



Newsletter

May

2021

Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

Environmental Legacy: It's Our Story. Past, Present, and Future.

Virtual Conference June 10-12, 2021

[Conference Information](#)



SEEA Conference 2021

September 10-11, 2021

Hosted by Environmental Educators of North Carolina

[Lutheridge](#)

Arden, NC

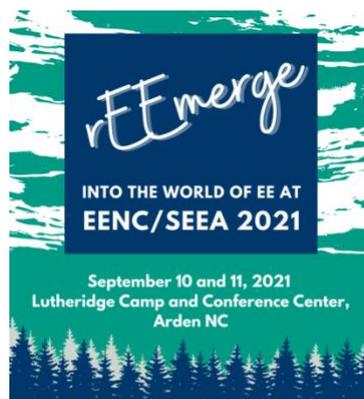
CALL FOR PROPOSALS DUE MAY 24th

Make sure to check out the conference section below for more information and updates!



ACCEPTING CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS THROUGH MAY 24, 2021

EENC.ORG/CONFERENCE



REQUEST FOR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS OPEN THROUGH MAY 24, 2021

EENC.ORG/CONFERENCE



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

Don't Waste It

The states participating in the Don't Waste It program are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The Don't Waste It Steering Committee has been developing the online Moodle course for the Don't Waste It curriculum. The first group of facilitators will attend a virtual training in June, and another facilitator training will occur during the SEEA Conference in September in North Carolina.

SEEA JEDI Course

EENC and KAEE partnered with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, the Center for Diversity in the Environment, EcoInclusive, and Youth Outside to create an online, self-paced, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in environmental education (EE) Course. 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.

The course contains 4 modules and is paced out to span 6 weeks and 12 hours. Topics include:

- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Introduction
- History and Language of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Understanding, Identifying, and Disrupting Implicit Bias and Systemic Oppression
- Power and Privilege in Action

The course is being piloted tested with a few select audiences, and it is anticipated to be available for SEEA participation in the second half of 2021. Stay tuned!

2021 SEEA Conference

EENC is excited to host the 2021 SEEA Conference, September 10-11, 2021, at [Lutheridge](#) in Arden, North Carolina. All conference information and updates can be found online at <https://eenc.org/conference>.

- **May 24 (Monday): Call for Proposals Due** ([Research Symposium](#) & [General Conference](#))
- September 8 (Wednesday): The SEEA Leadership Team in-person meeting and strategic planning
- September 9 (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 advance 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.

NAAEE Updates

Affiliate Network 2.0 Working Group Updates

As a reminder, the new NAAEE Affiliate Network Goals

The NAAEE Affiliate Network advances environmental literacy to create a more just, equitable and sustainable future. As a network, we collaborate on joint efforts and share learning to:

1. Build and strengthen the capacity of individual Affiliates, the Affiliate Network and NAAEE to advance the field of Environmental Education
2. Center social and environmental justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in our work as environmental educators, individual Affiliates, the Affiliate Network and NAAEE.
3. Elevate and increase support for environmental education through advocacy and shared messaging to magnify the reach and impact of our work.
4. Provide space and opportunity for fostering innovation, shared learning, and addressing emergent issues.

Reach out to Affiliate Network Coordinator, [Bruce Young](#), with any questions you may have. In addition, questions and comments can be addressed to the SEEA members that also served on the Affiliate Network Working Group 2.0; Ashley Hoffman (director@kaee.org), Deb Veeder (dveeder@mswf.org), or Renee Strnad (rlstrnad@gmail.com).

Looking for other ways to engage with the broader NAAEE Affiliate Network? Check out the **new** 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 network. You can add this calendar to your calendar, too, so you don't miss an event.

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

- Affiliate Network Professional Development Committee
- Affiliate Network Equity & Inclusion Working Group
- Affiliate Network Fund Development Monthly Calls
- Attending Monthly Affiliate Community Calls

eeWEBINARS

Each month, NAAEE offers hour-long webinars on topics of key interest to environmental education professionals in formal and nonformal settings that will help raise the bar on the quality of EE programs, expand the scope and reach of these programs, social movements, and improve the way we communicate about our field. Past topics include *Moving Field Guide: A Kinesthetic Approach to Environmental Education*, *Small Marvels: Reflective Writing to Understand Place and Equity*, and *Design Principles for Online EE Programs*. Most webinars are recorded and can be viewed by anyone.

