

THE MASTHEAD

Vol. 31 No. 2 SUMMER 2011



Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association

From the Captain's Quarters

Happy Spring! With summer just around the corner, things are ramping up for our MAMEA members. Many of our teachers are working on end-of-year testing and looking forward to their summer break and a chance to recharge their marine science knowledge. Our informal educators are gearing up for many summer programs, camps and professional development offerings. Here are some opportunities happening in our region and beyond:

Delaware

- DE/DC MAMEA-sponsored field trip to the Smithsonian Ocean Hall and National Aquarium DC on September 24. Please see the state rep reports for more information

DC

- The National Aquarium in Washington, DC will be conducting workshops this summer. Go to www.nationalaquarium.org/workshops.html for more information:
 - Project WET – August 1
 - Project WILD – August 3
 - Project WILD Aquatic – August 5

North Carolina

- U.S. EPA Environmental Science Institute Air Quality Workshop for Teachers, July 12-13, 2011 at the U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC. Contact Donna Rogers, rogers.donna@epa.gov, (919) 541-5478 for more info and registration.
- The NIEHS journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* presents The Environment: A Human Health Perspective Workshop. This one-day teacher professional development workshop on August 3, 2011 will familiarize teachers with EHP's environmental health education resources to highlight the connection between the environment and human health. Please contact the EHP Science Education Program Manager, Dr. Bono Sen, at senb@niehs.nih.gov for more information.
- The UNC Institute for the Environment and UNC

Department of Marine Sciences presents the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers Water Quality Research Institute. A FREE two day advanced level workshop for educators interested in integrating cutting-edge water quality research into the classroom or environmental education center: July 25, [Falls Lake Visitor Assistance Center](#) 10:00-4:30 and July 26, [UNC Department of Marine Science Labs](#) 8:00 – 12:00. Contact Michele.drostin@unc.edu for more info.

And, of course, do not forget about both the National Marine Educators Association's annual conference in Boston, MA June 29-July 3, 2011 and MAMEA's own annual conference October 7-9, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. Even more opportunities are listed in this issue.

With the variety of workshops happening this summer, there is sure to be something for everyone. Enjoy the last few weeks of springtime and we hope to see you at one of these amazing opportunities this summer!

MAMEA to host NMEA 2014!

by Tami Lunsford

It is official—MAMEA is hosting the 2014 National Marine Educators Association conference in Annapolis, Maryland! It is tentatively scheduled for July 19-24 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel. We are currently building our planning committee and starting to organize with a wiki (<http://nmea-2014.wikispaces.com>). Our first committee meeting will be on June 5 at 1:00pm at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. We would love to have you join us to help in any way!

Please contact one of the co-chairs for more information or to help:

- Tami Lunsford (tami.lunsford@gmail.com),
- Beth Jewell (bajewell@fcps.edu), or
- David Christopher (dchristopher@aqua.org)

It is going to be a great conference!

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

Hello MAMEA! Looks like summer may be again settling in to the mid-Atlantic, but what a great spring we had. It's almost time to don the swim suits, kick the shoes off, and stroll the beaches. Of course, this also means its time once again to embarrass our significant others as we pick out and identify critters and other goodies from the strand line, get fired up when we see people walking on the dunes, and drop random ocean facts at beach-themed summer barbeques. It's ok, we all do it.

In this shorter issue of *The Masthead*, you'll read about some great opportunities and a member's work as a coach of a National Ocean Sciences Bowl regional qualifying team. Thanks so much to those folks that submitted articles, we appreciate hearing from you. To those that are off on fantastic summer adventures, have a great, safe time, and be sure to tell us all about it in the Fall issue, due out in August!

- Chris Petrone

About the Cover Ship

Each issue of *The Masthead* features a different mid-Atlantic sailing ship in the cover banner. This issue's ship is the *Schooner Alliance*.

Built in 1995, the *Alliance* worked as a charter vessel in Maine, and moved to its current home in Yorktown, VA in 2005. It is a 105' gaff-rigged schooner that sails in Virginia in the summer and the Caribbean in the winter.

