

JANUARY 2022

EEAA News

The latest news, events and announcements from the
Environmental Education Association of Alabama

IN THIS ISSUE

**Join the next JEDI Session
Enrollment is Open**

**Help Report Winter
Monarch Sightings**

**Registration is Open!
EEAA Conference at Gulf State Park
Feb 24-26, 2022**

**Two Preconference Workshop
Opportunities**

Environmental Education Association
of Alabama

EEAA: JANUARY 2022

EEAA Conference

Registration

Registration for Environmental Education of Association of Alabama is OPEN!

**Join us for a fun in person conference down on the beach at Gulf State Park Learning Campus in Gulf Shores Alabama
February 24-26, 2022.**



Click on the link below to register for the conference.

<https://eeaa.us/conference->

Keynote Speaker, Friday James B. McClintock,

James B. McClintock came to UAB in 1987 and has served as Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (1999-2003) and as Interim Dean of the Graduate School (2003-2005). His research has been funded continuously over the past 25 years by the National Science Foundation and focuses on aspects of marine invertebrate nutrition, reproduction, and primarily, Antarctic marine chemical ecology.

His research has grown to include studies of the impacts of rapid climate change and ocean acidification on Antarctic marine algae and invertebrates. He has published over 290 scientific publications, edited and written books, and been invited to make numerous scientific and popular science presentations.

His expertise on the ecological impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on marine life of the Antarctic Peninsula has garnered numerous invited lectures and published pieces. His book *Lost Antarctica: Adventures in a Disappearing Land* (Palgrave/MacMillan) was released in September 2012 and has garnered considerable national and international praise. In June 2013, a video short based on his book was produced and released by the EO Wilson Biodiversity Foundation that featured narration by Harrison Ford.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meHunVXB-3c>

https://player.themoth.org/#/?actionType=ADD_AND_PLAY&storyId=16207



EEAA Conference

Call for Sponsors & Exhibitors!

Make the most when you attend the conference. When you register online, choose to be an exhibitor or sponsor! See the different options below:

Conference Sponsor (\$2,500.00 or more contribution)

Conference Sponsor includes:

- Lifetime EEAA membership
- Recognition banner
- Recognition in conference materials
- Recognition at the award banquet
- Exhibit booth space at the conference
- 2 Complimentary registrations
- Pride of having sponsored some amazing educators who win awards!

Sponsorship of BEEP Awards (\$2,000.00 contribution)

Best Environmental Education Program (BEEP) Award Sponsor includes:

- Recognition in conference materials
- Recognition at the award banquet
- Exhibit booth space at the conference
- 2 Complimentary registrations
- Pride of having sponsored some amazing educators who win awards!

Gold Level (\$600.00 contribution)

Gold Level Support includes:

- Recognition in the conference material
- Exhibit booth space at the conference
- 2 Complimentary registrations

Green Level (\$350.00 contribution)

Green Level Support includes:

- Recognition in the conference material
- Exhibit booth space at the conference
- 1 Complimentary registration

Exhibitor (\$300.00 contribution)

Exhibitor includes:

- Exhibit booth space at the conference
- 1 Complimentary registration



EEAA Conference

Preconference Workshops



Don't Waste It!

What is wishful recycling? What really happens to our waste when it reaches the landfill?

Join us on Thursday Feb 24, for a six-hour workshop exploring Don't Waste It! curriculum. Don't Waste It! is an Alabama waste management curriculum guide created through a partnership with SEEA, Chatham County, NC, and EEAA. There are 11 lessons with adaptations and resources for K-12 learners. The lessons cover five topics: municipal solid waste, recycling, landfills, plastics, and composting. This workshop will empower educators with background knowledge and hands-on activities for formal and in-formal education settings. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will receive a certificate, some of the lesson materials, and the curriculum guide. The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$40, lunch and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited to 30 participants.

Alabama Environmental Education Summit

EEAA 2022 Pre-Conference Workshop

Many of you participated in our virtual Alabama Environmental Education Summit (AEES) statewide and regional BEETLES training last year. This year, we are excited to offer a FREE workshop to reacquaint, or learn for the first time, BEETLES pedagogical techniques -- in person and in the field! Please join us at

the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on February 24th from 10-3 as we explore beach, forest, and wetland habitats around the island. We will spend the day honing our observation skills, practicing questioning strategies, engaging with nature, and with each other! After the workshop, catch the 3:30 ferry and head on over to EEAA registration at the Gulf Shores State Park Learning Campus. Lunch and snacks are provided. Click [here](#) to register, space is limited.

