From the Captain’s Quarters

Dear MAMEAns:

As you end another school year or begin another busy summer at your informal education institution, I hope you are happy, healthy, and inspired to continue educating those around you about the world of water. If your summers are anything like mine, before you know it, it will be fall again and the annual MAMEA conference will be right around the corner!

Don’t let summer fun or work keep you from being an active participant and getting the most of your membership. Start thinking ahead now about nominating someone (including yourself) for the formal and informal educator awards. Only those who have been MAMEA members for at least a year are eligible; nominations are due at the end of August and you can find more information on the MAMEA website. We also have $1000 grants available to our members for marine and aquatic education projects! The grant application deadline is September 15. Additionally, the 2010 MAMEA conference will be held in Carolina Beach, North Carolina, on October 1-2. There are conference scholarships available to members only. Stay tuned to the MAMEA website and Facebook page this summer for more information and registration information.

Of course, you don’t have to wait until the fall to see your fellow marine and aquatic educators! Registration is still open for the 2010 NMEA Conference: From the Mountains to the Sea, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, July 18-23. I am thrilled that the Expanding Audience committee, of which I am co-chair, was able to award 17 stipends to expand the diversity of the NMEA membership by including more inland, underrepresented, and international educators in this year’s conference. It is going to be a wonderful week filled with professional development, networking, and fun, so please come if you can. You can find more information about the conference at http://www.nmeaweb.org/gatlinburg2010/.

Unfortunately, our MAMEA mid-year board meeting had to be postponed last month due to unforeseen circumstances, but we will be meeting virtually soon. If any members would like to join us for the teleconference or submit ideas or questions to their state representative or to me, please do so!

Cheers!
Tami Lunsford
MAMEA President

2010 MAMEA Board Nominations
by Carol Hopper Brill

The MAMEA Nominations Chair is pleased to announce the following candidates for the 2010 elections:

- President-Elect: Lisa Ayers Lawrence
- Treasurer: Jackie Takacs
- DC Representative: Bill Simpkins
- DE Representative: open
- VA Representative: Sarah McGuire

MAMEA welcomes the addition of other candidates who can offer expertise to advance our association and objectives of promoting marine and aquatic literacy. For a summary of Board officer duties, see the outlines on the MAMEA website at: www.mamea.org/board.html. Additional nominations must be received on or before June 11, 2010. Nominees must be MAMEA members in good standing (current dues paid) at the time the nomination is received. To nominate someone, please send the following information to Nominations Chair Carol Hopper Brill (chopper@vims.edu):

1. Nominee’s name and contact information
2. Name of the office for which s/he is being nominated
From the Editor

Happy warm season MAMEA! I hope you are enjoying the Spring 2010 Masthead so far. This issue includes a little bit more information on the 2010 MAMEA conference in North Carolina, a lesson plan on seagrasses, and information on two great informal education programs, one permanent and one quite mobile. As classroom teachers are starting to wind down from another school year, us informal education types are gearing up for yet another busy summer full of professional development workshops, NMEA in Tennessee, and of course, some vacation time! For now, please enjoy The Masthead and start making plans for Carolina Beach in October, Ruth and crew are cooking up a great conference. Thanks for reading!

- Chris Petrone

To submit an activity, lesson plan, event, or other feature, please email the piece to petrone@vims.edu.

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 skipjack Elsworth.

The 40-foot skipjack Elsworth, built in 1901, is one of only a few skipjacks on the National Register of Historic Places. Built as a sail-powered workboat, skipjacks were designed to dredge for Chesapeake Bay oysters. The Elsworth dredged commercially from 1901 to 1996, when it was rebuilt by Echo Hill Outdoor School to be used for education programs. The Elsworth and its sister ship, the Annie D., serve as the foundation for several of EHOS’ programs.

Visit the skipjack Elsworth at www.ehos.org.

Photo courtesy of Echo Hill Outdoor School.
Coming soon: MAMEA’s first electronic election!
by Carol Hopper Brill

MAMEA’s Board election will be conducted electronically for the first time this year. We encourage all MAMEA members to exercise their right to vote by completing and returning the electronic ballot they will receive via e-mail on June 18 and voting will close on July 16. New officers for 2010/2011 will be announced at the NMEA Conference in July, and then take office at the MAMEA annual Conference in October 2010.

