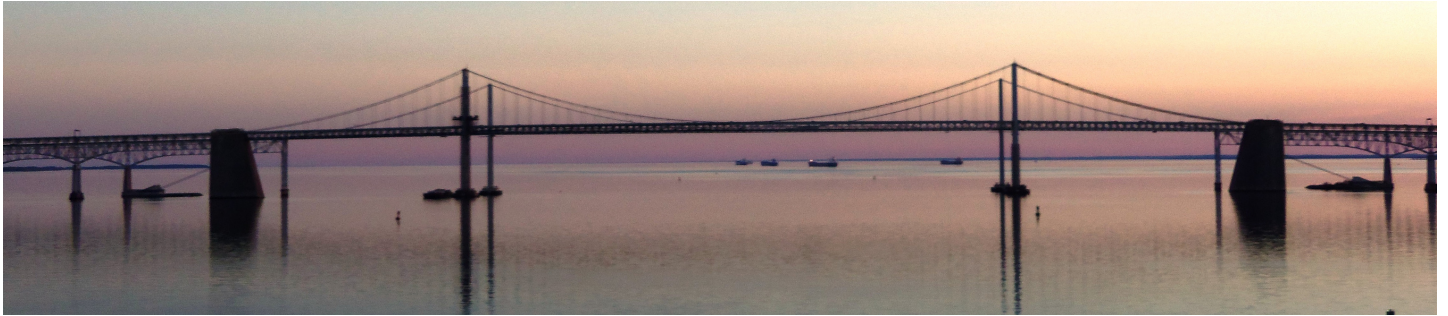




MASTHEAD

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association



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From the Captain's Quarters

As we enter the holiday season and the pandemic rages on It's hard to believe the amount of uncertainty that's still with us—both personally and professionally. Throughout ever-changing guidelines and closures, we've fine-tuned our home-based workspaces, navigated hybrid classrooms, and taken informal programming virtual. We've also leaned on one another for support and to share tricks and tips for how to make it all work.

That spirit of camaraderie and "making it work" was certainly on display during MAMEA 2020, our first ever virtual conference. Everything about it was new—the format, the platform, the schedule—but the spirit of sharing and togetherness was strong, which is what makes this organization so wonderful. A huge thanks to all who attended, as well as all who presented and pitched in with time, and ideas, and expertise to make it happen. I deeply appreciate it.

In this season of gratitude and reflection, and I am so thankful to each of you for all you do, especially in light of the challenges of these current times. We're entering the new year with the promise of a vaccine on the horizon, and with it a renewed hope for things to return to "normal," whatever that may look like. In the meantime we will be doing all we can to keep you connected with one another and with opportunities for networking and professional growth, including a new user-friendly website. Our conference recordings were the first to be posted to the platform, but stay tuned for a full migration of the site in 2021.

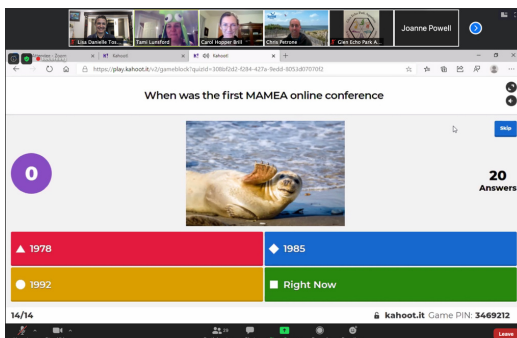
Wishing you all happy, and SAFE, holiday season!

Cheers,

Lisa Tossey
MAMEA President

MAMEA 2020 Goes Virtual

Lisa Tossey
MAMEA President



Thanks to all who joined us for our annual conference October 27-29, which looked just a little bit different than usual! As with most events that were scheduled this year, we made the decision to postpone our planned in-person conference at Solomon’s Island until 2021, and went virtual due to the pandemic. This was the first time we’ve taken our annual conference online, which allowed us to get a bit creative with the schedule and format. As a result, we had over 70 educators join us virtually over three afternoons for a variety of educational tool demos, panels, speakers, professional development sessions, and fun social activities.

Tool demonstrations included a wide range of gadgets and platforms to enhance online instruction, many of which were available in our auction, which also moved online, along with our business meeting and awards. Panelists shared the challenges and benefits of striking out on your own, sessions touched on authentic assessments and virtual MWEES, while lightning talks highlighted innovative approaches to public engagement for informal education programming. And each evening included social activities that resulted in a lot of laughs: trivia, fish sketching, and a home scavenger hunt. We were also grateful to have two wonderful speakers join us to share their expertise: Taylor Morton of WE ACT for Environmental Justice in NY and Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman.

