

EEAA Website:
www.eeaa.us

Highlights:

- Annual conference
- Grants & professional development funds
- News
- Upcoming Events

EEAA Officers:

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Mandy Pearson

Vice President:
Allie Sorlie

Secretary:
Christine Johnston

Treasurer:
Shirley Farrell



EEAA News

Environmental Education Association of Alabama

Winter, 2020

EEAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

February 27-29, 2020



Joe Wheeler State Park
4401 McLean Dr, Rogersville, AL 35652

REGISTER NOW!

Earlybird pricing increases soon!



Pre-Conference Workshop!

Thursday, February 27, 2020, Joe Wheeler State Park

Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education will facilitate an **all-day pre-conference workshop** with leading Alabama experts in environmental education and natural science. Explore watersheds, plants, and animals. Learn how to use your school campus as an outdoor classroom. Attendees will receive environmental education curriculum specific to Alabama, including the *Water Sourcebook*. Take back Alabama-specific posters and other resources to use in your classroom. Lunch is included.

Space is limited, so register early!

Register for this workshop at the EEA conference registration link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iRziX1q3X5l70B7vVabi6w8yoMBm1SwM/view>

See agenda, next page

Legacy - Pre-Conference Workshop

AGENDA

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00-9:30 a.m. Welcome and Legacy Overview



9:30-10:30 a.m. Tabletop Aquaponics – Dr. David Cline & AU Fisheries
Explore a symbiotic environment where fish and plants grow together, each dependent on the other. A great cross-curricular tool for nearly any subject. We will demonstrate construction and provide lesson plans related to the system.

10:30-10:45 a.m. Break

10:45-11:45 a.m. “Fish in a Bottle “– Mr. Stan Arington & AU Fisheries
“Fish in a Bottle” introduces students to what it takes to create a closed ecosystem that will grow fish and plants and allow students to observe the changes. Students create a closed ecosystem using materials that are easily obtained. Adaptable to multiple grade levels.

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Box Lunch

12:30-2:00 p.m. Outdoor Classrooms – Dr. Shirley Farrell
Learn how to create simple to complex outdoor classrooms in order to integrate activities from all subjects. We will also use technology to learn about the environment. Participants will receive resources to take with them to start using with their students.

2:00-2:15 p.m. Break

2:15-4:00 p.m. EnviroScape – Ms. Alma Huston
Alabama has so much biodiversity found within it, many wetlands and watersheds. However, we cannot take this for granted. The portable EnviroScape models use hands-on methods to show both water pollution and protection. Legacy has eight of these models throughout the state that educators can borrow to work with their students.



Celebrate! People, Places, Planet

EEAA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All registration (except lodging) is completed, online, at the link below. Full registration fee includes attendance at all conference activities, 5 meals, t-shirt, and one-year individual EEAA membership. One day registration includes meals and participation in all activities only for the day you choose. Lodging and field trips are NOT included in the registration fees. Payments accepted: credit card, purchase orders, checks.

Link to register:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iRziX1q3X5l70B7vVabi6w8yoMBm1SwM/view>

Note:

Lodging for the conference is reserved directly through Joe Wheeler State Park. See next page for details.

CONFERENCE LODGING

We have 46 double/standard rooms reserved each night, at the low price of **\$69 + taxes and fees**. All rooms have **balconies with lake views**. To get this amazing rate, **use the group code 2867**.

Book your room today, before they sell out at this great price!

Cabins and camping are also available, but the group rate does not apply.

Call (256) 247-5461 to reserve your room today!



Call Now!

FIELD TRIPS

Friday Field Trips - February 28, 2020:

All field trip costs include lunch and, when appropriate, admission, supplies, and transportation. Space is limited.

Wildflower Zentangle \$25

Start or expand your Zentangle skills and perspectives, by learning the newest Zentangle patterns as we create a Wildflower theme. Debbie Dumais provides new tips and tricks in this half-day workshop exploring Zentangle in nature. Supplies will be provided. Limit of 40.

Wheeler State Park History Cruise \$25

Join Captain Steve Graham on his pontoon boat as we cruise the Tennessee River. Learn about the geology, hydrology, history, plants, and animals of this region. Limit of 23. **THIS FIELD TRIP IS FILLED.**

Hike with Mike-\$15

Join local naturalist and teacher, Mike Ezell for a hike at Joe Wheeler State Park to learn about the history of the land and identification of plants and animals. Limit of 30.