Webinars typically take place the fourth Tuesday of every month, with some flexibility based on speaker availability. To see a list of upcoming webinars, or to view past presentations, visit the [Monthly Webinar Series page on the NAAEE web site](#).

Other Events

Asian-American and Pacific Islander Leaders on the Future of the Environmental Movement

Webinar hosted by Green 2.0

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

2-3pm EST

[Click here to register](#)

Affiliate Network Equity & Inclusion Quarterly Check-In Call

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

2-3PM EST

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

This meeting is a quarterly call focused on Equity and Inclusion efforts being conducted by Affiliates. 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. This is a call open to any members of the Affiliate Network.

Environmental Justice in EE

Webinar hosted by EENC

Thursday, May 20, 2021

2-3PM EST

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

Honoring Tribal and Traditional Knowledge: Integrating Tribal and Indigenous Partnerships into Aquaculture Literacy

Webinar hosted by NOAA

Thursday, June 3, 2021

4-5pm EST

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

Southeasterly Winds



Alabama

Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA)

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

Alabama's 2020 BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning and Expertise Sharing) proposal was accepted, and EEAA is part of the collaborative effort that will use the funding to strengthen collaboration between EE providers across the state, establish high norms for EE that is inquiry-based, culturally relevant, equitable, and inclusive. Two workshops were recently held that were supported by this funding.

The Alabama Environmental Education Summit – Coastal Region held a virtual meeting, bringing together 27 enthusiastic people involved in environmental education. The participants came from 16 different research facilities, school systems, nature centers, advocacy groups, and other environmental and education facilities. It is the goal of AEEES to bring together environmental education practitioners to build relationships and improve the experience all of Alabama's students have when exploring and learning about nature. The summit included valuable teaching resources from the BEETLES project and also a conversation on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion from the [DoGoodery](#).

A similar program was held in the central part of the state in early May for 21 participants. They learned more about the BEETLES approach and curriculum, learned how to better use inquiry-based education in their teaching, and discussed ways to increase and improve their work with diverse audiences with assistance from T Marie King and Hollie Cost. Participants will be sharing them with their educational team and others in our region.

Florida

League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF)

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



LEEF successfully held its first virtual conference in April! Over 80 people registered for the virtual event that celebrated our roots in EE; 40 years since our first meeting! There were great concurrent presentations, a moderated panel discussion centering on DEI issues in EE, and even musical guest, Grant Livingston!

Thursday, May 20, is our next installment in our LEEF Speaker Series, Teaching for Collective Environmental Action. Presenter Sahar Arbab will discuss why they believe the EE field should move towards prioritizing systemic change through example in her own teaching and community programs. The presentation will be via Zoom, from 7-8pm, EST. Registration for non-members is \$5. [More information and registration can be found on the LEEF web site.](#)

Georgia

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA)

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

Join environmental educators at the [Monarchs Across Georgia Workshop](#) on May 22, 2021. This workshop, hosted at Valley Farm at Toccoa Falls College, will cover basic monarch biology and ecology, monarch citizen science projects (Journey North, Project Monarch Health, Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, and Monarch Watch tagging), and creating pollinator habitats. *The Monarchs and More: An Inquiry and Arthropod-Based Curriculum* is the basis for the monarch butterfly studies and schoolyard ecology explorations included in the workshop. Curricula are divided into grade-level specific lessons for K-2, 3-6, and middle school teachers, with a strong interdisciplinary approach incorporating concepts and skills in science, math, reading, writing, art, and social studies. Lessons are congruent with K-8 concept and process standards as outlined in the National Academy of Science's National Science Education Standards (1996) and correlated to the Georgia Performance Standards. Registration is \$30 and also includes membership in EEA. Stephens County Soil and Water

