

**2023 EEAA**  
**Annual Conference**



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



***"Tales of  
Natural  
Wonder"***

***Conference Program***

**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2023**

**LAKEPOINT STATE PARK**

**104 OLD HIGHWAY 165**

**EUFAULA, AL 36027**

# Thursday, February 2, 2023

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Preconference  
Workshop**

Riverside A/B

**Led by Maggie Johnston - Wild Alabama**

Reacquaint, or learn for the first time, BEETLES pedagogical techniques -- in person and in the field! Please join us as we explore native habitats around Lakepoint State Park. We will spend the day honing our observation skills, practicing questioning strategies, engaging with nature, and with each other!

4:00 p.m.

**Conference  
Registration Opens!**

Business Center/Ballroom Foyer

6:00 p.m.

**Meet and Greet  
(Networking, Check out  
vendors!)**

Lobby and Ballroom Foyer

Stop by the hospitality room (room 200) for snacks and drinks while networking, dinner on your own

# Friday, February 3, 2023

7:00 a.m.

**Registration Begins**

Business Center/Ballroom Foyer

7:00-8:00 a.m.

**Breakfast**

Water's Edge Dining Room

8:00 a.m.

**Field Trips (\*includes box lunches; others have lunch in Water's Edge Dining room)**

## **Pontoon Boat Tour of Lake Eufaula**

**Leader: Scottie Jackson**

This field trip will embark from the boat dock behind the lodge to explore Lake Eufaula. (Meet in Riverside A)

## **Let's Make Something New!**

**Leaders: Vicky Smith/Jo Dale**

A creative session using items that would normally be discarded and items from nature to make interesting crafts. (Meet in Magnolia)

## **Hike with Mike**

**Leader: Mike Ezell**

Join one of our state's best naturalists for a hike around Lakepoint State Park. (Meet in Riverside B)

## **Wonderful Waterfowl\***

**Leader: Jimmy Stiles**

This trip will travel to the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge to look at wildlife. We will focus on waterfowl but likely see other cool creatures. (Meet in Lobby)

## **Archery at Lakepoint**

**Leaders: Blair Sistrunk/Jeff Brown**

Learn to shoot or hone your skills as an archer at Lakepoint's archery park. Participants will also discuss and learn about the Archery in Schools Program sponsored by ADCNR. (Meet in Cottonwood)

## **Wehle Nature Center Shore\***

**Leaders: Toni Bruner/Roger Birkhead**

Travel to the Wehle Forever Wild Tract and explore this wonderful nature center. Participants will get to learn about current biological research projects. (Meet in lobby)

**Note: offsite field trips will carpool**

8:45 a.m.

**Silent Auction begins**

Elm/Maple (Ballroom)

1:30 p.m.

**Welcome and Updates**

Elm/Maple (Ballroom)

**Toni Bruner, President of EEAA**

**1:45 p.m.**

**Keynote**

**Elm/Maple (Ballroom)**

## **The Power Of Stories To Teach and Imbue Wonder of our Natural World**

Drawing people into the power, beauty, cruelty, utility, intricate patterns and behaviors of animals, insects, and the geologic formations of our natural world is what will help create an army of protectors for this planet. The best tool for reaching this objective is storytelling. People are moved by stories, not facts. That said, you can imbue your stories with facts that will linger in someones imagination and intellect for a very long time, often igniting action. This keynote will feature stories, original and folk, that do just this, and invite participants to consider places, critters, geologic formations that have informed their passion for the natural world. Judith will model, with their input how they can shape their own experiences into stories that will ignite listeners passions.



**Judith Black** is a professional storyteller, story maker, and teacher/coach with an international following. Originally trained at Wheelock College as an early childhood educator, Judith leapt from the classroom to the stage after training at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Ultimately she bound these two passions with storytelling and for 35 years has been using story to motivate, humanize, entertain, and teach. Most recently, she has turned her attention to the climate crisis and in June of 2016 gave a TEDX talk on the link that can bind storytelling and climate. She is the winner of many awards in her field.

**3:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions I**

### **Going Green: Becoming an Alabama Green Ribbon School (Cottonwood)**

**Dr. Michal Robinson, Mr. Jonathan Thompson - ALSDE**

**Audience: K-12 Educators, Public**

Learn tips for reducing environmental impact and costs, improved health and wellness, and effective environmental and sustainability education.

### **Tales About Tails: Alabama Salamanders (Magnolia)**

**Sierra Stiles - Turtle Point Science Center**

**Audience: K-12 Educators, Public**

Salamanders belong to the Order Caudata, the tailed amphibians. Learn about the rich diversity of these slimy-skinned vertebrates in Alabama. You will gain tales to engage students of all ages.

### **Exploring Pathogen Pollution in Our Waters (Riverside A)**

**Mona Dominguez, Sydney Zinner - Alabama Water Watch, Alabama 4-H**

**Audience: 4-12 Educators, Public**

Conduct a bacteriological water test at Lake Eufaula and learn to conduct hands-on classroom activities from the 4-H AL Water Watch curriculum, Exploring Pathogen Pollution in Our Waters, during this session.

### **Sweet "Forest" Home Alabama! Exploring Forest Habitats (Riverside B)**

**Ed Lewis, Ashley Smith - Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Project Learning Tree**

**Audience: K-6; Preschool Educators**

How do forest organisms depend on each other to survive? What is their story? Model the interconnectedness of organisms in an ecosystem through select PLT activities for young children.

