UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
EXTENSION
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

aqua-notes

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Sea Grant Florida

February, 2002

Mark your calendars...

- Feb 7-10—Boat-A-Rama at Prime Osborne Convention Center, Jax
- Feb 9—Water Education Festival at MOSH, Jax, 10 am-4 pm
- Feb 11-12—Coastal Storms Initiative, Jax
- March 12-17—St. Johns County Fair
- April 5-7—LEEF conference
- April 13—Girl Scouts' 90th Anniversary celebration
- April 25-28—FMSEA meeting
- April 28-May 4—Global Science and Technology Week (NOAA)

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Education—not just for teachers

Happy New Year, everybody! It seems that most of the things on my calendar for this quarter involve working with educators, so I thought I would spend some time in this issue of Aqua Notes sharing some valuable resources that I have found and used in teaching others about coastal ecology. If you are not a "classroom teacher", please do not assume that this information will not be useful or interesting to you—we are all educators in one sense or another! I should give the disclaimer that the websites listed in this issue of Aqua Notes are not intended by any means to be all-inclusive, nor are they necessarily endorsed by the University of Florida. However, they ARE sites that I have found useful and hope you will too!

4-H students competing in the Marine Ecology Judging Event in November.

Maia McGuire

4-H Marine Ecology Judging Event

Three students from St. Johns county participated in the 2001 4-H Marine Ecology Judging Event last November at Camp Ocala. Christa Longo, Chris and Mike Widener all competed for the first time; Dorothy and Amanda Gray and Chris Adkins volunteered their time to help. Participants in the event are required to answer multiple-choice questions about marine science, and identify 60 plant, invertebrate and vertebrate specimens. The 2002 materials are being prepared and will include a revised species list, as well as a photo study guide which will be accessible through the Florida 4-H website. Anyone who is interested in finding out more information about this competition should contact their 4-H agent, or Maia McGuire at 904-461-4014.

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educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

Educators' conferences

- 2002 Marine Benthic Ecology Meeting will be held in Orlando from March 21-24. While this is (strictly speaking) geared towards graduate marine biology students, not educators, it is a wonderful conference for anyone interested in benthic ecology. For information, see http://bio.fsu.edu/~thistle/bem2002.html

- League of Environmental Educators of Florida (LEEF) annual meeting is April 4-7 2002 in Ellenton, FL. For information, see http://leef-florida.org/.

- Florida Marine Science Education Association annual meeting is April 25-28, 2002 in Ft. Pierce. For information, contact Marielise Arana at marielise_arana@hotmail.com

NSTA workshop

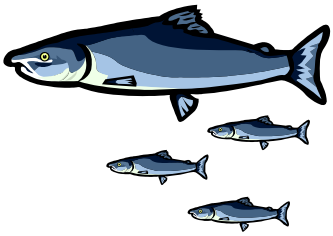
The National Science Teachers Association is offering the following summer workshop. Participants receive a stipend and per diem, in addition to travel and lodging.

Train to become a Webwatcher

Train to become a Webwatcher—become part of a cadre of teachers who research and select websites to be integrated into science curricula. K-6 teacher workshop is June 24-July 5 and 7-12 is July 15—July 26. To apply, see http://www.scilinks.org/nsfinstitute/application/ Deadline to apply is March 1. Questions? Contact Mark Davis at mdavis@nsta.org

Opportunities for students

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. The Hutton is an educational program for high school students and was designed to develop interest in a career in fisheries among groups underrepresented in the fisheries profession, including minorities and women. While the program focuses on minorities, non-minority students may also participate in the program. Students are provided with a professional mentor and a summer-long, hands-on experience in fisheries science in either a marine or freshwater setting. A scholarship is provided to students accepted into the program. For more information, see http://www.fisheries.org/Hutton.shtml.



Marine Explorer Program. Youth aged 14-20 in Flagler county can learn about different careers relating to the marine environment by participating in the Marine Explorer Program which will be based at Marineland. For information, contact Mike Beer at 386-274-4470

Fishing line recycling program is underway!

Since the last newsletter, another 11 fishing line recycling stations have been sponsored by individuals or groups in the 4-county area, bringing the current total to more than 50! Thanks to the following for their sponsorship(s): Jacksonville Waterways Commission, Hunter & Laurel Pierpont, The St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc (6), Flagler Beach Dive Shop, Friends of Talbot Island Park (2). These sponsors join Flagler Beach Sport Fishing Club, Flagler Audubon Society, Flagler County (9+), Riverside-Argyle-West Lions Club of Jacksonville (3), Scottish Rites Bodies of Jacksonville (2), Stewards of the St. Johns River, Duval Audubon Society, Inc. (3), Palm Cove Marina, Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (2), Fort Matanzas National Monument (3), St. Augustine Shores Service Corporation, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation (4), Anastasia State Recreation Area (2), Amelia Island Turtle Watch, Inc., and Fort Clinch State Park in supporting the monofilament recycling program. 4 stations have been installed in Nassau county, 18 in Duval, 8 in St. Johns and 11 in Flagler county. Volunteers who are interested in helping install and/or empty the stations should call 904-461-4014.

