



WAVELENGTHS

*The Newsletter of the Southern
Association of Marine Educators*
in Alabama, Florida Panhandle, Louisiana, and Mississippi

September 10, 2009

Making known the world of water, both fresh & salt



President's Letter:

Happy beginning-of-the-school-year, everyone! I hope the season is off to a good start for all SAME members. Summer has supposedly come to an end with the passing of Labor Day, but for most of us the temperatures and activities of summer will continue on for a couple more months! Enjoy it while it lasts.

This newsletter is full of recognition for outstanding SAME members, as well as requests for committee volunteers, and upcoming annual meeting news. Please share this with anyone you think may be interested or post it on your website.

Our Fall Annual meeting is scheduled for November 13-15, 2009 at Camp Timpooshee in Niceville, FL. This meeting is being held in conjunction with and sponsored by the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence: Central Gulf of Mexico (COSEE: GCOM). The theme is **“Ocean Literacy through Climate Change.”** Featured speakers are Dr. Sharon Walker, Dr. Allison Beauregard and Dr. Wade Jeffrey. Fun field trips are planned for a visit to the Walton County Coastal Dune Lakes, led by Chris Verlinde and Brooke Saari, with the other option being a kayak trip led by Rick and Molly O'Connor to search for Diamondback Terrapins in Lake Pippin (you are welcome to bring your own kayak). A detailed schedule and application form can be found in the newsletter as well as on our website. I hope to see you there!

Joan Turner

SHARE-A-THON

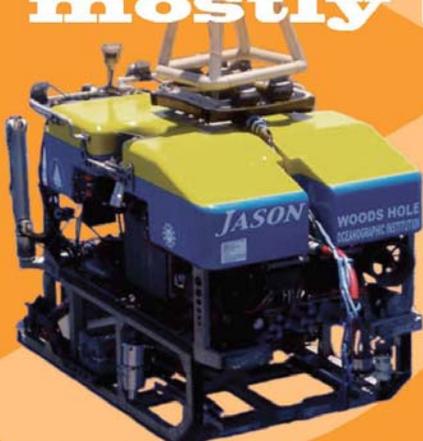
Bring something to share with the other attendees for a Friday night Share-a-thon – lesson plans, CDs, new ideas, hands-on activities.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Please bring an item (book, CD, artwork, bottle of wine, etc.) for the silent auction that will be held Saturday night, November 14, 2009 at Camp Timpooshee during the annual SAME meeting. The money raised with this auction funds a scholarship for a K-12 classroom teacher to go towards the registration fee for the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) annual conference. This year we are also awarding a prize to the regional winner of the National Ocean Science Bowl's (NOSB®) “Living on the Ocean Planet” Video Contest. This is our only fundraiser throughout the year, so please bring an item, or maybe two, and your checkbooks to help out.

NOSB® “Living on the Ocean Planet” Video Contest

SAME is participating in the 2nd Annual NOSB® “Living on the Ocean Planet” video contest. The goal is to reach out to students who have a strong interest in the ocean sciences, but are not necessarily interested in participating in an academic competition. A \$60 prize will be provided to the video team that is selected as the winner for our region. Our region covers our southern states, as well as Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska for this competition. For those of you interested in more information about this event, the rules and application will be forwarded as soon as the final version from NOSB® comes out. Please spread the word and post this flyer so that any student interested has this opportunity to learn more and to teach others!



**Who lives on
a planet covered
mostly by water?
You do!**

Oceans cover approximately
70% of the Earth's surface.

Are you interested in how the
oceans affect weather and climate?
Showcase your video production
skills and highlight the important role
technology plays in ocean research by
entering the...

National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®)
**“Living on the Ocean Planet”
Video Contest**

Who is eligible?
Any student enrolled in a high school in the United States is eligible to submit a video. We encourage students to work in teams!

Top Prize:
An invitation to the 2010 NOSB Finals Competition in St. Petersburg, FL on April 23-25 at the University of South Florida.

