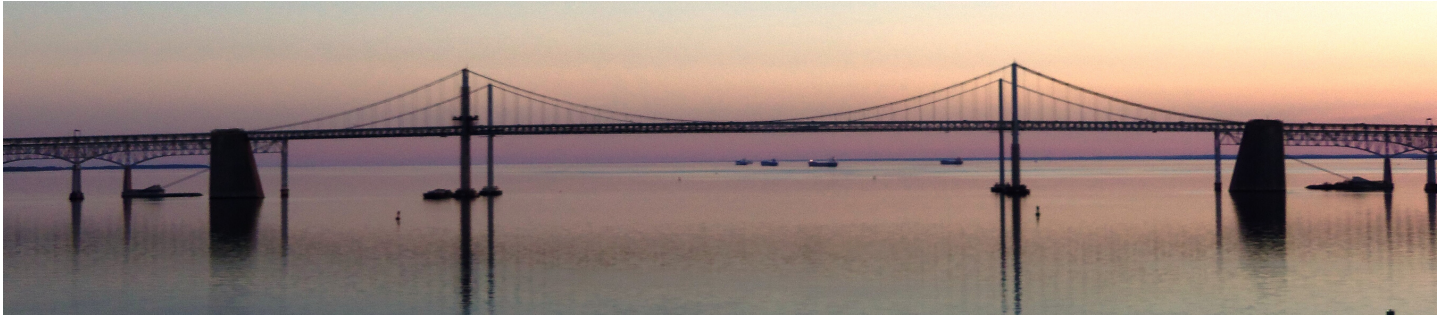




MASTHEAD

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association



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REGIONAL WINNERS**

From the Captain's Quarters

Hello MAMEAns!

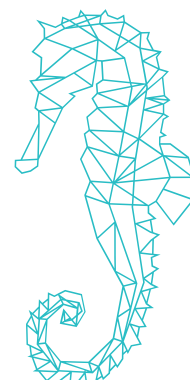
Spring fever came early for me this year, thanks to the incredibly mild winter we've had, and I'm sure I'm not alone as we all gear up for the busy spring and summer season! Our board is preparing to come together next month in Virginia for our annual mid-year meeting, during which we'll do some of our own planning and looking ahead to the year to come.

That year includes some fantastic opportunities to get outside, learn new skills, and network during our fun mini-conferences throughout the year, as well as at our annual conference, which will be held along the shores of the Patuxent River in Solomons Island, Maryland on the weekend of November 6. Mark your calendars - it's a lovely time of year to be there and the planners are working hard to put together a great schedule.

Interested in helping out with the conference or in other aspects of our organization? We are always looking for ways our members can get involved with MAMEA - drop me a note at tossey@umd.edu, let me know what your interests are, and I'll connect you with a committee! I hope everyone enjoys that little extra daylight we'll be getting as we "spring forward" soon - always a great time of the year!

Sincerely,

Lisa D. Tossey
MAMEA President



Join us form MAMEA 2020 in Solomon's Island Maryland

The 2020 MAMEA conference will take place in Solomon's Island from November 6th-8th at the Hilton Garden Inn. The friday night event will be hosted by the Calvert Marine Museum



Save
The
Date



NMEA Representative Report

Sarah Nuss

MAMEA representative to NMEA

NMEA at NSTA

The NMEA Mid-Year Board Meeting will be held at the NSTA National Conference: on Science Education in Boston, Massachusetts on April 1st. On April 2nd, NMEA will be hosting a track of marine education related sessions that will be kicked off with a Whale of a Share-a-Thon. If you have resources that you would like MAMEA to share with teachers nationwide, please send directly to me (mcguire@vims.edu) by mid-March. We hope to see you in Boston!



NMEA 2020 Conference



Be sure your calendars are marked for the 2020 NMEA conference in Honolulu, Hawaii July 13-17! Visit <https://www.marine-ed.org/conference/2020> for up to date information on the conference, and be sure to book your hotel room ASAP. Please note: Due to a recently adopted O'ahu law, many Airbnb rentals are no longer legal. We suggest booking at the conference hotel, the Ala Moana Hotel, to avoid any issues with your accommodation.

See you in Hawaii!

Delaware Chapter

Vacant

Join the MAMEA Board!

We are currently searching for a Delaware state representative to join the Board! If you are interested, please contact Lisa Tossey at tossey@umd.edu.

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays:

Water Family Fest & 16th Annual Native Plant Sale

This year, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is partnering with DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship to kickoff summer to celebrate our water resources & hold the Center's 16th Annual Native Plant Sale. The Center began this partnership event in 2019, and has expanded on it by adding in the Annual Native Plant Sale. This will be one of the Center's largest events to be held at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

The event will include fun, family activities including, kayaking, hiking, education exhibitors, food trucks and more! There will be plenty to do for the whole family to make up for a full day of outdoor experiences. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Center and the Division of Watershed Stewardship. It will be held at the James Farm Ecological Preserve in Ocean View, Delaware on June 13th from 10am until 3pm.

