



Science and the Sea

The University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute

OPEN HOUSE

September 4, 2004

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Port Aransas, Texas

Schedule of Events

Field Excursions aboard Research Vessels

(Space is limited. Adults & children over 10 only)

“Bay Ecology” (R/V KATY)

Depart from Registration Booth (#3 on map)

8:15, 10:00, 11:45, 1:30, 3:15

“Coastal Oceanography” (R/V LONGHORN)

Depart from Registration Booth (#2 on map)

8:30, 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00

“Shore Ecology” (Small Boat Fleet)

Depart from Registration Booth (#4 on map)

Group A - 8:45, 10:15, 11:45, 1:15, 2:45

Group B - 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30

Guided Tours

(Limited to 20 persons per tour)

“Fish from the Hatchery to the Table”

Registration Booth and Bus to Fisheries & Mariculture Lab (#5 on map)

9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

“Sex Hormones in Fish”

Depart from Registration Booth (#6 on map)

9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

“MSI: Science and the Sea”

Depart from Registration Booth (#7 on map)

9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00

Shows and Exhibitions

Ocean Theatre: “Sea Spot Swim”

(especially for small children)

Visitor’s Center Auditorium (#9 on map)

9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

Diving with Seals Under Antarctica’s

Ice Pack - Dr. Lee Fuiman

Visitor’s Center Auditorium (#9 on map)

10:00 and 2:00

Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Shark: Facts to Put Your Mind at Ease at the

Beach - Dr. Scott Nunez

Visitor’s Center Auditorium (#9 on map)

12:00 and 4:00

Sea Turtles and Birds - Tony Amos and Andi Wickham

Turtle Ponds (#11 on map)

10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

All-Day Activities

Touch Tanks: Sea Creatures

(especially for small children)

Pier Lab (#12 on map)

Face Painting

Under Main Building (#13 on map)

Souvenir Shopping at the Ocean Emporium

Visitor’s Center (#8 on map)

Description of Events

Shows and Exhibitions

Ocean Theatre: "Sea Spot Swim" - Join Pam Stryker, an elementary school teacher and Presidential Award winner in a creative exploration of the adaptation, form, and function of fishes, sea-horses, crabs, and squid. Her presentations, "Dress a Sea Critter: What are those parts?", "Who put the Holes in the Shells on the Beach: Mystery of the Clam", and "How do Gulf Creatures Survive?" are very entertaining and educational. **Pam Stryker**

Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Shark: Facts to Put your Mind at Ease at the Beach - The sight of a dorsal fin cutting through the water strikes fear in every swimmer, but how real is the threat of a shark attack? Far from the blood-crazed animals depicted by Hollywood, sharks are fragile creatures that are critically important to the ecology of the ocean. Indeed, man poses a much greater risk to the shark than the shark poses to man. Come hear the truth about man vs. shark, and then visit the beach with your mind more at ease. **Dr. Scott Nunez**

Touch Tanks: Sea Creatures - Join us for a "hands-on" experience with a wide variety of marine fishes, crabs, sea urchins, sea stars, plankton, hermit crabs, snails, and marsh plants. The Pier Lab staff will be available as you explore the variety and abundance of marine life from the local area. **Elderhostel staff**

Diving with Seals Under Antarctica's Ice Pack - Dr. Fuiman has participated in five research expeditions to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to study the hunting behavior of Weddell seals. His presentation will show how the team of researchers learned about the behavior of the seals and the fishes they feed on by attaching a video camera and sensors to the seals. This fascinating presentation about the coldest place on Earth is just the right antidote to the South Texas heat. **Dr. Lee Fuiman**

Sea Turtles and Birds - We often find stranded sea turtles and injured birds in the course of our research along Gulf beaches. Animals are brought back to the ARK (Animal Rehabilitation Keep) for rehabilitation. The local community has also come to rely on MSI to help injured animals found in the area. At this exhibition, see local species of sea turtles and birds in our care as we describe the methods used to rehabilitate them. **Tony Amos, Andi Wickham & ARK staff**

Souvenirs: Shopping at the Ocean Emporium - Come visit our Ocean Emporium where you will find a selection of treasures to suit everyone. Featuring our exclusive design "Open House 2004" T-shirts and a variety of marine life T-shirts, caps, posters, note cards, books, mugs, discovery scopes, toys and much more. **Staff**

Important Information

Boat Cruises

- Adults and children over 10 only.
- Registration is required for all boat cruises and guided tours.
- Registration for morning boat cruises will begin at 8:00 am and registration for afternoon boat cruises will begin at 12:00 pm.
- For boat cruises you will be required to complete a liability waiver (waiver for minors must be signed by parent or guardian) and will be issued a colored coordinating wrist band. You must have this wrist band to board the vessel - **No Exceptions**.
- All boat cruises will depart the registration tent at the designated time.
- All boat cruises will have a pre-boarding safety session. Mobility impaired individuals will be accommodated only aboard the *R/V LONGHORN*.

