

# The Nauplius<sup>©</sup>

Volume XVII, Number 2

Winter 2006

## *Letter from the President*

So, I guess I cannot avoid this any longer...my first SENEME President's address. I want to start by saying a nice big "thank you" to out-going President Donna Dione for all her hard work and commitment to the organization these past three years. Fortunately for SENEME, Donna is still an active member of the Board and has agreed (for now at least) to stay on as Editor of the newsletter. Thank you Donna for everything you have done!

I also want to remind everyone to attend the 2006 LIS Educators Conference to be held Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk. Workshops will cover such topics as Ocean Literacy, Coastal Connections, and the Human Impact on LIS. A special guest lecturer, Ralph J. Yulo, Jr., Professor Emeritus at Eastern Connecticut State University, will give a keynote talk titled "Roll On, Thou Deep and Dark Blue Ocean - Roll!"

Ocean Literacy, one of this year's themes, does not just mean that a person can regurgitate a few facts about the oceans. Instead an ocean-literate person: (1) understands fundamental concepts, (2) can communicate these ideas in a meaningful way and (3) can make informed decisions about the ocean and its resources. I have been thinking about ocean literacy a lot, especially as I walked into a recent meeting of the New England Ocean Science Education Committee. I was immediately asked to answer 3 questions... Who? Where? Why? The "who am I and where do I work" were pretty easy to answer; but the why had me momentarily stumped, partly because of the audience. Everyone else in the room had titles following their names:...Director of Education...Executive Director of...President of NMEA...It was at that moment that I realized I have stepped into the realm of the "big boys". I had only a few minutes to remind myself that, yes, I did belong at the same table with them. My answer to the why question (Why am I passionate about ocean education?) came unbidden, and at the time I thought, a bit cliché. "I am passionate about ocean education because I have always been surrounded by incredible teachers...what choice/chance did I have?"

Now a month has passed and I realize that my answer really speaks to the truth of my passion. My earliest memories are of my mom taking me fishing and crabbing. I was on my way to ocean literacy before I reached high school. Throughout my life, marine educators have influenced me, sometimes subtly, other times overtly. What they had in common was their desire to share their knowledge with me. I don't know if they knew at the time how profound an impact they were making on my life - they are the reason why I am sitting writing this letter to you today. Cheers to them!

Hope to see you all at an upcoming SENEME event! Enjoy the rest of your winter.



Lauren M. Rader  
SENEME President



## **FROM THE BOARD ROOM.....**

While at first glance you might not notice, SENEME has a new website! In order to improve and expand the website, the Board decided to purchase our own site. The address is still the same at [www.SENEME.org](http://www.SENEME.org). Thanks to Ocean Technology Foundation for hosting the SENEME website for the past year. Special thanks to Webmaster Jenna Carlson for implementing all the exciting changes.

**If you would like to receive email updates from SENEME, you can now go to the homepage of the website and sign-up to join our electronic mailing list.**

The Board is currently looking for members who might be interested in joining a committee. There are openings on the Scholarships & Awards, Development and Membership & Public Relations Committees. Committee members are not required to attend SENEME Board meetings and much of the committee work will be done via email. If you are interested in joining, please contact the SENEME Board at our new email address: [senemeboard@seneme.org](mailto:senemeboard@seneme.org). **Please note that the old SENEME address at yahoo.com will be discontinued as of April 1, 2006.**

Please remember that SENEME members are always welcome at SENEME Board meetings. See the Calendar later in this issue for upcoming meeting dates and places. Contact SENEME President, Lauren Rader, at [ocean10@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:ocean10@uconnvm.uconn.edu) for further details or to let her know you are planning to come.

---

## ***SENEME PRESENTS...***

***The 2006 Long Island Sound Educators Conference  
The Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT  
Friday, March 31, 2006  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm***

***Cost: \$45.00 (includes parking, Aquarium admission, IMAX movie, morning refreshments, workshops, field programs and more!)***

***Keynote Address: “Roll On, Thou Deep and Dark Blue Ocean - Roll” by  
Dr. Ralph J. Yulo, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Eastern Connecticut State University  
IMAX movie: Island of the Sharks***

**Sponsored by the U.S. EPA - Long Island Sound Study, Connecticut Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, New York State Marine Educators Association (NYSMEA), Project Oceanology and The Maritime Aquarium**

Please visit the SENEME website at [www.SENEME.org](http://www.SENEME.org) for the registration packet.

