

SEPTEMBER 2021

# EEAA News

The latest news, events and announcements from the  
Environmental Education Association of Alabama  
**IN THIS ISSUE**

---

**NAAEE Conference  
Updates 2021**

**50th Anniversary Celebration**

---

**Teacher Workshops and  
Training Opportunities**

---

**Save the Date**

**EEAA Conference at Gulf State Park  
Feb 24-26, 2022**

---

Environmental Education Association  
of Alabama

[CONTACT@EEAA.US](mailto:CONTACT@EEAA.US)

[EEAA.US](http://EEAA.US)

FACEBOOK: ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF  
ALABAMA



# Hunting 80-million-year-old shark teeth in Alabama's Black Belt

AL.com Article, featuring EEAA President, Allie Sorlie

By Dennis Pillion

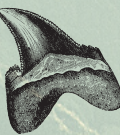


Tucker Bailey, 12, stands in ankle-deep water in Hale County, beaming from ear to ear and showing off his latest find. The creek he's standing in is about 170 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, but the object in his hand is unmistakable: a small, black shark's tooth.

The fossilized tooth dates back about 83 million years to a time when most of Alabama was covered by shallow seas.

"This rock layer where we're standing would have been the bottom of the ocean," said Allie Sorlie, education outreach coordinator for the Alabama Museum of Natural History, which organized the fossil hunting trip. "We would be completely covered by ocean here, kind of a shallow sea at that time."

Bailey was one of eight members of the public on the excursion, which uncovered several Ziploc baggies full of fossilized treasures – dozens of shark teeth, oysters, snails, turtle shell fragments, and vaguely octopus-like creatures called ammonites.



The museum, operated by the University of Alabama, has been leading these fossil excursions for decades as part of its public outreach and education efforts, said museum director John Friel.

"People can come to the museum to see fossils, but I think when you actually go out sometimes in your own backyard or at least your own state and can collect fossils yourself, you have a personal relationship with the past that I think is really special," Friel said. "And Alabama is an incredible state with an incredible fossil record, and I think it's just a great opportunity for people to realize what we have here."

Full article: [Hunting 80-million-year-old shark teeth in Alabama's Black Belt - al.com](https://www.al.com/news/local/hunting-80-million-year-old-shark-teeth-in-alabamas-black-belt/)





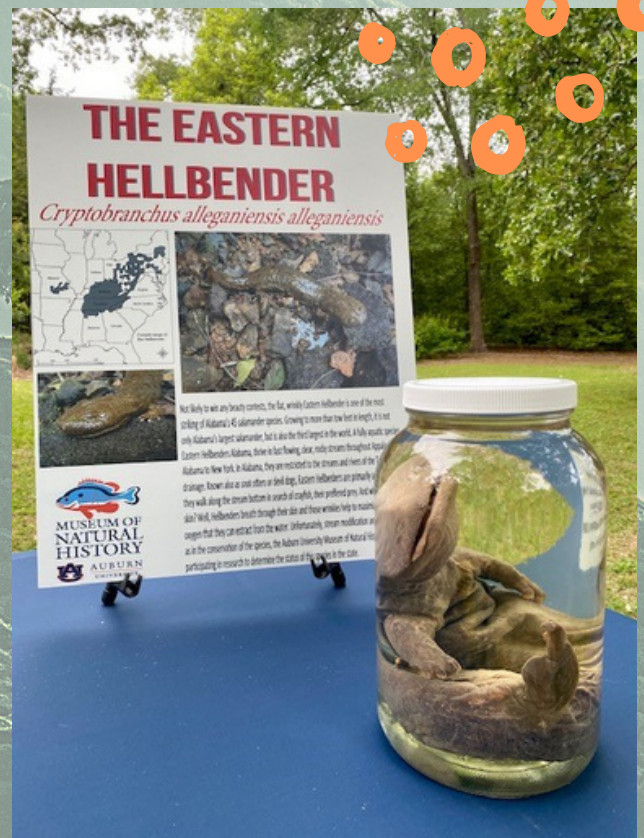
Continued  
Photos By: Dennis Pillon, al.com





# Auburn Museum of Natural History Opens Their Traveling Exhibit

Our awesome member Toni Bruner is opening up "A Night At The Museum", a traveling educational exhibit featuring samples from all ten different collections at the AUMNH. Pictures are from a recent Campfire Talk at Cheaha State Park. Toni can customize programs for different groups and Courses of Study to fit any and many educational needs. Exhibits, information, and live/ preserved specimens to educate and inform our citizens of the amazing natural resources of our great state are available. Contact Toni at [teb0042@auburn.edu](mailto:teb0042@auburn.edu)