Guided Tours

- All guided tours will depart the registration tent at the designated time.
- The Fish from the Hatchery to the Table tour will require you to ride the trolley/bus over to the Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory (FAML). Admittance to this laboratory is prohibited by personal vehicle during Open House because of limited parking unless a handicapped tag is displayed.

Other Information

- EMS Staff are located under the building next to the trolley tent.
- Food and drink booths are located under the main building, just follow the signs.

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Description of Events

Field Excursions aboard Research Vessels

(Space limited. Adults & children over 10 only)

Bay Ecology aboard the R/V KATY (1½ hours) - Come aboard the *R/V KATY* for an activity-filled excursion into our productive coastal bays. Participants will get a gull's eye view of coastal plankton and sort through a shrimp trawl catch. The boat is equipped with a color video system for viewing plankton and a live well for observing the variety of fishes, crabs, and other sea life collected in the trawl. You will cruise past the historic Lydia Ann Lighthouse and possibly observe bottlenosed dolphins and a variety of coastal birds. This excursion is limited to 25 people each trip.

John Turany, John Williams & Capt. Stan Dignum

Coastal Oceanography aboard the R/V LONGHORN (1½ hours) - Become familiar with scientific equipment used at sea and types of oceanographic measurements that scientists collect from ships. On this brief cruise, visitors will be instructed on ship safety, observe scientists measuring properties of seawater, and see how samples are obtained from the water column and the sea bottom. This excursion is limited to 50 people each trip.

Drs. Ed Buskey, Tracy Villareal, Capt. John Cain & staff

Shore Ecology aboard the Small Boat Fleet (2 hours) - Join us for a trip down the Lydia Ann Channel to discover the animals that live in tidal areas, among marsh plants and sea-grasses, and how they are important in coastal food webs. See how to collect and identify plants, fishes, and other invertebrate animals (clams, shrimp, and worms). Participants on this trip also have the opportunity to assist the scientists in some of their collection activities as we explore these very special and productive habitats. This excursion is limited to 20 people each trip. Participants may get their shoes wet and/or muddy.

Drs. Ken Dunton, Paul Montagna & staff

Guided Tours of Science Labs

(All guided tours are limited to 20 people each)

Fish from the Hatchery to the Table (1 hour) - Visit the Institute's Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory (FAML) where redfish were first spawned in 1977. You will see brood stock of red drum, cobia (ling), flounder and a variety of tropical reef fishes. Learn about state-of-the-art systems for growing and spawning fish indoors. **Drs. Joan Holt, Izhar Khan, & staff**

Sex Hormones in Fish (45 minutes) - On this tour, visit tanks where spotted seatrout and croaker are kept, learn about their hormones, and discover how similar those fish hormones are to our own. Scientists will explain how to develop methods to spawn fish in captivity, which has promoted aquaculture worldwide. Also, learn how pesticides can interfere with reproduction in fishes and humans by disrupting the endocrine system. **Dr. Peter Thomas & staff**

MSI: Science and the Sea (45 minutes) - For almost 60 years the Marine Science Institute has been a center for marine research and education on the Gulf Coast. Join this guided tour of our first-class facilities and learn about some of the important projects underway. Included on this tour is a newly displayed Sei whale skull, a 12-foot long whale jaw bone and a special chance to listen to the live mating calls of some of your favorite fishes. **Dr. Lee Fuiman & staff**