Cook's Museum of Natural Science \$25

Tour the new state-of-the-art science museum in downtown Decatur, AL. Experience the hands-on, immersive activities where kids of all ages can explore, interact with, and learn about nature. Limit of 23.

Link to register:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iRziX1q3X5I70B7vVabi6w8yoMBm1SwM/view>

**2020 Conference
Keynote Address
Friday February 28, 1:00 p.m.**



Keynote Speaker: Thomas Easley, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean of Community and Inclusion,

Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Dr. Thomas RaShad Easley has spent most of his career as a diversity professional. As a diversity professional he has focused on the recruitment, retention of diverse talent in natural resource disciplines. Easley grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, earned his undergraduate degree in Forest Science from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical (A&M) University; his master's degree in Forest Genetics is from Iowa State University; and his doctorate in Adult Education is from NC State University. Easley is the Assistant Dean of Community and Inclusion in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. In this role, he assists with enhancing diversity by promoting access to education for all people, and developing scholarly/relevant programming around workplace equity. Now, as a diversity professional, Easley leverages his background in forestry/genetics/education to teach community workshops, course lectures, and provide diversity facilitation to his place of employment, as well as to others that he mentors. In conclusion, with all of Easley's academic experience he credits being an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America as part of his success. He is a forester and that has contributed to his vocational and scientific success. He is a former campus pastor and he credits that for teaching him how to work with people. Dr. Easley is also a musician and is known as RaShad Eas, "**hip-hop forester**" in the world of music. His art is called "Save Your Life Music" because he puts a message of love, embracing self, and helping others in his music.

Biography and photo from Yale University.

2020 EEAA Conference Break Out Sessions

Agriculture IS Environmental Education: PreK – 5th grade activities that students LOVE to learn! Literature- rich. Matched to standards. Freebies and resources. Audience: K – 5th Educators, Public
Linda Hardee, Retired Huntsville City Schools

Cranes and Wetlands: Ways to Reach the Next Generation of Conservationists: The International Crane Foundation will provide educators of all age groups ways to speak about the importance of cranes/wetlands along with age- appropriate activities. Audience: K – 12th Educators, Public
AJ Binney, International Crane Foundation

Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Oh, My! This presentation will walk you through fun, active cycling labs designed to teach about these nutrients. Counts towards Alabama Science in Motion training. Audience: 7th – 12th Educators
Roger Birkhead, Alabama Science in Motion

Citizen Science Connects Math, Science and Environmental Justice in an Adolescent Classroom: Adolescents can learn to use Citizen Science to monitor air and water quality and initiate the study of environmental justice (integrating math. science, research, language arts). Audience: 7th – 12th Educators
Christopher Schell, Creative Montessori School

Tortoises and Pangolins: An Interdisciplinary Conservation Unit: Come find out what the Alabama Gopher Tortoise and the Pangolin have in common in this hands-on, interdisciplinary presentation. Audience: 4th – 9th Educators, Public
Mary Gray Crews, Nicholas Burke, Auburn Univ. at Montgomery

Succession Success! Help Your Students Understand the Process of Ecological Succession: Understanding ecological succession can be messy! Help your students understand it is non-linear and muddy, and that science can be rough around the edges. Audience: 7th - 12th grade Educators
Jill Chambers, Alabama Science in Motion

Lichens and Heavy Metal! Understanding Why Lichens are an Important Air Quality Indicator: The presentation will demonstrate the affinity of lichens for heavy metals. Collect data using a colorimeter and handheld collection devices. Understand why indicator species are important and how heavy metals enter food chains. Counts towards ASIM training. Audience: 7th – 12th Educators, Public
Roger Birkhead, Alabama Science in Motion

Alabama's Biodiversity Literacy Project: Experience this interdisciplinary research project developed for 7th grade science (easily modified) about animals native to Alabama and tied to Alabama's diversity after attending a Legacy's Mountain to the Gulf's expedition. View student projects and receive lots of resources. Audience: 7th - 9th Educators
Amanda King, Christina Porter, Muscle Shoals Middle School

Legislative Update for Environment & EE in Alabama: Learn how to advocate for the environment AND environmental education at the state level! Review key policy areas and participate in completing action items. Audience: K – 12th Educators, Public
Martha Hunter, River Alliance; Susan Caplow, Univ. of Montevallo; Kim Murray, Mumford Schools

2020 EEAA Conference Break Out Sessions

(continued)