**\*This session will last two hours and will carry over into the next concurrent sessions time slot.**

**4:15-5:15 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions II**

**Standards & State Parks (Board Room)**

**Blaire Baxter - Athens Renaissance School**

**Audience: 6-12 Educators, Public**

Renaissance Rangers, Project Based Learning, and Standards Based Outdoor Education: How to bring virtual students outside to nurture a hands-on green classroom community.

**Venomous Snakes of Alabama (Magnolia)**

**Jimmy Stiles, Raymond Corey - Auburn University and Alabama Herpetological Society**

**Audience: 6-12 Educators, Public**

Venomous snakes are some of the few animals that can be dangerous in the state of Alabama, yet very few people are confident in their identification. Join us and learn identification, facts, and myths of the charismatic creatures.

**Getting Green to Go Green (Cottonwood)**

**Sabrina Helm, Eva Yarborough - Decatur City Schools Virtual Academy**

**Audience: K-12 Educators Public**

How to get FREE money to pay for Environmental Education Projects. Tips and Tricks on winning grants.

**The Marble Bowl - Gamifying Citizen Science in Alabama (Riverside A)**

**Wesley Anderson, Auburn University - Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

**Audience: Public Educators**

Citizen science platforms like iNaturalist hold great value in documenting the story of our world's biodiversity. But how to get more of the public engaged? One approach is to gamify it.

**6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner**

**Elm/Maple (Ballroom)**

**7:30 p.m.**

**BEEP Awards  
and Enviro-Auction!**

**Elm/Maple (Ballroom)**

The EEAA Live Auction is a lively, fun-filled annual event. Bring your checkbook (credit cards can be accepted)! Proceeds go to the Professional Development Funds (PDF). EEAA members can apply for PDF to attend workshops.

**Saturday, February 4, 2023**

**7:00-8:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**Water's Edge Dining Room  
A.N.T.S - Private dining room**

**8:15-9:15 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions III**

**What in the World? (Magnolia)**

**Marilyn McGowan, PhD - Mobile Christian School**

**Audience: 4-6 Educators**

The What in the World session provides teachers with an interactive bell ringer activity using objects found in nature - you'll have the students engaged and excited for science class.

**Power of Choice: Redefining Animal Training**

**Molly Kelly - McDowell Environmental Center (Cottonwood)**

**Audience: Caretakers of Animals; Public Educators**

Learn how to utilize the power of choice in animal care to build a more trusting and resilient education animal.

**Conservation Biology: A New High School Course to Teach Place-Based Environmental Education (Riverside B)**

**Dr. Matt Johnson and Mrs. Sidney Freeman - University Charter School**

**Audience: 4-12 Educators, Public**

Learn the story of University Charter School in Livingston, AL, that created a one-of-a-kind experiential learning experience for high school juniors focused on building environmental awareness and action through their Introduction to Conservation Biology course.

**Getting the Story Off the Page Education (Riverside A)**

**Judith Black - Keynote Speaker**

**Audience: K-12 Educators, Public**

The written word has quite a different resonance than the spoken story, which the teller interprets both through theme and technique. Come and play with how to breath life into the written word so that it remains indelible in the hearts and minds of your listeners.

**9:45 a.m.**

**Silent Auction Closes**

**Elm/Maple (Ballroom)**

**10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions IV**

**Preserving a Threatened Forest through Art: Alabama's Hemlocks (Magnolia)**

**Starr Weems, Janice Barrett, Allison McElroy,**

**Jillian Sico - Wild Alabama, Ardmore High School, Jacksonville State, University of Alabama**

**Audience: 7-12 Educators, Public**

Alabama's hemlock forests are under threat. Come and explore how you, your class or your organization can help. This arts-integrated approach is transferable to other ecosystem studies. No art background necessary!

**Using Alabama Fossils to Teach the Deep-Time Story of Life on Earth (Cottonwood)**

**Dr. Bill Deutsch - Auburn University (retired)**

**Audience: 4-12 Educators, Public**

Alabama has the highest fossil diversity of any eastern US state. Let's use our Paleontological heritage and the amazing stories of the fossil finders to get folks excited about science!

**Children at Play: Self-directed Nature Play in Early Childhood and Beyond (Riverside B)**

**Emily Alman - Little Mountain Forest School, ANTS**

**Audience: K-12 Educators, Public**

Develop a new appreciation for the "Natural Wonder" of play in this hands-on session. Discover how play supports all areas of child development, including social and emotional skill building, cognitive development, and communication.

**Alabama's Oak: Boynton Oaks and Tree Ring Printing (Riverside A)**

**Lauren Massey (Muncher) - Oak Mountain State Park**

**Audience: K-12 Educators, Public**

Learn the story of the Critically Endangered Boynton Oak Tree that is only found in Alabama. Oak Mountain State Park has the largest and oldest population of these amazing trees. Then explore the art of tree ring printing and take home a piece of natural history!

**12:00 p.m.**

**Closing Address and  
Announcement of new  
EEAA Board!**

**Elm/Maple (Ballroom)**

**Pick up auction items. Lunch in Elm/Maple Ballroom.**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting**

***See you next year at the 2024 Annual Conference!***

**FEBRUARY 15-17, 2024**

**AT**

**BEAUTIFUL CAMP McDOWELL!**



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