

SEEA Newsletter: 2020



SEEA 2020 Conference Updates

The 2020 SEEA/EEASC Conference will be held in Columbia, SC September 24-26, 2020. The conference theme is "Environmental Legacy: It's Our Story. Past, Present, and Future." Session Proposals are now being accepted for the [General Conference Sessions](#) and the [Research Symposium](#). You may [reserve your lodging](#) at any of three conference hotels now; conference registration will open in April, 2020. Early bird registration will be \$180, with a student and SEEA Leadership Team price of \$150. To sponsor the conference and/or have a vendor table during the event, [click here](#). To submit information about items you will provide for the silent auction fundraiser, [click here](#). To watch a promotional video about the event, [click here](#). We have a [conference promo video](#) for the upcoming SEEA conference in September...we can't wait to see all of you in Columbia!

South Carolina is looking for favorite online resources for diversity, inclusion, and universal design in environmental education to share with a colleague who is interested in gaining skills in this area. Do you have any favorite tip sheets, webinars, YouTube videos, etc.? If anyone would like to present on this topic at the fall conference in Columbia, that would be FANTASTIC! Session proposals can be submitted at <https://eeasc.org/CFP-General>

SEEA Conference SC 2020

Research Symposium Updates

I am pleased to announce that the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC) will be hosting the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference, *“Environmental Legacy: It’s Our Story. Past, Present, and Future”*, September 24 – 26, 2020 in Columbia, SC! As part of this conference, a Research Symposium will be held on Thursday September 24, 2020 and we invite you to share your research efforts by submitting a session proposal that addresses one or more of the following strands:

- **Pages of the Past:** Research projects that capture information about our environmental past in the fields of geosciences, natural history, or socio-cultural perspectives. Proposals submitted for this strand should include research efforts that align with one or more of the following guiding questions: What does the natural landscape tell us about our environmental past? How do historical environmental science data inform our present-day lives and/or future directions? How have cultural connections to the environment changed over time?
- **Present-Day Plotlines:** Explores our present-day environmental heritage by featuring research efforts that highlight current geosciences research, science education research, evaluation and assessment efforts, and social science research. Proposals submitted for this strand should consider one or more of the following guiding questions: Are you researching exploring a new environmental educational program or project? Are you involved with environmental education research that is investigating current trends? Are you involved in assessment or evaluation efforts?
- **Foreshadowing the Future:** Captures chapters of our environmental legacy yet to be written and encourages proposal submissions from all applicable fields. Proposals submitted for this strand are encouraged to consider research that aligns with one or more of the following guiding questions: What does environmental education look like in the future? What are some sustainable, innovative, and forward-thinking projects, ideas, and strategies that are on the horizon and how might these impact society? What does our environment look like in the future?

The SEEA Research Symposium provides a regional platform from which to share your research through a poster, oral presentation, or café format to those who work within the fields of environmental sciences and education. Please forward this opportunity to any staff, students, and colleagues who might be interested. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Research Symposium Session Application](#) page.

SEEA is the network of eight southeastern affiliates (AL, MS, KY, TN, SC, NC, GA, FL) of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV. To learn more, visit [NAAEE](#) (international organization), [SEEA](#) (regional affiliate), and [EEASC](#) (state affiliate/local chapter) websites.



Southeasterly Winds:

Questions from South Carolina:

Do any of you have experience hosting a guest speaker database on your EE organization website? EEASC would like to feature a list of all the speakers who are available to give environment-related talks to school groups, community groups, etc. in our area. However, we are struggling with a few questions:

1. Should we only list speakers who are members of our organization, or should we list all speakers?
2. Should the list be only available to members (as a member benefit), or should it be available to anyone who visits our website?
3. How do we navigate listing speakers who may be controversial or whose messages or methods we may not endorse...?

Thanks for any insights you can provide.

Chanda Cooper
cooperc07@gmail.com

From our SEEA Executive Director Ashley Hoffman

Hi Folks,

We have put together a brief survey to gather information on what tools each of our states are using and/or wanting to use to help us find areas where we might be able to pool resources in the future. We will also provide the results to everyone in case you are exploring new softwares/insurances/etc and would like to know what others are using.