Questions about the nomination or election procedures? Contact the Nominations Chair, Carol Hopper Brill at chopper@vims.edu.

Planning Projects? 
Then Plan on Applying for a MAMEA Mini-Grant!
by Carol Hopper Brill

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, zoo, science center, government agency staff).

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 one year from the award date in October, through September of the following year.

For further information about the Grant application process, visit the MAMEA website: www.mamea.org/minigrant.html. Questions? Contact Grants Chair Carol Hopper Brill at chopper@vims.edu.

Species Spotlight

Common name: Seaside spurge; seaside sandmat

Scientific name: Chamaesyce polygonifolia (L.) Small

Range: Throughout coastal areas (fresh and salt water) of eastern North America.

Habitat: Open sands of dunes, upper beaches, and overwashes.

Size: Smaller patches typically the size of a dinner plate.

Field identification: This forb/herb (non-woody plant that is not a grass) is an annual plant, so it only grows for one season. Low-lying and branched sometimes with pink stems and purple to maroon leaves. Typically flowers July-October.

Interesting factoid: Contact with sap may cause dermatitis similar to that induced by poison ivy.

Conservation status: Mostly common, but it is listed as Endangered in Illinois and Threatened in Pennsylvania.

Additional Resources
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plants Database
- Sagebud A Directory of Plants
- Michael Terry’s Eastern Shore Plants

Photos by Carol Hopper Brill
*2010 MAMEA Conference Announcement*

**Converging Currents: How sea turtles, hard bottom reefs and oysters play into our Mid-Atlantic region**

Join us at the 2010 MAMEA Conference at the Courtyard by Marriott in Carolina Beach, North Carolina, on October 1-2. The conference will begin Friday evening with a social at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Saturday will include sessions on the latest marine and aquatic research and education; keynote speakers; and a Share-a-Thon (see page 5). As always, the conference will end with fun-filled silent and live auctions and party!

The Courtyard by Marriott, located right on the beach, has given us a special rate of $119 per night for up to four people. To receive this rate, you must book your room before September 15th and ask for the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association rate.

More information on the annual conference, including how to register, will be posted on the MAMEA website soon. **Do you have a great activity or program you want to share?** Keep an eye out for the call for presentations form, which will also be found on the website.

**Conference Scholarships**

Scholarships are available to assist with registration and travel costs. A description and application form are available on the MAMEA website. The submission deadline for the October conference will be available online soon.

**Auctions**

The auction committee is looking for donations for the silent and live auctions! Artwork, crafts, books, unique and fun items, and anything else that comes to mind are all welcome. Contact Dia Hitt at (252) 473-3494 x236 or andrea.hitt@ncaquariums.com if you have something you are willing to donate (or just want to get rid of)!

If you have any questions or would like to help with the conference, please contact Ruth Gourely, MAMEA President-elect, at ruth.gourley@ncaquariums.com.

**We’ll see you at the beach in October! Don’t miss out!**
Share-a-thon & Sand Exchange
by Dawn Sherwood

Do you have an activity that worked well in your class that you want to share? A demonstration that helps students understand ocean principles? Maybe you don’t feel comfortable presenting, but you still want to share it. Consider the Share-a-thon!!

You can have a table to tell people about your activity, show a demonstration, and answer questions. If you just want to leave some extra copies of activities or if you have posters, pamphlets, samples, etc. to give away—the Share-a-thon is the place for you!

And with the Share-a-thon comes the 3rd Annual MAMEA Sand Exchange! Even if you don’t collect sand, please help us out and collect a sandwich bag and bring (or send) it to the 2010 Conference. Be sure to include your name and the location where you collected the sample, e.g. name of the beach, city, state, country, GPS coordinates (if you have them). Just drop your samples off at registration table when you check in and we will set everything up at the Share-a-thon.

Don’t go on vacation this summer without a Ziploc!

If you go somewhere exotic and can’t bring a large bag of sand back with you, please consider bringing a small Ziploc bag with the information above attached so that we can divide it and make a sample or two for the silent auction. I will be including sand from Australia and Fiji in this year’s auction, so be on the lookout for it!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at desherwood@henrico.k12.va.us. Have a great summer and collect lots of sand!

