

Sarah Nuss, 2023 Informal Educator of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)



MAMEA's 2023 Informal Educator Award was presented to Sarah Nuss. Sarah has always had a passion for marine science education and has spent her career sharing her expertise with learners of all ages. She joined the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia as the Middle School Marine Education Specialist in 2005 and quickly rose to the position of Education Coordinator in 2006. At CBNERR, she works with learners of all ages to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Chesapeake Bay, its ecosystems and inhabitants. She works directly with K-12 schools providing field experiences where students get wet and muddy investigating habitats of the York River and discovering what organisms live there. Sarah and her team bring science to life in local classrooms, at science festivals, through Discovery Lab programs for families, during marine science summer camp, and with teacher professional development.

For the past 7 years, Sarah has co-lead the VA SEA program which trains science graduate students on science communication and lesson plan development and has resulted in the creation of more than 65 K-12 inquiry-based, science lesson plans. Through all these activities and many more, Sarah reaches on average more than 3,000 learners each year. She's always looking to advance her own knowledge and skills, including a PhD program in Educational

Planning Policy and Leadership at W&M. Her dissertation focuses on environmental education training for pre-service teachers. Sarah hopes to shed light on the best ways to train future teachers on the importance of outdoor learning so they can create the next generation of informed citizens and environmental stewards.

Sarah has over a decade of service to MAMEA serving several committees including the Paul Standish Scholarship (2009-12), Mentoring (2015), Awards (2016-17), and Scholarship (2018-19). She has also served as the VA State Rep (2010-12), President's Chain (2013-2015), and NMEA Rep (2020-21). Through these activities, she has supported the mission of our organization -- improving education about all aspects of marine and aquatic environments -- and shared it with formal and informal educators throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the field of marine science education.
Congratulations Sarah!

MAMEA's 2021 Informal Educator Award was presented to Susie Hill.



Susie has provided quality marine education for the past 23 years as an education specialist for Nauticus. As the current Special Programs Manager, she enhances the knowledge for local students, educators, and the public through her many programs. Susie took charge of the MATE Mid-Atlantic Regional ROV competition and has implemented teacher trainings for leaders and organized the regional competitions. She recently traveled to Bermuda to work with Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) and coordinate their ROV Challenge for local middle school through community college-aged students. She assisted them in combining robotics with other topics they are studying including corals, fish, and plankton. While there, she helped with other BIOS programs including microplastics and water cycle workshops.

Susie invests a lot of her personal time and energy into attending professional development opportunities such as Teacher at Sea and Nautilus Exploration Program. She has used these experiences to enhance her trainings and programs including organizing a Facebook Live event for local students to meet Robert Ballard and the scientists aboard SRV Nautilus. Susie works hard to create other partnerships with organizations such as Jason Project and NOAA to facilitate workshops for local teachers.

Susie has been an active supporter of MAMEA. As a long-term member, she has written many articles for the Masthead editions, shared her expertise and creativity at conference presentations, and acted as a liaison for the recent MAMEA conference held in Portsmouth. Her energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude make her a perfect marine science ambassador. You've done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Susie!

MAMEA's 2020 Informal Educator Award was presented to Karla Smith.



Karla is a retired elementary school teacher who helped form a grassroots environmental organization with 16 other citizens call the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance (NARPA). The mission is to raise public awareness and encourage environmental stewardship of Suffolk's waterways and wetlands by developing and implementing programs and initiating collaborative actions with individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and governmental agencies. Karla used her expertise as a retired classroom teacher to develop a wetland and waterway education curriculum for 7th grade science students. She worked alongside science supervisors and public school teachers to align this curriculum with state standards. She has been teaching in the classroom twice a year for the past 8 years bringing live animals, biofacts, and water samples for testing. She also organizes a hands-on field trip to a local waterway park for students to experience the wetlands. Karla has worked to expand this program to private schools, summer camps, and the Governor's School summer program.

Karla has recently received funding to create a wetland program for 3rd graders in Suffolk. Due to COVID-19, she has needed to use her creative and innovative talents to develop a wetlands box including inquiry activities, materials, videos, and a student journal. This tool can be used in the classroom or at home this year. Karla has been an invaluable education source for NARPA and does all of this work as a volunteer with a sincere interest in developing good environmental stewards for future generations.

Karla has been a member of MAMEA for four years. She has participated in the annual conference each year gleaning information and lesson activity ideas for use with the students in Suffolk. She networks with other MAMEA members to share her resources and ideas about NARPA programs including presenting a poster at past conferences.

Karla directly and indirectly impacts all the 7th grader science students in Suffolk public schools each year through classroom lessons and a Meaning Watershed Experience. She also assists high school students with watershed projects and provides programs for other Suffolk youth groups. You've done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Karla!

Cindy Pinell, 2019 Informal Educator of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)

MAMEA's 2019 Informal Educator Award was presented to Cindy Pinell.



Cindy has been a driving force and mentor in environmental stewardship in Suffolk, VA for several years working with programs sponsored by Nansemond River Preservation Alliance and Suffolk River Heritage. Cindy began her involvement in oyster restoration and water quality monitoring in the Suffolk waterways as a volunteer with her daughter's Girl Scout troop. Her enthusiasm for this important mission led her to recruit friends and neighbors and mentor them in dockside oyster growing and water monitoring. She became a spearhead of the Suffolk citizen oyster growers and Girl Scout leader. She also recruited several elementary teachers and encouraged them to incorporate the oyster project in their science curriculum. To assist teachers in this, Cindy retrieved oysters from floats, delivered them to the classrooms, served as the visiting expert interacting with students in science activities that day, and then returned the oysters to the floats at the end of the school day. In addition, she helped develop and lead successful environmental experiences for locals at Bennetts Creek Park during the Clean the Bay Day and Suffolk Riverfest Events.

In fall 2012, the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance partnered with Suffolk City Schools to bring a comprehensive watershed curriculum to all 1100 seventh grade science students in the four Middle Schools. Cindy helped lead the charge, involving the students in local oyster restoration and water quality monitoring. The effort required additional citizen scientists and volunteers to work with classroom teachers patterned after Cindy's previous elementary school work. Cindy has worked tirelessly to bring success to this program. Cindy's efforts both directly and indirectly help students develop a sense of place and become responsible environmental stewards. Cindy does all of this with the only compensation for her time, efforts, and expenses being the enthusiasm of students and citizens for the local environment and its preservation.

Cindy has been a member of MAMEA for three years. She has participated in the annual conference each year gleaned information and lesson activity ideas for use with the students of Suffolk. Cindy has also networked with other MAMEA members to develop a cadre of resources for both herself and the teachers of the classes where she delivers lessons.

You can often find Cindy along the Suffolk waterways, undaunted, up to her armpits in marsh mud, with frozen fingertips, wind dancing through her hair, or rain dripping from her nose because environmental science doesn't always happen on the warm sunny days. As one member of the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance Education Committee said "You need only pick up the phone and say 'Can you help me?' and Cindy is there", whether it is to chase runaway oyster floats, plan an event, assist a new citizen oyster grower, or serve as a last minute substitution in a classroom. You've done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Cindy!