This year the Inland Bays Native Plant Sale joins
Water Family Fest
Saturday, June 13, 2020 (10 am-3 pm)
 James Farm Ecological Preserve, Ocean View, DE

This year the Center partners with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to celebrate summer. Join us and enjoy a day of family outdoor activities, native plants nurseries, exhibitors, food trucks and more.

FREE Admission

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS
 Research. Educate. Restore.

Maryland Chapter

Lauren Fauth
Maryland State Representative

Upcoming Opportunities

Fort McHenry Field Day

Give a day for the Bay and join the National Aquarium's Conservation team for a field day at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine! We will remove debris from the wetlands, maintain the pollinator and rain gardens, and more. Data collected from this event will contribute to the regional Project Clean Stream effort.

To register please visit: <https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/spring2020fmhfieldday>

Project Clean Stream at Irvine Nature Center

Join Irvine Nature Center this spring to help our precious Chesapeake Bay! Irvine is a site for Project Clean Stream, an effort to clean our local waterways and restore health to our native ecosystems. We are seeking 400 volunteers to help Irvine make 2020 our cleanest — and best — year yet!

WHAT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PROJECT CLEAN STREAM

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020 | 9:00 AM — 12:00 PM

WHERE: IRVINE NATURE CENTER + THE SURROUNDING AREA

Can't make it to Irvine on April 18th? No problem! Host your own Project Clean Stream site at your school, work, or neighborhood anytime during the month of April. Irvine Nature Center will even supply you with the tools you need to clean.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER: Join Project Clean Stream at Irvine or to get more information about hosting your own clean-up event! Use the Volunteer Sign Up Form on this page to register, or contact Ben Fertig at FertigB@ExploreNature.org or 443-738-9240 with questions.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Summer Professional Learning

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation offers many different 5-day professional learning adventures on the Chesapeake Bay or one of its tributaries. In the summer of 2020 they will offer over 30 courses. Registration for these courses is open now.

Please visit the following link for information on the different opportunities and to register:

<https://www.cbf.org/join-us/education-program/professional-learning/summer-courses/open-courses.html>

Virginia Chapter

Cathy Roberts
Virginia State Representative

VA Mini Conference Update

This January, 18 brave marine educators met at the Virginia Aquarium for the MAMEA Virginia Mini Conference. The morning began with an overview of Atlantic whales by Alexis Rabon. Activities to teach concepts related to whales, their adaptations, and behaviors were tried by the participants. That afternoon participants braved 15 knot winds and 3 foot seas to whale watch aboard the VA Aquarium whale watching boat. We observed local marine birds. An hour after bouncing on the Atlantic, we were treated to two Humpback Whales off the coast of Virginia Beach.



Photo Credit: Kathy Richardson



Photo Credit: Kathy Richardson

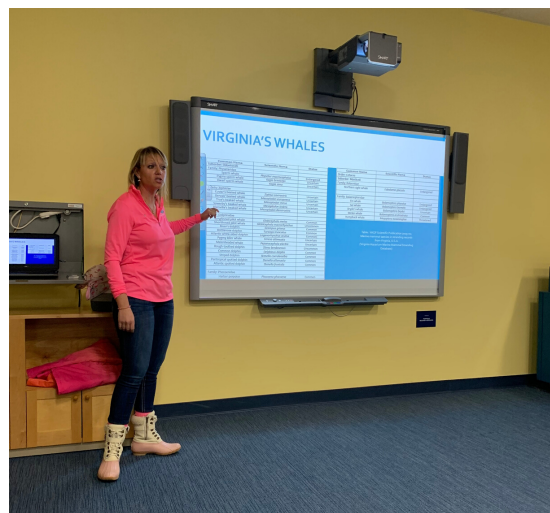


Photo Credit: Kathy Richardson

Save the Date!

Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional ROV Underwater Robotics Competition

Saturday, April 25, 2020- 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Old Dominion University Recreation and Wellness Center - Norfolk, Virginia



Teacher, Scout Leader, and Team Mentor Workshop at Nauticus!

Get Familiar with Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) | Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9 a.m.-3 p.m | Limit 25
Cost: \$25 per person plus tax (includes light breakfast, lunch, and activities)

To register for the workshop, please see the link:

[Nauticus.org/RegisterROV2020](https://nauticus.org/RegisterROV2020)

For information regarding the Competition, contact:

Susie Hill, Mid-Atlantic Regional ROV Competition Coordinator, 757-664-1041, rebecca.hill@norfolk.gov, <https://midatlantic.materovcompetition.org/>



North Carolina Chapter

Brittany Pace

North Carolina State Representative

Sea Turtle Exploration Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 2020 9 AM - 3:30 PM

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher presents Sea Turtle Exploration: a curriculum to help educators engage students in the fundamentals of STEAM through ready-to-use, standards based lesson plans and sea turtles. Join us on Saturday, March 14th, 2020 for a hands-on teacher workshop guiding you through our new curriculum and website.



Aligned with the new Common Core standards, your class will be able to “adopt” a turtle and learn about its care and growth. By adopting our sea turtle you will receive weekly updates with information including the turtle’s current weight and length. Each class will also receive a certificate of participation.