The Alabama Environmental Education Summit was developed with grant support from BEETLES

(<http://beetlesproject.org/>) to strengthen the quality and connectivity of environmental education in Alabama.



EEAA 2022 Conference

Order your conference tshirt today on Bonfire

<https://www.bonfire.com/eeaa-2022-conference/>



Order your two tone coffee cup

<https://www.bonfire.com/2022-conference/>



Thank you to Jo Dale's daughter Lily for the design

EEAA 2022 Conference Planning



Learning Campus

AT GULF STATE PARK





EEAA 2022 Conference Destination

Learning Campus

AT GULF STATE PARK



EEAA: JANUARY 2022



Environmental Education Associations - YOUR HELP NEEDED IN REPORTING WINTER MONARCH SIGHTINGS



Last winter, volunteers from across the Southeast and Gulf states provided more than 5,800 observations of monarch butterflies. This winter, the partnership of universities, agencies and other organizations called Monarchs Overwintering in Southeastern States is requesting the public's continued involvement in reporting sightings.

The public is encouraged to report monarch sightings from Dec. 1-March 1 in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Observations are entered in Journey North's online data portal, where they are transformed into real-time mapping visualizations of monarch migration and breeding. Journey North is an organization designed to engage people across North America in tracking wildlife migration and seasonal change.

For more details on how to participate, read the full *Press Release* from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The attached infographic provides details of what observations (adult monarchs, monarch eggs and larvae, and milkweed) can be reported on Journey North this winter.

Thank you for your efforts.

Susan Meyers

Monarchs Across Georgia Committee

Environmental Education Alliance

P.O. Box 801066, Acworth, GA 30101



WILD ALABAMA

January Events

Bankhead National Forest

- ♦ Saturday January 8 Guided Hike with Janice Barrett
- ♦ Saturday January 8 Helping Hands work day in Sipsey Wilderness
- ♦ Saturday January 15 Helping Hands work day
- ♦ Monday January 17 MLK Day of Service Event
- ♦ Wednesday January 19 Wild Wednesday hike for kids & families
- ♦ Friday January 28 Forest Bathing session with Janice and Anne

Virtual Events

Tuesday Jan 11 Feral Hogs

Thursday Jan 20 Leave No Trace

See website for details!

Talladega National Forest

- ♦ Every Monday Blaze the Pinhoti Trail
- ♦ Tuesdays January 11 & 18 Blaze the Pinhoti Trail
- ♦ Tuesday January 11 "Trail Tuesday" hike to Terrapin Creek on Pinhoti
- ♦ January 8, 13, and 14 Trail maintenance in Cheaha Wilderness, Odum Scout Trail
- ♦ January 29-30 Leave No Trace "train the trainer" course with Kim Waites

Visit our website calendar to learn more and sign up for any of these events! www.wildal.org

Thankful for support from so many!



You are invited to follow Claire Datnow's writing journey

Fellow Environmental Education Members:

You are Invited to come aboard my Environmental Writing Journey: Would you like to go on a journey with me to faraway places—one that takes unexpected twists and turns? You don't need to pack a thing or purchase a ticket. I will be your guide as we travel through time and space, meet fascinating environmentalists, and gain a different perspective as I research and write my newest Eco Adventure, *The Whales Lament*.



All you need to bring along is your curiosity and imagination— and, of course, internet access.

To begin this journey visit mediamint.net to read my blog, or subscribe by email to: cldatnow@me.com Your suggestions and questions are always welcome.

K-12 Educational Needs Assessment - Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is in the process of conducting our K-12 Educational Needs Assessment for 2022. This survey helps us to determine what types of K-12 environmental education programs and professional development opportunities are most needed by students and teachers in South Alabama and the surrounding regions. I am reaching out to see if you might be able to help me disperse this survey to K-12 educators in your region. We have partnered with South Alabama Land Trust (SALT) who has kindly donated several prizes to encourage participants to complete the 10-15 minute survey. We will have a drawing at the end of February to give away 5 amazon gift cards (Qty. 1 \$100, Qty. 4 \$50) and two pairs of tickets to SALT's 2022 Bald Eagle Bash.