Indicating interest in any of these items does not commit you to anything other than further exploration!

Please have one person in your organization [complete this survey](#).

Thank you!

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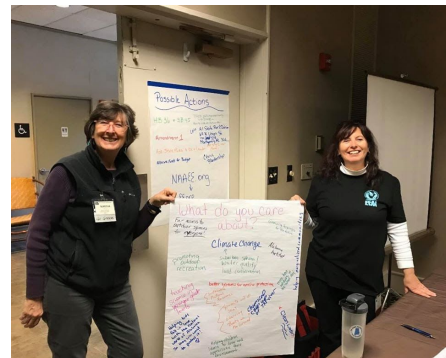
News from the SEEA States

Mississippi:

Mississippi is rolling down the river, both literally and figuratively! We had our first full board meeting last week and it went great. Some great ideas came out of the meeting and we will hopefully get going on a website and other things soon. Thank you to everyone who has helped get this process going. We may be asking your help by sending an ark soon!! Have a great month.

ALABAMA:

EEAA conference 2020 is in the books with the highest attendance ever! What a great group of educators gathered in a great venue for a great conference! Beautiful Joe Wheeler State Park was a perfect location for our conference! The staff and accommodations were outstanding! So many members of the Advisory Board worked incredibly hard to make this conference such a success! Fun field trips and interesting sessions kept everyone busy!



Tennessee:

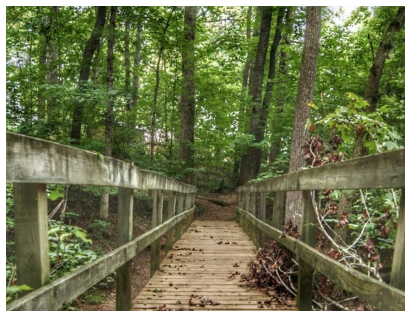
TEEA Strategic Board Retreat:

By: Jennie McGuigan

TEEA President Elect

Manager of School Programs and Teacher Development

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont



With funding from SEEA, TEEA was able to hire a strategic planning specialist, Dave Chase, to travel to Tennessee from his home state of Maine, for an entire weekend to help TEEA Board members work through and update its Strategic Plan. Many, MANY thanks to the wisdom and facilitation skills of Dave!! From Jan. 10th-12th, at the beautiful Cedars of Lebanon State Park, he helped guide our Board towards a more defined direction for the work TEEA wants to accomplish over the next 3 years. It was a lengthy and thought-provoking weekend, filled with great ideas, open communication and new collaboration like we haven't seen on our board in a while! SEEA provided the resources to allow us to do this and Dave helped the TEEA Board go through these needed steps:

1. Establishing better discussion routines for our Board meetings
2. Getting to know each other on a deeper level as educators and collaborators
3. Define external and internal priorities over the next 10 and 3 years
4. Set more realistic goals and targets that our board can accomplish in order to meet top priorities
5. Link priorities to individual commitment capacity of current board members
6. Priority task groups more appropriately aligned with board members skills, interests, and capacity levels

Now, we didn't leave with an entire strategic plan written and approved. Yet, Dave's masterful facilitation and the active participation of our amazing board, began the process and 'habits of mind' for TEEA to move through the hard work of updating our strategic plan. TEEA strategic planning work has begun to shape our organization's 'true north' that will help guide current/future board members in strengthening our collective impact across the state of Tennessee.

TEEA looks forward to our next Board meeting in April, where we will check back in to celebrate our collective efforts. Already, TEEA board members have shown a new excitement and organization around our newly identified priorities like; Committee Structure, Marketing & Outreach, Programming, Board Communications & Recruitment, Membership & Diversity to name just a few.

Special thanks to SEEA, NAAEE and Dave Chase for helping to provide TEEA with this opportunity to strengthen and grow our affiliate!!!



