

# 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.