# Seal Season is Approaching in Long Island Sound

*By Heather Medic, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration*

Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration (MAIFE) is a founding member of the Northeast Regional Stranding Network and has been responding to both live and dead marine mammal and sea turtle stranding calls since 1973. The activities of the Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Stranding Program are focused along the coasts of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Fishers Island, NY.

The Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Program operates with a full-time Stranding Coordinator, a part-time Stranding Assistant and a volunteer force of over 50. The number of volunteers has grown over the last few years, and there is still a need for more volunteer support. Volunteers are trained to respond to calls from the public or local law enforcement, assist in maintenance of the stranding facilities, and care for in-house stranded marine mammals. Without the volunteers' perseverance and dedication, the rehabilitation process would not be possible.

The ultimate goal of the Stranding Program is to respond to each and every call to find out if the marine mammal or sea turtle is in need of assistance and to provide public education while doing so. Last year in Connecticut the number of sighting calls (animals that do not come in for rehabilitation) increased to 121 from 64 the year before. All but one of the calls last year in CT was of seals, but only one seal came in for rehabilitation from CT. Just because there is a seal on land, this does not mean that the animal will need to come in for rehabilitation.

Many people do not know that seals, unlike other marine mammals, need to come up on land to rest. They can stay on land for up to 48 hours without eating or getting wet. Seals are semi-aquatic animals, which mean they often spend a portion of each day on land. They haul out of the water for a variety of reasons including rest, to give birth, and to shed. While out of the water, they will not eat. Seals store enough fat in their blubber layer to allow them to go for extended periods of time without eating.

There are four types of seals that we can see in Long Island Sound (LIS). Most of the seals that people are used to seeing in the LIS are off-shore hauled out on rocks and sand bars in groups, but many times seals will be sighted alone. Ice seals in particular are almost always sighted alone in this region and can be found on docks, floating ice, lawns, beaches, and even up rivers.

Since the mid 1990's, we have had two species of ice seals visit LIS in the winter months. We call these two species "ice seals" because they are from Canada and even further north toward Greenland, where they spend most of their lives on ice flows. These seals are known as harp and hooded seals and can be seen in New England from mid-January to early May. The regional seals that we have are harbor and gray seals. Both the harbor and the gray seal make LIS their home from September through June, sometimes never leaving at all. However, the majority of seals do leave the area to breed in their northern territory in the summer months. The regional seals keep their distance from people and haul-out together in large groups. The ice seals are social in their northern territory, but they are solitary when we view them. Regional seals usually retreat to the water when approached, unless it is a pup. Ice seals typically are not afraid of people and will not usually retreat to the water when approached. Ice seals can be aggressive. Open-mouth displays and vocalizations are signs that you are too close, and they may bite if they feel threatened.

As the population of ice seals increases, we will see more and more in this region. The population of harp seals in Canada is over 5.5 million and growing. Young seals that will not be mating tend to spread out to find new territory when hunting for fish. The harp seal can be seen as far south as Virginia each winter, and last year there were more harp seals seen in Connecticut than in Rhode Island.

We want to provide a quick response to callers' concerns about marine mammals and sea turtles. How can you help? We encourage people to give us a call when they see a marine mammal or sea turtle. Then we can determine if the animal is in need of medical attention, needs to be moved from a populated area or just needs time to rest. Seals especially are very resilient and usually just need time to rest. Ice seals are on their own when they are only 12 days old, and our regional seals no longer need to be with their mothers after 5 weeks. Most of the seals that people see are just looking for a place to rest before their next big meal.

Limit your viewing time. Loud noises and quick movements are likely to scare or agitate a wild animal. All marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 further protects sea turtles and whales that are endangered. It is illegal to touch, feed, disturb, harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals and sea turtles.

## **Seal Season is Approaching in Long Island Sound - *continued***

Harassment occurs when your behavior changes their behavior. Stay at least 50 yards (150 feet) away from marine mammals and sea turtles. Warning signs of harassment are not what most people expect when they come upon a seal on land. If your presence causes increased vocalizations by seals; shaking or body tremors; a resting animal to lift its head with eyes on you; or a seal on the beach to eat rocks and sand then you are too close. A good thing to keep in mind is that seals do not get cold. They have a thick blubber layer. So when a seal is shaking do not put a blanket on the animal or put the animal in a warm car. This will only cause stress, and stress can kill a wild animal.

