

SEEA Newsletter: 2020



SEEA Conference Updates



More details (pricing, lodging, details about the research symposium, field trip details, etc.) will be announced soon! In the meantime, please "save the date."

We are also accepting conference sponsorships and silent auction item contributions. Funds raised through the silent auction will go to support SEEA and EEASC initiatives.

<https://eeasc.wildapricot.org/Silent-Auction>

<https://eeasc.wildapricot.org/Sponsor>

The call for proposals for the 2020 SEEA/EEASC Conference General Sessions and Research Symposium is now open (see below)! Submissions will be accepted through March 15, 2020. The conference will be held September 24-26 in Columbia, SC. We hope to see you there.

<https://eeasc.wildapricot.org/CFP-Research>

<https://eeasc.wildapricot.org/CFP-General>

We have a [conference promo video](#) for the upcoming SEEA conference in September...we can't wait to see all of you in Columbia!



SEEA Conference SC 2020

Research Symposium Updates

I am pleased to announce that the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC) will be hosting the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference, *“Environmental Legacy: It’s Our Story. Past, Present, and Future”*, September 24 – 26, 2020 in Columbia, SC! As part of this conference, a Research Symposium will be held on Thursday September 24, 2020 and we invite you to share your research efforts by submitting a session proposal that addresses one or more of the following strands:

- **Pages of the Past:** Research projects that capture information about our environmental past in the fields of geosciences, natural history, or socio-cultural perspectives. Proposals submitted for this strand should include research efforts that align with one or more of the following guiding questions: What does the natural landscape tell us about our environmental past? How do historical environmental science data inform our present-day lives and/or future directions? How have cultural connections to the environment changed over time?
- **Present-Day Plotlines:** Explores our present-day environmental heritage by featuring research efforts that highlight current geosciences research, science education research, evaluation and assessment efforts, and social science research. Proposals submitted for this strand should consider one or more of the following guiding questions: Are you researching exploring a new environmental educational program or project? Are you involved with environmental education research that is investigating current trends? Are you involved in assessment or evaluation efforts?
- **Foreshadowing the Future:** Captures chapters of our environmental legacy yet to be written and encourages proposal submissions from all applicable fields. Proposals submitted for this strand are encouraged to consider research that align with one or more of the following guiding questions: What does environmental education look like in the future? What are some sustainable, innovative, and forward-thinking projects, ideas, and strategies that are on the horizon and how might these impact society? What does our environment look like in the future?

The SEEA Research Symposium provides a regional platform from which to share your research through a poster, oral presentation, or café format to those who work within the fields of environmental sciences and education. Please forward this opportunity to any staff, students, and colleagues who might be interested. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Research Symposium Session Application](#) page. Deadline for submission is **March 15, 2020**.

SEEA is the network of eight southeastern affiliates (AL, MS, KY, TN, SC, NC, GA, FL) of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV. To learn more, visit [NAAEE](#) (international organization), [SEEA](#) (regional affiliate), and [EEASC](#) (state affiliate/local chapter) websites.

Thank you and please let me know if you have questions!
Amy Umberger
SEEA Conference Chair on behalf of EEASC



Membership Bootcamp

The SEEA Membership Bootcamp is scheduled for **December 2019-June 2020**. All course participants received a copy of Sarah Sladek's book "The End of Membership as You Know It" in December. Since January, the participants have been having monthly webinars and discussions around the topics outlined below. In between those dates, they are having homework to work on within their states. They will also have access to a discussion board where we can all share progress, ideas, questions, and resources as we dig into these topics together.

Membership Growth Training and Coaching Program

5-Step Process for Membership Growth

Understanding generational differences & social changes and how they influence the value of membership

- Homework: 30 conversations next 30 days

Deep Dive into Value Shift: Look into the future by looking at defining trends and characteristics of millennials and Gen Z.

- Homework: Analyze your organizational future health and see if it is aligned with the future trends.

Membership Best Practices and Case Studies: Successes and changes organizations have made to Future Proof their organization.

- Homework: Identify the top 3 hurdles your organization is facing.

Asset Management: Learn to understand and identify your most valuable assets to help engage and grow membership.

- Homework: Identify the top 3 most valuable assets to your organization.



Southeasterly Winds: News from the SEEA States

GEORGIA:

Register For EEA 2020

Are you creating an environmentally focused culture within your community? What have you found to be the best ways to make environmental education more accessible? How should environmental educators engage with partners and stakeholders in their communities? Please share your answers to these questions and your expertise by attending the 2020 Environmental Education Alliance (EEA) Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference offers educators the connections, tools, learning opportunities, and strategies they need to understand and implement effective environmental education within their classrooms, schools, organizations, and communities.

