



The Lettered Olive: S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Education News

[August 31, 2024]



The alarm starts beeping. It must be a joke, because you *just* laid your head down to sleep. You try to find the snooze button and knock over a glass of water in the process. Bleary-eyed, you grapple with the fact that the sun has not yet risen, yet you must. With a yawn, grumble, and a stretch of the arms, your feet hit the floor to start the day. Sound familiar? This month marks the end of summer break and the return to the classroom for most teachers and students. A new year awaits—one that signals early mornings, afterschool enrichment, and promises of expanding young minds to learn new topics and skills. Over the course of the year, students will grow and change—metamorphose—physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

Just like the young minds that will be molded this year, this month's featured creature, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), is well-known for its

metamorphic life cycle. Common throughout the Southeast and Midwest regions, this butterfly is found in forests and woodlands, near creeks and rivers, and often visits home gardens. Because of its importance as a pollinator, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail was designated in 1994 by the S.C. State Legislature as the state's official butterfly, a recognition also given in five other states. A large butterfly with a wingspan of up to five inches, Eastern Tiger Swallowtails are named based on the four black stripes that resemble tiger markings on the upper wings. The term "swallowtail" comes from the shape of the extension on the bottom of the wing that resembles the tail of bird species called swallows. Both sexes can be yellow in color; however, females are dimorphic and can be darker in color. As with all butterflies, they undergo the process of metamorphosis, with Eastern Tiger Swallowtails demonstrating complete metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

As our students spread their wings over the year, it's important, too, that educators have plenty of resources to enhance and grow. So be sure to swallow up these educational opportunities from the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and our partners... before they flutter by!

Photo Credit: E.V. Bell

Educator Professional Development

EEASC-SCMEA Meet Up: Tag Along!

September 28, 2024, 11 am - 2 pm

[Lowcountry Montessori School](#)

Deadline to Register: September 26, 2024



Join the [Environmental Education Association of South Carolina](#) (EEASC), the [South Carolina Marine Educators Association](#) (SCMEA), and educators from the [Lowcountry Montessori School](#) for our next meet-up event! During this family-friendly program, attendees will explore gardens designed as wildlife sanctuaries, especially for monarch butterflies. We'll walk through the Monarch Waystation, learn about monarch biology, and engage in butterfly tagging as they migrate through the state. Discover how to be a monarch butterfly steward using tagging and waystation programs and explore ways to implement this type of project at your school!

This family-friendly event is open to SCMEA and EEASC members and nonmembers. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but please bring your lunch. [Register](#) by **September 26, 2024**, and send questions to [Annie Boyd](#).

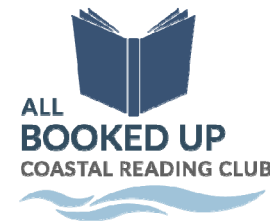
**Exploring the Deep Ocean with NOAA
September 21, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm
South Carolina Aquarium**



Calling all 6 -12 grade educators! Join educators and facilitators from the [South Carolina Aquarium](#) and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Ocean Explorer](#) for an "Exploring the Deep Ocean with NOAA"* professional development workshop to learn why and how we explore the deep sea. You will dive into hands-on lessons and activities, explore additional classroom resources, and connect with fellow educators throughout this exciting professional development event. Participating educators will receive a \$100 stipend and Certificate of Participation. Space is limited so [register](#) today! Questions can be sent to [Selena Bohland](#).

**This is a repeat workshop from May 20, 2024, so if you have previously participated, stay tuned for details on our spring 2025 workshop topic!*

**All Booked Up Coastal Reading Club
Meet the Author: Cassie Premo Steele
September 17, 2024 from 6 - 7:30 pm**



The All Booked Up (ABU) Coastal Reading Club is excited to host local author, Cassie Premo Steele, as she discusses her book, *Beaver Girl*, set in the Congaree National Park. This special ABU session is open to members and nonmembers interested in hearing Ms. Steele discuss her book and learn more about the ABU Coastal Reading Club. Even if you are not a current member and/or have not read the book, you are invited to join and learn more! Nonmembers interested in attending this book discussion are invited to register by filling out [this survey](#) by September 6. Free copies will be awarded as door prizes so you don't want to miss this meeting!

ABU Coastal Reading Club brings together formal, nonformal, and homeschool educators interested in discussing books focused on the environment. Please visit the [ABU webpage](#) to join our listserv and learn about the benefits of becoming a member. Questions can be sent to [E.V. Bell](#).

Employment Opportunities

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is hiring! We are currently seeking to fill the positions of Human Resources Manager, Grants Management Specialist, and Assistant Director for Research and Partnerships. To learn more about each of



these positions and how to apply, please visit the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium's [Career Page](#).

