

SEPTEMBER 2022

# EEAA News

The latest news, events and announcements from the  
Environmental Education Association of Alabama

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

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**Save the Date:  
EEAA Conference  
Feb 2-4, 2023**

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**Alabama State Park Updates**

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**EEAA Regional Meet-Ups Oct 1**

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**Landscape Analysis  
page 4 for survey link**

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**Call for Conference Proposals  
is Open**

Environmental Education Association  
of Alabama

**EEAA: SEPTEMBER 2022**



# *Regional Meetups for EEAA Membership and Guests*

## *October 1, 2022*

### **EEAA'S NORTHERN SECTION**

#### **1. JOE WHEELER STATE PARK**

8AM- HIKE WITH MIKE AT JOE WHEELER STATE PARK  
LOCATION- JOE WHEELER STATE PARK BOAT RAMP( 34.82138,-87.31563)  
LENGTH- 8 AM TO 11 AM, 3 MILES MODERATE  
LUNCH-BRING YOUR OWN OR DINE AT LODGE/LOCALLY  
BRING- STURDY SHOES, DRINKING WATER, NO PETS PLEASE  
COST- ZERO  
MIN/ MAX- NONE  
FOR INFORMATION: EMAIL MIKE EZELL [MREKBE@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:MREKBE@BELLSOUTH.NET)

#### **2. WHEELER LAKE**

1:30 PM- WHEELER LAKE SCENIC CRUISES BOAT TOUR OF WHEELER LAKE  
[HTTP://WWW.SCENICWHEELERLAKE.COM/](http://WWW.SCENICWHEELERLAKE.COM/)  
LOCATION- JOE WHEELER MARINA, (34.81201, -87.32987)  
LENGTH- 2 PM TO 4 PM  
BRING- CAMERA, SNACKS, BINOCULARS  
COST- \$20 PER PERSON, PAY ON SITE.  
MIN/MAX- NO MIN:, MAX: 24,  
PLEASE PRE- REGISTER BY EMAILING MIKE EZELL AT [MREKBE@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:MREKBE@BELLSOUTH.NET)

#### **3. BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**

10AM - 12PM MEET AT PAYNE CREEK CANYON IN THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST FOR  
A NATURALIST HIKE WITH JANICE BARRETT. 1-2 MILES ROUND TRIP.  
12PM LEAVE PAYNE CREEK AND DRIVE YOUR OWN CAR TO CAMP MCDOWELL FOR A BYO  
PICNIC LUNCH  
1:30PM - 3PM CANOEING AT CAMP MCDOWELL ON CLEAR CREEK  
COST: NONE  
MAX: 20 PEOPLE  
BE PREPARED: BRING HIKING SHOES, A CHANGE OF SHOES/CLOTHES IF DESIRED  
FOR CANOEING, WATER, SNACKS, AND LUNCH  
TO REGISTER: CONTACT KIM CORSON AT [PC@CAMPMCDOWELL.ORG](mailto:PC@CAMPMCDOWELL.ORG)

### **EEAA'S CENTRAL SECTION**

#### **1. WEHLE NATURE CENTER**

LENGTH - 8AM - 1PM  
JOIN EEAA BOARD MEMBER ROGER BIRKHEAD AND DCNR BIOLOGIST ERIC SOEHREN  
FOR A DAY OF BIRDING AND EXPLORATION.  
THE WEHLE TRACT CONSIST OF 1,505 ACRE ROLLING PINE HILLS AND HARDWOOD  
BOTTOMS PROTECTED AS A FOREVER WILD LAND.  
BRING - CLOSED TOE SHOES, BINOCULARS, SNACKS, BRING WATER - LUNCH  
OPTIONAL  
MINIMUM/MAXIMUM - NO MIN:, MAX: 20  
REGISTER BY EMAILING ROGER BIRKHEAD AT  
[BIRKHRD@AUBURN.EDU](mailto:BIRKHRD@AUBURN.EDU)

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## EEAA'S CENTRAL SECTION

### 2. OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

LENGTH - 10 AM - 3 PM

10 AM - 11AM: FAIRY HOUSES IN THE FOREST (OAK MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE CENTER)

11 AM - 12 PM: SCALES AND TAILS (LIVE ANIMALS!) (OAK MTN. INRPRETIVE CENTER)

12 PM - 1PM: LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN) (VISIT THE OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GRILLE!)

