



Letter from the Vice-President

Dear SENEME Members,

A lot has happened in the SENEME realm since our last newsletter published, and a lot of excitement is brewing on the horizon. Here are some of the highlights:

First, on behalf of the SENEME Board, I would like to thank everyone who answered our member survey in the fall. It gave the Board some great insights towards planning future SENEME events. We held a prize drawing from all the survey respondents, and congratulations to James Stewart for winning the 4-pack of tickets to Mystic Aquarium and Ly Williams for winning the 4-pack of tickets to The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk (and special thanks to both Aquariums for their donations)!

In April, SENEME partnered with CSTA for a member event at Mystic Aquarium’s Milne Center. Attendees were most enamored with the Sea School Classroom and the sea turtles in the behind-the-scenes holding area.

As I’m in the midst of assembling this newsletter, SENEME is in the midst of our Horseshoe Crab events. At Circle Beach, the horseshoe crabs made an early appearance this spring, and from the reports from all the tagging events happening there this year with the Madison school groups, they have been putting on quite a show. SENEME partnered with CT Trails Day on June 3rd, and we had one of our best events ever as we tagged 12 horseshoe crabs, recaptured 2 with tags, and saw 20 more -- for a total of 34!

And in case you haven’t heard, SENEME is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year with the return of the Fall Conference. More details are on page 3, but we hope all our members will be able to join in the celebrating and the learning fun as we anticipate an exciting variety of workshops and field trips.

Have a great summer and hope to see you soon!

Donna Dione
SENEME Vice President



In this Edition:

SENEME Board/Nauplius Notations	2
SENEME 2023 Fall Conference	3
Science Fair Winners	4
SENEME Award Nominations	4
NMEA 2023	5-6
NOSB Update	7
UNESCO Global Group of Experts	8-9
Event Announcements.....	10
SENEME Board Nominations Sought...	11
Organizational Members.	11

SENEME Board of Directors & Committee Members 2022-2023

President
Vacant

Vice President
Donna Dione, UConn Extension - Middlesex County

Chapter Representative
Valerie Cournoyer, Amity High School

Treasurer
Julie Ainsworth, Bauer Park

Membership Secretary
Donna Dione, UConn Extension - Middlesex County

Recording Secretary
Amy Gollenberg, Mystic Aquarium

Members-At-Large
Amy Ferland, Marine Science Magnet High School
Andrea Gingras, URI Inner Space Center
Grace Jacobson
Lorrie Martin, Coginchaug RHS, NOSB Coach
Amy O'Neal, Stonington Middle School
Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant
Nina Quaratella, New England Science & Sailing
Nicki Rosenfeld, The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
Jeffrey Sack, Science Consultant/Writer
Megan Strand, New England Science & Sailing
Ralph Yulo, Eastern Connecticut State University

Webmasters
Donna Dione
Megan Strand

Newsletter Editor
Donna Dione

Editorial Assistants
Julie Ainsworth
Katrina Barrett

Development Committee
Andrea Gingras, Chair

Membership & Public Relations Committee
Donna Dione, Chair
Julie Ainsworth
Valerie Cournoyer

Nominating Committee
Megan Strand, Chair

Scholarships & Awards Committee
Vacant

SENEME LIFE MEMBERS

2003 Mickey Weiss
2004 Thaxter Tewksbury
2005 Ralph Yulo
2006 Elizabeth Gibbs
2010 Katrina Barrett

MARINE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

2005 Lance Arnold
2006 Matt Schardt
2010 Vicky Sawyer
2011 Joseph Hage
2012 MaryEllen Mateleska
2012 David Bednarz
2014 Michael O'Connor

Nauplius Notations

By Donna Dione, Editor

As you may have noticed, SENEME has recently been working towards partnering on events with some of our Organizational Members and other entities such as CSTA and Marine Science Magnet High School (and look for us in the Discovery Center at the Durham Fair in September). Our plan is to do more collaborating going forward in the hopes of helping each other and reaching broader audiences for all organizations involved.

If you belong to a school or organization that might also want to partner with SENEME in the future, feel free to reach out to one of our Board Members or send us an email at senemeinfo@gmail.com.

The next issue of *The Nauplius* will be coming out in the late fall, but if you or your students have something to share, feel free to send submissions any time of the year to donnadione@comcast.net.

