

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-led 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!