SEEA Newsletter: 2020





2020 SEEA/EEASC Wrap-Up

We're so glad you joined us for the 2020 SEEA/EEASC Conference, "Zoom into Environmental Education."

All conference sessions were recorded and links have been emailed to the participants.

Some session presenters sent documents to supplement their presentations. All documents from sessions have already been emailed to the participants.

If you purchased a conference t-shirt, it has been mailed to you.

We are so grateful to you for the work you do to promote environmental stewardship and provide environmental education opportunities in your community. We're also grateful to our conference presenters, moderators, volunteers, and especially to our generous <u>conference sponsors</u> and donors who made this year's virtual event possible!

Don't miss this upcoming opportunity for professional development, networking, and FUN for our EE community:

• 2021 EEASC Conference – June 10-12, 2021, in Columbia, SC. Watch www.eeasc.org/conference for details.



SEEA Updates

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 <u>Lutheridge</u> 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.

Crowdfunding 2020

I know we have a lot going on with SEEA these days but I wanted to put on your radars that fall crowdfunding time is quickly approaching. Please let me know if your state is interested in participating this year and what kind of support you need (or could provide). For example, technology, videos, story, tutorial on setting up team and individual board pages, getting your board "on board", etc. I also need to know who the point person(s) is for these discussions in your state so I can loop them in. I have already heard from SC and GA so thanks to both those states for getting the ball rolling on this! If your state will not be participating this year, that's fine too. Just let me know so I don't bombard you with emails.

As a reminder, all funds raised go to your organization. We are just here to help walk you through the process, assist with setting up your team pages, provide videos if needed, learn from each others' successes/challenges, and cheerlead!

And for those who aren't sure what crowdfunding is, here is a link to our crowdfunding page from last year for KAEE.

Thanks,

Ashley Hoffman - Executive Director Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance director@kaee.org



SEEA Mosaic Grant Proposal

As you may have heard, Ashley and I have been working with Laura Downey in Kansas (along with some amazing national-level consultants) to design an online, asynchronous justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) course this year. We will be creating this very introductory 10 hour course in an online platform called Moodle, so it is easily shareable between any state using that platform. Our plan was to share it with you all once the design work is finished this winter, but we've just found a potential funding opportunity to put some money behind it.

Karan, Ashley, and I brainstormed about submitting a joint proposal that would:

- Hire a part time contractor to manage and facilitate these online JEDI courses across the region. Their responsibilities would include both logistical administration (like managing registration and invoicing) AND providing content coaching by grading and sharing feedback on the open-ended materials submitted in the course. They would also facilitate regional and/or state level calls on JEDI for graduates of the courses. This one person would be shared across all the states.
- Provide a small subgrant to each state (averaging about \$5K for 1 year) for your state to use however you need to support the rollout of the online training. This could potentially include:
 - creating additional state-custom content such as videos, local speakers/organization features, etc.(external contractor and/or staff time),
 - Moodle platform set up,
 - providing scholarships/defraying course fees for participants (so your state could choose to offer this at a lower costs or free to a certain number of people),
 - marketing/administrative costs
 - and/or follow-up deep dive in-person DEI workshops for online course graduates (could include custom board training if your board takes the course!)

So basically, we'd hire someone to take care of all course admin, you'd get some money to help make this project happen. And if you're concerned with capacity, you could choose to spend all your mini-grant on making the course free for people so there really would be no work for you.

This is a really fast turn around, with the grant due 10/23. Letters of support are NOT needed.

Lauren Pyle

Pronouns: she/her/hers (Why Pronouns Matter)

Executive Director

Environmental Educators of North Carolina



Virtual Conference Assistance

EENC wrapped up our virtual conference a few weeks ago. It was our first foray into virtual conference events, but I'm guessing it will not be the last! If anyone wants to see the flow, schedule, and virtual networking we put together, I'm happy to give you and/or someone else from your board free access to view our online conference platform, Sched (which only costs \$250 for nonprofits!). That was our one-stop place we sent people for all things conference - and is still being actively used to share the recording links with registered participants. Originally, we had Zoom links in all the session descriptions, and now there are video links. I can set it up so you can see everything a general participant would.

