

THE MASTHEAD

Vol. 32 No. 2 SUMMER 2012

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association

From the Captain's Quarters

It was a crisp, clear morning promising to turn into a gorgeous, late spring day. We grabbed our sunscreen and watershoes and hit the local greasy spoon for a quick breakfast. Then, off to Back Creek Park in York County, Virginia where we met up with old friends and made some new ones. Eight dedicated marine educators looking to get our feet wet!

Mango and lime colored kayaks were lined up waiting to take us on our adventure. Jill Bieri and Krista Sweet from *Chesapeake Experience* were our expert guides. We launched our kayaks onto the calm waters of Back Creek and were immediately greeted by Chesapeake Bay fauna. Osprey guarded their nests atop pilings and boat houses. A great egret staked its claim in a small cove. Terrapins poked their heads up out of the water as we paddled by.

We made our way out of the creek and headed toward our own deserted beach off of Crab Neck. As we approached the beach we saw flourishing SAV beds marked by shallow, wide depressions in the seafloor – telltale signs that that rays had recently been feeding there. What else would we find at the beach? Our water quality sampling gear, dip, seine and cast nets, and an intriguing round of “Beach Forensics” were sure to turn up lots of interesting things. We spent the next two hours measuring salinity, turbidity and water chemistry, collecting fish and crabs and looking for evidence of natural and human impacts on the beach.



Photo by Sarah McGuire.

Once our investigations were done, we plopped down on the sand to enjoy our lunches and some collegial sharing. But sadly, our time on the beach was drawing to a close. We packed up our gear and got back in our kayaks. A slight headwind made us work a little harder on the return voyage. But, having been invigorated by our perfect day in the estuary we were up for the challenge! Back on land, we grudgingly said our farewells and started making plans for next year's Virginia mini-conference.

This summer, I hope you all have many opportunities to go out, investigate and enjoy the Bay as we did on our Virginia kayak trip (thank you Chesapeake Experience!). Have a fun and safe summer and I look forward to seeing everyone this fall at UMCES Horn Point Lab in Cambridge, MD.

Happy Spring!

Lisa Ayers Lawrence
MAMEA President

The MAMEA Board of Directors meets twice a year. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please visit www.mamea.org/board.html.

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From the Editor

Greetings MAMEA!

Where in the world did spring go? June is upon us and for you classroom teachers, I'm sure it can't be here soon enough! Now is the time us informal educators hit our stride conducting professional development for teachers, summer camps for students, and aquarium tours, tours, and more tours. But what an exciting time for marine education—we all get to hit the beach and show off our knowledge of marine processes and critters to our friends and family! (some of whom will just roll their eyes)

In just a few short weeks, several MAMEAns will be boarding long flights to amazing Anchorage, Alaska for the National Marine Educators Association annual conference. The conference committee has planned a fantastic week complete with concurrent sessions, keynote speakers, field trips, and of course, fun evening events. And speaking of conference committees, MAMEA President-elect Kathy Fuller, is really starting to get things rolling on the MAMEA annual conference in October. Can you say cabins?! Yes, there's a hotel option too.

Find out more on the MAMEA and NMEA conferences, as well as professional development opportunities around the region in this edition of the *Masthead*. Carol Hopper Brill sums up the regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl events; and look for a very special congratulations to one of our extraordinary members! Find regional marine research news, as well as updates from several of our state representatives.

Don't forget, the MAMEA online election is currently open, and ends on June 7, so don't forget to vote today! Read more about the elections in this issue.

Happy *Masthead* reading and I hope to see you in Alaska for NMEA! Be sure to stop by our MAMEA chapter meeting at lunch on Tuesday (June 26) and say "Hi!"

- Chris Petrone

The *Masthead* is the official newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) and produced quarterly with support from:



MAMEA is one of 17 regional NMEA chapters. To become a member of NMEA, please visit



www.marine-ed.org

Seeking a new editor

After four years of putting the *Masthead* together, editor Chris Petrone is interested in stepping down from the position in order to assume other roles in both MAMEA and NMEA. Therefore, MAMEA is seeking a new, creative, outgoing individual, with an interest in compiling, editing, and publishing the quarterly newsletter.

If you are interested in possibly taking on a role in the production of the *Masthead*, you are encouraged to contact Chris (petrone@udel.edu) or MAMEA President Lisa Lawrence (ayers@vims.edu).