SENEME 2023 Fall Conference

SENEME's 40th Anniversary!

October 14, 2023

Marine Science Magnet High School, Groton, CT

The SENEME Board is thrilled to announce that Patrick J. Lynch will be the Keynote Speaker for the Fall Conference with his presentation entitled, "A TALE OF TWO ESTUARIES."

Connecticut's two largest riverine estuaries have long been recognized as world-class natural treasures, also rich with the human history of our region. The two very different characters of the Connecticut River and the Thames River estuaries are due to accidents of geology that determined their fates. We owe the gorgeous rural character of the Lower Connecticut River to vast amounts of sediments left behind by the Ice Age glaciers, which prevented the development of large ports on the Connecticut River. The historical importance of the Thames River ports of New London and Groton grew from the deep natural harbors of the Thames estuary. Both rivers have been critical to New England's natural history and human development, and both estuaries are now part of the new Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve. This talk will compare and contrast the Thames and Connecticut River estuaries, emphasizing the natural history of our regional estuaries and coastal habitats.

Patrick J. Lynch is an artist, photographer, and author who has written ten books published by Yale University Press, including "A Field Guide to Long Island Sound." His next book, "A Field Guide to the Connecticut River," will be published by Yale Press in the spring of 2024.

Call for Presenters

The Southeastern New England Marine Educators present the **2023 Fall Educators Conference** in celebration of our **40th Anniversary!** We welcome a broad range of sessions addressing Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, and any and all ocean and ocean literacy topics. All concurrent workshops will run for 45 minutes. Come share your best practices, lessons, tips, or strategies for making the ocean and our local watery ecosystems come alive for your students. Please submit the "Call for Presenters" form (link below) by July 15, 2023. The Conference Committee will make selections and notify you by mid-August. Presenters will still need to register for the conference.

["Call for Presenters" Form](#)

The SENEME Silent Auction Returns!

We are seeking donations for the SENEME Silent Auction. The Auction helps fund the awards for our CT and RI Science Fair winners, Scholarships to attend SENEME and NMEA conferences and Mini grants for SENEME members. If you have an item you would like to contribute to the Auction, contact Auction Chair, Donna Dione, at donnadione@comcast.net.



WINNERS OF SENEME SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS



This spring, SENEME presented awards to students at the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair and the Rhode Island Science & Engineering Fair. Each winner received a prize of \$100 and a one-year SENEME membership for them and their project advisor. The SENEME Board thanks Julie Ainsworth & Donna Dione, for judging in CT, and the Special Awards Committee for judging the RI awards! The winners are as follows:

JUNIOR AWARDS

“Effects of Water Erosion and Tumbling on Erosion Rates of Different Rock Types ‘Tumble and Flow’”

Andrew Geiser, St. Lukes School, Barrington, RI

“How Do Road Treatments During the Winter Months Affect Water Quality in Nearby Bodies of Water?”

Elizabeth D’Agostino, Environmental Sciences Magnet School, Hartford, CT

SENIOR AWARDS

“Characterization of Local *Spermothamnion repens* from Easton’s Beach”

Gwenyth Tucker & Emma Torres, Mt. Hope High School, Bristol, RI

“Removing the Ocean’s Noose: Designing a Ropeless Solution to the Lobster Trap”

Michael Neiss, Guilford High School, Guilford, CT

Congratulations to all the winners!!



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SENEME AWARDS

Would you like to recognize a fellow SENEME member for their contribution to marine and aquatic science education? Nominations are being accepted for the awards below. Further information can be found at: SENEME.org > Grants & Awards. Submission Deadline for both categories is September 1, 2023.

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.

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.



2023 NMEA Annual Conference
Strait to Sound: Gathering at the Salish Sea
July 23-27, 2023 | Bellingham, Washington

Gather with us at the Salish Sea

Registration

Registration is open for the [NMEA 2023 annual conference](#), “Strait to Sound: Gathering at the Salish Sea,” hosted by the NAME regional chapter, July 23-27 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. We are offering three different registration options to ensure that everyone has a chance to gather with us on the shores of the beautiful Salish Sea to network, share, learn, and socialize.