An Educator’s Guide to Alabama Rivers Module 3 Rivers are Ancient and Physically Diverse: Learn about “Towel Tectonics” and how the collision of tectonic plates influenced Alabama’s topography, geology, rivers, etc. This lesson, and others developed by Alabama Water Watch staff and Dr. Bill Deutsch, is hands-on, interdisciplinary and inquiry-based. Lesson plans/background materials included. Audience: 4th – 9th Educators (but adaptable), Public
Mona Dominguez, Sydney Smith, Auburn University

STEM-ulating Activities on Human Ecology: Discover innovative ways to teach about human-environmental interactions in Alabama. Build STEM skills through problem solving, role-playing simulations, labs and more!
Audience: 4th – 9th Educators,
Misty Hertzog, Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Local Actions, Global Impact: Engaging with Others: Discover how educators and conservationists are combatting climate change around the globe (from a Cornell University fellowship). Get tips for talking about climate change with those who doubt the importance of such issues. Audience: 4th – 12th Educators, Public
Catherine Rider, ACES/4-H

Time Traveling Through Coastal History: A STEAM Approach: How do humans interact with the coastal environment? How has this changed over time? Join us for this unique integration of geodating, art and cultural history. 4th – 12th Educators
JoAnn Moody, Tina Miller – Way, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

All the Feels: A Little SEL for Their Growth: Come investigate, explore and play while learning tools to create safe learning spaces that build self – esteem and promote a desire to learn in both indoor and outdoor settings. This session is about helping students develop social/self-awareness, self-management skills, relationship skills and responsible decision-making skills. Audience: K – 12th Educators, Public
Beth Dille, McDowell Environmental Center

Nature and Inquiry-based Learning for All Ages: Learn about the Magnolia Nature School (Alabama’s first nature-based preschool) and the Environmental Center at Camp McDowell. Explore nature based/age appropriate investigative activities based on “BEETLEs.” Learn to tailor activities for different age groups.
Audience: K – 12th Educators, Public
Kim Corson and Julie Camp, McDowell Environmental Center/Magnolia Nature School

Schoolyard BioBlitz: All the resources needed to host your school’s first BioBlitz! Students become experts by exploring biodiversity in the schoolyard. Audience: 7th – 12th Educators, Public
Jessica Shumate, University of Montevallo

An Introduction to iNaturalist: Ever found a cool organism and wondered what it was? Wouldn’t it be amazing if there was an app to help identify it? There is! Come and learn about iNaturalist. Audience: 7th – 12th Educators, Public
Roger Birkhead, Alabama Science in Motion

CLASSROOM TEACHERS: Turtlekeeper Grant Available!

What is the Turtle Keeper Grant?

The Turtle Keeper Grant is provided by the Environmental Educators Association of Alabama (EEAA) and may be used to implement environmental projects, take students on field trips, or to bring environmental speakers to your classrooms.

What is the history of the Turtle Keeper Grant?

The mission of EEAA is to enhance formal and informal educators' abilities to connect people to the natural world in order to foster responsible stewardship. One of our founding members connected many adults and children to their natural world. While instilling his love of the environment through his Native American heritage, he changed the culture of his school. To continue his legacy, EEAA is proud to be the sponsor of the TurtleKeeper Classroom Grant.

Who may apply?

Any classroom teacher who is a member of EEAA.

How much is the grant amount?

One grant of \$200 will be awarded per year.

When is the grant deadline?

Proposals must be submitted by July 30 of each year.

When is the grant awarded?

Awards will be announced in August of each year. Projects should be scheduled to begin not before September 1 of the year awarded. The actual grant timeline will be September of the year awarded to February of the following year.

How do I apply for the Turtle Keeper Grant?

In order to apply for this grant, you must:

- (1) Adhere to the following guidelines,
- (2) Fill out the [Turtle Keeper Grant application form](#)
- (3) Return the completed grant application to eeaalabama@gmail.com.

Only fully completed applications will be reviewed.

Proposal Guidelines :

1. Must be a member of EEAA to apply for the grant.
2. Type all information requested on the grant application form.
3. Use 12 point or larger type.
4. Use only the space allotted. If grant items exceeds the 4 pages, it will be disqualified.
5. Do NOT include extraneous attachments!
6. Grant will not fund teacher travel or professional development.