NMEA Update
by David Christopher

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the NMEA Share-a-Thon during the NSTA Conference in Philadelphia. MAMEA will be hosting a Share-A-Thon at the NSTA Regional Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on Friday, November 12, at 11:00 am. This is a great way for your organization to connect with teachers and provided them with information and activities. If you would like your organization to be a part of the Share-A-Thon please contact me at dchristopher@aqua.org.

Summer is quickly approaching, which means it’s almost time for the NMEA Annual Conference. This year’s conference will be held on July 18-21 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. For more information on the conference, please visit the conference website at http://www.nmeaweb.org/gatlinburg2010/.

MAMEA Educator Awards
by Allison Besch

It’s never too early to start thinking about MAMEA awards. 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 museums or aquariums, or employees with government agencies. Submissions for the 2010 award submissions are due by August 31, 2010. 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.

MAMEA TechCorner
by Chris Petrone

Obviously all of us are overly familiar with two-way calling, perhaps some of us have even tried that handy feature on our cell phones where we can add in a third person for a conference call. But how many MAMEAns have used two-way videoconferencing, where not only can you hear each other over an internet connection, but also see each other in real time. It’s just like we use to see on The Jetsons? There are more and more services coming online everyday which can help bring us closer to family, friends and colleagues, but the most popular free videoconference software, by far, is Skype. Skype was developed back in 2002 and has come a long way since its inception. In 2009, Skype-to-Skype users logged 399.7 billion minutes of calling time; and while Skype does charge for calls made to landlines and cell phones (known as SkypeOut; ~12 billion minutes in 2009), callers can videochat with other users for FREE! Most computers in use today can handle the graphics and network connectivity needed to videoconference, so all most people have to purchase is a webcam and a headset/microphone, and many webcams now come with an integrated mic, so the cost is even lower. Have a group of friends or colleagues that you want to videoconference with all at the same time? For a limited time, Skype is beta-testing 5-way videoconferencing at no cost! So “put on your face” and give someone a video-call today!
Seagrass Classroom Activity
by Megan Ennes, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Seagrasses are the only underwater flowering plants that are adapted to live in saltwater. Worldwide, there are approximately 50 species of seagrasses with 7 species found in the United States. Seagrasses are found in both temperate and tropical regions, but have greater diversity in the tropics. They are best adapted to shallow waters, but can be found at depths up to 60 m deep. Seagrasses are light limited and can grow only in waters that allow enough light for their cells to photosynthesize. Light is only one abiotic factor that affects seagrass beds.

The most important abiotic factor affecting seagrass beds is water movement, such as waves and currents. Seagrasses can be found in both sheltered and open areas. Seagrass beds can actually slow down wave energy especially when blades grow closer to the surface. Slowing the water allows fine sediments to settle out. This in turn increases the nutrient supply in the seagrass beds and can also raise the beds closer to the surface. Seagrass beds thus protect their neighboring beaches from storm surges.

Seagrasses form beds which can vary widely in size, density or patchiness. Typically, the beds are made up of just one or two dominant species of seagrass. Beds are very conspicuous as they are often surrounded by un-vegetated areas. Seagrass beds can be found in any substrate in shallow temperate or tropical seas, but grow best in soft substrates such as sand.

These plants have roots and horizontal rhizomes that grow within the substrate. Softer sediments allow seagrass roots to penetrate more easily stabilizing both the plants and the substrate. These roots form tight nets that can trap sediments. The rhizomes can reproduce asexually and each one can produce several sets of blades along its length.

Most seagrass blades are long and thin, but all are flexible which keeps the leaves from being broken by wave action. Several seagrass species store air in their blades which allows them to float towards the surface, an advantage as they photosynthesize. Seagrass blades are also an important substrate for many epibionts, or organisms that live on other organisms. Too many epibionts can actually reduce the productivity of the seagrass by limiting the rate of photosynthesis.

Seagrass beds are among the most productive ecosystems in the ocean. This is attributable to the tight nutrient cycling within the system. Because seagrasses have roots they are able to recycle nutrients that might otherwise get trapped in the substrate. Very few organisms consume seagrasses directly, so the majority of seagrasses enter the food web through the detrital path.