The recycling station at the St. Augustine Shores fishing pier

Outdoor recycling station locations

Nassau County: Fernandina Harbor Marina, Fort Clinch State Park

Duval County: Talbot Island State Park (3), Sisters Creek (2), Carlucci ramp, Dames Point fishing pier, Bert Maxwell fishing pier, St. Johns River boat ramp (by River City Brewing Company), Arlington Road ramp, Arlington Lions Club ramp, Pottsburg Creek, Palm Cove Marina, Beach Blvd ramp (2), Mayport ramp (2), Lighthouse marine ramp, Stockton Park, Wayne B. Stevens ramp, Hood Landing

St. Johns County: Shands pier, Trout Creek Park, Vilano Beach pier, Vilano boat ramp, Lighthouse boat ramp, Lighhouse fishing pier, Anastasia State Recreation Area, St. Augustine Beach fishing pier, St. Augustine Shores fishing pier, Fort Matanzas (3)

Flagler County: Bing's Landing (3), Flagler Beach fishing pier (2), Moody boat ramp (2), Princess Place Preserve (2), Hershchel King Park , Russell Landing

We're moving….

The NE Florida Sea Grant Extension office will be relocating to the St. Johns County Cooperative Extension offices (Agricultural Center) in **April**. The new office is located off SR 16, just west of I-95 in St. Augustine. Please note the new address, phone and fax numbers. The e-mail address will not change.

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Thanks to volunteers

A number of people have volunteered to help with the monofilament recycling program. Thanks to Dottie Olander-Gray and Andy Reigard for helping install stations in Duval county (and to Chris Bodin and Steve Nichols for offering to help!). Kathy Russell and her environmental club built and installed stations in Fernandina Beach; Flagler county built and installed stations at Flagler county parks. Thanks to all those who have adopted stations: Jorjann Kuypers (and her class at Buddy Taylor Middle School), Jennifer Lacasse, Greg Herkert, Mary Ann Shields, Peggy Ferver, Carolyn Simon, Wade Kissam, Ray Marson, Robin Wilson, Rene Angers, Dottie Gray, Chris Bodin, Bob Howard and Jill Howard. Thanks also to those who called and offered to help but whose preferred stations were already adopted: Sumner Gray, Diane Reed, Andrea Jones, Mort Hansen and Donna Heyford. Also, thanks to the many county, city and park officials who have facilitated the installation of the recycling containers on their properties.

Indoor recycling station locations

Nassau County: Amelia Island Bait & Tackle

Duval County: Todd Marine, C&H Ultimate Tackle, Trout River Fish Co., Little Talbot Island State Park Ranger Station, B&M Tackle, West Marine (4415 Roosevelt Blvd)

St. Johns County: Hook, Line & Sinker, Avid Angler, St. Augustine Beach Pier tackle shop, Fort Matanzas National Monument Ranger office

Flagler County: Sea Grant Extension office (Marineland), Flagler Beach pier tackle shop

NWF Schoolyard Habitats Program

The National Wildlife Federation has developed a program which encourages educators to explore the living outdoor classroom in their schoolyards. Students can experience hands-on learning opportunities without the logistical headaches and costs involved with arranging field trips. NWF will provide educators workshops if there is enough interest (if you would be interested in attending a workshop in NE Florida, call the Sea Grant office and we will see if we can get enough people together to justify NWF sending a trainer to our region). More information about the Schoolyard Habitats program can be found at http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/welcome.cfm#letter

St. Johns River Water Management District resources

Free stuff!

- Did you know that the Water Management District has FREE educational programs and materials for audiences of all ages? Many of the printed materials can be ordered or directly printed from the website http://sjr.state.fl.us. Educational programs can be requested from Eileen Tramontana, education supervisor, by calling 904-329-4572. Programs range from River Trash to Aquifer models, water conservation and environmental landscaping.
- For those of you outside the 19 counties served by the SJRWMD, be aware that other water management districts also offer free educational programs and information!

More free stuff for educators!

- Many government agencies produce free educational materials which range from one-page fact sheets to entire books of activities and information. The USGS offers watershed maps geared towards different age groups (contact Howard Perlman at hperlman@usgs.gov). The EPA has lots of publications which can be ordered (for free) from their website—most of the water-related information can be found through http://www.epa.gov/OWOW. Florida DEP produces a number of environmental education materials—for a catalog, contact Deena Wells at Deena.Wells@dep.state.fl.us
- Looking for classroom activities? Sea World has a monthly newsletter called "Adventure mail". To subscribe, send a message to ADVENTURE-MAIL-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@mail.seaworld.org. In the body of the message, type SUBSCRIBE ADVENTURE-MAIL Firstname Lastname. Also, activities for older grades can be found at http://www.accessexcellence.com/AE. This site has activities that are contributed by teachers; most activities use everyday materials. Check out the Pelotes Island Nature Preserve website for standards-based curriculum materials. http://pelotes.jea.com

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Science serving coastal Florida

Need a guest speaker?

- I am available to talk to groups (at no charge) on a variety of topics, including Estuaries, Coral Reefs, Marine/Coastal Pollution, Food from the Sea and Fish Venting. If you are interested in having me come to speak to your group, please call 904-461-4014 to schedule a date, time and topic. If you would be interested in hearing about a topic that is not listed, let me know and I will see what I can put together for you. I am also available to help judge science fairs, to present information about marine-related careers, etc. I can prepare talks for all ages, from preschool to adults.
- Need curriculum/activity ideas based on environmental or marine science? Call me and I'll help you find the info you need.
- We are in the process of setting up educator workshops for March, April and May in Nassau, St. Johns and Flagler counties—the topic will be Estuaries and the workshops will focus on activities that can be done at minimal cost to provide hands-on activities relating to estuaries. For more information, contact the Sea Grant office.