By the end of the workshop, you will be familiar with the website and curriculum and how to implement the lessons in your own classroom. The workshop will include a behind the scenes tour to meet one of our sea turtles. Please bring a reusable water bottle and you may choose to also pack a waste-free lunch. Our snack shop, Shark Bites will be opened and there are lunch options off-site. This workshop will count towards NC Environmental Education Certification (Criteria I) and consists of 6 contact hours that may count toward CEUs for teachers.

Help keep our seas plastic-free! Please bring a reusable water container, a refillable coffee cup, and a waste-free lunch!

The cost of this teacher workshop is \$25. This fee includes a Behind the Scenes Tour and access to curriculum. The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society will pay the registration fee for any formal or informal Brunswick County Educators.

For additional workshop information, call 910-772-0546. For assistance with registration, call 910-772-0542. To register online, visit: <https://reservations.ncaquariums.com/fortfisher/Info.aspx?EventID=20>

Plastic Ocean Project

by Cassidy Edge

Plastic Ocean Project Inc. (POP) is a non-profit organization based out of Wilmington, NC and founded by Bonnie Monteleone. The mission of POP is to educate through field research, implement progressive outreach initiatives, and incubate solutions to address the global plastic pollution problem, working with and for the next generation to create a more sustainable future. This non-profit has a long term goal of actively and collectively incubating 5 solutions toward the prevention and removal of marine plastics on and off shore. These include Academics, Corporate America, Government, NGOs & Non-profits, and Individuals -Entrepreneurs. They are bringing together a community of world leaders focused on innovation, collaboration, education, and outreach. To learn more, visit <https://www.plasticoceanproject.org>.



POP Office Grand Opening

Plastic Ocean Project Inc. has two student chapters in North Carolina, one at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW POP) and another at Topsail High School (Topsail POP). These two chapters are run solely by the students who have a passion to keep our world clean and plastic free! The students implement different beach sweeps, plastic free music festivals, and plastic to art galas to help spread awareness and also get the community involved. They also have different committees that focus on fundraising and marketing, research, education, outreach, art, and environmental legislation. To learn more, visit <http://www.uncwpop.org>.



UNCW POP-- Beach Sweep

There are many ways to get involved in POP no matter your age! There are many initiatives that are active and need volunteers to help like the Ocean Advocacy Workshop, Trashion Fashion Show, Fishing 4 Plastic, Trees 4 Trash, Plastic 2 Fuel, Ocean Friendly Establishments, Plastic Lakes Project, Outreach through Art, and Hope Spot Hatteras. POP also has a Global Ambassadors program that anyone can be a part of to kick start plastic awareness in your community! If you're interested in starting your own Chapter or becoming a Global Ambassador, you can contact Cassidy Edge the Director of Chapters and Ambassadors at cassidy@plasticoceanproject.org.



Topsail POP Sweep at Topsail High School



North Carolina Coastal Reserve &
National Estuarine Research Reserve



Coastal Explorations Workshop

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

9am-3pm

Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, Corolla, NC

Coastal Explorations Workshop participants will learn information and concepts about estuaries, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the North Carolina coast, and current estuarine research. Classroom activities and a field exploration conducted on the Currituck Banks Reserve will be presented so participants can integrate lessons learned into their learning environment. This workshop will include information on the following topics:

- North Carolina's 2 million acres of estuaries and their importance
- Coastal ecology and geology
- Human impacts on estuaries
- Field experiences for students

This workshop is aligned with the North Carolina Essential Standards, Ocean Literacy Concepts, and National Education Standards. Participants will leave with copies of all the activities to use in their classrooms.

Participation is open to all educators and teachers and is free of charge. Credit for this workshop is offered in teacher renewal credits (1.0 CEUs) and Environmental Education Certification for 10 hours (6 hours on-site, 4 hours homework). This is an approved Criteria 1 Environmental Education Workshop.

For more information or to register, please contact Lori Davis, Education Coordinator at lori.c.davis@ncdenr.gov or 252-838-0883.

Lori Davis | 252-838-0883 | lori.c.davis@ncdenr.gov |
www.nccoastalreserve.net



MEXICO'S MAGICAL MIGRATIONS 2021

Monarch Butterflies & Humpback Whales

Joanne Powell

Former Curator of Education for the NC Maritime Museum



10-Day Natural History Trip to Observe Mexico's Wintering Monarch Butterflies & Humpback Whales

EcoQuest Travel is proud to partner with the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum on an exciting trip to witness two of nature's greatest spectacles - the wintering Monarch Butterflies and Humpback Whales in Mexico. Each year one of the world's greatest migrations takes place as millions of monarch butterflies from the US and Canada travel south to the forested Mexican highlands. Once they arrive they begin a period of winter hibernation by clustering together in huge numbers blanketing the surrounding vegetation. This tapestry of color is breathtaking and if we have a warm day thousands could take wing in order to find water only to settle once again as the chill of evening descends. As the butterflies are arriving in Mexico so too are Humpback Whales. Concluding their own incredible migration from their feeding waters off Alaska, large numbers of Humpback Whales gather off Mexico's Pacific coast. They come to these warmer waters to give birth and to breed.