Great Blog posting in Green Schools National Network, from one of our TEEA Board members, Ansley Eichorn who works at Ivy Academy in Soddy-Daisy, TN:

<https://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/field-experiences-spark-stewardship-and-citizen-science-engagement-at-ivy-academy/>

Check out a school in Knoxville, TN that is hosting an event where 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students share their stories about local diversity and their carbon footprint. A TEEA member and middle school teacher is inspiring her students to share what they have to say about their future.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7IQ11INtvkNcWM3YmxNLTRBSFEtcmpDNVpSLUdBNUdwMkNv>

Reach out to TEEA on these platforms:

Instagram: eeintennessee.org/

Twitter: #EEin_TN

Facebook: Tennessee Environmental Education Association @EEinTN

NORTH CAROLINA:

A shared passion for national parks and wildlife forged a relationship between EENC President Amy Renfranz and Dr. Suleiman Makore, a 2018 Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumnus through Appalachian State University. Now the two are developing a program to connect students in North Carolina to students in Zimbabwe to increase participation in the conservation and protection of wildlife. [Learn more here.](#)

The EENC Central Section will be hosting a mini-conference on Monday, June 1 from 9am-4pm. We are seeking passionate and enthusiastic presenters to submit proposals for professional development presentations! We will be reaching out to outdoor adventure and conservation professions in keeping with our goal to expand what it means to be an environmental educator, in case that would be a good information to have as you craft your proposal.

This year, the mini-conference will be at [Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center](#) in rural Johnston County (Town of Four Oaks), a gorgeous 2800 acre natural resource with multiple habitats including a longleaf pine, bottomland hardwood forest, mixed pine/hardwoods, wetlands and ponds. Proposals are due by April 2. Here is the [link](#) for submission.

ANNOUNCING A NEW PROGRAM

M.S. Experiential and Outdoor Education

- Two-year, residential hybrid degree program
- Cohort model beginning in August 2020 including a one-week intensive course on campus in August followed by four weekends in the fall and spring semester in year one.
- Year two can be all online or a mixture of online and face-to-face courses
- Ideal for non-formal educators (park rangers, environmental educators, camp directors, wilderness therapy instructors, public and independent school teachers)
- Students may remain employed full-time and/or pursue field-based coursework
- 36 total credits: 27 required core credits, 9 elective credits

Application materials and full program description at: www.eoe.wcu.edu
For more information contact Dr. Andrew Bobilya
828-227-3326 or ajbobilya@wcu.edu

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Green Steps School Program Merger

EEASC is excited to be the new official home for the [SC Green Steps School program](#)! This program helps empower schools across the state to establish long-lasting, student-powered sustainability projects with the help of qualified mentors. The program began in 2003 and is sponsored by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Sonoco Recycling and (now) EEASC.

Statewide and Regional Listservs

The EEASC listservs have been busy with program announcements and requests for collaboration from our members and colleagues. EEASC currently hosts four websites--one statewide and three regional listservs--and members and non-members alike are welcome to participate. Learn more about our listservs at <https://eeasc.org/Listserv-and-Newsletters>.

Upcoming Events

March Midlands Meetup and Spring Swap - <https://eeasc.org/event-3661868>
Western Section Meeting and Jocassee Lake Tour - <https://eeasc.org/event-3734744>
Principles of Nature Play + April Midlands Meetup - <https://eeasc.org/event-3661876>

Recent Event: Crayons to Candles Workshop

EEASC member Jackie Hong and artist Jana Martin hosted an upcycling “Crayon to Candle” Workshop for Midlands-region EEASC members at the Richland County Recycling Facility on February 27, 2020.

Workshop participants created beautiful upcycled candles and enjoyed networking and refreshments during the event. Photos are attached.

NAAEE Updates

Sustainability Across the Curriculum Leadership Workshop

<https://naaee.org/eeepro/learning/workshops-training/sustainability-across-curriculum>

Through an intensive two days of presentations, exercises, discussions, reflection, and planning, participants will become familiar with the philosophy of change in higher education developed through the Ponderosa Project at Northern Arizona University and adapted at Emory in Piedmont Project. Readings and organizational materials are provided.