1 PM - 2 PM: WONDERS OF THE WOODS: EXPLORING THE SANDSTONE GLADES AT OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK (PEAVINE PARKING LOT)

2 PM - 3 PM: PEAVINE ART AND HISTORY (CCC HISTORY AND TREE RING PRINTING)  
(PEAVINE PAVLION)

BE PREPARED - BRING WATER, SNACKS, SUNSCREEN, INSECT REPELLENT, CLOSED TOE SHOES, ADVENTURE READY CLOTHING

COST - FREE WITH PAID ADMISSION INTO OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK (\$5 FOR ADULTS, \$2 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12, \$2 FOR SENIORS 62 AND OLDER)

MIN: 10 MAX: 30

FOR INFORMATION: EMAIL SCOTTIE JACKSON [SCOTTIE.JACKSON@DCNR.ALABAMA.GOV](mailto:SCOTTIE.JACKSON@DCNR.ALABAMA.GOV)

### 3. TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST

9:00 AM - WILD ALABAMA HIKE AND STEWARDSHIP AT PORTER'S GAP

MEETING LOCATION: PORTER'S GAP TRAILHEAD (33.33374648754821,  
-86.02638150813735)

LENGTH: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 4 MILES ROUNTRIP, MODERATE DIFFICULTY

PLEASE BRING: WATER AND FOOD/SNACKS FOR 4 HOURS; STURDY, CLOSED-TOE SHOES, APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR TRASH PICKUP, GLOVES AND GRABBERS (OPTIONAL)

COST: ZERO

MAX: 10

FOR INFORMATION: EMAIL MEG FORD AT [MEG@WILDAL.ORG](mailto:MEG@WILDAL.ORG)

Meetups provide opportunities for environmental educators and communicators from both formal and nonformal education settings to build relationships, strengthen partnerships, share resources and program updates, and cross-pollinate their program ideas with colleagues.

If you have additional questions, please direct them to EEAA President Toni Bruner ([toni@legacyenvd.org](mailto:toni@legacyenvd.org))





# Environmental Education Association of Alabama

## Teachers and School Administrators: Make Your Voices Heard through Our Landscape Analysis Phase 2 Survey!

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We at EEAA, in partnership with the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance, are excited to announce the launch of Phase 2 of our landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in eight southeastern states. And we want to hear from you!

Our Phase 2 survey, which should take you less than 20 minutes to complete, will allow us to assess the scope, strategies, and resources being used in schools across the southeast to build environmental literacy in students. It will help us – and you! – determine gaps and barriers to EE implementation in schools, and it will enable us to make recommendations that can help you infuse EE into formal education settings.

To thank you for your time, you'll be entered into a drawing for one of 120 \$25 gift cards to the Outdoor Learning Store upon submitting the survey.

Ready to lend your voice? Click the button below to access the survey, and please share the survey with colleagues!

[Take the Survey](#)





Environmental Education  
Association of Alabama

## ***Tales of Natural Wonder!***

### **EEAA Conference Call for Proposals!**

The Annual Conference of the  
Environmental Education Association of Alabama  
**February 2 - 4, 2023**  
**Lakepoint State Park**  
104 Lakepoint Drive, Gulf Eufaula, AL 36027

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Monday, November 14, 2022**  
**SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE!**  
**GET YOUR PROPOSAL IN!**

EEAA's Program Committee is seeking presentations for the association's upcoming conference. Proposals may support the theme ***Tales of Natural Wonder*** and should enhance educators' abilities to connect people to the natural world and foster responsible stewardship. **Please note: EEAA focuses on learning about and teaching others about the beauty and biodiversity of Alabama and all the wonderful natural resources that help to define our state.** We are specifically seeking presentations in these areas but are not limiting sessions to these topics. We will be offering three program tracks:

- 1. Natural History** – To provide exploration, knowledge, and an appreciation of Alabama's natural resources. Potential topics: environmental/nature themed "bridges" or "stories" to discovery and learning, information about Alabama's rivers, geological/plant/animal identification presentations, information about Alabama's many diverse species and habitats, print and digital environmental learning possibilities.
- 2. Non-Formal** – For those who provide environmental education at centers, museums, parks, etc. Potential topics: management and hiring issues, incorporating diverse audiences, building an ecology program, program evaluation, grant writing, advocacy group opportunities/updates, water resource and conservation initiatives.
- 3. Formal** – Designed for the classroom educator. Potential topics: schoolyard gardens, sustainability in the classroom, EE and reading, EE and the arts, teaching EE in the city, hands-on biology, and ecology activities.

#### **Tips for a Successful Proposal:**

- Incorporate science content and methods.
- Connect to the theme.
- Provide take-home materials.
- Include an outdoor element.
- Correlate presentation to the Alabama Course of Study

Return by **Monday, November 14, 2022** to: Jo Dale at [eeaaproposals@gmail.com](mailto:eeaaproposals@gmail.com)

**\*PLEASE NOTE: ALL PRESENTERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE BY JANUARY 6, 2023!**

You will be sent an email confirmation once the proposal has been received.

You will be notified by email if your proposal is accepted by December 12, 2022.

Contact Jo Dale at 205.835.1773 or at the email address listed above if you have any questions.



**PROPOSAL TO PRESENT  
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

PRESENTATION TITLE (50 characters max)	
PRESENTER(s)	
Institution(s)	
Email Address(es)	
Phone Number(s)	

TRACK(s)    ☐ Natural History            ☐ Non-Formal            ☐ Formal

TARGET GROUP (Check all that apply.)

☐ K-3            ☐ 4-6            ☐ 7-9            ☐ 10-12            ☐ Public            ☐ Other

PRESENTATION NEEDS (Check all that apply.)

Time needed:            ☐ 1 Hour            ☐ 2 Hours            ☐ Flexible - Can be 1 or 2 hours

Room Set-up:            ☐ Tables and Chair    ☐ Lecture Style            ☐ Outdoors

Audiovisual:            ☐ Screen\*    ☐ TV/VCR

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Presenters are responsible for bringing computers and projectors if needed.

TYPE OF PROGRAM (Check all that apply.)

☐ Make and Take    ☐ Hands-On    ☐ Discussion    ☐ Lecture/Presentation

I WOULD PREFER TO PRESENT ON (Check one):

☐ Friday afternoon            ☐ Saturday morning            ☐ either day is fine

COURSE OF STUDY CORRELATIONS (if appropriate)

List Subject, Grade and Standard Number (example: Science, 2<sup>nd</sup>, #5)    Animal Science,  
Plant Science, Mathematics, Language Arts,

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

Write: (1) 20 - 30 word "teaser" for the Conference Program Guide *and*

(2) 50-200 word description of your program for the selection process.



# Cheaha State Park

## Nature Program Highlights

### Cheaha Spookfest

Join us for Halloween fun for the entire family! For centuries, people celebrated Halloween up and down the Appalachian Mountains with costumes, crafts, games, and storytelling. This weekend of fun events is guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine! Grab your favorite costume, bring the family, & come stay with us!

**Date: Friday, October 28, 2022-Sunday, October 30, 2022**

**Location: Interpretive Center (Cheaha Lake)**

**Cost: FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission**

### Cheaha Fall Photography Workshop

Join internationally renowned Alabama photographer, John Dersham, for this landscape photography workshop on the highest mountain in Alabama. Friday workshop will be indoors (4pm-7pm) and Saturday workshop (8am-4pm) will be outside in the park. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

**Date: Friday, November 11, 2022-Saturday, November 12, 2022**

**Location: Interpretive Center (Cheaha Lake)**

**Cost: \$75 per person for workshop instruction and park admission**

### Christmas Ornament Hunt

Appalachian Christmas treasure hunt. Ornaments will be hidden in public areas across the park and traded for holiday prizes. Hotel discount Sun-Thursday 20% off (Hotel only-does not apply to weekends-December 1-29, 2022)

**Date: December 1-25, 2022**

**Location: ParkWide**

**Cost: FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission**

### Mt. Crumpit & The Grinch

It has been rumored that climbing Mount Cheaha causes one's heart to grow three sizes and fill with joy.... just like the Grinch! Join us for a fun interactive reading (by Park Naturalist Mandy Pearson) of Dr. Seuss' Grinch, enjoy child-friendly snacks, and some adorable photo opportunities!