MAIFE is a non-profit organization, and we rely heavily on the assistance of private donations and grants in order to continue to provide rapid response and medical assistance. If you would like to help, donations are always welcome. To make a donation or to call us about a marine mammal or sea turtle, please call the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Program at MAIFE at 860-572-5955 ext 107.

---

## **Ocean Diversity Institute - April 16 to 21, 2006** **FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENT STUDENTS IN GRADE 9 or 10**

Participants in Project Oceanology's 5-day, residential institute will embark on field study excursions that combine exploration of marine environments and habitats with laboratory research activities, which offer an excellent review of CAPT science concepts. Under the guidance of professional marine scientists, students will use marine science research equipment such as sediment cores, salinity meters, nutrient test kits, dissolved oxygen meters and seine nets.

Students selected for this program will represent a diverse range of cultures, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds and be from both urban and rural areas of Connecticut. During the institute, students will participate in activities that encourage understanding and acceptance of differences in culture and background.

Project Oceanology can accept only those students whose school will provide them with credit for completing the Ocean Diversity Institute. A letter from the school district will be required indicating that credit will be awarded to students who successfully complete this program. Credit should be based upon 60 hours of instructional time. The Ocean Diversity Institute is funded by a Connecticut State Department of Education Interdistrict Cooperative Grant. All meals, boat transportation, lodging and program materials are funded through the grant.

Questions about this program can be directed to Lauren Rader at Project Oceanology (860-445-9007 x3021 or [ocean10@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:ocean10@uconnvm.uconn.edu)). Additional information can be found on the Project Oceanology website: [www.oceanology.org](http://www.oceanology.org).

## **Ocean Explorer Academy - April 16 to 21, 2006** **FOR GRADES 5 & 6**

A week of hands-on marine science research for grades 5 & 6. Explore such topics as water chemistry, coastal geology and biology of flora and fauna including classification and adaptations.

In addition to our research laboratories, classrooms, computer lab and cafeteria, we have a 55' research vessel and a fleet of small boats for use during camp week. Adjacent to Project Oceanology are a diverse variety of marine ecosystems and coastal habitats. The combination of having access to natural marine environments and research laboratories makes this a science-rich experience.

Cost is \$350 per student. Students must provide their own lunch and transportation. Space is limited. Please enroll now to guarantee your place. Questions about this program can be directed to Project Oceanology (860-445-9007). Additional information can be found on the Project Oceanology website: [www.oceanology.org](http://www.oceanology.org).



# BULLETIN BOARD



## MYSTIC AQUARIUM & INSTITUTE FOR EXPLORATION

### NEW! Seal Workshop & Seal Watch

CEU's provided

Saturday, March 18, 2006 approx. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$40 for adults, \$25 for children ages 6-12. Includes Aquarium admission, classroom seal program & tour, and Seal Watch

Teachers, grades K-12 and families

Did you know that in any given year Mystic Aquarium responds to at least 50 reports of stranded marine mammals? And that the vast majority of these are seals? Join us at Mystic Aquarium as we familiarize ourselves with seals - their basic anatomy, physiology and unique adaptations. See our stranding facilities and get a sense of how our response operation works. Then, come with us as we climb aboard and head out on Fishers Island Sound to see seals in their natural habitat, basking on rocks during low tide. What a fantastic day devoted to understanding and appreciating our local pinnipeds.

Please call Reservations at 860-572-5955 ext. 520 to register.

## URI'S NARRAGANSETT BAY CLASSROOM

### Field Trips and Interpretive Programs

Plan today for Spring Field Trips and Interpretive Programs through the URI's Narragansett Bay Classroom.

These hands-on programs are lead by URI Outreach Scientists and allow students a chance to become scientists.

See the Narragansett Bay Classroom section of the Office of Marine Programs (OMP) website:

<http://omp.gso.uri.edu/omp/nbc.htm> or call 401-874-6211 for more information.

### Immersion Presents: Greece Erupts!

One of the most advanced civilizations of any time, The Minoan civilization, was destroyed by a catastrophic volcanic eruption. The eruption took place on the island of Santorini near the city of Knossos: nothing remained of their homes or their ships. This expedition will explore the geological and oceanographic processes related to the activity of the Santorini volcano in the southern Aegean Sea, with a focus on the recent hydrothermal and volcanic activity, while characterizing the infamous Bronze Age eruption.

