

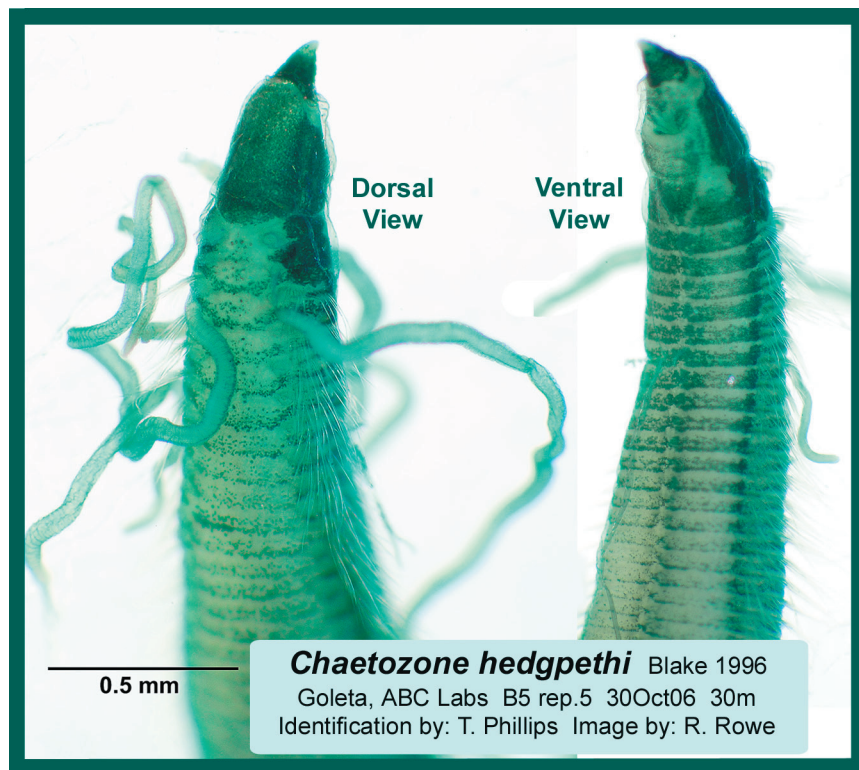
**S**OUTHERN  
**C**ALIFORNIA  
**A**SSOCIATION OF  
**M**ARINE  
**I**NVERTEBRATE  
**T**AXONOMISTS



May/June, 2007

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 1



**This Issue**

MAY 7 2007.....	2
UPCOMING MEETINGS.....	2
JUNE 11 2007.....	3
JUNE 25 2007.....	4
NINTH INTERNATIONAL POLYCHAETE CONFERENCE.....	5
CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES.....	7
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7
SCAMIT OFFICERS.....	9

The SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes.

## MAY 7 2007

This was a very small meeting at NHMLAC with a few of the polychaete taxonomists present to continue working on updating the SCAMIT Taxa list. Below is a list of the decisions made and actions to be taken on the next portion of the polychaete taxa list.

*Magelona longicornis* will be dropped from the list and not added as a jr. syn. of authors NEP under *Magelona* sp SD10.

*Aphelochaeta* sp HYP4 has been confirmed by Tony Phillips as *A. petersenae*. *A.* sp. HYP5 is still pending and *A.* sp. HYP6 is being dropped.

*Aphelochaeta* sp HYP2 is the same as *Aphelochaeta* sp SD2 of Rick Rowe.

Both *Caulleriella alata* and *Caulleriella pacifica* will be left on the list for now. According to Blake in the 1996 MMS atlas, both are valid and he describes differences between them.

*Caulleriella* sp SD2 will be added. There is a voucher sheet.

*Chaetozone hedgepethi* will be left on the list for now. Since it is described from Tomales Bay, Rick Rowe thinks perhaps our local animal might be a provisional or belong to a complex. Further research needs to be done.

*Cirratulus cirratus* will be left on the list as *Cirratulus* sp.

*Monticellina* sp HYP2 will be dropped.