Deadline for Video Submission: Monday, January 25, 2010

For more details: www.nosb.org





**Sponsored by the National Science Foundation,
COSEE:CGOM Two-Day Workshop
November 13-15, 2009**

In cooperation with The University of Southern Mississippi (USM)—Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required to ensure your registration for the Workshop. Please make your checks payable to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). Return this form and your deposit to: Johnette Bosarge, GCRL, 703 East Beach Dr., Ocean Springs, MS 39564. The following information is requested:

Name: _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Work Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Fax: _____

Work Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Email: _____

Dorm Housing* Requested: yes; no Gender: male; female

Roommate Preference: _____

The Workshop will begin at Camp Timpochee, 4750 Timpochee Lane, Niceville, FL 32578 on November 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. For additional information call Johnette Bosarge at 228-818-8893.

*It should be noted dormitory housing and food during the Conference are provided by the NSF-COSEE:CGOM grant.

Please read the following liability statement and sign and date this form to complete your registration: I release from any and every liability, claim, right of action of any kind or nature which I or my legal representative may have for any and all bodily or personal injuries or property damages or any other damages resulting therefrom which might occur during participation in this program, any host institution(s), or the representative(s) thereof, and the management or owner(s) of any physical facility in which the program is conducted. I may be photographed or videotaped during USM-GCRL programs for educational, promotional, or other non-commercial purposes.

I have read the above instrument and fully understand its intent.

signature

date

**Southern Association of Marine Educators Annual Conference
and the Center for Ocean Sciences Education: Central Gulf of Mexico (COSEE:CGOM)
Two-Day, “Climate Change through Ocean Literacy” Workshop
November 13-15, 2009**

**Sponsored by the COSEE:CGOM
In Cooperation with the National Science Foundation;
J.L. Scott Marine Education Center (MEC)—Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL)—
University of Southern Mississippi (USM); and The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium**

Tentative Schedule

Friday, November 13, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

7:15-8:15 p.m.

Registration

Welcome to Camp Timpooshee, Dr. Sharon Walker

Dinner in the Cafeteria with Dr. Sharon Walker, *Ocean Literacy and Climate Change*

Share-a-Thon

Saturday, November 14, 2009

7:30-8:20 a.m.

8:25-8:30

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45-10:00 a.m.

10:00-11:30

11:30-12:45 p.m.

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2:00-3:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Breakfast

Introduction of Speakers—Dr. Sharon Walker

Dr. Allison Beauregard, Mattie Kelly Distinguished Chair of Environmental Sciences, Northwest Florida State College, *Ocean Acidification*

Break

“Hands-on” Activities and Materials on Ocean Acidification

Lunch (Camp Timpooshee Cafeteria)

Dr. Wade Jeffrey, Professor, University of West Florida, *Ozone Depletion*

“Hands-on” Activities and Materials on *Ozone Depletion*

Field Trips (select your field trip at registration)

- Kayak from Camp Timpooshee to Lake Pippin in search of Diamondback Terrapins (20 participants—participants welcome to bring their own kayaks), Rick and Molly O’Connor
- Ecosystems of the Walton County Coastal Dune Lakes (50 participants), Brooke Saari and Chris Verlinde

Seafood Bash (Cafeteria)

Silent Auction and Social

Sunday , November 15, 2009

7:30-8:20 a.m.

8:30-10:00 a.m.

