

SEEA Newsletter: 2020



SEEA 2020 Conference

South Carolina is happy to announce the SEEA 2020 Virtual Conference. The new theme: ZOOM into Environmental Education (Virtual Edition)

The Research Symposium will be held on Thursday, September 24th from 1:00-6:00. General Sessions will be held on Friday, September 25th from 9:00-1:10.



SEEA Updates

SEEA Landscape Analysis Kickoff Call July 20 - State Coordinators have been chosen and will be providing updates. We are looking forward to learning more about the landscape analysis of EE across the southeast!

What will this project accomplish?

SEEA will be conducting a landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in the southeast. This analysis will take a comprehensive look at what environmental education is already happening on the ground. It will identify gaps and barriers to access that prevent successful implementation in some areas, and provide recommendations and next steps for increasing environmental literacy efforts in the southeast based on an inventory of model programs and initiatives happening nationwide.

This analysis and the tailored state recommendations provided will equip the organizations conducting environmental and conservation-related work in the southeast with the materials they need to address gaps, allocate resources more effectively, and ultimately meet the goal of increasing environmental literacy levels and stewardship behaviors. This analysis will help to guide future strategic planning efforts in individual states as well as the regional SEEA collaborative going forward. It will be a tool we can use to ensure we are focusing our limited time and resources in areas where we will have the biggest impact. Data collection and analysis will be led by the Project Analyst, but it will be directed and advised by a leadership team comprised of one State Coordinator from each partner state and a few other key leaders.

Upon receipt of funding, a subgrant of \$7500 will be provided for each state environmental education association who serve as partners on this project to designate a State Coordinator from May 2020 to June 2021. It is expected that your organization might keep 10-15% of these funds and use the remainder to cover staff time or hire a contractor to serve as the State Coordinator. The State Coordinator's roles will be to serve as SEEA's liaison with state-level partners and to ensure that the data collected and recommendations provided will meet their state-level needs. The State Coordinator will assist the Project Analyst in determining what baseline data already exists in some form in that state, compiling the existing data, and identifying what additional data will need to be collected. They will also assist the state in sharing the results of this study and guiding the implementation of recommendations. We have a long history of working together as a region and these State Coordinators, with their direct experience and knowledge in that state, will be critical to ensuring their state's unique assets and needs are properly articulated and addressed throughout this process.



Southeasterly Winds:

Georgia:

Dues Structure Changed as Part of Covid Response

In light of financial difficulties experienced by many EEA members, a new dues structure has been introduced for a trial period. New or renewing members may choose to make recurring monthly payments; pause their dues for a year; or contribute toward dues-scholarships for members who pay nothing. Many non-formal environmental educators have lost jobs and K-12 educators are scrambling to revamp courses for school reopening or distance learning. It is hoped that putting EEA membership in reach of everyone will provide needed support to ee providers and increase their capacity through professional learning resources and webinars.

New Board Members Welcomed

EEA welcomed seven extraordinary new board members this month, ranging from the dean of education at one of Georgia's flagship universities and the education director of a grassroots environmental justice organization to the president of a watershed protection group, a school sustainability coordinator, a conservation district representative, the STEM Coordinator for a school district, and the energy program coordinator for a regional utility. Reflecting EEA's commitment to center equity in its work, board composition changed from 5% to 38% people of color, and the executive committee from 0% – 40%.

Pollinator Workshop Planned for Fall

Hope springs eternal. EEA's Monarchs Across Georgia (MAG) program is thinking positively while awaiting word from the State Botanical Garden about whether the fall Pollinator Symposium can take place in person. If not, MAG has prepared to pivot to an online format.

Book Club

EEA launched a new book club with Angleou Ezeilo's Engage, Connect, Protect: Empowering Diverse Youth as Environmental Leaders. The author will participate in a discussion with EEA members via Zoom.

North Carolina:

EENC is making plans to take our annual conference virtual. Our 29th annual conference will be two half-days on September 18 and 19, 2020.

EENC also released a North Carolina version of the eeGuidance from NAAEE. As part of that, we offered our community the opportunity to sign on as supporters of this document. See the whole list at www.eenc.org/eeGuidance

We are also holding free weekly webinars and community discussions on a variety of topics relevant to our EE community. Coming up: July 22 - Graphic Design, July 24 - Group Management, July 28 - Rainwater Harvesting, July 31 - Rethinking Revenue, August 5 - Organizing, August 13 - Leave No Trace, August 21 - African American Outdoor Experiences. Register and learn more at www.eenc.org/events

Florida:

Here in Florida, where the COVID-19 virus is going crazy high, we are continuing to engage our members in a number of ways!

