

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.