The Inner Space Center at the University of Rhode Island, will serve as the hub for real-time telecommunication, live outreach, and produced broadcasts, which can be viewed over Internet2.

**Broadcast dates: June 2 – 8, 2006**

More information concerning this expedition will be posted on the OMP website, <http://omp.gso.uri.edu>

### Quahog Bowl

The Quahog Bowl will be held **March 4, 2006** at the URI's Narragansett Bay Campus. The public is invited to watch. The Quahog Bowl is the RI/CT regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl competition. Go to [www.nosb.org](http://www.nosb.org) or call 401-874-6211 for more information.

## NATIONAL MARINE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (NMEA)

### **The Awards Committee awaits your nominations for the 2006 NMEA Education Awards!**

Award descriptions and the nomination form may be found at the "awards" link on the NMEA website at <http://www.marine-ed.org/>. For a list of past winners, see the NMEA History Book, which is linked from the home page.

Due date for nominations is May 1, 2006. But don't wait till the last minute....successful nomination packages take time, so please start thinking today of someone who deserves recognition for their outstanding contributions to ocean education. Awards will be presented at the annual ceremony held during the NMEA Conference in July.



# BULLETIN BOARD



## SOUNDWATERS

### Camp SoundWaters

Camp SoundWaters is located on Long Island Sound. We explore the beaches, tidal pools and Holly Pond to help children learn through first-hand experience. Three great options: Nature Discovery for grades K - 5, Small Boat Sailing for grades 4 - 6 and Schooner Sailing for grades 6 - 8. Only minutes from exit 9 off I-95. One and two week sessions available.

Registration Open Now! Call 203-406-3312 or visit the new website: [www.soundwaters.org/camp](http://www.soundwaters.org/camp).

### SoundWaters Annual Cleanup Day & Horseshoe Crab Festival

**Saturday, May 13, 2006 is the fifth annual SoundWaters Cleanup of Holly Pond & Cove Island Park!**

Help protect the Long Island Sound environment by participating in this great event. Volunteers will be treated to a barbeque and fun SoundWaters activities! Relax afterwards at our first Horseshoe Crab Festival! Learn all about these fascinating residents of the Sound and hopefully catch a glimpse of their nesting journey to the shore. For more information visit [www.soundwaters.org](http://www.soundwaters.org) or call 203-406-3308.

### SoundWaters Kayak Race & Conservation Day

**Saturday, September 16, 2006**

Paddle your craft from the shores of Cove Island Park to the schooner *SoundWaters* and back! Novices are welcome in the fun race or challenge your skills in the seven-mile race. Enjoy fun Conservation Day games, crafts and activities with your family after the race. For more information visit [www.soundwaters.org](http://www.soundwaters.org) or call 203-406-3314.

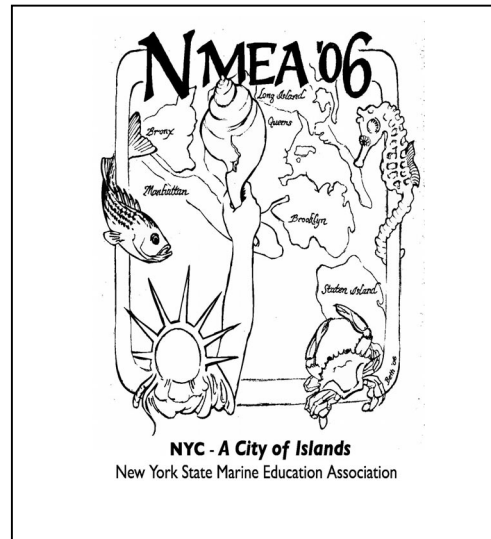
## NMEA in New York City

### A City of Islands!

July 15-21, 2006

Long Island University,  
Brooklyn Center

Presented by the New York State Marine  
Education Association



### **Highlights of the conference include:**

- Captivating keynote speakers, including geologist and educator Sidney Hornstein, who will explain how the islands of New York came to be
- A daily strand called "Science Research in Action," which will provide local scientists with the opportunity to share their recent discoveries in marine-related topics
- Fantastic exhibitors and vendors
- Concurrent live and poster sessions by conference participants
- Fun evening events (with plenty of food, music and dancing) at The American Museum of Natural History (followed by a bus excursion to Chinatown for a special 8-course dinner), The New York Aquarium, and aboard the cruise ship *Tempress*
- Stegner performance by the renowned Arm-of-the-Sea Theater
- A huge array of field trips to sites in the NYC area as well as out on Long Island.

