

INSIDE SEA GRANT

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WINTER 2002

Volunteers clear away tons of trash

September 21 was a beautiful day for the 14th annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep, and thousands of volunteers statewide turned out to help make the environment cleaner and safer.



Volunteers pick up trash on Folly Beach during the 2002 Beach Sweep/River Sweep

Seventy-five site captains and nearly 3,000 volunteers cleared over 15 tons of trash from beaches and waterways in coastal South Carolina. Some debris had been waiting over 50 years to be picked up. Volunteers at Battery Creek in Beaufort County hauled 112 old tires out from what used to be a dumping area back in the 1950s! Other items of local concern included:

- Firework debris in the Myrtle Beach area;
- Food rations, flip-flops, and medical supplies, possibly from an active Navy ship, washed ashore in DeBordieu;
- Debris from a sunken shrimp boat washed up onto a beach in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge;
- Miscellaneous trash, styrofoam, and construction material in Charleston harbor;
- Fishing-related debris in several creeks and rivers.

Cigarette butts are expected to be the number-one item found on the coast,

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Extension specialists link science and citizens

This summer S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program specialists Cal Sawyer and Jack Whetstone organized a Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop at NOAA's Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR). Several members of the S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae, chaired by the Consortium's Executive Director Rick DeVoe, presented their work on harmful algal blooms (HABs) in South Carolina.

The workshop was an outreach component

of a grant from NOAA National Ocean Service for the Harmful Algal Bloom Initiative for South Carolina.

After the workshop, attendees took a field trip to Kiawah Island with Norm Shea, Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) lakes director. Since monitoring began on Kiawah, the golf course ponds have been algal bloom "hot spots" during the summer months. Participants on the field trip observed

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Inside Sea Grant is published two times a year to inform interested constituents about opportunities, activities, goals and accomplishments of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is a university-based network supporting research, education, and outreach to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunity for the people of South Carolina.

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followed by debris associated with beach-going activities (bottles, cans, plastic ware, and fast-food containers), and boating activities (ropes, nets, buoys, and fishing line).

Participants on the coast worked hard to tackle the litter problem in rivers, creeks, and marshes, resulting in more groups than ever ridding these fragile ecosystems of harmful debris.

Special thanks to Alexandra Simpson, College of Charleston communications student, who helped Susan Ferris, coastal coordinator, organize the Sweep on the coast. Also, thanks to S.C. Sea Grant staffer Susannah Sheldon for coordinating the cleanup on Folly Island.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and S.C. Department of Natural Resources organized Beach Sweep/River Sweep 2002. The next Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2003; updates can be found at <http://www.scseagrant.org/education.htm>.

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Susan Wilde with S.C. Department of Natural Resources and University of South Carolina take samples of the blue-green algae, and measure pH and salinity while Shea spoke about KICA's ecologically sound approach to pond management.

The majority of people surveyed rated the workshop very good or excellent in terms of presentation quality and information usefulness.

As a result of the workshop, environmental horticulturalist Gary Forrester of Clemson Extension in Horry County is now working with the S.C. Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (SCPMN), a volunteer monitoring program directed by Steve Morton of NOAA CCEHBR. Forrester has recruited master gardeners to take water samples in two locations once a week in Murrell's Inlet and Pawley's Island.

Forrester will examine two samples to check for harmful algae. The master gardeners will learn how to examine samples, report on abundance of harmful algae, and send relevant data to CCEHBR.

Forrester hopes to work with the SCPMN to expand the monitoring network to schools in Horry and Georgetown counties.

Outreach activities such as this workshop are a critical link in communicating scientific research to the people of South Carolina—and enabling citizen involvement in the world of science.

Accomplishments

Coastal Heritage wins National Publication Excellence Award

Coastal Heritage, a quarterly magazine published by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, recently won an APEX Award of Excellence for its outstanding editorial content, graphic design, and communications effectiveness. The APEX awards are sponsored by Communications Concepts, Inc.

Coastal Heritage is produced by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium communications staff: **Linda Blackwell**, communications director; **John Tibbetts**, editor; **Patty Snow**, art director; and **Susan Ferris**, contributing writer. The magazine covers issues of environmental policy, science, and history. For a free subscription, contact the Consortium office at (843) 727-2078.

South Carolina student wins coastal management fellowship

Susan L. Fox, nominated by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, has received a Coastal Management Fellowship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center. Fox is completing a M.S. degree in the University of Charleston's program in environmental studies.