Sara Beam, 2018 Classroom Teacher of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)

Rachel Clark

MAMEA Awards Committee Chair

Each year, we honor selected colleagues for their stellar work in marine education. Based on nominations submitted by their peers, one Classroom Teacher and one Informal Educator are recognized. Additionally, the MAMEA President may acknowledge a highly valued colleague with the President's Award.

At the 2018 MAMEA Conference in Portsmouth, VA, out-going President Lauren Albright had the honor of presenting three awards this year during the Annual Business Meeting on November 10.

Sara Beam received MAMEA's 2018 Classroom Educator Award. She was not able to attend this year's conference, but was presented the award in her classroom before the holidays. Sara teaches two courses in Foundations in Marine and Environmental Sciences at Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. She engages sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions of Virginia. She connects students to their community through activities such as growing oysters, monitoring water quality, identifying plants and animals in various habitats, and understanding the social connections of environmental restoration. Sara is very interested in climate change and how it impacts the communities where her students and their families live. She has put a great deal of thought into developing curriculum that will help her students understand the science of climate change and sea level rise and how this will affect livelihoods, homes, and ecosystems. She instills an infectious sense of wonder in her students and many have gone onto college and careers connected to the foundations she provides.

Sara has been working for 25 years to be an inspiration to thousands of students and she gives her time freely to them and her community. She ensures all students have a hands-on, active learning opportunity in marine and environmental science. She combines this with several speaking assignments to ensure the next generation of scientists have a foundation in effective communication as well as a solid foundation of scientific principles. She has been an active member of MAMEA since 2009 by attending and presenting at conferences. She has been a long-standing and active coach for the Blue Crab Bowl and has worked to sponsor awards for participating student's teams. Congratulations and great job on all the wonderful work Sara!



Christopher Petrone, 2018 Informal Educator of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)

MAMEA's 2018 Informal Educator Award was presented to Chris Petrone. Chris recently took on the role of Director of Delaware Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Services and previously served as the Education Specialist. In that position, he had a variety of duties including running innovative educator workshops, planning and implementing K-12 schools programs, assisting with the production of education publications and videos, and representing Delaware Sea Grant on local and regional education committees and organizations. He's participated in discussions with the Delaware Department of Education about adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, served as coordinator of the regional Chesapeake Bay Bowl, acted as a Rules Judge in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl finals, and provided in-house training sessions for his colleagues on preparing logic models.

When Chris began his role at Sea Grant, he hit the ground running and has had a significant impact on science education in the region as a result. In addition to being an excellent educator and science communicator, Chris is known for his skills working with the newest technology and innovative practices. He is quick to embrace these new platforms as an effective way to share information and engage a wider audience. A recent example of this work is the development and use of BreakoutEDU boxes. This is a fun, new immersive learning platform that requires a group to work as a team to answer clues that open various locks on a box within a set period of time. Chris has developed and tested games on watershed science and alternative energy as part of his teacher workshops.

Chris has been extremely involved in MAMEA over the years serving in the president chain, organizing the 2016 MAMEA Annual Conference, acting as the Delaware State Representative, and attending and presenting at numerous annual conferences. He has also been involved with NMEA serving on the board as the Marketing & Promotions Chair for the 2014 Annual Conference. He's also been involved with other organizations such as Maryland and Delaware Climate Change Education Assessment and Research (MADE-CLEAR), the Delaware Association for Environmental Education, and Lewes Education Coalition serving as a board member, conference planner, coordinator, or presenter.

It is clear that Chris is simply the kind of person who you want on your team – he's dedicated, knowledgeable, eager to try new things, and passionate about science education. His reputation as a valuable project partner is widely known and he's sought out by administrators, teachers, and researchers for collaborative work. You've done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Chris!



Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2017

Category: Classroom Educator Award

MAMEA's 2017 Classroom Educator Award presented to Jaclyn Miller.

Jaclyn began her formal teaching career during the 2016-2017 school year, after receiving her Master's degree from the School of Education at the College of William and Mary. It was immediately and abundantly clear that she had brought her informal education experiences along for the ride. She has made it her mission to incorporate as many hands-on and field-based activities into her classroom curriculum as possible, making learning active and fun. Most notably, she has exposed her students to live oyster reef inhabitants using oyster habitat cages, and has spent one of her lunch breaks dissecting a dogfish shark so that interested students could come in to observe its internal anatomy. She received the Toano Middle School Teacher of the Year Award in 2016 and went on to win the James City County's Middle School Teacher of Year Award.



Jaclyn received her award from MAMEA President Christopher Petrone at the 2017 MAMEA Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland.
Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

An active and dedicated member of both the MAMEA and NMEA communities since 2012, Jaclyn has provided numerous concurrent session presentations at MAMEA, as well as at NMEA annual conferences. An enthusiastic and vocal advocate for both organizations, Jaclyn encourages new and prospective members to become involved in mini-conferences and other professional development opportunities. She has been spreading the word about MAMEA benefits, like the mini-grants, to her coworkers and educator friends. And, Jaclyn has served on the MAMEA Board as the Virginia State Representative (2014-2016) and as a member of the conference scholarship committee.

Jaclyn is described as “extremely committed to science education... with a special passion for marine ecosystems.” She regularly goes above and beyond her typical job responsibilities. She has taken the initiative to engage with former science colleagues in order to integrate aspects of current marine research and education into many of her classroom lessons. In addition, Jaclyn has taken part in a variety of professional development opportunities, including the Jefferson Lab's Science Activities for Teachers program and the Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance at VIMS, gleaned cutting edge resources to use in the classroom. Spending a significant amount of her childhood at the beach, Jaclyn's enthusiasm for the ocean started early. This love has matured through a variety of academic and professional pursuits: from her days as a Marine Biology major at UNC Wilmington to her many years of informal education experience. Jaclyn started her career as an educator as an intern at the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium, then worked at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Jaclyn went on to a position as a Marine Education Specialist at the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Campus, where she served for over three years. Then, she set her sights on a teaching credential and making a contribution to science through formal education. Jaclyn's record and this award show she has succeeded admirably in both environments. Kudos, Jaclyn!

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2017

Category: Informal Educator Award

Rachel Riesbeck Clark receives MAMEA's 2017 Informal Educator Award

Rachel has been a powerhouse of creativity and energy in marine education since her arrival at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in 2008. As School Programs Specialist, she creates hands-on and inquiry activity stations. Students don't just hear about ocean acidification in a power point, they document the loss of calcium carbonate by weighing seashells before and after a soak in vinegar (a weak acid) that decreases their mass. Students place ice on models of land vs. sea surface and measure changing water levels as the ice melts, clarifying how glacial melt contributes to sea level rise. Using marine life clue cards and preserved specimens of their eggs, students learn about life cycles and try to determine the relationships between adults and their early life stages. Students measure fish models and check fishing regulations to determine whether the fish are "keepers," leading to discussions of sustainable fisheries. This hands-on learning approach extends out to teachers' classrooms, as well, through the "Suitcase Science" program that Rachel has spearheaded at the Aquarium. Teachers who can't visit the Aquarium, or who want to extend learning in marine science, can borrow these complete lessons kits.



Rachel received her award from MAMEA President Christopher Petrone at the 2017 MAMEA Conference in Ocean City, Maryland.
Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

Enthusiastic about expanding her own learning, Rachel participates in workshops and on-line training, and networks with other professionals to expand her knowledge and pedagogy expertise. She also provides opportunities for her education staff to participate in enriching experiences. She arranged an ocean collection trip with another museum department, and after encouraging a colleague to apply for Teacher-At-Sea, accommodated her schedule so she could participate.

