



## SEEA Newsletter: December 2019

### Happy Holidays!

2019 has been filled with several EE initiatives and exciting growth throughout the Southeast. This newsletter highlights the hardwork and dedication from educators over the last year while also looking forward to more exciting projects in 2020.



## SEEA Updates

### **EPA Grant Opportunities:**

Here are links to the two different EPA proposal synopses. This is a great opportunity for the region to work together on EPA grant opportunities. Contact your state leader, Ashley Hoffman, or Lauren Pile as soon as possible if you would like to participate. We don't anticipate both will get funded in the same year but we do know that the EPA often funds second place proposals the following year so we want to increase our chances by submitting more than one!

**KAEE lead- [Community Engagement Cohort](#)**

**EENC lead- [Don't Waste It Curriculum](#)**

Ashley and Lauren will need firm commitments by email as soon as possible but preferably by December 13th. The deadline for these is January 6 but Lauren and Ashley would both like to finish these before the holidays if possible. If you are committed, they will send draft commitment letters for you to fill out and that is all they will need from you all at this time!

Ashley Hoffman: [director@kaee.org](mailto:director@kaee.org)

Lauren Pile: [eencexecdirector@gmail.com](mailto:eencexecdirector@gmail.com)





## \*\*\*2020 SEEA Conference Announcement\*\*\*

# SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2020

Columbia, South Carolina  
EdVenture & SC State Museum

Hosted by:



**ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY: IT'S OUR STORY.  
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.**

EEASC is currently accepting sponsorships for the conference; online contributions can be processed at <http://www.eeasc.org/Sponsor>, and all sponsors will be recognized in the conference publicity materials per the details described on that webpage. Sponsors will also have an opportunity to set up an information/vendor table during the conference.

More details (pricing, lodging, call for session proposals, details about the research symposium, field trip details, etc.) will be announced soon! In the meantime, please "save the date."

### **Pisces Grant Update**

In order to receive your \$3500 for the Pisces mini-grants, each state needs to complete the 2-3 page report, *in detail*. These will be submitted to Pisces Foundation so please be sure to use complete sentences and give as much detail as possible on your project and the impact it has

had. Once we have this information, we will send you a check. For the two states working with Dave Chase, you don't need to fill out the budget page, just the first part of the report and we will pay Dave directly.

## Board Fundraising Video

Interested in having a board fundraising video sharing why your board supports EE? [Here is a link](#) to a video we recently worked on for GA's board. If you'd like one for your state, please email Brittany ([brittany@kaee.org](mailto:brittany@kaee.org)). All we would need are pics and quotes from all your board members!

## Communications

Looking for content for your website or social media? There are a number of stories you can use about current EE initiatives available on the [SEEA Shared Space](#) in the [Communications](#) folder!

## Membership Bootcamp

The SEEA Membership Bootcamp is scheduled for **December 2019-June 2020**. All course participants will receive a copy of Sarah Sladek's book "The End of Membership as You Know It" in December. Beginning in January, we will have monthly webinars and discussions around the topics outlined below. In between those dates, we will each have some homework to work on within our states. We will also have access to a discussion board where we can all share progress, ideas, questions, and resources as we dig into these topics together.

### Membership Growth Training and Coaching Program 5-Step Process for Membership Growth

Understanding generational differences & social changes and how they influence the value of membership

- Homework: 30 conversations next 30 days

Deep Dive into Value Shift: Look into the future by looking at defining trends and characteristics of millennials and Gen Z.

- Homework: Analyze your organizational future health and see if it is aligned with the future trends.

Membership Best Practices and Case Studies: Successes and changes organizations have made to Future Proof their organization.

- Homework: Identify the top 3 hurdles your organization is facing.

Asset Management: Learn to understand and identify your most valuable assets to help engage and grow membership.

- Homework: Identify the top 3 most valuable assets to your organization.

## SEEA States EE-Related Colleges and Universities Database (DBM)



The first iteration of the SEEA EE-related colleges and universities database for all 8 SEEA states is attached. Each state is organized by tabs at the bottom and it is pretty comprehensive. Your state should use the list as a starting point for revisions. Undoubtedly, you will know of other people/institutions/programs you will want to add as you develop educational partnerships. It will be up to the individual states to do so. I encourage designating one of your board members/positions to manage this task and document.

The programs include ee-programs directly, but we also included other departments, majors, minors, concentrations, certificates, graduate and undergraduate programs that might be EE-related. My hope is that this list will help each state identify and recruit educational partners that will attend and present at conferences, serve on state affiliate boards, and strengthen EE in each state through networking. We have written a short key below to help decipher the tables.

