

HIGHLIGHTS:

- President's Message
- Meet Our New President and Board Members
- BEEP Awards and Other Highlights from the EEAA Annual Conference
- News
- Upcoming Events and Opportunities
- Resources for Educators

EEAA Officers:

President:

Mandy Pearson

Vice President:

Shelly Taliaferro

Secretary:

Christine Johnston

Treasurer:

Shirley Farrell



EEAA News

Environmental Education Association of Alabama


Summer, 2018

A Message from Our Former President

by Kimberly Murray

The past conference at Dauphin Island Sea Lab was a wonderful opportunity to look back on the history of EEAA as well as make new friends too. I look forward to these conferences every year because they are a wonderful opportunity to network with like-minded souls. We come from various backgrounds and locations but we all have a passion for environmental education. Dauphin Island Sea Lab was a wonderful host for our conference. Their staff was extremely helpful and patient as we sent endless emails asking questions after questions to make this the best possible conference for our participants. During the conference the participants got a glimpse of what our new website could look like. The EEAA board is currently taking suggestions for improvements. The board has already met for a quarterly meeting and we have many more ideas to share with our members, through Facebook, the newsletter, and website. I am excited for Mandy to take on the leadership of EEAA. She has a passion for teaching EE and I know she will bring this passion to EEAA, and she has great ideas for this upcoming year. Shelly is going to be a great Vice President. She is not afraid of change and her willingness to try something new is evident in her endless enthusiasm for teaching EE. She has done a wonderful job this past year with the newsletter, and with moving forward with the website. The executive committee is complete with Christine, as Secretary, and Shirley, as Treasurer.

I am excited to still be on the board of EEAA. I will continue my work with the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance and North American Association for Environmental Education. I will continue to share updates about the great things going on in our state, across the Southeast, and across North America. It has been a pleasure serving as your EEAA president over the last year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events, professional development opportunities, and at next year's conference at Cheaha State Park.

 Thank you for your service to EEAA, Kimberly!!!



Meet Our New President, Mandy Pearson

Mandy Pearson, our new EEAA President, is the Park Naturalist at Cheaha State Park, and the state Leave No Trace Advocate. Mandy has served on the EEAA Board for two years and has been a member of EEAA for seven years. She holds a B.S. degree in Ecology and Forensics and a M.S. degree in Biology from Jacksonville State University. Mandy worked in the Children's Zoo (Birmingham), where she cared for, trained and
continued on page 2.....

Meet Our New President - Continued:

presented programs with native, domestic and exotic animals as a volunteer for four years and as a zookeeper for 6 years. She volunteered and worked for the JSU Field Schools under the direction of Renee Raney (now also at Cheaha State Park) for 8 years. Renee says, "Mandy is a unique interpreter who knows how to speak to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds. It has been a pleasure to work with her for almost a decade. Everyone loves Mandy, or Bear, as she is known to most visitors." Mandy volunteered with the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service. For the past five years Mandy has been building an environmental education program at the park through constructing campgrounds, trails, events, workshops, classes, campfire talks, and partnerships. It is her hope that environmental education through EEAA and its partners will serve as a bridge for all of Alabama to reconnect with the beauty, harmony, balance, and tranquility of nature.

Meet Our New Board Members:

David Matson

Education Programs Coordinator
Legacy - Partners in Environmental Education



David grew up in northeast Alabama and has always enjoyed the outdoors and all the activities that go along with it. He received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from the University of Alabama, in 2012, and his masters degree in Biology from Jacksonville State University, in 2016. David is the Educational Programs Coordinator for Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education, where he has been employed since September, 2016. David says, "I am excited to be a part of a wonderful organization like EEAA and look forward to representing EEAA as a board member."

Brooke McMinn

Plant Adventures Program Specialist
Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Plant Adventures Program Specialist Brooke McMinn came to The Birmingham Botanical Gardens in 2014 from the Rutgers University Extension and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, where she worked as a horticultural agent, Master Gardener program coordinator, and plant breeding researcher. A graduate of Rutgers University's Department of Plant Science, Brooke's specialties are medicinal and economic botany, ethnobotany, sustainable agriculture, and conservation. As The Gardens' Director of Education and Visitor Experience, Brooke designs and delivers educational programs and experiences to better connect the greater Birmingham community to the plants that power their lives.

Allie Sorlie

Education Outreach Coordinator
Alabama Museum of Natural History



Allie Sorlie is the Education Outreach Coordinator for the Alabama Museum of Natural History in Tuscaloosa. Allie is from Niceville, Florida, a place she swears is real. She has a deep love of environmental education, science education, and bringing students into nature. When she is not working, Allie is usually either hiking, at the movies, or playing a round or two of ping-pong. She has been a member of EEAA for 5 years and is looking forward to serving the organization as a new board member. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone!

2018 BEEP Award Winners

(BEEP = Best EE Programs)

Jeffrey Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Jim Lacefield



When I reflect on people who have influenced my professional life, some of the first people who come to mind are Dr. Jim Lacefield and his wife, Faye. They are quite a team. Her interest in fossils was an impetus for Jim's decision to study geology. Jim had a Masters degree in Biology and went to work teaching at a small rural K-12 school, in which he was the science department. In prepping for 8th grade Earth Science class, he fell in love with geology and realized the desperate need to get more information into the hands of teachers and laypersons in Alabama.

Jim returned to school to get a doctorate in Science Education, with specialties in Geology and Biology. He has taught at several colleges including the University of North Alabama. He can take complex topics such as the geologic history of the earth and make it understandable for children and adults alike.

In 2000, Jim published what is now the premier book on the south's geology, *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks*. The book is used in a variety of geology and earth science classes in the state from middle school through the college levels. The book has been adopted as a text or supplemental text by nine universities. The second edition came out last year. When I was teaching Earth Sciences at Alabama School for the Deaf, I was struggling with where to find accurate and current information on local geology and discovered Dr. Lacefield's book and introduced myself to him and Faye...a fateful day indeed.

In the past 13 years, Jim and I have worked on many teacher workshops together. He has taught several Lost Worlds workshops at Camp McDowell and helped to develop the amazing Mountains to the Gulf Expedition. As his book explains, what happened in our area millions and even billions of years ago, is what allows us to now have one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. Jim can share this in a way that mesmerizes even those who never considered themselves "Rockhounds"!

Jim is generous with his talent and work. He allows educators to have his writings, diagrams, art work and all the information from his book at no charge. This is amazing in and of itself, but he also will rarely accept payment for speaking to groups of educators. He gladly travels hours to go with teachers to look for fossils, explore local geology, or talk to them about the treasures of Alabama. He and Faye have a 700+ acre property in north Alabama called Cane Creek Canyon Preserve. It is open to the public and free to all. They maintain trails and are often seen leading groups into the forests and canyons explaining the beauty there.

Dr. Jim Lacefield is certainly deserving of the **Jeffrey Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award**! His over 40 years of teaching and sharing his passion for Environmental Education is one of the most inspirational stories of which I know! EEAA is honored to present him with this prestigious award. Thank you, Jim, for your significant contributions to environmental education and Alabama!

Written by Maggie Johnston

2018 BEEP Award Winners (continued)

2018 Best Environmental Educator:

Janet Ort



Many have described Janet Ort as a “Master Educator.” And beyond that - a “Master Environmentalist.” Her nominator, Mr. Jason Gaston noted that “no one I have met is more fluent in environmental science - and its real-world application for students” - than Mrs. Ort.

