

Scotch Bonnet

What we are hearing from the sea.

North Carolina Sea Grant

www.ncseagrant.org

Winter/Spring 2009

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2009, and welcome to the next-to-last issue of *Scotch Bonnet* that will be mailed out to subscribers. Just a reminder — we'll be moving to an online version with the Fall 2009 issue. If you're interested in keeping up with *Scotch Bonnet*, send a note to scotchbonnet@ncseagrant.org. We'll add your e-mail address to our database and you will receive an e-mail when the most recent issue of *Scotch Bonnet* is posted online. And the newsletter will be available as a portable document file (.pdf) — if you're like me and want to keep a hard copy!

Keep reading for some winter, spring and summer opportunities for educators. There is a lot going on in North Carolina!

COSEE SouthEast Ocean Awareness Day

www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/teacher.htm

Enjoy "Ocean Exploration with Real Scientific Data" at the N.C. Maritime Museum, 315 Front Street, Beaufort, N.C., on Monday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence SouthEast (COSEE-SE), which serves educators in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

Discover how to tap into ongoing scientific data collection and bring it into the classroom. Activities include a presentation by Hans Paerl of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on the state's FerryMon project, a tour of a working research vessel, and reviews of several lesson plans and resources. The six-hour workshop — including lunch, door prizes and associated resources — is free and can be submitted for 0.6 CEU credit.

Prior to Ocean Awareness Day, kayak the calm waters of the Rachel Carson Reserve and explore barrier island ecology on Sunday, Feb. 15, from 12 to 4 p.m. Kayaks, equipment and instruction are provided through the workshop for the discounted price of \$15. Counts 0.4 hours toward completion of CEU credit.

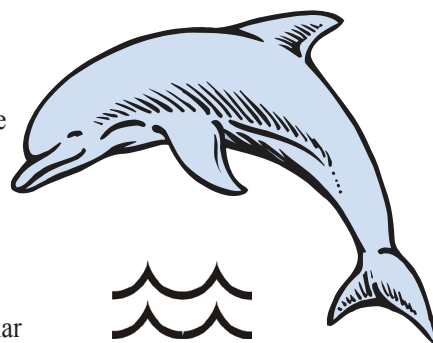
Advance registration is required. Class size is limited. To register, contact Allison Besch at allison.besch@ncmail.net,

or 252/728-7317. Direct questions to Allison or to Miriam Sutton at msutt@coastalnet.com.

NMEA Summer Conference

www.nmeaweb.org

Mark your calendars for June 29-July 3 and join the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) on the Monterey Peninsula for the 33rd NMEA conference! Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific



Grove, Calif. is the site of this annual summer get-together. What a wonderful place for marine educators to gather!

Designed by architect Julia Morgan and built in 1913 as a YWCA retreat, Asilomar is a beautiful state park situated on 107 acres of windswept dunes and maritime forest. This also was the site of the first NMEA conference in 1976!

Enjoy watching a sunset over the Pacific, take a stroll along Cannery Row, watch for whales in Monterey Bay, and explore the world-class Monterey Bay Aquarium. All this and more is waiting for you along the central coast of California this summer!

Deadline for concurrent session proposals is Feb. 15, so submit your idea for a presentation. Online registration will be open soon. You can learn more about the conference and its offerings by visiting www.nmeaweb.org. See you there!

COSEE SouthEast Opportunities

www.scseagrant.org/se-cosee/teacher.htm

Keep an eye on the COSEE-SE Web site to find out about summer opportunities for teachers. The Coastal Legacy workshop is scheduled for June 15-20 at the Honey

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Creek Nature Center near St. Simon's Island, Ga. The Ocean Sciences Education Leadership Institute is set for July 20-25 at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, S.C.

Additional information and application materials can be found on the Web site.

NC Maritime Museum

www.ncmaritime.org

Enjoy learning about oysters on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m. when the "All About the Oyster" workshop discusses the biology of this important mollusk and finishes with oysters to taste. Cost is \$10. To register, contact Lori Dupstadt at 252/728-7317 or lori.dupstadt@ncmail.net.

Later that day at 3 p.m., join N.C. Heritage Tourism Officer Connie Mason for a free program focusing on the oyster through history, stories and song.

Saturday, April 11 is the opening of the temporary exhibit "Traditional North Carolina Watercrafts," which will be open through September 28.