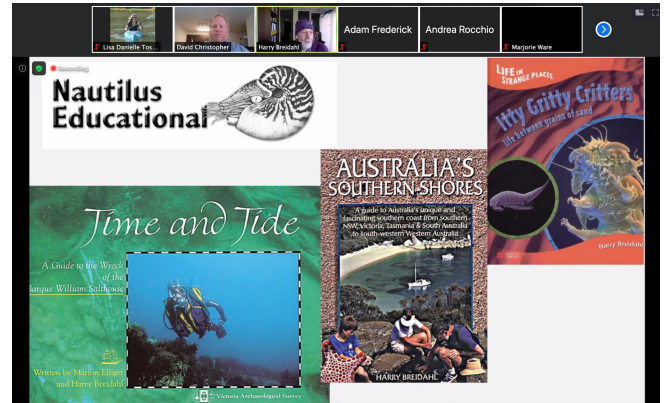
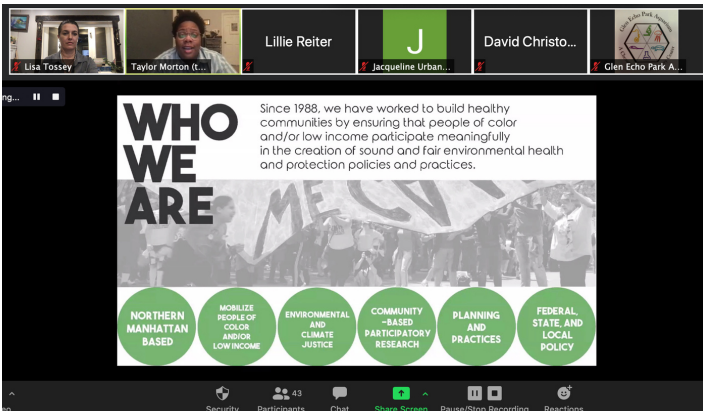
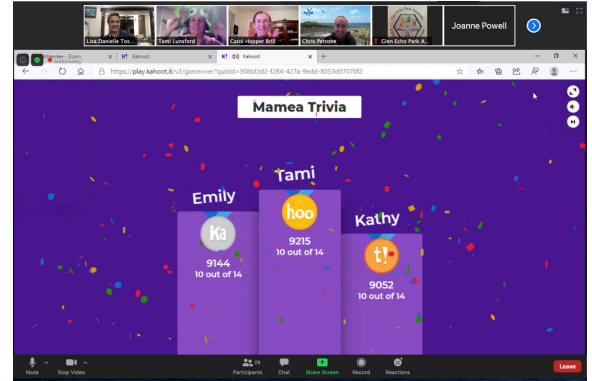
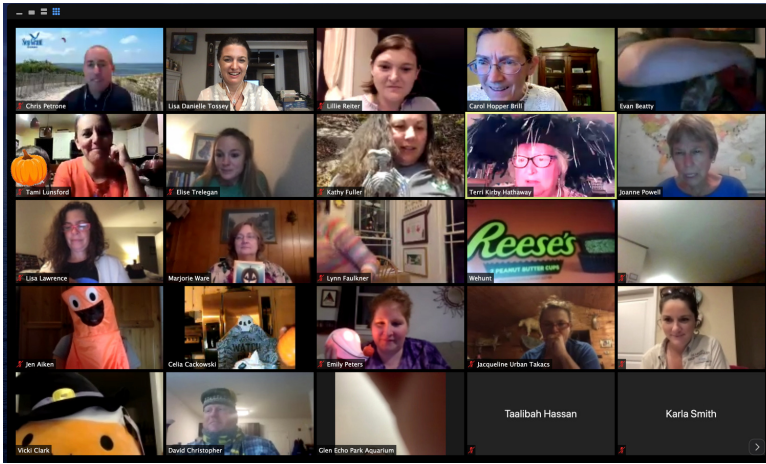
Held via Zoom, all sessions were recorded so that registrants wouldn’t have to worry about missing any portion of the schedule. Those recordings have been made available to all participants via a password-protected site.