If you'd like access to this, please just let me know what email you'd like me to use to set up your account.

Best of luck with all your own events this fall!

Warmly, Lauren Pyle

Pronouns: she/her/hers (Why Pronouns Matter)

Executive Director

Environmental Educators of North Carolina

984-999-1702

eenc.org



Mississippi State's new online, non-thesis, Master of Science in Conservation Education degree program is designed so students strengthen educational, scientific, and leadership skills necessary to give you a competitive edge. Our program aligns with accreditation and industry standards.

This program requires successful completion of 30-credit hours of coursework and a final comprehensive exam. Any undergraduate degree is accepted, as long as students completed biology I and II or test out of the biology prerequisite by taking Praxis exam.

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 instate tuition rates.

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

The next move is yours. Follow these easy steps.

- Contact us.
 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

We hope to hear from you soon!

Mississippi State University Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture

Our new Master of Science in Conservation Education degree program received its final approval!!

Southeasterly Winds:

South Carolina:

- The 2020 SEEA Conference was hosted virtually by EEASC September 24-25. The event was attended by 140 participants from 9 states, and they contributed \$790 through online donations in lieu of the annual silent auction. These funds will be divided evenly between SEEA and EEASC. A keynote address was provided by Dr. Drew Lanham, and more than two dozen conference session and research symposium sessions were provided by researchers and EE practitioners from across the southeastern region.
- EEASC has hired Dr. Arlene Marturano as its Landscape Analysis Coordinator!
 Dr. Marturano is coordinator of the SC Garden-based Learning Network and is
 an education consultant to public, private and home school programs,
 university coalitions, and non-profit organizations on outdoor and
 environmental education, science, nature, garden, health and reading
 pedagogy. Dr. Marturano and EEASC President Chanda Cooper represented
 EEASC in the SEEA Landscape Analysis Kick-Off Meeting October 5-6, 2020.
- EEASC has hired Donnie Bain for the role of EEASC Administrator. Bain brings years of experience in organization and management, consensus building, budgetary matters, supervision, and community outreach to the position. He has served as EEASC's Treasurer since 2018 and is an invaluable part of the EEASC leadership team!

North Carolina:

2020 CONFERENCE RECAP

Even though we are physically apart, environmental educators are stronger together. Together, we can change the world! This year's conference focused on environmental education in schools, building resiliency in EE, connecting with nature in our communities, EE beyond parks, schools and science centers, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in EE.

A few fun numbers:

- 1515 observations of 710 species during the conference bioblitz
- 260 Registered conference attendees
- 94 Spectacular images shared through the photo contest

- 23 Concurrent sessions
- 10 Research Symposium presentations
- 6 Amazing educators and programs recognized through EENC's annual awards!

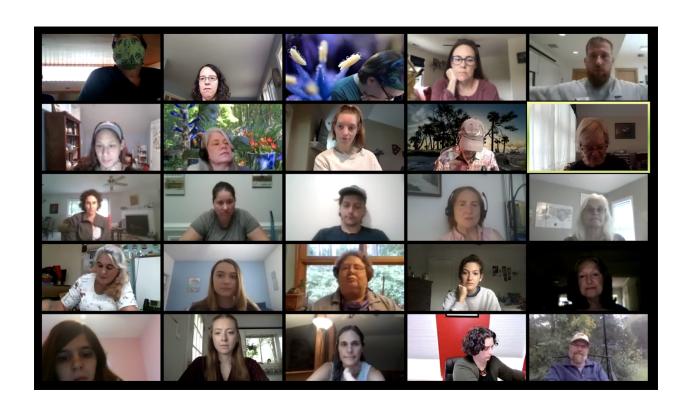
The conference launched Friday afternoon with our annual member meeting. We celebrated successes over the last year including serving over 1860 participants in our summer webinar and community call series, creating the first online Guidelines for Excellence workshop in the nation, and releasing the eeGuidance for Reopening Schools. EENC also announced new member levels and benefits coming soon, our participation in a landscape analysis project through SEEA, and a new online diversity, equity, and inclusion course coming by the end of the year. EENC was also thrilled to share that we are going to be coordinating the expansion of a new solid waste and recycling curriculum, Don't Waste It!, throughout the southeast funded by the EPA.

