

# SEEA Newsletter: 2020



## 2020 SEEA/EEASC Virtual Conference Details!

- Dates: September 24 & 25, 2020
- \$25 Registration Fee (Conference presenters will receive a discount code for free registration)
- Features: Keynote Address by Dr. Drew Lanham, Research Symposium, General Sessions, and Virtual Trivia/Social Hour
- Session descriptions and detailed agenda can be found [here](#).
- Sessions will be recorded and available for viewing after the event to registered participants.

[Register Here](#) by September 15!



# More SEEA 2020 Conference Details from EEASC

## President: Chanda Cooper

The 2020 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance + Environmental Education Association of SC Conference is going virtual, September 24-25, 2020!

Details and registration: <https://eeasc.org/conference>

Thank you all for your patience as the Environmental Education Association of SC (EEASC) Conference Team makes plans for the 2020 Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference, which EEASC was to host in Columbia September 24-26. Regretfully, an in-person event will not be possible this fall, but never fear: we are moving the experience online! We hope you will join us on the afternoon of Thursday, September 24, and the morning of Friday, September 25, for several great professional development sessions and special guest speakers. Notably, this virtual conference will include a keynote address by Dr. Drew Lanham of Clemson University, a Research Symposium featuring the work of scholars from across the southeast, and a selection of General Conference Sessions on topics ranging from "Public Reception of Climate News Media" to "Improving Evaluation in EE." We'll also have virtual trivia hosted by Allie Sorlie of the University of Alabama's Museum of Natural History. The [draft agenda is online](#); check out the great line-up!

The entire conference will be available for \$25; these conference fees will help EEASC cover the technology costs and staff time associated with the transition to virtual. You may register online at [www.eeasc.org/conference](http://www.eeasc.org/conference). Conference sessions will be recorded and will be available for conference registrants to view after the event, as well.

Now, for those of you who were eager to visit the SC State Museum and EdVenture, and to learn more about the amazing EE resources Columbia, SC, has to offer: you'll have an opportunity to experience our state's capital in summer, 2021, as we have elected to hold our state conference there next year and will feature many of the exciting presenters who were planning to share their expertise during the 2020 event.

We are hugely grateful to our Conference Sponsors for their support for both the 2020 and 2021 conferences, and for their flexibility as we make adjustments to our conference plans: Duke Energy, Moore Farms Botanical Gardens, SC Association of Conservation Districts, SC Department of Natural Resources, Sonoco Recycling, Columbia Fireflies, Columbia Water, Florence County Museum, The Greenhouse Company, Roper Mountain Science Center, Dominion Energy, Lake Conestee Nature Park, SC State Museum, Champions of the Environment, Joye Law Firm, Prioleau Insurance Services, SC Farm to School, and the SC Energy Office.

I'm sorry I will not be able to see all of you in person this September, but I am excited about our virtual gathering and hope this format will allow even more people to access the great resources provided by SEEA and our eight state EE affiliates.

All my best,  
Chanda Cooper

# SEEA Updates

## Landscape Analysis has kicked off with the State Coordinators. Why are we doing this work?

- To 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.
- To guide future strategic planning efforts in each individual state as well the regional SEEA collaborative going forward.

## Southeasterly Winds:

### Georgia:

EEA is excited to host GreenSleeves, a virtual book club where members are able to explore environmental topics, spark meaningful conversations, and learn new ways to take action in our communities. There is no commitment other than to enjoy reading and sharing books about nature. The book club will meet via Zoom several times a year on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you wish to join GreenSleeve's e-mail list for announcements and reminder notices, please email [eeaginfo@gmail.com](mailto:eeaginfo@gmail.com). See our upcoming meeting dates below and plan to join us!

Join us for our first meeting with author Angelou Ezeilo!

*Engage, Connect, Protect*  
by Angelou Ezeilo with Nick  
Chiles  
August 31 at 6:00 p.m.

From the book jacket:

While concern about the state of our land, air, and water continues to grow, there is widespread belief that environmental issues are primarily of interest to wealthy white communities. *Engage, Connect, Protect* explodes this myth, revealing the deep and abiding interest that African American, Latino, and Native American communities - many of whom live in degraded and polluted parts of the country - have in our collective environment.

Part eye-opening critique of the cultural divide in environmentalism, part biography of a leading social entrepreneur, and part practical toolkit for engaging diverse youth, *Engage, Connect, Protect* covers:

- Why communities of color are largely unrecognized in the environmental movement
- Bridging the cultural divide and activating a new generation of environmental stewards
- A resource guide for connecting mainstream America to organizations working with diverse youth with environmental projects, training, and employment.