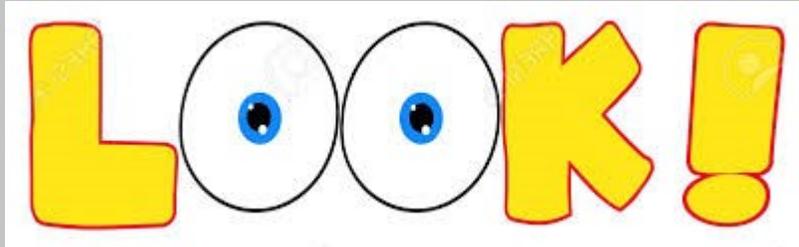
Are there any reporting requirements for the Turtle Keeper Grant?

Grant recipient is expected to present at the annual EEAA conference or write an article for the EEAA newsletter.

****Please feel free to email eeaalabama@gmail.com with any questions.****



WOULD YOU LIKE FUNDING TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE OR WORKSHOP?



Professional Development Funds Available for EEAA Members

One of the benefits of EEAA membership is the opportunity for members to receive up to **\$250 per person**, per 12 month period, to help fund professional development in the area of environmental education. Grant funding is available to support attendance at professional conferences and workshops.

FOUR DEADLINES PER YEAR!

MARCH 1

JUNE 1

SEPTEMBER 1

DECEMBER 1

To apply, see next page

Environmental Education Professional Development Fund

EEAA's Professional Development Fund was established to assist professionals who wish to continue to develop their knowledge in the field of environmental education. Grant funding is available for financial assistance to attend professional conferences/workshops.

Guidelines:

- An application form and one-page synopsis are mandatory (see form at right). Incomplete applications will be declared ineligible.
- A review committee comprised of EEAA board members will determine the awards of the fund. Decisions of the committee are final.
- Recipients will be notified of awards within 4 - 5 weeks after deadline dates and will receive reimbursement for the awarded amount AFTER submitting receipts for expenses incurred while attending the workshop.
- Maximum grant is \$250 per person in a 12 - month period.
- Award recipients may be asked to take EEAA brochures to distribute at the workshop they attend.
- Award recipients must maintain a current, active EEAA membership.
- Award recipients must submit an article for the newsletter or present a session at EEAA's next conference.
- Priority consideration will be given to requests for Environmental or Natural Science training workshops.
- Awards will be presented quarterly. Applications must be postmarked by:
Spring quarter: March 1
Summer quarter: June 1
Fall quarter: September 1
Winter quarter: December 1

EEAA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Work phone _____ Email _____

Profession/Title _____

Employer _____

Employer's address _____

Conference/Workshop for which funds are being requested _____

Conference/Workshop date(s) _____

Conference/Workshop Location _____

Have you obtained approval to attend the conference/workshop from your employer? Yes No

Amount of funds requested \$ _____

The funds will be used for (check all that apply):

- Conference/Workshop registration
- Travel - what form of transportation? _____
- Accommodations
- Other (please specify) _____

“ I agree to represent the
Environmental Education Association of Alabama
to the best of my professional ability. I understand that, by
accepting these funds, I will be required to submit receipts and
either write an article for EEAA's newsletter or present a
session at EEAA's Conference directly following the
conference/workshop that I attend. ”



Signature _____ Date _____

Please include a one-page synopsis detailing how you will apply your experiences to promote environmental education in Alabama and an itemized list of expenses for which you are asking for funding. **Failure to include** any of this information or an incomplete form could result in your application being disqualified from consideration.

Clip & Mail to: EEAA PDF, P.O. Box 3641, Montgomery, AL 36109



Congratulations, Claire! A proposal written by EEAA board member **Claire Datnow** has been accepted for presentation at the **Georgia Conference on Children's Literature** (March 27-28, 2020) Athens, Georgia. Her session is entitled "The Dynamics of Science and Nature Writing". Claire is a retired teacher and the author of several "eco-mystery" books for kids. To read some of Claire's work, follow the link to her blog on Environmental Education and Literature: www.mediamint.net.

Ruffner Mountain is currently **seeking a full-time Programs Coordinator**. The mountain is a 1,038 acre urban nature preserve in the heart of Birmingham, Alabama. Our mission is to advance the understanding of ecology in a rapidly changing world. This position will support the educational initiatives including: EcoArts, Guided Hikes, Volunteer Workdays, Citizen Science, Wildlife Programs, Native Plant Sale, Land Conservation, and Field Trips. Job posting can be found here: <https://ruffnermountain.org/jobs-programs-coordinator>

Feel free to pass along and encourage those interested to apply. For any questions you can contact chivon@ruffnermountain.org.