Visit <http://www.NYSMEA.org/con06/> for complete conference information.

The SENEME Scholarships and Awards Committee is responsible for establishing the criteria for and awarding of scholarships/awards to the general membership. At this time, the Scholarships and Awards Committee has established the following annual awards:

1. SENEME Life Member

Life membership is the highest recognition the Association offers and is reserved for those individuals who have demonstrated a distinguished career in teaching, research or service in marine education.

This nomination requires completion of a nomination form and letters of recommendation from at least three active SENEME members. The Awards Committee will present its recommendation to the SENEME Board for consideration. Upon endorsement by the majority of the Board, the successful nominee shall be declared a Life Member and will receive lifetime membership in SENEME.

2. SENEME Marine Educator of the Year

For effective and innovative teaching, and/or distinguished performance by either a classroom teacher or professionals who are not classroom teachers.

This nomination requires completion of a nomination form and a letter of recommendation from at least one active SENEME member. Recipient receives one-year membership to SENEME and registration to the annual Fall conference.

3. SENEME Fall Conference Scholarship

In order to assist members in attending the annual Fall Conference, one full conference registration scholarship will be awarded to a SENEME member in need of financial assistance.

The scholarship award is based on financial need of the applicant. Geographical location and order of receipt of the completed applications are not considered in the decision to award the scholarship. *Applicants must not be a SENEME Officer, voting member of the Board of Directors, and must not have been awarded the scholarship for the past two Fall Conferences.*

4. SENEME Mini-Grant

In order to assist members in purchasing equipment and/or supplies for their classroom, the mini-grant will be awarded to the SENEME member whose application includes: a project plan that best describes the goals and objectives of their project, how the award will be utilized for the project, and a demonstrated need for financial assistance. Geographical location and order of receipt of the completed applications are not considered in the decision to award the mini-grant. *Applicants must be a classroom teacher and must not be a SENEME Officer, voting member of the Board of Directors, and must not have been awarded the mini-grant for the past two years.*

Additionally, the Scholarship and Awards Committee is in the process of developing criteria for the award of a scholarship towards the NMEA National Conference.

**Southeastern New England Marine Educators Association  
2006 Awards Nomination Form**

Please mark the appropriate nomination category:

Life Member

Marine Educator of the Year

On a separate sheet of paper, please respond to the following: Briefly describe the nominee's background. Describe the successful program for which the nominee was responsible. How do the nominee's accomplishments best reflect the designated award category?

---

Nominee

---

Nominator

---

Affiliation

---

Affiliation

---

Address (work)

---

Address (work)

---

City/State/Zip (work)

---

City/State/Zip (work)

---

Ph (work)

---

Ph (work)

---

Address (home)

---

Address (home)

---

City/State/Zip (home)

---

City/State/Zip (home)

---

Ph (home)

---

Ph (home)

---

Email

---

Email

On a separate sheet of paper, please include the name of the nominee's local newspaper so that we may issue a press release about the award if chosen. In addition, please include the names/addresses of others who should be officially notified if nominee is selected (ie - principal, director, etc.)

Submit nominations to:

Lauren Rader  
Project Oceanology  
1084 Shennecossett Rd  
Groton, CT 06340

work: 860-445-9007 x3021  
email: ocean10@uconnvm.uconn.edu

# DATES TO REMEMBER



- March 8, 2006            SENEME Board Meeting, URI, Narragansett, RI, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
  - March 31, 2006        Long Island Sound Educators Conference, Norwalk, CT, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
  - May 8, 2006            SENEME Board Meeting, Schooner, Inc., New Haven, CT, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
  - June 14, 2006         SENEME Board Meeting, Project Oceanology, Groton, CT, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
  - July 15-21, 2006       NMEA 2006, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
  - August 25, 2006      Coals on the Coast, Schooner, Inc., New Haven, CT
  - October 14, 2006      SENEME Fall Conference & Annual Meeting, Avery Point, Groton, CT
- 

SENEME  
c/o Project Oceanology  
1084 Shennecossett Rd.  
Avery Point  
Groton, CT 06340

**20th Anniversary**



**1983-2003**

