

VOLUNTEER

# wavelengths

South Carolina  
Aquarium

Let's go sea.

## FROM THE VOLUNTEER SERVICES OFFICE

Dear Volunteers:

Wow, 2011 was a busy year (and it went by so quickly!) We renovated the Salt Marsh, creating a new Stingray feeding experience. We took field trips to Capers Island, birding with Clint and a reptile walk with Eric. Volunteer groups from Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cincinnati Zoo and Ocean Isle Beach Museum visited and we were proud to show them our facility. We also worked on our Master Plan and re-trained all of our reptile handlers.

Last year you (our South Carolina Aquarium volunteers) gave 43,895 hours of service. 43,895 hours of volunteer service is equal to just over 20 full-time employees, or 7 extra full-time educators, 7 extra full-time husbandry and 6 extra full-time divers. We cannot thank you enough for all you give the Aquarium through your generosity.

2012 is starting off just as busy. In January we had our physical inspection by the AZA team for our accreditation. The next step in this process will take place in March when our President Kevin Mills and Director of Husbandry Jason Crichton appear before the AZA Accreditation committee.

Spring will be just as active; in March we will be taking a field trip to Wando Farms and have planned a Volunteer Social in our Executive Boardroom and Terrace. In April Kevin Mills will welcome volunteers to a brown bag Question and Answer session. Two great parties occur in April as well, our annual volunteer appreciation party and our fundraising gala.

We would like to create an Aquarium Storybook and know there must be some good stories out there. Start thinking about which stories you would like to share as part of our "Storybook".

Information about upcoming events above can be found in this newsletter. I hope to see you around soon!

*Shirley*

## Calendar

- 2/25 Sustainable Seafood Initiative dinner @ Middleton Place
- 3/1 Hours Change
- 3/3 Sustainable Seafood Initiative dinner @ Rue De Jean
- 3/8 Volunteer Social
- 3/10 Toddler Time
- 3/24 Fear No Easel Painting Workshop
- 4/4 Question & Answer with Kevin Mills
- 4/7 Volunteer Orientation
- 4/11 Volunteer Appreciation Party
- 4/21 Member Surf Fishing Clinic at Folly
- 4/22 Sustainable Seafood Initiative dinner @ Wild Dunes
- 4/28 SCA Gala: An Evening in Madagascar

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## Did you Know?

When an insect touches one of the spines of a Venus Flytrap twice, the trap quickly closes. The trap does not close if it is touched once to conserve energy. If an insect is caught, the trap is tightly sealed and will remain closed for up to one week before re-opening.

## Hours Milestones

*Congratulations to the following volunteers who have reached significant hours milestones*

### 7,000 Hours

Ted Churchill

### 5,250 Hours

Jay Hubbell

### 4,750 Hours

Diane Lauritsen

### 3,000 Hours

John Fee

Terry Heinz

### 2,750 Hours

Ike Smith

### 2,500 Hours

Terry Brady

Robert Juzups

### 2,000 Hours

Charles Rhodes

### 1,750 Hours

Ellie Setser

Harry Polychron

### 1,500 Hours

Greg Perkins

Gail Schiffer

### 1,250 Hours

Joyce Peach

### 1,000 Hours

Patricia Abraham

Carolyn Anderson

Janette Chipas

Wesley Fairey

Kathryn Rowe

### 750 Hours

Irene Bueler

Jackie Miller

### 500 Hours

Barbara Blanton

Sean Cunningham

Sue Foster

Madeline Revkin

### 250 Hours

Jean Austin

Brian Bland

Lynne Gettelfinger

Shawna Byrner

Jackie Huffman

John McCandless

Nathan McKeta

Robert Wooley

*Thank you for all you do! Stop by Volunteer Services to pick up your Aquarium tickets.*

## Help Wanted

Assistance is needed with **Toddler Time** on **Sat, Mar 10** from 7:30-9:30 am with set-up, snacks and clean-up after the events.

Help needed with our first **Fear No Easel Painting Workshop** for ages 9-14 on **Sat, Mar 24**.

We need help with **sleepovers** from 6:30-9:30 pm on: **Tue, Mar 6; Thu, Mar 8; and Thu, Mar 15**.

*To help with the above events, or for more information, call Shirley at 579-8560*

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you **Jon McMurray, Charles Rhodes** and **Ada Starino** for your help with Volunteer Orientation Sat, Jan 21.

Thank you **Pat Abraham, John Fee** and **Ada Starino** for your help with Volunteer Orientation on Sat, Nov 5.

Thank you **Jean Austin, Pru Collier** and **Lisa Milo** for your help with Sea Life by Starlight on Sat, Dec 3.

Thank you **Kara Gerardi, Linda Gordon, Susan Pratt** and **Grace Thoma** for your help with our planting project at Wando Farm on Mon, Jan 23.

*We apologize if we've missed thanking anyone for a special event worked.*

## Zoonosis

Zoonosis is defined as a disease that is carried by a vertebrate animal and can be contracted by humans. It has long been known that some animals carry diseases that humans can contract. Human infection can occur by ingestion, inhalation, contact with mucus membranes or open wounds.

Following these recommendations will limit or remove your risk of zoonosis:

- Prior to handling any animal, you will be given zoonosis training by Husbandry or Education staff on that animal.
- Wash hands prior to and after contact with any animal or animal related material.
- Cuts and abrasions should be covered with a waterproof bandage. Skin wounds should not come into contact with possibly infectious water until a scab has formed.
- Do not eat or drink in animal areas.
- Use protective clothing where applicable.
- Dead or diseased animals must be handled with special caution and removed promptly for necropsy or safe disposal.
- Use caution if using immunosuppressant drugs or if you have a depressed immune system (if you have concerns check with your physician).