**Date: Saturday December 10, 2022**

**Time: 10:00 am -11:00 am**

**Location: Vista Cliffside Event Center**

**Cost: FREE for overnight guests or with Park Admission**





# Wind Creek State Park

## Programming Highlights

### Creepy Crawly Critters Program

'Tis the season for critters who crawl, creep, and slither! Join Wind Creek interpreters as they introduce you to some of the scaly, slimy, and feathered wild neighbors who call Alabama home! Bring your camera and don't miss this opportunity for an up-close encounter with these amazing live animals during this creepy, cool program!

**Date: Saturday, October 15, 2022**

**Time: 2:00PM–3:00PM**

**Location: Wind Creek Clubhouse**

**Cost: FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests**

### Fabulous Fall Colors Hike

Autumn is a magical time, as Alabama's forests move from seas of vibrant green to a beautiful quilt of yellows, oranges, and reds. Join Wind Creek interpreters to discover some of the park's rich fall colors during a leisurely stroll along the shores of Lake Martin!

**Date: Saturday, November 19, 2022**

**Time: 12:00PM–1:00PM**

**Location: North Picnic Trailhead (Campfire Trail)**

**Cost: FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests**

### Wind Creek Holiday Social

Enjoy some holiday cheer at Wind Creek State Park! Experience classic festive tales, holiday tunes, tasty s'mores, and ornament-making! Don't miss out on the holiday fun!

**Date: Sunday, December 17, 2022**

**Time: 3:00PM–4:00PM**

**Location: Wind Creek Clubhouse**

**Cost: FREE with paid park admission and for overnight guests**



# Oak Mountain State Park

Craft, Scales & Tails, & Night Hike

## Creatures of the Night!

Experience Oak Mountain State Park after dark!

Make a fun Halloween craft, meet some nocturnal animals up close at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center, and see what glows, calls, and crawls at night on the Treetop Nature Trail!

DATE: October 28th, 2022

Craft: 4:30pm – 5:30pm at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Scales & Tails: 6pm – 7pm at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Night Hike: 7pm – 8pm at the Treetop Nature Trail

Free with paid admission into Oak Mountain State Park and overnight guests



## Black Friday #OptOutside Hike

This Black Friday #OptOutside with us and enjoy nature!

This hike is considered a beginner level hike, with only a few inclines along the way. White Trail and Red/Yellow Connector.

Dogs are welcome on leashes! Not suitable for strollers. All ages welcome! Dress appropriately for weather. Allow 2.5 hours! This has some beautiful sceneries, so don't miss out on the fun!

DATE: November 25th, 2022

TIME: 10am – 12:30pm

LOCATION: North Trailhead

Free with paid admission into Oak Mountain State Park and overnight guests

## DIY Nature Art Ornament

Get into the holiday spirit and make your very own nature art ornament to adorn your tree this year! Festive music and hot cocoa too! Learn to make salt dough that you can easily turn into neat works of art.

All ages welcome! Stroller and wheelchair accessible!

DATE: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

TIME: 1pm - 2pm

LOCATION: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Free with paid admission into Oak Mountain State Park and overnight guests





# Conference Updates



**TUCSON2022**  
conference.naaee.org

## 51st Annual Conference

OCT. 12-15

## 19th Annual Research Symposium

OCT. 11-12

**Educating for Change**



**2023 EAA Conference**  
**February 2-4**  
**Lakepoint State Park**







## Searching for Nature Preschools

As the Natural Start Alliance prepares for an upcoming national survey of nature preschools, they are counting nature-based preschools in the United States. Help Natural Start find your program by joining the Alliance as an organizational member today!