## WILD ALABAMA

**Let's get outside!** Wild Alabama leads hikes in the Bankhead National Forest and Cheaha Mountain in the Talladega National Forest year round. In addition to the regularly scheduled events, we lead field trips for public and private schools, home schools, church groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Trail Life and any group that wants to get out into Alabama's wild places! Contact Janice Barrett at [janice@wildal.org](mailto:janice@wildal.org)



[Click here to see Wild Alabama Outreach Hikes](#) - monthly hikes for all ages, Forest Bathing, Wild Wednesday nature hikes for kids and families.

Wild Alabama has a couple of very exciting [community science](#) projects in the Bankhead National Forest for teachers and students!

[Click here to view a few of our recent fun and educational webinars](#) with Dr. Scott Duncan, Jimmy and Sierra Stiles, and Nimblewill Nomad.





# Exciting Opportunities with Alabama Water Watch!



## ALABAMA RIVERS EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Ideal for educators, outreach specialists, classroom teachers,  
and volunteers who work with 4th-12th grades.



### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

**LOCATION:** Cheaha State Park

**DATE:** October 2, 2021 | 10am-5pm

**COST:** \$35





***Become a water monitor for the Talladega National Forest in 3 steps:***

- 1.) Attend the Kickoff Zoom Call on September 16th**
- 2.) Complete self-paced, online courses for AWW Bacteriological and Water Chemistry Monitoring**
- 3.) Attend the Field Day at Cheaha State Park on October 1st**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)**



Registration Now Open!

**TALLADEGA  
NATIONAL  
FOREST  
WATER  
MONITORING**

Alabama Water Watch

FOREST SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

extension  
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITIES

AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL  
EXPERIMENT STATION  
Water Resources Center

Cheaha  
ALABAMA STATE PARKS

WILD ALABAMA





# Programs With: Alabama State Parks

## Cheaha State Park: September 20th

FULL MOON PADDLE -- Come to Oak Mountain State Park and enjoy the full moon rising over the mountain! Enjoy s'mores by the fires and relax on the pier! Rentals available through Flipside Watersports at the marina OR bring your own vessel! Rentals are first come first serve basis.



## Wind Creek State Park: September 24th

LONGLEAF BY THE LAKE -- The longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), with its feathery long needles and candelabra branching, is a crucial evergreen in Alabama's forests. Wind Creek State Park boasts impressive stands of the longleaf, nestled atop gently rolling hills near the banks of Lake Martin. Join Regional Extension Agent Drew Metzler with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to learn about the longleaf pine's unique life history, ecosystem, and management practices during this fun and interactive program.







Programs With:

# Alabama State Parks Cont'd



## Forest School at Joe Wheeler State Park

Blair Baxter, Educational Coordinator at JWSP, begins this year's session of Forest School with a wet blast. Alabama Water Watch's MacroMania and stream biomonitoring were performed by the kids recently. Our theme of this month is aquatics with ecology, water physics, and of course, water recreation! We have lots of learning along with tree climbing, mud pie making and confidence building.

Stay tuned for more outside adventures with Ms Blair, Sam Woodroof (JWSP Park Naturalist) and Mr. Mike Ezell (Naturalist emeritus)! Check out [Joe Wheeler's Facebook Page](#) for more forest school highlights and upcoming programs at the Park.



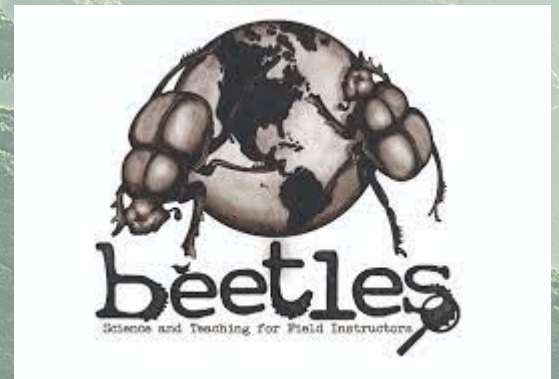


# **Save the Date EEAA Conference February 24-26, 2022 Gulf State Park**



## **EEAA Pre-Conference Workshop February 24, 2022 Dauphin Island Sea Lab**

- Developing leaders who are enthusiastic about improving their outdoor, inquiry-based, instructional skills while effectively moving equity, diversity, and inclusion forward in Environmental Education  
Funded by a BEETLES grant