*Notomastus* sp SD2 and sp SD3 will be added and voucher sheets done by Rick Rowe. They are not the same as *N. hemipodus*.

*Petaloclymene* sp MEC1 still needs more review by Larry Lovell to see if it is different from *P. pacifica*. If so, a voucher sheet will be produced so it can be added to the taxa list.

Add *Ophelina* sp SD2 Rowe 2004. Rick will distribute a voucher sheet.

*Eulalia* sp LA1 of Parker from Bight '98 is what LACSD is calling their pigmented specimens of *E. levicornuta*. Leslie Harris, Larry Lovell and Tony Phillips are reviewing the material and will probably turn this name into *Eulalia levicornuta* Cmplx.

*Nereiphylla* sp 2 from San Diego Bight '03 will become *N* sp. A and B of SCAMIT and voucher sheets will be produced. There is also a third provisional from Leslie Harris that will be added to the list and a voucher sheet produced.

*Paranaitis* sp SD1 which is the unpigmented form of *P. polynoides* has a voucher sheet (see

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 17, 2008:** 9:30-3:00, at LACSD Marine Biology Lab. Amphipod meeting to be led by Don Cadien. The infraorder Bogidiellida will be the topic group. We will discuss the superfamilies Bogidielloidea, Hadzioidea, and Melphidippoidea containing the families Bogidiellidae, Hadziidae, Melitidae, Melphidippidae, Hornellidae, and Megaluroipidae.

**April 14, 2008:** 9:30 - 3:00; at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Parasitic copepods led by Dr. Julianne E. Kalman.

**12 May, 2008:** at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. "Bivalves 101", led by Paul Valentich Scott.

**June 2008:** Wetland arthropods to be led by Don Cadien and Christopher Rogers (SAFIT). Date and location TBA.



newsletter Vol. 25 No. 5). It has been seen for several years by San Diego and LACSD.

*Heteropodarke* sp SD1 is still valid and Ron Velarde will do a voucher sheet and distribute.

*Pilargis* sp 2 of Harris is one of four provisionals that are all considered valid and Larry Lovell is working on a table so information can be widely distributed.

*Exogone* sp A of Williams is an old provisional from Sue Williams and different from *Exogone* sp A of Harris. Williams' animal is found in shallow water embayments. Larry will update the voucher sheet and redistribute.

*Pionosyllis* sp SD2, *Streptosyllis* sp SD1 Velarde 1995 §, *Syllides* sp SD1 Velarde 2004 §, *Syllis* (*Typosyllis*) sp SD4 and SD5 along with SD1, SD2, SD3 all need voucher sheets done by Ron for inclusion on the taxa list. Also, *Typosyllis* will be elevated to generic rank.

*Nereis* sp SD1 is different from *Nereis procera* and a voucher sheet has been issued by Bill Furlong as *Nereis* sp A of SCAMIT (see newsletter Vol. 25 no. 3). It can now be added to the taxa list.

*Glycera* sp BB from Ricardo Martinez-Lara will be dropped. It is similar to *G. capitata/nana* and was from a table in newsletter Vol. 21 no. 7 done by Ricardo. Ricardo also had *Glycera* sp C of Harris in the table and it is similar to *G. oxycephala* Ehlers 1887. If this provisional is still valid a voucher sheet will be issued. If not it will be dropped.

Also, on hold is *Glycera* sp. D of Harris which is close to *G. tessellata*. Leslie believes this is a valid provisional due to the fact that the type locality of *G. tessellata* is from the Mediterranean. See her comments in newsletter Vol. 21 no. 7.

Tom Parker also has a provisional, *Glycera* sp LA1 from 1999 and he will create a voucher sheet for newsletter distribution.

*Scoletoma luti*, was thought to replace *Scoletoma tetraura* complex on our taxa list. It has been reported from the last Bight project and the City of San Francisco. For now *S. tetraura* complex will also stay on the list.

