

Scotch Bonnet

What we are hearing from the sea.

North Carolina Sea Grant

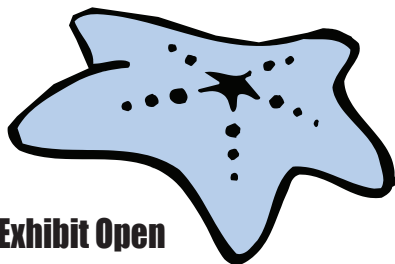
www.ncseagrant.org

Spring 2009

Moving Online!

Welcome to the last issue of *Scotch Bonnet* mailed out to subscribers. Just a reminder — we'll be going to an online version with the fall 2009 issue. If you're interested in keeping up with *Scotch Bonnet*, drop us an email to scotchbonnet@ncseagrant.org. We'll add your email address to our database and you will receive an email 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 summer opportunities for educators. There is a lot going on in North Carolina!



Oceans Revealed Exhibit Open

www.ncaquariums.com

Oceans Revealed: Power of the Planet, a new interactive exhibit that combines science and technology to tell the story of our oceans, opened on April 1 at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

The technology, known as Science on a Sphere, uses computers and projectors to display animated data onto the surface of a six-foot sphere. Available datasets provide images that include atmosphere, ocean, land, astronomy and model simulations. This exhibit will provide teachers with an extraordinary new educational tool allowing them to meet science standards in an interactive way.

The goal of *Oceans Revealed: Power of the Planet* is to use innovative technology to bring science to the everyday visitor. The exhibit helps teach programs on weather, the ocean, human impacts on the ocean, and many other topics. *Oceans Revealed* will make learning exciting for all.

A grant from NOAA's Office of Education funded this exhibit. Funding for construction came from the state and the North Carolina Aquarium Society. The Roanoke Island aquarium is the first in the United States to receive a Science on a Sphere. Thirty-four sites worldwide will have the sphere, including four international sites.

Albino Alligator Arrives

www.ncaquariums.com

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher has a new treasure in its collection. A female albino alligator, currently in aquarium quarantine, awaits completion of her new home in the Cape Fear Conservatory. A new exhibit, expected to open on May 29, is under development for the alligator.

At approximately four years old, the albino alligator is five feet long. Obtained from St. Augustine Alligator Farm in Florida, this rare alligator originally came from a nest in Louisiana. Eggs are taken from this nest each year — if left in the wild an albino alligator would not survive.

This alligator's parents, known for years by the collector, are not albino but carry the recessive gene for albinism. Albinism occurs in about 25 percent of alligator hatchlings whose parents carry the gene. Aquarium alligators currently on exhibit originally came from St. Augustine Alligator Farm in 2002. At that time, these creatures were only two feet long. Today they measure between six and eight feet long.

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher plans to keep the new albino and watch her grow, possibly up to a foot each year! "Albino alligators are very rare. We are proud our staff can provide the special care required for her to survive and thrive," says aquarium curator Hap Fatzinger.

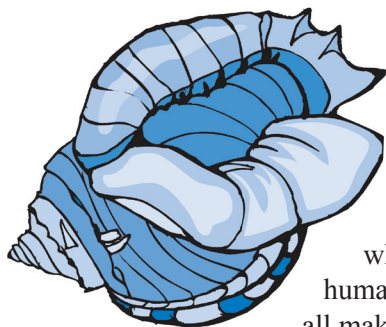
There are approximately 30 to 50 true albino alligators in existence. Given protection from the sun and proper care, an albino alligator can live as long as a green alligator — up to 60 years — and may reach 12 to 16 feet in length.

Continued

World Ocean Day

theoceanproject.org/wod/index.php

World Ocean Day (WOD), held on June 8 each year, provides an opportunity to join with people around the world to celebrate our world's ocean, which connects us all. The Ocean Project works with the World Ocean Network to coordinate events and activities with aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations, universities, schools and businesses around the world.



The theme — One Climate, One Ocean, One Future — will help bring local and global attention to the effects of climate change on the ocean, what this will mean for human life, and how we can all make important changes to reduce our CO₂ emissions. Visit the

Ocean Project Web site to enter your event, check out what's happening in your area, download the media and outreach kit, and much more.

NMEA Summer Conference

www.nmeaweb.org

Mark your calendars for June 29 to 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 was the site of the very first NMEA conference in 1976.

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

Online registration is open. You can learn more about the conference and its offerings by visiting the Web site. See you there! If not, look for a report on the conference in the fall issue of *Scotch Bonnet*.

Sharks on the Way

www.ncaquariums.com

The North Carolina Aquariums will celebrate Shark Week, July 26 to August 1, at all three facilities: Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores and Fort Fisher. Activities throughout the week reveal the mysterious and misunderstood world of sharks. Visit the Web site for details on activities, special events and programs taking place at each location.

