

The Nauplius[©]

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Winter 2003

NAUPLIUS NOTATIONS

Well, I guess it's time, after 3 weeks of procrastination, that I sit down and write my first President's letter since I'm sure most of you would prefer to receive your winter newsletter before the school year ends. It's a hard job to follow in the witty footsteps of Thaxter!

Of course, it hasn't helped that this past week was just a really difficult one where I couldn't focus coherently on much of anything. It was one of those where you don't want to get out of bed by Friday because you are afraid of what might happen next. But since my children like to eat, up I got on Friday, and the day's dilemma started promptly. Awful noises started emanating from the woodstove pipe, and considering our yard is host to approximately 5 billion of them, I knew right away it was a squirrel at the bottom of the chimney. He then proceeded to get himself into the woodstove making for instant child entertainment. My husband, the engineer, then preceded to come up with an elaborate plan to get the squirrel out of the house. About the time it was looking like the odds of him getting bitten and visiting the hospital were increasing (never a good idea to just set yourself up for disaster when you're having a bad week), I decided to call in a pest and wildlife control guy. So a few hours later, he shows up with his little cage and quickly sets to work trying to get the squirrel out of the stove and into the cage. Well, something didn't go quite right and next thing I know the guy is chasing the squirrel throughout my living and dining rooms! And after a few impressive diving leaps, he actually managed to catch the escapee with only two casualties, a picture off the wall and a spilled plant. Now in most cases, people would not consider having a squirrel running around their house particularly funny, but for me, it ended up being the comic relief for the week. It was a good reminder for me that although things are pretty unpredictable, there always is a light at the end of the tunnel. And I think that's why most of us are involved in education. There are always those

unexpected bright spots that keep us going and make what we are doing worthwhile.

Now, I should let you know that the above fiasco cost us over one hundred dollars for about 20 minutes of service. So, if you find that someone else is writing the next President's letter, it's because I have resigned in order to make my fortune as a pest and wildlife control gal!

Best of luck to you all for the rest of the winter,

Donna R. Dione, SENEME President

MARCH MADNESS...THE OTHER KIND!

By Lance Arnold

OK ... so what are you doing on Saturday, March 1st ...sleeping late?

Being a marine educator, you might consider joining your colleagues and their teams at the regional contest of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) to be amazed at the level of ability of the competing teams. The winning high school teams often display an undergraduate level of knowledge of marine-related sciences. This exciting contest, open to all CT and RI schools, both public and private, is the culmination of a year's worth of preparation by each team of five students and their coach.

The URI's Office of Marine Programs in partnership with Mystic Aquarium annually holds the "Quahog Bowl", our regional competition. The top teams from each of the 24 regional contests will be competing at the NOSB finals in La Jolla, CA in April, all expenses paid!

My students, all of whom participated last year, are working to be experts in their particular areas of responsibility. Texts and T.V., the Web and videos and coloring books all reinforce earlier classroom and field experiences.

The students absolutely love the day of the contest as each participant gets a bag of "goodies" including restaurant passes, free tickets to sporting events as well as museum and aquarium tours. Candy and pens and T-shirts and various small fun items are met with glee. The winning teams win individual \$1000 scholarships for each student and tours of the Naval Underwater Warfare Center and other sites and a sail on a research vessel or schooner.

The air at the contest is full of excitement and everyone is very upbeat as 80 competitors and their coaches and spectators move from venue to venue.

So...what were you doing on Saturday, March 1st?

Join us, bring some students, see what happens and what the excitement is all about, and then become part of it in future years!

For more general information on the National Ocean Sciences Bowl visit www.nosb.org.
To get more information on the Quahog Bowl visit <http://omp.gso.uri.edu/omp/edu/nosb/nosb.htm>.

Test Your Ocean Knowledge
(Sample National Ocean Sciences Bowl questions courtesy of Jill Johnen)

Question #1: Annually, the largest total oceanic primary production occurs in which geographic region of the ocean?

- a) a) temperate zones
- b) b) tropics
- c) c) subtropics
- d) d) Western boundary currents

Question #2: The method of analyzing tides which takes into account the presence of the continents and their effect on tides is...?

- a) a) harmonic analysis
- b) b) equilibrium
- c) c) dynamic tidal analysis
- d) d) static tidal analysis

Question #3: The coastlines with the widest continental shelf are found along the....

- a) a) Atlantic coast of the United States
- b) b) Indian coast of Africa
- c) c) Pacific coast of South America
- d) d) Atlantic coast of South America

Question #4: The form of inorganic carbon most abundant in seawater is:

- a) a) carbon dioxide
- b) b) carbonic acid
- c) c) bicarbonate ion
- d) d) carbonate ion

Answers to Questions: 1-a, 2-c, 3-d, 4-c

SENEME ANNOUNCES FIRST LIFE MEMBER!!

The SENEME Board is proud to announce that they have awarded Find Pedersen with SENEME's first Life Membership. The Board felt that this honor was most appropriate to express our thanks to Find for his many years of service to SENEME and marine education. From 1969 – 1994, Find taught at Tolland High School, also serving as Science Department Chair there. He currently is the Program Director of Environmental Technology at Briarwood

College. Since 1975, he has been a Corporate Member of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research where he served on the Education Committee from 1985 – 1993, chairing that committee from 1990 – 1992. Find served as Treasurer of SENEME from 1988 – 2002 and was involved in much of the early development of our SENEME organization. And although, Find is no longer Treasurer, he is continuing to serve on the SENEME Board (we're not letting him go that easily!!)

Congratulations and thank you, Find. We are all very honored to be associated with you!

****FREE OFFER FOR SENEME MEMBERS****

SENEME members are being offered a **free, one-year (4 issues) subscription** to *Natural New England* magazine. In order to receive your free subscription, you will need to send a written request via mail or e-mail for a one-year subscription to *Natural New England*. Please include your name and mailing address in your correspondence along with letting them know you saw this offer in the SENEME newsletter.

Natural New England magazine focuses on and celebrates science and outdoor exploration in the Northeast. This is a relatively young magazine, which features many diverse articles including student research projects, conservation news, birding highlights and museum activities.

Contact information: Natural New England, Science & Exploration of the Northeast, P.O. Box 2518, South Portland, ME 04116; nne@maine.rr.com.

Editor's note: I found the Fall 2002 issue to have many articles relevant to aquatic and marine educators including one on our very own Mickey Weiss! I definitely recommend giving it a try.

NEW YORK STATE MARINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Coastlines Are Our Lifelines:

Advancing Marine Science Through Research, Education, and Conservation

Annual Conference at Southampton College

May 30, 31, and June 1, 2003

Highlights include workshops, lectures, poster sessions and exhibitors, waterfront laboratories, field trips, Peconic Estuary Tour, Atlantis Marine World Visit, Lobster/Clambake and a film screening.

Held in cooperation with American Museum of Natural History, Wildlife Conservation Society/New York Aquarium, Southampton College, Atlantis Marine World, South Shore Estuary Reserve Council and New York Sea Grant.

For complete conference information, check the website <http://members.aol.com/NYSMEA>.