*Engage, Connect, Protect* is a wake-up call for businesses, activists, educators, and policymakers to recognize the work of grassroots activists in diverse communities and create opportunities for engaging with diverse youth as the next generation of environmental stewards.

#### Upcoming Meetings and Selections

2020

August 31: [\*Engage, Connect, Protect\*](#) by Angelou Ezeilo

October 25: [\*Our Wild Calling: How Connecting with Animals Can Transform Our Lives—and Save Theirs\*](#) by Richard Louv

2021

January 25: [\*Bringing Nature Home\*](#) by Doug Tallamy

March 29: TBD

May 24: TBD

<https://eeageorgia.weebly.com/book-club.html>

## North Carolina:

Registration is now open for EENC's 2020 Virtual Conference! Our theme is "ComunitEE: Together for a Better World." The Conference will be two half-days on Friday September 18 and Saturday September 19. All sessions will be recorded for viewing on demand later. General registration is only \$35 per person, and scholarships are available! Learn more at [eenc.org/conference](https://eenc.org/conference)

#### Upcoming FREE EENC Webinars:

- August 13 - Leave No Trace Awareness
- August 21 - African American Outdoor Experiences
- September 2 - EE, the 5E's and Evaluation: How Does It All Work?

Learn more and register at <https://eenc.org/events>

This past month, EENC renewed our public commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion work. [Read more about how we developed our statement here.](#)



## Mississippi:

Greetings from Mississippi,

We are slowly making progress in strengthening the MEEA organization. We received one of the Incubator Grants from NAAEE and we hope with the help of the grant we will be able to get a better sense of our MS Environmental Education stakeholders and they of us. We are working with MS State University Extension Technology to put together a MEEA website. We will get training on building the website later this month. We are really excited for this piece to happen because a website with information regarding what is available for Environmental Education in Mississippi was one of the top concepts presented when we were initially re-organizing.

Mississippi also will open their new Aquarium on the coast in Gulfport on August 29, 2020. One of our board members is the Vice President of Guest Experience & Education at the Aquarium.

## Kentucky:

Registration is now open for our [2020 virtual conference](#)! We're excited to announce a schedule of 18 sessions, a keynote centering on the intersection of racial equity and environmental issues (and why these are inseparable) by Greenlining's Leslie Aguayo, five regional outdoor meet-ups, one virtual happy hour, and much more!

We are also working on a white paper for a grant project about environmental education partnership programs in Lexington, Kentucky's second largest city. (Some background on the project: The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) has been investing in environmental education focused on water quality and waste management in Lexington-Fayette County schools for more than a decade. LFUCG recently hired KAEE to facilitate focus groups, analyze results of an online survey, highlight best practices in environmental education as determined by research, and share insights gained from successful programs across the country to offer recommendations on how LFUCG can best spend future funds to support teachers and students while achieving positive environmental outcomes.)

KAEE board of directors member Rae McEntyre has been appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Education Advisory Council! During her one-year appointment, McEntyre will serve as a special government employee and will provide independent advice based on her expertise in planning, developing, and implementing science-based education programs.

We've also composed a press release about the SEEA regional landscape analysis project and will begin pitching this to media outlets in the eight states in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to this project as it moves into its next phase!



## South Carolina:

-EEASC is offering two diversity scholarships to the Palmetto Environmental Education Certification program; applications were due July 31 and the scholarships will be awarded this month.

-EEASC's sections have already offered four section events since the start of the new fiscal year on July 1: a virtual July Midlands Meet-Up with 20 attendees; "Going Virtual with Environmental Education Field Trips" conversation with formal educators with 23 registrants; and "Let's Talk Field Trips!" conversation with non-formal educators with 47 registrants.

## Alabama:

**Meet the 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School:** Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell; Nauvoo, Alabama

Magnolia Nature School is a nature-based pre-K school on the 1,140-acre campus of Camp McDowell in Winston County, Alabama. Children ages 3–6 explore the farm, forest, and streams of Camp McDowell. Through hands-on experience and inquiry-based learning, Magnolia is a place where curiosity is welcome and there are never enough answers. The school serves a rural, socioeconomically disadvantaged community and provides a high-quality STEAM-based education that utilizes the natural world as its classroom. The Magnolia Curriculum is an inquiry-based model that focuses on exploring nature and encouraging creativity. Children use natural objects to imagine, examine, wonder, create, and count. Magnolia Nature school students spend at least 80% of the school day outside exploring the farm, streams, and trails. Magnolia provides breakfast, lunch, and snacks, including fresh fruits and vegetables. Any leftover fruit, vegetables, or bread from their meals or snacks are fed to the pigs or chickens at the farm, composted in the farm compost bins, or picked up by farmers to give to their farm animals. Students participate in planting projects and eat food from the raised bed garden that they help maintain. The camp features a solar array and hydroelectric systems that together produce more energy than the campus uses.