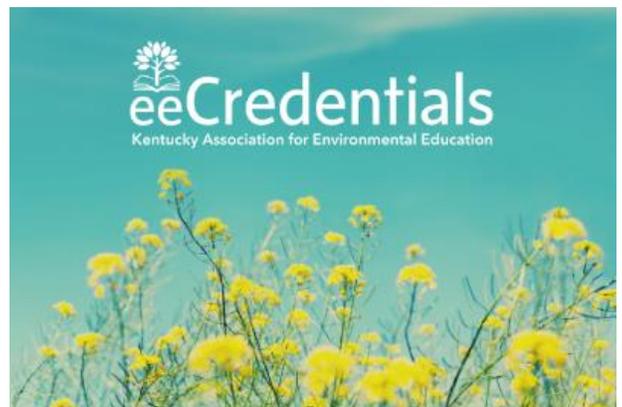
The EEA virtual book club, *GreenSleeves*, will meet again on Sunday, May 23, at 7pm EST. This month's book is *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. [Follow this link for meeting information and register for Zoom meeting links.](#)

Kentucky

Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE)

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

The summer term of the KAEE eeCredential professional development program is getting ready to kick off in mid-May! There are currently 10 courses offered in this program, and each eeCourse has an enrollment fee of \$50 for members, and \$74 for KAEE members. Two more courses are in development. If you have any questions, please contact brittany@kaee.org. To find additional information regarding our eeCredentials program, visit kaee.org/eecredentials.



May's webinar, Enhancing Local EE Programming through Higher Education Research Partnerships, will be on Thursday, May 20, from 2-4PM EST. Our guest presenters are educators from the University of Kentucky who will share insights into partnering EE programs with higher ed research and funding opportunities. All are welcome so join us if you can! Registration is \$10 for those that are not members of KAEE. [Registration and more information can be found at this link.](#)



Planning is underway for KAEE's annual Outdoor Learning Symposium, which will be virtual this year. The Outdoor Learning Symposium (OLS) is designed for K-12 administrators and teachers, with a goal to enhance outdoor learning for schools and encourage administrators and teachers to promote outdoor learning at their schools. The OLS will be June 8th and 10th and is offered free! [If you are interested in registering or would like more information, please visit this web page.](#)

KAEE has also opened nominations for their annual [Excellence in EE Awards program](#). These awards recognize the outstanding achievements in the field of EE, and nominations can fall into two categories; Individual Awards (Rising Star in EE, M.K. Dickerson Outstanding Educator, Lifetime Achievement in EE) and Group Awards (Community Partner/Government Agency, Business, PreK-12 School). The nominee must have an earnest involvement in the field of EE and have made, and continues to make, significant contributions to EE in Kentucky.

Mississippi

Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA)
<https://www.meeainms.org>

MEEA is welcoming two new board members to the organization this month! At this time, MEEA does not directly sponsor programs, but other agencies across the state are hosting programs this summer. Currently, there are over 18 EE/Conservation teacher workshops hosted in June and July across the state. These workshops are usually 3–5 days long. In addition, various organizations are holding several EE/conservation youth camps throughout the summer. These workshops and camps utilize many of our Informal educators teaching about Adopt-A-Stream, Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project Wild, pollinators, recycling, marine biology and many other natural resource curriculums. Even though we all know we need to adhere to CDC guidelines we are happy to see that many people want to get outdoors and learn! More [information about these programs, including locations and dates](#), can be found on our web site.

North Carolina

Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC)

<https://eenc.org/>

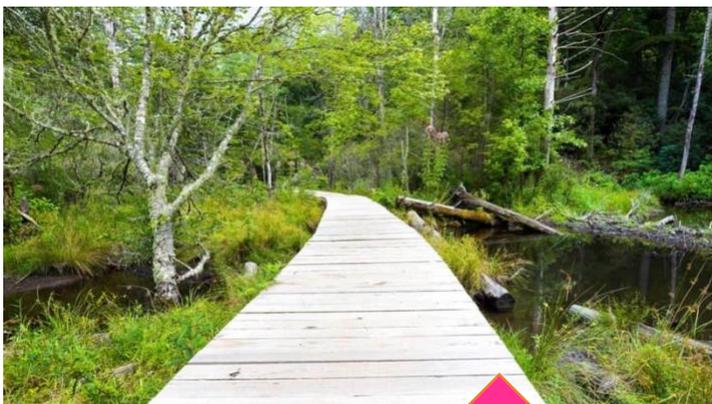
Due to the success during 2020 when programming switched to online, EENC is continuing our monthly webinar series. These webinars occur on the third Thursday of the month from 2-3PM EST, are provided free of charge, and are open to anyone. The May 20th webinar, [Environmental Justice in EE](#), will guide participants in ways to incorporate Environmental Justice and JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) into the everyday workings of your organization.