Conferences

South Carolina Marine Educators Association
"Ripple Effect: Ways We Connect Through Water" Annual Conference
November 8 - 10, 2024
Riverbanks Zoo



Bodies of water—rivers, lakes, and oceans—serve as vital connectors in our lives, influencing everything from our local communities to global ecosystems. Join the South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA) for our annual conference at Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, S.C., where we will delve into how these essential water bodies shape our interactions, well-being, and shared environments, underscoring their profound importance in fostering human connection, and sustaining life. The conference schedule, travel and accommodation information, registration link, and proposal submission information are available on the [SCMEA conference page](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Beach Sweep/River Sweep
September 21, 2024

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is South Carolina's largest one-day volunteer waterway cleanup event. Every third Saturday in September since 1988, thousands of South Carolinians clear beaches, rivers, lakes, marshes, and swamps of aquatic debris. This event is co-coordinated by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium who leads [beach cleanup](#) efforts and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources who organizes [inland cleanups](#). This state-wide event takes place in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the [Ocean Conservancy](#). If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the Beach Sweep/River Sweep page to locate a clean up location near you! Questions can be sent to [Susan Ferris Hill](#).



Wood Magic Forest Fair

The Wood Magic Forest Fair (WMFF) is a series of events hosted at locations across the state designed to help South Carolina's students understand the importance of forests and the forest industry to their everyday lives. The dates and locations for this year's fair include:

-Piedmont Forestry Center (Tamasee) - October 1-4, 2024

-Harbison State Forest (Columbia) - October 28-November 1, 2024

-Lynches River County Park (Florence) - November 20-22, 2024

To conduct these programs, volunteers are needed each day to serve as guides and instructors, and to help with logistics. Each volunteer is given a t-shirt, lunch, and a satisfying role in providing the youth of our state with an important pro-forestry experience. To sign up, please visit the [WMFF volunteer page](#) and access the 2024 schedule to see available days and positions. For questions, please contact [Matt Schnabel](#).

Grants

Ocean Odyssey Grants Due September 30, 2024



Background: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Exploration and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation established Ocean Odyssey Grants to expand the reach of ocean education by funding ocean education and workforce development initiatives that are equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all. The overarching goal is to support a future ocean workforce that is more representative of U.S. demographics by funding projects that minimize barriers to entry and increase retention of diverse learners from communities historically marginalized from ocean science and exploration industries. The Ocean Odyssey Grants invest in projects and partners that increase inclusion in and/or access to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education as well as workforce development opportunities for diverse youth in middle school, high school, undergraduate, and/or community college to learn about ocean science and/or exploration.

Award Funding: \$5,000 - \$10,000.

Eligibility: Schools, districts, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, for-profit institutions, local, and state entities from the United States, territories, and Freely Associated States supporting diverse students in these regions.

Implementation Period: December 2024 through July 31, 2025.

Application Packages Due: September 30, 2024, by 11:59 PM EDT.

For additional details about the grant and instructions for submission, please visit the [Ocean Odyssey Grant](#) website.

Additional Resources

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Loaner Kit Program



Are you interested in exploring watersheds with your students? Maybe you'd like your students to engage in the engineering design process to create remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) or weather buoys. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium's education program offers a variety of kits available free of charge to formal, nonformal, or homeschool educators in South Carolina. The following kits are currently available for check out:

-NEW! Fish Printing Kits: A [freshwater and saltwater fish printing kit](#) provides educators with a lesson plan on fish adaptations and the rubber fish molds necessary to create [gyotaku-inspired](#) fish prints with their students.

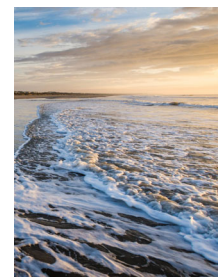
-Enviroscape Wetlands Model: The [Wetlands Enviroscape Model](#) provides a hands-on demonstration of how watersheds can be affected by development, pollution, and other human-made and natural impacts. Included as part of the demonstration are ways in which potential pollution impacts can be mitigated (e.g., riparian buffers and salt marshes).

-The Watershed Game: This activity uses a hands-on simulation to educate groups about how land use impacts water quality and a community's resilience to flooding. While making land management decisions, players learn about practices, plans, and policies that can improve and protect water quality and increase resilience to flooding. [Two versions of this kit are available for free checkout](#) from the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium: The coastal classroom model and the coastal local leader model.

-Ocean Odyssey Kits: These [four kits](#) focus on STEM disciplines while incorporating various career paths. Choose from building an ROV, weather buoy, catapult or developing a capstone project.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Speaker Request Form

Do you have a science night or career day coming up in the future? Would you like a speaker for your students or organization? The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium (Consortium) has plenty to share regarding marine science careers, current research projects, and engaging coastal science activities for all ages! Be sure to check out our [career](#)



[page](#) to learn more about the Consortium, and if you are interested in booking the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium for an upcoming career day or science night, please fill out this [request form](#).



Photo credit: E.V. Bell

Have Something to Include?

Have an opportunity or resource that you would like to add to the next S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Education email update?

[SUGGEST A RESOURCE](#)

Get Updates

Join hundreds of South Carolina educators like you! The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium sends out marine science and coastal education updates every month with opportunities and resources.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