Rachel generates rewarding opportunities for local educators. She sponsors workshops on marine topics at the aquarium and partners with local environmental groups. When a local school system ended their support for teacher workshops recently, Rachel stepped up to offer them three highly experiential workshops. Teacher participants left each day enthusiastically planning how they could incorporate their experiences in the classroom. To assure that her school programs are meeting the needs of classroom educators, Rachel has an active Teacher Advisory Panel that meets 5 times a year and she seeks the Panel's input on programming, logistics, and unmet needs.

And, in her role as an active NOAA Climate Steward, Rachel has been making important contributions to awareness about this timely topic, disseminating current information to educators and the public. She has been an active MAMEA member for many years, presenting at both MAMEA and NMEA conferences. She frequently networks with educators from other facilities, sharing ideas and brainstorming better ways to increase public and student interest in marine topics. She adapts best practices to create outstanding learning experiences related to important local and global marine topics. She is always willing to go above and beyond to make quality marine education a reality. Congratulations Rachel!

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2017

Category: **President's Award**

At the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association's 2017 Fall Conference, out-going MAMEA President Christopher Petrone recognized colleague Lisa Tossey with his President's Award, thanking her for her innovative contributions to MAMEA, especially during his 2016-2017 term.

Lisa has been a member of both MAMEA and NMEA (National Marine Educators Association) since 2012. At conferences of both organizations, she has been presenting engaging, information-rich sessions on social media, digital storytelling, and new technologies--typically to packed rooms. She played a critical role in Petrone's 2016 MAMEA Conference in Dewey Beach, Delaware, snapping and posting pictures to MAMEA's Facebook page, broadcasting the plenary sessions through Facebook Live, and providing behind-the-scenes support during the planning and implementation of the conference. She was integral in keeping the conference (and conference chair) running smoothly.

Working with Chris at Delaware Sea Grant, Lisa has helped him take programs and digital learning in marine science to a new level. She filmed and produced numerous award-winning videos about Delaware Sea Grant programs that promoted environmental literacy. She developed the initial concept and then produced over 135 episodes of "15 Second Science," and got Delaware Sea Grant's virtual reality (VR) work off the ground. These efforts have put UDEL at the forefront of applying these technologies (short videos and VR) to communications in the marine education world. Chris was both gratified and grateful to be able to honor Lisa with this MAMEA award.

Tossey holds a BS in Science from Salisbury University in Maryland and a MA from the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. For her Masters, she specialized in multiplatform journalism, with a focus on science communication. She currently serves as a Program Specialist in Salisbury University's Environmental Studies Department, and is working on her Ed.D. in Education Leadership at the University of Delaware's College of Education with an expected completion date in Fall 2018.



Lisa Tossey received the MAMEA President's award from Christopher Petrone, Association President 2016-17, at the 2017 MAMEA Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2016

Category: **Classroom Educator Award**

MAMEA's 2016 Classroom Educator Award was presented to Kathy Richardson. Kathy holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. While at UNC-W, Kathy pursued a core concentration in Biology, a majority of her course work centering on marine biology. She then earned a teaching certification from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and has been a science teacher at Louisa County High School for nine years. Each year, Kathy shows a great commitment to providing high quality science instruction, field experiences, and support for her students. She uses information and materials gleaned from years of professional development to assure that her students have the latest data, information, activities, and resources from the marine and environmental science worlds.

Outside of the classroom, Kathy has participated with MAMEA as a member since 2008. She regularly attends MAMEA's annual conferences, as well as Virginia mini-conferences in order to glean as much information, and as many educational activities and resources, as possible pertaining to marine science. Another noteworthy example is Kathy's partnership with Virginia Tech's Fralin Life Science Institute. Each year, she borrows experimental biotechnology kits from the Institute that provide her AP Biology students with advanced, college-level experiments and lab equipment.

Kathy is also a talented photographer! You will almost never see Kathy at an event without her camera. Her photography skills are truly exquisite – it is always a pleasure to be able to look back at the scenes that she had captured throughout the day.

Kathy has an immense commitment to professional development and lifelong learning. She regularly attends workshops, lectures, conferences, field experiences, etc. Being situated just outside of Charlottesville, she must travel quite a significant distance to attend most of these events, often times having to spend nights and weekends away from home. In addition to professional development, Kathy devotes her time outside of the regular work day to providing her students with unique field experiences such as canoe and boat trips, and wildlife mapping activities. Since the beginning of 2016, Kathy has devoted an additional 78.5 hours of her own time to continuing education, as well as over 70 hours of volunteering with various organizations and citizen science efforts. Since the beginning of her career at Louisa County High School, Kathy has attended a remarkable 117 conferences, lectures, seminars, and field experiences on her own time – over 25 of which have occurred in 2016 alone. Kathy is remarkably dedicated to expanding her own knowledge of marine and environmental science in order to provide her students with the best science instruction possible. Congratulations, Kathy!



Kathy was presented with her award at the 2016 MAMEA Conference in Dewey Beach, Delaware, by out-going MAMEA President Andy Gould.
Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2016

Category: **Informal Educator Award**

MAMEA's 2016 Informal Educator Award presented to Kathryn Fuller. For over 20 years, Kathryn Fuller has been engaging, educating and inspiring youth and adults alike, instilling the importance of marine education and environmental science. Kathy has worked for a variety of marine education centers and nonprofits including the North Carolina Aquarium, Horsehead Wetlands Center, Under the Sea, the National Aquarium, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Kathy now shares her enthusiasm about marine education at the Prince George County Outdoor Education Center in Maryland.

Kathy approaches various age groups at a level appropriate to their abilities and comprehension. In her work with under-served youth, she demonstrates the ability to understand an audience and develop materials and programs that are interesting and informative, while providing room for personal growth and achievement. The wonderment in the eyes of her students participating in her programs is a testament to Kathy's ability to engage and inspire. She is the kind of educator who encourages students to go just a bit out of their comfort zone to discover and really grow. By consistently fostering a "classroom" environment that instills trust, respect, and self-improvement, Kathy allows each of her students to explore at their own pace, and she is always there for discussion and answering questions. It is through these methods that Kathy plays a huge role in developing strong young leaders.

Kathy's commitment to marine education is also seen in her participation in both MAMEA and NMEA have been vast – serving as MAMEA Maryland Rep from 2000-2005, Secretary from 2005-2011, and the three years of the President's chain from 2011-2013. She has also served on the NMEA board as the MAMEA representative from 2015 to the present. Her generous commitment to the marine education community is evident through these years of service.

Here is just one of several glowing recommendations endorsing Kathryn's accomplishments:

"Kathy has been an amazing volunteer here at SERC. I rely on her professional experience and ability to reach out to all ages, from children to adults (and even other volunteers) to lead programs and help with training programs. She is a strong advocate of marine education, ranging from understanding basic concepts all the way to complex systems. She's always helping improve our programs while delivering high quality programs to help visitors, students, and volunteer understand our coastal and marine environment here on the Chesapeake Bay. It is without reservation that I recommend her for an award for Informal Education."
— Karen McDonald, Education Program Coordinator with Smithsonian (SERC)

Congratulations, Kathryn!