In a new partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), once a week in June and July, passengers will embark with a VIMS scientist who will share information about their work and the health of the Chesapeake Bay. See the VIMS [website](http://www.vims.edu) for a schedule.

Visit the *Schooner Alliance* at www.schooneralliance.com.
Photo credit: Yorktown Sailing Charters LLC.

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

MAMEA Educator Awards

by Allison Besch

This is the perfect time to nominate a deserving teacher or educator for a MAMEA award! Each year, we present 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 submissions are due by August 31, 2011. The winners will be announced at the conference in October. Nominate a teacher before the school year ends! Applications, guidelines, and eligibility requirements are available online at www.mamea.org/awards.html or e-mail allison.besch@ncdcr.gov.

NMEA Update

by David Christopher

I have been honored to serve as your NMEA Representative for the past 3 years. As the NMEA Rep, I have had the pleasure of representing MAMEA at national level. My term in this position ends in October, when Tami Lunsford will take over. Tami has served on both MAMEA and NMEA Boards for many years and I wish her luck in this new position.

I also want to remind everyone that summer is around the corner which means it's almost time for the 2011 National Marine Educators Association annual conference. The conference will be held on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts on June 29 - July 3, 2011. This year's conference events include:

- Excellent, informative presentations with lots of take-home ideas
- Three full days of teaching, sharing, and discovery
- Optional field trips to ocean and coastal wonders: The Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area; Whale Watch to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary; Essex River (estuary/salt marsh) Cruise; New England Aquarium; Historic Boston Harbor tours; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; scuba diving and many others.
- Fun evening events including the Boston Beantown Bash, Thompson Island Clambake, Dessert at the New England Aquarium, plus a live auction extravaganza and dance party

For more information on the conference or to register please visit the NMEA Conference webpage at www.nmeaweb.org/.

MAMEA Elections Update

by Tami Lunsford

We are currently holding our annual MAMEA Board elections online. The positions up for election this year are President-Elect, Secretary, Maryland representative, and North Carolina representative. Every member should have received information on the candidates and how to vote online in your email. If we did not have a valid email for you, we mailed you a paper ballot with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to mail back your ballot.

Candidate bios and photos are available at www.mamea.org/docs/2011Ballot.pdf. When you are ready to vote, please complete the ballot at www.surveymonkey.com/s/mamea2011. Voting closes on June 12, and winners will be announced at the MAMEA chapter meeting during the NMEA conference in Boston. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tami Lunsford, MAMEA Past-President and Nominations chair, at tami.lunsford@gmail.com or [302-731-3035](tel:302-731-3035).

MAMEA Scholarships

by Sarah McGuire

MAMEA scholarships applications are now being accepted; the deadline is August 15th. MAMEA will award five Paul Standish Scholarships to members that are interested in attending the Annual Conference and are in need of financial assistance. The scholarships are for \$300 of expenses related to participation in the conference. Applicants must have at least 6 months of membership or have attended a MAMEA-sponsored state event. To apply, submit an application (located at www.mamea.org) and a letter of justification describing the need for the scholarship and explaining how the conference will benefit you and your students. Send applications to Sarah McGuire at m McGuire@vims.edu.

*Last Call for Presentations

The call for presentations for the 2011 MAMEA conference will close on Friday, May 27th. Have a good lesson plan, program update, or a classroom- or field-based activity that your students just cannot get enough of? Why not share it with us? We are especially seeking presentations that emphasize *Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences* (MWEs). We'll provide the laptop, projector, screen, and wireless internet, you just provide some engaging content! You can submit your presentation at www.mamea.org/2011callforpapers.html. Don't delay!

Thoughts from an Ocean Bowl Coach

by Bill Dunn

For those of you who are high school science teachers and have never experienced a regional or national event in the annual National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB), you are missing a grand experience. What attracted me was the opportunity to coach the most gifted science students in a highly respected scientific competition where they can test their metal against other motivated students from across the state, region or nation. More accurately, my department chair asked me to help. That was in 2003. In 2005, I became the coach.

