing how the ocean is part of everyone’s life. They’ll be two-stepping when they hear ‘Ocean Everywhere’ because the members of the Grammy Award Winning Band, Michael Doucet & Beausoleil, give it the real taste of Cajun music. In the Hawaiian chorus of our coral reef song, ‘E malama, malama, malama, I ke kai,’ we are inspired to continue working to protect the ocean with George Winston adding his beautiful slack key guitar performance.

We thank you all for your support of this wonderful project, and we can’t wait for you to hear the CD. We are beginning to plan now for a concert tour to take the message of Ocean Literacy out ‘on the road.’ Visit our Web site to schedule a show.”



The concept for the Banana Slugs Band—new Ocean Literacy CD was originally conceived and discussed following their performance at the NMEA Conference in Maui, Hawaii in 2005.

Photo complements of Persis Karim.

Chapter Reports

FMSEA

By Jim Wharton

The Florida Marine Science Education Association (FMSEA) recently hosted two NMEA events. The FMSEA and the NMEA hosted a joint booth at the 2009 Convocation of the Kappa Delta Pi Society, an international honor society in the field of education. More than 1,000 educators attended their annual meeting in October in Orlando. The FMSEA also hosted a Sharathon at the NSTA Regional Conference in Fort Lauderdale. Educators and organizations from around the state shared resources and made connections for teaching marine science. Finally, the FMSEA Annual Conference theme for 2010 will be “Corals on Acid” and will be hosted in the Key Largo area in May 2010.

GAME

By Mare Timmons

Sixty-four members of the Georgia Association of Marine Education (GAME) met on St. Simons Island, GA in October for its annual meeting entitled “Tides of Change.” A variety of scientists brought new information to GAME members, including folks from coastal DNR, Sapelo Island NEER’s NOAA Gray’s Reef Marine National Sanctuary, Valdosta State University, UGA MAREX, COSEE SE, and SkIO. Topics and “hands on” activities focused on “water’s molecular structure and properties,” what is apparently overlooked on a daily basis, drifter buoy programs, ocean medicines, toxins and bioaccumulation, fish tagging and more! *Ocean Literacy* was melded into each activity. The second conference day was spent in the St. Simon’s salt marsh.

The Marine Educator of the Year Award was presented to Jill Lepo-Wieniewitz who is the marine science teacher at Thunderbolt Marine Science Academy, a pre K-5 magnet school. The Academy received the designation of No.1 Magnet School in the Nation for 2009. No wonder, with Jill at the helm! Stay tuned at: www.gamarine-cd.org for the next meeting and GAME news updates!



Mary Sweeney-Reeves and Mare Timmons hand-captured and soothed a female bonnethead with belly rubs before moving her to deeper waters.

Photo complements of Susan Gaddy.

GLEAMS

By Beth Hinchey-Malloy

Margaret Tower, a Chicago teacher and also a Great Lakes Educators of Aquatic and Marine Science (GLEAMS) Illinois State Representative, was one of six teachers throughout the United States to conduct concept mapping for COSEE at the University of Connecticut on the *Ocean Literacy Principles* in October. She also fished for invasive gobies in Lake Michigan recently while participating in a workshop at the Shedd Aquarium.

The GLEAMS is one of many NMEA chapters helping to judge student videos on Ocean Literacy as part of the National Ocean Science Bowl “Living on the Ocean Planet” video contest. The contest is under way, with videos due in January, 2010. The GLEAMS also donated \$60 toward a prize for the winners.

Work has begun in COSEE Great Lakes for an adaptation of the *Ocean Literacy Principles* to meet the needs of educators in our region. GLEAMS members are involved and will be “reaching out” to scientists and educators soon for review of draft documents.



Lyndsey Manzo (center) discusses Great Lakes Literacy Principles with fellow COSEE Great Lakes Advisors Dr. Sandra Rutherford and Gary Dole, at a recent COSEE Great Lakes meeting in Duluth, Minnesota.

Photo compliments of Rosanne Fortner.