MAMEA elections now open!

by Ruth Gourley, MAMEA Nominations and Elections Chair

MAMEA online elections are now open through **June 7, 2012**. Members should have received an email on Monday, May 7 that included a link to the ballot. Each link is member-specific, so please do not share the link that was emailed to you; it will only work one time.

The candidates' profiles can be downloaded here ([2012 Election Candidates information](#)).

If you never received a link to the ballot, or have lost it, please contact Ruth Gourley (ruth.gourley@ncaquariums.com).

The election winners will be announced at the MAMEA chapter meeting at the NMEA conference in June.

NMEA Update

by Tami Lunsford, NMEA Representative

Many MAMEAns are gearing up for the 2012 National Marine Education Association conference in Anchorage, Alaska, next month. Please contact Tami Lunsford (tami.lunsford@gmail.com) if you are attending and especially if you can contribute anything to our MAMEA basket that will be entered into the auction. Each year in the NMEA auction, there are baskets of local goodies and marine education items donated by each chapter, and each year our mission is to beat FMSEA (Florida Marine Science Education Association)! Please help if you can, and join us at the chapter meeting held during the conference.

It pays to be an NMEA member because NMEA is creating a new membership benefits program. There are currently sixteen organizations nationwide who will be offering benefits to MAMEA members. The membership specials will range from discounts in gift shops to free admission. The program and partners will be announced on the NMEA website soon, so stay tuned for more details!

Finally, we want to congratulate Lisa Wu and her students Daniel Seidman, Jung Huh, and Jenny Seo at Thomas Jefferson High School on their video "From Cells to Saviors" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Utp64BsdZ8&list=PLC3A2FE08A2C8E2D5>). They were the Division A winners in the 2012 NMEA/NOSB "Living on the Ocean Planet" video contest. Congratulations for your creative work!

MAMEA 2012 Conference Update

by Kathy Fuller, MAMEA President-elect

“Aquatic Conservation Science through Research and Education”

October 12-14, 2012 in Cambridge, Maryland

Join educators from the Mid-Atlantic region to celebrate marine education Chesapeake Bay style. As you may have heard, the 2012 MAMEA conference will be held on the campus of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Horn Point Lab on the shores of the Choptank River in Cambridge, MD. Information is now available online for the *Call for Papers, Scholarships, Lodging, and the Poster Session/Share-a-thon*. Go to www.mamea.org for more information.

Call for Papers- APPLY NOW!

The deadline for the Call for Papers is July 6, 2012. To apply, go to <http://www.mamea.org/callforpapers.html>. For more information, contact Maria Madero at mmadero@aqua.org or 410-576-3875.

Lodging: *The hotel option is now open for bookings!*

On-Campus Cabins

Single-sex cabins are available at the Horn Point Environmental Education Center. Cabins feature two large rooms with multiple bunk beds. Restrooms, including hot showers, are a short walk from the cabin. Think summer camp. **Breakfast is included. Fee is \$30/person/night** and is available the nights of Thursday the 11th, Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th. Sign-up for this housing option is included in the registration form.

Cabin Rate: \$30/night

Cabin Reservations: Sign up with conference registration

Off-Campus Hotel

A block of king and double rooms is reserved at the *Holiday Inn Express* in Cambridge, MD. The rooms are available at the group rate of **\$136/night plus taxes and include breakfast**. Rooms must be booked by *September 12, 2012* to take advantage of this group rate. Please call the Holiday Inn Express at 410-221-9900, and tell them you are with the MAMEA group when making your reservation. You can learn more about the hotel at www.hiexpress.com.

Hotel Phone: 410-221-9900

Hotel Rate: \$136/night (plus taxes)

Hotel Reservation Deadline: September 12, 2012

More details are coming soon. Questions? Interested in helping with the conference (hosting a field trip, donating funds to offset the cost to participants, collecting items for the auction, volunteering to help during the conference, etc.)? Contact Kathy Fuller, MAMEA President-elect at kfuller@aqua.org or 410-576-3888.

NMEA2014 Update

by David Christopher, NMEA2014 Co-chair

In January, the 2014 NMEA Conference committee held a contest to design the logo for the 2014 NMEA annual conference.

The logo contest was open to all students in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The conference committee is pleased to announce that the winning logo was submitted by Ayanna Patillo, a sophomore at Western School of Technology and Environmental Science in Baltimore County, Maryland. Sophia Gach-Rasool, also from Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, received honorable mention for her logo design. These logos will serve as the inspiration for the official conference logo which will be unveiled this summer.

The 2014 MAMEA Annual Conference is being hosted by MAMEA and will be held in July 2014 in Annapolis, Maryland.