I teach at a small (450 students) Catholic high school in Virginia Beach. We have been competing in the Blue Crab Bowl (BCB), sponsored jointly by the Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science at Old Dominion University (ODU) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) at the College of William and Mary, since 1999. The Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition for the NOSB. The winner gets an all-expenses paid trip to the National finals offered in a different location each year. Before my time, in 2001, we won and went to Miami. In 2005, we finished second in the BCB to the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. In 2006, we had all our team members back and were confident we would compete for the top prize again. Nope. We didn't even place. The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School won again. The next year, with a young team, and an amazing young freshman, Christine, we finished third; and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School won again. An amazing team from Grafton High School had been second these years. In 2008, we lost early to the team from Grafton, fought our way back to finals (double elimination format at the time), and faced an undefeated Grafton team. What excitement! The winner would go to Seward, Alaska for the finals! We were equally matched. We barely won, but because the format was double elimination, we had to immediately play them again. The match went back and forth. Time was running out; it was close. Our captain, Will (now at Notre Dame) said that gold was a resource recovered from the sea. Wrong! Grafton buzzed in. It looked like we were going to lose, but Grafton made an error in the format of their answer. We won! Barely. By a ruling. Couldn't get any closer. Oh my. We were going to Alaska!

Since 2008 we have continued our winning ways, as Christine captained the team in the 2009 NOSB finals in Washington, DC, and again in 2010 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Christine graduated in 2010 and is now studying marine geology at the Rosenstiel School at the University of Miami. In 2011, we brought two starters back, both seniors. Both competitors, but I was not optimistic. They surprised me. With Mary as Captain, we won again this year and went to Galveston, Texas for the NOSB finals. Mary is off to William and Mary in the fall. She plans to minor in marine science with VIMS, and pursue marine biology at graduate school.



Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School Blue Crab Bowl team. 5 members of 2011 "A" team in front row.

We are looking ahead to next year. Another young team. But we had a freshman on our "A" team and a good group of other freshman and sophomores who are eager for a spot on the "A" team. We will be back at the Blue Crab Bowl in 2012 with a motivated team. But so will Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Maury, Grafton, Amelia County, St. Christopher's and all the rest. And they will be just as motivated, maybe more so.

So, what has been the key to our success at BCB, at least these past few years? No real secret process, actually. Our team is not necessarily made up of the five brightest science students in the school. We do look for bright freshmen, but the team recruits its own players as well.

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Thoughts from a Bowl Coach

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Just as important as a love for science is a love for competition. Our students love to play the game. As in sports, an athlete must be gifted athletically, but a knowledge of the game is just as important. Our kids love competing, the strategy as well as the scientific knowledge. And they practice a lot. They work hard, beginning early in the year, and build as “the season” approaches. We offer an Oceanography elective, but not all the team members take it. We had about 15 students compete through the fall for one of the top 5 spots – a chance to be a member of the “A” team and compete in February. With the “A” team identified when we come back from Christmas break, we practice almost daily through February, with a break for semester exams.

But there is one secret weapon. When it comes to things that jump, grow, fly, swim, make sugars, or simply reproduce, I am at a loss. Our secret weapon is Carol Stapanowich, my colleague in our science department and co-coach of our team. Much of marine science is related to the living world in some way. Even my rocks and vents and waves. Carol helps. She is the really smart one. Having a colleague help to coach an academic team is important. In talking with the most successful teams at NOSB national events, a second coach was the norm.

Of course, among the more subtle benefits of participating is that we are fostering a group of bright young competitive individuals who develop a real sense of stewardship for our planet. Lord knows we need more people who cherish the only Earth we have.

So what is the reward for me? I get to work with motivated, smart, competitive kids. I enjoy that. And I learn a lot.

Bill Dunn is the Science Department Chair at Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School in Virginia Beach where he teaches Earth Science and occasionally Oceanography. Carol Stapanowich teaches AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, Honors Chemistry and next year Honors Biology.