GOMMEA

By Theresa Torrent-Ellis

More than 70 new and more experienced Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association (GOMMEA) members gathered at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute for the annual membership meeting. The evening began with a selection of seafood appetizers and views of the setting sun over Casco Bay. The participants gathered in the GMRI auditorium to witness the gavel being passed from Past President, Mark Wiley, to current President, Suzy Ryan. The evening culminated with a presentation on the *Global Census of Marine Life*. Award-winning writer, Darlene Crist, and deep-sea diver, Richard Morris, have created a book and videos of images of the sea life the Census has encountered. They presented the audience with a collection of stories, images, and film illuminating the discoveries that the Census has produced to date and reminded each of the participants how vital and full of diversity the ocean really is.

MAMEA

By David Christopher

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) conducted its annual conference in Lewes, DE on Oct. 2-4. More than 60 people were in attendance from around the region, including 14 new members. During the conference, MAMEA conducted its annual elections. MAMEA welcomed Karen Mattingly of Green Holly Elementary as its new Maryland Representative, and Amy Sauls of Jones Senior High School as the North Carolina Representative. In addition, John Lunsford was re-elected as the Delaware Representative and Kathy Fuller was re-elected as the MAMEA Secretary. Ruth Gourley, the former North Carolina Representative, was elected to the President-Elect position.

MME

By Bob Rocha

The Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME) Past-President, Pat Harcourt, has been nominated for induction into the Massachusetts Hall of Fame (HoF) for Science Educators. She will join current MME Board Members, Bill Andrade, Gail Brookings, Peg Collins, and seven former MME Board Members, including active NMEA member, George Duane, in the HoF.

The MME conducted its Boston Harbor Educators Conference on Oct. 3 on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. Forty people attended the conference. Plans are already “in the works” for 2010. The newest issue of the MME newsletter, *Flotsam & Jetsam* is being produced with a focus on kelp forests.

NAME

By Deborah McArthur

The Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators (NAME) Oregon members are working to plan the next regional conference July 7-10 in Florence, OR. The chapter hired a Web developer and will be improving its Web site. The annual overnight at the Seattle Aquarium for NAME members and families is scheduled for March 6. For more information, visit: www.pacname.org.

NYSMEA

By Meghan Marrero

The New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) crew conducted a productive, November meeting followed by some enrichment activities at the American Museum of Natural History. Hosted by NYSMEA member and Senior Museum Educator, Lisa Bresloff, chapter members watched the IMAX movie, “Wild Ocean.” The film chronicled the importance of the sardines in the food web off the

KwaZulu-Natal Wild Coast of South Africa, showing the diversity of predators, including dolphins, fur seals, numerous shark species, and even fishermen who follow the shoals of fish. Following the film, NYSMEA member and museum volunteer, Bernie Wise, led the group through the special *Extreme Mammals* exhibit, where participants “met” a wide variety of unique mammals, both living and extinct. For information on future NYSMEA events, visit: www.nysmea.org.



The NYSMEA members meet in the “Portrait Room” at American Museum of Natural History.
Photo complements of Lou Siegel

OCEANIA

By Judy Lemus, chair

The OCEANIA recently conducted its first members’ conference on Oct. 3. The agenda included an overview presentation of OCEANIA for new members, as well as talks from seven other members, which spanned topics from *Ocean Literacy* to teacher-at-sea experiences, marine debris education, and coral reef and fisheries science education. Twenty-five people participated in the conference at Punahou School on Oahu, including representatives from Maui and Kauai. To “kick off” the conference, attendees participated in a sushi-making lesson by chef, Jason Miyataka, and made their own sushi rolls for lunch. Following the conference, the OCEANIA also helped organize

an evening program which included resource and activity booths by many local ocean education organizations (including OCEANIA) and highlighted some lessons from the *Ocean Explorers Curriculum*. The OCEANIA Conference will continue to be an annual fall event, along with a spring professional development workshop.