NAAEE 2020 in Tucson, Arizona!

Research Symposium: October 13–14, 2020

Conference: October 14–17, 2020

EE: Inspire Change!

Start thinking about proposals for NAAEE 2020; Call for Presentations coming soon!

NAAEE Affiliate News

Conservation Educators: Apply For NCEP Conservation Teaching and Learning Studio

Join us at this year's Studio, where we will focus on how we can teach conservation while building an inclusive, collaborative culture in the classroom. Using active, student-centered, and evidence-based teaching approaches, we will consider our own teaching practices in a rigorous, reflective, and evaluative manner. The Studio will also provide resources, feedback, and time to work on small changes in your teaching and course design that can have big results in student learning.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/opportunities/conservation-educators-apply-ncep>

2020 Affiliate Strand Call for Presentations

The NAAEE Affiliate Network Professional Development Committee seeks compelling proposals for the Affiliate Network Conference Strand that demonstrate proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, advance equity and inclusion in the field, and motivate the pursuit of excellence for the growing NAAEE Affiliate Network.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/groups/affiliates/discussions/2020-affiliate-strand-call-presentations>

From Affiliate Network Coordinator Bruce Young:

Good Afternoon Affiliate Leaders,

On Thursday 3/12 several members of the Affiliate Network Steering Committee and Affiliate Executive Director Affinity Group held a call to discuss how their day to day operations are being affected by the impact of the coronavirus.

On this call, we discussed how the decision was made by several of our Affiliates to cancel upcoming conferences, events, and programming over the next few weeks as well as next steps that Affiliates may consider taking.

We will continue to hold these calls over the next few weeks to provide a space for sharing, brainstorming and innovating together. We will send out the call-in information for our next via email over the next few days. Attached are notes from that call along with a growing collection of responses that Affiliates have sent to members.

If you have any questions do not hesitate in contacting me! Have a wonderful weekend and stay healthy.

March 2020 Updates from the Affiliate Network Steering Committee

Last week the Steering Committee held our monthly call and I just wanted to share a quick look at what the Steering Committee decided:

- Our Governance Committee proposed a “near consensus” decision-making process via straw polling, which was fully adopted.
- Our Practices and Culture Committee presented 2020 Rules of Engagement which have been adopted with a few minor updates.
- The ANSC has empowered a small group (Eileen Everett, Katie Navin, Sarah Bodor, and Bruce Young) to start a process for determining what’s needed from the 2020 Affiliate Workshop to support deliverables promised under current grants to the ANSC and informed by new 2020 work plans. In addition to the work plans, feedback gathered from past workshop evaluations will also be reviewed. This group will make recommendations for workshop content and structure to the ANSC Professional Development Committee and the ANSC as a whole.
- The Professional Development Committee shared updates on the Call for Presentations for the Affiliate strand at the 2020 NAAEE Conference. Be sure to check for the Affiliate Strand Call for Presentations (found here: <http://bit.ly/3brSLed>)
If you have any questions or there is anything you would like the Steering Committee to discuss or if you have questions about how to get involved, send an email to Eileen director@EEANM.org or Sarah sarah@naaee.org

All the best!

Bruce Young, on behalf of the Affiliate Network Steering Committee

Update on SEEA Landscape Analysis and State Coordinator Details from SEEA Executive Director Ashley Hoffman

Hi Folks,

As promised, here is a little more information on the state coordinator role for the NFWF proposal:

SEEA will be conducting a landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in the southeast. This analysis will take a comprehensive look at what environmental education is already happening on the ground. It will identify gaps and barriers to access that prevent successful implementation in some areas, and provide recommendations and next steps for increasing environmental literacy efforts in the southeast based on an inventory of model programs and initiatives happening nationwide.

