

SEEA Newsletter: 2020



SEEA Conference 2021 - Save the Date!

NC will be hosting the SEEA conference in 2021, and we just finalized the details!

The 2021 SEEA conference will be September 10-11 at [Lutheridge](#) in Arden, NC. This site has a wonderful camp-like feel, even though it's less than 10 minutes from the Asheville Airport. We'll be just over 2 hours from Columbia, SC, a bit over 3 hours from Atlanta, GA, and only 4.5 hours from Lexington, KY!

In addition to these full two days, we'll also be hosting a full day of optional workshops and pre-conference field trips the Thursday before.

We'll be sharing more details once we get closer, but wanted everyone to get it on their calendars now. We announced this date to our conference attendees last week - please feel free to do the same!

Watch <http://www.southeastee.com/conference.html> for details.



SEEA Leadership Change

On the previous SEEA Leadership call there was a shift in leadership, with Sarah moving to Past President and Brad rolling off the SEEA leadership team (for now) and Kim stepping in as chair. Brad has played a HUGE part in making SEEA what it is today and I want to celebrate his leadership and dedication covid-style with an e-card. I am including a few past SEEA friends on this email as well.

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/KCMHBH9i>

We want to welcome Kim Murray to the 2020-2021 Chair position.

Kimberly Murray is enjoying her 16th year at Munford Schools. She received her Wildlife Management degree from Ohio State University and her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University. She has a passion for teaching conservation education and has taught at summer camps, nonprofit centers, and residential centers in New England, Alabama, and Ohio. She married Robert Murray from Jacksonville, AL in 1997, she has a 17 year old daughter, a 29 year-old step son, a daughter-in-law, and four amazing grandchildren. She has been teaching environmental education for over twenty three years and continues to attend workshops, conferences, in-service meetings, college classes, and seminars. She reads professional journals and stays up-to-date in her professional knowledge. As a Science Resource Teacher at Munford Schools she has the opportunity to work with her fellow teachers in K-12th grade. She enjoys being an EEAA board member and on the SEEA Leadership Team. She



looks forward to continuing to work with all of you throughout the southeast. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email her at kmurray@tcboe.org



SEEA Updates

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Awarded \$100,000 Grant to Expand *Don't Waste It!* Curriculum Across the Southeast

Don't Waste It! is a new educator guide to waste management. The guide includes 11 lessons covering five themes: municipal solid waste, recycling, plastics, composting, and landfills. *Don't Waste It!* is designed for both formal and non-formal educators with lessons for pre-K to 12th graders that can easily be adapted for adult audiences. Each lesson includes a group activity, independent practice, extensions, and additional activities.

Developed by North Carolina's Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling, *Don't Waste It!* is going to be expanding through the southeast. The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) has been awarded a \$100,000 environmental education grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Over the next two years, we'll be creating new state-specific versions of the guide for Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida and then launch in-person and virtual training opportunities for educators in these states to learn the curriculum.

"The *Don't Waste It!* project will help current and future educators across the southeast understand the systems for solid waste, recycling, and composting in their state. We're excited to provide educators across our region with resources and lessons to share this knowledge with students, in order to inspire their local communities to get involved with composting, recycling, and other waste reduction activities," said *Don't Waste It!* Project Coordinator, Lauren Pyle.

The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) is the fiscal agent for this project. The project will be led by Lauren Pyle of the Environmental Educators of North Carolina and Shannon Culpepper of Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling. For more information, contact Lauren Pyle at director@eenc.org.



Crowdfunding Campaign

It is officially time to start prepping for the fall crowdfunding campaign, already designed with social distancing in mind! You can now check out the #KAEE2020 team page along with mine or Britt's personal pages for examples! Kentucky's official campaign dates are Nov 9th-Dec 20th but you are welcome to choose whatever dates make the most sense for your state.

For those that are new to this experience, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year. SEEA states compete for bragging rights and the good of EE to see who can raise the most funds for their organization.

