



Newsletter

July

2021

2021 Nature-Based Early Learning Virtual Conference

July 26-30, 2021

Hosted by the Natural Start Alliance

The largest national gathering of nature-based early education professionals is staying online this year—more content, lower cost, lower carbon footprint!

[Follow this link for information for more information and registration](#)

SEEA Conference 2021

September 10-11, 2021

Hosted by Environmental Educators of North Carolina

[Lutheridge](#)

Arden, NC

Registration closes August 2, 2021!



NAAEE 50th Annual Conference

The Power of Connection

Registration slated to open beginning of August

<https://conference.naaee.org/>

October 12-15, 2021

Virtual

Research Symposium (virtual)

October 7-8, 2021

Virtual Meetings and Workshops

October 4-15, 2021



The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) is a network of state affiliates of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located in the southeastern United States. Member states include AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN. SEEA offers a regional conference and provides networking and professional development opportunities for the southeastern states.

SEEA Project Updates

2021 SEEA Conference

Over 130 educators from across the region have already registered for the 2021 SEEA Conference hosted by EENC! Workshops and field trips are filling up, and registration ends on August 2. All conference information and updates can be found online at <http://eenc.org/conference> Important dates to know:

- August 2 (Monday): Registration closes
- September 8 (Wednesday): The SEEA Leadership Team in-person meeting and strategic planning begins at 1pm
- September 9 All Day (Thursday): Field trips and workshops, including the T3 for Don't Waste It (by invitation only)
- September 10 (Friday): Conference begins
- September 11 (Saturday): Conference end late afternoon

Those looking to make flight reservations should investigate flights into the Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) which is a short 10 minutes from Lutheridge. The next closest airport is Greenville-Spartanburg (about 1 hour away), then Charlotte-Douglas (about 2 hours away). Lutheridge is conveniently located off of I-26 and I-40.

Also, as a reminder, Dave Chase with DRC Consulting, will be available on Thursday and Friday of the conference for team conversations about topics or issues related to their affiliate. You can reach out to him at driconsulting@cyberpine.net to schedule a time.

Don't Waste It

The second group of *Don't Waste It* facilitators will be attending the Train-the-Trainer (T3) on September 9 during the SEEA Conference. Approximately 25 participants will be attending, representing the participating states. The first group of facilitators, a total of 19, attended the virtual Train-the-Trainer workshop on June 4th and 5th. The states participating in the *Don't Waste It* program are Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Landscape Analysis

Ashely has been working with EcoRise to build the map and dashboard to help display the data from the Landscape Analysis survey.



Reminder: There is an NAAEE affiliate calendar that lists monthly affinity groups, community calls, and committee meetings that constitute the shared learning and activities that are at the core of our work as a larger network. You can add this calendar to your calendar, too, so you don't miss an event.

[Google Calendar Link](#) [Apple Calendar Link](#)

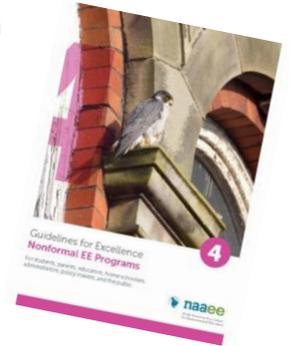
NAAEE Updates

Online Program Resource

Want to learn more about all of NAAEE's programs? Check out this [video gallery containing short video introductions about NAAEE program areas](#), including the [Affiliate Network video](#)! This could be a great resource to share with your board members and affiliate members to provide a broad overview of the NAAEE Affiliate Network.

Seeking Reviewers! Nonformal EE Program Guidelines Revision

Your help and input is needed! The *Guidelines for Excellence: Nonformal EE Programs* were first published in 2004 and have been updated about every five years since then. The review process is iterative; our writing team developed a first draft and you are invited to review this draft and provide comments that will be used in the continuing revision process. For more information [visit this post on eePRO](#).



