



Fifth North American Echinoderm Conference

**with a celebration of the career of
John Miller Lawrence**

20-25 July 2008



Melbourne, Florida, U.S.A.

The NAEC is intended primarily for colleagues in Canada, the Caribbean region, Central America, Mexico, and the United States of America. It serves this geographic region between meetings of the International Echinoderm Conference, last held in August 2006 at University of New Hampshire. The NAEC is international but remains smaller than the IEC. Based on trends of recent NAECs, we anticipate an intimate conference with about 100 participants.

Visit the conference website at <http://research.fit.edu/naec>. Details will be added as plans are finalized over the next several months. Fee structure, registration procedure, abstract submission, and an online payment system should be ready in January 2008. If tentative details or formal letters of invitation are needed in advance for planning or for home institutional approval and support for travel, contact one of the co-organizers for assistance.

Abstract Deadline: 1 May 2008

Once the conference website is activated, echinoderm biologists will be invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations in all areas of research by 1 May 2008. Non-presenting participants are welcome. Historically, full proceedings of the NAECs have not been published. Abstracts have, however, been published for some NAECs, and we plan to continue this tradition for the Fifth NAEC, with abstracts to be published in the international journal *Gulf of Mexico Science*.

Conference Schedule (Tentative)

Sunday, 20 July	Arrival, evening reception	Wednesday, 23 July	Field trips, banquet
Monday, 21 July	Oral & poster presentations	Thursday, 24 July	Oral & poster presentations
Tuesday, 22 July	Oral & poster presentations	Friday, 25 July	Oral presentations, departure

The final schedule will depend on the overall number of abstracts submitted for oral presentations. There will be no concurrent sessions. Recommendations for a few plenary speakers are welcome. Field trips are being planned to several marine, freshwater, and terrestrial locations and to local tourist attractions.

Registration & Accommodations

Registration is expected to open in January 2008. Students will be offered a reduced fee for registration. On-campus housing and a meal plan will be available. A list of selected local hotels will be provided to those who desire off-campus lodging.

Co-Organizers

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