For participating states, here are some next steps:

1. Watch the video Lauren shared a couple of weeks ago about the basics of crowdfunding and how to host a smashingly successful campaign (see more details in her email below). Share this with your board to get them pumped!
2. Set up your team page using your organization's Mightycause login information:
 - If this is your first time using MC, you will need to claim your organization first. Contact me and I can help you with this.
 - Once logged in to the *organization's* profile, click the blue plus sign on the top left and then select "Start a team".
 - Choose get started, single beneficiary and type in your organization.
 - Click continue and launch team manager.
 - Fill out each of the blue highlighted areas (logo, goal and story). Don't worry, you can change these later. Here is a story our intern, Rachel, wrote that you are welcome to adapt and use.
 - Click the gear icon on the far left tool bar, and under general settings, change your custom url to something easy to remember like kaee2020.
 - Scroll down and choose to include offline donations.
 - Then click publish!
3. Once your team page is live, watch Brittany's video walkthrough on how to set up your individual page. Go ahead and set this up so your board members have an example to work with. See the links to mine and Britt's above for examples.
4. Share Brittany's video with your board and have them set up their own individuals pages by choosing "Join this team" on your team page! Invite other close friends and volunteers to fundraise as well if you would like.
5. If you are interested in fundraising videos for your state, please contact Brittany (brittany@kaee.org) for more information. If you have any other questions at all or need help, contact me!

Thanks everyone! Hope you are all safe and healthy,
Ashley Hoffman
Executive Director
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance



Sample Job Description for State Landscape Coordinator

Chanda from South Carolina is sharing the contract EEASC developed for their state Landscape Analysis Coordinator position in case you need something to use as an example. You can contact her with any questions.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=60295b88c4&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1682281562467586308&th=1758aa2aff11d104&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_kh0zrh1b0

Please see the job opportunity in the email below, and feel free to share with your networks!

I want to take a quick moment to let you know in the spirit of the “We Can Do Better” Initiative started by Dr. Box before he retired, we have posted a position announcement for a Talent Acquisition Specialist (aka a Recruiter to assist us in identifying and recruitment of diverse candidates) for the KCTCS SO and the Colleges.

To that outcome I am encouraging you to join me in sharing this employment opportunity far and wide, high and low, with your respective networks (social, professional and other member organizations) in hopes that we can obtain a strong field of candidates and hire the best candidate to assist us in moving our diversity efforts and outcomes to the next level.

If a candidate has any questions about the position, please refer them directly to Heather Humphreys. The direct link to the job posting is as follows:

<https://careers.kctcs.edu/job-details?jobID=65650&job=talent-acquisition-specialist-job-9928&collection=true>

Katherine Bullock
Operations Coordinator
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education



Southeasterly Winds:

South Carolina:

What's happening in SC in November?

- Welcome, new board members: Todd Beasley and AC Parham were elected as new members to the EEASC Board of Directors. Dan Hill rolled off the board after six years of service: he will be missed!
- EEASC partnered with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's [Champions of the Environment](#) program to host an Environmental Education Webinar with four grade-specific breakout sessions on soil science. More than 60 people attended this free event!
- EEASC's Central Section continues to hold virtual Monthly Meetups for formal and informal educators to network and share program updates and support requests. Approximately 20 educators attend these events, which alternate between morning and afternoon times on the second Tuesday of the month.
- EEASC's Eastern Section recently hosted a virtual "Quarantrivia" event in partnership with the SC Marine Educators Association.
- EEASC's Western Section organized a socially-distanced Night Hike at Lake Conestee Nature Preserve.
- EEASC awarded a Mini-Grant to [Lynches River County Park](#) to fund a pollinator garden renovation project.
- Two diversity scholarships were provided to support [Palmetto Environmental Education Certification](#) program participants in the 2020-2022 cohort.
- Four EEASC leadership team members represented our state at the NAAEE conference.
- Our State Landscape Analysis Coordinator is working hard to consolidate and expand our statewide EE contact database.
- EEASC is developing a virtual training for the [SC Green Steps School](#) program.

Florida:

LEEF is busier than palm trees in a hurricane (and that is happening this week, too)!

It is amazing to me that we can be so busy when most of us are still confined to home, school, and work places, but we seem to have more going on now than ever before!

- We are preparing for our End-of-the-Year Fundraising Campaign, so board members are developing their own pages so we can kick off together on November 16.

- We have been offering several activities to engage our members such as a Facebook EE pumpkin decorating contest; Zoom EE book clubs; and monthly Zoom speaker presentations.
- Planning for our twice-rescheduled face to face conference at the end of April is ramping up—even though we know that we may need to switch to a virtual format as the date gets nearer.
- After a recent conversation with the ee360 grant administration team, we decided to work with Dave Chase to create a plan to recruit additional members to join the board to fill empty positions.
- The board members are working with our current stakeholder directory to find updated email contact information so that we will be ready for the Landscape Analysis Project.