After multiple rounds of inspiring sessions, Friday ended with a thought-provoking presentation from keynote speaker Diquan Edmonds focusing on our theme, "CommunitEE: Together for a Better World"

Saturday opened with coffee and conversation, diving into three hot topics in virtual round tables: hands-on virtual learning, new and innovative EE program ideas, and building relationships and partnerships during COVID. The rest of the day was dedicated to EENC's annual research symposium and additional rounds of concurrent sessions – before ending at lunch so everyone could enjoy an afternoon outside!

Thanks to the virtual format, all the conference sessions and keynote were recorded and are being posted online by 9/28 for all registered conference attendees. Didn't register before and wishing you could join in? Click here to gain access and earn to up to 10 hours of criteria III/Continuing Education credit.







Mississippi:

Deb Veeder, Chairman for MEEA was chosen to participate in the new NAAEE 2.0 Affiliate Working Group that will be working to help define new Network Goals, map the relevant systems in order to identify the best Network Priorities for reaching those goals, and establish a Body and Process for continuing this work. Mississippi State University just launched a new online, Master of Science in Conservation Education degree program. Conservation educators work in a variety of non-formal and formal settings to promote environmental stewardship and help cultivate a deeper citizen commitment to the sustainability of our natural resources. To request information go to https://online.msstate.edu/request-information/.

Kentucky:

We welcomed more than 100 attendees to our 2020 annual (and virtual) conference, including many of our SEEA friends! Thanks so much to those of you who joined us! A few highlights from the event are here. We've also (almost—one more story to go!) Finished highlighting our 2020 Excellence in EE Award winners.

This fall, we welcomed two new staff members (Americorps member Abigail Stewart and communications intern Rachel Knoll) to our team, as well as <u>four new board</u> members.

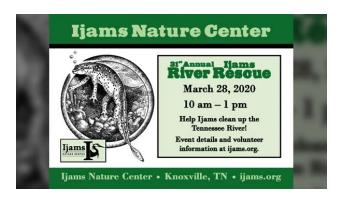
Like all of you, we're looking forward to connecting again with everyone at this month's NAAEE Annual Conference! Brittany Wray, KAEE Education Director, is leading a session called "Branding Your Organization Without Breaking the Bank," as well as a bright spot about the new PLT K-8 guide.

Tennessee:



It's almost time for the 31st annual Ijams River Rescue, presented by Home Federal Bank and TVA! This event was rescheduled due to COVID-19, but with all we know now, we know we can come together safely to clean up the Tennessee River and its creeks and streams to make the Greater Knoxville Area an even better place to live, work and play! This popular, community wide event focuses on up to 50 different cleanup sites along the Tennessee River and its

tributaries. Each year, between 600-800 volunteers spend several hours removing tons of trash from these areas. Join in on some good, "clean" fun and make a difference! Come on your own or in a group, such as families, friends, corporate teams, scout troops or church groups. Bags and gloves are provided, and each location has a site captain to assist volunteers. We'll follow physical distancing and other safety protocols, so sign up for a site today!





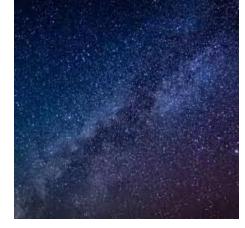


Pinecrest, West Tennessee TEEA Organizational Member, to Pursue Designation as International Dark Sky Park

*Photo of the Milky Way as seen from Pinecrest in La Grange, TN.

Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center has begun the process to become an International Dark Sky Park through the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). By

tabulating night sky readings, creating a lighting inventory and management plan, providing night sky programming, working with local municipalities, and more , locations around the world with exceptional night sky quality are able to offer ongoing access and recognition for protected nocturnal environments. Pinecrest is working in collaboration with the Memphis Astronomical Society and members of the IDA - Western Tennessee Chapter in surveying the night sky in Fayette County and identifying



threats to the quality of darkness. Challenges are faced as smaller municipalities grow in nearby communities and in retrofitting the lighting on Pinecrest property; the latter becoming a current fundraising measure.

