

Hydrosphere 2nd letter to participants

Hello again folks,

I hope that all continues to go well in our respective locations. Scott and I are working to get all the arrangements in place including clear skies, cool breezes, and colored seas. In the past I might have said crystal clear seas but I now understand that crystal clear means lack of organic productivity and less plankton.

A couple of items for you- Please go to the workshop website http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/iecws/index.html and check your name, school name, and e-mail address. Let me now if any corrections need to be made. Also listed on the site under communiqués are the first and second letters I sent to you participants. Someone you came on-board after the first letter was sent so please make sure you read it. The second letter is a copy of this letter. I post the letters for your reference as many important items are listed in each letter.

Calculate your ecological footprint before arriving at the workshop. There are a number of ecological footprint sites on the web but here is one from the Sustainable Communities Project
<http://www.lwvhc.org/vote/footprints.htm#Calc>

Please read Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance and the passage I selected from Dr Fritjof Capra's book The Web of Life which will be mailed to you. We will spend an entire evening using those reading selections. They are listed in the reading list, along with other fantastic selections. Please feel free to suggest other readings/books that should be listed on our reading list. Different books make it on the list each year so please peruse the past offerings.

Please get me your visitor information form to me asap. You will not be allowed to enter the Caribbean Marine Research Center without that visitors information form having been sent to them weeks prior to your arrival.

You must also have a copy of your DAN rescue insurance, personal health insurance, and a valid passport or drivers license to enter the Bahamas and the research station.

I would appreciate if you would send me copies of your medical insurance, your DAN insurance, your passport, and your visitors information form. We can not be responsible for original documents or be the primary document “holder” but we would like to keep a copy of your information in case of emergencies. I suggest that you leave a copy of all our records with someone your trust at your home, and take an additional copy of your documents with you- along with the originals . It would not be a good thing to not be allowed on the research station or stuck in the Bahamas with out proper documentation.

None of us will be SCUBA diving but we will all be snorkeling. You will need to bring your own mask, snorkel ,and fins. If you do not have these items you can borrow them, buy a set (do not buy anything expensive), or you can “snorkel” without gear. You really do not need fins though they are very helpful. At the very least a cheap snorkel and a pair of plain swimming goggles will do in a pinch. We will be in the water on a dive boat one day and then do a number of swims off the beach during our workshop.

Please review the PIMS-visitors guide available on our website and on the Perry Institute website. It contains very valuable information about life on at the research station including what to bring. Please bring only what you need to the workshop as you will be returning with more than you came with. We will intentionally handout as few materials as possible and will make all the workshop materials available online. This will provide you with access any time into the future to workshop materials and allow you to carry home only what is necessary from the workshop. Other than personal toiletries and medications I recommend not forgetting a long sleeved t-shirt or “surfing” top. A long sleeved shirt is invaluable in and out of the water. I have seen some awfully sunburned backs from folks snorkeling and forgetting that though in the water their backs are exposed to the sun for long periods of time.

We will not be spending much if any time at the Exuma International airport so there will be little time to buy trinkets. Cash is the accepted means of exchange at the research station . Alcohol, Internet access, additional snacks, and other such items can be purchased for cash at the research station. You can not make toll-free calls from the research station.

Check out the PMI videos at
http://www.perryinstitute.org/educational_videos.htm

Since you all have some level of expertise in marine studies I hope that you will feel free to add your input during the workshop. You may even be called upon to talk a little about an area you are expert in as we investigate, snorkel, and teach our way through the workshop. You will not be expected to give a formal presentation at the workshop but if you want to bring some material you have developed, papers you have written, or student work you are welcome to take a few minutes explain them to the group.

Lastly, I know that things in life happen and for some reason you may not be able to make it to the workshop – please let me know as soon as possible. Largely because I will be very concerned if you do not show up and I will spend a lot of time trying to track you down and make sure that all is well. Secondly, The Wright Center has made a financial commitment for the 22 spaces we are allotted on the island (as the Wright Center has to do at all workshops). If something does happen, and you know you do not arrive, we are still financially obligated to the Perry Institute for your space. If possible we would like to fill that space(s) with someone from the waiting list of applications. The sooner you know the easier it is to fill the space. I hope to see you all there.

Thanks and I will talk with you again. Please send me all the needed information as soon as possible (and please always keep a copy of all your records).

Fantastic time a brewing in the Bahamas-

Zach