2021 NAAEE Conference: Power of Connection

Excerpt from a letter to members and supporters from Judy Braus, April 7, 2021



We'll again be gathering virtually, after hearing everyone's concerns about both safety and costs. Last year's online attendance of more than 2,000 was our largest ever. The conference will take place over two weeks, with eePRO Group meetings and pre-conference workshops and the Research Symposium in the first week (October 4–8) and the full conference in the second week (October 11–15).

Our theme for the 50th Conference is "[The Power of Connection](#)". The pandemic has made us realize how much we crave connection. During this year of lockdowns and social distancing, we've been compelled to think about the importance of our ties with others: to our friends and families, our colleagues, our communities, and the natural world. We will build on all we've learned about how education deepens our connections by bringing people together from all backgrounds and disciplines to help solve our most pressing problems and create more just and sustainable communities. We hope you will join us in October for this special gathering. We will again offer [tiered pricing](#) so that anyone who wants to attend will be able to join!

eeLearn: Environmental Education Learning Modules

NAAEE has [four online learning modules to help explore foundational areas of environmental education](#) including *What is EE*, *The History of EE*, *Research and Evaluation*, and *Equitable and Inclusive EE*. To access these programs, you need to have a free account with NAAEE, and once completed, recognition of course completion will be visible on your eePRO account page.

Other Events

Five Guiding Principles: How Districts Can Use COVID Relief Funds to Advance Healthy, Green Schools

Thursday, July 22, 2021
2 – 3PM EST

[For more information on this eeWebinar and to register](#)

The Federal government has approved \$176 billion in COVID relief funding for K–12 schools in the last four months. A broad array of facilities investments are among the allowable uses. These funds represent an enormous opportunity to address and support student needs during the ongoing pandemic and to address persistent inequities. This webinar to advise districts on accessing federal funds. Discussion facilitated the Center for Green Schools and UndauntedK12.

Affiliate Network Community Forum: Advancing EE & Outdoor Learning Using Federal, State, & Local Stimulus Funds

Monday, July 26, 2021
2 – 3PM EST

[Register in advance for this call at this link](#)

NAAEE and Affiliate Leaders are advocating that states and school districts allocate a portion of their stimulus relief funds for environmental education and outdoor learning...and we need your help! Join us to learn more about the funding available and the advocacy tools and resources to help you make the evidence-based case for using emergency relief funds to support: Annual Student Field Experiences, Weekly Green Schools Activities, Daily Use of Outdoor Classrooms, Outdoor Education Staffing, and Professional Learning for Teachers. Invite your networks!

17th Annual Summer Institute for Climate Change Education

July 28-30, 2021

Hosted by Climate Generation, NOAA Climate Program Office, and The Wild Center

[Click this link for more information and to register](#)

Educators from all subject areas are invited to learn new ways to connect their communities to climate change solutions, while also building and strengthening relationships with educators from across North America. Join 1 of 13 cohorts of climate change education leaders, as we “reground in truth” and look ahead at a world grounded in climate justice for all!

NAAEE Affiliate Network DEI Working Group Call

Tuesday, August 10

2 – 3PM EST

always the second Tuesday of the month

Contact Oliva Griset (ogriset@gmail.com) for more details

NAAEE Affiliate Network Equity and Inclusion Quarterly Check-in Call

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

2 – 3PM EST

<https://zoom.us/j/99323689678>

Meeting ID: 993 2368 9678

Passcode: Affiliates

This meeting is a quarterly call focused on Equity and Inclusion efforts being conducted by Affiliates. This is a call open to any members of the Affiliate Network. These calls are meant to be emergent and iterative spaces responding to the needs of those who join as well as a space for sharing success, resources, or asking for support in centering equity in your Affiliate's work.

NAAEE Affiliate Network Professional Development Committee

Thursday, August 19, 2021

2 – 3PM EST

<https://zoom.us/j/99323689678>

Meeting ID: 993 2368 9678

Passcode: Affiliates

always the third Thursday of the month

This is the monthly meeting of the Affiliate Network Professional Development Committee. New members are always welcome. For more information or details please contact Affiliate Network Coordinator Bruce Young (bruce@naaee.org) and/or Affiliate Network PD Chair Abbie Enlund (executivedirectoreeai@gmail.com)

NAAEE Affiliate Network Fund Development Community of Practice

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

2 – 3PM EST

every two months (odd numbered months) on the third Tuesday

This bi-monthly CoP focuses on Fundraising/Fund Development for Affiliate Organizations. For more information contact group lead Sophia Stephenson (director@arkansasee.org).