Need funding for your next educational project?

by Carol Hopper Brill, MAMEA Grants Chair

A MAMEA grant may be just what you need! 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 the program structure 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 2012/13 cycle is September 15, 2012. Grant awards will be announced at the MAMEA conference in October 2012, and the funding period is 12 months, from November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013.

Short on travel funds? Apply for a conference scholarship

by Sarah McGuire, MAMEA Scholarship Chair

Scholarship applications are now available for the MAMEA 2012 Conference, scheduled for October 12-14, 2012 in Cambridge, Maryland. Five Paul Standish Scholarships will be awarded to MAMEA members who are interested in attending the MAMEA conference but are in need of financial assistance. The scholarships cover up to \$300 of expenses directly related to participation in the conference. Applicants must have at least 6 months of membership in MAMEA prior to application or must have attended a MAMEA-sponsored state event by the time of application.

For more information and to apply, go to <http://www.mamea.org/scholarship.html> and download the application form, sending both the application form and a letter of justification to Sarah McGuire at mcguire@vims.edu. **The deadline for applications is August 17, 2012!** Applicants will be notified by September 1, 2012. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact me. We look forward to seeing you at MAMEA 2012!



Ayanna and Sophia receiving their awards. In this picture, from L to R: Conference Co-chair David Christopher; contest winner Ayanna Patillo; honorable mention Sophia Gash Rasool; Principal Murray Parker, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science.

MAMEA seeks award nominees

by Megan Ennes, MAMEA Awards Chair

Every year MAMEA sponsors two awards to recognize outstanding efforts by marine educators in our region: One award honors a formal classroom teacher, K-16, primary through college. The other acknowledges an educator in an informal setting, such as museum, aquarium, zoo, science center staff or employees with government agencies. Nominees should be individuals who have:

- Been a MAMEA member for at least one year
- Demonstrate a commitment to marine education
- Excel as educators
- Develop and use innovative marine education materials
- Share information with colleagues
- Promote marine education professionally

Nominations should be submitted by the end of August each year. Nominators are encouraged to use the on-line form found [here](#), or may send nominations materials to Megan Ennes, North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Rd, Kure Beach, NC 28449 or by email at megan.ennes@ncaquariums.com. The awards are presented at MAMEA's annual conference.

A MAMEAn engagement

MAMEA would like to send out sincerest congratulations to devoted member, Sarah McGuire, on her recent engagement. Sarah serves several roles in MAMEA, including being the Virginia Representative, Scholarship Committee Chair, and she has organized concurrent sessions for the last two annual conferences. You may remember her fiance, Jared, as the talented craftsman who built the MAMEA Corn Hole boards for the 2011 conference auction.

Congrats to Sarah and Jared!



Further proof of Jared's craftiness—the ring holder!

MAMEA congratulates regional NOSB winners

by Carol Hopper Brill, Blue Crab Bowl Co-Regional Coordinator

Congratulations to the winners of the three Mid-Atlantic teams who rose to the top of their regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl competitions this year!

The **Chesapeake Bay Bowl** draws competitors from Maryland, Washington DC, Delaware, as well as parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia. This year's first place team was from **State College Area High School** in State College, Pennsylvania. Nell Herrman, Learning Enrichment and Gifted Support Specialist at the school, coached the team.

The Chesapeake Bay Bowl took place February 4 at George Mason University in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Regional Coordinator Staci Lewis at slewis@oceanleadership.org

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School in Virginia Beach led the pack in Virginia's **Blue Crab Bowl**. Science teacher and Coach Bill Dunn, with Assistant Coach Carol Stapanowich, took their team to the top for a record fifth year in a row.



Blue Crab Bowl winners from Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School in Virginia Beach. From left to right: Coach Bill Dunn; Cameron Forren; Josh Taylor; Walker Olsen (captain); Matt Foley; Will Harris; and Assistant Coach Carol Stapanowich. Photo by Janet Krenn, VA Sea Grant.

Watch the National Ocean Science Bowl website for an update: <http://www.nosb.org/competitions-2/regional-competition-map/north-carolina>.

The MAMEA Board was also pleased to award each of the top coaches complementary registration for the 2012 MAMEA Conference, slated for October 12-14 in Cambridge, Maryland. We are excited to invite these hardworking coaches to take advantage of our Association's professional development opportunities. And, we hope these talented educators will share their enthusiasm and their ideas for teaching marine science at



State College Area High School from State College, PA won the Chesapeake Bay Bowl. From left to right: Matthew Rahn; Diane Rother; Janine Mistrick (captain); Alicia Lai, and Cathryn DeLong. Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Bowl.