*Arabella iricolor* is not properly identified in So. Cal. It should probably be listed as a complex. *A. endonata* should also be added to the list.

*Diplocirrus* sp LA1, a provisional from Bight '98, will not be added to the list.

*Amphicteis* sp SD1 of Barwick 2004 § will also not be added to the list.

However, *Amphitritinae* sp SD1 Barwick 1999 § has a voucher sheet already and will be added to the list.

*Nicolea* sp A of Harris from Bight '03 needs to have more information added to its voucher sheet for inclusion on the taxa list.

*Pista disjuncta* of authors NEP should be synonymized under *Pista wui*.

*Lysilla* sp SD1 of Barwick should be added to the list. A voucher sheet has been done.

### JUNE 11 2007

Our newly elected President, Larry Lovell, opened the meeting at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Marine Biology Laboratory. He announced the next SCAMIT meeting will



be in San Diego on June 25<sup>th</sup> and will cover non-polychaete groups for Edition 5 of the Species List. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Rich Mooi will lead a meeting in San Diego on irregular urchins. Dave Pawson from the Smithsonian will be out this way in August, and he will lead a meeting in September on holothurians.

Larry announced that the end of August is the deadline for submitting documentation and distribution of that documentation for new provisional species to be included in Edition 5 of the SCAMIT Species List. There was a discussion about what qualifies as “distribution” for provisional species documentation. Publication in the newsletter is required (even if the author was not at the meeting); this way everyone will have access to the information. In addition, it will be posted to the taxonomic toolbox on the website after appearing in the Newsletter.

It is estimated that the final version of Edition 5 will be out in early October. Electronic copies will be available to members and will be password protected. There was a discussion about the distribution of Ed 5. Questions were raised about whom else it should be distributed to, how, and for how much? Should there be hard copies, CDs, and pdf's available? Should non-members be included? We also discussed the idea of having updates to the Species List every 6-8 months on the website. It was suggested to make new information on the website password protected and have older material accessible to everyone. SCAMIT officers have also discussed these ideas recently.

Larry informed us about an upcoming meeting in October that will include SAFIT and SCAMIT members and Dr. Robert Hershler. Weston Solutions will host the meeting at their Carlsbad office. Dr. Hershler will be talking about *Trionia* and *Hydrobia* during the morning session. Participants should bring specimens to the meeting. Some technical support will probably be requested from SCAMIT in terms of camera and computer equipment.

The LACSD lab shared a copy of a new book they received entitled “Quantitative Analysis of Marine Biological Communities: Field Biology and Environment” by Gerald J. Bakus. It includes “quantitative methods specifically tailored for the marine biologist”.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of continuing the discussion of proposed additions and changes to the polychaete portion of Edition 5 of the SCAMIT Species List led by Larry.

#### JUNE 25 2007

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the month of June was a continuation of the Ed 5 meetings and dealt with Miscellaneous Phyla.

John Ljubenkov gave an opening comment to warn other attendees about trusting images found on the web. He cited an example where 5 different species were pictured, but all had been assigned the same species name. Just a reminder to use caution and know the source when using/trusting taxonomic information gathered from various internet sources.

However, that being said, a valuable web source for those of you who work on nemertean is:

<http://nemertes.si.edu/>

If you haven't yet explored this site, please do so. I myself plan to try to become more familiar with the site and potentially involved.

Tony Phillips mentioned a new piece of literature of interest to anyone who works on Porifera.



See the new comprehensive book, "The sponges of California" by Lee, Elvin and Reiswig.

Speaking of new literature, Philip Lambert published part 3 in his series on the echinoderms of the British Columbia region. This latest book covers brittle stars, feather stars and urchins.

With that we moved on to additions and changes to the Miscellaneous Phyla portion of Edition 5 of the Species List.

