

SAIL Regional Group Report

2002 - 2003

Evelyn M. Poole-Kober, Chair

This was a busy and productive year for SAIL (Southeast Affiliate of IAMSLIC). Major activities included the annual meeting, and upgrading the list server. Year-long activities included using the discussion list for resource sharing among members, recruiting conference meeting hosts and members, and voting to expand SAIL.

SAIL held the 2003 annual meeting May 13-16 at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (HBOI), Fort Pierce, Florida. The theme of the meeting was *Navigating Rough Waters in a Sea of Information*. Kristen Metzger, HBOI Librarian, and Library Assistant Cindy Harnage, planned and hosted the program, which is detailed below.

For those of you who didn't attend, we missed your fellowship and you missed these excellent presentations, wonderful food, and a lovely campus where art work was prominently displayed. Also, the planned and unplanned tours around the campus – on land and on the Indian River – were very informative about the area and the institution.

Photos and email messages do not adequately show and describe the Harbor Branch Library. As we took tours, Kristen pointed out the many exquisite features built into the donated house that was floated up the Indian River to its present location. Those of us in attendance should have had a group photo done in the huge marble garden tub! It would have been a treasure for archiving! The group pictures were outside and are located on the SAIL web page.

Liz DeHart will host the SAIL 2004 meeting at Port Aransas, Texas; the scheduled date is May 11-14, 2004. Conference information is posted at <http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu/> and linked from the SAIL web page. If you weren't at the 2003 meeting, start making plans to attend the 2004 meeting in Texas.

IAMSLIC GRANT TO SAIL – 2003

IAMSLIC generously supported the annual SAIL conference with a \$900 grant. This grant enabled us to keep our registration fee at a very reasonable rate (\$60) and allowed us to support the travel expenses of 2 SAIL/IAMSLIC members.

Although we always want more librarians to attend, it was a good group with 22 librarians from the southeastern United States attending the two and a half day conference at Harbor Branch. Two former librarians, Kay Hale and Jean Maguire, attended the first day. As retirees, they live in Sarasota and volunteer at Mote Marine Library. The IAMSLIC grant supported the welcome reception (\$200) and the half-day Powerpoint workshop (\$200). The workshop was taught by a staff member of the Central Florida Library Cooperative and was our only paid presentation.

Travel expenses are always a problem for librarians, now more than ever. The geographic area of the SAIL group ranges from eastern part of the United States to Texas and travel to the SAIL conference invariably requires airplane fare for the majority of attendees. The IAMSLIC grant provided two travel grants of \$250 each to two individuals who have been active members of SAIL and IAMSLIC for many years: Helen Ivy, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and Natalie Wiest, Texas A & M University at Galveston.

The SAIL conference had a varied program, covering copyright issues, management of electronic journals and gray literature, regional databases, the creation of PDF documents and the value of digital collections. A very interesting and useful presentation was made on guidelines for planning a small meeting. The talk was accompanied by a handout that should be of use to all of the IAMSLIC regional groups. Scientists from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution kept us spellbound with such presentations as, *Bioluminescent Oddities and Wonders*, *Lifestyles of the Very Hot, the Very Cold and the Very Deep: How do They Survive There?*, and *A Fish Eye View of Aquaculture*. The abstracts are on the SAIL web page.

Conference evaluations were uniformly enthusiastic about the topics covered, the format of the meeting, the location facilities and the ability to network with one another. Next year we hope to increase our request for grant money in order to cover the cost of bringing in more outside speakers. While presentations by SAIL members are always well received, sometimes we need topics covered that don't fall into our membership's area of expertise. Thank you from all SAIL members for IAMSLIC'S support of our conference.

SAIL's Region

SAIL covers a wide geographic-range in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Per to the 2003 annual meeting, SAIL membership was open to marine science information professionals from the eastern and southern United States and the Caribbean, including Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Bermuda, the West Indies, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Cuba, eastern Mexico, and Panama. However, during the business meeting, we voted to expand the group to include members from the eastern part of the United States and to allow retirees to remain in the directory as long as they wish (with a current address).

Submitted by Evelyn M. Poole-Kober, SAIL Representative, 30 September 2003