More information on what’s included with each registration type can be found [on our website](#). [You must be a member of NMEA to register.](#)

[Register now for NMEA 2023](#)

Conference Schedule

The detailed conference agenda is [now available on the conference website](#). More details and information will continue to be added as content is confirmed with our speakers. All presenters should have received an email from Whova with information on how to update your speaker information. If you didn’t receive it, please check your spam folder and contact us at nmea2023@pacname.org. Detailed information for speakers, posters, and recorded presentations will be sent out soon.

Student Conference

We cordially invite all students ages 13-18 to attend the one-day session focused on students on **Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – 8:30 am to 5:30 pm!** The Student Conference features keynote speakers, lab tours, panel discussions, workshops, poster presentations, and more! Come join us for a day of engaging marine science and education, including presentations from local high schoolers!

Student conference registration is \$25 (plus \$25 for [NMEA Student membership](#)). *Limited Student Scholarships are still available! Even though the deadline has passed, please submit an application, and we will try to accommodate your request.*

[NMEA 2023 STUDENT CONFERENCE >](#)

Field Trips and Add Ons

The NMEA 2023 conference is chock full of exciting opportunities! Although many of them are included in the full conference registration, some of them are offered as ticketed events at additional cost. Make sure you check out all of these add-ons that can extend and enhance your conference experience. They can be added to your registration at any time; [directions are in our FAQs](#).

- [Pre-conference Workshop \(Sunday, July 23\)](#)
- [Evening Networking Event \(Wednesday, July 26\)](#)
- [Field Trips \(Thursday, July 27\)](#)
- Conference T-Shirt (\$15 preorder / \$20 onsite)

Auction

The annual NMEA auction is one of the highlights of the conference...a chance to have fun, bid on unique aquatic-themed items donated by NMEA members and local businesses, and raise money for our scholarship fund! All of the funds raised at our annual silent and live auction will go to our scholarship programs, which directly support marine and aquatic educators.

The 2023 NMEA banquet and auction will be held on Tuesday, July 25, and the theme will be “Smells Like NMEA Spirit,” a tribute to the early-90s Pacific Northwest grunge rock scene whose anti-establishment ethos gave us flannel, combat boots and mosh pits, but whose adherents now have 401Ks and drive Teslas. Come dressed in your best grunge attire and relive the days when Seattle was the coolest place on the planet, and yet was somehow still affordable.

We are eagerly accepting donations of items, gift cards, experiences, or services for the live and silent auctions! [Submit this form](#) to let us know what you'll be donating. For more information about donations, please contact us at nmea2023@pacname.org.

[NMEA 2023 AUCTION INFO >](#)

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCES BOWL PROGRAM?

Lorrie Martin, NOSB Coach

The last "in-person" National Ocean Sciences Regional Quahog Bowl, hosting teams from Connecticut and Rhode Island, was held at the UConn Avery Point Campus in February 2019. That Fall, not only did the Regional lose the institutional sponsorship of UConn, but also the dedicated leadership of Diana Payne who stepped down after 12 years of service as a Regional Coordinator. NOSB then assigned schools that had competed in the 2018-2019 Quahog Bowl to adjacent regional bowls for 2019-20: Bay Scallop (NY), Blue Lobster (MA) and Nor'easter (ME & NH).

My Coginchaug team (Durham/Middlefield, CT), E.O. Smith (Storrs, CT) and Woodstock Academy (Woodstock, CT) traveled to Cambridge, MA to compete in the Blue Lobster Bowl, and the Narragansett High School (RI) team, coached by Sarah Krous, took FIRST PLACE in the Regional Nor'easter Bowl. Some coaches managed to hold their teams together through the Pandemic years and battled in the virtual meets of 2021 and 2022. These meets were made possible when Lori Tsuruda's charity, People Making a Difference (PMD) stepped up to host virtual Quahog Bowl competitions with head-to-head matches in Zoom meetings and to provide new software for self-timed Team Challenge Questions (TCQ's) for collaborative team problem-solving. Although fewer teams were involved, NOSB weathered the 2020-21 and 2021-22 pandemic years with a combination of in-person and virtual Regional Competitions and virtual Finals.