- M. Lilly

### NINTH INTERNATIONAL POLYCHAETE CONFERENCE

The 9th International Polychaete Conference (IPC9) was held in Portland, Maine, August 12-18, 2007. It was co-sponsored by the International Polychaete Association and the Darling Marine Center, University of Maine. International polychaete conferences are held every three years at international venues and draw polychaetologists from around the world. There were a total of 169 registered attendees from the Americas, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa with nearly one third (56) from the USA. Sixty-seven talks and one hundred sixteen posters were presented during the conference on a broad range of topics including polychaete biology and morphology, developmental biology, ecology and biodiversity, benthic ecology, systematics and phylogeny, and cosmopolitan species. All these topics of research are pertinent to long-term ocean outfall monitoring and research programs.

Proceedings of the IPC9 Conference will be published in the scientific journal, ZOOSYMPOSIA in late 2008 and will be supported in part by the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Enhancement of Expertise in Taxonomy ("PEET" Grant Program, Award No. DEB-0118693). University student presentations were judged and awards were given to the best six talks and six posters during the closing banquet. Dr. Jim Carlton, an internationally recognized expert on invasive marine species, presented the keynote address at the banquet entitled, "Ship-worms: Global Humans and Global Polychaetes". He presented a fascinating look at 400 years of human-ocean interactions and the impact of ship voyages as vectors for the global dispersal of polychaete species. His talk ended with a real-time world map from the Internet showing the thousands of ships at sea, demonstrating the scale of their role as a vector for invasive species dispersal.

Though the conference does not allow oral presentations on polychaete systematics and taxonomy, there were many posters presented on these and other topics pertinent to taxonomy and marine monitoring work. There was a poster redescribing *Dipolydora armata*, a rare, but local polychaete species. There were several posters on the systematics of the polychaete family Cirratulidae, an important group in local monitoring programs. Major revisions to the genera and description of many new species locally and worldwide have confounded measuring population trends within this family. This family continues to yield new species here and elsewhere in the world. There was a poster reporting on the capitellid genus *Notomastus* from the Mexican Pacific region in which several species were reported in common with southern California. The authors detailed erroneous reports from Mexican waters of two locally occurring species as well as five species possibly new to science. This paper, when published, may help solidify our local knowledge about this difficult and confused group of polychaetes. Dr. Rodolfo Elias presented a poster assessing urban contamination of sandy beaches from a fisheries factory outfall and pluvial effluents using intertidal polychaetes. His preliminary data showed contamination related impacts to the intertidal polychaete community from the fisheries factory outfall and one of the pluvial effluent sites.