Column 1: College/University

Column 2: Location

Column 3: Program - **Majors and Minors bold font**

Concentrations and Certifications light font

Environmental / Outdoor Education-specific programs in red

Column 4: Level - Associates - A

Undergraduate - U

Graduate - G

Column 5: Major - M

Column 6: Minor - m

Column 7: Concentration - C

Column 8: Contact \*note: some site didn't provide email contacts, so those have phone numbers

Column 9: URL

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4LEgLAyiLXwdUFXNmp1TG1Vb0ZicldBWHNmQzRJeUhBX0w4/view?ths=true>

## New SEEA Website (DBM)

If you have not already sent your high resolution photos to Brittany to update your state pages, please do so as soon as possible. [brittany@kaee.org](mailto:brittany@kaee.org).

Here is a link to website: <http://www.southeastee.com/>

## Southeasterly Winds: News from the SEEA States

**KY –**

**The 2019 Awards for Excellence Winners**

<https://naee.org/eepro/blog/2019-awards-excellence-winners>



**Congratulations to both of our Kentucky winners!!**

**Dr. Melinda Wilder**

**Higher Education Educator of the Year**

"By working with preservice and inservice teachers through undergraduate and graduate classes at the University, I hopefully initiated a ripple effect—wherein they too help their students connect with the natural world."

**Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez**

**Outstanding Service to EE, Individual-Local**

"What has inspired me is working with and learning from so many dedicated young people who are beyond just educating the public, but really working toward getting folks to understand the 'why' of environmental programming."

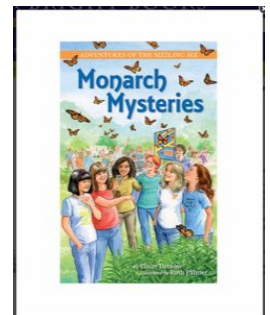
**AL -**

A shout-out to EEAA board member, Claire Datnow who will be presenting at the Alabama Writers Conclave workshop in January, 2020.

**Presentation:** A Behind the Scenes look at How Writers Create Dynamic Science and Nature Narratives

**Audience:** The workshop is designed for a range of Environmental Educators: field educators, and environmental educators in schools, museums, aquaria, zoos, gardens, and parks. it will provide all stakeholders with tools and resources for inspiring citizens to become wise stewards of precious natural environment.

**Brief Description:**





A behind the scenes look at how writers create fiction or nonfiction science and nature related narratives. The author's firsthand experiences researching and writing her Eco Mystery series, *The Adventures of The Sizzling Six*, will provide a road map for skillfully connecting audiences to the environmental problems and issues that matter to them.

## GA -

- GA is in recruitment process for ED. Reviewing applicants and setting up interviews now with intention to start in early 2020.
- Thank you Brad for your help this fall, meeting with our board and getting us ready for this transition.
- GA decided to hold off on the fall fundraiser, implementing in spring once ED is in place to help champion that effort.
- Our 2020 conference (3/6-8 at Jekyll IS) registration is open: <https://www.eealliance.org/annual-conference> Please help promote.
- 1,360 classrooms participated in Symbolic Migration this fall. Submissions from 45 states, DC, 5 Canadian provinces + a school from South Korea!!

Are you creating an environmentally focused culture within your community? What have you found to be the best ways to make environmental education more accessible? How should environmental educators engage with partners and stakeholders in their communities? Please share your answers to these questions and your expertise by attending the 2020 Environmental Education Alliance (EEA) Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference offers educators the connections, tools, learning opportunities, and strategies they need to understand and implement effective environmental education within their classrooms, schools, organizations, and communities.

The theme for the 2020 Environmental Education Alliance Conference is "**Splashing into EEA: Making Waves within Your Community.**" We invite you to share how you, your school, or your organizations make an impact in the community by making environmental education more accessible to a diverse audience. Here is the link to register!



## MS –

We are in the process of adding to our board. There are several great candidates and they will be added in January. MEEA would like to wish everyone a happy and enjoyable holiday season!

## NC -

EENC believes in #EEforAll. We envision a future where all North Carolina children grow up feeling connected to nature, understand natural systems, develop the skills needed to address environmental challenges, and have attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action. We want all learners participating in environmental education programs in North Carolina feel welcome and engaged. And we want

North Carolina's population of professional environmental educators reflects our state's residents. Addressing equity and inclusion in environmental education is a critical part of this effort.

Earlier this month, EENC hosted an "Equity and the Environment" workshop in Asheville at the [YMI Cultural Center](#). Over 75 people representing a wide range of fields and professional roles came together. Facilitator [Marisol Jiménez](#) opened the day with a plenary session, inspiring attendees to reflect on their personal journeys, providing some common language to frame conversations through the day, and shared the often untold history of the intersection between race and the environment in our region. During the afternoon, attendees could choose to further their individual understanding of systemic racism with Marisol Jiménez, explore organizational strategies and implications with [Marsha Davis](#), or learn from local EE practitioners who are incorporating equity throughout their work. 94% of workshop respondents reported they feel more prepared to talk about diversity, equity, and inclusion in their workplace after this workshop AND 94% of respondents feel at least somewhat more prepared to engage diverse learners and community members after this workshop.