Southeasterly Winds



Alabama

Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA)

<https://www.eeaa.us/>

In 1991, The Bankhead Monitor incorporated under the leadership of Executive Director Lamar Marshall. In 1994 Bankhead Monitor launched the Bankhead water project, contracting with scientists to study the impacts of clearcutting on the soils and watersheds of the Bankhead National Forest. Public demands lead to an expansion of state-wide work and the name was changed to Wild Alabama. Expanding regional projects mandated another name, Wild South, which expanded new partnerships and alliances across the south. In 2007, the shared vision for the native forest ecosystems and public lands, Wild South and Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project merge, combining forces to create one organization under the name Wild South, with the administration offices moving to Asheville, North Carolina. In 2010 the Wilderness Ranger Program was developed to train Wilderness Rangers to serve in Sipsey, Cheaha, and Dugger Mountain Wilderness areas.

In 2020 the Wild South Board of Directors, Executive Director, and staff worked together to restructure the organization and form the new independent Wild Alabama in order to continue and grow the work of protection on public lands and Wilderness areas in Alabama. Wild South remains the vigilant protector of national forests. In 2021 Wild Alabama was launched with Maggie Johnston as Executive Director. Today, Wild Alabama partners with the National Forests in Alabama to engage the public and protect the forest on public lands they administer. Wild Alabama recognizes the original people of the lands that we now inhabit and cherish. We acknowledge the Bankhead National Forest is traditional territory of the Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, and Yuchi and the Talladega National Forest is traditional territory of the Creek. During colonization, these tribes were forcibly removed from their homelands. Many descendants of these tribes remain on these landscapes and we honor their presence and contributions to protect Alabama's forests and rivers. The Wild Alabama community recognizes the ever-present systemic inequities that stem directly from past wrong-doings, and we commit ourselves to respecting and reconciling this long history of injustice.



Florida

League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF)

<https://leef-florida.org/>

Thursday, July 22, is our next installment in our LEEF Speaker Series, *Research and Removal efforts for invasive Burmese Pythons in Southwestern Florida*, with Ian Bartoszek. Ian is a Wildlife Biologist and the Science Project Manager at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida where he has worked for the past twenty years. He has extensive field experience within the Greater Everglades ecosystem and has conducted biological monitoring research for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project under the comprehensive Everglades restoration plan since 2001, and he is currently the project manager on a long-term collaborative radio-telemetry research project tracking Burmese pythons. His team has captured and removed over 20,000 pounds of python from southwestern Florida. [More information and registration can be found on the LEEF web site.](#)

The August LEEF Speaker Series has also been scheduled for Thursday, August 5. Ron Magill will be speaking on the Miracles of Monarchs. They will be sharing images of their trip to Michoacán, Mexico, where they witnessed the incredible migration of the monarch butterflies and why it is so important to understanding the health of our environment through a series of many images. [More information and registration can be found on the LEEF web site.](#)

Georgia

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA)

<https://www.eealliance.org/>

GreenSleeves, the book club of the Environmental Education Alliance (in Georgia), is reading a collection of short stories for those that don't have the time to read a whole book, or don't have the book! EEA invites anyone in the region to join us on Thursday 7/22 at 7:30 pm EST via [Zoom](#). Links for the four short stories are listed, below. Read one or all of them and join us for fun, friendship, and lively discussion.

July Short Story Selections:

"[Cloud Dragon Skies](#)" by N.K. Jemisin from *How Long 'til Black Future Month*

"Good Hunting, [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)" by Ken Liu from the *Paper Menagerie*

"[Spider the Artist](#)" by Nnedi Okorafor from *Kabu Kabu*

"[Dispatches from the Cradle: The Hermit - Forty-Eight Hours in the Sea of Massachusetts](#)" by Ken Liu from *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories*

And in EEA Board news, three new board members joined the organization on July 1!



