



THE MASTHEAD

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Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association

From the Captain's Quarters

MAMEA President Ruth Gourley is currently home taking care of her newborn baby girl, so President-elect Lisa Lawrence is filling in for this issue's From the Captain's Quarters.

Heartfelt congratulations to MAMEA President Ruth Gourley and her husband Patrick on the birth of their daughter, Sofia Ann. The newest MAMEA member entered the world on July 14, 2011 at 7 lb 2 oz and 19" long. Is that citation size in North Carolina? We are so happy for you, Ruth, and look forward to meeting your precious baby girl!

In other personal news, congratulations go to *Masthead* editor Chris Petrone on his new position as Delaware Sea Grant Marine Education Specialist. Chris left Virginia Sea Grant for Delaware Sea Grant in June, but took time to come back to Virginia to conduct a week-long field course for educators on Virginia Coastal Ecosystems. Chris will be sorely missed in Virginia, but we look forward to some great regional collaborative education projects with him!

MAMEA was well represented at the NMEA Annual Conference in Boston on June 29-July 3, 2011. At our chapter meeting at NMEA, MAMEA Board election results were announced. And, Tami Lunsford was named as our chapter's representative to the NMEA Board. Tami takes over for David Christopher, who has served us well for three years. Thank you, David! The NMEA2014 committee, co-chaired by Tami Lunsford, David Christopher, and Beth Jewell, updated us on plans for MAMEA to host the annual conference. NMEA2014 will be held at the Loews Annapolis Hotel July 19-24, 2014. Mark your calendars!

We are excited to announce that registration has opened for the MAMEA Annual Conference at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA on October 7-9, 2011. We are pleased to be teaming up with the Virginia Environmental Educators to offer an outstanding weekend of field experiences and concurrent sessions on marine and environmental science education. We will open on Friday with a presentation and book signing by famed scientific illustrator Val Kells who has just co-authored *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes – from Maine to Texas*. On Saturday, sessions will kick off with invited plenary speaker Dr. Tracey Sutton from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science who will share his work on the Census of Marine Life. Concurrent and poster sessions will round out the day with our annual dinner and auction as the finale. Pre- and post-conference field experiences—including a kayak trip, canoe trip and visits to Colonial Williamsburg and The Watermen's Museum—are available for those who can extend their attendance. MAMEA would like to thank Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and NOAA Bay-Watershed Education Training (B-WET) program for their support of the conference. We hope to see you all there!

Lisa Ayers Lawrence
MAMEA President-elect

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 members and welcome to the *Masthead*! We've tried something new this quarter and have moved from the pdf copy to a blog-style format available at <http://mameamasthead.wordpress.com>.

There are three ways to view this quarter's *Masthead Online*:

- Scroll through all articles in sequence on one long web site.
- Click on the individual article titles in the right navigation menu under the black-text "Vol 31 (3): Fall 2011" to view selected articles
- The trimmed down pdf-version you are reading now.

In this issue, you'll find important updates from many of our Board and Committee members, as well as tons of information on our upcoming conference in October.

As you navigate and read through this issue, please feel free to comment at the bottom of any of the individual articles (online version only). I am especially interested to hear what you think of the new format and how you prefer to read the *Masthead*. So, you'll find a brief poll about this issue as the very last post (online version only). Please be sure to fill it out. If you prefer to email your comments, please send them to petrone@udel.edu. Your most-candid feedback is welcomed; after all, this newsletter is for YOU, the members of MAMEA!

Thanks for reading (and commenting) and enjoy this issue!

- Chris Petrone

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



www.marine-ed.org

MAMEA Educator Awards

by Allison Besch, Awards Committee Chair

It's not too late to nominate a deserving educator for a 2011 MAMEA award! Each year, MAMEA presents two awards to educators nominated by their peers. One award honors a formal classroom teacher, K-16. The other acknowledges an educator in an informal setting, such as museum, aquarium or employees with government agencies. Submissions for the 2011 award are due by August 31, 2011. The winners will be announced at the conference in October. Applications, guidelines, and eligibility requirements are available online at www.mamea.org/awards.html or e-mail allison.besch@ncdcr.gov. See profiles of past award winners at www.mamea.org/docs/MAMEA_AwardWinnerProfiles.pdf.

Need Funds for your School Year Projects?

by Carol Hopper Brill, Grants Committee Chair

MAMEA supports its members' innovative marine and aquatic education projects each year through its Educational Project Grant Program. Two grants (up to \$1,000 each) are available annually, one for formal educators (classrooms, K-16) and one for informal educators (museum, aquarium, government agency staff, etc.).