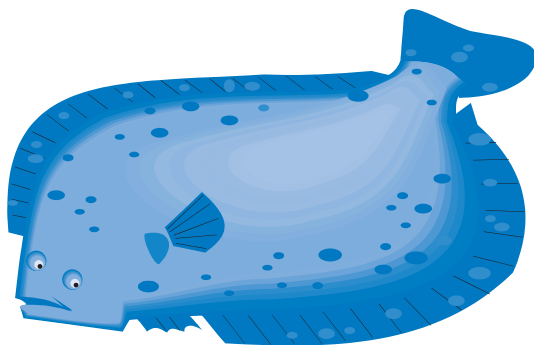
NC Coastal Federation Photo Contest

www.nccoast.org

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) and Emerald Isle Realty invite you to participate in their 2009 photo contest! North Carolina's coast is one of the most spectacular and naturally productive areas in the United States. Let us all work together to protect these areas by celebrating their unrivaled beauty. Send your digital photo of the place you most want to see protected along the North Carolina coast. Photo entry deadline is April 15. First prize includes \$500 and the opportunity to have your photo used on the cover of the 2009 State of the Coast report. For more information, please go to www.nccoast.org or call 252/393-8185.

The NCCF is holding its annual Native Plant Festival April 17-18. This event is open to

anyone and will feature local artists, more than 150 species of native plants, live music and educational programs. The festival will be held at the NCCF office on Highway 24, between Morehead City and Swansboro.



Scales and Tails Weekend in March

www.ncaquariums.org

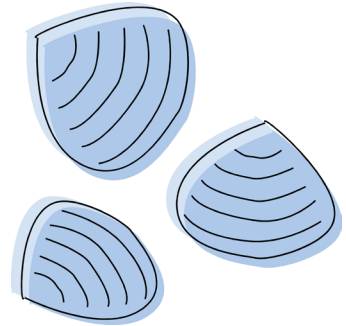
Leap into spring during the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher's Scales and Tails weekend, March 7-8. During this special event, visitors have the rare opportunity to meet — up close and personal — some scaly and slimy new friends. Snakes, salamanders, lizards and turtles will be on display from over a dozen special interest groups, rehabilitation facilities and private collections showcasing several hundred species. Visitors can see, touch and learn more about the cold-blooded creatures who share our planet.

A Party for the Planet!

www.ncaquariums.org

Our three N.C. Aquariums — located at Fort Fisher, Pine Knoll Shores and Roanoke Island — will be celebrating a "Party for the Planet!" for Earth Day 2009. The celebration begins with Roanoke Island's "Party for the Planet" on

Saturday, April 18. Other festivities will take place during the following week, which includes Earth Day, April 22. Exciting programs at all three sites will engage visitors in conservation and preservation of North Carolina's aquatic resources. See www.ncaquariums.org for details specific to each N.C. Aquarium facility.



"Undercurrents" Now Available

www.ncbigssweep.org

To make middle school students more aware of the importance of a clean environment, North Carolina Big Sweep recently produced *Undercurrents: A Big Sweep Middle School Teacher's Guide*. Written by two North Carolina classroom teachers, this publication includes 11 litter awareness lessons correlated with state learning objectives for 8th grade science and math, as well as for healthful living, language arts and information skills. Some correlations for 6th and 7th grades also are included.

Big Sweep expects *Undercurrents* will help in the organization's quest for a litter-free environment. Litter is deadly to animals that eat it or become entangled in it. Also, litter is a human health problem when it attracts disease-carrying mosquitoes and rodents, or when it leaches chemicals into our groundwater. Litter even hurts our economy. Businesses don't want to locate to trashy areas and tourists won't spend

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money in places full of garbage.

Big Sweep County Coordinators have delivered the activity guide to all public and private middle schools in North Carolina that have 8th grade teachers.

Thanks to N.C. Big Sweep, North Carolina Sea Grant, and GlaxoSmithKline, *Undercurrents* is available free of charge to North Carolina educators while supplies last. For your copy, please contact Terri Kirby Hathaway at terrikh@csi.northcarolina.edu.

Coastal Processes and Conflicts

www.ecu.edu/educ/csmte/

Geologists have amassed ample evidence that dynamic processes formed and continue to alter North Carolina's Outer Banks, however inconvenient those changes might be for residents and visitors.

That's one lesson learned by a team of educators and students

who explored the barrier islands with ECU Geologist Stan Riggs to develop educational resources for North Carolina schools. Funded by North Carolina Sea Grant, the project resulted in a curriculum resource entitled *Coastal Processes and Conflicts: North Carolina's Outer Banks*.

