

OCTOBER 2020

EEAA News

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

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Environmental Education Association
of Alabama

CONTACT@EEAA.US

EEAA.US

FACEBOOK: ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF
ALABAMA

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Covid-19 and Antarctic: Connections and Conundrums

All of us are grappling with ways to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic. Should we focus on the intense anxiety we are experiencing that family and friends may fall ill? Should we focus on the small joys we feel despite the pandemic? Should we take this as an opportunity to drive home the environmental challenges connected to the pandemic? In this blog, Covid-19 and Antarctic: Connections and Conundrums I take a broad perspective on how the pandemic connects all humans on this planet—in ways we could never have foreseen. Your comments are welcome.

Please visit my blog.

<https://mediamint.net/page7/files/Covid-10%20and%20Antarctic.html#.Xzamvy2z1Bw>

E-hugs, Claire Datnow

(Thank you Claire for the photograph on the cover of the October edition of the EEAA Newsletter)



GretaThunberg Documentary Trailer Just Dropped

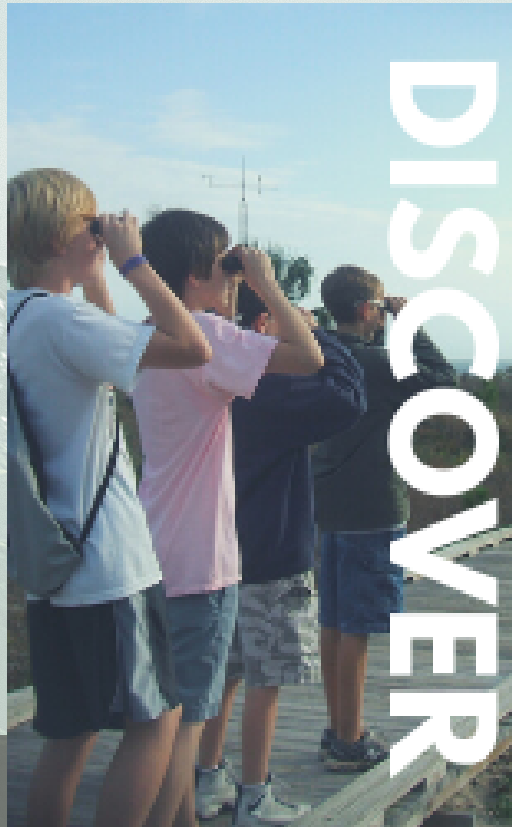
Global icon and 17-year old environmental activist Greta THunberg has seen her fair share of criticism. In the upcoming documentary I am Greta, we get an even closer look at Greta's life and passion for saving the environment

<https://www.indiewire.com/2020/09/i-am-greta-trailer-hulu-1234585673/>

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions Recognized; Green Strides Tour Announced

Representatives from the 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees were honored in a ceremony Wednesday in Washington, D.C. The 35 schools, 14 districts, and four postsecondary institutions were recognized for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education. A state education official, John Olson, science content specialist, was also recognized for his efforts to advance school sustainability in the state of Minnesota. Honorees received sustainably crafted plaques in recognition of their achievements. On hand for the event at the U.S. Commerce Department were: Frank Brogan, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education at the U.S. Department of Education; Stuart Levenbach, chief of staff at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; James L Elder, Jr., executive director at the Campaign for Environmental Literacy; and Jenny Wiedower, senior manager for K-12 education with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council. "Today's honorees can be proud of what they have accomplished in their local communities," said Assistant U.S. Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education Frank Brogan. "They have reduced institutional operating costs and helped conserve our precious natural resources, while engaging students in authentic sustainability learning in safe, healthy, and inspiring environments." "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools are helping to build an environmentally literate world that will be cleaner and safer for current and future generations," said NOAA Education Director Louisa Koch. "We are delighted to celebrate the honorees and all they have accomplished." "Over the past eight years, U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools have helped to define what it means to be a sustainable school and how to effectively offer environmental education, so it's my pleasure to celebrate this work annually," said James Elder, director of the Campaign for Environmental Literacy. "We applaud the outstanding 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools winners for improving educational facilities to promote health and environmental stewardship, and for ensuring students have an opportunity to engage in real-world learning about the natural environment and the world around them," said Anisa Heming, director for the Center for Green Schools. "We also commend the U.S. Department of Education's continued commitment to highlighting these schools' successes through this program." Meanwhile, Brogan also announced the 2019 Green Strides Tour – this year, under the theme "Whole Child, Whole School Sustainability." This year's tour will take place Oct. 28-30 at past honoree schools in the state of Washington. The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 28 states. The selectees include 25 public schools, including three magnet schools and two charter schools, as well as 10 nonpublic schools. Over one-third of the 2019 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body. Here is a list of all selected schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions and summaries of each of the 53 honorees. More information on the federal recognition award can be found here. Sustainability resources for all schools to meet the award criteria can be found here.