Although the majority of this trip is designed to explore some of Mexico's unique natural history, we will also visit the exquisite pre-Aztec ruins of Teotihuacán. EcoQuest Travel, the Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum and JoAnne Powell invite you to join us as we discover the natural wonders, cultural sites and magical migrations of Mexico.

Itinerary.

Day 1 - Sunday, January 10: Home Cities to Our US Gateway City to Mexico City

We will depart early this morning from our home cities to our US gateway city (likely Houston, Dallas or Atlanta) and from there we will connect to our flight to Mexico City. Please plan to arrive at your home airport no later than two hours prior to your scheduled departure time. Once we arrive in Mexico, and clear customs and immigration, we will travel to the arid lowlands north of Mexico City. Our destination is the town of San Juan Teotihuacán gateway to the fabulous pre-Aztec ruins of Teotihuacán. Upon our arrival we will settle into our accommodations at the Villas Arqueologica Teotihuacán. The Villas are located within walking distance of the ancient city and provide cozy well appointed rooms. There is also a good restaurant, nice gardens and a beautiful heated swimming pool. We will have dinner at the hotel restaurant tonight. (D)



Day 2 - Monday,**January 11: The Ruins of Teotihuacán and on to the Mountains**

This morning we will be privileged to visit the awesome ruins of Mexico's largest ancient city. Teotihuacán is a breathtaking assemblage of temples, vast plazas and gigantic pyramids. We will begin our explorations after breakfast with a visit to the Citadel which is thought to have been the residence of the city's supreme ruler. The most interesting feature of the Citadel is the Temple of Quetzalcoatl with its impressive carvings. From the Citadel we will work our way north along the Avenue of the Dead to the Site Museum containing displays of artifacts found throughout the ruins. Next to the Site Museum is the world's third largest pyramid, the Pyramid of the Sun. The view of the ancient city from the top of this incredible structure is amazing. We should also have a chance to visit the northern section of the ruins which contain the Tepantitla (priest's residence) and its famous frescos; the pyramid of the moon; the Palace of the Quetzal Butterfly; the Jaguar Palace and the Temple of the Plumed Conch Shells. We will take a break for lunch at the nearby Restaurant Technanco which serves excellent local fare. After visiting the ruins we will travel between two and three hours to the Mexican highlands and the comfort of our accommodations at Agua Blanca. Agua Blanca is a charming hotel/resort set among lush gardens. It has comfortable rooms and excellent service. It is also located close to the Monarch Butterfly sanctuaries, making Agua Blanca the perfect base from which to explore as well as a welcome retreat after a long day in the field. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Tuesday, January 12: Chincua Monarch Butterfly Reserve

This morning after breakfast we will witness one of nature's greatest spectacles as we travel to see, literally, millions of wintering monarch butterflies as they festoon the fir trees in a carpet of shimmering orange and black. There are several reserves that are open to visitation within the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. We have chosen to visit two of the best reserves during this trip. Today we will observe the butterflies in a reserve called Chincua. We will begin our journey to this magical place by traveling to the scenic mining town of Angangueo. Angangueo is the gateway to both monarch reserves we will visit and the trailhead to Chincua. From the trailhead we will mount horses for the steep climb up to 10,000 feet to see the butterflies. We will take a packed lunch with us as we plan to spend the majority of the day observing and photographing the butterflies. In the cool of the morning the monarchs will be draped all over the trees and if we have a warm day the butterflies will take wing in the late morning and early afternoon in search of water. There will be so many butterflies that we will be able to hear the flutter of their collective wings which sounds like a whisper of wind through the trees. Both butterfly reserves are home to more than just butterflies and we will also be on the lookout for other wildlife including many unique species of birds including Blue-throated Hummingbird, Strickland's Woodpecker, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Grey-breasted Jay, Mexican Chickadee, Blue Mockingbird, Red and Olive Warblers and Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer. After another full day in this remarkable place we will descend and have dinner and overnight at Agua Blanca. (B,L,D)



Day 4 - Wednesday, January 13: El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Reserve

We will depart early this morning for the El Rosario Reserve. El Rosario is the best known, and most popular, reserve, but it also has been the most affected by illegal logging. It will be interesting to compare and contrast the environment at El Rosario with that of Chincua. Despite the disturbance, the sheer number of Monarchs at El Rosario can be mind boggling. To get to the butterflies at El Rosario requires a steep ascent of between 3 and 4 kilometers so we will once again use horses for the trip up. However, unlike Chincua, we will hike down out of the reserve after our visit. We will take a picnic lunch with us and after a full day at El Rosario we will return to Agua Blanca for dinner and overnight. After using horses for two days we may be ready for a good soak in the thermal pools at Agua Blanca! (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Thursday, January 14: Anganguero to Toluca and Fly to Puerto Vallarta