A sushi-making demonstration to “jumpstart the conference!”
Photo complements of Ann Coopersmith

SAME

By Joan Turner

The Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME) conducted its annual meeting Nov. 13-15 at Camp Timpooshee in Niceville, FL on the banks of the Choctawhatchee Bay. The two-day workshop was sponsored by COSEE:GCOM. Dr. Sharon Walker gave a presentation on *Ocean Literacy* and Drs. Allison Beauregard and Wade Jeffrey discussed their research on “Global Climate Change.” Hands-on activities were correlated with the topics of “Ocean Acidification” and “Ozone Depletion” and were conducted by Dr. Jessica Kastler and Ms. Kay Baggett. Field-trips included a paddle along the shores of Choctawhatchee Bay and Lake Pippin in search of the Diamondback Terrapin, as well as a drive to the Coastal Dune Lakes of Walton County. The Silent Auction generated funds to cover two scholarships to enable classroom

teachers to attend the NMEA Conference in Gatlinburg, TN.



Molly and Rick O’Connell learned about the harmful effects of chlorofluorocarbons CFCs on the ozone while doing an activity using toothpicks and gumballs.
Photo complements of COSEE:CGOM.

SENEME

By Lauren Rader

The Southeastern New England Marine Educators (SENEME) hosted its 2009 Annual Conference on Oct. 3 at Project Oceanology in Groton, CT. Formal and informal educators from across Connecticut and Rhode Island participated in a day of workshops and field trips. Ryan Hanrahan, Meteorologist for NBC-Connecticut (WVIT), presented a keynote address, “Weather and Climate of Southern New England.” The day was also highlighted by both a silent and live auction that raised more than \$2,000 for the SENEME Scholarships and Awards.

The SENEME organizational members will be conducting bi-monthly events throughout the year for members and non-members. The SENEME is also beginning to plan a Long Island Sound Educators Conference to be held at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT on April 20, 2010. Information about upcoming events is available on the SENEME Web site: www.seneme.org. For more information, contact Lauren Rader at: lader@oceanology.org.

SWMEA

By Elizabeth Keenan

The COSEE/Southwest Marine/Aquatic Education Association (SWMEA) marine science strand was once again a success at the California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Conference in October in Palm Springs. Plans are “in place” for another strand at next year’s conference in Sacramento.

Attention is now turned toward the Spring Seminar to be conducted at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island. This workshop, which is focused on Marine Protected Areas, will be available on the SWMEA Web site in the coming weeks. In addition to strands and workshops, the SWMEA members have met during several conference calls and also in person at the CSTA meeting. Additionally, the chapter posted its fall newsletter online and the winter newsletter is in production. For more information on the SWMEA activities, visit: www.swmea.org.

TEAMS

By Courtney Thompson

The Tennessee Educators of Aquatic and Marine Science (TEAMS) presented a strand of aquatic and marine sessions at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association Conference on Nov. 6. The sessions were well-attended by conference participants. The TEAMS and NMEA members, Fran Hamilton, won the Tennessee Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award, and Dr. Becky Cox won the 2009 Higher Education Science Educator of the Year Award.

TMEA

By Pam Stryker

The Texas Marine Education Association (TMEA) had a “strong” presence at the State Science Conference, CAST Nov. 5-7. The event began with a field trip on

Thursday which was organized by Newsletter Editor, Nathan Veatch. Participants explored the beach, coastal plains, and bay habitats at Galveston Island State Park guided by members of the Friends of Galveston Island and the Master Naturalist of that area. Spurred by the presentation and the possibility of participating in future TMEA workshops, many joined the chapter. The next day conference attendees “packed the house” during the TMEA Conference workshop strand. From fish and squid dissections to skits and songs, ocean literacy was the focus of the day. The Conference concluded with the annual luncheon and business meeting. Marolyn Smith took the helm as the new President with plans for increasing membership and planning an active year, filled with opportunities for sharing marine-related ideas and experiences. Next on the agenda, were the annual mid-year planning meeting in early February and the spring Matagorda Bay/Lower Colorado River Workshop.



*The TMEA members explored Galveston Island State Park during the Texas State Science Teachers Conference.
Photo compliments of Nathan Veatch.*

Additional opportunities for NMEA members are as follows:

- Awards nomination form—<http://www.marine-ed.org/docs/nomform.pdf>.
- Scholarship and the Expanding Audiences nomination form <http://www.marine-ed.org/scholarships-stipends.html>.