The *Coastal Processes and Conflicts* curriculum has been introduced as a model for collaboration on resources for classrooms. The book includes extensive background information for teachers, as well as student lessons that are relevant in any setting — not just the island environment. It is appropriate for middle and high school students.

The curriculum can be downloaded for free from www.ecu.edu/educ/csmte/coastal_processes.cfm. Or you can order a hard copy of the curriculum (\$10 includes postage), which comes with a CD containing color copies of figures used in the student activities, from Terri Kirby Hathaway, North Carolina Sea Grant, terrikh@csi.northcarolina.edu.

For more information, contact curriculum co-author Karen Dawkins, dawkinsk@ecu.edu.

SEACOOS Posters Still Available

www.secoora.org/classroom

Don't miss your opportunity for FREE posters to assist your instruction about several important ocean features. Three educational posters are still available for your classrooms. Poster titles include: "Forming Hurricanes," "Flow-

ing Ocean: Understanding the Gulf Stream," and "Catching the Current: Who Goes with the Flow?"

These posters will bring a current of excitement to your classroom. The SouthEast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence SouthEast (COSEE-SE), and North Carolina Sea Grant make these materials available to educators in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Request one or two sets of three posters, or three to five copies of an individual poster, or other combinations. The posters will be mailed to North Carolina schools and education facilities as long as supplies last. No single copy requests, please. Instead, order some to share.

E-mail your request for FREE posters to Terri Kirby Hathaway, North Carolina Sea Grant Marine Education Specialist at terrikh@csi.northcarolina.edu. Be sure to include the name and street/shipping address of your school.

APNEP Requests Schoolyard Project Proposals

www.apnep.org

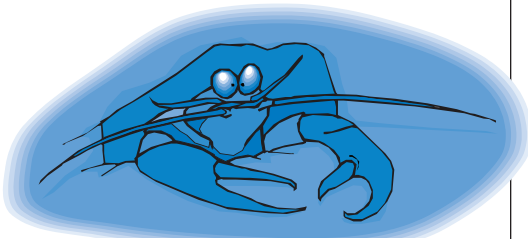
The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP) is accepting proposals for schoolyard environmental demonstration projects.

APNEP is a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

APNEP funds projects in a 36-county region from northeast North Carolina to southeast Virginia, including the Chowan, Pasquotank, Roanoke, Tar-Pamlico and Neuse river basins. Project proposals should address one or more topics within watersheds of the APNEP region including: water quality, vital habitats, fisheries and stewardship.

Qualifying projects should benefit the environment, occur on or adjacent to school property and have a physical structure. Projects should also have a public outreach or education component, be open to public access and be transferable so that benefits can continue after funds are spent.

Previous rounds of funding in 2005 and 2006 produced some stand-out examples of how these seed projects can yield ongoing results. Manteo Middle's rain gardens, Holmes High's stormwater demonstration project, and Moore Middle's nature trail and outdoor classroom were highlighted in "Education in Action: Schoolyard Projects Protect Estuaries," an article in *Coastwatch* magazine. To view the article online, go to www.ncseagrant.org, click on *Coastwatch*, and look for the Autumn 2008 issue.



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A total of \$50,000 is available, with up to \$12,000 for an individual project. Public and private schools are eligible, as well as government agencies and non-profit institutions. Proposals are due by March 6.

For more information, visit APNEP's Web site at www.apnep.org. For the complete request for proposals, click on "What's New — Request for Proposals."

State of the Environment

www.enr.state.nc.us/html/SOEReport2008.html

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recently published *In Our Nature: The State of the Environment in North Carolina*. Filled with photos of our state's precious natural resources and stories about the people and agencies of DENR that protect the resources and educate the public, *In Our Nature* offers facts and figures, too. Check out this report and discover what's been going on at DENR during the past eight years!

Access *In Our Nature: The State of the Environment in North Carolina* at www.enr.state.nc.us/html/SOEReport2008.html.

Scotch Bonnet News

Moving Online!

Scotch Bonnet will move online beginning with the fall issue of 2009. We will continue to produce three issues per year. Online issues will be accessed through a direct Web address or through a link at www.ncseagrant.org. If hard copy materials are more your style, each issue will be available as a portable document file (.pdf) for downloading and printing.

Send your email address to scotchbonnet@ncseagrant.org and you'll receive a message when the newest issue is available.

My contact information is: North Carolina Sea Grant, P.O. Box 699, Manteo, NC 27954; phone: 252/475-3663; fax: 252/475-3545; e-mail: terrikh@csi.northcarolina.edu.

Best Fishes!

Scotch Bonnet

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