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>



Give your students an adventure, virtually or in person, with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Discovery Hall Programs.

Your students can experience what it's like to be a scientific researcher. They can explore the marshes, collect samples in Mobile Bay, and discover the changes on our beaches. Our lessons can be tailored to your class.

Reach out today to book a virtual or in person field trip with us.

Email: scheduler@disl.org

Call: (251) 861-2141 x7511
disl.edu/dhp



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 13-16, 2020 NAEE
Conference**

**Feb 25-27, 2012 EEAA
Annual Conference**

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!

In Remembrance



There is a Snake in the Yard by David Hollaway, June 1987

Well, spring is upon us, and summer is fast approaching. With that comes the flowers and the birds singing their spring songs and butterflies dancing across the sky. Warm, sunny days and then the pitter-patter of spring showers.

<https://mailchi.mp/ruffnermountain.org/in-remembrance-of-marty-schulman-gary-huntley-and-david-hollaway?e=5c9c61896a>



Nature in the Hood by Gary Huntley, October 2007

You know the old saying about not seeing the forest for the trees? Well, in some instances that can be true but in the "hood" you can see nature everywhere. For instance, just the other day I was outside my home looking at the sky and what did I see, but our beloved friend, the Cooper's Hawk. I GOT ALL EXCITED!

<https://mailchi.mp/ruffnermountain.org/in-remembrance-of-marty-schulman-gary-huntley-and-david-hollaway?e=5c9c61896a>



Mining Ruffner's Past by Marty Schulman, October 2001

Hello from the old new guy. While I feel like I've been working on behalf of the mountain for eons, I've been "official" since this spring. In my explorations, I've discovered some fascinating parts of Ruffner's mining history.

<https://mailchi.mp/ruffnermountain.org/in-remembrance-of-marty-schulman-gary-huntley-and-david-hollaway?e=5c9c61896a>





Affiliate Network Resources

A Note From Affiliate Network Coordinator, Bruce Young

We are so excited to be announcing the opening of registration of the 2020 NAAEE Virtual Conference! Though we are sad to not get to see each of you in person this year we know that this digital offering will allow for the participation of more Affiliate Network Leaders than ever before!

More information will be coming your way about additional ways you and your Affiliate can be involved from submitting open space topics for the Affiliate Assembly, recording a video for our Affiliate Roll Call, and more!

We certainly hope you can join us this fall and look forward to the learning and fellowship that this year's conference will offer from the comfort of your own home or workplace!

All the best,
Bruce Young
NAAEE Affiliate Network Coordinator

Affiliate Assembly- Save the Date!
Join us for the Affiliate Assembly, Wednesday, October 7. 2:00-4:00pm ET,

In the place of the traditional Affiliate Workshop, the Affiliate Network Professional Development team has been planning this year's gathering, the Affiliate Assembly! In this networking-centric gathering, we will share and learn from other affiliate leaders in this unique professional development opportunity. Let's build capacity, share successful practices, and learn innovative strategies to new challenges, all while meeting and getting to know your affiliate peers, colleagues, and potential project partners and collaborators.

An optional Virtual Happy Hour after the Affiliate Assembly, at 4:00pm ET, features fun, engaging, networking activities, and all manner of merriment for affiliate leaders.

Registration is \$10 per person in addition to Conference Registration fees which begin at \$25.