The theme for the 2020 Environmental Education Alliance Conference is "Splashing into EEA: Making Waves within Your Community." We invite you to share how you, your school, or your organizations make an impact in the community by making environmental education more accessible to a diverse audience.

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, March 6th - You will have the opportunity to participate in either a workshop, field trip, or both. There are several full day and half day workshops to choose from, so there will be something for everyone. We are taking advantage of being on the beautiful Georgia coast by organizing several field trips exploring Jekyll Island. We will end the day at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for networking, snacks, and drinks.

Saturday, March 7th - You will have the opportunity to attend five different concurrent sessions that will focus on engaging your community to make a positive impact. You will also hear from Cathy Sakas, the keynote speaker. Cathy is a Professional Interpretive Naturalist specializing in ocean and coastal environments, and leads educational wilderness expeditions throughout the southeast United States, Caribbean, and Central America. Ms. Sakas has also produced a two-time Emmy Award-winning nature documentary series for Georgia Public Television entitled "Coastal Naturalist" and has hosted a multiple Telly-award winning nature series for Turner South entitled The Natural South. On this day, we will also host the awards luncheon and end the day with a social and silent auction both at Villas By The Sea.

Sunday, March 8th - EEA will host a stewardship opportunity on Sunday morning to wrap up the festivities of the Annual Conference. Please join us to learn about the Marine Debris Citizen Science program created in 2012 by the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and funded by the Southeast Atlantic Marine Debris Initiative, which is a part of the NOAA Marine Debris Program. We will enter data about the items we cleaned up into a Marine Debris Tracker application. Although this app "Marine" in the name, please know that it is not restricted to beach cleanups and is something you can use for free in your community to help find solutions to pollution problems. Come help us leave Jekyll Island cleaner than we found it!

[2020 Conference Program](#)

The 2020 Annual Conference Program is linked above. Please familiarize yourself with workshops, field trips, and sessions as you will choose your selections during registration.

Location & Lodging

The 2020 Annual Conference is located at [Villas By The Sea](#). The address is 1175 Beachview Drive N, Jekyll Island, GA 31527. Lodging is available at Villas By The Sea. Villas By The Sea offers Mini Villa/Studio; One Bedroom; Two Bedroom; and Three Bedroom options. You can make reservations for the group block by calling Villas By The Sea at 912-635-2521 or 800-841-6262 and reference "EEA Conference" or reference the group number #483646. Please book as early as possible and no later than February 6, 2020.

[Registration Form](#)

ALABAMA:

Congratulations to our Alabama Green Ribbon Winners!! Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell and Morris Ave Intermediate.



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2020

Contact: Communication
(334) 694-4686
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2020 Alabama Green Ribbon Schools Awardee Announced

Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Health and Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education

The Alabama State Department of Education today announced **Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell** and **Morris Avenue Intermediate** as 2020 Alabama Green Ribbon Schools (AL-GRS).

This award recognizes innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and promote environmental and sustainability education. As Alabama Green Ribbon Schools, Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell and Morris Avenue Intermediate will be nominated to be recognized as U.S. Department of Education *ED Green Ribbon Schools Awardees*, to be announced this spring.

"We are so proud to have schools that are recognized for not only being beacons of quality education, but that are serving as leaders in innovation – especially in the important role of reducing our carbon footprint. We must be good stewards of the world around us and all of its resources. The effort put into developing efficient use of electricity, maximizing recyclable materials, and honing solar energy is truly admirable," Mackey said. "Most importantly, I fully appreciate the teaching and learning about nutrition and environmental issues that will have long-lasting impact for years and years to come. Being environmentally responsible, and responsible for our own well-being, is essential to having a future that is not only sustainable, but continually prosperous. Congratulations to these Alabama Green Ribbon schools!"

Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell's application to become an Alabama Green Ribbon School showcased many impressive efforts in the three aforementioned areas, such as the use of geothermal systems, solar arrays and the installation of a hydro system called an Archimedes screw on an existing dam which, combined, reduce energy consumption and allow less dependence on carbon burning systems for electricity.

In 2015, Camp McDowell received a \$30,000 grant from the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church to construct a recycling center on campus. Magnolia Nature School also received the *Best Environmental Education Program (BEEP)* award from the Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) in 2019.

Morris Avenue Intermediate's application to become an Alabama Green Ribbon School also showcased many impressive efforts in the three pillars, including the development of a fruit and fitness trail which provides students with a connection between physical activity and nutrition, a student-led recycling program, an Ambassador garden, and grade-specific environmental education units which promote the use of environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills.