Janet is a National Board-Certified Teacher, holds degrees in different disciplines and has experience in both the public and private sectors. She joined Hoover City Schools/Hoover High School in 1998. Since then, she has helped cultivate engaging, authentic experiences for thousands of students at Alabama’s largest and most diverse high school.

Mrs. Ort was named a Seimen's STEM Fellow 2011. Her student teams have successfully navigated various levels of the prestigious Lexus EcoChallenge. She has spearheaded countless campus and community projects designed to bring awareness to our area’s incredible biodiversity. Mrs. Ort demonstrates innovation, passion, and excellence in all that she does. The school at which she teaches has the benefit of sitting above the banks of the storied Cahaba River, one of Alabama’s most beautiful and biodiverse natural resources. Mrs. Ort often puts on waders and takes her classes into the Cahaba to scientifically study Alabama’s natural wonders. She sponsors on-campus clubs including HHS BioBucs and other student organizations designed to enhance environmental awareness.

Mrs. Ort’s classes attract a diverse group of students. She never loses focus of her goal: to promote environmental education and its benefits to her campus and ultimately, the community at large. Her career spans decades. Throughout her years in education, Mrs. Ort has managed to spark interest in hundreds, if not thousands of students. Just a few of her career highlights related to environmental science include: A+College Ready consultant and review leader (four years); Alabama Water Watch Monitor Certification; College Board AP Environmental Science New Teacher Trainer; Citizen Scientist Longitudinal Project Coordinator; Developer, Co-Teaching Units - Environmental Science.

She also serves as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration “Climate Steward” - a volunteer post she’s held since 2012 which garners more than 45 professional development hours per year. Beyond that, Mrs. Ort is currently engaged in a pursuit for NatGeo Certification.

In addition to unique projects around the Hoover High School campus, Mrs. Ort collaborates with students, businesses, school administrators, and community leaders to bring various environmental science projects to life. Mrs. Ort has also captured the attention of our governing body - the Board of Education. In particular, Board of Education member, Mr. Craig Kelley - an environmental advocate – has taken notice of Mrs. Ort’s accomplishments, particularly as they relate to campus enhancements at Hoover High School.

This past fall, Mrs. Ort and a team of students presented at the November Board of Education meeting. Their presentation was titled “Wildlife Federation Certification as a Curriculum Catalyst.” Ort led a high-level discussion before the audience on how digital devices have caused many students to lose touch with the natural world. Her presentation was informed with bodies of research which now point to the positives of environmental-based education: nature therapy that can alleviate depression, reduce obesity, and better manage attention-deficit disorders. The classroom connection? Enhanced focus on environmental science bolsters critical thinking skills, problem-solving ability, decision making, and ultimately - test scores.

Mrs. Ort works in tandem with science teachers and instructional leaders across the school system to ensure the vertical integration of curriculum, developing relevant pacing guides and lesson plans that respect current practices in various scientific disciplines. Janet Ort has a storied career in K12 science. Many teachers with her level of experience and expertise would be happy to put their careers on cruise control and coast to retirement. Mrs. Ort proves the exact opposite. With each new school year - and each month therein – she has a new initiative, a new project; innovations which are guaranteed to spark imaginations and creativity - elevating young minds to discover more about the world in which they live. For this, Janet Ort is very worthy of being called the **2018 Best Environmental Educator**.

2018 BEEP Award Winners (continued)

2018 Best Environmental Education School Curriculum:

Steve Trash Science Videos

Steve Trash was born in Texas but grew up in Alabama, where his dad was the district forester for northwest Alabama. He currently lives in an energy-efficient earth-bermed home in Frog Pond, Alabama, has a composting bathtub in his backyard, and has a 21 panel solar array in his front yard. He tours the globe teaching kids about their connection to the natural world. He has appeared in theatres, fairs, and festivals in countries including Japan, Australia, Canada, Portugal, Spain and the United Arab Emirates. To date, he has entertained over 25 million people.

The premise of **STEVE TRASH SCIENCE VIDEOS** is that Alabama kids will better protect the environment if they understand the science of “how” our environment works. The Steve Trash Science videos are kid-centric, fun, funny and are based on Alabama Environmental Science Curriculum.

SUBJECTS OF THE FOUR VIDEOS - The subjects covered include the following:

- **Renewable vs. Nonrenewable Resources**
- **The Water Cycle**
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – aka - Waste Reduction**
- **Pollution**

Each video is accompanied by printable review question pdf's (grades 1-5). The review questions are shareable, downloadable, printable, and feature answer “keys” to assist elementary school teachers. Each set of review questions was written by an Alabama Elementary Science Teacher – Alison Dilbert – from River Hill School in Florence - to ensure

that the questions were Alabama Curriculum correlated.

BEST OF ALL, the videos are FREE for teachers, kids, parents, homeschoolers, to download, share, and use.

AVAILABILITY OF VIDEOS - The videos can be viewed on many platforms (including YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and even on Steve's Teachers Pay Teachers site. The videos and printables are FREE on this site too. The videos can also be viewed, shared, or downloaded and saved, from Steve's web site:

<http://stevetrash.com/classroomvideos>



Thanks for your dedication to environmental education and thanks for sharing your talents with the students and teachers of Alabama. Congratulations, **Steve Trash Video Project, the 2018 Best School Project Award recipient!**

2018 BEEP Award Winners (continued)

2018 BEEP Award for Best School Project:

Hoover High School - Lights, Cameras, Wildlife and Gardens Action Project

Hoover High School (HHS) is uniquely located along the Cahaba River. It is a wonderful natural laboratory. However, distance often limits access for all students. The purpose of this project was to connect students to the mitigation of human environmental impacts, through service learning.

The idea for **Lights, Cameras, Wildlife, and Gardens Action Project** began during the Spring of 2017, when Mrs. Ort's AP Environmental Science classes participated in a tree planting project and dreamed of adding a pollinator garden to involve and inform the whole Hoover community. Students became excited by and engaged in the power of service learning and research.

In the Summer of 2017, Mrs. Ort and her students started the process of attaining Green Flag through the National /Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) and developing a certified outdoor classroom, with an advisory board that included students, in an effort to expand on their already successful project. The Green Flag designation forms the centralizing focus for many projects because it requires accomplishments in topical pathways. The Hoover High School team chose to focus on Outdoor Learning Laboratory, Biodiversity, and Energy Pathways.

To date, they have constructed a sensory garden that is in an enclosed area near the classrooms for the self-contained ExEd students. On a hot, muggy day 20 students removed and replanted boxwoods to clear the space. Two areas for smell and taste that will augment the cooking/life skills of the ExEd students in spring and fall. Two sections are for sight and sound. Streamers, bells, bubble wands, reflective cds, are being installed with the help of small student groups. In addition, a skills/demonstration garden has a feeding station in progress, and learning stations such as a log decomposition area, bat and bird houses, compass skills area, and rain barrels were constructed.

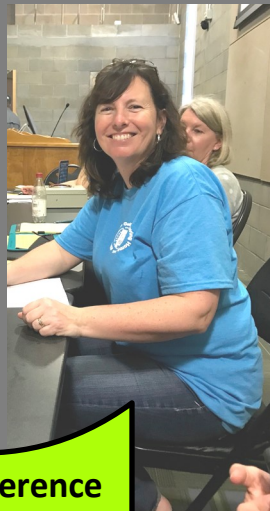
The project has received considerable attention and support from local leaders, such as Hoover City Councilman Derrick Murphy, who organized donations for lumber and a truckload of potting soil.

