

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