We reached out to our members with a mini-grant offer and have just awarded two really nice grants for \$700+. Since we received the NAAEE Capacity Building Fund grant, we also offered our runners-up the option to reword their grant application for a lesser amount and resubmit.

We are beginning our first virtual LEEF Book Club discussion on July 14 with the book, Lab Girl. The first ten to register received a free download of a Kindle version of the book.

We are also soliciting presenters to offer a virtual professional development program to our members via Zoom. We will see what responses we receive but we are not restricting this opportunity to LEEF members and we are encouraging a variety of program lengths to appeal to those with little time to participate and to those who would like to study a topic in more depth.

And, like most of the other SEEA states, we are discussing our options for our November conference—one or multiple days; in-person or virtual; etc.

Stay safe out there. Virtual hugs are coming your way from LEEF!

Kentucky:

Participants in the pilot class of our Professional Learning Leaders eeCredential had their orientation and welcome earlier this month and are currently taking their courses. We're continuing the development of our next eeCredentials, Early Childhood Green Schools and Green Community Leaders.

Registration for our virtual conference will open later this month. We're looking forward to our first-ever online event of this magnitude!

We'll also be launching our new website later this month—hooray! And we've updated the SEEA site as well. If you would like anything changed or added to the SEEA site, let us know (leigh@kaee.org) and we'll get that taken care of!

We are thrilled to share that we have received a Center for Diversity & the Environment grant to host a robust, weeklong Build the Foundation workshop for our board of directors, allowing them to immerse themselves in issues and best practices in equity, inclusion, and diversity. The workshop, slated to be held closer to the end of 2020, will be an important step in KAEE's plan to reevaluate our internal culture and policies and weave equity and inclusion throughout our strategic plan.

Tennessee:

Fall TEEA conference is going virtual:

It is with disappointment that I pass along this information. Because of the challenges we are facing due to COVID 19, the TEEA Fall conference scheduled for September at Montgomery Bell State Park has been moved to a virtual format.

Given our "new normal" with social distancing requirements, the importance of outdoor learning and environmental education has gained the spotlight, and it's our time to shine!

Getting together to share as an environmental community is one of the things I enjoy most about our conference. (That, and of course, teacher mini-grants and free stuff!) I love meeting new people, sharing ideas, and learning from specialists in the field about new lessons/approaches to try in my classroom.

With our conference going virtual – we may not be able to get all the free stuff – but we can still have a great exchange of ideas and grow our network!! We have also worked out a way for more educators to apply for the mini-grants. We may also have small regional face-to-face outdoor meet-ups in place of conference field trips. Stay tuned for more information.

We are currently working on a series of conference virtual meetings. The first webinar, which centers around Climate Change, is free and being held on July 28th.

Registration is required – please make your plans now to attend!!

The first Friday of each month TEEA regional coordinators are hosting ZOOM meetings. The response to these meetings has been wonderful. Our June Middle TN meeting had almost 50 environmental educators on the call! We are also hard at work developing online resources for educators to use with their classroom (whether in person or online) this fall.

Alabama:

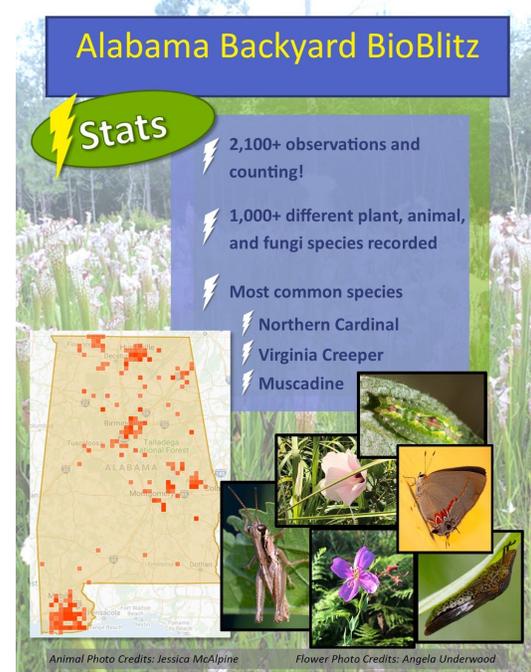
Residents from around the state joined Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in celebrating World Environment Day by participating in the Alabama

Backyard BioBlitz on June 5th. The event encouraged the public to explore and document the natural world from the comfort of their own backyards by uploading observations onto iNaturalist. The inaugural year of the event was a great success, drawing in 165 participants from around the state and recording over 2,100 observations.

“The theme of this year’s event was biodiversity,” said Clara Zubrick, Weeks Bay Education Assistant. “Alabama ranks fifth in the nation in biodiversity and first east of the Mississippi River. To protect and conserve our environment, we must first connect with what’s out there. The best place to begin exploring nature is in your own backyard.”