The project added two biodiversity studies under the guidance of Samford University professor Dr. Kristian Bakegarrrd, who trained the group in auditory biodiversity, monitoring of frogs and toads. The phenology and diversity of the sounds will create a shared database. The data will augment the HHS science curriculum.

For their Energy Pathway, students worked with Wes Wilbanks, an energy specialist with Hoover City Schools. After hearing Mr. Wilbanks discuss energy issues at Hoover High School, the students got involved with the Great HHS Light Count by counting almost 9000 fluorescent light bulbs; mapping the bulbs' location by room and room use; and analyzing the cost and energy savings of LED lights. They are editing a final report for use by decision makers and maintenance personnel. In addition, Mr. Wilbanks directed the fabrication and installation a solar charging station. Students helped the operations people wire the USB ports and energy meters. Students planned an Energy Day to dedicate the gardens and solar station, including PR and hands on demonstrations.

This project exemplifies the power of collaboration and creativity it takes to solve environmental problems today. This experience will affect the students who participated in its implementation, and those who utilize the gardens indelibly. For this reason, we are delighted to present the Hoover High School **Lights, Cameras, Wildlife, and Gardens Action Project** with the **2018 Best School Project Award**. Congratulations!





Highlights from the 2018 EEAA Conference
Dauphin Island Sea Lab

“Rivers to the Gulf, Flowing Home!” - EEAA Annual Conference

Memories of the conference, from Mrs. Claire Datnow,
as described in her blog (<http://www.mediamint.net/>)



Just as the cold and rainy spell transformed into sunny and pleasant spring weather, Boris and I left for the much-anticipated 2018 EEAA Conference at Dauphin Island, Alabama. I've written this blog to share a taste of the varied, worthwhile, and fun experience.

A **Birding Trip** kicked off our first morning. On a balmy, early spring morning, we joined Roger Clay, state wildlife biologist, on a tour of the island in search of wintering coastal birds. Of course, we did not see anywhere near the one hundred and forty-nine documented bird species on the island during February. However, we were fortunate to see several interesting birds. Near the airport we observed Ospreys with chicks in the nest, and the rare Reddish Egret. On the Audubon Trail, we had the opportunity to photograph a Great Blue Heron. A Swallowed Tailed Kite, a Red-bellied Woodpecker. A Yellow-rumped Warbler obliged us by flitting by. At sunset we enjoyed watching and photographing Brown and White Pelicans gobbling fishing along the shore.

Over lunch the next day, Dr. Bob Shipp enlightened us with a fascinating presentation on **Ecosystem Transformation on the Gulf of Mexico—Implications for Fishery Management**. This may seem a dry topic to the uninitiated. In fact, it turned out to be pertinent data to the wise conservation of the treasure trove of life in the Gulf—and, naturally, to those of us who love to eat seafood.

In the afternoon, we attended a session on **The Marvel Slab: How a Bridge Changed the Course of the Cahaba River**. The story of this concrete bridge perfectly illustrates the dire impact manmade structures can have on the ecology of the river and the creatures living in it. Presented by Mallory Pendleton and Lauren Allred of the Cahaba Environmental Center.

Next, we attended a most entertaining and informative talk, **Alabama's Whooping Cranes: A National Treasure**, by Amber Wilson of the International Crane Foundation. The talk easily converted us all into “Craniacs” determined to help save this fascinating and highly endangered species for posterity.

On Saturday morning, I gave a presentation on **How to Become an Environmental Detective!** The attendees enthusiastically played the role of sleuths investigating an environmental crime by gathering clues to solve the mystery. This simulation is a powerful way to engage students in scientific inquiry and to explore complex issues—and to seamlessly integrate the unit into the science curriculum. Participants also received a link to *The Adventures of The Sizzling Six, Eco Mystery* book series (upper elementary and middle grades), and a link to a free [Teacher Handout](#), a curriculum guide that complements the topic.

Afterwards, we attended a fascinating discussion on **Pocketbooks, Snuffboxes and Pigtoes—Oh, My!** This awesome presentation by Shelly Taliaferro, of Auburn University of Montgomery, showed attendees ways to introduce students to the science and the mystery of freshwater mussels. Participants received a curriculum guide that complements the outstanding book, *Immersion—The Science and Mystery of Freshwater Mussels*, by Abbie Gascho Landis.

The silent auction raised funds for teachers to apply for scholarships to attend the many valuable Environmental Education learning opportunities around the state. [Watch for postings on the EEAA website, and then be sure to apply!](#)

Overall, the conference enlarged our perspective on complex environmental issues and the amazing biodiversity of our state. The conference also provided a great opportunity to network with dedicated environmentalists. It was especially heartening to see recent graduates working as determined environmentalists to conserve our natural heritage for generations to come. Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the EEAA board for a stellar event!



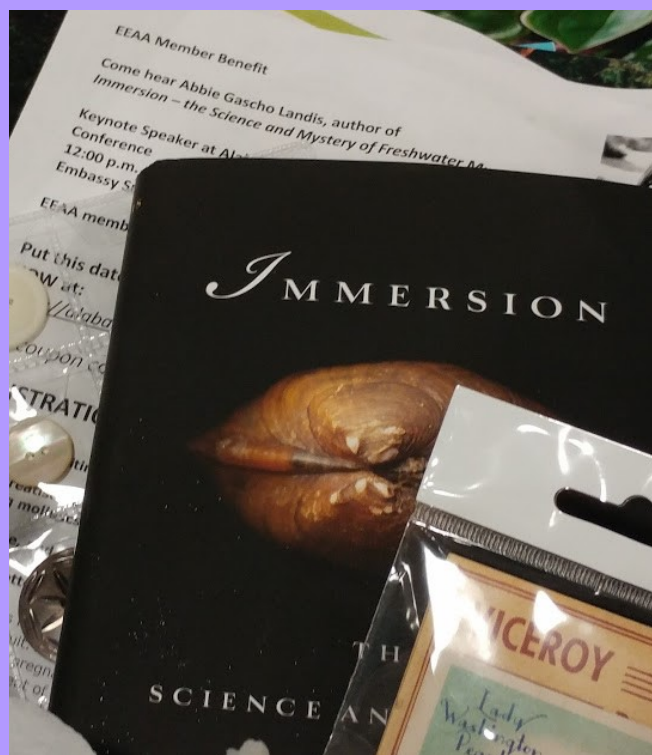
Workshop Fun!