# Teacher Resources

## Teaching Climate Change

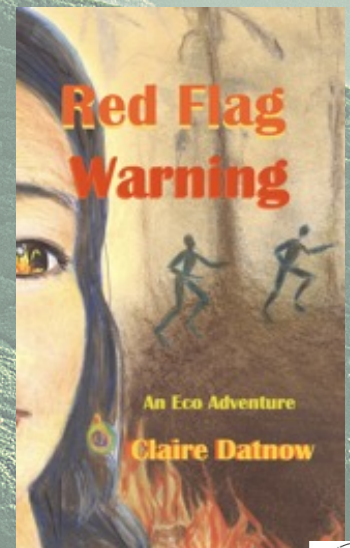
### Climate Change Education

#### Across the Curricula, Across the Globe

Teaching Environmental Science/Climate Change/ through Fiction.  
Meet the Author: <https://dragonfly.eco/indie-corner-claire-datnow/>  
View an interview discussing the Story Behind The Cover  
This interview would be a springboard to a career talk conversation.  
Additional related blogs from the author on mediamint.net  
<https://mediamint.net/styled-11/index.html#.YS-8kflKiM9>

Over Arching Premise: Connecting scientific concepts with storytelling can be a powerful way to make future consequences more immediate to ourselves and our students. Fiction can be woven into teaching environmental science and climate change outline in the core curriculum standards.

See: Alabama State Standards for Science: <https://study.com/academy/popular/alabama-state-standards-for-science.html> (" ... The effect of human activity on the biosphere will be discussed . . . students will chart weather conditions and climate change in addition to studying the effects of humans on the environment that alter the planet's surface.")





# EEAA Board Member Janice Barrett - She Speaks for the Trees

Most people have a soft spot for at least one tree. It might be a pine, an oak, or even a crepe myrtle. If you do, you have a lot in common with Janice Barrett – she's just taken it a whole lot further! After becoming a mother in 1989, Janice realized how important it was to protect the world her son had been born into. In 1992, she became involved as a volunteer artist with the Bankhead Monitor, a non-profit educational conservation group, and has been working as a defender of the forests for nearly 30 years.

Bankhead Monitor would become Wild Alabama (WA); Barrett became WA's Outreach Coordinator in 2001 and has held that position for two decades. She co-created Wild Alabama's Helping Hands program, its Hikes Program, and its Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program. She also created the Wild Wednesday Program, which takes kids and their families on guided hikes during summer months. Like acorns planted in one of her beloved forests, all of these programs are still growing strong. At its core, her work is about forest protection by the people, for the people. – Josh Levesque

Read the rest of the article:

<https://alabamaliving.coop/articles/janice-barrett-speaks-for-the-trees/>





Legacy has two workshops coming up this fall. The workshops are on October 16, 2021, and November 6, 2021. The information can be found on this link – <https://legacyenvd.org/educator-excursions/>



### CAHABA RIVER WALK

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 - 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**CAHABA RIVER WALK - 6 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Join the Legacy and the Cahaba River Society for this exciting workshop on the Cahaba River. This workshop provides participants with an overview of the Cahaba River – Alabama's most biodiverse river. As we walk along a stretch of the Cahaba River we will explore above and below the water's surface and discover the flora and fauna that live there. We will learn about the animals that call the Cahaba home and what their presence means to the health of the river. Topics and activities include macroinvertebrate sampling, water quality testing, Native vs Invasive Species, and more!!

**\*\*Teacher Workshops open to formal and informal educators in the state of Alabama\*\***



### Animal Explorations: (iNaturalist, habitat adaptations, & diversity)

OCTOBER 16, 2021 - 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM

**MONTGOMERY ZOO - 6 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
2301 COLISEUM PKWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36110

Join Legacy and the Montgomery Zoo as we explore the animal wonders of our world. We will examine habitat diversity and the adaptations animals make to thrive in those habitats. We will also delve into both native and invasive species found at the zoo with the help of the iNaturalist app.

Teachers receive valuable classroom resources and activities, as well as 6 hours of CEUs for attending. The workshop fee covers lunch and some workshop materials.