This analysis and the tailored state recommendations provided will equip the organizations conducting environmental and conservation-related work in the southeast with the materials they need to address gaps, allocate resources more effectively, and ultimately meet the goal of increasing environmental literacy levels and stewardship behaviors. This analysis will help to guide future strategic planning efforts in individual states as well as the regional SEEA collaborative going forward. It will be a tool we can use to ensure we are focusing our limited time and resources in areas where we will have the biggest impact. Data collection and analysis will be led by the Project Analyst, but it will be directed and advised by a leadership team comprised of one State Coordinator from each partner state and a few other key leaders.

Upon receipt of funding, a subgrant of \$7500 will be provided for each state environmental education association who serve as partners on this project to designate a State Coordinator from May 2020 to June 2021. It is expected that your organization might keep 10-15% of these funds and use the remainder to cover staff time or hire a contractor to serve as the State Coordinator. The State Coordinator's roles will be to serve as SEEA's liaison with state-level partners and to ensure that the data collected and recommendations provided will meet their state-level needs. The State Coordinator will assist the Project Analyst in determining what baseline data already exists in some form in that state, compiling the existing data, and identifying what additional data will need to be collected. They will also assist the state in sharing the results of this study and guiding the implementation of recommendations. We have a long history of working together as a region and these State Coordinators, with their direct experience and knowledge in that state, will be critical to ensuring their state's unique assets and needs are properly articulated and addressed throughout this process.

The State Coordinator will be asked to participate in monthly check-in calls and will also receive travel funds to attend the following meetings:

- **May-June 2020 - Initial Planning Meeting:** An initial project design meeting will be held in Lexington, KY. This meeting will be an essential first step for the Project Leadership Team to come to an agreement on the project design, timeline, data specs, and individual deliverables. *Exact Date TBD as soon as funding is confirmed.*
- **September 23-24th - Interim Project Check-in Meeting:** The Project Leadership Team will take advantage of being together again at the SEEA Conference in Columbia, SC, to discuss the project design format that has resulted from the initial meeting and make plans for implementing the data collection period.
- **Around March, 2021 - Final Project Leadership Team Meeting:** A final meeting will be held in Asheville, NC to review the findings and develop an action plan for next steps toward implementing the recommendations in the final report. *Exact Date TBD as soon as funding is confirmed.*

The ideal candidate will have connections to partners and stakeholders throughout the state, understand the EE provider landscape and political landscape of your state, and be equipped to work directly with your organization throughout this process. The ideal candidate will understand your affiliate's programs and operations, and will be committed to supporting state-level work after the initial analysis. Staff or committed board members are both good options; however, affiliates may choose to hire an external contractor if needed.

I will be in touch with more details once we receive notice of funding.

SEEA at your Service: Important Links and Resources

- **SEEA Shared Space.** The link to the SEEA shared space is below. Here, you will find the roster, minutes, webinar recordings and other resources.
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bz-GEj3kxmd-YkF4VEltZnU2RUk?usp=sharing>.
Please bookmark this link for quick access.
- **SEEA Website (DBM).** Access the new [SEEA website](#)!
- **2019 SEEA Leadership Team Roster:**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RPc-nJZDBCX6OuBFOz0GDV2hHvdrSITqMuh9V79Pw/edit?usp=sharing>
- **SEEA Strategic Plan** (discussed and approved on the September conference call). The document is attached via the link below. Please pass it to your respective boards.: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrsEUVFA-2yosIEF75XRxVu6RZT3Uw82-ncr54ZpPRU/edit?usp=sharing>.
- **ZOOM Video Conferencing Available to all SEEA States (DBM).** Please email Ashley (director@kaee.org) if you need the login information and send her the date and time you plan to use it so we can mark it on the calendar to be sure there are no conflicts. Login is director@kaee.org and pw: Seea2018.
- **EE Research Bulletins (EERBs):** <https://naaee.org/eeopro/research/eeerb>
- **eePRO Research & Evaluation group:**
<https://naaee.org/eeopro/groups/research-and-evaluation>
- **NAAEE's Research Programs:** <https://naaee.org/eeopro/research>
- **Children and Nature Network's Research Summaries:**
<https://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/research/>