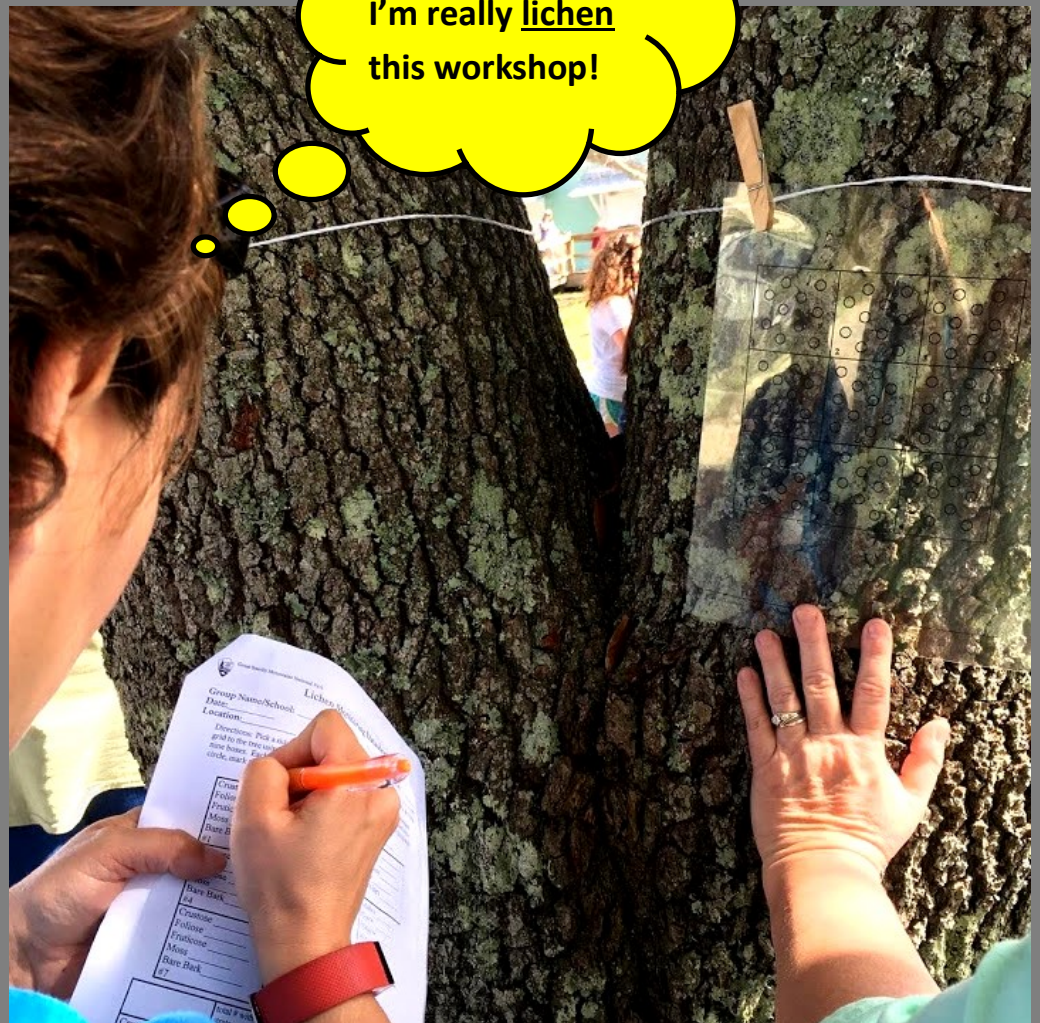


Immerse Yourself in the Study of Freshwater Mussels!



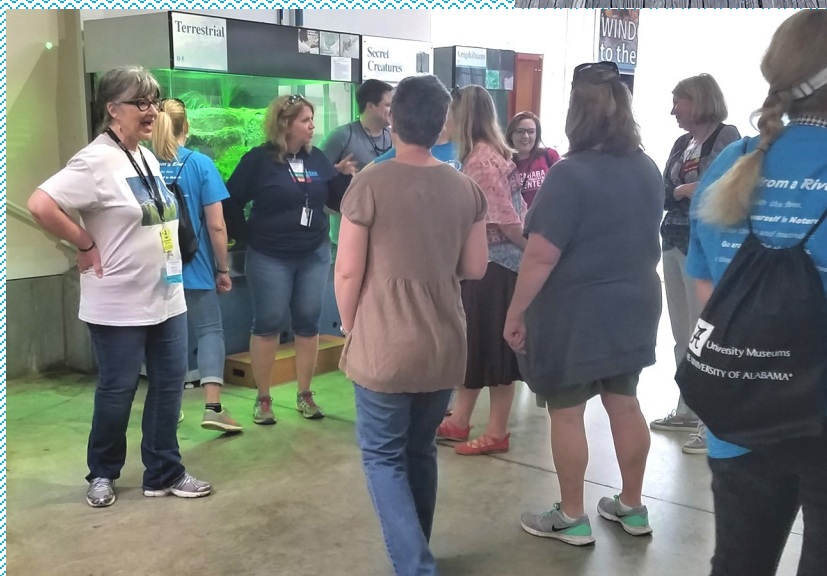
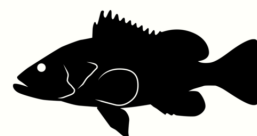


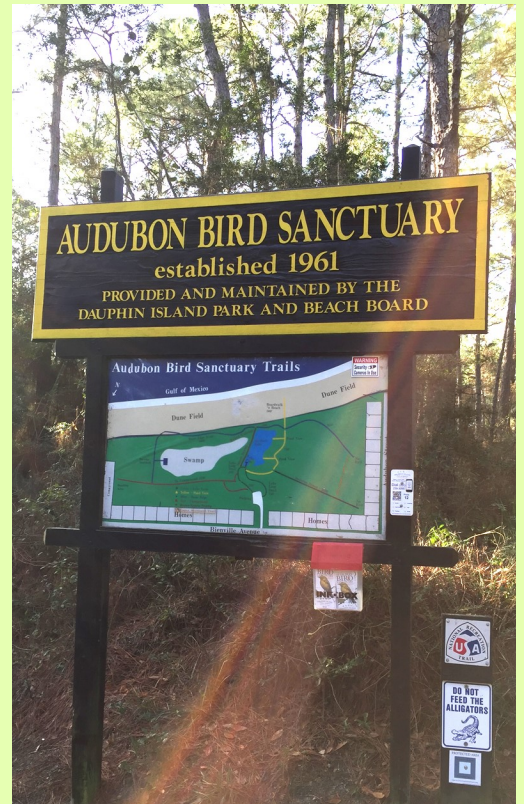
I'm really lichen
this workshop!





ESTUARIUM FIELD TRIP



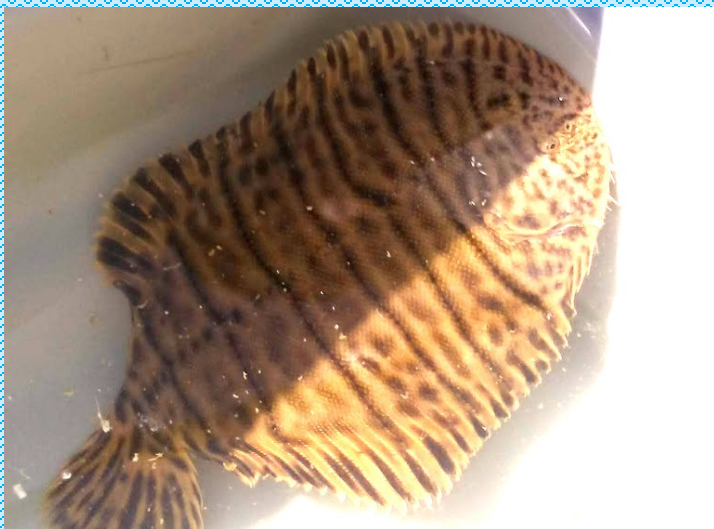


BIRDING DAUPHIN ISLAND





Mobile Bay Boat Trip





**Field Trip
to
Fort Gaines**

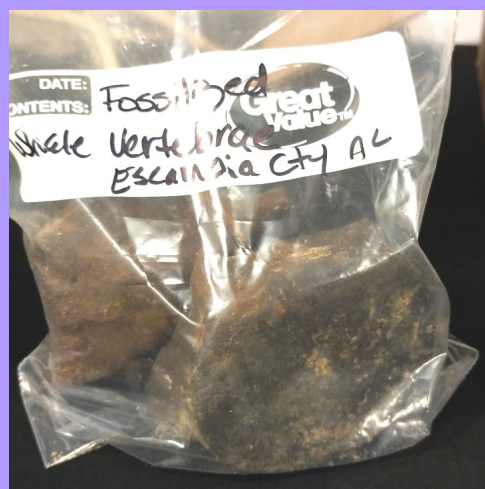




AUCTION!