Tennessee:

The Cumberland River Compact developed virtual science lessons designed for asynchronous and synchronous learning. Select activities are available in Spanish and more translations are added weekly. We also have a variety of virtual learning videos and complementary activities available. TEEA has shared this on their Facebook page, so feel free to share through your networks.

<https://cumberlandrivercompact.org/lesson-plans/>

Register for this free virtual field-trip opportunity designed to be shared in the classroom!

Monday, November 30 10 am - 12 pm CST

TN BIPOC in Environmental Careers Panel presented by TEEA is our virtual presentation that brings the professionals directly to the students to share about their career in an environmental field.

In this particular presentation, we focus on panelists representing the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities to highlight their voices, backgrounds, and passion for their environmental career. The goal is to present a green career exploration (in particular environmental education) to middle school, high school, and college students across Tennessee through the lens of our BIPOC friends.

The conversation to welcome diverse minds to these fields is one that is ongoing and more urgent than ever. Join us for this and future virtual conversations with members of Tennessee's green careers.

Follow the link for more information and registration:

<https://sites.google.com/camppinecrest.org/tnbipocenvironmentalcareers/home>



Mississippi:



Master of Science in Conservation Education



We have exciting news to share!

Mississippi State's online, non-thesis, Master of Science in Conservation Education degree program website is now live!

Visit our website to learn about our faculty, staff, and new degree program.
<https://online.msstate.edu/conservationed/>

Our innovative and comprehensive program is designed to meet accreditation and industry standards. Conservation educators work in a variety of non-formal and formal education settings to promote environmental stewardship and help create environmentally responsible citizens. Successful graduates of this program acquire skills to become leaders in the field of conservation education.

Our classes are intended for both full and part-time students; asynchronous weekly tasks that easily fit into your schedule and you can complete your advanced degree 100% online. Learn where you live at affordable in-state tuition rates.

Do you love the outdoors? ✓ Do you want to advance conservation education? ✓

Are you ready to be part of our first cohort of graduate students? ✓

The next move is yours. Follow these easy steps.

1. Contact us.
2. Apply today! The deadline for the Spring 2021 semester is **December 1, 2020.**
3. Then start your journey to become a skilled leader in the field of Conservation Education

I hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Hines, Ph.D.

Certified Environmental Educator (NC EE)

Instructor and Program Coordinator, Online Conservation Education Programs
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture

[209 Thompson Hall](#)

[662.325.2297](tel:662.325.2297)

North Carolina:

EENC is proud to announce another installment of our popular webinar series! These 1-hour webinars are completely free, and a recording will be sent to all registered participants. All webinars are at 1 pm ET.

- Friday, November 20 - Playing Out: Outdoor Playful Inquiry For All Ages
- Tuesday, December 1 - Group Management: Practical Application
- Wednesday, December 9 - Why is Recycling So Confusing?
- Friday, December 17 - Finding Our Feet: Groundedness and Placed Based Learning in a Time of Distance

Find all the details and register at <https://eenc.org/events>

BUILDING A BETTER ANSWER: WHY SHOULD I BE A MEMBER OF EENC?

12 Nov 2020 7:52 AM | Anonymous member (*Administrator*)

Over the last couple of years, EENC has been digging deeply into better understanding the needs of our community and what people are looking for when they become a member of EENC. In 2019, we partnered with researchers from NC State University on a membership survey. In 2020, a team went further, participating in a seven month membership boot camp led by a specialty consultant, along with our partners in the Southeastern EE Alliance.

EENC's Membership Chair Elise Tellez, President Amy Renfranz, and Executive Director Lauren Pyle met regularly from January to July for coaching with the consultant and reflection/analysis assignments. This team reviewed everything from historic trends in EENC's membership records, to the needs and return on investment we're offering our members, to trends impacting our field, to a detailed mapping project of how the benefits we provide are meeting our members needs. The final product: a proposal to completely revise EENC's member levels and benefits to better support our community!