Interested in the night sky yourself or need an interactive lesson? You or your students can contribute to sky quality data through a simple yet effective citizen-science program called GlobeatNight.org. The 2020 October campaign on October 20th is finding Cygnus the Swan. It's fun to do with kids or groups and can be done without any equipment except for your eyes and a computer to report the data. Training is simple and can be done online in just a few minutes.

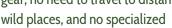
With future plans to offer more educational evening programming and working with our partners, we look forward to furthering our goal of creating awareness of astro-tourism, being a steward of our skies, and protecting our

heritage for future generations through education and preservation. For more info, check out Pinecrest and these other resources:

www.camppinecrest.org www.globeatnight.org www.darksky.org memphisastro.org



Weekly Wonder is a new virtual program designed to be accessible for learners of all ages—whether from the park or the parking lot. No expensive gear, no need to travel to distant









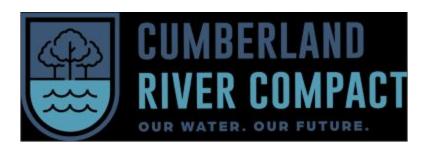
skills or experience necessary! Your classroom just needs you and your willingness to be *curious*, to *pay attention* to the world around you, and to share *wonder and joy* with other students. <u>View weekly episodes at this link!</u> https://gsmit.org/adults-and-families/weekly-wonder/#episodes

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- Every Monday, a new video from Tremont with outdoor-based activities, challenges, and questions will be delivered to your inbox.
- Take time throughout the week to embrace curiosity as you go outdoors and explore local places with fresh, inquisitive eyes.
- Come together at the end of the week during a livestream community gathering to share your stories about what discoveries you and your family experienced.

We offer both free content and additional video content for paying subscribers. We hope you find value in these videos as they are designed to help access the many benefits of time spent in the outdoors. In these stressful times, it is important we make time to experience something new and to share that joy with others!

Weekly Wonder will be FREE during launch in the month of October but will transition to a pay-what-you-can subscription (with periodic free content) beginning November 2.



With support from the Tennessee Community CARES grant, the Cumberland River Compact is launching a suite of K-12 lesson plans designed for virtual science learning and environmental education. Each lesson plan has components for synchronous and asynchronous learning. Many of the lessons will include Spanish translation as well. Lesson plans will be posted here: https://cumberlandrivercompact.org/lesson-plans/

As you can see, the site is still a work in progress, but we have 4 lessons up now and you are welcome to share that URL. More will be added each week!



Ivy Academy in Chattanooga, TN is still accepting admissions for students wanting a different kind of school experience!

Ivy boasts the highest achievable academic growth rate for several of its 6th through 12th grades, and has achievement scores that are higher than the district and state for manifold courses including US History, Math 7, Science 6, and others. College and career readiness are emphasized as a part of Tennessee's Drive to Fifty-five initiative. Students have opportunities for various early post-secondary opportunities such as Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, and Industry Certifications. Our goal is that upon graduation, students have a pathway to their next step in life in a way that enables them to remain free of student loan debt.



Alabama:

Wild Wednesday Nature Hikes for Kids and Families

This summer, Wild South's popular Wild Wednesday hikes in the Bankhead National Forest and Sipsey Wilderness were conductedin the form of videos because of the



coronavirus pandemic. We like to see kids and families out exploring the wonders of our National Forests and Wilderness areas and our Wild Wednesday hikes were established several years as a way of making that happen. These short, unstructured, fun hikes have taught many adults about the places they can safely take children on their own. We look forward to the time we can be out there in our wild places again with kids. Until then, we will take you and your family there virtually. In our Wild Wednesday videos, Wild South's Outreach Coordinator, Janice Barrett, is accompanied by a co-explorer and together they walk trails and wade creeks and the Sipsey Fork to make amazing discoveries, just like on a real Wild Wednesday hike.

https://wildsouth.org/wild-wednesday-video-series/

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Discovery Hall at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is open again and eager to share coastal Alabama's ocean life and ocean STEM activities with all. We are open for overnight as well as day visits, but we can also share with learners across the state through virtual field trips and with the BayMobile, DHP's traveling marine science classroom. Please call us (251-861-2141, 7515) or visit our website (disl.edu/dhp) to see the variety of offerings!