Going...
Going...
Gone!



MORE AUCTION ITEMS!





To Our Exhibitors:

EXHIBITS!





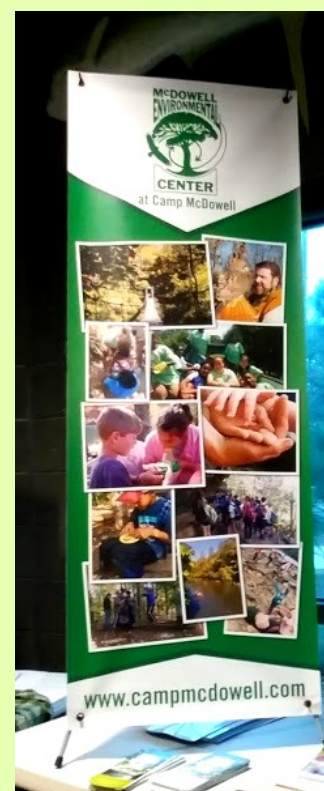
Weeks Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve

Training

Provides science-based information, tools and training to support those who make decisions that affect coastal landscapes and assets.

Stewardship

Protect, enhance, and restore ecological integrity of natural resources within the Reserve for long-term research, education and management.



Reflections upon the EEAA conference by a Professional Development Grant recipient:

“The Fly on the Wall”

By Jerri Lynn Turner



As an environmental educator, I am always looking for the benefits of particular species to the environment or specific ecosystems. So to what end beneficially is the proverbial “fly on the wall” in the world? Well, flies are highly beneficial to farmers as they eat aphids (1). An aphid is an insect that sucks the sap out of plants. Aphids are the most destructive insect to cultivated crops in temperate regions (2).

Meet “the fly on the wall”, participant/observer at the EEAA Conference held at Dauphin Island Sea Lab: my husband, Edward Turner, who has no background in the field of education. Edward majored in Anthropology at Emory University, working at several museums in Alabama as an exhibitor, and a debt collector at Regions Bank for 13 years. He is currently the producer of an independent film production company, Road Ahead Productions, LLC. “The fly,” participant/observer, joined me this year, eager to know what environmental educators in Alabama do when they all get together. Which, by the way, did you know flies can walk on the ceiling as well as the wall (4)?

So what did “the fly on the wall” participant/observer see that weekend? Well, the fly watched the excitement of the organizers and session facilitators throughout the conference. The fly on the wall saw that these organizers, session facilitators, and attendees were not only attentive to environmental education, but also passionate about environmental education. Our fly on the wall, Edward, saw that for environmental educators, teaching is more than just a job. The fly on the wall detected a sense of community amidst the group that all were there for the same reason binding them together.

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab has the best meals! You can imagine what a fly on the wall would say about a cafeteria! Actually, though, flies consume an all liquid diet; however, flies have their taste buds in their feet (4). The time spent in the cafeteria each day, enjoying not only delicious meals, but also the camaraderie of the EEAA conference attendees, as well. The cafeteria was abuzz with attendees conversing with one another about what they had learned in the sessions, and the adventures they had experienced on the boat excursion. The fly on the wall noticed that not only were we sitting with old friends, renewing friendships, but also attendees would often sit with one among those they did not know, creating new environmental educators friendships.

Our fly on the wall remembers the infamous Gilligan’s Island “three-hour tour” and still boarded the Sea Lab’s research vessel for a three-hour tour of Mobile Bay. Now a fly on the wall for a boat trip can be sort of dizzying, since those 4000 lens can see in all directions at the same time while the boat is going up and down and, at the same time, side to side. Thankfully, Edward did not get seasick! The fly on the boat trip saw a different catch in each of the three trawls and that was exciting to him. He learned all about the bay creatures that were caught. He enjoyed seeing the birds flying around and perched impatiently, waiting for a tasty snack. This was the fly on the wall’s first research vessel tour.. Edward’s trip included crossing the line where the Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico meet. It was quite clear that the bodies of water were changing. The Mobile Bay looked like Chocolate Milk and the Gulf of Mexico was a clear blue-green. Our facilitator, Greg, told us this was a place that was hard for animals and plants to cross because of the change in pressure, oxygen, and salinity right up against one another. The fly on the wall saw the Sand Island Lighthouse, and was amazed to see the actual Sand Island now connected to Dauphin Island at the former Dauphin Island Pier. Greg told the fly on the wall that the island moves every 150 years. It has been connected to Dauphin Island for a while now and the staff/facilitators at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab have noticed that the island is beginning to move east again back toward the lighthouse. Don’t travel far or fly very fast (4).

Just like a picnic, the fly on the wall was able to save and savor the tastiest dish of the EEAA Conference for last. The very last thing the fly on the wall, Edward, got to see that weekend was something that he was elated about and had waited for all weekend to see: for the very first time, Edward got to see his wife facilitating in a classroom setting -- learning with the others in the class about salt marshes. Salt Marsh Savvy was a breakout session held Saturday morning, February 24, 2018 from 9:45-11:45. Flies are quite important to the salt marsh ecosystem on Dauphin Island. Fly species are premium food sources for many migrating birds who need as much energy as possible. Salt marshes can be susceptible to eutrophication, algae spurts that de-oxygenate the water and suffocate the aquatic life, while flies “have been shown to reduce algal proliferation.” Without flies, our species of birds and fish would dwindle. Conserve flies. Do not eradicate them (3).

In conclusion, flies on the wall play a very important role in the world’s food chain. Flies are food sources for bats, amphibians, and species of fish, including endangered fish species. Fly larvae supply beneficial nutrients for specific mold and fungi (4).

Resources:

1. <https://sciencing.com/importance-flies-10016971.html>
2. <http://www.cannagardening.com/aphids-pests-diseases>
3. <https://www.quora.com/How-do-flies-benefit-the-environment>
4. <https://www.thoughtco.com/fascinating-facts-about-house-flies-4046014>

SAVE THE DATE:

Join us next year

for the

2019 EEAA Conference

at

Cheaha State Park

February 28 – March 2, 2019

19644 Hwy. 281, Delta, AL 36258



Alabama Represented at the SEEA Conference in Florida

By Kimberly Murray

The League of Environmental Education in Florida hosted the 6th annual conference of the **Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance** on March 16-18 in St. Petersburg, FL. The goal of the conference was to provide tools and strategies for formal and non-formal educators to further their success in the EE field. Everyone gathered as a community to share successes and challenges. The conference was ideal for classroom teachers, nature centers, park employees, environmental agency personnel, post secondary students and faculty, and others from throughout the southeast who have a passion for teaching EE.

Two board members, Kimberly Murray and Jo Dale represented Alabama at the conference and the SEEA leadership team retreat following the conference. During the conference there were so many opportunities to see Florida's unique ecosystems and how students and adults were taught about these ecosystems and are able to take their learning home. There is a fabulous collaboration between the non formal and formal educators and primary and secondary educators in Florida. We learned several strategies to bring back to Alabama. Meeting with the leadership team, we discussed ways on how to use upcoming grant funds and and we are patiently waiting to hear if we are receiving an EPA grant for SEEA. Lots of ideas are being discussed among the EEAA board and we will hopefully be sharing with the EEAA membership soon on how to use the EPA funds. We are looking forward to continuing to share all the great EE work being done in Alabama at the North American Association for Environmental Education in Spokane Wash, in Oct 2018.