**\*\*Teacher Workshops open to formal and informal educators in the state of Alabama\*\***

## Forest School at Joe Wheeler State Park

Forest School continues at Joe Wheeler State Park under the direction of Blair Baxter, Education Coordinator along with Park Naturalist Sam Woodroof and Naturalist emeritus Mike Ezell. Monthly themes included:

August: Water (paddling, fishing, river ecology)

September: Gathering (deciduous trees, nuts, nature collections: journaling/pictures/rocks)

Over fifty kids and parents participated in water safety, water quality, paddling, dendrology, journaling, building fairy houses (thanks Renee!) and tie die using Nature's bounty!



EEAA: SEPTEMBER 2021





# Notes From: SEEA

## Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance

### SEEA Strategic Planning

The SEEA Leadership Team has been doing some work around strategic planning on their monthly calls in preparation for our in-person meeting during the EENC/SEEA Conference. The strategic plan will help guide the work of SEEA over the next three years as we continue to build capacity and strengthen collective EE programming across the Southeast. The Leadership Team has been working with Dave Chase, an independent nonprofit consultant and NAAEE Advisory Board Member. Dave is no stranger to SEEA and has worked with the group and individual states in the past.

### SEEA Regional JEDI eeCourse Launching

Launching by the end of August, the SEEA JEDI Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Environmental Education course will run from September 20th- December 15th. Registration can be found [southeastee.org/jedi101](https://southeastee.org/jedi101) and will close on September 15. Scholarships may be available.

This course 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. It 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.

The JEDI eeCourse will be moderated by Reverend Leonard Curry, an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and pastor of St. James AME church in Ashland, Kentucky. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Rhodes College, and a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology from Yale University. He is currently a PhD candidate at Vanderbilt University in the program of Ethics and Society where his research focuses on emotion, racism, and power in religion and politics. Reverend Curry has worked with NAAEE Affiliate Leaders on the Affiliate Working Group 2.0 as well as the Kentucky Association for EE.





# SEEA Conference 2021

Arden, North Carolina



EEAA Member Mirandi Reese Watson: "I received a scholarship to attend the Southeastern Environmental Educators Alliance conference, hosted by the Environmental Educators of North Carolina at Lutheridge in Western NC. It was a great conference, filled with tons of invaluable information! Definitely worth the trip!"





# naaee Affiliate Network

Announcing the Affiliate Network Working Group & Advisory Group

We are thrilled to announce members of the newly created Affiliate Network Working and Advisory Groups. These groups help guide and carry out network-wide initiatives, provide feedback to NAAEE, and work toward building the capacity of the NAAEE Affiliate Network.

To see the list of members and learn more about both groups, visit this post on [eePRO](#).

**Affiliate Assembly- Save the Date- 10/6, 4:00-6:00pm ET**

Join us for the Second Annual Affiliate Assembly as a part of the 2021 NAAEE Conference and Research Symposium on Wednesday, October 6 from 4:00 PM–6:00 PM ET.

The Affiliate Assembly is designed for staff and board members of NAAEE's 54 Affiliate Network organizations. Share and learn from other affiliate leaders in this unique professional development and networking opportunity. Let's build capacity, share successful practices, and learn innovative strategies. Join us after the Assembly for an optional Virtual Happy Hour (6:00 PM–7:00 PM ET)!



EEAA: SEPTEMBER 2021







**For the past 50 years, NAAEE has been working to provide the education we need for the world we want.**

**We've worked with partners around the world to educate people of all ages about how—together—we can tackle the pressing environmental and social problems of the century, from climate change to loss of biodiversity to systemic racism.**

**In those 50 years, we have learned much about how education can transform individuals and communities and help inspire action. Though we still have a lot of work ahead of us, your support helps propel the environmental problem solvers of today and tomorrow towards creating more livable, just, and sustainable communities for all. We can't thank you enough.**

**To learn more about how we are celebrating this year visit our [50th Anniversary page](#) or [read this letter](#) from NAAEE Executive Director Judy Braus.**

conference.naaee.org

**naaee 50**  
North American Association  
for Environmental Education

**50TH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**  
October 12–15, 2021

**18TH ANNUAL  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM**  
October 7–8, 2021

**MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS**  
October 4–15, 2021

**THE POWER OF CONNECTION**  
Education We Need for the World We Want

The poster features a central graphic of three overlapping circles in blue, green, and yellow, with a butterfly and a person's face visible within them. The background is a light blue sky with a white cloud.