Then the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) which had hosted the NOSB Program, voted to dissolve on September 30, 2022. Under those circumstances, and amidst concerns voiced by funding agencies regarding support for the "Jeopardy-style buzzer competition", all Regional and National Competitions were suspended for 2022-23. The good news is that NOSB has been transferred to another non-profit organization with a similar mission, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). The opportunity will now be taken to reimagine the program into something that maintains regional host partnerships and meets the current, still valid, goals of NOSB, but results in a stronger competition that can excite the full range of stakeholders. Once NOSB is thoroughly housed at UCAR, staff will be seeking input in early 2023 from its community of sponsors, regional coordinators, alums, coaches, volunteers, and students, as the program is restructured.

It is with great pride that I inform you that in the 2021-22 NOSB Competition, the Coginchaug "Cephalopods," represented the SENEME region well as the team moved on to capture "10TH PLACE" at the National Level!

It is important that all former coaches, officials, and competitors who have experienced the academic thrill of over 25 years of Ocean Bowl competitions, watch for the upcoming STAKEHOLDER'S SURVEY and strive to provide constructive input for a "reformulated" NOSB which will continue to challenge our students for another 25 years into the future.

Information for the writing of this article has been graciously provided by Lori Tsuruda, representing People Making a Difference, and Mark Lang's posted update on the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, on August 9, 2022.

UNESCO Assembles Global Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy

UNESCO has established an international Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy, with 20 members from diverse disciplines, stakeholder groups, geographical regions, and with a focus on gender balance.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) selected for its new Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy [20 renowned professionals](#) from diverse and relevant disciplines and interested parties, reflecting the multi-stakeholder nature of ocean literacy and taking into consideration geographical and gender balance.

Experts were selected following a call to Member States and partner organisations and suggestions from the IOC/UNESCO Secretariat. The Group has yet to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to guide its activities together with the Secretariat.

"Ocean Literacy is a fundamental tool to advance ocean sustainability. The IOC/UNESCO is becoming a leading force in promoting Ocean Literacy across different regions and countries," said Francesca Santoro, Senior Programme Officer for Ocean Literacy at the IOC-UNESCO Secretariat. "We look forward to working with the Group of Experts to bring their diverse expertise together with different perspectives and approaches."

The [Group of Experts](#) will provide guidance in the scoping, implementation and monitoring of the IOC/UNESCO Ocean Literacy portfolio of activities, specifically in relation to:

- defining good practices in Ocean Literacy based on lessons learned in Member States;
- developing Ocean Literacy global and regional programmes guided by the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action (IOC/A-31/3.5.4.Doc) and the Ocean Literacy Framework of Action for the UN Decade of Ocean Science (IOC/INF-1400);
- coordinating Ocean Literacy networks at regional, national and local levels;
- identifying modalities for the mobilisation of financial and in-kind resources to enable the implementation of global and regional Ocean Literacy activities;
- identifying synergies with relevant UNESCO Sectors, international organizations, academic institutions, NGOs and private sector associations;
- coordinating Ocean Literacy research activities relevant to the development of tools and methodologies and the assessment of impact of Ocean Literacy initiatives.

In addition, the Group of Experts will provide guidance on the application and possible evolution of the Ocean Literacy Framework of Action for the UN Decade of Ocean Science in coordination with the Decade Advisory Board and the Decade Coordination Unit.

The Group of Experts will produce regular reports and communications to the Ocean Literacy international community through newsletters, side events, and other activities.

[Meet the members of the IOC/UNESCO Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy](#)

UNESCO Assembles Global Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy - Continued

About the IOC-UNESCO:

The [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO \(IOC-UNESCO\)](#) promotes international cooperation in marine sciences to improve management of the ocean, coasts and marine resources. The IOC enables its 150 Member States to work together by coordinating programmes in capacity development, ocean observations and services, ocean science and tsunami warning. The work of the IOC contributes to the mission of UNESCO to promote the advancement of science and its applications to develop knowledge and capacity, key to economic and social progress, the basis of peace and sustainable development.

About the Ocean Decade:

Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) ('the Ocean Decade') seeks to stimulate ocean science and knowledge generation to reverse the decline of the state of the ocean system and catalyse new opportunities for sustainable development of this massive marine ecosystem. The vision of the Ocean Decade is 'the science we need for the ocean we want'. The Ocean Decade provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science to achieve a better understanding of the ocean system and deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The UN General Assembly mandated UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to coordinate the preparations and implementation of the Decade.