# NAAEE Updates

## NAAEE eePRO - Seeking eePRO Group Moderators



NAAEE is seeking moderators for four eePRO Groups: Conservation and Behavior Change, Data Literacy, Equity and Inclusion, and Sustainable Cities and Communities. If you have skills or knowledge that you'd like to share with environmental educators all over the world and are looking for a small way to give back, then this is the perfect position for you. Moderators are paid a modest honorarium for their work and time. Moderator contracts are for one year. Generally, each eePRO Group has 2-3 moderators. They have the following duties:

- 1) Start and answer discussion posts in your group
- 2) Post relevant content to your group (jobs, webinars, resources, events, etc.)
- 3) Post blogs to your group
- 4) Collaborate with your fellow group moderators to discuss and plan content posting in the group

To apply: Send a resume and email with a short (1-2 paragraphs) statement of interest to [maxwell@naaee.org](mailto:maxwell@naaee.org)

(link sends e-mail)

Deadline: Tuesday, August 18 at 5 pm

<https://naaee.org/eepro/blog/seeking-eepro-group-moderators>

## Designing or Improving Online EE Programming

Are you interested in designing or improving your online EE programs? Many environmental education (EE) organizations now provide a range of online resources (due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic). To date, we know very little about the best approaches to enhance student learning outcomes in online EE programs. We would like to invite you to participate in an evidence-based learning network focused on EE distance learning, which would provide you with feedback about your online programs and a chance to collaborate with others on program design and improvement.

This free professional development opportunity is funded by the Pisces Foundation, and led by Marc Stern (Virginia Tech), Bob Powell (Clemson University), Troy Frensley (UNC-Wilmington) and Eileen Merritt (Virginia Tech).



<https://naaee.org/eepro/blog/designing-or-improving-online-ee>

## 450+ Signatures Collected on Letter to Congressional Leaders Asking for Funding Towards Improved Outdoor School Spaces

Washington, DC, July 23, 2020 – More than 450 national, state, regional, and local organizations sent a joint letter this week to the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate, asking them to think creatively about ways to fund school reopening. These organizations recognize that whether to reopen in person or virtually is a local decision but are recommending that school grounds and outdoor spaces be strongly considered for Congressional funding when schools do reopen.



The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), its state and regional Affiliates, and hundreds of colleague organizations feel that, for schools that plan to reopen in the coming months, outdoor spaces and programs are a major safety and educational asset. The use of outdoor spaces, schoolyards, gardens, vegetated areas, and more can help students and faculty have engaging places to learn while staying distanced and safer. Combined with other measures such as the use of masks, sanitizing work surfaces, handwashing, contained student cohort groups, indoor air filtration, and more, the use of the outdoors for learning and play should be a meaningful part of any reopening plan.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/blog/450-signatures-collected-letter>

## Nature-Based Preschools Continue Impressive Growth Across the United States

The Natural Start Alliance is proud to release new research that documents the continued expansion of nature preschools in the United States. Three years after our last report, the number of nature preschools in the United States has more than doubled to an estimated 585 programs, or a 25-fold increase over the past decade.



The report makes the case for nature in young children's education, pointing to benefits from improved academic



performance to increased physical activity to stress relief. As the report demonstrates, interest in this approach to education has been growing steadily over the past decade, but the pandemic could boost interest even further. Christy Merrick, director of the Natural Start Alliance, explains, “As health experts agree that virus transmission is less likely outdoors than indoors, and parents and education leaders are looking for creative solutions to safely return to school, interest in nature-based education could soar.”

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/blog/nature-based-preschools-continue>

## NAAEE 2020

We hope you’ve marked your calendars for our upcoming virtual conference. We are busy putting the final touches on a new conference website, which will include our speakers, workshops, prices, and more. We’ll have more than 300 sessions, from bright spots to posters to symposia, many of which will be available on demand for viewing any time. We also have a fantastic line up of plenary speakers, which we will reveal soon! Although we all wish we could be together in person, this is the next best thing. Thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding as we work to open registration shortly. Prices will be flexible: Our goal is to ensure that everyone can take part!