Kathryn received her award from out-going MAMEA President Any Gould at the 2016 MAMEA Conference in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2015

Category: Classroom Educator Award

MAMEA's 2015 Classroom Educator Award was presented to Tami Lunsford. Tami has a solid science background, including a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Delaware, and a MS in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (where she may have developed her first hands-on outreach programs for high school students) . Other foundational experiences influencing her teaching come from 15 years' of facilitating professional learning opportunities for teachers and undergraduate internships for NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research and the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center. Tami also spent one year in Hawai'i teaching high school science, where she developed a program to get students out of the classroom, doing real science investigations in local aquatic environments. In addition to almost ten years' experience teaching at the undergraduate level, including at the University of Delaware, Tami now has five years of inspired high school classroom teaching experience under her belt.

Tami currently teaches Biology and Advanced Placement Biology at the Newark Charter High School in Newark, DE, which she helped establish in 2013. There, her efforts extend far beyond her own classroom and she also serves in a long list of additional roles at her school: member of the Principal's Leadership Council; member of the Common Ground Team (conducting professional development for implementation of the Common Core Standards); 10th grade advisor; and more. In the broader marine education community, Tami continues part-time responsibilities with the NOAA and MATE positions noted earlier. Among all of these "day job" and part-time duties, she is incredibly active in both the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) and National Marine Educators Association (NMEA). Within MAMEA, Tami has served the roles of President, Delaware Representative, and Chapter Representative to NMEA. At the national level, Tami has served NMEA as a Board Director, Chair of NMEA's Expanding Audiences Committee, and is now NMEA President-elect. She flawlessly bridged these two organizations as the co-chair of the 2014 NMEA annual conference, hosted by MAMEA in Annapolis, Maryland.

Here are just a few of the glowing recommendations endorsing Tami's accomplishments:

✦From a Parent at Newark Charter School:

"Tami Lunsford stands out among the outstanding staff assembled at Newark Charter High School, and we are very happy that [our son] will likely have her as a classroom teacher several times before graduation for biology, marine science, and perhaps AP Biology as well as adviser for his favorite activity [Chesapeake Bay Bowl]. We suspect she will be one of those transformative teachers who will make a huge difference in his life."



MAMEA is proud to recognize Tami Lunsford with its 2015 Classroom Educator Award. Tami received the MAMEA honor in her classroom - following the 2015 MAMEA Conference - when Delaware colleague Chris Petrone made a surprise presentation. Photo by Sharon Dorr.

*Dr. Lisa Ueltzhoffer, Principal, Newark Charter School:

“Tami’s passion and dedication to her students, our school and her professional community is unmatched. She is a leader of leaders and a true team member. I am constantly amazed with quality and quantity of her contributions. She is most deserving of being celebrated.”

*Dr. Jack Bartley, Faculty Director, University of Delaware Associate in Arts Program:

“Tami is the best science teacher I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She is passionate about her work and most importantly, about the students. I wish I had just half of her energy. Her commitment to excellence in all phases of her work is reflected in the appraisals the students would deliver at the end of each semester. Tami would always receive the highest rating of any instructor in the program.”

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2015

Category: **Informal Educator Award**

MAMEA's 2015 Informal Educator Award presented to Rosanne Fortner.

A veteran educator with decades of experience, Rosanne continues to find creative and meaningful ways to contribute to the field of marine education. Rosanne's training includes her Bachelor's degree in Biology (1967) and Masters in Earth Science from Oregon State University (1973). With her solid science credentials, she moved into the world of formal education, completing a Doctorate in Education (EdD) in 1978 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her dissertation focused on inland high school students' experiences related to marine knowledge. That blend of science and education leadership has been a central theme throughout her distinguished career. Rosanne has served as a research assistant, middle school teacher, teaching assistant, Ohio State University professor, Ohio Sea Grant Coordinator, NOAA Education Liaison, Fulbright Scholar, Associate Director of the Stone Laboratory, Director of COSEE Great Lakes, UNC Wilmington professor, and national Sea Grant Advisory Board Member.

Rosanne is now retired from Ohio State University where she served as professor of environmental science education, teaching environmental communications and education to undergraduates and graduate students on campus and conducting professional development courses for educators at F.T. Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie. As a project investigator, she coordinated the Ohio Sea Grant Education Program until 2005. She directed her research at identifying the needs for science education programs and training, comparing the effectiveness of science education methods, and assessing the impact of environmental education programs in field and classroom settings. An important part of her responsibilities as an educator was the development and assessment of curriculum. Her 12 books of curriculum activities were variously funded by Ohio Sea Grant, the National Science Foundation, Great Lakes Protection Fund and other sponsors. Working with Ohio Sea Grant investigators, she brought the curricula into modern technological forms, including online teaching. As the Director of the Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence [COSEE] Great Lakes, Rosanne lead a collaboration of the seven Sea Grant Education programs in the region, with NSF and Sea Grant support from 2006-2010. With her assistance, scientists and educators developed the Great Lakes Literacy Principles that now complement the Ocean Literacy Principles. Fortner is the author of over 80 research and education-based publications, has advised 15 PhDs and 50 MS programs to completion, and served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Cyprus.

But, that's still not all... Rosanne has also invested her considerable expertise in the Mid-Atlantic. She has taught a graduate credit course "Teaching about Marine Environments" at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Introducing educators to the Ocean Literacy Curriculum, Rosanne has an incredible way of reaching people at an introductory level (even those who have never seen the ocean) and helping them quickly develop a working knowledge base. She has the ability to inspire action and sustainable behavior



MAMEA President Andy Gould presented the 2015 MAMEA Informal Educator Award to Dr. Rosanne Fortner, recognizing her many accomplishments in marine and environmental education – both in the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic regions. Photo courtesy of A.Gould.

change - a monumental task that she makes look effortless. Rosanne now oversees the Oak Island Preservation Committee, an organization of volunteers focusing on beach resilience and marine debris. This summer she will oversee a college intern program giving the next generation their first professional experience in environmental education.

So, it's no surprise that Rosanne has received honors before, she is well-known and respected in the national arena. She was the 2011 recipient of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Walter E. Jeske Award and the National Marine Educators Association's 2014 Honorary Member Award. But, she's a MAMEAn now and we are honored to recognize Rosanne Fortner as one of our own and to add our recognition for the inspiring example she has set.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2014

Category: Classroom Educator Award

There was no Classroom Educator Award this year

2014

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Lisa Ayers Lawrence

Marine Education Program Leader
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Marine Advisory Services &
Virginia Sea Grant



Profile

MAMEA honored Lisa Ayers Lawrence of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with the 2014 Informal Educator Award in a presentation announced at the National Marine Educators Association Conference on July 24, 2014.

While Lisa grew up in Ohio, her interest in marine science was evident even at a young age. She attended summer camp at Wallops Island Marine Science Consortium on the Eastern Shore of Virginia as a secondary school student, and chose to attend the University of Miami to pursue marine science for her undergraduate degree. Following that, Lisa attended the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), where she studied mummichogs (an estuarine fish) and worked with the National Estuarine Research Reserve program. She received her M.S. in Marine Science in 1996. Lisa has been staff at VIMS since 1998, first as a Marine Education Specialist, and since December 2012, as the Marine Education Program Leader for VIMS Marine Advisory Services.