*Applications will be reviewed blindly.

Deadline for applications is January 31, 2020





Discover the National Forests in Alabama by Monitoring Their Waters

Alabama Water Watch, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, is excited to announce the launch of a new water monitoring project in the National Forests in Alabama!

Workshop Overview:

Each workshop will cover information related to the water environment, forests and watershed health, pollution, water quality standards, and data management. Workshop participants will be trained and certified in AWW Water Chemistry and Bacteriological Monitoring. During Day 2 of each workshop, participants will head outdoors to conduct monitoring practices and visit pre-selected monitoring sites on the National Forests.

Jan. 22-23: Bankhead National Forest

Feb. 7-8: Tuskegee National Forest

Feb. 19-20: Conecuh National Forest

Register here:

<http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org/get-involved/training-workshops/>

Announcing Exciting Workshops for Educators, Parents, and Families!

McDowell Environmental Center and McDowell Farm School has a line up of new and exciting workshops for this spring and summer! Take a look at all the fun and learning to happen in 2020! Although these are geared for educators, many of us are educators in non-traditional ways... also feel free to share with folks who might want to come but not be on our email list. McDowell workshops are an affiliate of AMSTI, so you get continuing education credits for the hours you are learning! Hotel rooms and delicious food! For the overnight workshops, the cost of the workshop depends on the lodging you choose. Go to the info link below to find out more.

- **Forest to Farm Workshop, February 2-3**
- **EEAA Environmental Science Day Camp, March 30**
- **Growing Roots! Connecting with Your Family, to Nature, and to a Farm, June 4-5**
- **Building an Inclusive Classroom, June 15-16**

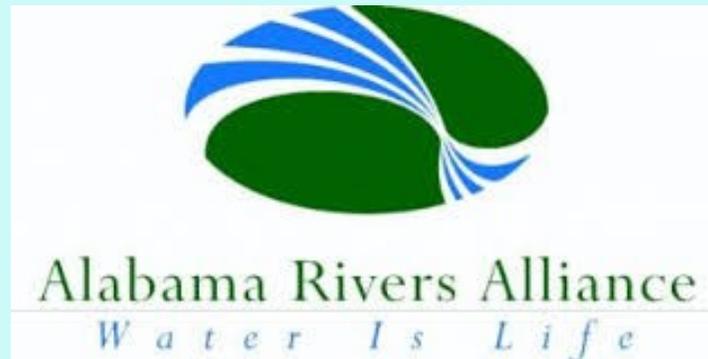
For more information and to register, go to:

<https://campmcdowell.com/educational-programs/educator-workshops>



Registration is Open!

Alabama Rivers Alliance Water Rally



“Building the Movement for the Future”

March 13-15

Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, AL

EXCITING SESSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

- PFOA/PFAS impacts in Alabama and practical policy solutions
- Back-to-the-basics: organizing in the streets
- Building and maintaining strong organizations – diversifying both human and financial resources
- Improving transparency and public notification policies
- Influencing power companies and water utilities
- Dams and the importance of fish passage to Alabama’s aquatic biodiversity

Register here:

<https://alabamarivers.org/waterrally2020reg/>

Save the Dates!

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Annual Conference



North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference



Do You Know Someone Who Might Be Interested in Joining EEAA?

Friends, family, students, and colleagues can join, online, at www.eeaa.us, or by mailing in the (completed) form below.



Tell a Friend!

With the information I have provided at right, please count me as a supporter and enthusiast of environmental education in the state of Alabama.

I declare myself a partner in the promotion and implementation of the goals and aspirations of the Environmental Education Association of Alabama.

EEAA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My Affiliation School/Organization: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Level:

- Student/Senior (\$10)
 Individual (\$25)
 Organization (\$100)
 Corporation (\$300)
 Lifetime (\$250)

Mail this completed form with your check (payable to EEAA) to:
 EEAA Membership, P.O. Box 3641, Montgomery, AL 36109

**Much Thanks
to
Alabama Association of RC&D Councils!**



EEAA was awarded a grant of \$5,000 dollars from the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils to help support our annual environmental education conference. This is the second year that RC&D has helped fund the annual conference. We are very grateful for their support of EE in Alabama!



See You at the Conference!



Photo: visitflorenceal.com