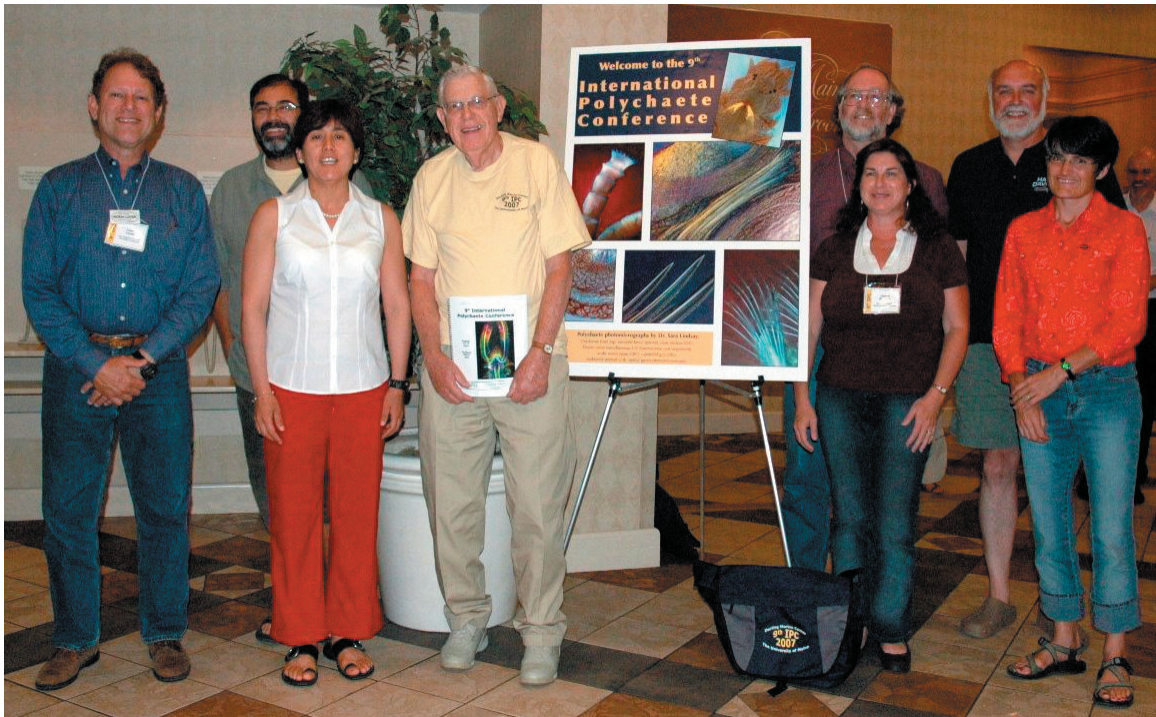




There were nine polychaete researchers from southern California in attendance: SCAMIT officers Larry Lovell, President and Cheryl Brantley, Treasurer; Dr. Don Reish, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Long Beach; Dr. Greg Rouse, Dr. Vincent Rousset, and Guillermo Mendoza, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Ron Velarde and Ricardo Martínez-Lara, City of San Diego, Environmental Monitoring Division; and Verónica Rodríguez-Villanueva, Ecological Marine Research Laboratory ECOMAR. Most of these attendees presented talks and/or posters at the conference. Southern California has for many years been a nexus of polychaete research in the USA, particularly beginning with the USC Allan Hancock Foundation and Dr. Olga Hartman's seminal research on Palos Verdes and Santa Monica Bay polychaete taxonomy and ecology. The fact that 9 of the 56 conference participants from the USA work in southern California is validation of, and a continuation of, this heritage in polychaete research.

Many of the above-mentioned polychaete workers are members of SCAMIT. The conference allowed Cheryl and Larry to associate with these members in an international setting and to meet other members who live and work out of the southern California area in person. Larry and Cheryl set up a table at the front of the poster room to display SCAMIT related items; membership flyers, newsletters with taxonomic voucher sheets, a copy of the SCAMIT taxonomic species list, and several examples of high-quality digital color photos of polychaete specimens provided by SCAMIT Vice-President, Leslie Harris. A group photo of SCAMIT members in attendance at the conference appears below.

- Reported by Larry Lovell, SCAMIT President



SCAMIT members attending IPC9. L-R: Larry Lovell, Ricardo Martínez-Lara, Verónica Rodríguez-Villanueva, Dr. Don Reish, Ron Velarde, Cheryl Brantley, Howard Jones, and Barbara Dinkins. Not pictured: Drs. Victoria Díaz-Castañeda, Byoung-Seol Koh, Andrew Mackie and Greg Rouse.



---

---

### CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are two job announcements attached at the end of this newsletter; one is for a curatorial assistant position at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the other is for a Natural Scientist/Ecologist for the Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Enterprise.

The Department of Fish and Game also has an opening. Below is a copy of an email from Connie Ryan, regarding this position.

- "Yesterday, I noticed that open exams are being offered for Senior Biologist Supervisor (Marine/Fisheries) and Senior Biologist Specialist (Marine/Fisheries). The closing date is March 7. It is rare that we have an OPEN (i.e., open to all qualified applicants; non-promotional) exam for a Senior Biologist. This is a great opportunity to bring researchers into the Department. I would like to encourage you to spread the word about the exam to the various scientists with whom you are cooperating (professors, grad students, consultants, other agency staff, people on "soft money"). Remember that these lists can last for a long time.