For more information on NOSB and regional competitions go to: www.nosb.org



MAMEA 2011

MAMEA & Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality's Office of Environmental Education will host the
Annual Professional Development Institute

October 7-9, 2011

**College of William & Mary
Williamsburg, VA**

Conference Highlights

Friday, Oct. 7

- ❖ Optional field experiences
- ❖ Welcome reception
- ❖ Invited environmental science speaker

Saturday, Oct. 8

- ❖ Invited marine science speaker
- ❖ Concurrent science education sessions
- ❖ MAMEA business meeting & awards
- ❖ Dinner & auction

Sunday, Oct. 9

- ❖ Optional field experiences

Lodging available for the special conference rate of \$77/night at the Williamsburg Hospitality House (757-229-4020).

Call for papers coming in April. For more conference, information visit www.mamea.org.



State Rep Reports

VIRGINIA

A MAMEA-sponsored event was held in Virginia on April 9, 2011 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). The workshop, entitled "MWEE Capacity Building," was hosted by Sarah McGuire of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Carol Hopper Brill of the VIMS Marine Advisory Program. This one-day professional development and capacity building workshop was designed to prepare teachers for planning and conducting their own Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for students at their schools. Throughout the day, 15 secondary science teachers from Virginia participated in lecture, group discussion, demonstrations, and gear building exercises. Topics covered included field trip objectives, considering environmental factors, site selection, safety and organization, equipment, pre- and post-trip activities, and back up planning. Teachers received selected field gear to use on future MWEEs. As a result of attending this workshop, teachers reported increased confidence in their ability to plan and conduct a MWEE. We expect that participating teachers will be better able to advise colleagues at their school regarding the educational benefits of conducting MWEEs, the planning and preparation required to provide a successful experience, and they will have the field equipment to use. We hope many of these teachers will share their experiences with MWEEs at the MAMEA annual conference this fall. This workshop was funded by a Virginia Resource-Use Education Council (VRUEC) partner grant.

DELAWARE

This year's Coast Day at the University of Delaware in Lewes will be held Sunday, October 2. Those interested in attending should plan for a fantastic day of fun and education! If you want to exhibit at the event, registration is \$40 and includes free parking. Coast Day exhibitor space is limited and is reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. **Registration will be open from June 15, 2011 through July 15, 2011**, and you will have the option to register online at a secure website with your choice of three payment options: credit card; online check; or register online and mail your payment. This year, they have added a new category for Sustainability/Green Living Vendors. This area will be limited to 10 participants, and will be open to any commercial vendor whose products promote environmental sustainability and green living. Registration fees for this area will be \$150.00 and spaces will be assigned upon receipt of payment. Contact Michelle Scorziello at mksorzi@udel.edu or [302-645-4346](tel:302-645-4346) for more information.

DELAWARE / DC

Save the date! On Saturday, September 24, 2011, the DE and DC representatives will host a MAMEA mini-conference in our nation's capital. The field trip is open to current members and those interested in joining MAMEA. Delaware educators will be transported to DC, where they will meet other local educators at the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Following the trip through the Ocean Hall, there will be a reception with light refreshments, a speaker discussing sea turtles, lesson plan exchange, and happy hour at the National Aquarium in DC. Additional details, including cost, will be broadcast on the MAMEA listserv and Facebook page, but if you are interested, please contact Tami Lunsford, Delaware representative, at tami.lunsford@gmail.com.

If you live or work in the DC metro area, you could be considered part of the DC MAMEA membership, so please plan on joining us for this day of fun and learning.

DC

The National Aquarium will be conducting a series of summer teacher workshops. August 1 presents Project WET; August 3rd's offering will be Project WILD; and on August 5, Project WILD Aquatic. Registration fee is \$10 per session. The registration application can be found at www.nationalaquarium.org/workshops.html. Space is limited, so register early!

Love sharks? Then you may want to plan a visit to Washington, DC to attend the annual Shark Weekend at the National Aquarium on July 30 and 31. Activities include crafts for the kiddies and talks by the animal husbandry staff. Take a chance on playing our shark myth vs. truth game!