<p><b>Do You Know?</b></p> <p>Terry Brady</p> <p><i>How long have you volunteered at the South Carolina Aquarium? Since December 1998</i></p> <p><i>What is your position(s) at the SCA? Exhibit Guide</i></p> <p><i>Do you now or have you ever volunteered anywhere else? Church activities now, youth groups previously</i></p> <p><i>What is your educational/work background? Two years communications courses, 44 years telecommunications (engineering and sales)</i></p> <p><i>Do you have an animal family? No</i></p> <p><i>What are your hobbies? Golf, swimming, reading (book club)</i></p> <p><i>People are surprised to find out ___ about me. That I can sing (p.s. joke)</i></p> <p><i>When I'm not at the SCA, I can be found... walking, reading, traveling</i></p> <p><i>One of my favorite memories of the Aquarium is... can't pick one, a lot of good memories</i></p> <p><i>If you want to make me happy, give me a good book</i></p> <p><i>If I win a zillion dollars...trip around the world and provide educations for grands.</i></p> <p><i>As a kid, my parents thought I'd... be a priest</i></p> <p><i>Closing thoughts...Aquarium has been one of the best experiences</i></p>	<p><b>Save the Date</b></p> <p>Volunteer Appreciation Party Wednesday, April 11, 2012</p> <p>Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party will be Wednesday, April 11 from 7:00-9:00 pm this year. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss this fun event!</p>
<p><b>Spring Snake Count</b> May 2012 Location TBD</p> <p>The Center for Snake Conservation will hold their first snake count of the year during the week of May 12-20, 2012. We are checking to see how many would be interested in joining us before we commit an Aquarium team to this effort. If you would like to join us, let Shirley or Eric know.</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Social</b> Thursday, March 8 4:30-6:30 pm</p> <p>We hope you (and a guest) will be able to join us for a social on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 pm in the Boardroom. The Aquarium will provide soft drinks, beer and wine. If you would like to bring an appetizer to share, please do.</p> <p>If you are bringing a guest, RSVP to Rexanna or Shirley by Wednesday, March 7.</p> <p><b>Volunteer Field Trip to Wando Farm</b> Wednesday, March 7 10:30 am</p> <p>On Wednesday March 7 we're heading north to Wando Farms to see where our plants live before they come to the Aquarium. Kristen Colvin, Aquarium horticulturist, will lead us on a tour of the nursery to show us what goes on so we will have a better understanding of the Aquarium's horticulture needs.</p> <p><b>Question and Answer with Kevin Mills</b> Wednesday, April 4 12:00-1:00 pm</p> <p>Bring your lunch and join us in the Executive Boardroom at noon on Wednesday, April 4 for a question and answer session with our President and CEO, Kevin Mills. Kevin will join us for lunch and be available to answer your questions, whether it's about our future or something going on right now.</p> <p>If you have questions and cannot join us during this lunch hour, e-mail your questions to <a href="mailto:volunteer@scaaquarium.org">volunteer@scaaquarium.org</a>.</p>

## Aquarium Storybook

### We Need Your Stories

We're looking for stories about your experiences as a volunteer at the South Carolina Aquarium. If you have a favorite Aquarium story you tell your friends, or something happened that that you would like to share but haven't had the opportunity, please get those stories to Volunteer Services.

## Madagascar – The Exhibit

By Rexanna Bell, Volunteer Coordinator

*“The South Carolina Aquarium **inspires conservation of the natural world** by exhibiting and caring for animals, by excelling in education and research, and by providing an exceptional visitor experience. “*

Our mission answers the question about why we would bring Madagascar to the South Carolina Aquarium. With more endemic species of animals and plants than anywhere else in the world, Madagascar has become one of the world's top conservation priorities. We will be highlighting different areas of the Country; the sea, the desert, the caves, and the forest.

Some of our new residents will be ring-tailed lemurs, a Nile crocodile, Vasa parrots, Travelers Palm and Indian Reef Tank residents; Raccoon Butterfly, Lyretail Anthias, 2 Bar Anemone Fish, Six Line Wrasse and many other exciting fish. Taking care of Madagascar is a collaborative effort of the following staff: Kendle Enter, Mammal Behaviorist; Jen Skoy, Saltwater Aquarist; Clint Ball, Aviculturist; Kristen Colvin, Horticulturist and Eric Fann, Herpetologist.

A highlight of the ring tailed lemur is included. Other species highlights to follow in subsequent newsletters.

The ring tailed lemur is a near threatened species. They, like all lemurs are native only to Madagascar. We will be receiving four lemurs from the Duke Lemur Center. They are known in Malagasy as “Hira” or “Maky”. They can grow to be 16 – 18 inches tall with a tail nearly 2 feet long. They weigh between five and seven pounds. Whiskers are developed and found above the lips, on the cheeks and on the eyebrow. Whiskers are also found slightly above the wrist on the underside of the forearm.

Lemurs are opportunistic omnivores (eat both plants and animals for their main diet). Lemurs eat a lot of fruit and are extremely important seed dispersers. The seeds go through their body and are dispersed as they defecate. It has been estimated that they are responsible for dispersing the seeds of 54% of the tree species in their particular area. You can see the important role they have in their environment. They live in troops with the females as the leaders, matriarchal hierarchy. Ring tailed lemurs spend half of their time on the ground where they walk about on all fours.

We will be told when we can view the lemurs. They will be introduced to the exhibit quietly so they can feel comfortable in their new habitat. We are very excited about their impending arrival but want to make sure that they take their time and do not feel threatened in their new home.

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