Overall, the conference went as smoothly as we could’ve hoped under the circumstances, and its success was due to much hard work, planning, and networking by the MAMEA board and members. Thanks to all who took part in the many Zoom planning meetings, email chains, and test runs that helped pull it together. It was truly a team effort during an already challenging time!

Don’t miss out on the fun next year! Save the date (fingers crossed) for #MAMEA21: November 5-7 in Solomons Island, Maryland! The conference will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn and the Friday night opening event will be hosted by the Calvert Marine Museum.



MAMEA 2020 Goes Virtual (con't.)



NMEA Rep Report

Sarah Nuss

MAMEA representative to NMEA

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hosts of the NMEA 2021 conference, Oceania, with the full support of the NMEA Executive Committee and the NMEA Board, have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 conference (<https://www.marine-ed.org/conference/2021>).

Several factors influenced this decision, including uncertainties around vaccine timing and distribution, our ability to safely host conference participants, and other limitations that would hinder our ability to put on a quality conference.

Although we will miss seeing everyone in Hawai'i next summer, we are excited to announce that NMEA is re-imagining our conference experience and is planning to host a virtual conference event in 2021! Stay tuned for more information!

STATE REP REPORTS

Delaware Chapter

DELAWARE COAST DAY

David Christopher, DE Sea Grant

Delaware Coast Day was held virtually for the first time on October 4. Although the event is over, you can still enjoy all the fun and excitement of Coast Day. All the presentations were recorded and are now available on the Delaware Coast Day website. In addition to the presentations, there are activities for kids, craft projects, a virtual touch, and more!

To learn more about Delaware Coast Day or to register to view the content, visit <https://www.deseagrant.org/coast-day>. Registration is FREE!

Maryland Chapter

Lauren Fauth

Maryland State Representative

National Aquarium Virtual Program Opportunities

The National Aquarium is offering virtual programs for students across Maryland (and beyond). Age-appropriate options are now available for students in grades Pre-K through 12. Maryland public schools that typically enjoy free MSDE Aquarium field trips may enjoy access to our new Maryland: Mountains to the Sea virtual program at no charge, and our Shark! and Squid Dissection virtual programs are free for the first 2,000 Baltimore City Public Schools or Title 1 school students registered. Additional fee-based programs are also available to registration and are available to schools from any state.

To see program descriptions, please visit: <https://aqua.org/education/programs>.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Virtual Classroom Offerings

Chesapeake Bay Foundation is offering virtual classroom visits from their expert educators. If you are interested in this experience this fall or winter, visit cbf.org/owl for information and reservations.

MD DNR Professional Development

Maryland DNR is continuing to offer online virtual educator professional development. To see upcoming opportunities, visit: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/Educational-Events.aspx#events>.

Virginia Chapter

Cathy Roberts

Virginia State Representative

Virginia is honored to congratulate Karla Smith of Nansemond River Preservation Alliance as winner of the 2020 MAMEA Informal Educator Award. Well deserved!

Nauticus

<https://nauticus.org/curious-kids-stem-ulating-activities/>

Join Nauticus for FREE interactive online programs! Join Nauticus educators on a virtual interactive and informal learning session providing students and their families the opportunity to solve STEM based problems in a fun format.

Who can join and when?

Recommended age for this series is 5-12 but younger and older siblings are welcome to participate. Sessions are 30-45 minutes long and will be hosted via Zoom. Registration is required at least 24 hours in advance. Capacity is limited to 100 participants per session. This program will be available all year long. Upcoming sessions are listed below.

Arctic Animals - Ages 5-12

Sunday, Dec 20: 10:30 am – 11:00 am (ET)

How do animals stay warm in the cold? Join us on an excursion to the Arctic to find out how our favorite winter critters survive in harsh conditions without a jacket or a scarf!

Materials: Bucket or large bowl of ice water, shortening (e.g. crisco, lard, etc)

<https://nauticus.org/virtual-adventures/>

Virtual Adventure videos and Educational Worksheets on many topics.

Mariner’s Museum

A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America’s Hurricanes
 Presented by best-selling author Eric Jay Dolin

Hurricanes have had a profound and surprising impact on American history. Now, best-selling historian and author of *Black Flags*, *Blue Waters: The Epic History of America’s Most Notorious Pirates*, Eric Jay Dolin presents a story on five hundred years of American hurricanes. View this lecture on our Mariners’ Museum YouTube Channel.