Another important role of seagrass is as a nursery and shelter area. Seagrass beds provide a vital refuge for small fishes and many other species when they are young, so that they can grow large enough to survive on the reef or in the open ocean. Organisms also live within the substrate surrounding the seagrass roots.

Seagrass beds represent a very important yet sensitive ecosystem. Seagrasses can be affected by natural pathogens, causing diseases such as “wasting disease.” They can also be severely be impacted by human actions. One major problem is eutrophication in shallow water. The increased turbidity prevents the grasses from receiving enough light to photosynthesize. Another major problem is results from boats. When a boat is navigated through shallow seagrass beds, boat propellers can dig up the roots. These prop scars can take many years to recover. The disappearance of seagrass beds can have severe impacts on the nearby shorelines. (Nybakken, 2001, pp. 210-218)

Objective:
By the end of this lesson students will understand the importance of seagrass beds and how they cause sediments to settle out of the water column.
Seagrass... (continued)

National Science Education Standards:
Life Science Content Standard C

Ocean Literacy Principles:
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems

Materials:
• Trays
• Clay
• Convection fluid
• Precut Astroturf doormat
• Hand held battery powered fans or bendy straws
• Metal or plastic confetti (not paper)
• Worksheet

Activity:
1. Break the students into groups.
2. Give each group a worksheet, a tray, clay, a piece of Astroturf, and a fan or a straw.
3. Have the students use the clay to create a beach landform up to one of the short sides of the tray.
4. Pour convection fluid into the tray.
5. Tell the students to pour a small amount of confetti into the water to represent sediment.
6. Have the students predict what will happen if they were to blow on the water.
7. Have the students blow on the surface of the water from the opposite end of the beach. If using straws have the students bend the straw and blow from the long end so the shorter piece is parallel to the surface of the water.
8. Instruct the students to write out their observations.
9. Now have the students place the Astroturf in the middle of the tray. This will represent a sea grass bed.
10. Make sure that the convection fluid covers the Astroturf by about .5 cm.
11. Tell the students to create a hypothesis of what will happen to the water once the wind begins to blow.
12. Have the students blow on the surface of the water from the opposite end of the beach. If using straws have the students bend the straw and blow from the long end so the shorter piece is parallel to the surface of the water.
13. Instruct the students to write out their observations.
14. Have the students hypothesize what would happen during a big storm, dredging activities, or other factors such as diseases.
15. Instruct the students to use multiple straws or fans to increase the force of the “wind”. Make sure they know not to blow the water out of the pan.
16. Have the students write out their observations and complete the rest of the worksheet.

Works Cited:

For more information on this activity, or to obtain the activity worksheet, please contact Megan Ennis at UNCW. Megan has additional lesson plans, which can be found at http://student.uncw.edu/mee5304/.
**New Shark Exhibit at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island**

by C.P. “Buster” Nunemaker, III

_Sharks!, a new exhibit at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island opened to visitors on Saturday, May 29, 2010. Early visitors were treated to breakfast bites and FotoFX provided a souvenir photo at a reduced price._

Staff at the Aquarium have been working hard to pull all of the components together to make this exhibit as “sharky” as possible! This exhibit will be a real crowd pleaser, it doubles the number of large sharks in the 285,000-gallon Graveyard of the Atlantic exhibit and transforms a changing exhibit area into a new 10,000-gallon exhibit featuring smaller sharks. The Shark Exhibit will have many interactive components and provide educational opportunities for children, young and old. Visitors will capture the excitement of being surrounded by these mysterious creatures in a simulated shark cage that also provides a unique photo opportunity.

Our newly renovated Close Encounter exhibit, will give visitors a chance to touch some “sharky ray cousins,” plus a new addition to the exhibit, bamboo sharks!

To enhance every visitor’s educational experience, a new character, “Dr. Finnegans” will appear on graphics displays throughout the aquarium. Finnegans, the “leading expert on fin facts,” will dispel shark myths with facts about these creatures that pre-date the dinosaurs!