## Affiliate Network

### Request for Participation - NAAEE Affiliate Network 2.0 Working Group

The Affiliate Network Steering Committee (ANSC) is seeking 3-5 leaders from within the Affiliate Network to join a working group to help design updated structures, operating procedures, and activities that reflect our current and aspirational network capacity. We anticipate this working group will meet monthly through the remainder of

2020 and potentially into early 2021, with some individual work in between monthly meetings.

To indicate your interest, please complete this [google form](#) by COB on August 20, 2020. In the event there are more interested leaders than the working group can accommodate, the ANSC will form a group that brings the most diverse geographic representation, skill set, and organizational capacity. The working group meets from 1:30pm-3pm ET on the first Tuesday of each month beginning September 1.

## A request from our Affiliate Coordinator Bruce Young

Dear Affiliate Leaders,

I hope you are doing well and having a great week so far. NAAEE and its Affiliates are collecting stories about how environmental education providers and programs are supporting K-12 districts, schools, administrators, and families during the COVID-19 crisis and with the reopening of schools during and after the pandemic. Examples of efforts can include a range of applications of the tools and suggestions listed in the eeGuidance document (outdoor learning spaces, curriculum, healthy learning environments, etc), and efforts at any scale (local districts, just one school, just one or multiple EE providers, at-home learning support, etc). Feel free to articulate how you are adapting to benefit schools and students. NAAEE or Affiliates may contact you about possible interviews and other requests from the press, or for permission to use your story for additional outreach on various media platforms.

We have two requests:

1. Could you please share any stories or articles you heard/ seen locally about this effort by using [this form](#).
2. Could you share this form with your membership and other contacts and encourage them to fill out the form with any stories they may have.

All the best,  
Bruce Young

# Journey North



To our Symbolic Migration community,  
Join the celebration by participating in the 25th anniversary year of the Symbolic Migration! Every year since 1995, teachers and students across the United States and Canada have created paper replicas of monarch butterflies. These paper monarchs are then shipped to Mexico for delivery to teachers and students who attend schools in two Mexican states: Michoacán and Mexico. Why these schools? The Cerro Pelon Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary is located in the state of Mexico, while the El Rosario and Sierra Chincua Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries are located in the state of Michoacán.

We hope you will participate in this important transnational education project this academic year.

Share that folder with [symbolic-migration@eealliance.org](mailto:symbolic-migration@eealliance.org) no later than October 9, 2020

[https://journeynorth.org/symbolic-migration?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Symbolic%20Migration%20Is%20Going%20Virtual&utm\\_content=Symbolic%20Migration%20Is%20Going%20Virtual+CID\\_3d95229a01ca5b6f95a90abc60c394da&utm\\_source=Journey%20North%20emails&utm\\_term=Read%20more%20about%20how%20to%20participate](https://journeynorth.org/symbolic-migration?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Symbolic%20Migration%20Is%20Going%20Virtual&utm_content=Symbolic%20Migration%20Is%20Going%20Virtual+CID_3d95229a01ca5b6f95a90abc60c394da&utm_source=Journey%20North%20emails&utm_term=Read%20more%20about%20how%20to%20participate)



## Natural Start Alliance

### Outdoor Learning: A Solution for Schools During COVID 19

Taking learning outdoors can protect against virus transmission, provide positive academic outcomes, and offer proven mental health benefits, but how do we get administrators, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders on board?

[View a recording](#) of a panel of experts who share the hows and whys around outdoor learning as a response to reopening in this uncertain time.



# The Nature Gap: Confronting Racial and Economic Disparities in the Destruction and Protection of Nature in America

The Center for American Progress has released a new report showing how people of color, families with children, and low-income communities are most likely to be deprived of the benefits that nature provides.

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/resources/nature-gap-confronting-racial-and>

NAAEE's Executive Director Judy Braus shares her latest message to members about the importance of self-care and collaboration and exciting upcoming events and opportunities, including two virtual conferences, a webinar with the First Lady of New Jersey about the integration of climate change education throughout the NJ state curriculum, and much more.

Mark Your Calendars: Two Virtual Conferences, Webinars, and More.