Labyrinth of Ice: The Triumphant and Tragic Greely Polar Expedition
 Presented by author and journalist Buddy Levy

Critically acclaimed author, speaker, entertainer, and bon vivant, Buddy Levy is an expeditionary travel writer and journalist. Many will recognize him as the co-star of HISTORY Channel’s hit docuseries Brad Meltzer’s “Decoded.” He has published seven books, including his latest bestseller, *Labyrinth of Ice: The Triumphant and Tragic Greely Polar Expedition*. Based on Levy’s exhaustive research, this is the incredible true story of one of the most harrowing adventures in the annals of polar exploration.

About the lecture:

In July 1881, Lieutenant A.W. Greely and his crew of 24 scientists and explorers were bound for the last region unmarked on global maps. Their goal: Farthest North. What would follow was one of the most extraordinary and terrible voyages ever made. *Labyrinth of Ice* is the story of the heroic lives and deaths of these voyagers hell-bent on fame and fortune — at any cost — and how their journey changed the world. View this lecture on our Mariners’ Museum YouTube Channel.

North Carolina Chapter

Brittany Pace
 North Carolina State Representative

Living Shoreline Restoration at Fort Caswell

Fort Caswell has been selected to receive an Environmental Enhancement Grant through the NC Attorney General’s Office for \$50,000. Out of 134 grant applications, 22 projects were selected to receive funds this year. We are excited and grateful to be one of those 22.



Starting in 2021, Fort Caswell’s Environmental Stewardship Program in partnership with UNCW’s Benthic Ecology Lab will be working to restore the living shoreline. This funding will allow us to take the first step to improve water quality, increase the oyster population and enhance reef habitat, provide shoreline stabilization, and increase storm resiliency in our area. It will also serve as a living shoreline classroom for all of our guests and students who travel from across the state of North Carolina. Part of the grant funds will also be utilized for education and outreach.

Mini-Grants Awarded

The Ocean Friendly Establishments (OFEs) are a group of businesses and restaurants committed to reducing single use plastics and other ocean friendly actions in their daily operations. The OFEs Give Back Grant Program recently awarded seven \$1,000 mini-grants to certified OFEs to continue and expand ocean-friendly practices. Congratulations to the winners:

Chandra Botanicals, Beaufort, NC
 Trinity United Methodist Church, Southport, NC
 Wrightsville Beach Brewery, Wilmington, NC
 Slice of Life Pizzeria and Pub, Wilmington, NC
 Sharkbites Snack Bar, Kure Beach, NC
 RX Restaurant and Bar, Wilmington, NC
 Adapt Kitchen and Juice Bar, Wrightsville Beach, NC



North Carolina Aquarium Scholars Program

Attention Teachers! The NC Aquariums are offering FREE online learning modules for NC Title 1 schools, limited to the first 200 applicants. You will receive grade-level specific curricula from the three N.C. Aquariums and Jennette's Pier to use in your classroom for virtual learning. Applications close on December 22.

Each NC Aquarium location will offer a different module that focuses on coastal ecosystems, habitats, and animals. Curriculum content for the modules include:

1. Discover life under Jennette's Pier with a focus on how animals move, their relationships and the food web.
2. Beach and Ocean with a focus on sea turtles with NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island.
3. Salt Marsh and Estuaries with a focus on marine invertebrates and birds with NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores.
4. Long Leaf Pine Forest with a focus on gopher frogs with NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Apply Here: http://www.ncaquariums.com/form_fort-fisher-aquarium-scholars-application?fbclid=IwAR0D1syWkVbK1UExn9ESLEeiU53w8_aiNp_vooV5-xzHkwt3UyCcJYcPKZI. Please fill out this application completely to ensure consideration for funds. Filling out this application does not guarantee receipt of funds and is not a reservation. For questions, please contact: andy.gould@ncaquariums.com



Episode 1: Oysters

Coastal Investigations & Explorations

The North Carolina Coastal Federation welcomes educators, families, and students to check out their Distance Learning Lab website. With help from their wonderful partners, they have compiled educational resources which allow you to dive deeper into the world of coastal sciences and solutions. The site offers a diverse range of resources on topics such as Touch Tank Tuesdays, Clean Water, Coastal Investigations & Exploration, Oysters, Estuaries & Living Shorelines, and Marine Debris.