Note: if this cost is in any way a barrier to your participation in the Affiliate Assembly please contact Affiliate Network Coordinator Bruce Young (bruce@naaee.org)



A Changing Planet

SILC Director & Environmental Studies Professor Jason Neff has developed a series of PowerPoint and YouTube videos for Introductory Environmental Science courses for free use. These resources include videos and PowerPoints prepared for the ENVS 1000 course at CU Boulder as well as additional PowerPoints for use with 'A Changing Planet' - a fully online text and assessment platform for Environmental Science.

<https://www.colorado.edu/silc/changing-planet-educational-resources>



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 are being conducted in 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/>



EEAA Conference is going virtual!!

Feb 25-27, 2021

NAAEE Updates

Join us for the 2020 Virtual Conference and Research Symposium...Registration is now open!

We're looking forward to seeing you in October—virtually, of course!

Join us for two weeks of compelling plenary speakers, nearly 400 concurrent and on-demand sessions, and a host of networking opportunities, affinity group meetings, and more. (And don't worry—you have a year to catch any sessions you miss during the conference!)

[Learn more and register >](#)

Costs and Scholarships: Separate registration is required for the Annual Conference, Research Symposium, and additional workshops. Because many in our field have been affected by the pandemic, NAAEE wants to make sure that no one has to miss out. Prices are lower than ever, and NAAEE is offering automatic scholarships to anyone who needs financial help—no questions asked.

View additional details about speakers and events in the registration brochure. We look forward to seeing you in this global community of environmental educators as we work together to inform and inspire, advance justice, equity, and inclusion, build human capacity, galvanize action to ensure equal access to nature, and create healthier communities for all.

<https://conference.naaee.org/>



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Grant Updates

EPA Grant - Don't Waste It

Participating states are selecting their "Content Specialist" for the Don't Waste It! project.

This will be someone in your state who is already working in solid waste/recycling education. There will be an online course design team (1 person per state) and mini-grant programs (~\$4K) to support your state as well.

The target is to have the state project content specialists determined for every state by mid-September. Congratulations to Jessica Shumate from the University of Montevallo for being selected as our Content Specialist for Alabama!

BEETLES

The BEETLES committee members are busy planning an Alabama EE Summit (AEES). Assembling EE leaders from all EE sectors and regions within the state is the first part of building regional capacity for high-quality EE. To do this, 2 leaders from each of the planning and participating organizations will attend virtually, the 3-day AEES. AEES will strengthen participating EE leaders' knowledge and skills of BEETLES principles. This will happen via sessions dedicated to round-table discussions about the state of EE in Alabama, challenges and barriers to equity and inclusivity, professional learning activities on BEETLES Design Principles, and the planning of follow-up regional BEETLES workshops. AEES participants will contribute to building statewide capacity during regional workshops in phase two.

More details will be in the next newsletter with information on how you can join a regional BEETLES workshop.



Landscape Analysis

This project partners the eight southeast states in a landscape analysis of EE. We will be asking the following questions so we can best meet the needs of educators in the state of Alabama:

What audiences do you hope to reach and influence as a result of this project (e.g. funders, school administrators)?

What are some key outcomes you would like to see as a result of this project?

Does your state have an existing database of partners who do EE already that you can work from or will that need to be developed?

If yes, when was that database last updated?

Which data collection methods do you prefer to use to gather this information in your state?

What are the top 10 specific questions or pieces of information you want to see gathered during this analysis?





Got Projects? Need Helpers?

Got Projects? Need Helpers? Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) is the recipient of a five-year Title III (Strengthening Institutions) grant, aimed towards increasing student retention, persistence, and graduation rates, especially among minority, first-generation, transfer, and non-traditional students. Research indicates that expanding students' connections to classmates, faculty, the campus, and community, through experiential learning, increases the likelihood that the students will stay in school and graduate. Shelly Taliaferro, former EEAA board member, is the Director of AUM's new grant-funded Experiential Education and Engagement Center. One of her duties is to develop partnerships with companies and organizations that can provide experiential learning opportunities for AUM students - this includes internships, undergraduate research, service learning, and employment. Experiential learning opportunities are wanted for ALL college majors (environmental science, graphic design, technical writing, history, communications, marketing, etc.), and in all areas of the state. Projects can be a semester in length or a one-day service project. If you have a project and would like some helpers, please email Shelly Taliaferro, at: mtaliafe@aum.edu, or call (205) 688-7236.