

2011 Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winner

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 currently a marine education specialist based at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (College of William and 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 Waikīkī 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.