The Coastal Management fellowship provides on-the-job education and training opportunities for postgraduate students in coastal management programs and also provides technical assistance for these programs.

During her fellowship, Fox is working with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, on a project titled, “Public Access to Coastal Environments.” Fox will develop a comprehensive GIS database of coastal access sites and potential sites for acquisition. This will be

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used to help the state organize, analyze, and share information about public access to coastal environments in the state.

S.C. Sea Grant fiscal manager receives MBA

Romeka Selene Washington received a Master of Business Administration from the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at The Citadel. She also has a B.S. in accounting and management science from the University of South Carolina. Washington is currently the fiscal manager at the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

Nominations being sought for S.C. Environmental Award

The state of South Carolina is seeking nominations for an award to recognize individuals who are doing extraordinary work for the environment.

The S.C. Environmental Awareness Award was established by the S.C. General Assembly during the 1992 legislative session to recognize outstanding contributions made toward the protection, conservation, and improvement of South Carolina's natural resources.

Each year, the public is invited to submit nominations that are then reviewed by an awards committee made up of representatives from the state's natural resource agencies. In judging nominees, the committee considers excellence in innovation, leadership, and accomplishments that influence positive changes affecting the environment.

Nominations will be accepted through Dec. 31. To obtain a nomination form visit our Web site at http://www.sceagrants.org/events/events_news.htm or call Robin Stephens at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, (803) 896-8973.

DeVoe named to national board

M. Richard DeVoe, executive director of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, has been named to the Executive Committee of the Board of Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

The Board on Oceans and Atmosphere's primary responsibility is to develop a federal-relations program for issues relating to the marine, ocean, and atmospheric sciences. It works with Congress and federal agencies to advance earth-science research and education. The Board, with more than 200 members, is governed by an executive committee, whose members are distributed regionally and include university presidents, marine and atmospheric scientists, academic deans, and directors of Sea Grant programs.

DeVoe has been with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium since 1980, serving as associate director from 1987 until his appointment as executive director in 1996. He received graduate degrees in marine biology and marine affairs from City College of New York and University of Rhode Island, respectively.

Bacon selected to participate in Leadership South Carolina

Robert H. Bacon, program leader of the S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program, has been selected to participate in the 2003 Class of Leadership South Carolina.

Leadership South Carolina was created in 1979 by the Governor's Office and the South Carolina business community to identify and develop leaders in the state. It attracts individuals from all sectors—civic, business, government, and the professions—who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to their communities and the state. The program includes intensive, three-day sessions on subjects such as the economy, education, the environment, social issues, and quality of life.

S.C. SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM

S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program is a joint outreach program of Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

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Message from the Executive Director:

National Sea Grant reauthorization legislation passes congress

I am pleased to report that on Tuesday, November 12, the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R.3389, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program, by a voice vote, sending it to the president for signature. This followed Senate approval on October 11. The bill authorizes \$60 million for FY03 Sea Grant base funding, with incremental increases to \$85 million by FY08. The bill authorizes an additional \$5 million for zebra mussels, \$5 million for oyster disease, \$5 million for algal blooms, and \$3 million for fishery extension yearly.



Rick DeVoe

There are two key results of the legislation. First, H.R.3389 reauthorizes the National Sea Grant College Program *within* NOAA. Earlier this year the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed transferring the Sea Grant from NOAA to the National Science Foundation. Concerns were immediately expressed by the Sea Grant College program network, the university community, and the U.S. Congress regarding its potential impact on the integrity of the

National Sea Grant College Program. For now, Sea Grant will stay in NOAA.

Secondly, the legislation addresses the Administration's desire for a more rigorous evaluation of Sea Grant College programs. H.R.3389 requires that Sea Grant College programs be evaluated to determine which programs are best managed and carry out the highest quality research, education, extension, and training activities and programs. Sea Grant College programs would be rated into one of five categories based on this evaluation. Federal Sea Grant funding above that appropriated for FY 2003 would, in part, be allocated to Sea Grant College Programs based on this review. The legislation also calls for a National Academy of Sciences study within three years to evaluate the rating process, consider its effectiveness, and make recommendations for changes as needed.

The Sea Grant experience over the past year reflects emerging Administration policy regarding federal science funding. OMB has drafted evaluation criteria and is testing detailed performance and accountability tools in federal agencies that support both basic and applied science. Fortunately for the National Sea Grant College Program, performance assessment is already built into its program management effort. For other agencies, it is just around the corner.