After breakfast we will begin a day of travel as we drive to the city of Toluca for our flight to Puerto Vallarta. Sun-splashed Puerto Vallarta lies on the Pacific Coast which is home to its own magical migration. Each year the secluded bays along this coastline host a gathering of giants as Humpback Whales, who have wintered in Alaskan waters, come here to breed and give birth. Once we arrive in Puerto Vallarta we will transfer to the Hotel Comfort Inn and have the rest of the day free to shop, walk the beach or just relax before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Friday, January 15: Humpback Whales and Transfer to San Blas

This morning we will have our first encounter with Humpback Whales. After a lecture about the whales we will board our specially designed boat for three full hours of whale watching. This time of year Humpback Whales are breeding and giving birth so we hope to observe a great deal of social interaction which could include breaching and slapping their flukes on the water - both designed to show dominance. We could also witness play behavior and hopefully see new calves. This is also the time of year when Humpbacks sing and we will use a hydrophone to listen to their unique and amazing songs. Although the whales will be the main attraction we could also see some seabirds including Brown and Blue-footed Boobies, Elegant Terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds and both Heermann's and Bonaparte's Gulls. After a full morning we will return to Puerto Vallarta, have lunch and then transfer north along the coast to San Blas. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Saturday, January 16: Humpback Whales

We will have a second morning to encounter Humpback Whales this time off the coast of San Blas. Having two chances to observe the whales in two different locations should provide excellent opportunities for photographs and enhance our chances to witness their complex behavior and social lives. After our whale watching excursion we will briefly visit San Blas's famous fortress before visiting some shrimp ponds in the afternoon to look for birds. The shrimp ponds should be full of waterbirds like Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill, Collared Plover and Clapper Rail. Raptors are also common around the ponds and in the surrounding agricultural areas and could include Harris's Hawk, White-tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon. Both Green and Ringed Kingfishers fish the ponds and we may catch a glimpse of some local specialties like Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Masked Tityra, Mangrove Vireo, Grey-crowned Yellowthroat and Yellow-winged Cacique. After a full day we will overnight at the Hotel Garza Canela. (B,L,D)



Day 8 - Sunday, January 17: Birding San Blas and the La Tovara Mangroves

We will begin early this morning as we travel a short distance inland from San Blas to a small village called Singayta. Singayta offers a variety of habitat types including dry scrub, marshes and tropical palm/deciduous forests all of which draw a rich assemblage of birds. We'll be on the lookout for Hook-billed Kite, Zone-tailed Hawk, Laughing Falcon, Elegant Quail, Rufous-bellied Chachalaca, Mexican Parrotlet, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Plain-capped Starthroat, both Elegant and Citreoline Trogons, Russet-crowned Motmot, Lineated and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Black-capped Vireo, Fan-tailed Warbler, Red-breasted Chat and Blue Bunting. In the fields above Singayta we could see Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow and both San Blas and Purplish-backed Jays. After a full morning we will have lunch before we take a fantastic boat trip along the San Cristobal River to the Tovara Mangroves. This relaxing trip will provide excellent chances to see Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Snail Kite, Bat Falcon, Muscovy Duck, Purple Gallinule, Mangrove Cuckoo and hopefully the weird nocturnal Common Potoo. We could also see American Crocodiles, iguanas and other wildlife. We will once again overnight at Hotel Garza Canela. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Monday, January 18: Birding Tecuitata Reserve and Coffee Plantation

Today we will explore the Tecuitata Reserve and its shade coffee plantations. This reserve, south of San Blas, has a number of species not found in San Blas including Crested Guan, Colima Pygmy-Owl, Mexican Hermit, Mexican Woodnymph, Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Brown-backed Solitaire and Golden Vireo. We will also search for Lilac-crowned Parrot, Golden-crowned Emerald, Sparkling-tailed Woodstar, San Blas Jay, Happy and Sinaloa Wrens, Rufous-backed Thrush, Blue Mockingbird and Grey Silky Flycatcher. After a full day of birding, and looking for other wildlife, we will return to the Hotel Garza Canela, have dinner and prepare for the journey home. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - Tuesday, January 19: Transfer to Puerto Vallarta for the Flights Home

We will have breakfast at the hotel this morning before we travel back to Puerto Vallarta airport for our afternoon flight back to our US gateway city. Once at our gateway city we will clear immigration and customs before transferring to our flights home. (B)

* Please note that EcoQuest Travel, Inc. will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary, but dates, times, activities and prices are subject to change depending on scheduling and availability.

Cost: \$4,260.00/person all-inclusive ground package

\$ 150.00/person estimated domestic airfare in Mexico (see airline ticketing info below)

\$4,410.00/person

Airline Ticketing:

International airline tickets are not included in the above costs. EcoQuest Travel is a full service tour operator and we will gladly assist you with your flights for this tour. We do not charge a service fee for this assistance to clients who book a tour with us. We are aware, however, that clients often prefer to use frequent flyer miles, or points, to purchase tickets or to shop online. Regardless of which method you choose EcoQuest Travel will be happy to help you with ticket prices, scheduling and ticket purchase.