10:00-noon

Noon

Breakfast/Pick up Box Lunches

SAME Business Meeting (Camp Timpooshee Cafeteria)

Evaluations, Dr. Sharon Walker

If additional Field Trips are needed, (Kayaking—20 participants)

Conference Adjourns

What to bring for the COSEE/SAME annual meeting at Camp Timpooshee

Camp Timpooshee is located along the north shore of Choctawhatchee Bay. The camp was established in the early 1900's and has served thousands of 4-Hers and campers from all walks of life. The rustic cabins were rebuilt in 1984 and provide air conditioned comfort. The camp has a marine lab, dining hall, auditorium, horse stables, huge pavilion, dock on the bay and waterfront access. The view is beautiful and I know we will enjoy our time at Camp Timpooshee!! Directions and more information about Camp Timpooshee can be found at:

<http://florida4h.org/camps/timpoochee.shtml>

What to bring:

Pillow
Sleeping bag or linens and blanket for twin beds
Towels/wash cloths
Toiletries
Flashlight
Swimsuit or clothes that can get wet (if you plan on swimming or kayaking)
Closed-toed water shoes (if you plan on swimming or kayaking)
Comfortable walking shoes
Sunscreen

An item for the silent auction

Optional:

Camera
Fishing equipment (you will need a Florida fishing license, fishing is pretty good here!)
Kayak
Snacks
Binoculars
Bug spray

SAME Hosting NMEA 2014

SAME has volunteered to host the 2014 NMEA conference in Mobile, AL. Anyone willing to help with planning this event (over-arching theme, field trips, strands, speakers, etc.) please let Joan Turner and Chris Verlinde know. A few of you have spoken up already, but an official committee needs to be formed to handle this process. This can be discussed in more detail at the annual meeting in November.

Mark your calendar for NMEA 2010

Save the dates: July 18-23, 2010
Conference location: Gatlinburg Convention Center
Hotel: Glenstone Lodge
<http://www.nmeaweb.org/gatlinburg2010/>



Please help honor your fellow SAME members by filling out the form below.

Southern Association of Marine Educators
Awards Application
Deadline: October 1, 2009

Please complete this form and mail to:

Jean May-Brett
1627 Taylor St
Kenner, LA 70062

Or, attach to email and send to jean.may-brett@la.gov

If you have questions, please call Jean May-Brett at: 225-342-8993.

Please check one:

Nomination for: _____ Outstanding Educator _____ Outstanding Resource

Nominee's Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, and zip code: _____

Day phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Place of work: _____

List appropriate contributions to SAME: _____

Give examples of performed service(s) to the fields of marine or aquatic science

Provide any information on unique or extraordinary accomplishments in the fields of marine or aquatic science.

Please list any additional evidence in support of this nomination.

Your contact information:

Name: _____

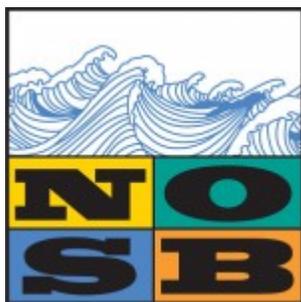
Phone: _____

Email: _____

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network

The **Online Digital Library** is a portal that puts Gulf of Mexico science knowledge at your fingertips. Were you ever curious what exactly is the “dead zone” in the gulf? Or maybe you’re a teacher looking for information on estuaries for your class lesson? You’ve come to the right place! <http://www.gulfallianceeducation.org/>





Hurricane Bowl 2010

The Central Gulf Coast Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl, known as the *Hurricane Bowl*, is one of 25 regional competitions held throughout the country. The *Hurricane Bowl* typically attracts teams from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle. This is an academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of marine science and will be held at the Gulf Coast

Research Laboratory's (GCRL) campus in Ocean Springs, Mississippi on February 6, 2010. Teams are comprised of four to five high school students and a coach. The winners of the 25 regional competitions are invited; at no expense to the team, to the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB[®]) competition to be held April 23-25, 2010 at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, Florida. For more information, please contact Sam Clardy, Regional Coordinator of the *Hurricane Bowl*, at (228) 818-8885 or samuel.clardy@usm.edu.

Spotlight on our SAMEies

Carrie Dixon is a Marine Science Educator at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and has been a SAME member for two years. She came to the lab by way of Nashville and Charleston, and said, "Four years ago, I never would have pictured myself living in lower Alabama. The position at the lab brought me here. I am living and working here because my job is exactly what I want to be doing and it's centered around marine science. Jobs that suit me this perfectly are few and far between, so I moved to take the position. Once I arrived, I realized Mobile and Dauphin Island are pretty great places to live!"

