



John Booker 1952-2010

John Thomas Booker, Jr., Director of Science Education for Seacamp Association Inc in Big Pine Key, FL, passed away on November 7, 2010 after losing his battle with cancer.

A member of NMEA since 1977, John joined FMSEA in 1982 and served as President of FMSEA in 1988-89, hosting the "Back to the Keys" FMSEA Conference in April 1989.

John was a Marine Aquatic Species Collecting Workshop Facilitator since the beginning of the program in 1996.

At Seacamp since 1982, John was instrumental in the recruitment and training of marine science staff. John worked to develop new programs, secure and manage grants, recruit and teach college groups, conduct teacher workshops, assist with training SCUBA staff, teach CPR/First Aid to all staff, train boat captains, develop a computer lab and training program, assist with computer management . . . and so much more. He was also a licensed boat captain and a NAUI SCUBA Instructor. Most of all, John was a good friend to all. He provided logistical support and technical expertise to many visiting researchers, especially to Coupon Bight and Looe Key, as well as spending many hours around many campfires sharing seafaring tales and listening to John playing his guitar and singing songs of a southern soul and the Sea!

"As my knowledge increased, I soon became aware that the transfer of knowledge from the research community to the general public is essential. I then became a marine educator" .



The senior section FMSEA Award given annually at the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida has been renamed the John Booker Award.

John earned his M.S. in Biology (with applied statistics-computer programming minor) from the University of South Alabama/Mobile in 1980. From 1977 through 1982, he worked in the marine science programs at Dauphin Island, Alabama, as a research technician and then for four years as the Coordinator of the Discovery Hall Project for the Marine Environmental Science Consortium-Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