—more—

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NORTH CAROLINA:

Urban forests provide valuable ecological, economic, and social benefits to over 80% of the population in the United States. However, these urban forests are under threat from climate change, insects, diseases, natural disasters, and of course, development.

The 2020 F2C Program is thrilled to be working with the NC Urban Forest Council and the NC Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry program to help educators (4th - 12th grade) learn more about the amazing urban forests within our communities! The program will include field days, classroom instruction, and a career panel. Instructors will include urban forestry specialists, scientists, and community organizations. Activities from Project Learning Tree and other curricula will be used to help teachers carry back what they have learned into the classroom. Continuing education (CEU) and EE Certification (Criteria II & III) credits will be provided.

Applications will be accepted until April 17, 2020. The 2020 F2C is geared towards formal and nonformal educators working with upper elementary through high school students (4th – 12th grade). Note: Teachers from outside of North Carolina are eligible to apply! Space is limited to 25 educators, with final selection based on application quality. Nonformal educators are encouraged to apply with the understanding that priority is given to formal classroom educators.

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than May 1, 2020. Upon selection, participants will be required to submit a \$75 non refundable registration fee with additional information to complete the registration process and secure their spot in the program.

[Forest to Classroom: Urban Forestry](#)

July 13 – 16, 2020

Charlotte, NC

We will be based out of the [Hampton Inn & Suites Charlotte-Airport](#). Participants will be staying onsite in double occupancy rooms. All lodging, most meals, and travel during the program are provided through generous sponsorship from NC State University Extension Forestry's Renewable Resources Extension Act grant funding

[DRAFT AGENDA](#)

[Sign me up now!! Follow this link to the F2C Application.](#)



SOUTH CAROLINA:



EEASC Mini-Grant Supports Sensory Garden at Anderson County Public Library

EEASC provided a \$300 Mini-Grant to support the development of a sensory garden at the Anderson County Public Library in Belton, SC. Library staff and community volunteers, including Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, are working together to create an aesthetically pleasing, therapeutically beneficial, environmentally friendly, and of course educationally enriching Sensory Garden that stimulates four of the five senses: sight, smell, sound, and touch. A colorful landscape of fragrant flowers, textured bark and rustling leaves will invite more melodious songbirds and beautiful pollinators to kindle the senses of all ages!

EEASC's Mini-Grant program supports the environmental education efforts and professional development needs of members. EEASC members should click here for more information.

Fundraiser Celebration: Baby Shark!

The EEASC board celebrated the success of its first online fundraiser, which provided \$3,295 to strengthen the organization, with an “embarrassing music video” which was shared with donors. To view the video, [click here](#).



TENNESSEE:

2019 Conference Wrap-Up

By: Charity Siebert

TEEA Member-at-Large, 2019 Conference Chair

Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center Program Director

Our 2019 Conference "*No Teacher Left Inside*" brought 90 environmental educators together at Montgomery Bell State Park, located in middle Tennessee.

TEEA Board felt it was a very productive event,but, this is what our members said:



Sessions:

- "*Activities for Global Citizenship: Liza introduced so many ideas on how to present a sensitive topic. Well done in a short time period.*"
- "*I attended a session with Big Green, out of Memphis. I am very thankful they attended. It turned out to be a very informative class that brought back some basic gardening concepts that I have let slip through the cracks of curriculum planning.*"

- *"Come to Your Senses -- Excellent!! It's so wonderful to walk away with so many ideas and ready to go activities. I would love to have an email followup with digital copies of lessons."*



Field Trips:

- *"Cedar Crest Ecojustice Trail -- AMAZING! Everything about this experience was wonderful. We learned about why it was started, who they serve, and then walked the trail and the Ed. Director treated us like they would tour groups or students so we got the full experience. It was incredible."*
- *"Ferntop Nature Preschool -- Loved this! Not only did I get numerous ideas for my own program but I was able to relate the keynote address to what I was learning about nature play set*

up."

Overall Conference:

- *"Met so many people that believe outdoor education is key for our children to grow into healthy, happy individuals. They brought great ideas to share."*
"There were a ton of friendly people there. I liked seeing the spread of expertise in every activity."
- *"My first TEEA and it was nice to be able to meet so many other people and organizations working in similar areas. I came away with some good ideas."*



Take-Away's for TEEA - ways we can improve:

- *"I would be interested in pursuing much more Open Space options in the future."*
- *"Needed a few more scheduled break times."*
- *"Communication leading up to the event felt very last minute, and a bit confusing."*
- *"I would like to have had more time to discuss and design the STEM lesson, as the other attendees had great knowledge, experience, and suggestions."*

Tennessee - *We hear you!* Your feedback has been very instrumental in our planning for our: 2020 Conference - on Sept. 25-27 again at Montgomery Bell State Park.