When asked about her favorite part of her job, she said, "Living and working at the beach- the students we teach at the lab are so excited to be here, it's hard not to love this job!" It's a good thing Carrie's favorite sea creature is the Atlantic Ghost Crab, because there are plenty on Sea Lab's beach and kids just go wild for them! She relates that she's "been caught on numerous occasions just staring at them while they burrow on the beach!"

As a teacher, Carrie talks about the importance of a healthy ocean and encourages students and teachers alike to be good stewards. She also practices what she preaches. "I recycle. I have loads in my garage at the moment...I recycle, with trips to the recycling center spaced a little too far apart!! I have a composter in my back yard for kitchen waste, paper towels, egg cartons, and grass trimming. I attempt to grow my own herbs and vegetables. Some years are more successful than others. I take re-useable bags to the grocery store, and have gotten several friends and family members to do the same. When teaching, I try to pass on a positive message about environmental stewardship to students and teachers. And, last but not least, I hug trees," she said.

Carrie spends time outside of work traveling, painting, drawing and taking photographs. "Someday, way down the road, I would love to have some of my work in a local gallery-I think that would be pretty neat!" She recently visited Scotland for the first time and posed next to this whale rib in the Ice House at the WDCS Wildlife Center at Spey Bey in Scotland. "Random Fact: Did you know the Bottlenose Dolphins in the North Sea can be up to 4 meters in length!! Holy cow!"



Spotlight on SAMEies continued....



Tricia LeBlanc is the Director of Education & Volunteers for the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and the Audubon Insectarium. Being born and raised in New Orleans, she can't imagine living anywhere else. When asked what's the draw of living where she does, and her response was, "Before the storm, I'd say the culture, the people, the uniqueness of New Orleans is what attracts me, but since the storm, it's become more about seeing the recovery of Audubon and the city through doing my part to help that process, and being a witness to the city's rebirth. "

When asked about her favorite part of her job, she said, "It's hard to pick just one thing! I love the creativity to develop educational programs for guests. I love working with our volunteer corps and all their diverse personalities. I love being part of such a great team, but most of all I love the sparkle in a child's eye when you've shared something with them about the natural world and you can tell they'll remember that moment for a long time."

Tricia is active in stewardship at the Aquarium, where she is a member of the recycling committee. Also, she serves on the Audubon's conservation committee. At home she is very conscious of wasting resources, making sure water is turned off and electrical appliances are unplugged when not in use. "And since I've started working at the Insectarium," she said, "I never allow anyone to kill a spider in my house."

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Tricia was an active member of SAME, but her membership lapsed while her focus was on recovery. "Now I'm back, and happy to rejoin the group!" she said. We are glad to have her back with us and look forward to her increased participation with SAME. Her name is on the ballot for President-Elect!

Professional Development for Teachers Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

The J.L Scott Marine Education Center will provide teachers of Mississippi six professional development opportunities in 2010 on the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory campus in Ocean Springs, MS. These workshops are funded by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Topics of study and dates follow:



- Ocean and Human Health February 11-12
- Coastal Fauna and Flora April 8-9
- Barrier Islands June 23-25
- Invasive Species July 8-9
- Coastal Ornithology October 21-22
- Aquaculture November 11-12

Room and board are free to all participants. Contact shelia.brown@usm.edu for more information.

What: Educators Professional Development Program: Marine Science and Technology

Who: 6th-12th grade and informal educators

Where: Stennis Space Center, Building 1103, Mississippi

When: Saturday, October 24, 2009

- Workshop is free for registered participants and will introduce educators to three technologies that can be used to engage students with a variety of learning styles:
 - visualization tools for predicting and describing storm surge and coastal inundation in the Central Gulf of Mexico;
 - on-line resources using real and near-real time data to illustrate basic marine and coastal science concepts; and
 - student hands-on construction of simple ROVs.
- Continuing Education Units (CEU) are available for a fee
- Participants are eligible to win a ROV-in-a-bag kit for use in their classrooms
- For application form and a detailed agenda, see www.oceans09mstsieebiloxi.org or call or email Johnette Bosarge at 228-818-8893 or Johnette.bosarge@usm.edu.