To be eligible for a MAMEA Educational Project grant, applicants must be current MAMEA members with at least one year's membership. Grant applications are due by September 15, 2010 and Awardees are announced at the annual conference in October. The funding period is November 1 to October 31 of the following year; Mid-year and Final Reports are required.

For further information about the Grant application process, visit the MAMEA website: www.mamea.org/minigrant.html.

MAMEA Election Update

by Tami Lunsford, Nominations Committee Chair

We recently completed our second year of online elections for our MAMEA Board, and we are very pleased to announce the results to the entire membership. Those who attended NMEA heard the news at our chapter meeting. We are pleased to congratulate and welcome our new officers: Kathy Fuller as President-elect, Allison Besch as Secretary, Beth Schap as Maryland representative, and Andy Gould as North Carolina representative. These wonderful educators will take office at our annual conference in October. Congratulations!



L to R: President-elect, Kathy Fuller (National Aquarium-Baltimore); Secretary, Allison Besch (NC Maritime Museum); MD Rep, Beth Schap (Carroll County Public School); NC Rep, Andy Gould (Bald Head Island Conservancy)

Sand Swap is Back!

by Dawn Sherwood, MAMEA2011 Auction Committee Chair

Have you been somewhere interesting or had friends, family, and students bring you sand that you want to trade or donate? Please bring sand with a label noting where it was collected. The more information you can give the better. For newcomers, here is how it works: At the beginning of the Share-a-thon, everyone who contributed sand will have the first opportunity to come get baggies (yes, they will be provided again) of the different sand samples. After the mad rush, those not contributing samples are welcome to choose from the remaining baggies. We will also have the leftover sand from last year's swap as well.

MAMEA2011 is just around the corner!

This year, MAMEA teams up with the Virginia Office of Environmental Education to bring you the joint MAMEA / Virginia Environmental Education Professional Development Institute with support from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and NOAA BWET.

Held at the College of William & Mary, this conference promises to be an engaging weekend full of marine & environmental science content, classroom resources, field experiences and networking with colleagues.

When: October 7-9, 2011

Where: Williamsburg, VA

Venue: College of William & Mary, Sadler Center

Schedule (<http://www.mamea.org/schedule.html>)

- Friday night dinner, speaker & book signing
- Saturday speakers and sessions
- Saturday night silent and live auction and dinner
- Optional Friday & Sunday field trips



Registration:

Online registration is now open! (<http://www.mamea.org/registration.html>)

Lodging (<http://www.mamea.org/lodging.html>)

Williamsburg Hospitality House

757-229-4020

\$77/night (plus taxes)

Book your hotel by September 7, 2011 to get the special \$77 conference rate.

Additional conference information:

- Field trips (<http://www.mamea.org/fieldtrips.html>)
- Silent, bag, and live auctions (<http://www.mamea.org/auction.html>)
- There's still time to submit a poster for the Poster Session / Share-a-Thon! (<http://www.mamea.org/poster.html>)

Sponsors:



It's Auction Time!

by Dawn Sherwood, MAMEA2011 Auction Committee Chair

One person's junk is another person's treasure! Please bring older books, posters, shells, kits from your offices and classrooms that you have been wanting to clear out; everything is welcome! If you have jewelry, stuffed animals, toys, videos, etc, please bring it. You can drop it off at conference registration or mail it in. Many of these items will go into the silent auction, but some may also go into the live auction as well. If you have art (or know someone who might be willing to donate), gift certificates, weekends at hotels, aquarium tickets, sporting events, scuba gear—you name it—we (or rather our wonderful auctioneer) can auction it off.

All proceeds go toward MAMEA conference scholarships so please consider helping us out: donate, bid early, and bid often!

Please see the auction form at <http://www.mamea.org/auction.html>.

NMEA Update

by David Christopher

The National Marine Educators Association held its annual conference on June 29-July 3, 2011 at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. This year's conference kicked off to a great start with keynote speakers Dr. Allen Gontz of University of Massachusetts and Trevor Corson, author of *The Secret Life of Lobsters*. The conference continued for the next three days with over 120 concurrent sessions focusing on themes such as program evaluation, marine science education, ocean conservation issues, ocean-related art projects, and much more. As with every NMEA conference, participants were given the opportunity to take part in field trips and special events that highlight the area. This year, we were treated to a wonderful evening at the New England Aquarium and a clambake held on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. Thank you to Bob Rocha of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and everyone that helped plan this amazing conference.

