

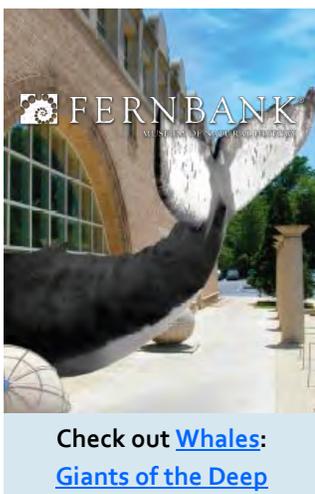
Quick Connect Calendar

- [NOAA Ship Nancy Foster Open House](#)
April 19, 2014
- [SCAD Sidewalk Chalk Arts Festival](#)
April 26, 2014
- [SCAD Sand Arts Festival](#)
May 2, 2014
- [Build-A-Drifter Workshop](#)
May 10-15, 2014
- [Sanctuary Advisory Council - Public Meeting](#)
May 20, 2014
- [Rivers to Reef Workshop](#)
June 22-27, 2014
- [MATE International ROV Competition](#)
June 26-28, 2014

Carrollton High School Wins GRNMS Southeast Regional ROV Competition

An unknown shipwreck waited at the bottom of the Olympic-sized pool for teams to explore and identify in March at [Gray's Reef Southeast Regional MATE ROV Competition](#). Engaging students and educators with technology and research methods employed by NOAA field scientists is the reason that [National Marine Sanctuaries](#) partner with the California based Marine Advanced Technology Education ([MATE](#)) Center. With annual pool missions that reflect the science of the Sanctuaries, MATE challenges student teams to

design and build a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), and embark on a flight path to the underwater treasures that await their robotic rovers. Participation in the competitions by University professors, NOAA scientists, and professionals in the field further engage and inspire students. [Carrollton High School](#) won the RANGER class and will represent the Southeast region in Alpena, MI at the International Competition, hosted by the [Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). You can follow along [here!](#)



Georgia's Calving Grounds For Ancient and Endangered Whales

Two partially fossilized jawbones are helping scientists piece together the life history of an extinct population of ancient gray whales that once swam off Georgia's coast. The bones were dated and

found to be about 41,000 and 48,000 years old respectively. The size of the bones indicates both whales were older than newborn but not yet mature. [University of Georgia researchers](#)

[suggest](#) this area was once a calving ground for gray whales, much as it is today for the highly endangered North Atlantic right whales. "Other than what we have found offshore Georgia, there

Whales continued...



Gray's Reef FareWhale Festival Entanglement Obstacle Course

are no known calving grounds for the **Atlantic gray whale.**" Casts of the jawbones will be displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the Georgia Aquarium and at the University of GA MAREX Aquarium.

NOAA and partners host a Whalecoming Festival in early winter in Jacksonville, FL as the North Atlantic right whales return to their only known [calving grounds](#). **Gray's Reef and [Sea to Shore Alliance](#)** hosted

the [FareWhale Festival](#) on Tybee Island, GA on March 29th as a celebration of the endangered whales and to bring awareness to their calving migration along the Georgia coast and the South Atlantic Bight.

Rivers to Reef Educators Workshop

This popular Georgia **educator's workshop** begins in Atlanta where we set off to follow the course of the Altamaha River Watershed from its headwaters near the Georgia Aquarium to the Georgia Coast, and then 20 miles offshore to **Gray's Reef Nation-**

al Marine Sanctuary June 22-27, 2014. Field and cultural experiences include water quality monitoring, a canoe trip to the convergence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, a boat ride through the Altamaha River Delta, a trawling

trip through the marsh, and a ferry ride over to Sapelo Island **to explore Georgia's** barrier island marshes and estuaries.

Hosted by Gray's Reef NMS, GA Aquarium and Gordon College. Four (4) PLU credits are available.



Applications accepted until April 21, 2014.

[Apply Now!](#)

Build-A-Drifter Educators Workshop

Recent [dye tracer studies](#) conducted in the Altamaha



River reflect how the river delivers dissolved organic **material to Gray's Reef** and other sensitive offshore ecosystems. Drs. Danny Gleason and Risa Cohen with Georgia Southern University continue to investigate the extent to which urbanized watersheds can impact these offshore

marine areas with additional dye tracer studies and a deployment of drifters in the mouth of **the Altamaha River. Gray's Reef** will select up to five educators to build a [NOAA drifter](#) and deploy the unit along with the dye study in early May.

Applications accepted until April 21, 2014. [Apply Now!](#)

UGA MAREX: The Georgia SHORE Program

Have you ever wanted to immerse yourself in a coastal Georgia experience, bring many inquiry-based activities back to your classroom, conduct your own research, and receive graduate credit or PLUs? Join MAREX on June 8-22 for a course that will bring you up to date on the latest coastal

biology discoveries and ecosystem issues in a really exciting way! The course begins with an overview of basic marine ecosystems in coastal Georgia. Activities aboard the R/V *Sea Dawg* include biological sampling of the estuary and water chemistry analysis. Laboratory activities

will include the collection and identification of plankton, invertebrates and fish. Participants will explore scientific inquiry methods with applications for classroom use. For more information, visit UGA MAREX.



Classroom Resources



[Ocean Acidification 101](#)



[MATE Technology Workshops](#)



[XPrize for Ocean Health](#)



[Animated Ocean Current Map](#)

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is one of the largest near-shore live-bottom reefs of the southeastern United States. Managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it is just one of the 14 marine protected areas that make up the National Marine Sanctuary System and is governed under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Gray's Reef was designated as a sanctuary on January 16, 1981, and is the only protected natural reef area on the continental shelf off the Georgia coast. The 22 square miles of Gray's Reef protects an area that is recognized nationally and internationally as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

<http://graysreef.noaa.gov/>

10 Ocean Science Circle Savannah, GA 31411

Phone: 912-598-2345

Fax: 912-598-2367

E-mail: graysreef@noaa.gov

National Marine Sanctuaries.....America's underwater treasures!