Student and Community Outreach Symposia (SCOrS)

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education

J.L. Scott Marine Education Center of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory would like to announce Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education opportunities for teachers, students and the general public. The *Student and Community Outreach Symposia* (SCOrS) are scheduled for the 2009-2010 academic year in Ocean Springs, MS. The two symposia will address water and environmental quality issues of the Gulf of Mexico. Each symposium will consist of four lessons. State and National Science Education standards and Ocean Literacy concepts will be used to establish the curriculum for the symposia. Two lessons will be hands-on lessons in laboratories on seafood safety and harmful algal blooms. Two research vessels of GCRL will be used for the marine debris and water quality lessons. Each symposium can accommodate 100 people and will be from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Instructional, laboratory and boats fees are free of charge. Participants will need to bring bag lunches. The target audiences and dates follow:



Symposium 1	October 10, 2009 Community (intergenerational family groups and general public-ages ≥ 12)
Symposium 2	March 20, 2010 Middle and High School Teachers and Students

Contact Shelia Brown at shelia.brown@usm.edu for more information or registration to the programs.



Deadline for submissions to the Spring SAME Bi-Annual Newsletter is Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Activities, events, websites and book reviews should be directed to: Sara Johnson, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, 101 Bienville Blvd, Dauphin Island, AL 36528. Fax number: (251) 861-7421
Email: sejohnson@disl.org

NMEA Teacher of the Year 2009



The NMEA Teacher of the Year 2009 was awarded to one of our own, Charlene Mauro. Charlene is the Science Department Chair at Navarre High School in Florida, Adjunct Professor of Marine Biology & Oceanography at Pensacola Junior College, and Director of Education at the new Navarre Beach Marine Science Station. She also happens to be our SAME scholarship recipient. The money helped with her registration to the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Conference in Monterey Bay, CA back at the end of June. Here is her letter describing her experience at this conference.

A Trip to Remember!

I have waited my entire teaching career to attend a conference at one of my favorite places, Monterey Bay. My husband (also a science teacher) and I traveled over 5,000 miles in three weeks to and from the NMEA conference and made many memories along the way! The highlight of the NMEA conference for me was receiving the 2009 Outstanding Teacher Award. It is a huge honor to be recognized by your peers. I thought that award always went to college professors or teachers who are at the end of their teaching career! Other highlights of the conference were listening to stories told by speaker Grant Washburn, big wave surfer/filmmaker/writer. Having seen the waves at Mavericks and Hawaii's Pipeline, I have the utmost respect for the ocean and I am amazed by the people who surf those spots. Other helpful sessions I attended were the Do's and Don'ts for Writing Successful Grant Proposals, MBARI's EARTH Academy: Bringing Near-Real-Time Data in the Classroom (sign me up!) and Problem-Based Learning in Ocean Science Classes. Other highlights of the conference were the walking tour of Cannery Row hosted by Monterey Bay Aquarium, kayaking amongst sea otters, and getting to experience the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Discovery Lab.

My goal of getting new ideas and making connections at the NMEA conference was possible thanks to the help of the SAME 2009 Scholarship. Like many people in SAME, I look forward to many more years of sharing my love of the ocean with students.



Thank you,
Charlene Mauro



Southern Association of Marine Educators
K-12 Teacher Scholarship Application
for the NMEA Annual Conference 2010
Deadline: February 27, 2010

Please complete this form and e-mail along with any supporting material to:

Jean May-Brett

Jean.may-brett@la.gov

If you have questions, please call Jean May-Brett at 504.466.9621.