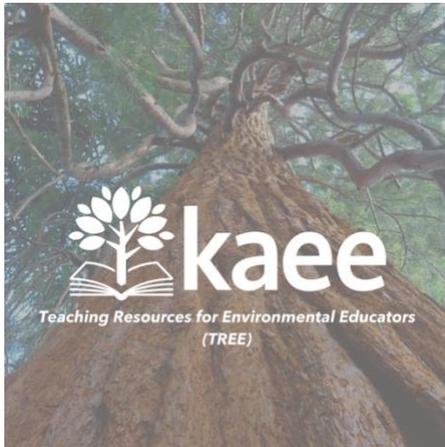
Kentucky

Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAAEE)

<https://www.kaee.org/>

[Registration has opened for the 2021 KAAEE annual conference, *Advancing Environmental Literacy: Adapting with the Next Generation of Learners*](#). The conference will be virtual and we can't wait to see you online and at one of our in-person, outdoor, meet-ups!

This year we will be celebrating 45 years of excellence in environmental education. While environmental education continues to evolve in our current virtual / hybrid context, our role as educators is more vital than ever. 2021 conference attendees will enjoy dynamic presenters, sessions, roundtables, and virtual social events as well as healthy in person outdoor meet-ups across the state! Learn more about what all our conference has to offer by checking out the [Conference Highlights](#) doc!



Did you know? KAAEE offers a variety of free resources easily accessible from our website at [kaee.org/the-tree/](https://www.kaee.org/the-tree/)! Specifically, the KAAEE Teaching Resources for Environmental Educators (TREE) was developed to serve as a means for connecting formal educators with professionals who can assist with the integration of environmental concepts into all content areas.

Within this portal you'll find Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) resources, KAS correlated units of study based on environmental education, connections to environmental educators across the state, a database of funders focused on environmental education for teachers, and more.

Mississippi

Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA)

<https://www.meeainms.org>

MEEA is putting together their first board retreat in August. We want to put together a plan of where we want to take this organization and how to do it. We are having it at the new MS Aquarium and will get to experience what they are doing for environmental education. It has been a busy and exciting summer with all the Conservation teacher workshops and all the teachers we are able to reach with our message.

Mississippi State University kicked off their Summer Science Scholars program on July 15th. This program introduced students to a diverse group of scientists working in the fields of agriculture, food science, chemistry, wildlife, forestry, water, fabrics and fashion, and more! This is an online program provided free of charge.

North Carolina

Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC)

<https://eenc.org/>

EENC is growing! In June, at EENC's first fully in-person board meeting of 2021, the Board of Directors voted to hire a program coordinator to help provide more professional development options, more tools and resources, and better support for the field of EE. The Executive Director and President-elect are currently reviewing applications for round one interviews, and the hope is to have this position filled by the 2021 Conference in early September.

Forty-five people attended EENC's July webinar, *Creating Animated Videos Like a Pro*, led by Piedmont Section Chair, Mary Meyer. August's webinar, *Venomous Snakes of the Carolinas*, will be led by Carlton Burke, a naturalist and educator who operates Carolina Mountain Naturalists. He previously spent 25 years on the staff of the western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville as the Curator of Exhibits, and co-hosts a weekly radio program NATURE NEWS. Carlton is also a NC state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator. The webinar will be Thursday, August 19, from 2 – 3PM EST. [Webinar is provided free of charge, but preregistration is required at this link.](#) All EENC Webinars are available to EENC members through the member portal.

EENC is excited to host over 40 people from outside of North Carolina at the EENC/SEEA conference in September! Over \$4700 in scholarship funding has been dispersed to assist with registration fees. [Conference information and registration can be found online](#), and registration closes on August 2.

2021 EENC / SEEA Conference Sponsors

Thank you to all our sponsors that are helping to make our conference an amazing success!