We shared an overview at the annual membership meeting during the conference, and are actively working to get everything ready to implement everything January 1. Here are a few things you can look forward to:

- More clearly defined benefits for you, including: discounts on EENC events, conferences, workshops, and logo items at events, access to exclusive online resources such as webinar and training recordings, exclusive opportunities for financial support like mini-grants and eligibility for fiscal sponsorship, and the option to opt in for a discounted Green Teacher subscription.

- A new discounted membership for people in the first three years in the field of Environmental Education - whether you're just out of college or making a career change later on.
- A new tiered structure for organizational memberships. This will make it easier to provide more of your staff with individual benefits - plus get access to some new benefits to support you at the organizational level, like the opportunity to request a letter of support from EENC for grant projects or proposals and site preference for EENC-hosted workshops and networking events in your area.

We're looking forward to sharing all the details with you in January! We are so grateful for everyone who has provided feedback and insight along the way. And if there's ever anything we can do to better support you as a member, please let us know!

Kentucky:

This month, KAEE welcomes four new board members to our dynamic team. We are grateful to be kicking off our work together with an in-depth DEI training for both board and staff members with the Center for Diversity and the Environment.

Our eeCredential Profesional Learning Leader pilot program is wrapping up and we are looking forward to getting more feedback and reaching more educators through these online resources.

The SEEA regional landscape analysis leadership team has been hard at work planning and designing this survey to be as effective and results driven as possible. Looking forward to kicking this project off soon.

We have begun our annual friendly competition of raising funds (and friends) for KAEE through our crowdfunder campaign. KAEE staff, board members, and ambassadors have created individual fundraising pages and are competing for the top spot on the leaderboard in funds raised. This fundraiser will run from November 11 through December 18. Check out our team page here to learn more!

Alabama:

From EEAA Board Member Claire Datnow

Nature and Science Writing Connections

Why I strive to create Eco Adventures that will entertain, inform, and inspire young people to preserve nature's rich biodiversity. We need stories that illuminate the truth of our connections to each other

and to this precious blue planet. We need to reject narratives of division. We need storytellers who merge boundaries, expand empathy, and stretch our capacity for caring. The winds of change are calling loud and clear for narratives that will illuminate our vital connection to one another and to this precious blue planet on which all life depends. Visit my blog at: www.mediamint.net.

Hugs,
Claire

Here is her latest blog:

Environmental Literature Illuminates Our Connection to Nature

The storm winds of climate change are calling. They're calling to scientists, and writers, and artists to weave stories that will inspire the children of tomorrow to dream up a brighter future. Happily, they are responding to that call with a spate of new nature and environmental stories that use science as a springboard to create powerful children's literature.

Science and Nature Build a Bridge to Tomorrow (Boris Datnow)

This is why, now more than ever, I'm committed to keep on writing science-based environmental fiction, which will ignite the imagination and show kids (and the young at heart) that their actions matter. For over a decade I've been writing an Eco mystery series for young readers, *The Adventures of The Sizzling Six*. Recently, I completed *Red Flag Warning*, my first Eco Adventure on Climate Change.



I want to encourage other writers and scientists to communicate their narratives because: In the not-too-distant future young people in our neighborhoods and schools will have joined the workforce. Some will find themselves working as scientists discovering and studying creatures and plants on our planet's highest mountains, deepest oceans, driest deserts, wettest rainforest, and in the concrete jungles of cities. Others will find themselves working for corporations, sitting behind desks, standing on podiums, in classrooms teaching students, or running for political office. All of them will be making decisions, voting for leaders, and for actions that will, for better or worse, affect the health of our planet and the survival of life on this planet. That's a huge responsibility for the older generation to place on their shoulders. So what can we do to help them?

I am certain that young people studying the natural sciences from kindergarten to college will bloom into the next generation of environmental leaders. They will understand the science and the issues underpinning society's challenging ecological problems. They will apply their knowledge to create a stronger connection between *what* must be done and *how* to get things done.

Using the building blocks of powerful writing, science and storytellers can cross-fertilize one another to communicate the discoveries of science in a dramatic and compelling way. Science and storytelling share the WOW, or the wonder, which drives the vision, curiosity, and perseverance at the heart of both science and storytelling. Science asks: how can we explain this Wow? Storytelling asks: how can we tell compelling narratives about this Wow?

As storytellers we hold the power to touch the hearts of young people, to ignite their imagination to build a bridge to tomorrow, and to empower them to take action for the greater good of humanity and the wellbeing of the Earth.



