

## DEMA's 2019 Wave Makers Award Goes To Amy Lee

By **John Liang** - November 18, 2019

**Amy Lee**, the trips program and communications manager at the **Reef Environmental Education Foundation**, was bestowed **DEMA's 2019 Wave Makers Award** this past weekend at **DEMA Show 2019**.

**Wave Makers** are employees or owners of **DEMA**-Member businesses who have been involved as a professional in the diving industry for 60 months or less and who should be recognized for their contributions to the industry, a dive business and **DEMA**.

**Lee** was one of four finalists for the award. She attended the **University of South Carolina** where she earned two degrees, a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science. She came to **REEF** as a Marine Conservation Intern in the fall of 2014, and joined the staff in April 2015.

Before moving to Key Largo, **Lee** worked in the communications department at the South Carolina Bar, served as Student Public Relations Coordinator for the University of South Carolina's Marine Science Program and studied coral reef ecology as a research assistant in Indonesia.

Managing **REEF's** Field Survey Trips Program has allowed **Lee** to merge her passions for diving, communication, science and travel. She organizes, plans and promotes trips to dive destinations throughout **REEF's** nine survey regions and strives to implement effective communications into all aspects of **REEF's** programs. She frequently writes or edits content for **REEF's** online and print platforms, and in her spare time is a contributing writer for the **Divers Alert Network's "Alert Diver"** magazine. **Lee** has surveyed throughout the Tropical Western Atlantic and Indo-Pacific, as well as the eastern Pacific, New England, and US west coast.

The **Wave Makers Award** was first introduced in 2017 and aims to recognize professionals who have been working in the industry for five years or less and have made a significant contribution to the industry during that time. The **Wave Makers Award** encourages the Industry to support a culture that fosters innovative thinking and encourages engagement with the association and industry by new professionals.

Check out **Lee's** nomination video below.





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### John Liang

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John Liang is the News Editor at DeeperBlue.com. He first got the diving bug while in High School in Cairo, Egypt, where he earned his PADI Open Water Diver certification in the Red Sea off the Sinai Peninsula. Since then, John has dived in a volcanic lake in Guatemala, among white-tipped sharks off the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, and other places including a pool in Las Vegas helping to break the world record for the largest underwater press conference.



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