CHAMPION SPONSORS (\$2500+)



GUARDIAN SPONSORS (\$1000+)



College of
Natural Resources

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Advanced Composting Technologies
Buchi Kombucha and Kefir Soda
North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

EXHIBITORS

The North Carolina Arboretum
Advanced Composting Technologies
Kids Making Sense
NC State University College of Natural Resources
Mississippi State University Conservation Education

South Carolina

Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC)

<https://eeasc.org/>

EEASC returned to in-person events with a Midlands Meetup at Sonoco Recycling on July 13th! Twenty-one members joined for a tour. As usual, the Meetup began with round robin announcements and several members are celebrating new positions. EEASC board member Jane Hiller was named an "Honorary Recycle Guy" in recognition of her upcoming retirement from Sonoco. Following the Meetup, Jane hosted a "pay-what-you-want" Educational Materials and Upcycled Art Bazaar to share her resource stockpile with others as she prepares for retirement. Proceeds from the event benefited EEASC, and the group raised \$65 for the organization during this fun networking event.

EEASC's [South Carolina Green Step Schools](#) program is designed to help South Carolina schools earn awards for establishing sustainability projects where students learn, do and teach others. Schools are connected with mentors to guide and evaluate the variety of projects. The program will be recognized during the [Take Action SC VIRTUAL workshop](#) on July 27, which has more than 400 people have registered!

EEASC's 2021 hybrid conference, *Environmental Legacy: It's Our Story. Past, Present, and Future* had 88 attendees. During the event, EEASC recognized four award winners. [Learn more about them here!](#) EEASC's 2022 conference will be held at the Savannah River Ecology Lab near Aiken next June. Stay tuned for details and make plans to join us!

Tennessee

Tennessee Environmental Education Association (TEEA)

<http://eeintennessee.org/>

TEEA is continuing their regional TEEA Thursday Regional Meetings, the first Thursday of every month. Information can be found at on the [TEEA Event Calendar](#) or on their [Facebook page](#).

The TEEA Book Circle continues with *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. We are starting this process to create a community and dialogue centered around climate change and the [All We Can Save Project](#). All are welcome.

Meetings will be held monthly via ZOOM. You do not have to be a TEEA member to attend, we just request that you [sign up via this Google Form](#).

Meeting Schedule:

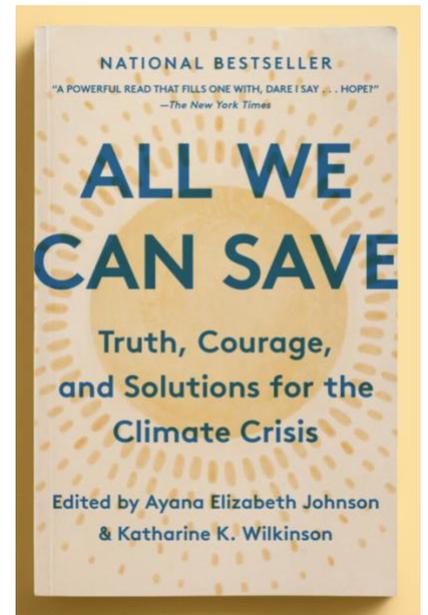
June 15: Begin & Root

July 14: Advocate & Reframe

August 18: Reshape & Persists

September 15: Feel & Nourish

October 20: Rise & Onward



SEEA at Your Service



- Access the SEEA website <http://www.southeastee.com/>
- [2021 SEEA Leadership Team Roster](#)
- SEEA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021
 - Will be revised in the last half of 2021
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrsEUVFA-2yosIEF75XRxVu6RZT3Uw82-ncr54ZpPRU/edit>
- ZOOM Video Conferencing Available to all SEEA States if needed. Please email Ashley (director@kaee.org) to request date/time.

Resources from NAAEE and the Affiliate Network

- eePRO Affiliate Group: <https://naaee.org/eepro/groups/affiliates>
 - NAAEE membership is not required for most eePRO resources
- 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: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/research/>
- *Applying Systems Thinking for Our Affiliates* Webinar: <https://youtu.be/2A6vll3Fthc>
- EENC's [Environmental Education is Essential Document](#)

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. Please send items for next month (news, updates, pictures) to Renee.

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