The Blue Crab Bowl took place March 3 at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Next year's competition takes place at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. For more information, visit www.vims.edu/bcb or contact Regional Coordinators Carol Hopper Brill (VIMS) at chopper@vims.edu or Victoria Hill (ODU) at vhill@odu.edu.

Raleigh Charter High School was the winning team in North Carolina's **Blue Heron Bowl**. Veteran competition Coach and science teacher Whit Hames led his team to victory.

Regional Coordinators Kay Evans and Jeffery Alejandro hosted the March 3rd competition at Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Next year's competition will take place at another NC institution.



The Blue Heron Bowl in North Carolina was won by Raleigh Charter High School, Raleigh, NC. From left to right: Ben Whitfield; Coach Whit Hames; Jonathan Tseng; Dan Qu; Ben Hames; Jonathan Cookmeyer. Photo courtesy of the Blue Heron Bowl.

Regional NOSB winners *continued*

the fall conference. Congratulations, Nell Hermann of State Area College High School (Chesapeake Bay Bowl); Bill Dunn from Bishop Sullivan Catholic High (Blue Crab Bowl); and Whit Hames at Raleigh Charter High School (Blue Heron Bowl)!

MAMEA further recognized the efforts of nine teachers who coached a NOSB team for the first time this year. These teachers received a one-year MAMEA membership. Our aim is to encourage and support these teachers, connecting them with the active community of marine educators represented by MAMEA.

Chesapeake Bay Bowl:

- Becky Byzon from Mountain Ridge High School, Mount Savage, MD
- Bill Geppert of Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, DE
- Mollie Morneau at National Cathedral School in Falls Church, VA
- Alison Smith, H.B. Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, VA

Blue Crab Bowl

- Eric Lund, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Bowling Green, VA
- Bethany Smith, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw, VA
- Adrienne Richardson of Grafton High School, Yorktown, VA

Blue Heron Bowl

- Sheila Moore from Croatan High School, Newport, NC
- Clint Todd, J.H. Rose High School, Greenville, NC

Mid-Atlantic Marine Research Update

The following are articles from marine research institutes around our region.

[Sediment sleuthing: Radioactive medicine being tracked through rivers](#) — A **University of Delaware** oceanographer has stumbled upon an unusual aid for studying local waterways: radioactive iodine. Trace amounts of the contaminant, which is used in medical treatments, are entering waterways via wastewater treatment systems and providing a new way to track where and how substances travel through rivers to the ocean.

[Chesapeake Bay health drops to a D+ in 2011](#) — A sequence of weather-related events including a wet spring, dry summer, and two devastating storms caused a decline in the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay in 2011. In an assessment conducted by EcoCheck scientists at the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science** and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the nation's largest estuary earned a grade of "D+" for 2011.

[Eelgrass restoration aids overall recovery of coastal bays](#) — Loss of biodiversity appears to impact ecosystems as much as climate change, pollution, and other major forms of environmental stress, according to a new study from an international research team including Professor J. Emmett Duffy of the **Virginia Institute of Marine Science**.

[Coastal high school students do blue crab research with Duke faculty](#) — High school students from Morehead City and Swan Quarter will soon be working alongside **Duke University** researchers to study blue crab behavior and its implications for the endangered whooping crane.

Professional Development for EE Administrators

by Anne Armstrong, Education Program Manager, The Marine Science Consortium

Association of Nature Center Administrators Annual Summit comes to the Marine Science Consortium

Looking for a professional development opportunity aimed specifically at nature and environmental education center administrators? The Marine Science Consortium (MSC) will be hosting the annual Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) Summit August 22nd-26th, 2012. Summit programming is designed for every level of experience, from new directors to seasoned professionals and includes plenty of opportunity for networking and fun.

The first day of the summit will feature workshops from Delmarva and national professionals. Topics will cover a variety of issues including operating on a shoestring budget, attracting and keeping volunteers, creating a risk management plan for your center, building climate change understanding, skills for working with diverse populations, mentoring, and managing finances in hard times. Over the following two days, participants will choose from a host of facilitated sessions designed to foster discussion among new and seasoned leaders on wide-ranging topics from the ethics of keeping live animals at your center to building partnerships in the environmental education world.



Participants brainstorm during a 2011 ANCA session.