And, thank you to everyone who helped supply items to our NMEA auction basket. As part of the NMEA annual auction, each chapter is asked to bring a basket of items to be auctioned off and the chapter whose basket brings in the most money wins a prize. I am sad to say that we were again beaten by the Florida Marine Science Educators Association. However, I am confident we will take the prize next year.

Next year the NMEA Conference will be in Anchorage, Alaska on June 24-28, 2012. It's never too early to begin planning. See the NMEA Conference website at <http://www.nmeaweb.org/> for more information.

NMEA2014 Update

by Tami Lunsford, NMEA2014 Co-chair

In case you haven't heard, MAMEA is hosting the NMEA conference in July, 2014! We have already begun planning and have found a fantastic location—the Loews Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. We are thrilled with the plans so far and are excited to move forward with the help of more MAMEA members! We are having a planning meeting at 9 am on October 9 (at the MAMEA Conference) over breakfast at the Hospitality House in Williamsburg, Virginia. If you are interested in helping us plan this fabulous event, please plan to join us that morning. You can also see our brainstorming ideas on our wiki page (<http://nmea-2014.wikispaces.com/>). Please check it out and add your own ideas. You can also add your name to a committee if you are interested in being more involved. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact one of the co-chairs: David Christopher (DChristopher@aqua.org), Beth Jewell (bajewell@fcps.edu) or Tami Lunsford (tami.lunsford@gmail.com).

State Rep Reports

VIRGINIA

Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center

Informal Educator Workshop offered at the Virginia Aquarium

From novice to expert, informal education practitioners typically have limited opportunities to reflect effectively upon their practice as a means to inform and improve their communication skills. Participants will have fun with engaging activities that lead to introspection about their practice. Activities draw on current research on learning and teaching in museums, and include topics: learning styles, constructing knowledge, and conversations. Discussions encourage participants to reflect upon individual, programmatic, and institutional practices. Activities based on programs designed by the Lawrence Hall of Science and funded by IMLS and NSF. For more information contact Karen Burns at kpburns@virginiaaquarium.com or 757-385-0272.

Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences (COSIA) is a program that teams scientists at colleges and universities with local aquariums and marine science centers, and deploy undergraduates and graduate students to teach the public about current discoveries in ocean sciences.

This course provides undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to explore and apply current research on learning and instructional strategies geared toward informal learning environments. Working with university professors and educators at the informal science education institutions, students get first-hand experiences communicating ocean science and have the opportunity to design an activity to be implemented at an aquarium or science center. A teaching manual and resource guide provide in-depth instructions, session write-ups, and materials lists for teaching the course at your institution. For more information contact Karen Burns at kpburns@virginiaaquarium.com or 757-385-0272.

DELAWARE

Looking for a fun, free, educational event for the whole family? Mark your calendars for Coast Day, Sunday, October 2, 2011, at the University of Delaware Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes!

- Tour research ships, meet scientists in their labs, and try lots of cool hands-on activities.
- See what's being done to ensure that our coastal and marine resources remain healthy and available for future generations to enjoy.
- Take an up-close look at dogfish sharks and other marine life and find out how they live.
- Compete for prizes and enjoy fresh-cooked seafood and other culinary delights.



Coast Day offers something for everyone. Visitors enjoy hands-on exhibits, lectures on popular science topics, ship and laboratory tours, crab races, a crab cake cook-off, seafood cooking demonstrations, a boat show, and much more. For more information, please visit www.decoastday.org.

DELAWARE / DC

Join us to "Explore America's Aquatic Treasures" on Saturday, September 24. Registration is only \$20 and includes transportation to/from DC (from Newark definitely and from Southern Delaware if there is enough interest), all events, and the food/beverage reception at the Aquarium. We will meet at the Park-n-Ride lot on the corner of Routes 896 and 4 in Newark at 8 am. Transportation to/from DC will be provided. We will then meet a group of other educators at 11:00 a.m. at the Constitution Avenue entrance to the Museum of Natural History for a visit to the Sant Ocean Hall. After touring the Ocean Hall and getting a light lunch (on your own), the exploration moves down the street to the nation's oldest public aquarium – the National Aquarium. A 2:00 shark talk and feeding will be followed by a food and beverage reception, a lecture on sea turtle conservation and legislation, and discussion of lesson plans on sea turtles. Our time of exploration will end at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact the MAMEA Delaware Rep, Tami Lunsford, at tami.lunsford@gmail.com or 302-668-4183.