Weeks Bay Reserve plans to make this an annual event as a way to increase awareness of the state’s amazing biodiversity and celebrate its natural beauty.

You can find out more about the project through the iNaturalist website: www.inaturalist.org/projects/alabama-backyard-bioblitz. And follow Weeks Bay on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WeeksBayNERR/.



[NAAEE Updates](#)

NAAEE eePRO Spotlight - eeJOBS

<https://naaee.org/eePRO/jobs>

Welcome to eeJOBS! Find the perfect candidate to fill a position in your organization. Login or create your free eePRO account, and post your job here at no cost!

Search using the filter/search tool or scroll down to see the newest jobs.

Subscribe to our eeJOBS newsletter and receive the latest list delivered to your inbox.

Thinking of an environmental career? Learn about amazingly diverse careers that focus on helping protect the planet.





For 48 years, NAAEE has brought environmental educators from across the globe together for the field's largest annual professional gathering. It's the place where we come together not just to celebrate our accomplishments, but, much more importantly, to build connections to each other, hear new voices, get inspired, and push our field forward.

We've made the decision to move the 49th Annual Conference and Research Symposium online this year to protect the health and safety of our attendees, volunteers, and staff. We're truly hopeful that a virtual gathering will bring an even broader diversity of participants than could have participated in person.



Nature-Based Early Learning Virtual Conference

The largest national gathering of nature-based early education professionals is moving online this year with more content than ever before!

Register for the Nature-Based Early Learning Virtual Conference, hosted by the Natural Start Alliance, and access more than 50 interactive live sessions over three days (July 29-31) and 24-hour on-demand access to more than 40 sessions.

You also get 365-day access to session recordings so you can revisit your favorite presentations, gain continuing education credits throughout the year, and get the most out of your conference experience. There is even a pay-what-you-can option, making the conference more accessible to everyone, all across the world!

<https://naaee.org/eepro/blog/nature-based-early-learning-virtual>

COVID-19

NAAEE Releases Guidance for School Reopening: How Environmental Educators and Learning Outdoors Can Help!

- Environmental educators and programs can help support and transform teaching and learning in challenging times
- Outdoor classrooms offer opportunities for newly-reopening schools and districts
- Classroom capacity can be expanded with environmental education programming

<https://naaee.org/news/newsroom/naaee-releases-guidance-school-reopening>

Will COVID-19 Spell the End of Outdoor and Environmental Education?

The pandemic has been devastating to the field, according to a recent survey

A survey of nearly 1,000 environmental education and outdoor science schools that serve primarily K-12 learners shows that 63 percent of such organizations are uncertain whether they will ever open their doors again, if pandemic restrictions last until year's end. (Dan Squire)

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/will-covid-19-spell-end-outdoor-and-environmental-education-180975295/?fbclid=IwAR3gQ4w9dDjsWW7xWL3G3qhgh_JzQ9sTcsiBbumN_rBsJG GDw-01Rf7xfo0#.Xw3fsvMWj4s.facebook



‘Nature Deficit Disorder’ Is Really a Thing

Children’s behavior may suffer from lack of access to outdoor space, a problem heightened by the pandemic.

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/parenting/nature-health-benefits-coronavirus-outdoors.html?fbclid=IwAR3A5qLEg493S_Pp_oNYg-vOpLqCqx2M2qBCyk_sLKviOEbh3xM5xuNZTWM



Affiliate Network

eeBLUE 21CCLC Grantees Announced

We are excited to announce the 2020 Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grantees! NAAEE's eeBLUE partnered with [NOAA B-WET](#), [NOAA Education](#), and [U.S. Department of Education](#) advance environmental education with Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grants that will increase access to STEM education centered on local watersheds. These grants will support students in 17 states, helping cultivate their sense of stewardship towards their local environments.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2020Watershed>



Assessing the Status and Needs of Evaluation in EE

Professors Marc Stern (Virginia Tech) and Bob Powell (Clemson) to disseminate a survey about the needs of the field regarding the evaluation of environmental education (EE) programming. The goals are to better understand current practices, hopes, and challenges to inform the development of tools and services for the field and to promote culturally responsive evaluation as we work to build a new evaluation portal.

Resource Spotlight: NAAEE Equity Resources



Thanks to our organizational partners and friends who have recommended these resource lists, articles, books, videos, and podcasts, to help environmental educators understand more about systemic racism and to help EE organizations address equity both internally and in the work they do in the field. We will continue to add content over time. Please [share additional resources and provide feedback](#) on how we can make this list more useful to you.