Each evening, participants will convene for social time to relax and reflect, network, enjoy good food and local Delmarva beer and wine. There will also be morning field trips to Wallops Island, morning boat rides on Chincoteague Bay, and the opportunity to learn about local organisms and habitats in the Marine Science Consortium labs. Sunday field trips include opportunities to explore Assateague Island, Taste the Shore: From Farm (and Vineyard) to Table, Kayak the Pocomoke River, and Beachcomb on Wallops Island.



Three participants pose for a quick snapshot during the 2011 conference.

To learn more about the ANCA Summit on the Shore and to register, visit www.msconsortium.org. For more information about ANCA, visit www.natctr.org.

About the Organizations:

The Marine Science Consortium is a non-profit residential environmental learning center and field station located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. MSC is supported by 12 member universities and is educational research partners with multiple government and private agencies along the Mid-Atlantic coast.

The Association of Nature Center Administrators is a private non-profit organization founded in 1989 to provide a professional association for leadership in the nature and environmental education center profession. ANCA is a national network of nature center leaders designed to enhance professionalism and provide the support system critical to innovative and progressive management.

Both organizations look forward to a successful Summit on the Shore in 2012, where leaders from across the country will relax, rejuvenate, and rediscover.

State Rep Reports

DE

Delaware is knee-deep in horseshoe crabs again this year as mating season ramps up and the horseshoe crab census is on. We hope many of you will get to the Delaware beaches before the end of June to see this amazing sight!

Workshops

A Day in Lewes: Exploring Collaborative Field Trip Opportunities

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 8:20 am-4:15 pm

Location: Parking and registration at UD Hugh R. Sharp (Marine Studies) Campus, Lewes, DE

Delaware's K-12 classroom teachers are welcome to join the Lewes Education Coalition (LEC) on a whirlwind tour of six fantastic field trip sites around town: UD's Hugh R. Sharp Campus; Lewes Historical Society; Lightship *Overfalls*; Zwaanendael Museum; and Fort Miles Historic Area and the Seaside Nature Center at Cape Henlopen State Park. Elementary school teachers and middle and high school multidisciplinary pairs/teams are encouraged to participate in a survey of resources in science, math, technology, history, and the arts. Lunch and transportation between sites will be provided, at no cost! Teachers will receive six clock hours for participating. For more information, please contact Chris Petrone (petrone@udel.edu) or visit <http://bit.ly/leweseducationcoalition>. While the workshop is free, the LEC asks that you register; the online form is available on the workshop website.

Delaware's MOST WANTED: Understanding the First State's nastiest invasive species

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 8:30 am-1:15 pm

Location: Blackbird Creek Reserve, Townsend, DE

Classroom teachers are welcome to join educators from the Delaware Invasive Species Council (DISC) as they discuss Delaware's terrestrial and aquatic invasive species—both plant and animal. Teachers will receive classroom resources, 4.5 clock hours, and get hands-on experience in planning and conducting an invasive-species removal project at their school. The workshop will feature speakers from the Delaware Aquatic Resource Education Center, Delaware Sea Grant, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Delaware Parks and Recreation, Delaware Nature Society, and the New Castle Conservation District. For more information, please contact Chris Petrone (petrone@udel.edu) or visit <http://www.delawareinvasives.net>.

NORTH CAROLINA

Methods of Teaching Environmental Education Workshop (2 days)

Date: Monday, June 18, 2012; 9am to 3pm and Tuesday, June 19th, 2012; 9am to 3pm.

Location: Haywood County/Haywood Community College

The objective of this 10 hour workshop is to prepare participants from a variety of educational backgrounds and experiences in both the formal and non-formal sectors to use exemplary Environmental Education teaching methods. Participants will learn about a variety of teaching techniques, methods and instructional strategies; and the workshop will include multiple interactive components. This is a required workshop for all NC Environmental Education Certification candidates who enrolled in the program after January 1, 2009. It may also count as Continuing Education for those who are already certified.

NOTE: You MUST have completed and received credit for the Basics of EE Independent Study to enroll in this workshop! You must attend all 10 hours of this workshop to receive credit. This workshop is FREE, but pre-registration is required by emailing Tanya.poole@ncwildlife.org.

Green Teacher Magazine has announced its Fall 2012 Webinar Series:

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: <http://www.greenteacher.com/webinars.html>

Green Teacher Magazine is offering seven webinars on a variety of topics. Of special note: Design and Implementation Effective EE Programs by presenter Bora Simmons. See the magazine's website for other webinar dates and subjects.

Visit the NEW North Carolina EE website, www.eenorthcarolina.org! You can sign up for their newsletter and the NC-EE listserv on the homepage.

