As educators, we love to learn new things. Recently, I’ve been enthralled by conference planning. Here are a few things I’ve learned to get you as excited as we are about the upcoming summer event:

**PICK AN AMAZING LOCATION.**
The historic seaport of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island will be our hub. Conference participants can arrive without cars and easily get around on foot. We will gather at Friday Harbor Middle School, in the heart of town, for concurrent sessions.

**FIND ENGAGING SPEAKERS.**
We are excited to host Jim Lynch, author of “The Highest Tide,” as a keynote speaker! (I highly recommend the book! Perhaps we will hear a bit about how NAME’s own Alan Rammer was involved.) Other speakers will include tribal members, experts on the natural history of the islands and…!

**SECURE GREAT LODGING OPPORTUNITIES.**
This is the big challenge in Friday Harbor in the summer. Lucky for us, NAME member Robin Jacobson is at the Islands’ Visitor Bureau and is setting up some wonderful options. We have booked the entire Juniper Lane Guesthouse, which will sleep 21. NAME discounts will be available at Elements Hotel and Spa. And we will reserve a group camp site at San Juan County Park (the first place I ever saw orcas!) on the west side of the island for a more rustic and economical experience. Please reserve your accommodations as early as possible!

**PLAN FIELD TRIPS.**
Kayaking, tidepooling, National Historic Parks, scuba diving, whale watching. Need we say more? Field trips are planned for all days of the conference. They will be beautiful, spectacular and, of course, educational!

**BE OPEN TO AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES & SUPPORT FROM NAME MEMBERS!**
We’ve just begun the planning and wonderful ideas are coming together. For example, the Whale Museum is going to host a “Pod Nod” overnight for kids on Friday night (so us parents can dance and enjoy the evening!) We’re in touch with some onboard science education programs and hoping to get conference participants on deck during the week. We would love your input and ideas!

Many, many thanks to our conference coordinator, Peggy Foreman and other WA members who have stepped up to chair committees. We still need more volunteers, so please get in touch with us and join the effort (some chair positions still available!) We are also actively looking for conference sponsors. Scholarships will be available and we are working hard to keep costs (including transportation and lodging) down so more teachers and students (and families!) can attend.

Keep checking the Website (www.pacname.org) for new developments.

*We’ll see you in Friday Harbor!*

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**Conference Chair**................. Peggy Foreman
**Program Chair** (keynotes/concurrent sessions)
Glen "Alex" Alexander,
Dave Henry and Susan Wood (Padilla Bay staff)
**San Juan Island Contacts**........ Robin Jacobson and Cindy Hansen
**Accommodations**................. Robin Jacobson and Cindy Hansen
**Registration**......................... Susie Vanderburg
**Treasury**.............................. Sally Lider
**Sponsors Chair**...................... Linda Masson
**Field trips Chair**................... Giovannina Souers
**Sea Faire Chair**..................... Casey Ralston
**Auction Chair**...................... Alan Rammer
**Awards Chair** ....................... Pat Willis
**Culinary Chair** .................... Deborah McArthur and Casey Ralston
**Scholarships** ....................... Julie Hahn and Debbie Smith
**Webpage by Sea Grant**........... Julie Hahn
**Clock hours**......................... Peggy Foreman

Open Positions: Technology Chair, Advertising Chair, Dance/Music Chair
The NAME Board of Directors meets twice a year. If you would like to be included in the email announcements and mailouts for the Board, let Debbie Smith know: dmsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us.

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**NAME Mini-Grant Awards**

It was “hands-on learning” for Rob Coats’ Jackson Middle School students last spring. Rob’s mini-grant award provided hand tools so his students could work on a bioswale to treat campus surface water, remove invasive plants, replace them with native plants, and maintain the channel at the Jackson Nature Trail in Portland, Oregon.

John Meyer’s third grade students from Yaquina View Elementary School splashed through a Marine Discovery Tour cruise of Yaquina Bay this fall. Third graders touched alien-like invertebrates and fish while learning the big ideas of adaptation, food chains, and migration. They were introduced to the awesome technology of video-microscopy and ship navigation with a GPS.

In the coming spring, Sarah Templin will take her Oak Harbor High School students to Port Townsend Marine Science Center where they will conduct water quality tests, complete an invertebrate lab, and create their own marine investigations. Sarah’s mini-grant makes it possible for all of her students to participate in this educational event.

Congratulations and thank you to these educators for their work with students and inspiration to all of us!

Applications for the next round of mini-grants are due no later than May 15, 2008. Interested in applying for a grant? Contact Sue Japhet at suejaphet@earthlink.net for an application.

**To become a member of NMEA:**

National Marine Educators Association

Please contact Scott Willis, Florida Marine Research Institute at scott.willis@fwc.state.fl.us or contact Julie Hahn at jkhahn@u.washington.edu or 206.685.9117.

**Scuttlebutt Submission Information**

SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE:

- February 28 – Publication in March 2008
- September 30 – Publication in October 2008

Please send information to:
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Read Scuttlebutt on-line – Follow the link from www.pacname.org!