If you decide to obtain airline tickets on your own please make sure to check with EcoQuest Travel prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work with the tour itinerary and that the tour has sufficient participation to operate. Please be aware that once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a financial penalty for any changes. Also, it is essential that we receive a copy of your flight itinerary so that we may track you in case of missed connections, flight delays or other mishaps that might impact your arrival. Domestic airline tickets within Mexico have been included in the above costs. Please understand that the budgeted amount for our domestic airline tickets is an estimate and the actual cost may vary until we actually book the tickets. If ticket prices at the time of booking are lower than our estimates the savings will be passed on to you. If ticket prices are higher you will be invoiced the difference.

What's Included:

Land, air and boat transportation within Mexico (please see the above section regarding our domestic flight within Mexico)

All accommodations - based upon double occupancy (single supplement is available for an additional \$334.00)

All tours within the scheduled itinerary

Meals are included throughout the trip (except while we are in transit)

Two sodas are included with meals and bottled water will be available on the bus and where appropriate

Permits, entrance fees and guides

All tipping is included

The leadership services of EcoQuest Travel professionals

What's Not Included:

Airfare from your home city to Mexico City and return from Puerto Vallarta - please see the Airline Ticketing information above

Drinks during meals - other than what is listed above

Gratuities (for our Mexican drivers and guides)

Fees associated with obtaining a passport

Travel insurance (please see the Travel Insurance Section below)

Costs associated with pre-trip medical planning (such as vaccines)

Gifts and personal items or expenses



**Health Requirements:**

The Mexican Government does not require any vaccinations for entry into the country; however, there are a couple of vaccines that would be prudent to consider prior to traveling to tropical Mexico. These include Hepatitis A and making sure your Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccine is up to date. Malaria is present in Mexico and the use of anti-malarial drugs should be considered for this trip even though we will be in a low risk area. Information on travel-related diseases and vaccines to prevent them can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at: www.cdc.gov/travel.

If you require prescription medication you should bring an adequate supply with you as it is unlikely to be available in Mexico. We highly recommend discussing all medical issues related to travel with your doctor well in advance of the proposed travel date.

Payments and Reservations:

A deposit of \$1,500.00 per person is required along with your reservation form in order to reserve space on the trip. This will help insure airline seating space and necessary early deposits during this busy time of year. We encourage you to send the deposit well in advance of the date the first payment is due, as paying the deposit is the only way to secure your spot. The reservation form is available on our website: www.ecoquesttravel.net and can be filled out online and submitted via email, or downloaded and mailed. Personal checks, money orders and credit cards are accepted. If paying by personal check it should be made payable to EcoQuest Travel, Inc. and on the memo line please indicate: For Mexico Trip 2021. If paying by credit card please go to our website (www.ecoquesttravel.net) and on the reservations page there is PayPal button in the left column. Enter the amount of your deposit (\$1,500.00/person) from the dropdown menu and click the PayPal button which will direct you to PayPal's secure site. Once there you will enter your credit card details.

EcoQuest Travel will send you invoices through PayPal for subsequent trip payments according to the schedule listed below:

A payment of at least \$1,455.00 is required on, or before, June 1, 2020.

The remainder of the trip expense (\$1,455.00) will be due on, or before, October 7, 2020.

Cancellation:

The initial deposit, as well as subsequent payments, will be used to purchase airline tickets and pay deposits for accommodations, travel arrangements, etc. in Mexico. Therefore, if you must withdraw from the trip, irrespective of reason, a refund will not be possible. We strongly suggest that you protect yourself with the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. We will try to retain a wait list for this trip and it is possible that if you end up not being able to participate we will attempt to find a replacement for you; however, it is your responsibility to find a replacement or to have insurance.

Please note that in the event EcoQuest Travel, Inc. cancels this trip, due to circumstances beyond our control or low trip participant numbers, a refund of the initial deposit and any payments made will be issued.

Travel Insurance:

EcoQuest Travel, Inc. partners with Allianz Global Assistance (formerly – Access America) to provide the best possible travel insurance for our clients. They offer trip cancellation and worldwide emergency services (such as emergency evacuation and emergency medical services) as well as a host of other benefits. You can find more information on Allianz’s website (www.allianzassistance.com) including how to get quote and sign up. You do not have to use Allianz Global Assistance and may choose to use another company. In either case, EcoQuest Travel, Inc. strongly suggests the purchase of trip cancellation/medical insurance. If you do decide to purchase travel insurance from Allianz Global Assistance please give them the following EcoQuest Travel vendor (or ACCAM) number: F031120. This number identifies that you are working with an Allianz Global Assistance partner.

Note: Pre-existing conditions will be waived by Allianz Global Assistance if you purchase travel insurance within 14 calendar days of your initial trip deposit. For more information please see their website.

General Information:

Upon receiving your deposit and reservation form you will be sent an information packet containing flight information, baggage requirements, hints on what to bring and other useful information. The climate will range from cool and dry at elevation to hot and dry in the lowlands. More information on trip conditions will be provided in the final packet. You will want to bring a camera and binoculars. Again, a more exhaustive list will be provided after you are registered for the trip.

Trip Leaders:

Dave Davenport: Zoologist and President of EcoQuest Travel, Inc.