This update from the UNESCO website was shared by Dr. Diana Payne, SENEME Board Member and member of the UNESCO Group of Experts. <https://articles.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-assembles-global-group-experts-ocean-literacy>.



Immediate Donations Sought for NMEA 2023 Raffle

Donations are needed ASAP for the SENEME basket for the Chapter Basket Raffle at NMEA 2023 and for the general NMEA Conference Auction. Items will have to be mailed or carried on planes. Gift cards to national chains or small items would be most practical this year.

Please mail any small items to Valerie Cournoyer, 40 Laurel Lane, Seymour, CT 06483 postmarked by July 1, 2023. Also, please email Valerie.Cournoyer@amityregion5.org with a description of the item and the person/institution donating. Thank you so much!!



July Beach Cleanup

Sunday, July 9, 2023, 10:00AM-12:00PM

You are invited to join Mystic Aquarium and CT DEEP for our July Beach Cleanup! As you collect debris throughout this area, you'll walk through coastal habitats and maybe catch a glimpse of osprey, eagles, herons and more! Click here to register today (<https://forms.gle/PxDgp4M9ZszZqchL6>)!

Frog and Salamander Survey

Sunday, July 9, 2023, 2:00PM-3:00PM

Amphibians, including salamanders, play an important role in the ecosystem - and need your help! Join us in our newest citizen science initiative as we conduct field surveys to sample amphibians (salamanders, frogs, and toads!) for chytrid fungus. This is a great opportunity to get up close and muddy in the name of conservation!

Limited space and registration is required: (<https://ramp.mysticaquarium.org/47747/48608>)

Magical Marshes

Friday, July 14, 2023, 4:00PM-5:30PM

Join us at Barn Island Wildlife Management Area for an afternoon of marsh exploration - searching for crabs, snails, birds and more while exploring this unique habitat!

Limited space and registration is required: (<https://ramp.mysticaquarium.org/47747/48609>)



Free Previews Before You Bring Your Class ...

Available for Teachers & Administrators in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey

COME OUT ON A MARINE LIFE ENCOUNTER CRUISE!

If you have not experienced a Marine Life Encounter Cruise, we want you aboard! Study marine biodiversity from the water's surface down to the bottom for a first-hand understanding of Long Island Sound's interdependent marine life. We utilize such sampling techniques as a plankton tow, trawl net and biodredge that generally bring up a variety of fish, crabs, mollusks and more right before your eyes! (Length: 2.5 hours).

From May through Labor Day, you can join us on any regularly scheduled public Marine Life Encounter Cruise aboard our unique hybrid-electric research vessel at no charge. Advance reservations are required. This offer is for qualified licensed educators currently teaching in Connecticut, New York, or New Jersey with proper school I.D. only. Accompanying friends and family members of educators must purchase tickets.

Book your cruise ticket by calling our Reservations Office: (203) 852-0700, extension 2206, Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cruises depart from our dock located a short walk down the street from The Maritime Aquarium's main entrance.

Call for Nominations

The SENEME Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following SENEME Board positions: President (1 year to fill remaining term's vacancy), Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. The Nominating Committee invites SENEME members to submit qualified names for consideration. Unless indicated otherwise, all positions are for 2-year terms beginning in November 2023.

Please contact Megan Strand, Nominating Committee Chair, at MStrand@nessf.org for more detailed information about each position or to submit nominations by September 1, 2023.



SENEME Board Update

If you would like to participate in our Board Zoom meetings which have been taking place monthly in preparation for the Fall Conference, please contact SENEME Vice President, Donna Dione, at donnadione@comcast.net to be added to the email list to receive the log-in information. Board meetings are open to all SENEME members at any time.



**THANK YOU TO OUR SENEME ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
FOR THEIR SUPPORT!!**



**MYSTIC
AQUARIUM**



North American Marine Environment Protection Association
NAMEPA

The Nautilus is the newsletter of the Southeastern New England Marine Educators Association Inc. (SENEME). Submissions including (but not limited to) articles, activities to share, student projects, pictures of SENEME members in action, recipes, and other organization's announcements are welcome for all issues. The opinions expressed by authors published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of SENEME and all its Board members. SENEME is not responsible for any typographical errors that may occur within this publication. Permission is granted by SENEME for readers to make copies of newsletter items for their own, non-commercial use.