Science
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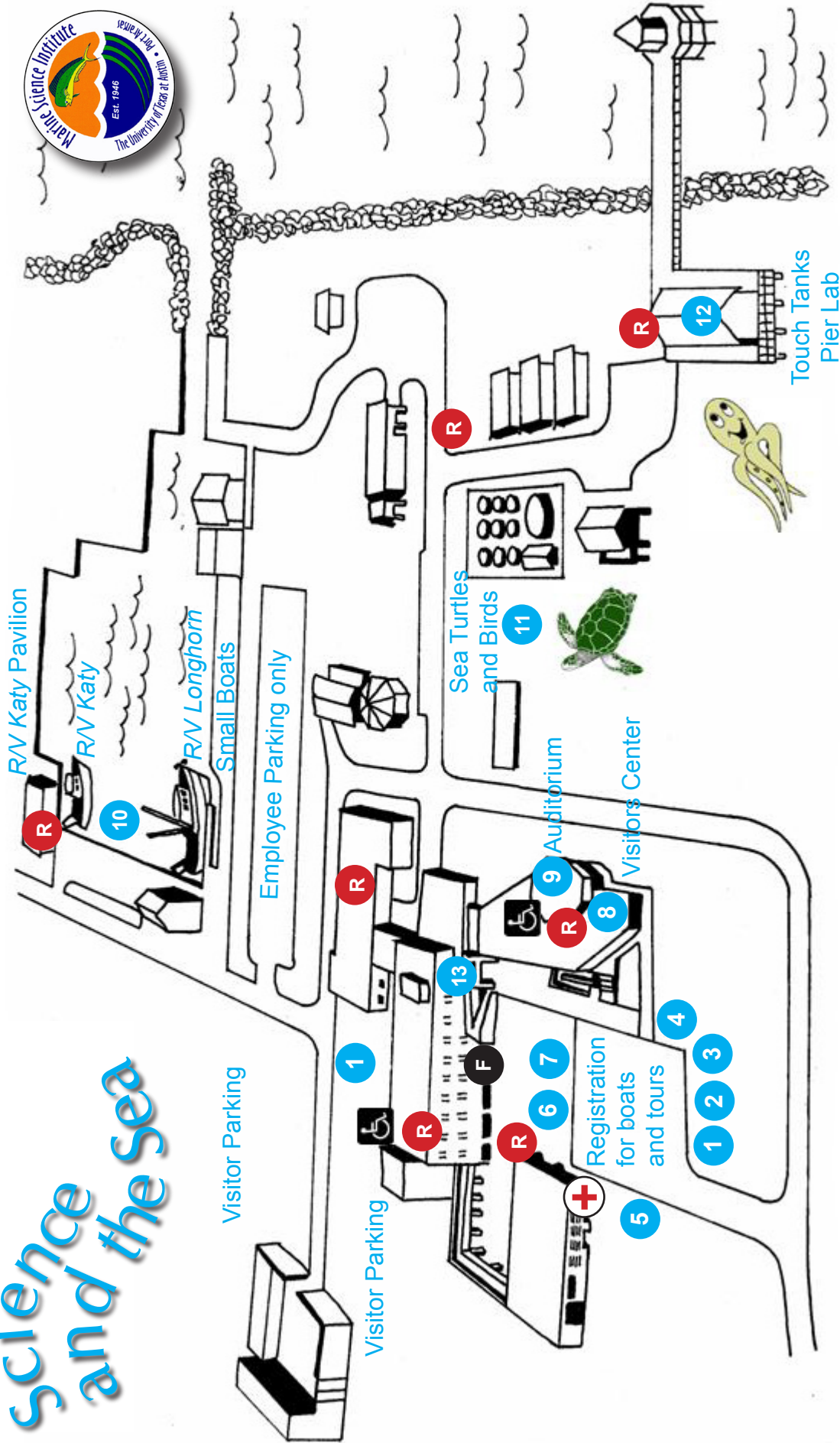
Sponsors

We thank our sponsors for their generous support of this event: The UT Marine Science Advisory Council, CITGO, Vista del Sol LNG, H-E-B, IGA-Family Center, Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce, AmericanBank, ValueBank, South Jetty and the Port Aransas Boatmen's Association.

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The University of Texas Marine Science Institute - OPEN HOUSE

science and the sea



- 1 Information Booths
- 2 Registration (R/V LONGHORN)
- 3 Registration (R/V KATY)
- 4 Registration (Small Boats)
- 5 Registration FAML Tour & Trolley
- 6 Registration Guided Tour - Sex Hormones
- 7 Registration Guided Tour - Science/Sea
- 8 Ocean Emporium Gift Shop
- 9 Auditorium/Ocean Theatre
- 10 Research Vessels
- 11 Sea Turtles and Birds
- 12 Touch Tanks/Pier Lab
- 13 Face Painting
- + Emergency Services
- F Food/Drinks
- R Restrooms
- ADA Accessible