JoAnne Powell: Former Curator of Education for the NC Maritime Museum

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Need funding for a project? Start Planning Now for MAMEA’s 2020/21 educational project grant cycle!

Carol Hopper-Brill
Grants Committee Chair

MAMEA will be looking for more great ideas to support in its 2020/21 grant cycle. Do you want to engage students, fellow educators, or the public? MAMEA is looking for projects that actively engage your audience(s) and share curricula with content, skills, experiences that build their understanding of aquatic science – salt, fresh or brackish. You can get your next educational project off the drawing board and into reality, engaging students or fellow educators. Be ready for the next round of MAMEA Educational Project grants - start working on your proposal now!

Two grants for up to \$1,000 are available annually: One for formal educators (classrooms, K-16); and one for informal educators (museum, aquarium, zoo, science center, government agency staff). Projects must focus on marine or aquatic topics.

To be eligible, applicants must be current MAMEA members with at least one year's membership. To be competitive, projects should meet criteria described on the MAMEA Grants page at www.mamea.org/minigrant.html. To read about projects that have received MAMEA support in the past, see www.mamea.org/pastgrants.html.

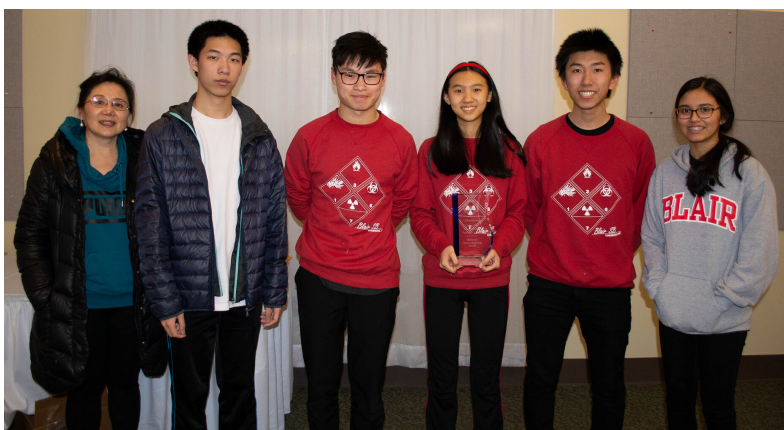
Visit the Grants page on the MAMEA website for the grant application form, as well as important details about the application process and grantee responsibilities. Or, contact the Grants Committee Chair, Carol Hopper Brill at chopper@vims.edu. Proposals are accepted throughout the year, but the deadline for the 2020/21 cycle is September 15, 2020. Grant awards will be announced at the MAMEA conference in November 2020, and the funding period is 12 months, from November 2020 to October 2021, with no extensions.

Congratulations to the Mid-Atlantic's 2020 National Ocean Sciences Bowl Teams!

The 23rd annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®) attracted motivated high school science students to three Mid-Atlantic regional competitions in February -- the Chesapeake Bay Bowl, the Blue Crab Bowl, and Blue Heron Bowl. Guided by their teacher coaches, teams spent weeks building content knowledge in diverse marine sciences, policy and related topics. Through NOSB, teachers have an opportunity to incorporate more ocean-related science into their curricula and it helps them illustrate the integrated, multidisciplinary nature of marine sciences. Students explore ocean subjects and demonstrate their command of wide-ranging subjects in head-to-head competition with other teens.

The Chesapeake Bay Bowl, held January 31-February 1, was hosted at the University of Delaware's Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, DE. The contest drew teams from more than four states including Delaware, Maryland, southeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia, as well as Washington, DC. Participating schools included: Calvert High School, Prince Frederick, MD; Central York High School, York, PA; Lead for the Future Academy, Gaithersburg, MD; Lower Dauphin High School, Hummelston, PA; Newark Charter High School, Newark, DE; State College Area High School (State College, PA); Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology (Vienna, VA). **Top team honors went to students representing Lead for the Future Academy in Gaithersburg, MD, coached by science teacher Quin Su.** Over 50 volunteers contributed to the success of the Bowl.

For more details on the CBB 2020 competition, visit the Bowl's website at www.chesapeakebaybowl.org/ and the Chesapeake Bay Bowl's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChesapeakeBayBowl. Or, contact 2020 Regional Coordinator David Christopher at dmchrist@udel.edu.



The Chesapeake Bay Bowl was held at the University of Delaware's Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, DE, on February 1. This year's winning team represented Lead for the Future Academy from Gaithersburg, MD. Coached by Quin Su (far left), team members include (left to right): Arthur Hu; Eric Chen; Captain Katherine Lei; Justin Zhang; and Simoni Mishra. Image courtesy of David Christopher.

