

PROPOSAL TO HOST IAMSLIC 2007 IN FLORIDA

It is with great enthusiasm that we are submitting our proposal to host IAMSLIC in Sarasota, FL, USA in October 2007.

In this memorandum, we present you with some information on the local host committee. Secondly, we discuss the chosen conference site and discuss why it has all the assets required to fulfill the meeting needs (See Hyatt pdf attachment). Thirdly, we highlight Sarasota/St. Petersburg qualities as the proposed venue for IAMSLIC 2007 (See Sarasota.pdf attachment).

Local Host Committee:

The initiative for this bid comes from Susan Stover, Librarian at Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL.

Jan Boyett, Librarian at Florida Wildlife Research Institute (formerly Florida Marine Research Institute) in St. Petersburg has agreed to host 1 one day of the conference at her facility.

Vera Neumann, Special Collections-Environmental Collection, Selby Public Library, Sarasota. Vera would like to have a ½ day at her facility. It is within walking distance of the hotel.

Kris Metzger, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Fort Pierce.

Stephanie Haas, Digital Library Center, University of Florida, Gainesville.

The following Florida Librarians have agreed to assist with the conference where needed:

Deb Henry, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Fred Lohrer, Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid

Susan Weiss, Florida International University, North Miami

Kathy Maxson, Nova Southeastern University, Dania.

Maria Bello, NOAA/ NMFS-SEFSC, Miami

Kay Hale, Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota (Mote volunteer, retired from RSMAS.)

Roger Kelly, (Stony Brook, retired), now resides in Ocala.

The Florida host committee will help and advise on various organizational aspects, assist with onsite duties during the conference, and promote the event within their local area.

Susan has discussed the proposal with Mote's President, Kumar Mahadevan, and he has agreed to offer support for the meeting, and possibly help sponsor the conference banquet.

There are a number of Speaker resources in the area: Mote Lab, FWRI, USF Library School, Sarasota County Environmental Services Dept., Tampa Bay Library Consortium, Selby Botanical Garden, Manasota Sierra Club and the Sarasota Audubon Society.

Conference Site:

Various hotels and venues in the Sarasota area were reviewed and the Hyatt Sarasota was chosen as the best facility. A tour of the facility confirmed its qualities. It is a 10-story hotel and every room has a view of Sarasota Bay. The standard rooms are on the lower floors and the view depends on the floor. The hotel has guaranteed 1 complimentary VIP suite. All rooms are a nice size and have recently been remodeled. Each has the usual amenities i.e. coffee, plentiful toiletries, hair dryer etc. There is an outdoor pool, a large health club and an onsite massage therapist. It meets the criteria to comfortably seat 120 + participants in 1 room, has numerous meeting rooms-including a classic Board Room for the Exec and Committee meetings, an area for vendors, a specially designed conference registration area with a large storage room, T1 and Wi-Fi connectivity with a room for setting-up a cyber café, a gift shop, three restaurants, and a lounge that is open in the evenings. (See attached Hyatt.pdf)

The hotel is located near downtown Sarasota and is within walking distance of the Sarasota Visitor Information Center, the Bayfront park area, Marie Selby Botanical Garden, G-Wiz Science Center, Van Wezel Center for the Performing Arts (the purple seashell), and Main Street's restaurants, theaters, opera house, galleries and shops. The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to the St. Armand's Circle shopping area (a local and visitor favorite) and Lido Beach.

I have attached the Hyatt's proposal for your review. The hotel is tentatively holding the week of Oct. 8th. However, the week of Oct. 15 may be available.

Hyatt website - <http://sarasota.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>

Transportation:

The major international airports in and near Sarasota:

- Sarasota/Bradenton (SRQ) is 4 miles north of the hotel.
The hotel offers shuttle service from the Sarasota/Bradenton airport for \$5.00 for the first person and \$2.00 for each additional person.
- Tampa International (TPA) is 50 miles north. There are many transportation options from TPA to Sarasota.
- St. Petersburg-Clearwater (PIE) is approx. 50 miles northwest of Sarasota.
- Southwest Florida, Fort Myers (RSW) is approx. 1 ½ hrs south of Sarasota.
- Orlando (MCO) is 2 hours east of Sarasota.