Sincerely,  
Connie

Connie Ryan  
Department of Fish and Game  
350 Harbor Blvd.  
Belmont, CA 94002  
phone: 650-631-2536  
fax: 650-631-6119  
e-mail: [cryan@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:cryan@dfg.ca.gov)  
For more information go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/jobs/exams/>

### EXCITING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

An interesting volunteer opportunity for those of you so inclined...

The National Geographic Society and the National Park Service are organizing a BioBlitz in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area on May 30-31, 2008. We invite you to join us.

A BioBlitz is a unique combination of taxonomic inventory, public outreach, and science education. Teams of about 8-10 volunteers, each led by a biologist with particular taxonomic expertise, go into the field to find, identify and map as many species as possible within a 24-hour period (noon to noon). While the inventory is not systematic, it can nevertheless yield valuable biogeographic information. Recent BioBlitzes, for example, have revealed new undescribed species of arthropods and bacteria in the middle of city parks. New county records and other indices of species distribution are common.

Apart from the inventory, other activities include presentations about biodiversity, structured field exercises for K-12 classes, demonstrations of field technology, and exhibits ranging from global biodiversity to local nature photography. These activities will occur mostly at our base camp at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, but also at peripheral sites around the mountains. All told, a BioBlitz is a wonderful opportunity for scientists to meet each other, collect in the field, learn about possibilities for research in National Parks, and educate and inspire the public through hands-on field work.



The 2008 event will be our second annual BioBlitz and is part of a series that we are conducting in different National Park Service units around the country for the next decade. This year, we are joined by California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

In addition, we are working with the City of Los Angeles to extend our range eastward to Griffith Park and the Los Angeles River.

We very much hope you will join us for all or part of the BioBlitz. The success of an event like this depends greatly on the knowledge and enthusiasm of trained scientists. Your participation in this festive “species marathon” will help make this a valuable celebration of biodiversity, and will contribute immeasurably to educating and inspiring the next generation of biologists and stewards of California’s natural heritage.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please register on-line at [www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist](http://www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist), or reply to this message at [bioblitz@ngs.org](mailto:bioblitz@ngs.org). Please let us know in particular if there are specific roles, like team leader, that interest you most. We hope to have all team leaders confirmed ASAP. If you wish to participate as a team leader or otherwise, we will keep you on our contact list and will be in touch with you again this fall.

Please note:

1. On-line registration for scientists is required ([www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist](http://www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist)), and closes on March 23.
2. We are hosting an optional (but encouraged) orientation session for scientists at Pepperdine University on Saturday, March 1, 9:00-12:00. Please RSVP to [bioblitz@ngs.org](mailto:bioblitz@ngs.org) and request details.

Please forward this message to your colleagues, graduate students, and others who you think would be able to provide scientific expertise to the BioBlitz. If you would like to print the attached flyer and post it in a public place, you are welcome to do so.

Sincerely,  
Tim Watkins, PhD  
National Geographic Society  
BioBlitz Science Coordinator  
and  
Raymond M. Sauvajot, PhD  
National Park Service  
Santa Monica Mtns Nat Rec Area

#### **What do scientists do at a BioBlitz?**

Biologists like you participate by doing one or more of the following - leading field teams on 4-hour shifts (including at night, as appropriate), identifying species brought back to the base camp, preparing specimens for curation, working with school and community groups, interpreting for the public and media, talking about your own work and career, etc.

#### **What is expected of team leaders?**

Taxon team leaders will be responsible for taking volunteers into the field to find and learn about species of interest. In addition, team leaders must verify species names, ensure the accuracy of the inventory data, and coordinate with NGS staff concerning collected and/or curated specimens after the Blitz. About a week before the Blitz, team leaders will contact their assigned team members to advise about proper procedures, confirm meeting location and time, remind them





about appropriate field dress, etc. We will provide guidelines and support for that task.

**Which biologists should participate?**

Any professional or trained amateur who can lead people safely in the field, find and identify species (by sight, under a microscope, with a dichotomous key, etc.), and is willing to share his or her enthusiasm for organisms. Past participants have included academics, museum staff, members of amateur naturalist societies, public agency scientists, employees of environmental consulting firms, and graduate students.