NAAEE Updates

NAAEE 49th Annual Conference

Thank you again for joining us for our Annual Conference. We have just a few announcements to wrap things up.

First, just because the live event is over, the learning doesn't have to stop. The conference is available for one year (until September 2021) on the Whova app, with 24/7 on-demand access to most all sessions and content. Your regular registration will allow this full access throughout this period. Recordings of sessions **ARE NOW AVAILABLE**. We will post a link to the Otter notes in the session description in Whova as soon as they are available.

Here are the exceptions:

- All pre-conference workshops, which required separate registration, were not recorded.
- eePRO and affinity group meetings were not recorded.

You can view recordings by visiting the individual sessions in the agenda in Whova.

In addition, the discussions, exhibit hall, bright spots, and more will all be in the Whova app for you to view post conference.

And if you know someone who couldn't make #NAAEE2020 this year, but would still like access, please send them to conference.naaee.org to register for the recordings at a discounted rate.

Congratulations to Nicole Freidenfelds @NicoleFreefield for winning a free NAAEE T-shirt that says, "Education We Need for the World We Want," for her [#NAAEE2020 Twitter post](#) on 10/16:

"last day of [#NAAEE2020](#) and watched [@JessieRack](#) presentation on the "big screen"—great way to end the conference! [@TheNAAEE](#)".

And congratulations to Carrie Elvey and Kent Glade, the winners of the NAAEE Evaluation Portal Website Survey drawing. Each of you win GLOBIO's beautiful 2021 biodiversity calendar, created in collaboration with NAAEE. It's not too late to fill out the survey and we appreciate your feedback! Help us rethink how we approach evaluation to create better partnerships, programs, and healthier communities. Stop by the NAAEE Evaluation Portal Website Exhibit Booth in the Exhibit Hall to explore the NAAEE Evaluation Portal demo website and fill out the survey to voice your needs and feedback.

An NAAEE staff member will contact all prize winners this week to coordinate the prize distribution.

Additional Important Information and Reminders

View and share the #NAAEE2020 Inspire Change video. This year has been full of difficult challenges, but our ever stronger community of environmental educators can lead the way to change. Learn more about the #NAAEE2020 conference theme, Inspire Change, in this two-minute video featuring voices from around the world. It's now posted in NAAEE's booth in the Exhibit Hall and on [Youtube](#).

The #NAAEE2020 Bookstore will remain open! Support a small, family-owned business started by environmental educators to serve environmental educators by purchasing books by our featured speakers through Acorn Naturalists. You can also preorder GLOBIO's beautiful 2021 biodiversity calendar, created in collaboration with NAAEE. Access the bookstore through the [conference website](#) and in the RESOURCES menu in Whova.

Finally, there are some wonderful discussions happening in the Community Board of the Whova app. We encourage you to join our free eePRO community to continue connecting and sharing resources and ideas, even after the conference and research symposium content expires in September 2021. We hope to see you on eePRO. (Learn more in our [eePRO bright spot](#).)

If you have any further questions about the conference or research symposium, or access through the Whova app, the best way to reach us is by emailing conference@naaee.org.

We hope you will continue to take full advantage of the rich conference, and keep up your good work to inspire change!

The NAAEE Team

Affiliate Network



[North American Monarch Educators] Mississippi River Delta Institute (virtual)



Hello everyone!

I am passing along a virtual PD opportunity taking place in January, from Hamline University (here in St. Paul, MN). This is more specifically targeted to 3rd-8th grade teachers located near or along the Mississippi River (which is many of you!). There is a short application, but it is free! I'm not sure what the capacity is, so if you're interested, I'd apply sooner than later!

<https://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee/delta/>

Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Flyway Are on the Move!

The Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes is migrating South for the winter. The current estimated population size of this flock is 81, including 39 females, 39 males and three of unknown gender.

Seventeen of these 81 individuals are wild-hatched, and the rest are captive-reared. This total now includes this year's cohort of four wild-hatched chicks who have fledged. To the best of our knowledge, as of Oct. 1, at least 72 Whooping Cranes are in Wisconsin, at least two are in Michigan and one is in Illinois. The remaining birds' locations have not

been confirmed in the last month.

See a map of their locations and learn more [HERE](#).





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 [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/eeopro/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>.

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.

Kimberly Murray, 2020-2021 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 Alliance
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.

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

Deadline for December Newsletter: December 11, 2020