Sarasota does have an inner city bus and trolley system.
Additional transportation information in the Sarasota pdf file.

Miscellaneous:

University of South Florida in Tampa has a School of Library and Information Science.

The following Florida colleges and universities offer marine science related programs. We will encourage staff from these facilities to attend the meeting.

University of South Florida
University of Florida
Florida State University
University of Central Florida
Florida Gulf Coast University
New College
Florida International University
Florida Institute of Technology
University of Miami
Nova Southeastern University
Eckerd College
University of Tampa
Hillsborough Community College

TENTATIVE Conference Schedule:

Week of October 7-12 or 14-19. Currently the hotel is holding the 7-12th pending a tentative John Deere conference the week of the 14th. They should know soon if the week of the 14th will be available.

Start the conference on Sun. or Monday. (We may receive a better price on rooms etc. if we start on Sunday.)

Sun. or Mon.

1-5 pm Exec Board Meeting
6 or 7 til 9 pm Registration and Welcome Reception pool-side (weather permitting) with possible entertainment.

Mon. or Tues.

8 am – 5 pm All day meeting with continental breakfast, lunch, and 2 breaks

Optional: Could offer a casual evening sunset cruise aboard LaBarge, or a more upscale dinner cruise on board Lady Sarasota. Both within walking distance of hotel.

Tues or Wed.

-am meetings at hotel.
Lunch at either library.

-pm presentations at Selby Public Library. The Selby Public Library has an Environmental Collection and their Special Collections Librarian is a member of IAMSLIC. (The group could walk to the public library from the hotel.)

Wed. or Thurs.

All day meeting with continental breakfast, lunch and 2 breaks

Banquet at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium.

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the aquarium courtyard, and dinner at one of Mote's banquet rooms overlooking Sarasota Bay. I was thinking of a tropical/Caribbean theme banquet with Hawaiian shirts, calypso or Jimmy Buffet music, and key lime pie for dessert. (Main meal to be determined later.)

Thurs. or Fri.: Offsite

To St. Petersburg in am for meeting at FWRI, and pm field trip, possibly to Salvador Dali Museum, or a field trip to Fort De Soto. Fort De Soto has just been picked as the best beach in North America-long empty beaches. There is swimming and the fort. Jan Boyett has talked with rangers about guides for birding walks and a mini shell lecture. Lunch in St. Pete or we could have a cookout for lunch or dinner at the beach. (Rent buses for transportation. FWRI Approx. 1 hour ride from hotel.)

Fort De Soto: <http://fortdesoto.com/>

Optional Offsite field trips.

-Ringling Art Museum including Circus Museum, Ca d'Zan, and Ringling Library <http://www.ringling.org/> They museum complex is a few miles north of the hotel-need a trolley or bus for transportation.

-Mote Aquaculture Park – located 25 miles east of the hotel.

-Trip to Myakka State Park: picnic lunch, canopy walk, bird watching, canoeing, alligators, boat ride, tram tour. (Need buses for transportation.)

If we go to Myakka maybe we could have one of Mote's staff or someone from the county or the park give a talk there about Florida's fauna, rivers, etc.

Possibly partner with Manasota Sierra Club or the Sarasota Audubon Society for speakers.

These excursions may be an extra charge to cover bus service, food etc.

-Field trip to Orlando with these possible destinations: Behind the scenes tour of Sea World, Epcot's Living Seas, or Disney's Library. Orlando is a 2 hour drive from Sarasota.

-A trip to one of the 700 Springs of Florida.

Springs are some of the most unique freshwater ecosystems on earth. A spring ecosystem is one of few natural places in Florida where in a single visit you may encounter manatees, alligators, otters, deer, largemouth bass, turtles, eels, ospreys and snails.

Geologists estimate that there are nearly 700 springs in the State of Florida, representing perhaps the largest concentration of freshwater springs on Earth. Archaeological evidence indicates that humans have been attracted to Florida's life-giving springs for thousands of years.

<http://www.thiswaytothe.net/springs/>

<http://www.floridasprings.org/>

<http://www.floridasprings.com/index.html>

-Organize local kayaking excursions pre or post conference.

This is just a sampling of possible speakers and field trips.

Sincerely,
Susan Stover, Mote Marine Laboratory
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