Beyond supporting our professional community, EENC is looking inward. Over Veteran's Day weekend, EENC board and staff members participated in a three-day equity and engagement strategy session with the [Center for Diversity & the Environment](#). During this time, we reflected on our organization's current status, envisioned our future, and crafted a plan to help us get there.

Both of these trainings were possible thanks to support from [NAAEE](#) and [ee360](#).



We recognized this conversation is a journey, not an end-point. EENC plans to continue to keep our community talking about this topic. We look forward to having you in the conversation.

## Crowdfunding Campaign Update

NC - Thanks to a matching donation through Giving Tuesday, [so far we've raised \\$31,190](#) - which puts us well on our way toward our total goal of \$40,000!

## [NAAEE Affiliate News](#)

From Affiliate Network Coordinator Bruce Young:

I hope you are all well and had a restful holiday weekend. As you may know, the application window for the 2020 ee360 Community EE Fellowship Cohort began this week and, we would like to ask our Affiliates to join us in spreading the word about this awesome program to your members. To make this request simple and easy for you NAAEE Staff members Colby Parkinson and Anne Umali have put

together an excellent [promo kit](#). In the promo kit, you will find copy for newsletters or social media posts, graphics, and branding information ready to be uploaded or cut and pasted into your member communications and makes promoting the ee360 Fellowship program a breeze!

Thank you in advance for helping us to promote this amazing opportunity for leaders in our field and as always please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## eePRO Highlight: **Advocacy, Policy, and Civic Engagement**

Looking to advocate for EE, gain support for your programs, learn about ways to organize EE activities to your community, or secure funding for a new project but not sure where to start? Let this group assist you in your efforts. From the latest in state environmental literacy plans, to the No Child Left Inside Act, to our allies in STEM, green schools, and nonformal education, join this group to discuss how we can work together to secure the future of environmental education, bring EE to our communities and the world, and rally support and recognition for the field.

<https://naaee.org/eepro/groups/advocacy-policy-and-civic-engagement>

## **SEEA at your Service: Important Links and Resources**

- **SEEA Shared Space.** The link to the SEEA shared space is below. Here, you will find the roster, minutes, webinar recordings and other resources.  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bz-GEj3kxmd-YkF4VEltZnU2RUk?usp=sharing>.  
Please bookmark this link for quick access.
- **SEEA Website (DBM).** Access the new [SEEA website](#)!
- **2019 SEEA Leadership Team Roster:**  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RPc-nJZDBCX6OuBFOz0GDV2hHvdrSITqMuh9V79Pw/edit?usp=sharing>
- **SEEA Strategic Plan** (discussed and approved on the September conference call). The document is attached via the link below. Please pass it to your respective boards.: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrsEUVFA-2yosIEF75XRxVu6RZT3Uw82-ncr54ZpPRU/edit?usp=sharing>.
- **ZOOM Video Conferencing Available to all SEEA States (DBM).** Please email Ashley ([director@kaee.org](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>.
- **Georgia's Job Announcement Position:** Executive Director of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (part-time 20 hr/week)  
<https://eeag.memberclicks.net/assets/Documents/EEA%20ED%20job%20posting%202019.pdf>

As always, let us know if you have any concerns or questions as well as suggestions about how we can structure these updates to serve you better.

Sarah Davis, 2019-2020 SEEA Chair

Ashley Hoffman, SEEA Executive Director

## [SEEA at a Glance: Questions and Answers](#)

### 1. What is SEEA?

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

#### NAAEE Affiliate Organizations

**AL** - Environmental Education Association of Alabama

**FL** - League of Environmental Educators in Florida

**GA** - Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia  
**KY** - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education  
**MS** - Mississippi Environmental Education Association  
**NC** - Environmental Educators of North Carolina  
**SC** - Environmental Education Association of South Carolina  
**TN** - Tennessee Environmental Education Association

## **2. What is SEEA's Mission?**

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

## **3. How is SEEA structured?**

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

## **4. How does SEEA help the individual states?**

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

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

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

## **5. Does SEEA hold a conference or regular meetings?**

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

## 6. What is SEEA working on currently?

Current SEEA Projects include:

- Creating and implementing a new SEEA work plan for the next few years.
- Planning a SEEA regional ee360 retreat that will bring teams of up to five from each state affiliate.
- Determining organizational structure and investigating the possibility of becoming a regional affiliate of NAAEE.
- Providing networking opportunities such as a SEEA meeting at the NAAEE Annual Conference.
- Facilitating communication among affiliate groups through various means, including monthly conference calls, periodic email updates, and postings on the SEEA website around various topics of mutual interest.
- Sharing resources such as newsletters, conference attendance opportunities, and general organizational information.