Please type:

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City, state, and zip code: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Occupation: _____

Member of SAME since: _____ Member of NMEA since: _____

Membership type (active, family, life, etc.): _____

Have you served as an officer or committee member within SAME (please explain)?

In what other ways have you been involved with SAME?

In the last five (5) years:

How many SAME annual meetings have you attended? _____

How many NMEA conferences have you attended? _____

How are you involved in marine or aquatic education?

What specific information, skills, or contacts will you be seeking at the NMEA annual conference in Gatlinburg, TN?

What financial circumstances require you to seek a scholarship to attend the conference?

How will you use the resources that you receive at the conference with your class or group?

I certify that all of the statements made above are true and complete.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Congratulations to Dr. Carmichael, who conducted the first tagging of a manatee in Alabama waters!



DISL Senior Marine Scientist, Dr. Ruth Carmichael assists Wildlife Trust Biologist, Monica Ross in fitting "Bama" with a custom-sized tracking belt that will hold her tether and floating tag.



Share in the excitement, visit: <http://manatee.disl.org/2009CapturePhotos.htm>

Report manatee sightings 24 hours a day:

- On-line at manatee.disl.org
- Call toll free: **1-866-493-5803**
- Email manatee@disl.org

To read the Mobile Register article, go to: <http://www.al.com/news/press-register/metro.ssf?/base/news/1252487761234000.xml&coll=3>



The time has come to elect new officers. The deadline for voting is **Wednesday, September 30, 2009**. Please email your vote to jturner@disl.org. We only have one person running for each office, so if you're interested or want to nominate someone, there is space for a "Write-in" vote.

2009 BALLOT

President-Elect: Tricia LeBlanc _____ Write in _____
Secretary/Treasurer: Dianne Lindstedt _____ Write in _____

Tricia LeBlanc
President-Elect Candidate

Tricia LeBlanc currently serves as the Director of Education & Volunteers for both the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and the Audubon Insectarium in New Orleans. She has been employed with Audubon for almost 15 years, but has always been very passionate about protecting and preserving the natural world, beginning her career with Audubon as a volunteer at the age of 11. All totaled, she has been participating in conservation education programs at Audubon for about 24 years.

Tricia is a graduate of LSU, where she received a BA and M.Ed., and she enjoys the challenges and opportunities that the world of informal museum education has to offer. In her time with Audubon she has developed training programs for volunteers that have then been adopted as part of staff training for new employees. She has developed numerous shows, teacher workshops, and other educational programs that reach out to learners of all ages and backgrounds. She has also forged important partnerships with organizations such as NOAA, BTNEP, CEE, COSEE LSU, as well as local community partners that share a goal of educating Audubon's diverse audience about the natural world. Tricia was also a part of the "Hurricane on the Bayou" IMAX film project, and worked with veteran teachers and educators to develop a companion teacher guide for the movie. Both the movie and the teacher guide were recipients of a Gulf Guardian Award in the category of Youth and Education in 2008. Tricia has been active in several professional organizations including AZA, NMEA, LSTA, NSTA and of course SAME. In 2007 she received the Distinguished Informal Educator of the Year Award from LSTA. She lives in Covington, LA with her husband and 10 year old son.

Coast to Classroom

Be one of the first to take part in Audubon Aquarium of the Americas' New Distance Learning Program!

Coast to Classroom is a live web-casted class about Gulf of Mexico habitats and the issues they face. All classes will interact with an Aquarium Educator live via the internet.

Programs are free, supported by a grant from Dauphin Island Sea Lab and grade appropriate topics include:

4th-8th grade – Habitat Identification

9th-12th grade – Wetland and Coastal Conservation and Restoration

All you need are speakers on your computer and an internet connection to participate!

For more information and to register for a session, please contact Gail Gainey at ggainey@auduboninstitute.org or 504-378-2638.



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

Dauphin Island Sea Lab
The State of Alabama's Marine Science Institution