As VIMS extension staff, affiliated with Virginia Sea Grant, Lawrence has been vital to the management of The Bridge, a nationally recognized, award-winning online ocean science education resource center. Providing teacher-reviewed resources in marine science, the site reached nearly a quarter-million users from 195 countries in 2013 alone. Lisa also manages the highly valued Scuttlebutt educator listserv which has 2,800 subscribers and 1,600

~more~

postings per year. Additionally, she supports the National Working Waterfront Network's web-based tool and portal, organizes the Accessing Coastal Virginia online resource center, participates in the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Network, and more. She provides conference website and proposal submission assistance for many organizations such as MAMEA, the National Marine Education Association (NMEA), and the Working Waterways & Waterfronts group.

Lisa practices her educational skills in person, too. She has a long history of providing teacher professional development workshops in Virginia, including the annual week-long VIMS Virginia Coastal Ecosystem Teacher Field Course. Nationwide, she has served as a guest instructor the American Meteorological Society's DataStreme program.



Ms. Lawrence's work has earned her other recognition and awards. Her prior recognitions include the Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Marine Extension Network Outstanding Achievement Award, in 2003, for her achievements in marine education. In 2004, she received the NMEA President's Award for her work on The Bridge. Lawrence received recognition for her work with Accessing the Virginia Coast, receiving the BoatU.S. Recreational Boating Access Award in 2010. For her work with the Blue Crab Bowl and National Ocean Sciences Bowl, she was awarded the position of Head Rules Judge for over 10 years.

Lawrence has been actively involved with the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association since 1998. Currently, Lisa serves as the chair of two committees, she is Membership Committee Chair and the MAMEA Webkeeper. These committees keep her very active in the running of the organization, and she participates regularly in conference calls and emails to keep the Association running smoothly. Through her role as Webkeeper, Lisa is active in assisting with the organization of state mini-conferences and registration for Chapter annual conference. She has mentored new MAMEA Presidents as well, following her three-year service in the MAMEA President track (President-Elect, President, and Past-President) from 2010-2012.



Photos:

Top: Lisa Ayers Lawrence of the Virginia Institute, Education Program Leader for Marine Science's Marine Advisory Services and Virginia Sea Grant (left), received the MAMEA 2014 Informal Educator

Award from MAMEA President Sarah Nuss (right) during the National Marine Educators Association Conference in Annapolis, MD, July 23, 2014. Photo: Carol Hopper Brill.

Center, left: Teachers learn first-hand about submerged aquatic vegetation in a workshop Lisa (far right) coordinated as a broader impacts component for a VIMS researcher. Photo: Margaret Pizer.

Center, right: As co-instructor for the week-long Coastal Ecosystems course conducted at VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory, Lisa assists teachers as they collect water quality data in a salt marsh. Photo: Carol Hopper Brill.

Bottom: Lisa has been an extremely active MAMEA member since 1998, serving on the Board as VA Rep, Webkeeper, President and much more. Here, she enthusiastically receives her President-Elect's notebook at the 2010 annual meeting. Photo: Carol Hopper Brill.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2013

Category: Classroom Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Bill Dunn, Science Teacher
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Profile

MAMEA was pleased to honor Captain William H. Dunn of Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School with the 2013 Classroom Educator Award at the annual conference in Gloucester Point, Virginia on November 2, 2013.

After spending more than 30 years serving in the U.S. Navy, Captain Dunn accepted a position as a science teacher at Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School in Virginia Beach, VA. With a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Washington, a Master of Science degree from Old Dominion University, an Educational Specialist degree from the University of Virginia, and as a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College of the National Defense University and the Royal College of Defence Studies in London,

Dunn is a highly qualified educator. In May of 2005, he was appointed to chair the science department. Since becoming chair, he has expanded the AP science offerings from only AP Biology to include every AP science offering and he established a dual enrollment class in conjunction with the State University of New York, College at Oneonta.

Bill was instrumental in establishing a summer residential class for credit in coastal marine biology in cooperation with the Marine Science Consortium on Virginia's Eastern Shore. He teaches or has taught Earth Science, Oceanography, and Bioethics. He assisted in writing the Diocese of Richmond science standards for all Catholic high schools in the diocese school system. In November of 2006, he received the Award for Outstanding Teaching in Earth Science in Virginia, presented by the Virginia Association of Science Teachers.

Dunn is also well known for his participation in the Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. He has coached the Bishop Sullivan science team to six consecutive first places finishes, three consecutive third place finishes, and a fourth place slot.

In addition to these accomplishments, Bill was the founding faculty moderator of the student Honor Council, a student run honor system. He also serves as the faculty representative to the school board. Several educators credit Dunn with helping them to improve their teaching strategies. In addition to being highly involved with MAMEA, Dunn is a member of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, the National Science Teachers Association, the National Marine Educators Association, the National Earth Science Teachers Association, the Earth Science Opportunity Program, and the Virginia Association of Science Teachers.

Photo: Captain William H. Dunn of Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School receives MAMEA's 2013 Classroom Educator Award from out-going MAMEA President, Kathy Fuller (left) at the Annual Conference in November.
Credit: Carol Hopper Brill



2013

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Andrew Wilson, Director & Instructor
“Under the Sea”
Sterling, Virginia

Profile

MAMEA was pleased to honor Andrew Wilson of “Under the Sea” with the 2013 Informal Educator Award at the annual conference in Gloucester Point, Virginia on November 2, 2013.

After a childhood spent on the water, Wilson attended the U.S. Naval Academy. During his time with the U.S. Navy, Wilson became SCUBA certified and later worked as a SCUBA instructor. He has over 300 dives to his name in far off locations such as Victoria, Canada; Bonaire, Netherland; Antilles; as well as many local areas. After the Navy, Wilson received a degree in Biology from Old Dominion University. As Wilson worked on his degree, he also worked with the Virginia Marine Science Museum’s stranding team. This led to a job with the museum after school. In 1995, Wilson founded “Under the Sea” to promote marine education resources in the DC Metropolitan area.



“Under the Sea” is known for its high quality programming. Programs include pre- and post-visit activities, live animal presentations, and even guest scientists. All of the programs are modified to meet state and national science standards. More importantly, these programs always include a lesson on conservation. Several of the animals “Under the Sea” focuses on in their programs are facing difficult times due to habitat loss or over-fishing. The highly trained educators stress the importance of conservation and suggest actions that students can take to reverse the impact of humans on the marine environment.

Not only does Wilson work hard to run a highly respected science program, but he also works with other educators to help them improve their teaching skills. Andrew has reached out to many non-formal and formal science educators in the northern Virginia area to create a network which is extremely beneficial promoting marine science education. Wilson takes the time to share his knowledge at many regional and national conferences as well.

Wilson has been heavily involved with the MAMEA. Over the years he has held many positions including Virginia Representative, President, and Treasurer for the 2003 NMEA Conference which was hosted by MAMEA.