[Read more](#)

## Athens Renaissance School Field Day

Tuesday, Sept 20, the Second and Third Grade students of Ms. Blaire Baxter and Ms. Maggie Chittam of Athens Renaissance School enjoyed a Field Day at Joe Wheeler State Park. Mike Ezell presented The Water Cycle and Alabama Rivers to the students and their families. Afterward, a hike was led by Sam Woodroof, JWSP Naturalist. It was a fun day of learning about Alabama's abundant water resources for all involved!







# SOLO Wilderness Medicine

At Camp McDowell

\$213

**WILDERNESS  
FIRST AID (CPR & AED)**  
November 1st-2nd, 2022  
at 8am-5pm

\$558

**WILDERNESS  
FIRST RESPONDER**  
November 3rd-11th, 2022  
at 8am-5pm

*Food & lodging are available at the course location for an additional cost.*

*Contact: [Brittany@wildal.org](mailto:Brittany@wildal.org)*



# Don't Waste It!: A Case Study of Success in the Southeast

Over the past two years, the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA), in partnership with Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling, has worked to launch a new curriculum called Don't Waste It! across the southeast. The goals of the Don't Waste It! project were to help current and future educators across the southeast understand the systems for solid waste and recycling in their state and then provide them with resources and lessons to share this knowledge with students. We hoped these educators would go on to inspire their local communities to get involved with composting, recycling, and other waste reduction activities.

Thanks to a \$100,000 environmental education grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded in September 2020, we were able to bring this program to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Each state developed a customized Don't Waste It! guide, with state-specific resources, references, and curriculum correlations. Across the region, we were able to train 44 new Don't Waste It! facilitators who went on to provide training to hundreds of educators in both in-person workshops and online training across the southeast.

This project was designed and proposed before COVID-19. Despite the many changes that resulted from the pandemic, the Don't Waste It! project team accomplished all our originally proposed activities on time and exceeded all our original targets for engagement. This in itself is a huge success considering the many stresses educators have experienced in the past two years.

Some highlights of this two-year project:

- We brought the Don't Waste It! curriculum to a total of 602 educators across the southeast, 45% more than our original target of 415.
- All workshops met or exceeded their goals for increasing educator knowledge and confidence in teaching about solid waste and recycling topics. Participants were also highly satisfied with the workshops and overwhelmingly intended to share what they learned with others.
- 95% of educators who responded to the follow-up survey changed their personal or professional environmental behavior due to project participation.

Plus, most of the states that launched Don't Waste It! programs plan to continue offering workshops after this launch. This project is just one example of how SEEA can serve as a field catalyst, helping build capacity to ensure that educators across our region have what they need to do their jobs better.

To learn more about the Don't Waste It! project and its impacts, please contact Lauren Pyle at [director@eenc.org](mailto:director@eenc.org).



# EEAA Board Retreat Sept 16-18, 2022

## Dauphin Island Sea Lab

### Goal 1: Capacity Building:

1. Continue to host a successful annual conference
2. Have 3 field day/field trip each year - call them 'meet ups'
3. Work towards hiring and funding a paid staff member for EEAA
4. Identify 3 conferences we would like to table/exhibit at - they give us a spot and we give them a spot (free/in kind)
5. Redo EEAA tabling materials (look into redoing and updating EEAA logo?)
6. Membership



### Goal 2: Communication (internal):

1. Organizational chart document
2. Organized Google Drive landing document with clickable links to specific documents
3. Regular quarterly newsletter being sent out
4. Have two people in place to work on newsletter and website
5. Continue with stipend based tasks



### Goal 3: Professional Development:

1. Have a person who is paid to keep a list/database of PD opportunities/EE providers
2. Having an approved/updated Environmental Literacy plan
3. Have someone from EEAA on the ALCOS committee
4. Offer at least one regional event (at each region) per year
5. Become an AMSTI/TEAMS affiliate to offer CEUs for events and annual conference



## Coastal Clean-Up 2022





# **Environmental Education Association of Alabama**

**Email:** [contact@eeaa.us](mailto:contact@eeaa.us)

**Website:** [eeaa.US](http://eeaa.US)

**Facebook:** Environmental Education Association  
of Alabama

**Thank you Mike Ezell for the fall  
photography sprinkled throughout  
the September edition of the EEAA  
newsletter.**