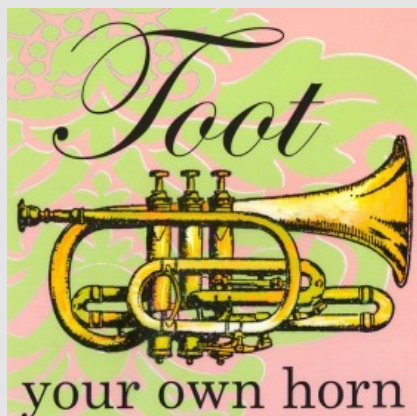
How many kids in our state get to do freshwater snorkeling? We do in Talladega County!

Snorkeling 101 at Lake Chinnabee

by Kimberly Murray

The U.S. Forest Service partnered up with NorthBay Adventures out of Maryland to host field trips at Lake Chinnabee from May 1st - 10th. The staff from NorthBay had already been out to Lake Chinnabee and looked at the variety of fish, amphibians, and snails found in that area. They have found it to be a great snorkeling location. The snorkeling programs started at 9:30 am and went until 1:30 pm. Students spent half their time snorkeling, and the other half conducting a stream assessment with a focus on habitat and biodiversity of local creeks. The students were in Cheaha creek, which flows into Lake Chinnabee. The U.S. Forest Service provided the equipment and staff each day, and took up to 50 students per day. Mrs. Williamson was there each day to coordinate the students from Talladega City and County Schools. Students and teachers had a great time. One student was overheard saying, "This shows me I can be more adventurous. Where can I get these shoes and wet suit so I can do this all summer?" We hope that they receive funding again to host these field trips next year!





Environmental Education at Munford Schools

by Kimberly Murray

For ten years, we have been celebrating conservation education at Munford Schools through the annual “**Get Outdoors Day**” festival. When you walk into the Munford Schools, you immediately see the immersion of conservation education in student learning. There are displays throughout the hallways sponsored by organizations who have a passion for EE. Outside there are several outdoor classrooms that teach water quality, where food comes from, and tree i.d., just to name a few. At the festival, classes, clubs, sports, and community partners were highlighted. Many of these community partners are involved with Munford Schools and EE year-round; one example is our own EEAA president, Mandy Pearson, Naturalist at Cheaha State Park. There were over 1200 participants at the festival, from preK-12th grade, including volunteers, vendors, and special guests. We are already looking forward to next year’s event, tentatively scheduled for May 2, 2019. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s event extra special!





2018 Save-the-Date Summary

June

June 20-21: Triple Teacher-Educator Training, Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, Cheaha State Park, Delta, AL

June 22-23: Alabama Water Watch Float Trip and Annual Meeting, Alabama Water Watch

June 23: Mushrooms, Mycorrhizae, Magic, and Madness: An Introduction to Mycology, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

June 24 -July 1: Mountains to the Gulf, An amazing journey throughout the state of Alabama, offered by Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education

June 26: Project WILD and Aquatic WILD, at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, Decatur, AL, offered by Alabama Cooperative Extension System

June 28: Project WILD and Aquatic WILD, at Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook, AL, offered by Alabama Cooperative Extension System

June 27: Lunch and Learn-Everything I Plant Dies!, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

June 30: Garden Insects-Friends or Foes? An Introduction to Entomology, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

July

July 8 -12: Restoration - What's the Big Deal?, at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL

July 13: Day Trip-Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 13-15: Exploring Our Living Streams, Cahaba Environmental Center, Montevallo, AL, presented by Alabama Water Watch, registration through Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education

July 14: Defend Rivers -Paddle with a Purpose, Alabama River, Montgomery, AL, sponsored by Alabama Rivers Alliance

July 14: Day Trip-Bear Creek Canoeing, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL



2018 Save-the-Date Summary

(continued)

July (continued)

July 14: Water Features of the Gardens, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

July 14: Propagating Carnivorous Plants, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

July 16: Day Trip-Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 17: Day Trip-Tubing Little Cahaba, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 18: Lunch and Learn-Snip, Cut, or Whack, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

July 19: Project Leave No Trace Education Workshop, Cheaha State Park, Delta, AL

July 19: Day Trip-North River Canoeing, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 20: Day Trip-Coosa River Canoeing, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 21: Day Trip-Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 21: Night Festival, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve, Birmingham, AL

July 22-26: Technology in Marine Science: Underwater Robotics, at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL

July 23-25: Arts and the Environment, Cheaha State Park, Delta, AL, offered by Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education

July 23-27: Science Day Camp (5th-8th grade), sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 28: Day Trip-Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 28: Mothfest! 2018, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

July 31: Day Trip-Tubing Little Cahaba, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL



2018 Save-the-Date Summary (continued)

August

August 1: Lunch & Learn-Keep Out Home Invaders, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

August 2: Day Trip-Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

August 3: Day Trip-Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, sponsored by Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa, AL

August 4: Kids & Cameras, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

August 15: Lunch and Learn—Should You Say No to GMO?, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

August 25: Wanted-Dead, Not Alive! Non-Native Invasive Plants, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

October

October 10 -13: North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington

1st & last Saturday of every month, Hike the Bankhead National Forest, led by WildSouth

For more information and/or to register for any of these events, see the associated page/s for the sponsoring organization in this newsletter

Alabama Museum of Natural History Expedition

Excavating at St. Stephens



This year is the 40th year of the **Museum Expedition** and this year we are excavating down at St. Stephens, the territorial capitol of Alabama from 1817-1819. We have participants from ages 12 to over 70 years old helping to excavate the Douglass Hotel, the place where Alabama's territorial legislature met. **We are excavating throughout the month of June. We still have spaces available during Public Week.** This event is for ages 12 and up. Information can be found at www.almnh.ua.edu. Or you can email Allie Sorlie at acsorlie@ua.edu.



Check it Out!



Summer Events at the Alabama Museum of Natural History

JUL 13: Day Trip - Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils

JUL 14: Day Trip - Bear Creek Canoeing

JUL 16: Day Trip - Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils

JUL 17: Day Trip -Tubing Little Cahaba

JUL 19: Day Trip - North River Canoeing

JUL 20: Day Trip - Coosa River Canoeing

JUL 21: Day Trip - Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils

JUL 23-JUL 27: Science Day Camp (5th-8th grade)

JUL 28: Day Trip - Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils

JUL 28: Mothfest! 2018

JUL 31: Day Trip -Tubing Little Cahaba

AUG 2: Day Trip - Shark's Tooth Creek Fossils

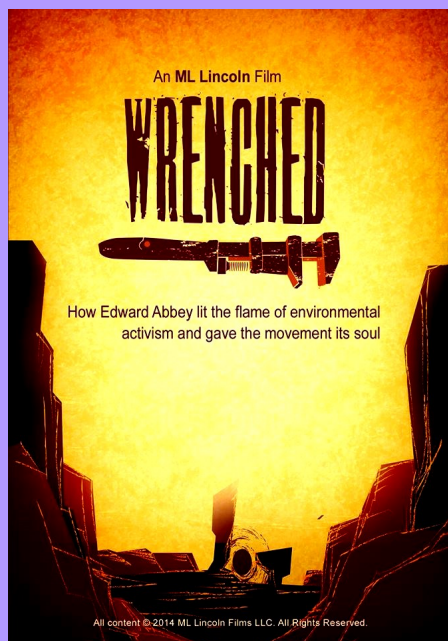
AUG 3: Day Trip - Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve



Questions or interested in registering for one of our events?