Photo:

Andrew Wilson, Director of “Under the Sea,” received MAMEA’s 2013 Informal Educator Award. Out-going MAMEA President, Kathy Fuller (left) presented the award at the Annual Conference in November. Credit: Carol Hopper Brill.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2012

Category: Classroom Teacher Award

Name, position, institution:

Sherry Rollins, Science Teacher

Peasley Middle School

Gloucester County, VA

Profile

Sherry Rollins of Peasley Middle School has been honored with MAMEA's 2012 Classroom Teacher Award. Her award was announced at the annual conference on October 13, 2012 in Cambridge, Maryland. Since Rollins was unable to attend, MAMEA colleagues Lisa Lawrence and Sarah McGuire arranged a special award presentation in Rollin's classroom.



A teacher for 26 years, Sherry Rollins received her undergraduate degree in biology from the College of William and Mary in 1992, and she holds a Master's degree in Integrating Technology in the Classroom from Walden University (2006). Rollins exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning and has completed many professional development courses in addition to her degrees.



For the past 19 years of her career, Rollins has been a middle school science teacher in Gloucester County, Virginia. Two years ago a tornado demolished Page Middle School and along with it her classroom filled with Chesapeake Bay resources and aquaria. Undaunted, Sherry picked up where she left off at Peasley Middle School. She's enriched her sciences classes with unique experiences including: growing oysters; creating video and photography projects; and exploring the Bay on marine science field trips. She has invested her personal time after school and on weekends to take students on boat and canoe trips. And, she models environmental responsibility by mentoring the

Green Team at her school. Sherry Rollins' students have a passion not only for marine science, but science in general, thanks to her use of hands-on science activities in and out of the classroom.

In addition to her role as a 7th grade life science teacher, Rollins collaborates with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) on education projects. She has served as a Mentor Teacher for the VIMS GK-12 P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Partnership since 2009. The goal of GK-12 is to enhance the communication skills of graduate students and enrich classroom STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Ms. Rollins and two of her colleagues at Peasley Middle School host VIMS graduate students as "scientists in residence," guiding them in the development of lesson plans and activities that enrich the seventh grade Life Science curriculum with authentic research topics and methods.

-more-

Sherry Rollins has also partnered with educators from the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA) on the VIMS Campus. This field-based program addresses 7th grade Life Science Standards of Learning and introduces the students to their local estuarine environments. Students learn about marine biology, Chesapeake Bay issues and efforts to restore the health of the Bay. Thanks to Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences, students are immersed in hands-on science activities and they gain a deeper awareness of the Chesapeake Bay and its inhabitants.

Sherry Rollins has been active in the Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia for twelve years. This oyster restoration project is part of a statewide effort to restore the native Chesapeake Bay oyster reefs. Using her training as a Master Oyster Gardener, Rollins brings oyster biology, aquaculture, experimentation, data collection and analysis to the classroom. Late in the school year, she guides her students as they plant the oysters on a sanctuary reef during a class field trip. One of the goals of this project is to model environmental responsibility.

Photos:

Top: Sherry Rollins of Peasley Middle School received the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association 2012 Classroom Educator Award during a surprise presentation in her classroom. Ms. Rollins (center) was honored by Association President-Elect Sarah McGuire (left) and Past President Lisa Lawrence (right). Credit: Carol Hopper Brill.

Bottom: Sherry Rollins uses hands-on classroom and field science experiences to inspire students in her 7th grade life science classes. Here, she examines an oyster with one of her students. Credit: CBNERR-VA.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2012

Category: **Informal Educator Award**

Name, position, institution:

Jackie Takacs, Water Restoration Specialist
Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program
St. Mary's City, Maryland

Profile

Jackie Takacs of the Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program was honored with MAMEA's 2012 Informal Educator Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 13, 2012.

Jackie Takacs received her undergraduate degree in Life Sciences (Marine Biology) and a Master's in Marine, Environmental, and Estuarine Sciences from the University of Maryland.



As most informal educators do, Takacs wears many hats and works with many different groups of people. As a Watershed Restoration Specialist for the Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, she partners with researchers to make their studies more accessible to teachers and she works with teachers to translate that research into the classroom, helping educate students on issues related to the Chesapeake Bay. Jackie also provides technical assistance for aquaculture and pond management programs in Southern Maryland. Most recently, she has created a watershed sciences-based summer camp for her local 4H program.

Ms. Takacs also works to find funding for educational and watershed restoration projects. She has recently obtained funding to develop the design for a 1500 feet living shoreline in Calvert County. Jackie also secured funding for a buffer management plan for a tidally-influenced embayment in Saint Mary's County. She has worked with the Saint Mary's Watershed Association and the Center for Watershed Protection to develop a watershed plan for the Saint Mary's River. Her other watershed work also includes creating rain barrel/rain garden education and outreach programs for the citizens of Southern Maryland.

Jackie is dedicated to making marine education fun. With programs such as "Which Way to the Oyster Bar?," who can doubt her passion and enthusiasm. She can just as often be found digging dirt to make a rain garden as she is found in the lecture hall. Her dedication to educational organizations such as the Mid-Atlantic Marine Educators Association is evident in her willingness to remain treasurer for over five years.

Photo:

Jackie Takacs, Watershed Restoration Specialist for the Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, received MAMEA's 2012 Informal Educator Award. Out-going MAMEA President, Lisa Lawrence (left) presented the award at the Annual Conference in October. Credit: Carol Hopper Brill

2011

Category: Classroom Teacher Award

Name, position, institution:

Miriam Sutton, Science Teacher

Croatan High School

Carteret County, NC

Profile

MAMEA was honored to present Miriam Sutton of Croatan High School with its 2011 Classroom Teacher Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 8, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. Ms. Sutton is currently a science teacher in Carteret County in North Carolina.

Miriam Sutton received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from East Carolina University in 1979 and 1983, respectively. She worked in private industry through the 1980s and early 90s developing and managing worksite health promotion programs.

In 1993, she attended the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill to renew her teaching license and returned to teaching in 1994. Ms. Sutton is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in Early Adolescence Science and was also awarded Middle School Science Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Science Teachers Association. She maintains professional memberships in the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the Mid-Atlantic and National Marine Education Association (NMEA), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and serves on the Education and Public Outreach Committee for the ANDRILL (Antarctic Drilling) Project and the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence's Researcher Educator Exchange Forum (REEF).

Miriam's mission is to bring the changing world of science into her classroom, to engage her students and encourage them to expand their knowledge of science, and to foster an attitude of lifelong learning. Her passion for teaching is fueled by her quest to bring real scientific inquiry, data, and experiences into the classroom. She continually revises her instructional methods to include student-led scientific explorations, virtual learning strategies, inquiry labs, real-time data, and project-based investigations designed to encourage a better understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She has completed numerous teacher research programs, including four Teacher-at-Sea projects. When she isn't in her classroom she can usually be found either in, on, or under the sea she loves so dearly.

Photo: Miriam is an avid scuba diver, here she examines a sea fan on a reef drop-off in Palau, Micronesia.
Credit: Cindy Burnham



2011

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Carol Hopper Brill, PhD, Marine Education Specialist

Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, VA

Profile:

Carol Hopper Brill of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program received the 2011 Informal Educator Award at MAMEA's annual conference. Dr. Hopper Brill is a marine education specialist based at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (College of Williamand Mary) in Gloucester Point, VA. She was recently the recipient of the 2010 MAMEA President's Choice Award.

Carol Hopper Brill holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in zoology from University of California-Davis and earned a PhD in zoology from University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. She served as Science Education Advisor, and then Director of Education at the University's Waikiki Aquarium from 1982-2003.