<https://naaee.org/eepr/resources/equity-resources>



SEEA at your Service: Important Links and Resources

- **SEEA Shared Space.** The link to the SEEA shared space is below. Here, you will find the roster, minutes, webinar recordings and other resources.
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bz-GEj3kxmd-YkF4VEItZnU2RUk?usp=sharing>. Please bookmark this link for quick access.
- **SEEA Website (DBM).** Access the [SEEA website!](#)
- **2019 SEEA Leadership Team Roster:**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RPc-nJZDBCX6OuBFOz0GDV2hHvdrSITqMuh9V79Pw/edit?usp=sharing>
- **SEEA Strategic Plan** (discussed and approved on the September conference call). The document is attached via the link below. Please pass it to your respective boards.: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrsEUVFA-2yosIEF75XRxVu6RZT3Uw82-ncr54ZpPRU/edit?usp=sharing>.
- **ZOOM Video Conferencing Available to all SEEA States (DBM).** Please email Ashley (director@kaee.org) if you need the login information and send her the date and time you plan to use it so we can mark it on the calendar to be sure there are no conflicts. Login is director@kaee.org and pw: Seea2018.
- **EE Research Bulletins (EERBs):** <https://naaee.org/eepro/research/eeerb>
- **eePRO Research & Evaluation group:**
<https://naaee.org/eepro/groups/research-and-evaluation>
- **NAAEE's Research Programs:** <https://naaee.org/eepro/research>
- **Children and Nature Network's Research Summaries:**
<https://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/research/>
- **Webinar on Statewide Evaluations for Collective Impact.** The recorded webinar and a PDF of the accompanying PowerPoint are available at: <https://naaee.org/eepro/learning/webinars/statewide-evaluations-collective-impact>
- **Webinar on Applying Systems Thinking for Our Affiliates.** You can access the recording at: <https://youtu.be/2A6vll3Fthc>.

- **EENC Environmental Education is Essential Document.**
<http://eenc.org/resources/Documents/EE%20is%20Essential%20with%20citation%20page.pdf>.

As always, let us know if you have any concerns or questions as well as suggestions about how we can structure these updates to serve you better.

Sarah Davis, 2019-2020 SEEA Chair

Ashley Hoffman, SEEA Executive Director

SEEA at a Glance: Questions and Answers

1. What is SEEA?

The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) is a network of state affiliates of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located in the southeast region of the U.S. - EPA Region 4. The region is composed of the eight states below.

NAAEE Affiliate Organizations

AL - Environmental Education Association of Alabama
FL - League of Environmental Educators in Florida
GA - Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia
KY - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
MS - Mississippi Environmental Education Association
NC - Environmental Educators of North Carolina
SC - Environmental Education Association of South Carolina
TN - Tennessee Environmental Education Association

2. What is SEEA's Mission?

The mission of the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) is to provide southeastern state environmental education associations and their members with valuable networking and communication opportunities that lead to greater success for all.

3. How is SEEA structured?

The SEEA Leadership Team includes two representatives from each state, including a Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair which are elected from the 16

representatives. SEEA has a part-time Executive Director and part-time Education Director. Funding for these positions comes, in part from contributions from member states. The return on investment for the money paid by each state to support a SEEA Executive Director has been 2-4 times the contribution.

4. How does SEEA help the individual states?

SEEA helps the state NAAEE Affiliates in a variety of ways. SEEA seeks to procure funding through grants and other means to help the state affiliates. SEEA also compiles and provides shared resources so individual states don't have to invent everything from scratch. These resources include:

- o Strategic Plans
- o Policy Manuals
- o Job Descriptions and Personnel Policies
- o Forms
- o Marketing plans
- o Fundraising or Outreach Videos
- o Other documents

States can choose to participate in various opportunities such as grants but they are not obligated to do so. Participation on each initiative is voted on by the state affiliate board/council.

5. Does SEEA hold a conference or regular meetings?

The SEEA Leadership Team holds monthly conference calls and participates in a yearly leadership retreat. SEEA partners with one of the eight SE states each year to co-sponsor a conference, which doubles as the conference for both the state affiliate and SEEA.

6. What is SEEA working on currently?

Current SEEA Projects include:

- Creating and implementing a new SEEA work plan for the next few years.
- Planning a SEEA regional ee360 retreat that will bring teams of up to five from each state affiliate.
- Determining organizational structure and investigating the possibility of becoming a regional affiliate of NAAEE.
- Providing networking opportunities such as a SEEA meeting at the NAAEE Annual Conference.

- Facilitating communication among affiliate groups through various means, including monthly conference calls, periodic email updates, and postings on the SEEA website around various topics of mutual interest.
- Sharing resources such as newsletters, conference attendance opportunities, and general organizational information.

Thank you for reading, more great news coming in July.
Send photos, articles, conference news, and state updates
to kmurray@tcboe.org

Deadline for August Newsletter: August 7, 2020