Link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5J9CXF>

If you have any questions or need additional details, please let me know. I would be happy to type up an email or create a flyer that could easily be sent out to teachers, just let me know what format would work best. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Best regards,

Danielle Davidson

Education Specialist ADCNR State Lands Division Weeks Bay NERR

Danielle.davidson@dcnr.alabama.gov

EEAA: JANUARY 2022





The Nature Connect School is hiring for 2022!
Currently, we are seeking

.....

A CERTIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER
PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

.....



More information can be found about the positions here:
www.natureconnectalabama.org/jobs

Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Environmental Education

an online course offered by



This course is designed to provide a strong foundation in the language, concepts, and principles of equity work. It is meant to be an introductory course and spark interest in further learning around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. It was developed through a partnership between the Center for Diversity and the Environment, EcoInclusive, Environmental Educators of North Carolina, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, and Youth Outside.

Moderated by
Rev. Leonard Curry, M.Div, STM, ABD



Learn more and register at southeastee.org/jedi101



Dear Friends:

Last week, our board met in person for the first time in two years. It was uplifting to be in the company of colleagues and friends who believe so deeply in the capacity of education to create a more sustainable and equitable world. During our time together, NAAEE Chair Mary Ford referenced a New York Times article on “collective effervescence” by organizational psychologist Adam Grant. As Grant describes, the term refers to the synchrony you feel “when you slide into rhythm with strangers on a dance floor, colleagues in a brainstorming session, cousins at a religious service, or teammates on a soccer field.”

EE, I believe, is a source of collective effervescence. Whether we're together to experience the flight of an osprey, witness the flash of a shooting star, or collaborate on solutions to community issues, a shared experience makes all the difference. That's why I'm excited to announce that we'll return to an in-person conference for the Natural Start in July 2022 in Cincinnati and the annual NAAEE conference and research symposium in fall 2022 in Tucson, AZ. As we do, we will remain committed to taking every precaution we can to keep one another safe. I can't wait to see you there!

Have a happy, healthy, and effervescent New Year!

Judy Braus

Executive Director





Spring Break 2022! Naturalist Programs

Owls with Acer!

LIVE owl encounter and lesson
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Discover Birds of Prey!

Treetop Nature Trail Tour
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Treetop Nature Trail (Beach Access Parking Lot for parking)

Turtle Tuesday!

Meet LIVE turtles and more!
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Vernal Pools!

See LIVE Salamanders!
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Guided Hike: Maggie's Glen!

Take in the beauty of spring during a guided hike to Maggie's Glen!
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: North Trailhead
Wear green for St. Patrick's Day and receive a special treat!

Sunset Nature Watch

Enjoy a peaceful sunset at Oak Mountain State Park!
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Peavine Overlook

Scales & Tails

Meet LIVE animals!
Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM & 6:00 PM
Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

ALL ages welcome!

For questions email:

Lauren.Muncher@dcnr.alabama.gov

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests



World Wildlife Wednesday

The World Games is coming to Birmingham, Alabama from July 7-17*. This extraordinary, international sports event is held every four years, in the year following each Summer Olympic Games. Staged over 11 days, The Games represents the pinnacle of competition for 3,600 of the world's best athletes in 30+ unique, multi-disciplinary sports. Athletes from more than 100 countries compete for more than 600 gold medals. This year is The World Games' 40th anniversary, and it will be the first edition of the event to be hosted in the United States since the inaugural World Games in Santa Clara, California, in 1981. Oak Mountain State Park is proud to host three of the World Games' events: Orienteering, Canoeing Marathon, and Waterskiing/Wakeboarding.

In honor of The World Games, Oak Mountain is excited to introduce World Wildlife Wednesday, a brand-new programming series featuring LIVE wild animals from around the world! Join Oak Mountain State Park's interpreters and our amazing community partners at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center to meet slithering snakes, feathery owls, and wily lizards, and learn about their native habitat across the globe!