Her professional interests include interpreting the marine environment for a broad audience, including educators, and promoting science literacy and conservation education. She serves as an advisor and instructor for many VIMS Marine Advisory Program projects including teacher workshops, seminars, and the VIMS GK-12 programs. One of her favorite VIMS activities each year is the Institute's Marine Science Day when she coordinates activities for the Virginia Sea Grant Kids' Marine Science Pavilion. She also co-coordinates and manages the Blue Crab Bowl, an annual regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl.

Dr. Hopper Brill has been a member of the MAMEA board since 2007. From her first position as Virginia state representative, she went on to serve in the organization's 3-year rotation as President-Elect, President and Past-President from 2008 to 2010. During her tenure, she worked with other Board members to help the organization move forward with updating and clarifying its procedures, standing rules and by-laws. MAMEA President-Elect Lisa Lawrence, also of VIMS, said, "(An) informal setting, whether it is an aquarium or out on a beach hike, is where Carol shines. You cannot help but learn when you are around her, she exudes education in a fun, interesting manner. She truly loves what she does and it is readily apparent; she enjoys the education process." Hopper Brill continues her service in MAMEA as the Grants Committee Chair.



Photo: Carol (in red) demonstrates a lab activity on one of her favorite topics - sand - at the 2007 MAMEA Conference in Baltimore. Credit: Marine Advisory Program-Education.

2010

Category: Teacher of the Year Award

Name, position, institution:

**Dawn Sherwood, Science Teacher,
Henrico County Public Schools
Henrico County, Virginia**

Profile:

MAMEA has honored Dawn Sherwood of Henrico County Public Schools with the 2010 Teacher of the Year Award. The presentation was announced at the Association's annual conference on October 2, 2010 in Wilmington, NC. Ms. Sherwood is currently a high school oceanography and biology teacher at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, VA.

Ms. Sherwood holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in biology from Old Dominion University and University of Richmond, respectively. Seven years ago, she became a classroom teacher and has drawn on her research background to bring field experiences into the classroom. Her accomplishments include writing an original oceanography curriculum based on national ocean literacy standards and inspiring a school-wide recycling program for paper and plastic and organizing a team of students to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup. Four years ago, she received a MAMEA grant to incorporate field-based oceanography labs into her Earth Science curriculum. And, above all, Dawn is most rewarded when students tell her they would like to pursue oceanography in college after their experience with her in high school.

In addition to her teaching duties, Ms. Sherwood is very active in the MAMEA organization. She served on the Board as a state representative for Virginia and a member of the Mentorship committee. She also serves as Coordinator of the Sand Swap, a program that provides educators with samples of sand from all over the world, and organized the Share-A-Thon event at the 2010 annual conference. Her programs are very successful and have helped to promote MAMEA events and encourage membership to area teachers and marine science enthusiasts.

With this award, MAMEA is proud to acknowledge Dawn Sherwood's commitment to marine science and education.

Photo: Dawn Sherwood (left), 2010 Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Teacher of the Year, receives her plaque from MAMEA President Tami Lunsford. Credit: Allison Besch, MAMEA.



2010

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

**Elizabeth Miller, School Program Specialist
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Virginia Beach, VA**

Profile:

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA), representing marine science in the classroom, at research institutions, aquariums, museums and governmental agencies from North Carolina to Delaware, has honored Elizabeth Miller with the 2010 Non-Traditional Educator Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 2, 2010 in Wilmington, NC. Ms. Miller is currently the School Program Specialist at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach.

Elizabeth Miller holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education and a teaching certification from Elizabethtown College (PA) and Old Dominion University, respectively. She draws on her previous experience as a classroom teacher to maximize the students' experience while visiting the Virginia Aquarium. Her accomplishments include her work with the "Oceans of Opportunity", a program designed to bring hands-on marine education to residents of a local Juvenile Detention Center. "We have been amazed at how these teens, mostly boys, have responded to hands-on science and to Elizabeth's enthusiastic personality," said Chris Witherspoon, Education Director at the Virginia Aquarium. "Her combination of experience in both the classroom and at the Aquarium allows her to relate to teachers and develop...programs that go beyond what is normally offered in the classroom."

In addition to her work at the Aquarium, Ms. Miller is very active in the MAMEA organization. She has given presentations at both the regional and national levels, she helped to organize the 2009 and 2010 Virginia Mini-Conferences and she volunteered to assist at the 2010 MAMEA annual conference on October 1-2, 2010. With this award, MAMEA is proud to acknowledge Elizabeth Miller's commitment to marine science and education.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Miller.



2009

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Jennifer Durkin, School Programs Coordinator
National Aquarium Education Department
Baltimore, Maryland

Profile:

It was with great pleasure that MAMEA presented the 2009 Informal Marine Educator Award to Jennifer (Durkin) Aiken of the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The presentation took place at the 2009 annual conference in Lewes, Delaware. Jen is currently the School Programs Coordinator and oversees the Aquarium's onsite programs for students and teachers.



Jen also manages to remain an active MAMEA member and leader. She was an asset to Past President David Christopher in planning the 2007 Annual Conference in Baltimore. She also serves as Coordinator of the annual Maryland mini-conference held as an overnight at the National Aquarium. Her programs are very successful and have helped to promote MAMEA events and encourage membership to area teachers and marine science enthusiasts.

What further sets Jen apart is her personal commitment to conservation or “green” practices. As chair for the Aquarium's Internal Conservation Committee she helped inspire the Aquarium to recycle 200 pounds of techno-trash, 9 tons of paper, and 21,832 lbs of cardboard while saving 11,853 gallons of water. She believes that we must act as a model for the public in order to lead others to conserve resources.

With this award, MAMEA is proud to acknowledge Jen's commitment to marine science, education, and conservation. Congratulations to Jen for her hard work and dedication!

Photos: courtesy of Baltimore Aquarium Education Department



2008

Category: Informal Educator Award

Name, position, institution:

Ruth Schneider Gourley, Education Specialist

North Carolina Aquarium

Fort Fisher, North Carolina

Profile:

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association presented its 2008 Informal Marine Educator Award to Ruth Gourley (nee: Schneider). Ruth is an education specialist at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. The only thing “informal” about Ruth’s contributions to marine education is that the setting in which she works is not a classroom. Beyond the thousands of aquarium visitors with whom she interacts, she can nearly always be found mentoring and guiding volunteers, interns, new educators and teachers. Her engaging presentations show her infectious enthusiasm for all the critters of the sea.



Ruth began her marine education career at the University of Georgia under the guidance of Mare Timmons. After just two years working at the Ripley Aquarium of the Smokies, the sea drew her back to the coast and Fort Fisher. She has served MAMEA well as the North Carolina rep for three years, during which she promoted mini-conferences and facilitated workshops. Ruth also organized the 2008 NMEA “Buddy Breakfasts.”

The 2008 MAMEA Informal Marine Educator Award recognizes Ruth’s natural curiosity and passion for marine education, the superior educational experiences she has created for everyone from little children through seasoned educators, her willingness to help others deliver marine education and her service to this organization.