The Aquarium is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Ages 13-61: $8, Ages 62+: $7, Ages 3-12: $6, No charge for children 2 and under, registered N.C. school groups and N.C. Aquarium Society Members.

The North Carolina Aquarium is located at 374 Airport Road, just north of Manteo. Call 252-473-3494 or visit [www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com). Find us on Facebook: NC Aquariums on Roanoke Island.

_Inhabitants of the new shark exhibit at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island. Photos courtesy of NC Aquariums._
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center
by Steve Bailey and Kelley Cox

There’s an odd vehicle traveling the roads of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. It stops at schools, special events and even private homes. Its passengers are horseshoe crabs, terrapins, oysters, eels and other fish, all living in Chesapeake Bay. It’s called the Fishmobile.

“This is a way for us to visit schools and take our environmental programs to people who, for one reason or another, can’t visit us,” said Kelley Cox, executive director of Phillips Wharf Environmental Center on Tilghman Island. “In the current economy, many schools have cut back sharply on field trips, so the kids may not make it to our center on Tilghman, let alone to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. With the Fishmobile, they get to see firsthand the animals that live in the bay that we’re trying to protect.” Phillips Wharf also makes the Fishmobile and its educational programs available for unique birthday parties and other private events.

The Fishmobile, a converted bookmobile that was repainted by Talbot County school children, contains aquariums, touch tanks and other displays. A large tank of water drawn from Knapps Narrows keeps the animals swimming. Phillips Wharf Environmental Center is based in the last remaining crab shack on Knapps Narrows, the water that separates Tilghman Island from the Bay Hundred Peninsula.

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center is an all-volunteer organization focused on educating children and adults about Bay stewardship, best fishery practices and other environmental issues. Its exhibits of living crabs, oysters, horseshoe crabs, diamondback terrapins and various fish can be seen Thursday to Monday, 10am to 4pm, at 21604 Chicken Point Road, Tilghman, MD. Visit www.pwec.org for more information, or call (410) 886-9200 to inquire about a Fishmobile visit.
The North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort

The new exhibit, “Science by the Sea,” highlights the achievements of our local marine science research community. Visitors will discover the fields of oceanography, marine mammal biology, marine fisheries, and ecology, and get to know the individuals that make the labs successful. The exhibit features local landmarks dedicated to marine research and a glimpse into a working laboratory. (April 10 – November 14).

Beat the summer heat with Discovery Time, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, June 15 - August 12 at 3 p.m. These fun and family friendly programs engage visitors on topics of maritime history, culture, and the natural environment of coastal North Carolina. Repeat visitors are encouraged, because topics change daily. A schedule will be posted at www.ncmaritimemuseum.org and at the Museum.

The Junior Sailing Program uses the fun of sailing to teach seamanship, navigation, boating safety, and sailing techniques for beginning to advanced sailors. Classes include two-week sessions, one-week sessions, and Regatta week. Summer Science School for Children investigates the coastal environment and NC maritime history. Class topics include pirates, boat models, seashore life, nature photography, fishing, and nautical archaeology. Contact the museum for brochures and applications. (June – August)

Learn how to sail as a family aboard traditional sailing skiffs. Family Sailing Lessons are by reservation only, and prices vary by number of people and number of hours on the water. Instruction for groups of 2-6 people, for 2-6 hours. Cost varies. Call 252-728-2762 for details and reservations.

To make program reservations, or to find out more about educational programs offered at the Maritime Museum, please visit www.ncmaritimemuseum.org or call 252-728-7317.

North Carolina Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve

Summer Public Field Trips on the Rachel Carson Reserve - Tuesdays and Thursdays, June-August, 8:30-10:30am Pivers Island, Beaufort, NC

The Reserve offers three types of field trips: 1) Nature hikes occur during low tides, when the greatest amount of land is exposed on the island. Be prepared to get your shoes wet and muddy. 2) Boardwalk trips occur at high tide, when the water is high enough in the estuary for our 24’ skiff to easily navigate around the island to our boardwalk located on Carrot Island. 3) Circumnavigation cruises on our 24’ skiff around the Reserve allows visitors a chance to view Middle Marsh after a brief stop at the boardwalk. All programs are free, donations are welcome, and open to the public but reservations are required as boat space is limited. www.nccoastalreserve.net/Education/Summer-Public-Field-Trips/133.aspx

For the full NCCR/NERR workshop and activity calendar, please visit www.nccoastalreserve.net/Resources/Calendar/75.aspx.

