

Sea Grant Association 2020 Awards Ceremony Summary

October 15, 2020

On behalf of the Sea Grant Association (SGA), I want to again thank all of the people and the award recipients who were able to join us last week for the 2020 Sea Grant Awards. We also thought for those of you who could not make the event 'live,' you might want a quick recap of the party and to know whom was feted.

We celebrated our network stars and Sea Grant's 54th Birthday on October 15th, 2020, in the first-ever virtual Sea Grant Awards event. Five awards were presented, three from the networks and two from the Sea Grant Association. The National Sea Grant Office also announced two "Silver Sherman" awards for excellence in leadership to Rebecca Briggs and Susan Holmes of the National Sea Grant Office.

The Research to Application Award

The Research to Application Award was introduced and presented by Tomas Höök, director IL-IN Sea Grant and SGA liaison to the Research Coordinators Network. The RtoA Award honors an individual research project or a body of research funded or implemented by a state Sea Grant program that has increased citizens' understanding and responsible use of the nation's ocean, coastal or Great Lakes resources, or has supported the informed personal, policy and management decisions of communities, or has led to the development of new products or tools with positive impacts related to a vibrant and resilient coastal economy or environment.



This year's winner of the RtoA award was **Woods Hole Sea Grant** for the excellent applied research project: *A Watershed-Scale Analysis of Nitrogen Loading from Cranberry Agriculture in the Wewantic Watershed of Southeastern Massachusetts* submitted by Jennie Rheuban, Woods Hole Sea Grant. The award was accepted by the PI on the project, Christopher Neill of the Woods Hole Research Center and Woodwell Climate Research Center, on behalf of a broad team of contributors including Rachel Jakuba, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and Casey Kennedy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service and University of Massachusetts Cranberry Station.

The Superior Outreach Programming Award

The Superior Outreach Programming Award was introduced and presented by Bryan Fluech, GASG and member-at-large of the Sea Grant Extension Assembly. The SOPA honors superior leadership, teamwork, and accomplishment by Sea Grant extension personnel engaged in an exceptional outreach program. The award went to **Maine Sea Grant** for outstanding work on their *Aquaculture in Shared Waters* program, which started in 2013 and is designed to engage fishermen in aquaculture to diversify their opportunities in the seafood economy. The award was accepted by Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant, on behalf of the whole MESH team, Chris Bartlett, Sebastian Belle, Nick Branchina, Caitlin Cleaver, Hugh Cowperthwaite, Chris Davis, Teresa Johnson, Anne Langston, Jaclyn Robidoux, and Natalie Springuel.



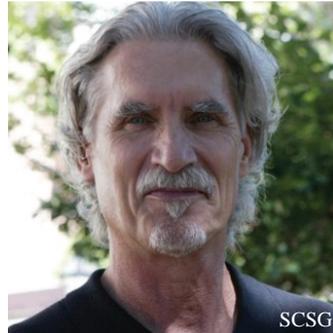
The Excellence in Communication Award



The Excellence in Communication Award, was introduced and presented by Meredith Haas, RISG and chair of the Sea Grant Communicators network. This award recognizes exceptional communication product or project from the Sea Grant Communication Network. Awarded projects reflect a high level of creativity and audience awareness that further supports Sea Grant's programmatic mission. The award went to **Virginia Sea Grant** for their innovative ArcGIS stormmap in support of the *Blue Line Project* designed to increase public awareness of sea level rise in some of the East Coast's most vulnerable neighborhoods. The award was accepted by Jay Clark, Virginia Sea Grant on behalf of the whole VASG team including Aileen Devlin and Madeleine Jepsen.

Sea Grant Association Director Retirements

SGA acknowledge the retirement of two directors: Rick Devoe, South Carolina Sea Grant and Dennis Nixon, Rhode Island Sea Grant. They were presented by Fredrika Moser, MDSG and SGA President. The directors received beautiful 'fish mugs' designed by ceramic artist and former MNSG Communicator Sharon Moen.



The Sea Grant Association President's Award

The SGA President's Award is given by the President of the SGA to individuals or groups who provide special service to the SGA and the Sea Grant network. The winner this year was the **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Visioning Team** for their fearless pursuit of placing Sea Grant in a leadership position on advancing the ideas that a diverse, equal, inclusive and just Sea Grant network is a stronger and more effective research, education and outreach program. The award was accepted by three representatives of the SG DEI committee Mona Behl, Georgia Sea Grant, Jane Harrison, North Carolina Sea Grant, and Sarah Kolesar, Oregon Sea Grant. The awardees received ceramic bowls specifically designed for them by Sharon Moen.



The Sea Grant Association Distinguished Service Award

The Sea Grant Association Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals with at least five years of service to Sea Grant who have provided truly superior service benefiting the entire Sea Grant College Program Network; serving the mission of research, education and outreach; and enhancing the reputation of the Sea Grant network. The award went to **Rick Devoe, Director, South Carolina Sea Grant**, noting his unstoppable devotion, support and promotion of Sea Grant. Rick demanded SGA think critically about our policies and never lose sight of the importance of our ‘honest broker’ mantra and our integrated mission of research, education and outreach. All organizations need a ‘conscience’ and Rick has been that for SGA and the organization has been strengthened by this. Rick’s many contributions have made SGA a better organization. The awardee received a porcelain bowl specifically designed for him by Sharon Moen.



The program wrapped up with remarks from the incoming SGA president, Susan White of North Carolina Sea Grant.