Call us at 205-348-7550 or email museum.programs@ua.edu

Visit our website at: <https://almnh.ua.edu/>



Wild South's next **Movie Night** at the Princess Theatre in Decatur, Alabama will be **June 12**. The film to be shown that night is **Wrenched**, the story of **Edward Abbey**. Read about it here <http://wildsouth.org/wild-south-movie-nights-have-moved-to-the-princess-theatre-in-decatur-alabama/> and here <https://www.facebook.com/events/1552448854877936/>. Wild South's Movie Night films are high quality, entertaining, inspiring and are of great educational value to teachers, students and everybody else.

Wild South leads **hikes in the Bankhead National Forest** the first and last Saturday of every month. Wild **Wednesday nature hikes for kids and families in the Bankhead National Forest** will begin the last Wednesday of June and run through the first Wednesday in August.



For more information, contact Janice Barrett at janice@wildsouth.org



Project WILD and Outdoor Classroom Workshops

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD:

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is the coordinating organization for Project WILD in Alabama as of January, 2018. We are offering several opportunities through which educators can receive training. This is especially important as the programs have been revised and there is a new guidebook with several new lessons, STEM connections, field investigations and other resources that will help make the Project WILD programs even better.

June 8, 26, & 28

Educator Training in three locations so that you can be trained in Project WILD and the new resources.

- Friday, June 8, at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center (Spanish Fort)
- Tuesday, June 26, at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (Decatur)
- Thursday, June 28, at Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook (near Montgomery)

Please go to the following link for more details and the registration information:

<http://www.aces.edu/4-H-youth/AL4-H/resources/nature/wildlife/wild.php>

Alabama Outdoor Classroom Workshops:

June 14 & 15 - [Connecting Nature and Children using STEM/STEAM Based Learning in the Outdoor Classroom](#)

Location: Alabama Nature Center, Millbrook

June 18 & 19 - [Using Gardening Themes in the Outdoor Classroom as a Bridge between Children and Nature](#)

Location: Alabama Nature Center, Millbrook

Workshop information and on-line registration available at:

<https://www.alabamawildlife.org/educator-workshops/>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Doyle Keasal
 Alabama Cooperative Extension System/4-H Youth Development
 Alabama State Co-Coordinator for Project WILD
 Office: 334-844-6398
 Email: keasade@aces.edu





Attention Alabama Water Watchers: **2018 Alabama Water Watch Float Trip and Annual Meeting**

June 22-23, 2018

Auburn, Alabama

On the morning of **Friday, June 22nd**, we will kayak the Tallapoosa River with Off the Beaten Path Alabama, a local outdoor outfitter. In the evening we will gather at a restaurant in Downtown Auburn for more fun and fellowship! Make sure you pre-register for this event. More info is found on the [Kayak Trip Info](#) page.

On **Saturday, June 23rd** we will begin the Annual Meeting at 10 am and will conclude by 3 pm. Highlights of the day will include:

Volunteer Presentations and Discussion Session: AWW volunteers will share some of the ways they got started, have stayed motivated in their monitoring efforts, and their keys to success! Whether you are part of a watershed group, the only monitor in the watershed, or an education volunteer, you will gain some helpful tips.

AWW Program and AWW Association Updates

Catered BBQ Lunch!

Keynote Presentation: Representatives and friends of Global Water Watch from Washington, Mississippi, and Vermont will discuss why they have looked to Alabama for guidance and support for their own volunteer monitoring efforts.

AWW Awards Ceremony: We will celebrate a few of the volunteers who have gone above and beyond in 2018.

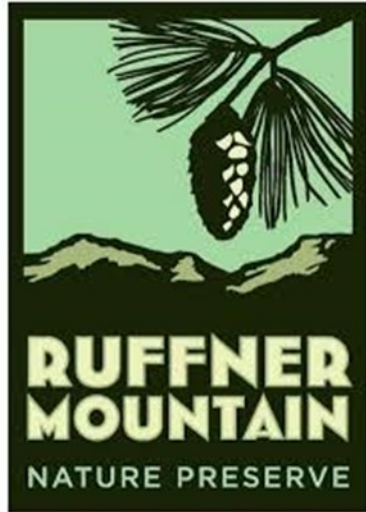
Data Tools Session: You will have a chance to get more comfortable using the AWW Water Data Tools as well as a few other online reporting apps during this hands-on session.

Water Resources Center Research and Program Updates: Presented by WRC Director, Dr. Puneet Srivastava.

Alabama Rivers Book Premiere and Signing: By Dr. Bill Deutsch, the author, and former AWW Director

For more information, and to register, following this link:

<http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org/special-events-annual-meeting/>

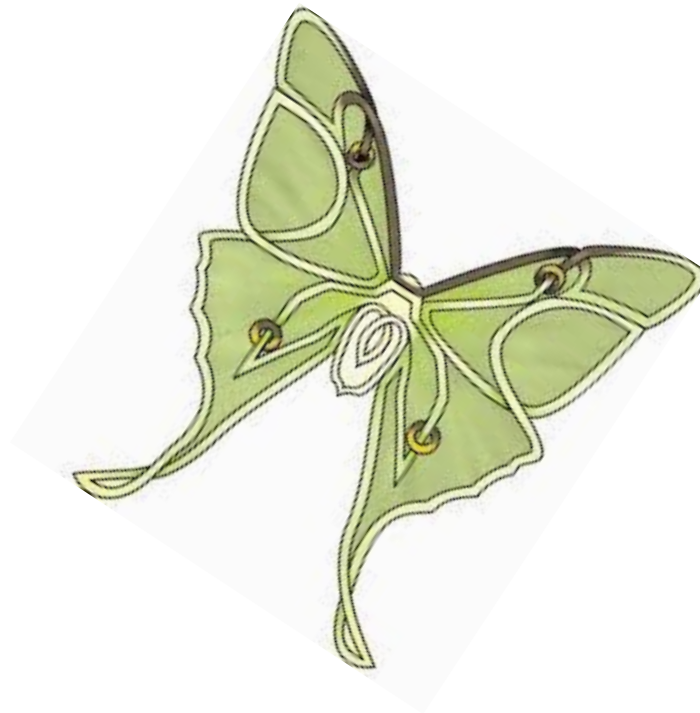


**Night Festival
at
Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve**

(free and open to the public)

**July 21, 2018
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

Inspired by **National Moth Week**, this is a nocturnal celebration of the natural world, featuring music inspired by night, nocturnal-themed visual art, moth observation stations, and kids crafts and activities.



Upcoming Events at Birmingham Botanical Gardens



June 2

The Botanical Lost World - Bibb County Glades & Cahaba Lilies (field trip)

By popular demand, we will again lead this annual foray to one of our favorite locations in Alabama. Bibb County Glades, known well in the world of botanists, is called "the botanical lost world," partly due to eight new species of plants having been discovered there, many of which grow only there! This unique and fascinating landscape contains a number of Alabama endemic plant species and others rare, unusual and adapted to life in a peculiar dolomitic glade. We have timed this trip to include a nearby visit to observe the famed Cahaba lilies, hopefully in flower.