**Do I need to bring field supplies?**

Yes. Please bring whatever field gear you need to find and identify species (waders, nets, microscopes, taxonomic keys, etc.). We will provide tables, chairs, general lighting, power, and some laptop computers dedicated to data entry.

**Can I collect specimens?**

Yes. We will obtain all necessary permits and can provide some general curation materials (e.g. glass vials and ethanol) on a case-by-case basis. Specimens collected from National Park Service lands are the property of the NPS, but may be loaned for long-term curation in an approved facility (e.g. a natural history museum). We will provide guidance on loan procedures.

**Can I publish my results?**

Yes, you are free to publish as you see fit. Furthermore, popular media, including National Geographic print and film crews, will be present at the BioBlitz and may wish to interview you about your activities and discoveries in the field.

**Will I be paid?**

No, unfortunately we cannot pay participants so your involvement is voluntary. We will provide gifts to recognize your valuable contributions of time and expertise, however, and host a dinner for registered scientists the night before the BioBlitz starts.

**Will I be fed?**

Yes. Boxed meals will be provided during the 24-hour inventory, and a celebratory BBQ will occur once the inventory is completed on Saturday afternoon. Coffee and snacks will be provided throughout the inventory.

**Do I have to be present for the full 24-hours?**

No, but we hope you'll be with us for most of them! The opening and closing ceremonies (noon on Friday and Saturday) will be big festive events where we hope to have as many scientists as possible. At the closing ceremony, we will ask team leaders to take the stage and announce their tallies, surprising or valuable finds, and tales from the field. We will provide dorm-style accommodations for registered scientists. Alternatively, many hotels serve the area. Campgrounds in the park will also be available to BioBlitz participants.

**Do I have to stay up all night?**

Only if you want to. Team leaders for nocturnal species will, of course, be out in the field at night with enthusiastic volunteers. Others may wish to use the dark hours to sort through specimens and enter data. The 24-hour marathon creates a fun "esprit de corps" that we hope you'll enjoy. And the longer you're awake, the more species we will have identified by the closing bell!

Your time and talent is very much appreciated and we look forward to welcoming you as a scientist at the Santa Monica Mountain BioBlitz.



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Bakus, G. 2007. Quantitative Analysis of Marine Biological Communities: Field biology and Environment. Publishers: Wiley-Interscience. 435 pp.
- Lambert, P. and W. Austin. 2007. Brittle Stars, Sea Urchins and Feather Stars of British Columbia, Southeast Alaska, and Puget Sound. Royal BC Museum Handbook. Royal British Columbia Museum. Victoria, British Columbia. 150 pp.
- Lee, W., et al. 2007. The Sponges of California. A Guide and Key to the Marine Sponges of California. Published by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. Monterey, CA. 130 pp.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org)

### SCAMIT OFFICERS

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers at their e-mail addresses:

President	Larry Lovell (310)830-2400X5613	<a href="mailto:llovell@lacsd.org">llovell@lacsd.org</a>
Vice-President	Leslie Harris (213)763-3234	<a href="mailto:lharris@nhm.org">lharris@nhm.org</a>
Secretary	Megan Lilly (619)758-2336	<a href="mailto:mlilly@sandiego.gov">mlilly@sandiego.gov</a>
Treasurer	Cheryl Brantley (310)830-2400x5605	<a href="mailto:cbrantley@lacsd.org">cbrantley@lacsd.org</a>

Hard copy 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.

The SCAMIT newsletter is published every two months and is distributed freely to members in good standing. Membership is \$15 for an electronic copy of the newsletter, available via the web site at [www.scamit.org](http://www.scamit.org), and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All new members receive password protected website access to the most current edition of "A Taxonomic Listing of Soft Bottom Macro- and Megainvertebrates ... in the Southern California Bight." All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT  
C/O The Natural History Museum, Invertebrate Zoology  
attn: Leslie Harris  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California, 90007