*Learning never exhausts the mind.*  
—Leonardo da Vinci



Regina Romero, a wonderful organizational coach and psychologist, spoke with our team last week about strategies for building personal resilience during these difficult times. One suggestion was to write down three new things we're grateful for each day over the next few weeks. Another idea was to develop the practice of savoring experience by journaling each day about a new positive experience, however small. She also reminded us of the merits of exercise and meditation, and the power of random and conscious acts of kindness—to the giver and receiver. With a daily deluge of difficult



news and never-ending demands, I hope you're finding the time and space to practice some good self-care. During our virtual conference in October (see below), we will be including a session on building resilience with Dr. Romero. One thing we know about this pandemic is that it's pushing our thinking almost daily. I know at times it can be uncomfortable and even fear-inducing, but we are being challenged to consider so many new possibilities. For example, we're all thinking about the role of virtual learning in our field, how to provide equitable access to learning and nature, how to facilitate difficult conversations about race and the environment, and what our role is in helping to build more resilient communities and a nation that is more civically engaged. We're also thinking more about collaboration and cross-boundary work, as we collectively shape a new narrative about the future of education, race, and the environment. To help spur new thinking, networking, and learning, we will continue to offer engaging online events—including the Natural Start Alliance Conference and the NAAEE Research Symposium and Annual Conference, all going virtual this year. We hope you can join us for each of these events, and we also invite you to take a short survey that will help us all learn more about how to deliver even more effective online learning.



#### LEARNING AHEAD: VIRTUAL CONFERENCES, CONVENINGS, AND A SURVEY

Register now for the Natural Start Alliance Nature-Based Early Learning Conference--Live July 29-31, and available all year. During this virtual experience, you'll have a chance to learn about how to plan, run, and advocate for nature-based early learning programs (including forest schools, outdoor preschools, and nature preschools) and K–3 outdoor learning, as well as discover new strategies and research in nature-based education, and so much more. And everyone is eligible for a scholarship this year with the pay-what-you-can option. Learn more and register at [conference.naturalstart.org](https://conference.naturalstart.org). Thanks to the

entire Natural Start Alliance team and Advisory Board for all their hard work, creativity, and passion to make sure that all children, everywhere, have access to high-quality early nature experiences.

Hold the dates for NAAEE's virtual NAAEE Annual Conference and Research Symposium: In response to more than 800 people who filled out our survey about creating the best possible virtual symposium and conference, this year we will be spreading out events over the course of two weeks.



■ *The Annual Research Symposium will start with an evening networking event on Thursday, October 8, followed by full days on Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10.*

■ *The opening session of the Annual Conference will feature an exciting keynote speaker on Tuesday afternoon (ET), October 13,*



*and continue from Wednesday, October 14 through Friday, October 16.*

- *Workshops, eePRO discussions, and other affinity groups will meet throughout the two-week period, with most scheduled Thursday, October 8 and Monday, October 12.*

We've had a nearly bumper crop of inspiring proposals for the symposium and conference and we aim to send notifications by the end of next week to all submitters. We are working to create a wonderful conference line-up, complete with great keynotes and opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing.



Sign up for our Webinars: On [July 28 \(2:00 pm ET\)](#), Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey, and a panel of educators will discuss New Jersey's first-across-the-nation initiative to integrate climate change education throughout the curriculum. On August 6 and August 20, a two-part series will address how to facilitate controversial issues, with social studies superstar, Mary Ellen Daneels, Civics Instructional Specialist with the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition. Future webinars will feature Rena Payan (Youth Outdoors) talking

about cultural relevancy; Marc Stern (Virginia Tech) and Bob Powell (Clemson) presenting the results of the evaluation survey that many of you filled out; and Louise Chawla (University of Colorado) and Martha Monroe (University of Florida) sharing the new *Practitioner Guide to Assessing Connection to Nature*. To find out more about our webinar series, [click here](#).

Give us 15 minutes of candor now, avoid hours of misery later: Our good friend, Andy Goodman, is launching a survey with the assistance of the Center for Public Interest Communications at the University of Florida, to help make our online learning much better. As Andy says, "If you've ever been stuck in an online meeting and thought, 'There has to be a better way,' here's your chance to help design that better way." NAAEE is working with Andy to find out precisely what's working, what's not, and why with web-based convenings. We know that web-based gatherings will be a significant part of our work life going forward, so we hope you can help us collect data now to design a better future. [Click here](#) to start the survey and find out how to get a free copy of the report. In addition, Andy will be doing a future webinar with us to highlight the findings.

Please keep sending us your ideas and letting us know how we can help support you. It's in our DNA as educators to bring hope to our audiences and to make a positive difference in the world. So thank you again for all you're doing and please make sure you take care of yourself during these difficult times. And we look forward to seeing you at future virtual events until we can be together.

Judy Braus  
Executive Director

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

—Maya Angelou

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:director@kaee.org) and pw: Seea2018.
- 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 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/eepro/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.

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.

Thank you for reading, more great news coming in September. Send photos, articles, conference news, and state updates to [kmurray@tcboe.org](mailto:kmurray@tcboe.org)

Deadline for September Newsletter: September 11, 2020