**Scuttlebutt Advertising Policy**

1) All advertised goods and/or services shall be directly relevant to the NAME membership, specifically related to aquatic and/or marine education. 2) The NAME board of directors and the editor of Scuttlebutt retain the right to determine the suitability of products or services for advertising. They retain the right to refuse an advertisement for publication. 3) Advertising fees shall be $25 for members and $50 for non-members per year (two issues of Scuttlebutt.) Space for each advertisement shall be limited to 3 1/2” x 2” (business card.) Advertisements shall be camera ready or additional charges may be incurred, as determined by the editor, before the ad may be placed. 4) The appearance of any given ad in Scuttlebutt does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of said product or service, but has been accepted because of its potential interest to some or all of our members. Submit camera-ready art (electronic submission preferred at minimum 200 dpi) by published deadlines below to: Pam Merrill, Editor, OUTLOOK Writing and Design, pam@outlookwriting.com or mail to: PO Box 142, Belfair, WA 98528.
Twenty-five years ago, Judy D’Amore and Libby Palmer had a vision for a marine science center in Port Townsend. It started as a simple idea in a kitchen and, with the help of many people over the years, it morphed into an organization greater than first envisioned, filled with curiosity, friendship, fun and a love of learning, all cornerstones of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center that we see today.

Last July, the PTMSC celebrated its silver anniversary with a huge party, a variety of activities and a “family” reunion for anyone who had played a role at the center over the past 25 years. This anniversary bash included everyone from past staff, volunteers, board members, campers, interns and counselors to Americorps, workshop participants, teachers, students, families and community supporters and was held at Fort Worden State Park. Music, stories, photographs and yummy food were shared by all in attendance. Many also spent time catching up with old friends, hearing about the vision for the future of PTMSC and reminiscing about all the successes over the past years.

Special guest, Kathleen Drew, from the Governor’s office shared remarks from Governor Christine Gregoire. “Since its inception, the PTMSC has helped educate the public about our marine habitats and the importance of recovery efforts along Puget Sound,” wrote Gregoire. “I commend the center’s leadership and staff for their commitment to conservation, education and service. Your efforts benefit all Washingtonians and I am confident that the past 25 years are merely the beginning of a long and fruitful legacy of environmental consciousness and activism.”

More than 160 people attended the event, some from as far away as Iraq and China.

The hard work and perseverance of Libby and Judy in the center’s formative days was commended by Joe Wheeler, the initial executive director of Centrum, who praised their vision and determination.

Many party-goers brought photographs to share—old, new and wacky—and Judy and Libby had a display board for sharing.

To learn more about the PTMSC, you can visit www.ptmsc.org.

Congratulations, Judy and Libby!
What a great conference in Astoria! Great presentations, great company and great food. Congratulations to the organizing committee and everyone that worked to make the conference such a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two people who have contributed a great deal to NAME and, in particular, NAME BC. Bill Austin and Margy Ransford have been long-time members of NAME and co-directors of NAME BC for many years. Bill decided to step down as director last year but continues to be active in NAME and at the Marine Ecology Centre in Sidney. Besides leading field trips and marine-oriented summer camps and instructing school classes from around southern Vancouver Island, Bill is working on a new, larger facility to house the Marine Ecology Centre. Like the energizer bunny, he just keeps going and going.

After many years of serving as a director of NAME BC, Margy Ransford has decided to step down as co-director. Margy will remain active in NAME and has offered to help out whenever she can. She also volunteers for other organizations including the Georgia Strait Alliance and the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. All this on top of being a full-time teacher. I don’t know where she gets the energy, but we’re glad she does.

We would like to thank Bill and Margy for all the time and energy they spent as our directors and for their continued support and participation.

I would also like to welcome Anne Stewart as the new co-director for BC. Anne is the Public Education Program Coordinator at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. She has been a NAME member for many years and has been involved in marine education at Bamfield for more than 20 years. Anne brings with her many years of field, lab and classroom experience.

– Gordon Green, Co-Director

2007 has been a year of challenge and change. The mantle of president has been passed on to me. The past couple of years, under the able guidance of Susie Vanderburg and Orlay Johnson, have seen NAME become a 401(c)3 nonprofit corporation. With that, a set of bylaws were developed and a strategic plan was begun to guide the future growth of NAME. The challenge lies ahead for the final development and implementation of that strategic plan. We will need the sweat of our hard-working NAME members to realize this plan.

The NAME Conference in Astoria last July brought together water education professionals from throughout the Northwest. Many thanks to Pat Willis and the Oregon Conference Committee for presenting an informative and fun conference. As always, it was great to reconnect with old friends and meet new water educators.

Planning is underway for the 2008 NAME Conference scheduled for July 9 through July 12 in Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington. NAME members interested in helping (here’s that sweat again) with the conference are encouraged to contact Peggy Foreman by email at pforeman20@yahoo.com . There are many tasks, large and small, to be done.