This year, **North Carolina’s Blue Heron Bowl** was hosted by Eastern Carolina University (ECU) and ECU’s Coastal Studies Institute. Ten teams from seven schools, nine representing North Carolina and one from Tennessee, gathered at ECU’s Outer Bank Campus in Wanchese, NC on January 31-February 1. Participating schools included: Eugene Ashley High School, Wilmington; Currituck County High, Barco; Dobyens Bennett High School, Kingsport, TN; Manteo High School, Manteo; NC School of Science & Math, Durham; Raleigh Charter High School, Raleigh; and Walter Williams High, Burlington. For the second year in a row, the Raleigh Charter’s Team A, coached by Whit Hames, dominated First Place. Over 60 volunteers from North Carolina’s coastal community staff the Bowl and served as match officials. For additional information on the competition, contact Regional Coordinator David Sybert at sybertd@ecu.edu. Results and photos are posted on the Blue Heron Bowl website at www.coastalstudiesinstitute.org/ecu-csi-host-successful-blue-heron-bowl/.



The Blue Heron Bowl, held February 1, took place at the Eastern Carolina University’s Outer Bank Campus in Wanchese, NC, hosted by Eastern Carolina University and ECU’s Coastal Studies Institute. Among the 10 participating teams, Raleigh Charter High School rose to First Place for the second year in a row. Coached by science teacher Whit Hames and Nicholas Hames, the winning team members include (front row, left to right): Aditya Ghali; Syed Shah; Arkin Worliker; Jack Balint-kurt; and Henry Macomber. Back row (left to right): Coaches Nicholas Hames and Whit Hames. Photo courtesy of David Sybert.

Virginia’s Blue Crab Bowl is co-coordinated by Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth & Atmosphere, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science’s Marine Advisory Program. Thanks to support from both VIMS and ODU, the 2020 contest was held February 7-8 at ODU’s Virginia Beach Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Seventy-five students, in 16 teams, represented 14 Virginia high schools, including: Broadwater Academy, Exmore; Catholic High School, Virginia Beach; Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glens Campus; Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus; Churchland High School, Portsmouth; Cosby High School, Midlothian; Fauquier High, Warrenton; Governor’s School for Science & Technology-New Horizons, Hampton; Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight; Landstown High School, Virginia Beach; Maury High, Norfolk; Norfolk Collegiate School, Norfolk; Seton School, Manassas; and York High School, Yorktown. Seventy volunteers worked to officiate the Bowl and keep the event running smoothly. This year, Catholic High School captured First Place, coached by Dr. Carol Stapanowich and Jennifer McMullen. In a close Second Place was Seton School, with Coaches Tricia Kellogg and Hank Konstanty. Another tight race determined Third Place for Norfolk Collegiate School. And, Fourth Place was earned by Churchland High School, coached by Cami Field. For a description of the competition and event program, visit the Blue Crab Bowl website at: <http://web.vims.edu/adv/bcb/index.html>. The BCB Regional Coordinators are: Carol Hopper Brill at chopper@vims.edu and Bill Dunn at wdunn@odu.edu.



Students from Catholic High School (Virginia Beach) fought their way to First Place after a day of grueling intellectual competition at the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 23rd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University’s Virginia Beach Center on February 7-8. Coached by science teachers Dr. Carol Stapanowich (far right) and Jennifer McMullen (far left), team members included (left to right): Robert Cajés; Andrew Michalak; Jacob Bovatsek; Team Captain Matt Mytych; and Brandon Ly. Representative Elaine Luria (3rd from left), of Virginia’s 2nd District, presented the trophy bowl. Photo by Aileen Devlin|Virginia Sea Grant.

MAMEA Recognition for New Coaches and Top Coaches of Mid-Atlantic NOSB Competitions

Every year, MAMEA is pleased to recognize the hard-working coaches who prepare students for participation in the Mid-Atlantic's three regional NOSB competitions. To acknowledge the effort of teachers new to NOSB competition, the New Coach Award is a one-year MAMEA membership which helps link these teachers to MAMEA's active community of marine and aquatic educators. To recognize the accomplishments of the Bowls' winning coaches, the MAMEA Top Coach Award provides a complementary registration to MAMEA's annual Fall Conference.

Please, welcome these 2020 NOSB Mid-Atlantic New Coaches as MAMEA members:

Blue Crab Bowl:

Hilliary Thompson, Landstown High School, Virginia Beach, VA

Catherine Parrish, Cosby High School, Midlothian, VA

Deidre Jeter, Governor's School for Science and Technology-New Horizon, Hampton, VA

Blue Heron Bowl:

Quin Su, Lead for Future Academy, Gaithersburg, MD

Dianna Guise, Central York High School, York, PA

Kerry O'Melia, State College Area High School, State College, PA

Chesapeake Bay Bowl:

Elizabeth Brinker, Currituck County High School, Barco, NC

Please, congratulate the Top Coaches from our three Mid-Atlantic Bowls. They receive complementary registration to the MAMEA Annual Conference. We look forward to seeing them at the 2018 Conference in Portsmouth, VA, this coming November.

Blue Crab Bowl: Dr. Carol Stapanowich, Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, VA

Blue Heron Bowl: Whit Hames, Raleigh Charter High School

Chesapeake Bay Bowl: Quin Su, Lead for Future Academy, Gaithersburg, MD

For more information about the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, as well as great up-to-the-minute news about marine research and policy issues, visit the NOSB website at www.nosb.org or the NOSB Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nosb.org.

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