North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

We are taking our conservation message to new heights. The daily program, “Winging it — Birds in Flight,” takes off this summer. Pelicans, hawks, owls, falcons and other raptors and water birds native to North Carolina soar overhead in Big Rock Theater, responding to cues from Aquarium Educators. The program offers visitors the rare chance to see birds on the wing at close range.

The featured bird species are found in various parts of the state, and most travel long distances according to the seasons. Showcasing migratory birds emphasizes the connections among wide-ranging habitats – and the necessity for comprehensive conservation. Some of the birds in the program have permanent injuries that prevent their release back into the wild. Others were bred in captivity or were obtained from other zoos and aquariums.

The 45-minute bird program begins at 11:30am daily. Tickets are $4 per person in addition to Aquarium admission and can be purchased at Admissions the day of the show. Birds also join a new free daily program that begins in June. Visitors can meet feathered friends or other creatures during Animal Encounters at 11:30am and 3:30pm.
Exciting Workshops for Teachers this Summer in Washington, DC!

The National Aquarium in Washington, DC has just announced their summer workshop series. Space is limited, so register early!

Project WET – August 2, 2010
Project Wild – August 4, 2010
Project Wild Aquatic – August 6, 2010

Registration cost is $10 per session. Each workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch.

All participants will receive a copy of the nationally acclaimed curriculum guide that accompanies each day’s topic, plus a certificate of attendance and completion.

For more information and to register, please contact Bill Simpkins at 202-482-0852 or bsimpkins@aqua.org.

 Interested in COSIA?

Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences (COSIA) is an informal science education course that was developed by educators at Lawrence Hall of Science with NSF funding. The COSIA course provides undergraduate and graduate students with the skills and experience to more effectively engage general audiences with ocean science topics. During the semester, students discuss learning theory and how it applies to informal settings, explore instructional strategies geared toward informal environments, and design their own activities for use at an aquarium or science center.

The Virginia Aquarium and Hampton University have been offering the course to HU students since 2006 and will be taking on a new role in the project - recruiting universities and informal science centers interested in joining the partnership and offering the course. If you want to learn more about the COSIA course and how to implement it at your facility, please join us for an informational open house at the Virginia Aquarium in Fall 2010. Staff from interested universities and informal science institutions should contact Karen Burns at 757-385-0272 or kpburns@VirginiaAquarium.com for additional information.

VRUEC Environmental Education Award – Seeking Nominees

The Virginia Resource-Use Education Council is looking for nominees for their annual Environmental Education Award. This award recognizes an outstanding Virginian who has made major contributions to promoting public knowledge and understanding of natural resources in the Commonwealth. This award is given to a person who has demonstrated state and/or regional leadership in fostering working relationships and programs that benefit the educators and students of Virginia. Nominee must be a resident of Virginia. You can request a nomination form from VRUEC Award Committee Chair, Suzie Gilley. Nominations are due by July 1, 2010.

Beach Science: It's a Shore Thing! - Opens June 19, 2010 - Track Level Atrium

Neptune points the way to the Science Museum of Virginia’s newest summer exhibition! When people refer to “the beach,” they are usually describing a sandy destination. You probably have a favorite beach activity, swimming, reading, building sandcastles, playing volley ball. But beaches are so much more than just sunny spots for relaxation and play. They are dynamic ecosystems linking land, ocean and air. Experiment with a wave machine to see how waves are formed and how they affect sand and shore. Discover the ocean’s creatures in our newly installed sand dune. Get ready to dig for treasure in our outdoor sand boxes.

Stroll along the boardwalk and learn facts about the beach. Giggle at the revealing history of swimsuits—we bet you thought the bikini was invented by Gidget in 1959—and uncover new activities for the entire family to enjoy at the beach. Have the ULTIMATE SUMMER, check out The Ultimate Wave Tahiti and Deep Sea in the IMAX-DOME.

http://www.smv.org/visitingexhibits.html