This year has also been a year of challenge and change for me personally. Despite a wonderful work year in which much was accomplished, 2007 was overshadowed by family issues. The most serious of these issues has been dealing with my mother’s terminal cancer. There have been tears, and there will be the sweat of hard work in the months ahead as my family cares for her. Thanks to Linda Maxson, Orlay Johnson and other NAME members for helping me out during this year of professional and personal transition.

(Thanks to Bill Hanshumaker for the inspiration to use the Dinesen quote.)
Hello from Oregon!

We have had a very busy year and I want to thank you all for a wonderful conference. Astoria greeted us with great weather, which was a very pleasant surprise that turned out to be perfect for our attendees.

Pat Willis and committee members did an amazing job putting together plenary speakers, concurrent sessions, food, field trips and fun. Thanks to the donation from the local brewery and our two amazing auctioneers, Bill Hastie and Gene Williamson, the auction was a great success, with over $1600 raised for scholarships.

Noreene Ignelzi, a student at Oregon State University, was awarded a scholarship from NOAA to cover the cost of the conference. Cait Goodwin, a new member, was awarded a conference scholarship from Oregon NAME. Rob Coats, a teacher at Jackson Middle School in Portland was awarded "Formal Educator of the Year," for his continuous and enthusiastic contribution to marine and aquatic education. Athena Crichton, an educator at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, was awarded "Informal Educator of the Year." I was totally caught off guard by Orlay when he presented me with the "President's Award" and a warning for others about my rather effervescent wine.

We are still waiting for monies from six people, however, the total that we will be splitting between all charters and NAME will be over $4,000.

We are planning two Oregon events and will send more information as places and dates get finalized.
Rhizocephalans are cirripedians (barnacles) but, unlike most cirripedians, rhizocephalans are parasites on other crustaceans, usually shrimps and crabs. When present, rhizocephalans appear as a mass on the ventral surface of the abdomens of shrimps and, occasionally, crabs and hermit crabs. Like other crustaceans, rhizocephalans start life as tiny swimming larvae that spend time in the plankton before seeking out a host.

*Sylon* is a rhizocephalan that parasitizes shrimps along the west coast of North America. After some time as a free-swimming larva, a female *Sylon* searches out an adult shrimp and settles on the carapace. A mass of embryonic cells is then injected through a pore in the carapace of the host. The larva falls off the host and dies while the cells injected into the shrimp begin to grow, sending out roots throughout the body of the host and absorbing nutrients. After some time, a tumor-like mass begins to form in the abdomen of the host. This stage of the female life cycle, known as the interna, is entirely inside the host's body and generally lasts from 2 to 4 months. Male *Sylon* are free-swimming.

During a molt of the host animal, the growing 'tumor' erupts through the ventral surface of the host's abdomen and appears as an oval cream-coloured sac that remains attached to the shrimp, occupying the space normally occupied in gravid female shrimps by an egg mass. This stage of the life cycle is known as the externa. The externa remains small and immature until fertilized, by a male *Sylon* cyprid larva. After fertilization, the externa matures, grows, and produces eggs.

Through induced hormone changes, *Sylon* fools female shrimp into behaving as if the parasite is an egg mass to be protected, groomed, and aerated. If the host is a male, the parasite castrates it and destroys certain glands to induce hormonal changes that cause males to behave as females and care for the parasite as if it were an egg mass. Male hosts also acquire female secondary sexual characteristics, such as a wide abdomen.

Host shrimp usually die after the life cycle of the rhizocephalan is complete. Those that survive will have a scar on the abdomen where the parasite was attached.

**Updated DOSITS Website**

The URI Office of Marine Programs is pleased to announce the launch of a new version of the Discovery of Sound in the Sea website - [www.dosits.org](http://www.dosits.org) - an online resource about the science and use of sound in the ocean.

In addition to new content and updates throughout the site, we have a new main section for the media (Media Resources) that contains a Frequently Asked Questions and a Facts and Myths section. Both sections are also appropriate for educators and students.

We are excited about the new on-line tutorials on the Science of Sound and the Effects of Sound on Marine Animals that lead the visitor through a guided sequence of content. The tutorials can be accessed in the Media, Teacher, and Student Resources sections.

There is also new content in the People and Sound section and new entries in the Audio Gallery.

A good deal of work on how animals hear underwater sound has been added throughout the site, particularly under How Do Marine Animals Hear Sounds?

A special thanks to our funders (ONR, NOAA, NSF) and our team of science reviewers.
Orca Bowl 2008

The University of Washington hosts the 11th Annual Washington State Ocean Sciences or “Orca” Bowl 2008!

The purpose of Orca Bowl 2008 is to support and celebrate students’ academic excellence in ocean sciences!

The competition was held on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the University of Washington South Campus Center in Seattle. Thirteen high schools had pre-registered for the competition including several new schools!

Scuttlebutt went to press just before the Orca Bowl was held. We hope you all had the opportunity to participate and that you had a great time!