2007

Category: **Classroom Teacher**

Name & school:

Carrie Jones, Science Teacher

Middle Creek High School

Apex, North Carolina

Profile:

In recognition of her constant dedication to educating our youth about aquatic subjects, MAMEA recognized Ms. Jones' many contributions to teaching marine science as part of her broad curriculum about the earth and its environment. Of particular note are the many innovative ways she engages and motivates her students. Known for having high school students make lab explorations for local elementary students, Carry is even making a video game to use in teaching about water quality and other environmental issues. Carry is recognized for her work with *Exploring NC's Coast Past, Present and Future* and her Marine Science course for 6-9 graders at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro's summer camp. Ms. Jones also teaches Earth Science classes online and serves as the Science Department Chair for the *NC Virtual School*. Carrie was recently recognized as North Carolina's Earth Science Teacher of the Year. She is a member of many state and national science teacher associations.

Category: **Informal Educator**

Name, position, institution:

JoAnne Powell, Curator of Education

North Carolina Marine Museum

Beaufort, North Carolina

Profile:

Ms. Powell's mission has been to create opportunities for people to experience the great outdoors. She began a program to take students and the general public into our local salt marshes; these trips have become a staple of many coastal science programs in North Carolina. She frequently leads bird watching, fossil hunting, and international natural history expeditions to destinations including the Galapagos, Africa and South America.

Active at every level, JoAnne reaches diverse and vast audiences with her interesting interactive exhibits at the Museum, as well as the *Waterside After School Program*, teacher workshops, Elderhostel trips, and through data collection for the Southeast Phytoplankton Monitoring Network. JoAnne constantly shares her love of our natural world and local history with everyone from small children to retirees.

The Award was given in recognition of an entire professional career that has touches so many in so many ways. And, it acknowledges her activities in service to many other natural science organizations including the North Carolina and Southeast Museum Councils, the NC Coastal Federation, the NC Science Teachers Association, the National Marine Educators Association and others.

2006

Category: **Classroom Teacher**

Name & school:

Mellie Lewis, Gifted & Talented Resource Teacher

Howard County Schools,
Howard County, Maryland

Profile:

Mellie Lewis has been with the Howard County Public Schools for 20 years. Her day-to-day teaching responsibilities center on the fifth grade at Atholton Elementary School in Columbia, MD. But, her influence and contributions have spanned a much wider community of marine science educators. Through her involvement in many curriculum projects she has reached both youth and adults. She wrote the oceanography unit "Ocean Systems," is the co-author of SEAS: Diving into Deep-sea Research from Your Classroom" (Current 2005), is a member of the NMEA Ocean Literacy and International Committees, and has served as Maryland Rep to MAMEA. Mellie has piloted many National Geographic, NASA, and Dive & Discover lessons within her school and has been a frequent presenter at NMEA, OCEANS 2005, NSTA and MAMEA conferences.

Category: **Informal Educator**

Name, position, institution:

Jenifer Hoskins, Educator

North Carolina Aquarium
Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina

Profile:

Jenifer says she has had a life-long love affair with the coastal environment. This drive has led her into a career helping others discover and appreciate special habitats and life forms inhabiting this region. With a degree in Marine Biology from University of North Carolina-Wilmington and some graduate work behind her, she dove headlong into aquarium work, first at Fort Fisher and later at Pine Knoll Shores. Working with the general public and special groups, she developed new programs and educational materials. Recently, she has been concentrating on preparing groups before they arrive to the Aquarium and offering post-trip activities to keep the experience and learning alive. She was especially helpful providing outreach programs while the aquarium was under renovation. Jenifer has been active with MAMEA, NMEA, the NC Maritime Museum, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE), the Cape Lookout National Seashore and Core Sound Waterfowl Museum. You can tell she is passionate about marine science.

2005

Category: **Classroom Teacher**

Name & school:

Margery Misenheimer, Science Teacher

Smyrna Middle School

Smyrna, North Carolina

Profile:

Margery Meisenheimer has taught science in Carteret County, NC for 19 years. For the past few years, she's been the lead science teacher for grades 6-8 at Smyrna Middle School and has earned National Board Certification.

Margery was the spark plug at the North Carolina Maritime Museum's Summer Science School for Children. She received a grant to engage her students with marine science students from the Duke Marine Lab in a trawler study of an estuarine ecosystem. The study includes summer camps, field trips during the school year, and visits by Duke Fellows to her classroom. She recently trained at the University of California, Berkeley as an instructor for "Communicating Ocean Sciences" which will be presented in conjunction with Duke University students.

Margery has been very active with the NC Coastal Federation for a decade, engaging her students in projects like salt marsh and oyster restoration and canoe trips. Some of the topics she's brought to her students have included the effects of fertilizers on salt marsh grasses, plant zones in the salt marsh, commercially important fishes and subsistence whaling in Alaska. She aided in the production of a DVD that addresses water quality from the mountains to the coast for use in middle schools across the state. And, she's been a regular presenter at state and regional conferences, including MAMEA. Margery is everything we expect in an engaged marine science teacher and more.

2004

Category: **Classroom Teacher**

Name & school:

Barbara Waters

East Carteret High School

Beaufort, North Carolina

Profile:

Barbara, a marine science teacher at Carteret High School in Beaufort, NC, is always engineering new and exciting ways to engage her students in discovering the wonders of the sea and its environments. Barbara's commitment goes beyond classroom lessons, she helps guide her students towards scholarships and coaches her school's National Ocean Sciences Bowl team which has won the state competition several times. She seeks out every professional development opportunity to keep adding to her knowledge and skills. It's through the dedication of proactive and creative teachers like Barbara that the next generation of marine scientists and ocean lovers is being nurtured and encouraged. We recognize and celebrate her spirit of dedication and accomplishment with the award of MAMEA Classroom Teacher of the Year 2004.

Category: **Informal Educator**

Name, position, institution:

J. Adam Frederick, Marine Education Specialist

Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program &

University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute

Baltimore, Maryland

Profile:

In his eighth years as a Marine Education Specialist with Maryland Sea Grant, Adam is the Co-director of the *Sci-Tech Education Program*, serving students and teachers in grades 3 through 12. His activities and accomplishments include helping to develop website interactive lessons, and publishing the Sea Grant Schools Network Newsletter, involving thousands of students and their teachers in lab activities with the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. He developed an *Aquaculture in Action* program with teachers during which students raised and released striped bass, and held *Microbes for Hire* workshops for teacher training in lab science. His high energy and creativity were recognized by NMEA when it awarded him the James Centorino Award at its conference in summer 2004. We should also remember him as one of MAMEA most successful fundraisers ever and the producer of the promotional video for the 2003 NMEA conference hosted by MAMEA.

2003 and earlier

Year	Classroom Teacher	Informal Educator	President's Award
2003			Terri K. Hathaway
2002	Mercy McCurdy	Amy Sauls	
2001	Jane Butler		
2000	Beth Jewell	Mary Van House	
1999			
1998		Jeannie Kraus	
1997			
1996	Ruth Young		
1995	Dan Cook	Mary Sprague	
1994	Amy Quillen		
1993	Pamela Hensley	Terri Kirby	
1992	Vivian Barbee Cox		Sue G. Barber
1991	Debora Mosher	Lee Lawrence Mick Blackistone	
1990	Holly Smith	Kathryn O'Hara	
1989	Christina Paoli	Thomas Wisner	
1988	Wally White	Vicki Clark	Lee Lawrence Terri Kirby
1987	Terry Thompson	Susan Walton	