Our goal is to continue to provide a high-quality conference that can continue to improve and adapt to environmental education trends. We hope that you've been able to apply what you've learned at the conference within your educational sphere.. Thank you again for your support and don't forget to share TEEA in your circles. See you in September!

...CURIOUS - If you have any suggestions in making our next TEEA conference the best it can be, please send your experience and suggestions to: **Jennie McGuigan at jennie@gsmit.org**



NAAEE Updates

UN's Young Champions of the Earth

UN's Young Champions of the Earth recognizes young innovators aged 18 - 30. In 2020, seven young people – selected from every global region – will be named Young Champions of the Earth. These winners receive seed funding, intensive training and tailored mentoring to bring their big environmental ideas to life. We're looking for artists, scientists, economists, communicators and entrepreneurs from all walks of life who have big, bold ideas – for the environment, for humanity, for a greener future.

<https://naaee.org/eeepro/blog/statewide-census-community-based>



NAAEE 2020 in Tucson, Arizona!

Research Symposium: October 13–14, 2020

Conference: October 14–17, 2020

EE: Inspire Change!

Start thinking about proposals for NAAEE 2020; Call for Presentations coming soon!

Higher Education Earth Week Toolkit

This year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day

<https://naaee.org/eeepro/resources/earthweek-toolkit>

Here are some ideas of activities you can do for Earth Week. You can combine any of these into a day of action or week of action.



General Tips for Events

- Contact your school's Earth Week organizer as early as possible to find out what their plans are. You should also talk to your group members and other environmental groups to see if you can collaborate on any of these activities.
- Take lots of photos and share them on social media with **#grassrootsclimate** and tag @citizensclimate and your members of Congress.
- Remember to ask people to leave their contacts on a sign-up sheet and follow up with them to join your chapter.
- Encourage participants to follow CCL on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#)

City Nature Challenge

Cities around the world will be competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people in the 2020 City Nature Challenge.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/opportunities/city-nature-challenge>

NAAEE Affiliate News

In SEEA we are working on funding to start a landscape analysis of environmental education across the southeast. We want to document the creative and innovative programming occurring in each of our states. We will also look at barriers, professional development, priorities, and collaborations. Here is a copy of a report that was just completed in Maine. Stay tuned for more details and how you can help!!

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/blog/statewide-census-community-based>

2020 Affiliate Strand Call for Presentations

The NAAEE Affiliate Network Professional Development Committee seeks compelling proposals for the Affiliate Network Conference Strand that demonstrate proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, advance equity and inclusion in the field, and motivate the pursuit of excellence for the growing NAAEE Affiliate Network.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/groups/affiliates/discussions/2020-affiliate-strand-call-presentations>

ee360 Guidelines for Excellence Mini Grants

Two of NAAEE's ee360 partners--Center for Diversity & the Environment and the National Project for Excellence in EE--are now taking applications for small grants to support unique capacity building opportunities. The opportunities available through each partner and instructions for applying are described below. NAAEE Affiliates are encouraged to apply.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/blog/ee360-small-grant-opportunities>

eePRO Highlight: E-STEM Education

It's no secret that good environmental education is interdisciplinary, hands-on, and relates to the real world. Perhaps less known, these characteristics also describe the key drivers of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning. Research has shown a critical need to improve STEM learning across K-12 and beyond. Working to fill that gap, environmental education has the opportunity to create a pathway for implementing effective and engaging STEM lessons, both in and outside of the classroom. Let's engage in a conversation about using the environment as a pathway for STEM learning, through innovative lessons that foster critical thinking, creativity, cross-disciplinary ideas, and real world connections.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/groups/e-stem-education>

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-YkF4VEltZnU2RUk?usp=sharing>.
Please bookmark this link for quick access.
- **SEEA Website (DBM).** Access the new [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/eeopro/research/eeerb>
- **eePRO Research & Evaluation group:**
<https://naaee.org/eeopro/groups/research-and-evaluation>

- **NAAEE's Research Programs:** <https://naaee.org/eeopro/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/eeopro/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>.
- **Georgia's Job Announcement Position:** Executive Director of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (part-time 20 hr/week) <https://eeag.memberclicks.net/assets/Documents/EEA%20ED%20job%20posting%202019.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 March.
Send photos, articles, conference news, and state updates
to kmurray@tcboe.org*

Deadline for the March Newsletter: March 6, 2020