Western NC Nature Center

www.wildwnc.org

The Western North Carolina (WNC) Nature Center, located in Asheville, is a living museum of plants and animals native to the Appalachian region. They offer a variety of programs year round. Visit the Web site for details and more!

The Beauty of Butterflies is an enclosed walk-through exhibit open June 27 through early September. This 15- by 40-foot mesh greenhouse will be home to several native species of butterflies and moths and the plants they need for survival. Celebrate scaly-winged friends on the exhibit's opening day, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fourth annual *Nectar Collector Day*. Children can get their faces painted, make buggy arts and crafts or participate in butterfly games while adults learn about attracting butterflies to their gardens.

Bring your pet reptiles to the WNC Nature Center for the annual *Reptile Beauty Pageant* on Saturday July 18. Expanded categories include all non-venomous reptiles: snakes, lizards and turtles. Festivities include reptile and amphibian exhibits and live animal programs. A Reptile Beauty Pageant at 2 p.m. concludes the day.

Don't miss *Overnight Delight*, a nocturnal adventure for families set for August 7-8. Join the education department for an evening of fun, food and folly camping under the stars. The programs begin at 7 p.m., Friday evening with an introduction to nocturnal animals. The night will conclude with snacks and storytelling around the log cabin fire.

After a continental breakfast in the morning, campers will pack up their sleeping gear, tents and belongings, collect their hand-made craft projects and say farewell. Please call to make your required reservations immediately as this event will fill

quickly. Cost is \$30 per child and \$20 per adult.

The WNC Nature Center is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for children. Visit the Web site for details on these programs and for a calendar of additional events.

NCCAT Offerings in Ocracoke

www.nccat.org

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) provides a collegial and engaging environment for teachers — it is a place to learn, think, debate and explore. The Center's seminars are relevant to all subjects taught in North Carolina's classrooms. NCCAT covers all program costs, including seminar expenses, meals, lodging, travel and pay for the substitute teacher.

Here is a partial listing of upcoming seminar topics at the NCCAT campus on Ocracoke Island. Visit the Web site for details and additional seminar topics.

June 15 – 19

U.S. Coast Guard: Guardians of the Sea

June 22 – 26

Lost Colony: Mystery and History

July 20 – 24

Songs and Tales of Whales and Sails

July 27 – 31

Writing from Sound to Sea: Inspiration and Creativity by the Shore

Aug. 10 – 14

Camelot: The Myth and Mystique of the Kennedy Years

Sept. 13 – 17

Endangered Species: Saving the Loggerhead and Piping Plover

Sept. 20 – 24

On the Edge of Forever: Teaching Beyond the Boundaries

Sept. 27 – Oct. 1

History Hits Home: World War II Off North Carolina's Coast

For more information, or to apply for a seminar, call Teacher Services at 800/922-0482 or visit the Web site.

Marine Debris Guide for Educators

www.cosee-se.org/marinedebris.php

COSEE SouthEast, along with a host of assistance, recently published *The Educator's Guide to Marine Debris: Southeast and Gulf of Mexico*. This 43-page publication is designed for educators in both formal and non-formal education situations.

It is a regional introduction to three main categories of marine debris: litter; derelict or abandoned boats; and lost or abandoned commercial and recreational fishing gear. The guide includes information about marine debris, useful lessons for middle-school levels, as well as regional and national resources.

This publication is free and is available for download from the COSEE SouthEast Web site. Hard copies also are available while supplies last, from 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 East Carolina University geologist Stan Riggs in an effort 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*.

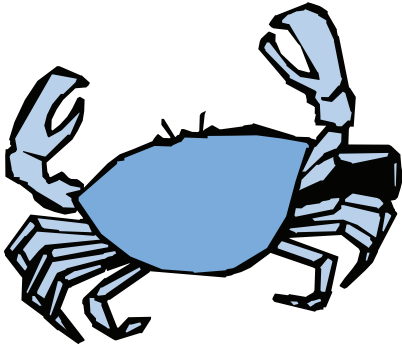
The *Coastal Processes and Conflicts* curriculum is a model for collaboration on resources for classrooms. The book includes extensive background information for teachers, as well as student lessons that are relevant in any setting — not just the island





environment. It is appropriate for middle and high school students.

Download this free curriculum from www.ecu.edu/educ/csmte/coastal_processes.cfm. Or you can order a hard copy (\$10 includes postage), which comes with a CD containing color copies of figures used in the student activities. For hard copies, contact Terri Kirby Hathaway at terrikh@csi.northcarolina.edu.



Scotch Bonnet News

Don't forget, *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 accessible via a direct Web address or through a link at www.ncseagrant.org. If printed issues 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 on the North Carolina Sea Grant Web site!

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

Best Fishes!

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