SCAMIT Newsletter

March, 2002  Vol. 20, No. 11

SUBJECT: Curatorial Concerns: Ideal and practical methods to take care of your archived specimens.

GUEST SPEAKER: None

DATE: 13 May 2002

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Los Angeles Museum of Natural History
Worm Lab
900 Exposition Blvd.

MARCH MINUTES

The March meeting minutes will not be presented in this newsletter, but will follow shortly in the April newsletter. There was copious amounts of information generated concerning *Pista* and as of yet those minutes and images are still being compiled and edited.

PARTY TIME!

If you have not recently visited the web-site, please take note that the SCAMIT 20th anniversary party is now scheduled for 1 June at Marine Biological Consultants in Costa Mesa, CA. Please mark your calendars. Invitations (with more detailed information) are being produced and will be distributed soon.

*Ophiopholis bakeri*  
(from a trawl off San Diego)
A REQUEST

Ann would like to make a SCAMIT photographic scrap book. She’s interested in any SCAMIT photographs in, print, negative, slide, or electronic format. She will return prints, negatives, and slides. The album will be generated electronically and a CD archive will be created for SCAMIT. Please either email your images to her at: cam@san.lacity.org or mail them the traditional way to:

Ann Dalkey
Environmental Monitoring Division
12000 Vista del Mar
Playa del Rey  CA  90293

SCAMIT T-SHIRTS AND MUGS

It has been discovered lately that SCAMIT still has a large inventory of coffee mugs and t-shirts. These were made with the beautiful blue SCAMIT seastar logo several years ago as a fundraiser. If any one is interested in either a t-shirt or mug please contact (future) SCAMIT treasurer Cheryl Brantley (310-830-2400 x 5500 or cbrantley@lacsd.org) to place an order. T-shirts are $8.00 all sizes and mugs are $6.00 each or 4 for $22.00; 6 for $30.00. We have over 2 dozen mugs left and the table below lists the t-shirt inventory. Not only will the purchase of one of these items help to support SCAMIT financially, but it will also help reduce the storage space needed for these items, which is desperately needed.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

Invertebrate Zoologist/Systematist at the Assistant Marine Scientist level in the newly established Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center.

Location:
The Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center (SERTC) is located in the Marine Resources Research Institute at Fort Johnson, in Charleston, SC (http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/marine/mrri/mrri.htm). The Institute is part of the Marine Resources Division of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Institute staff interact routinely and extensively with staff at other educational and research facilities in the Fort Johnson complex, including The University of Charleston’s Grice Marine Laboratory, NOAA’s Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Medical University of South Carolina’s Marine Biomedical Program, and the Hollings Marine Laboratory. The successful applicant may apply for an adjunct faculty appointment in the Graduate Program in Marine Biology at the University of Charleston. The Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center is being established to provide a regional focus for developing taxonomic expertise and skills, and the infrastructure to support the taxonomic endeavors of the scientific community in the southeastern United States. The Center will serve as a training facility, a specimen repository, and a venue for a taxonomic library and searchable database of catalogued specimens and taxonomic literature. The primary goal of the Center is to become a locus of information resources that will benefit regional scientists, students, regulators, private
businesses and the public. A more detailed explanation of the initial objectives of the Center and a description of the facilities at Fort Johnson is available at


Job Description and Duties:
Under supervision of the Principal Investigator, the successful applicant will direct the daily operations of the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center and oversee systematic components of the SERTC, in conjunction with other staff and outside subcontractors. The employee will coordinate activities of the Center to ensure the completion of project objectives, manage project expenditures, assist in development of taxonomic programs, prepare reports on project accomplishments, and develop funding proposals for the SERTC. The employee will participate in education and outreach activities, serve as the Center’s contact for visiting scientists, and supervise training of curatorial assistants or student research assistants. The employee will represent the Center and promote its activities among staff of institutions, universities, and museums throughout the region.

In addition to project management duties, the employee will conduct and supervise routine collection management and curatorial duties, including the acquisition, identification, and care of specimens; maintenance of a database of catalogued specimens; tracking of loaned material; and development of a taxonomic reprint collection and literature database. Taxonomic or systematic research and publication is expected to constitute approximately 15-20% of the employee’s assigned duties.

Qualifications and Experience:
A PhD in marine biology or related field, with expertise in marine or estuarine invertebrate systematics and taxonomy, is required. Familiarity with the fauna of the western north Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico is preferred, as is an emphasis on taxonomic skill with one or more of the following taxa: annelids, mollusks, echinoderms, or crustaceans (however, candidates specializing in other marine or estuarine taxa from other geographic regions are also encouraged to apply). The candidate must possess and maintain a record of peer-reviewed scientific publication. One to three years of post-doctoral employment in taxonomic research and/or biological collection curation and management is desired, along with some knowledge of bioinformatics. Previous employment should demonstrate a high level of interpersonal and supervisory skills, sound professional judgement, good written and oral communication skills, and the ability to cooperate with other scientists and technical staff. Computer skills should include familiarity with PC-based computers and Microsoft Office software (particularly MS ACCESS), collection management software, statistical and scientific graphing software, and standard Internet browsing and email management software. Some familiarity with web-page development is desirable. The candidate must be able to qualify to receive a SC driver’s license, and should be able to operate an outboard motorboat, including trailer transport, for field collection activities. Fluency in English is a requirement.

Benefits:
This is a federally funded (10/1/01 to 9/30/03), full-time position. It is a temporary grant position, and employment beyond the stated grant period is contingent upon satisfactory performance and future funding approval. Salary range is $35-45K, depending upon level of qualification and experience. Benefits include health and dental insurance and the option to participate in the SC State Retirement System and deferred compensation plans.
Anticipated Starting Date:
Contingent upon receipt of suitable applications, the position will be filled as soon as possible, but no later than July 31, 2002.

To Apply:
For full consideration, the items listed below should be submitted to the following address no later than May 31, 2002:

Office of Human Resources
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC  29422-2559
(843) 762-5021     fax (843) 762-5001

1) a cover letter that includes a statement of research interests and career goals.

2) a Curriculum Vitae

3) three professional letters of recommendation that include current contact information for the sources.

4) a completed State Application: (applications are available online at)
   http://www.state.sc.us/jobs/application

   Indicate on the application form that the position applied for is the “Assistant Marine Scientist with SERTC”; do not submit the application by email, rather send it, along with first three listed items, to the above address.

Contact Information:
For additional information regarding application for this position, contact:
Dr. Elizabeth L. Wenner
Marine Resources Research Institute
P.O. Box 12559-2559
Charleston, SC  29422-2559
(843) 762-5050   email
wennere@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us

All applicants must be legally authorized to work in the USA.
The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is an EEO/AA employer and
prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC  29202.
SCAMIT OFFICERS:

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers e-mail address

President Ron Velarde (619)758-2331 rvelarde@sandiego.gov
Vice-President Leslie Harris (213)763-3234 lhharris@bcf.usc.edu
Secretary Megan Lilly (619)758-2336 mlilly@sandiego.gov
Treasurer Ann Dalkey (310)648-5544 cam@san.ci.la.ca.us

Back issues of the newsletter are available. Prices are as follows:

Volumes 1 - 4 (compilation).................................$ 30.00
Volumes 5 - 7 (compilation).................................$ 15.00
Volumes 8 - 15 ................................................ $ 20.00/vol.

Single back issues are also available at cost.

Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: http://www.scamit.org