For more information, please contact

Lauren.Muncher@dcnr.alabama.gov

Date: May 4* – July 6*

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Cost: FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests

Oak Mountain State Park



Expedition Oak Mountain: Vernal Pool Exploration

Explore a winter wetland right here in Oak Mountain State Park on this in-park fieldtrip! Join OMSP's Park Naturalist and experience the life cycle of our salamanders and frogs!

Vernal Pools or Ephemeral Pools are bodies of water, usually void of fish, that form over the winter months and are the support system for the beginning of our amphibian friends' lives! See egg masses up close and help welcome new salamanders into this big world!

After a quick introduction we will caravan a short distance to the Vernal Pool.

Suggestions for this event:

- Camera
- Wear weather appropriate clothes
- Wear old shoes/boots

Leave strollers and dogs at home for this event. This is an easy and short walk to the vernal pool but keep in mind that the ground will be wet in areas.

For questions email:

Lauren.Muncher@dcnr.alabama.gov

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests

OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

The Great Backyard



The Great Backyard Bird Count! 2022

Be a citizen scientist and join the Great Backyard Bird Count 2022!

We will meet at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center for a quick introduction and overview of bird count details. We will then count all of the birds that we see around the center for one hour!

Data will be used by ornithologists (bird scientists) to better understand and help our avian friends!

Meet a raptor up close and ask any bird questions you may have!

Stroller and wheelchair accessible! No dogs please.

Great for all ages!

Suggestions for this event:

- binoculars
- camera
- field guides

For questions email:

Lauren.Muncher@dcnr.alabama.gov

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests

Cheaha State Park



Fired Up: Primitive Fire Skills

Fire is one of mankind's most varied and useful tools. It has been used to cook, purify water, provide light and warmth, and so much more. Join Park Naturalist Mandy Pearson as she demonstrates the mastery of fire in this fun and interactive course. Learn useful skills that are sure to fire you up!

For more information email Mandy.Pearson@dcnr.alabama.gov or call (256) 412-9938.

Date: Saturday, January 29, 2022

Time: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Location: Interpretive Center (Cheaha Lake)

Cost: FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission



Peace, Love and Bigfoot: Bigfoot Weekend at Cheaha State Park

What could be more fun than spending a weekend searching for Bigfoot on the highest mountain in Alabama? Keep an eye out for Bigfoot as he makes several "surprise" appearances around the park! Take a Bigfoot Leave No Trace hike or enjoy a game of Bigfoot Hopscotch. Join Expert Bigfootologist Tim Baker for a basic Bigfoot tracking class. There are also self-guided options for adventure and fun. Special Bigfoot merchandise will be available at the Mountain Store including Baby Bigfoots for adoption, Bigfoot hiking sticks, stickers, and more!

Guided Programming (February 19, 2022-February 20, 2022)

Tips for Tracking Bigfoot on Trails with Expert Tim Baker

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Interpretive Center

Expert Bigfoot Researcher Tim Baker has trekked across the nation for 43 years learning about the elusive Bigfoot. Join Tim Baker for a short hike filled with tips and tricks on how to track the reigning hide-and-seek champion...Bigfoot!

Bigfoot Sightings!

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 12:00 noon

Location: Interpretive Center

Bigfoot Hopscotch Game

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Bigfoot never leaves behind any footprints. Have you ever wondered how? Our park interpretive staff will teach you a couple of his secrets through a fun game.

Bigfoot Sightings!

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: LNT Bigfoot Challenge Trail

Leave No Trace Bigfoot Hike

Date: February 20, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Interpretive Center

Bigfoot is a rather sneaky individual. Join our Cheaha's interpretive staff to learn how to be stealthy just like Bigfoot through the use of the Seven Leave No Trace Principles. Leave No Trace: Bigfoot's has been doing it for years!

Learning by the Lake

Date: February 20, 2022

Time: 12:00 noon-4:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Do you have a child who is curious about the great outdoors? The interpretive team will help them connect with the natural world through art, activities, storytelling, games, and so much more. Stop by and make some new connections

Ongoing Activities (February 18, 2022-February 20, 2022)

Leave Only Fairy Footprints

Location: Enchanted Garden

Build a fairy house out of natural materials! You might just catch a glimpse of a fairy darting into your new home!

