

2021 NYSMEA Awards

Founder's Award

Presented to one of the original founders of the New York State Marine Education Association who has made a life-long commitment to advancing (in)formal marine science education.

2021 winner: Alan Ascher



Alan has served in many roles over the years. For several years he was the chairperson of our student conference. He is a leader in in-service and preservice teacher education on a state and local level as an Instructor of Elementary and Secondary Science Methods and Discovery Learning and Integrated Curricula and Supervisor of Student Teaching Teacher Academy.

Past winners: Richard McIntyre, Karen Hensel, Lou Siegel, Al Siegel, Bob Abrams, and Mickey Maxwell Cohen, Rick Raymond, Tony DiLernia, and Joe Varon

Matthew Fontaine Maury Award

Presented to a member or non-member who has made a major contribution to any field related to marine endeavors, either in the sciences, education, and research, and social or artistic ventures.

2021 winner: Lane Rosen



I am very proud to accept the Matthew Fontaine Maury Award. With the help of my colleagues, I have been able to carry on the NYSMEA mission over the past seven years. There have been many coastal cleanups, meetings, holiday parties, conferences and field trips to which I proudly contributed. I am humbled by this award and hope to participate in many future events.

Past winners: Ross Nigrelli, Frank Braynard, Steve Schneider, Anita Freudenthal, James Goetz, Jerry Schubel, Barbara Dexter, Steven Engelbright, Robert D. Abrams, Ellie Fries, Lou Siegel, John Loret, Don Riepe, Alan Ascher, Sidney Horenstein, Al Siegel, Joseph Yaiullo, Barbara Cohen, Artie Kopelman, Tom Lake, Murray Fisher, Captain Frank DeSantis, Captain Tom Paladino, Michael Farina, Artie Raslich, Paul Sieswerda and Councilman Mark Treyger

Herman Melville Literary Award

Presented to a member or non-member who has made a major contribution to the world of maritime literature and/or art.

2021 winner: Gowanus Dredgers



The Covid19 crisis led to the closures of many local businesses across the city but New Yorkers of the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club stepped up to support their neighbors in business. These change makers responded as

COVID19 impacted New York last year in the same way mariners change course at a moment's notice of turbulent wind or bad weather. Throughout the summer of 2020, the organization's maverick boating volunteers conducted an amazing variety of culturally diverse and spirited activities along the waterfront. From organizing a dance performance above a platform of floating canoes, to an evening of brass band performance in canoes, to a boat the vote event, encouraging early voting with an opera singer and french quartet performance on canoes, viewed with social distance from the shoreline. Week after week the organization brightened spirits with free canoeing, educational programs and health and wellness activities focused on skill building of paddlesport in New York City.

Past winners: Maxwell C. Wheat, Richard McDermott, Eugene Kaplan, John Christophe Fine, Matthew Lerman, Katherine A. Kirkpatrick, Carl Safina, Meryll Kafka, Sarah Gruber, Arlene De Strulle, David Helvarg, Alexandra Mancuso, Brianina Lind, Ann McGovern, Richard Ellis, Charles Denson, Stephen Yaeger, Jan Porinchak, Chris Paparo and Beth J.P. Ritter

Kinghan Service Award

Presented to a member with at least three years of outstanding participation in the Association and who has contributed to the needs of the organization.

2021 winner: Leann Winn



Leann returned home 4 years ago and since, has played an integral role by representing our chapter at all National Marine Educators Association meetings and conferences. At Trevor Day School, Leann holds an Upper School Faculty position after instituting the Marine Science curriculum. Since the inception of Sharks4kids, Leann has developed curriculum and works to create new ocean advocates. In partnership with local organizations such as the

Wildlife Conservation Society and The South Fork Natural History Museum, Leann has been part of the research team studying sharks off our coast. As a member of the Teacher Advisory Council for the New York Aquarium, Leann serves to develop and assess their educational programming. During these trying times, Leann has proven to be our online lifeline keeping our organization going through virtual activities. It is appropriate that we present this award to Leann, as they share so many of Gene's beliefs.

***Past winners:** Gene Kinghan, Al Siegel, Lou Siegel, Walter Smith, Robert Jaeger, Karen Hensel, Alan Ascher, Merryl Kafka, Maryanne Cicchillo, Marilyn Hoffina, Elaine Dolgins Weiss, Addie Quinn, Eileen Evans, Joseph M. Varon, Eleanor Fries, Barbara Cohen, Mickey Cohen, Lorna D. Monterose, Nancy Maia, John Evans, Margaret Wilson, Michael Sandlofer, Susan Chiesa, Joel Teret, Doreen Bader, Dennis Bader, John Loret, Ben Kwaitkowski, George Linzee, Anthony DiLernia, Leticia Paler, Linda Kallinrude, Bunny Nadelman, Martin Kutikoff, Eileen Kutikoff, Kimberly Zimmer, Hugo Freudenthal, James Browne, Thomas F. Greene, Sarah Richards, Lisa Breslof, Gail David, Blanca Ching, Eileen Dugan, Karla Ferraro, Pamela Lynch, Ed Wilensky, Anne Bicker, Maritza Macdonald, Keira Lam, Meghan Marrero, Doreen Williamson, Kevin Williamson, Robert Cummings, Bernie Wides, Richard McIntyre, Maggie Flanagan, Larissa Graham, David Stolarz Dr. John Tanacredi, Ted Enoch, Lane Rosen, Dale Stanley, Louis Kleinman, Mike Danza, and Adam Riback*

Gene Ritter Aquatic Education Award

Presented to someone who has used diving as a means to further education.

2021 winner: Lenny Speregen



I went to John Dewey HS where I tried the patience of Lou Siegel in the Marine Biology program and met Gene and Beth Ritter. I have been diving for over 46 years, of which 42 as a professional diver in the recreational, commercial, safety, and movie industries. I had the honor of working with Gene and Beth Ritter in a program we created called "Classroom on the Pier" for several years. We took our commercial diving equipment and taught the public about the marine environment with a live view from the bottom. I have been teaching the Professional Diving CTE at The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School for the past 6 years.

***Past winner:** Bernie Chowdhury*

Freudenthal Research Award

Presented to a member or non-member who has made a significant contribution to furthering our knowledge of the marine environment.

2021 winner: Artie Kopelman



Dr. Artie Kopelman, is one of the co-founders of the Coastal Research and Educational Society of Long Island (CRESLI; <https://cresli.org>) and is its president, senior-scientist, and web-master. Dr. Kopelman is also a director of Save the Great South Bay (<https://savethegreatsouthbay.org>). He is a population ecologist whose research interests, since 1987 include the study of finback, humpback, and other and dolphins, whales of New York and New England; and since 1995, the population dynamics of pinnipeds of NY. Through the use of photo-identification, Dr. Kopelman has been examining the site fidelity of harbor seals at Cupsogue Beach Park in Westhampton Beach, NY, since 2006. He received his PhD in Biology in 1982 from The Graduate School and University Center of CUNY. Dr. Kopelman was a Full Professor of

Science in the Department of Science and Mathematics, Fashion Institute of Technology of the State University of NY and retired in July 2020. He is now a Professor Emeritus (the 9th individual to receive this honor in FIT's 75 years). In May 2010, Dr. Kopelman was appointed a Distinguished Service Professor by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. Distinguished Professorship is the highest honor conferred upon instructional faculty in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Dr. Kopelman is now a SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Dr. Kopelman is also an Adjunct Lecturer in Marine Mammals at SUNY Stony Brook, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.