State Rep Reports

VIRGINIA

MAMEA-Sponsored Event

Virginia held its MAMEA-sponsored event (“mini-conference”) this year on May 12. Eight educators from around Virginia spent a beautiful Saturday kayaking. We started at Back Creek Park in York County where we met all of the other participants and got assigned our kayaks, each with a Chesapeake Bay-themed species name. After paddling out to Bay Tree Beach, the educators were able to stretch their legs and participate in some educational activities such as water quality testing and a scavenger hunt. After a lunch on the beach with gorgeous views, the participants were able to test out their seining and cast net skills. On the kayak trip back, many diamondback terrapins were seen as well as a few rays. We welcomed a few new MAMEA members and even brainstormed for next year’s Virginia event!



A happy MAMEAn poses during the Virginia mini-conference. Photo by Sarah McGuire.

Workshops

Why Do We Explore?

Audience: Educators of Grades 5-12

Date: Saturday, August 11, 2012

Location: Nauticus in Norfolk, Virginia

Provided by NOAA’s Office of Ocean Exploration and Research and the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer. Join NOAA OER Facilitator, Tami Lunsford, as we introduce Volume 1 of the Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection: *Why Do We Explore?* Participants will learn how to use inquiry- and standards-based lessons and other online resources that guide classroom inquiries into several important reasons for ocean exploration including Climate Change, Energy, Ocean Health and Human Health. Registration is required and space is limited. Educators who attend the full day will receive a \$50 stipend. Each participant will receive Volume 1 of the Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection, *Why Do We Explore?*, materials related to activities presented during the workshop, a NOAA Ocean Exploration Certificate of Participation, continental breakfast, and lunch. Registration Deadline is July 27, 2012. To register, please contact: Jennifer Kodolitsch at 757.664.1044 or jennifer.tabor@norfolk.gov.

Lynnhaven River NOW Rain Barrel Workshop

Date: June 19, 5:30-7:30pm

Location: Lynnhaven River NOW offices, 1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108, Virginia Beach, VA

A rain barrel is an easy way to reduce stormwater run-off from your property and make the water available for irrigating your garden. In this workshop you will be constructing a rain barrel that you can take home with you. This workshop is offered by Lynnhaven River NOW and Mike’s Rain Barrels on June 19 from 5:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$60 (covers the cost of the barrel and supplies), please make checks payable to Lynnhaven River NOW. To register, contact Kris McKinnon at kris@lynnhaven2007.com or 757-962-5398. The workshop is limited to the first 20 barrels (minimum of 10 participants required and registrants must pre-pay).

Sea Turtle Workshops

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center received a 3 year financial award from NOAA Species Recovery Grant for a Sea Turtle research and conservation initiative in Virginia and Maryland. The overarching goal for the project is to collect a comprehensive set of data on the life history, health and abundance of sea turtle species in the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding coastal waters. This research will aid in the conservation and management of sea turtles by state and federal authorities. In addition to the research aspect the Virginia Aquarium will be conducting several educational workshops in both Maryland and Virginia to share current research and highlight activities that can be used in both informal and formal educational settings.

Continued on next page

State Rep Reports

VIRGINIA *continued*

Virginia and Maryland educators please save the dates and look for more information regarding registration for the following workshops:

Sea Turtle Workshop

Audience: Informal Educators

Date: October 1, 2012

Location: Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

Workshop participants will be introduced to sea turtle species and ongoing conservation efforts through exciting and innovative programs that can be adapted to a wide variety of informal educational settings.

Program demonstrations will be offered for specialty areas such as Early Learner's, Summer Camps, Onsite/ Outreach programming, as well as generalized activities for visit enhancement programs. In addition, participants will be able to step behind the scenes at the Virginia Aquarium to observe a feeding and training session with our facility's five sea turtles. An overview of current research conducted by the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team will also be held providing information regarding stomach content analysis, isotope testing, aerial surveying, and tracking/tagging.

Sea Turtle Action Workshop

Audience: Organization leaders of Scouts, 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Environmental Clubs

Date: November 3, 2012

Location: Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

In this half day workshop participants will be introduced to local sea turtle species and ongoing conservation efforts through hands-on activities.

Program participants will receive a *Sea Turtle Resource Kit* filled with activities. Throughout the workshop participants will learn how to use these resources and activities. The goal of this workshop is to promote environment stewardship among our young audiences and inspire them to take action. Groups participating in the workshop will be given ideas and the task of designing and implementing an environmental action project with the Virginia Aquarium staff's guidance.