Hide & Seek World Champion: Bigfoot Photo Scavenger Hunt

Sharpen your hide and seek skills by finding all of the hidden locations. Pick up a scavenger hunt sheet from the Mountain Store.

Hike to the highest point in Alabama: Bigfoot Trail (1 mile)

Count how many hidden Bigfoots you see along the way.

Self-guided Hikes

Bald Rock Boardwalk (0.66 miles)

Heritage Trail (0.44 miles)

Mountain Laurel Trail (1.4 miles)

Legacy Story Trails

Cheaha Legacy Story Trails offer guests a unique way to enjoy nature, cultural heritage, and environmental arts. Follow the interpretive panels on the Tim Haney Sensory Trail (LNT Bigfoot Trail), Shinrin-yoku Trail (Mountain Laurel Trail), and the Time Traveler Adventure Quest (begins at the Mountain Store). Stop by the Mountain Store to pick up a trail map.

Play on the Imagination Tree Playground

Location: Tower Road

Gem Mine

Various buckets of gemstones available at Mountain Store

All programming is FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission



Arts in the Environment: Science & Stories of Snow

Soft, sparkling snow creates a magical time to play, wonder, and marvel at nature's beauty. Will Cheaha experience a winter wonderland this year? Only time will tell, but while we wait, let's have a blast learning about the science and stories of snow!

Join Park Naturalist Mandy Pearson for an enchanted program about this wonderful winter weather and creating your own unique take-home snowflakes.

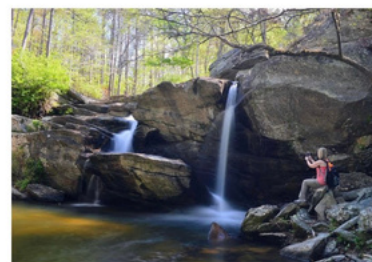
For more information email Mandy.Pearson@dcnr.alabama.gov or call (256) 412-9938.

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2022

Time: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Location: Interpretive Center (Cheaha Lake)

Cost: FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission



Take A Hike: Waterfall Tour

Join Park Naturalist Mandy Pearson on a tour exploring the waterfalls in the Cheaha area. We will embark on easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails and see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden mountain treasures. Bring plenty of water, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open-toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel/reschedule. For more information or to register for the tour, please email Mandy.Pearson@dcnr.alabama.gov or call (256) 412-9938.

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

Location: Meet at the Mountain Store, then caravan to waterfall locations (to include CCC Reservoir Falls, Laurel Trail Falls, Cheaha Falls (TNF), Bunn Slide and Falls, and High Falls (Talladega National Forest).

Cost: \$25 per person (pre-registration is required by March 2, 2021-no refunds after March 26) Limit 20 participants



Wind Creek State Park

Wind Creek State Park



Lessons on the Longleaf

Join Park Interpreters for an entertaining and educational story on our majestic Longleaf Pines. Learn about the ecology of these amazing trees, animals that call them home, and how we can help Alabama's state tree!

For more information, please email District Naturalist Scottie Jackson: Scottie.Jackson@dcnr.alabama.gov

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Meet at the Wind Creek Front Office

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests

SUNSET NATURE WATCH



Sunset Nature Watch

Join Park Interpreters as we walk along the lakeside, forests, and meadows of Wind Creek in search of watchable wildlife. Learn all about critters both great and small on this fun and educational guided walk.

What to Bring:

- water/snacks
- binoculars
- camera
- friends!

For more information, please email District Naturalist Scottie Jackson: Scottie.Jackson@dcnr.alabama.gov

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2022

Time: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Meet at the Wind Creek Clubhouse

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests



Clovers at the Creek: Scavenger Hunt

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by joining us on a parkwide clover hunt!

There are ten clovers hidden all over Wind Creek State Park.

Can you find them all?

Find all ten clovers, snap a photo, and show the office staff for a special prize!

Prizes can be redeemed at the Wind Creek Front Office

All ages welcome!

Date: March 17 – 20, 2022

Location: Parkwide

FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests

Environmental Education Association of Alabama

contact@eeaa.us

eeaa.US

**Facebook: Environmental Education Association
of Alabama**