- **Webinar on Statewide Evaluations for Collective Impact.** The recorded webinar and a PDF of the accompanying PowerPoint are available at: <https://naaee.org/eeapro/learning/webinars/statewide-evaluations-collective-impact>
- **Webinar on Applying Systems Thinking for Our Affiliates.** You can access the recording at: <https://youtu.be/2A6vll3Fthc>.
- **EENC Environmental Education is Essential Document.**
<http://eenc.org/resources/Documents/EE%20is%20Essential%20with%20citation%20page.pdf>.
- **Georgia's Job Announcement Position:** Executive Director of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (part-time 20 hr/week)
<https://eeag.memberclicks.net/assets/Documents/EEA%20ED%20job%20posting%202019.pdf>

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.

Sarah Davis, 2019-2020 SEEA Chair

Ashley Hoffman, SEEA Executive Director

SEEA at a Glance: Questions and Answers

1. What is SEEA?

The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) is a network of state affiliates of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located in the southeast region of the U.S. - EPA Region 4. The region is composed of the eight states below.

NAAEE Affiliate Organizations

AL - Environmental Education Association of Alabama

FL - League of Environmental Educators in Florida

GA - Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

KY - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education

MS - Mississippi Environmental Education Association

NC - Environmental Educators of North Carolina

SC - Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

TN - Tennessee Environmental Education Association

2. What is SEEA's Mission?

The mission of the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) is to provide southeastern state environmental education associations and their members with valuable networking and communication opportunities that lead to greater success for all.

3. How is SEEA structured?

The SEEA Leadership Team includes two representatives from each state, including a Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair which are elected from the 16 representatives. SEEA has a part-time Executive Director and part-time Education Director. Funding for these positions comes, in part from contributions from member states. The return on investment for the money paid by each state to support a SEEA Executive Director has been 2-4 times the contribution.

4. How does SEEA help the individual states?

SEEA helps the state NAAEE Affiliates in a variety of ways. SEEA seeks to procure funding through grants and other means to help the state affiliates. SEEA also compiles and provides shared resources so individual states don't have to invent everything from scratch. These resources include:

- o Strategic Plans
- o Policy Manuals
- o Job Descriptions and Personnel Policies
- o Forms
- o Marketing plans
- o Fundraising or Outreach Videos
- o Other documents

States can choose to participate in various opportunities such as grants but they are not obligated to do so. Participation on each initiative is voted on by the state affiliate board/council.

5. Does SEEA hold a conference or regular meetings?

The SEEA Leadership Team holds monthly conference calls and participates in a yearly leadership retreat. SEEA partners with one of the eight SE states each year to co-sponsor a conference, which doubles as the conference for both the state affiliate and SEEA.

6. What is SEEA working on currently?

Current SEEA Projects include:

- Creating and implementing a new SEEA work plan for the next few years.
- Planning a SEEA regional ee360 retreat that will bring teams of up to five from each state affiliate.

- Determining organizational structure and investigating the possibility of becoming a regional affiliate of NAAEE.
- Providing networking opportunities such as a SEEA meeting at the NAAEE Annual Conference.
- Facilitating communication among affiliate groups through various means, including monthly conference calls, periodic email updates, and postings on the SEEA website around various topics of mutual interest.
- Sharing resources such as newsletters, conference attendance opportunities, and general organizational information.



Environmental Education Association of South Carolina



**2020 SEEA Conference
Environmental Legacy: It's Our Story.
Past, Present, and Future.**

***Hosted by EEASC
September 24-26
Columbia, SC***

Submit your proposals for general sessions and research symposium presentations

[General Sessions](#)

[Research Symposium](#)

To sponsor the conference and/or have a vendor table at the event, [click here](#).

A silent auction at the conference will raise funds which will be split between SEEA and EEASC for program development. It helps the silent auction organizers to know what items to expect ahead of time, so if you already know what item(s) you will contribute, please [register them online here](#).

*Thank you for reading, more great news coming in April.
Send photos, articles, conference news, and state updates
to kmurray@tcboe.org*

Deadline for the April Newsletter: April 10, 2020