Folks can follow along with a suggested learning guide. These worksheets highlight grade appropriate videos and review questions. The super popular, Touch Tank Tuesday Live series featured on Facebook and Youtube can easily be brought into the classroom to enrich learning and inspire coastal stewardship.

Our Distance Learning Lab Partners and Contributors: Hammocks Beach State Park, Jennette's Pier, Lady Swan Tours, North Carolina Coastal Reserve, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuaries Partnership, North Carolina Sea Grant, Duke University Marine Lab, UNCW Marine Quest, NOAA Marine Debris Program, Clean Water Education Partnership and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Virtual Sea Turtle Exploration Workshop

Saturday, January 23rd, 2021
9 AM - 3:30 PM

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher presents Sea Turtle Exploration, a curriculum designed to help educators engage students in the fundamentals of STEAM through ready-to-use, standards-based lesson plans focused on sea turtles. Now you can join us from the comfort of your own home in a virtual edition of the workshop on Saturday, January 23, 2021. You will be sent a workshop kit beforehand to prepare you for a hands-on teacher workshop exploring our curriculum and activities.



Aligned with 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 updates several times a year 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 or with your own audience. This workshop also includes virtual meet-and-greets with several animal ambassadors. The Sea Turtle Exploration workshop will count towards NC Environmental Education Certification (Criteria I) and consists of 6 contact hours (three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon) that may count toward CEUs for teachers.

The cost of this teacher workshop is \$25. This fee includes animal ambassador cameos, workshop materials, and access to curriculum. The registration cut-off for this workshop is a week in advance to ensure the workshop kits are sent out to participants in time. The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society will pay the registration fee for any formal or informal Brunswick County Educators.

To register online, visit: <https://reservations.ncaquariums.com/fortfisher/Info.aspx?EventID=20>. For additional workshop information contact Gail Lemiec at gail.lemiec@ncaquariums.com.

Please Congratulate our 2020 MAMEA Award Winner!

Rachel Clark
Awards Committee Chair

Each year, we honor selected colleagues for their stellar work in marine education. Based on nominations submitted by their peers, one Classroom Teacher and one Informal Educator are recognized. Additionally, the MAMEA President may acknowledge a highly valued colleague with the President’s Award.

At the 2020 MAMEA Virtual Conference out-going President Lisa Tossey had the honor of presenting one award this year during the business meeting on October 29th.

MAMEA’s 2020 Informal Educator Award was presented to Karla Smith.

Karla is a retired elementary school teacher who helped form a grassroots environmental organization with 16 other citizens call the Nansemond River Preservation Alliance (NARPA). The mission is to raise public awareness and encourage environmental stewardship of Suffolk’s waterways and wetlands by developing and implementing programs and initiating collaborative actions with individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and governmental agencies. Karla used her expertise as a retired classroom teacher to develop a wetland and waterway education curriculum for 7th grade science students. She worked alongside science supervisors and public school teachers to align this curriculum with state standards. She has been teaching in the classroom twice a year for the past 8 years bringing live animals, biofacts, and water samples for testing. She also organizes a hands-on field trip to a local waterway park for students to experience the wetlands. Karla has worked to expand this program to private schools, summer camps, and the Governor’s School summer program.

Karla has recently received funding to create a wetland program for 3rd graders in Suffolk. Due to COVID-19, she has needed to use her creative and innovative talents to develop a wetlands box including inquiry activities, materials, videos, and a student journal. This tool can be used in the classroom or at home this year. Karla has been an invaluable education source for NARPA and does all of this work as a volunteer with a sincere interest in developing good environmental stewards for future generations.

Karla has been a member of MAMEA for four years. She has participated in the annual conference each year gleaning information and lesson activity ideas for use with the students in Suffolk. She networks with other MAMEA members to share her resources and ideas about NARPA programs including presenting a poster at past conferences.

Karla directly and indirectly impacts all the 7th grader science students in Suffolk public schools each year through classroom lessons and a Meaning Watershed Experience. She also assists high school students with watershed projects and provides programs for other Suffolk youth groups. You’ve done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Karla!

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Delaware Sea Grant

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The National Aquarium

North Carolina: Brittany Pace
Fort Caswell Environmental Stewardship Program

Virginia: Cathy Roberts
VA Aquarium

At-Large Rep: Emily Peters
The National Aquarium

At-Large Rep: Dawn Sherwood
Highland Springs High

The MAMEA Board meets twice a year. For more information visit: <http://www.mamea.org/board.html>