NAAEE Updates



NAAEE 49th Annual Conference

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. Note: Recordings of sessions will be available about one week after the live session, but we aim to have the plenaries/keynotes available as soon as possible. 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:

- A recording of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's keynote, "How to be An Antiracist" on October 14, will be available on demand October 15–21. (UP NOW)
- A recording of Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson's plenary, "Ocean Conservation, Climate Justice, and Education" on October 15, will be available on demand October 16-22.
- All pre-conference workshops, which required separate registration, were not recorded.

To view recordings, please go to the session you would like to view in the Agenda. If the recording is available, you will see the video where the Zoom link was in the session window, if on the desktop app, or click "Recorded Video" in a session if using the mobile app.

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



Affiliate Network

Leading Edge Reaching into Mexico

The leading edge of migratory monarchs along the central flyway has arrived in Mexico, and numbers were high along the eastern flyway. Out west, monarchs are being reported in all western states except Washington.

Read more»



"My house is surrounded by evergreen trees and I guessed around 50 [monarchs]. I have lantana all around and the trees they roost in are shielded by the wind!" Photo: Cindy (Frederick, OK; 10/11/2020)



A shift in MJV's Language Around Citizen and Community Science





Community science involves the public in scientific research and has existed in various forms since the late 1800s.1 Over the years, there have been a number of terms used to describe projects that use amateur scientists to make observations and record ecological and environmental data. These terms include *crowdsourced science*, *public participation in scientific research*, and, of course, *citizen science*.2 Citizen science has been a popular term for the last two decades, after having first been used in 1995 in relation to bird surveys.3 The use of the word *citizen* was used to distinguish between

professional and amateur scientists. However, the connotations of this word are limiting widespread and inclusive participation in science.

Since citizenship in one country or another has never been a prerequisite for participation in these types of projects, the MJV is supporting a transition to the relatively new term *community science*. One of the leaders of this change was the National Audubon Society, who announced this language swap in 2018 as a part of their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The National Audubon Society's announcement holds significant weight as they are a leader in the field of community science. Their annual Christmas Bird Count launched in 1900 is the nation's longest running community science project.

Over the last two years, we've seen support for the term community science grow throughout the country and MJV is excited to be a part of this change. While it may take us some time to completely shift our language patterns, we are making a commitment to change the language we use from citizen science to community science. This will take place over the next year on our website, outreach materials, and communications.

Language is powerful; we hope this shift in language increases inclusivity, engages more members of the public, and emphasizes that anyone with an interest in science is welcome to participate in monarch and other community science projects! Please visit our <u>Community Science page</u> to learn more about how anyone can get involved and make a meaningful contribution to monarch conservation.

Discovering New Resources

High school juniors and seniors have the opportunity to join the <u>National Wildlife Federation's EcoLeaders program</u>. Students will discover valuable tools to advance their sustainability leadership and career development through project-based learning and leadership, career connections, and an online support community. The program provides career resources for both high school and college students, including



career pathway information, informational interviews, interactive career planning tools, and more. This year, NWF is rolling out a series of toolkits to facilitate incorporating these resources by teachers, professors, education administrators, and others into their classroom curricula, extracurricular activities, and other programs.



The first toolkit is designed for guidance counselors and career services offices, as well as educators themselves. Start with the facilitation guide, which introduces each of the relevant resources within the EcoLeaders community and career center. It's chock full of ideas for how you can integrate these resources with your existing programs.

https://www.nwfecoleaders.org/career-services-toolkit

SEEA at your Service: Important Links and Resources

- SEEA Website (DBM). Access the SEEA website!
- 2019 SEEA Leadership Team Roster: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RPc-nJZDBCBXX6OuBFOz0GDV2hH vdrSlTqMuh9V79Pw/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/eepro/research/eerb
- 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.

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 September. Send photos, articles, conference news, and state updates to kmurray@tcboe.org

Deadline for November Newsletter: November 13, 2020