EENC's spring fundraiser continues! The spring fundraiser has three main goals:

- Offer educators a **“pay what you can” option for our online justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion online course** launching summer 2021, so that cost isn't a barrier in their professional development
- Provide **free facilitated community calls and monthly webinars** for hundreds of educators who tune in live or watch recordings on-demand afterward. You will also ensure that presenters invited to speak by EENC are compensated for their time and expertise, supporting our commitment to equity
- Create **toolkits, training, and resource collections** answering pressing questions from educators rapidly working to return to in-person programming or who will continue to offer virtual programming

If interested, you can [donate at this link!](#)

After a year of exclusive online programming and networking, EENC has two section events on the calendar! Both events, on May 22, will bring together members and others in our eastern and western parts of the state. The Eastern Section event is a guided paddling outing on Greenfield Lake, which includes cypress stands, open water, and lots of wildlife! The Western Section event is an exploration of the Pink Beds in Pisgah National Forest, including a mountain bog and the Cradle of Forestry.



Pink Beds Trail equals this



Not this



South Carolina

Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC)

<https://eeasc.org/>

EEASC raised more than \$6000 in its [MightyCause Earth Day Crowdfunding Campaign](#), greatly exceeding their goal of raising \$4,000! To celebrate, EEASC members are doing litter clean-ups in their home communities. In other funding news, the South Carolina Champions of the Environment has agreed to provide \$23,000 in support of the Palmetto Environmental Education Certification Program, which is now under the aegis of EEASC! Huge thanks to the Champions of the Environment partnership for this contribution towards the growth and sustainability of PEEC.

EEASC is also supporting EE in their state by providing funding, including a \$2000 “starter grant” to help support the relaunching of Project WILD across the state. They also awarded a \$300 mini-grant to the Mountain Garden Club to help them refurbish a native plant garden at Paris Mountain State Park outside of Greenville. EEASC is also providing scholarships to educators that are attending a [Triple Facilitator Workshop](#) in July, which will grow the facilitator base for Project WET, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree.

The [EEASC Annual Conference](#) will be held June 10-12, 2021, with virtual sessions on June 10-11 and face-to-face field trips on June 12. The conference theme is Environmental Legacy: It's Our Story. Past, Present, and Future. The conference will feature two dozen virtual concurrent sessions, a virtual keynote by Dr. David Shelley, and optional face-to-face field trips at five locations through the state. Registration is open and the conference fee \$25.

Many thanks to these 2021 Conference Sponsors:



EEASC has been working on building the capacity and knowledge of running a non-profit! In May, board and leadership team members held a “staffing Your Affiliate, Are You Ready to Take the Leap” webinar as they look to expand their staff capacity in the year ahead. They also hosted a members-only Marketing Discussion Forum in April with guest speaker Roberta Burns. Twenty people participated in the event, which included a wonderful introduction to various marketing platforms, strategies, tips, and tricks. Educator meetups continue to grow! In April, the Eastern Section hosted *Environmental Quarantivia: April Showers Bring May Flowers* event in partnership with the SC Marine Educators Association, SC Sea Grant Consortium, and Patriot's Point Naval & Maritime Museum. The Midlands and Western Sections of EEASC will hold virtual meetups in May.

Register for the [Midlands Meetup here](#) and [the Western Section Meetup here](#).

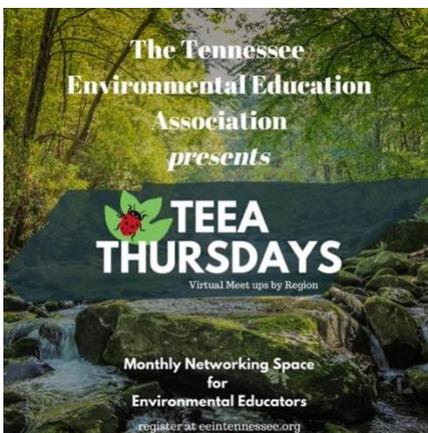
And lastly, EEASC Board Member Jane Hiller was named the recipient of SC's 2020 Environmental Awareness Award for her work with EEASC, Green Steps Schools, and Sonoco Recycling. She will be recognized in an event at the SC State House in June. Congratulations, Jane!!



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](#).

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.

Renee Strnad
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