Trip Leaders: Tom Diggs, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, Univ. of North Georgia and John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens

8:30-4:30 p.m. (rain date Saturday, June 9)

Location: Bibb County, AL

Members \$80 | Non-Members \$95

June 9 & June 16

Up Close & Personal: Macrophotography

This course will focus on all aspects of capturing, processing and displaying macro-photographic (extreme close-up) images using the plants, features and environment of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens as the subject matter. Class Requirements:

-Digital SLR Camera

-A Tripod

-A basic knowledge of the camera's operation (beyond "Full Auto")

Instructor: Hank Siegel

9-1 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$100 | Non-Members \$120

June 13

Lunch & Learn: Repel and Trap Pests

Trap crop pests and use beneficial insects help combat pests in veggie gardens!

June 16

Rain Barrel Workshop

Construct your own 'ready to install' 55 gallon barrel with the assistance from presenters and helpers, or just come learn how to make your own at home. There are 40 barrels available with a limit of 1 barrel per registrant - first come, first serve basis. Barrels will come 'ready to install' with spigot and overflow holes drilled; faucet and insect screen provided. If you do not want holes drilled into your barrel, please inform us of this at registration. Barrels at this reduced price are made possible by an EPA Environmental Education (EE) Local Grant awarded to the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. By registering for this event you agree to complete a pre and post event evaluation.

9:30-noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Class Only \$5 | Class & Rain Barrel \$30

June 23

Mushrooms, Mycorrhizae, Magic and Madness: An Introduction to Mycology (elective)

The study of fungi is an immense field. This class will focus on the macrofungi, which include any type of fungal reproductive structure that is evident to the naked eye. Recognition of the major groups of macrofungi will be taught with special attention to those forming beneficial symbiotic relationships with plants. After an introductory lecture - participants will collect specimens in The Gardens for detailed examination and hands-on learning. Final remarks on macrofungal ecology, diversity and importance, and useful tips - will conclude the class.

Instructor: Juan Luis Mata, Ph.D., Department of Biology, University of South Alabama

12:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$45 | Non-Members \$50

Upcoming Events at Birmingham Botanical Gardens (continued)



June 27

Lunch & Learn: Everything I Plant Dies!

Easy ways to start small and succeed, because gardening is a journey, not a destination!

Instructor: Sallie Lee, Alabama Cooperative Extension

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Free to the Public

June 30

Garden Insects - Friends or Foes? An Introduction to Entomology (new elective)

Whether we love them, fear them...or play with them, insects are an essential part of the environment. Join "Bug Man" Henning von Schmeling for a fascinating class which focuses on identification of, and information about, the beautiful and oft-misunderstood world of insects. Participants will learn why insects deserve respect and how to attract them to your gardens. A classroom presentation will be followed by a trip out into The Gardens on a bug collecting brigade unlike anything you've experienced before! Magnifying glasses will be provided.

Instructor: Henning von Schmeling, Director, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, GA

12:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$45 Members | \$50 Non-Members

July 14

Water Features of the Gardens

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens is a target destination for photographers throughout the Southeast, and it offers many beautiful and interesting sights for photographers to capture with their cameras. Some of the most stunning and impact-laden images are those of the Gardens' many and varied water features. Fountains, pools, ponds, streams, and waterfalls all offer the photographer, professional or amateur, the chance to capture images that have that "WOW" factor that we all strive for.

Class requirements:

+ Digital SLR Camera

+ A Tripod (not mandatory, but useful)

+ A basic knowledge of the camera's operation (Know how to use the different operational modes.)

Instructor: Hank Siegel

9:00 a.m.-noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$60 members | \$75 non-members

July 14

Propagating Carnivorous Plants (elective)

Plants that lure, capture, and digest animals have fascinated naturalists for centuries, and continue to attract dedicated fans.

Despite the long history of carnivorous plants in the scientific literature, new species and cultivation techniques are discovered regularly, with many new and beautiful cultivars registered every year. This class will consist of both classroom lecture and interactive lab portions, during which students will learn about the diversity, evolution, and ecology of carnivorous plants - both locally and globally. They will also learn how to grow and care for these unique plants, and then specifically how to propagate them, with a focus on native species. Participants will engage in hands-on practice with cuttings, plugs, rhizome divisions, leaf pullings, seed sowing, and in-vitro germination. All students will take home a flask (or two) of sterilized seeds sown in-vitro, as well as materials to propagate plants at home.

Troy Alexander, Founder & CEO, E.T. Nursery

12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$50 | Non-members \$55

Upcoming Events at Birmingham Botanical Gardens (continued)



July 18

Lunch & Learn: Snip, Cut or Whack!

The who, when, and how of pruning.

Instructor: John Nabors, Alabama Cooperative Extension

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Free to the Public

August 1

Lunch & Learn: Keep Out Home Invaders

Learn How to safely remove crawlers, critters, and other home invaders.

Instructor: Sallie Lee and Andy Baril, Alabama Cooperative Extension

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Free to the Public

August 4

Kids n' Cameras

A One Day Experience in The Art of Photography for the entire family! This day long class is targeted at Middle-School aged children and their families. The objectives of the session are to: ~Get the participants familiar with the concepts of photography that most impact artistic imagery. ~Show participants the basics of how to use their cameras' power to capture the images that they envision as artistic. The experience will consist of a brief classroom overview, field work in the Gardens, lunch and photography exploration of the Gardens as a family, presentations and class critiques of exploration photos. Due to time constraints, this class will be limited to 12 family teams.

Instructor: Hank Siegel

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$50 Family (1 adult+2 kids) | \$5 additional family member

August 15

Lunch & Learn: Should You Say No to GMO?

Learn all about the science and safety with the beef and poultry industry.

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Kriese-Anderson & Alex Tigue, Alabama Cooperative Extension

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Free to the Public

August 25

WANTED: Dead, Not Alive! Non-Native Invasive Plants (elective)

What are invasive plants, why are they invasive and how can we manage them? This class will answer these questions and others. Our instructor will give a regional, in-depth and up-to-date perspective on invasive plants, their identification, modes of introduction, effects on native ecosystems and management. The use of various relevant tools will be shown and participants will be able to try using them. The publications A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests (USDA & US Forest Service), and the recently published New Invaders of the Southeast (USDA) will be distributed to participants.

Instructor: Jeffrey Drummond, Stewardship Director, Freshwater Land Trust

9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$45 Members | \$50 Non-Members

More information and registration available at bbgardens.org



Upcoming Events at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

June 11-14:

Using Alabama Rocks, Inquiry, and Observation to Unearth our Past

Presented by McDowell Environmental Center

June 18-20:

Agricultural Advocates: Farming as Teaching

Presented by McDowell Farm School

June 24-July 1:

Mountains to the Gulf

An amazing journey around the state of Alabama with premier scientists who help educators to connect the geology, hydrology, and ecology of our great state to their classrooms.

To learn more, go to www.campmcdowell.com and look under Educational Programs for "Educator Workshops".

Professional Development Opportunities at Dauphin Island Sea Lab

- Climate Change in the Gulf of Mexico - June 17-20
- Restoration: What's the big deal? - July 8-12
- Technology in Marine Science ROVs - July 22-26

SEE DESCRIPTIONS, NEXT PAGE

Learn more at <http://www.disl.org/dhp/educator-workshops> or
call 251-861-2141 x7515 or email DHPsummer@disl.org



EXPAND YOUR TOOLBOX



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB



Climate Change in the Gulf of Mexico

The study of climate change is now part of most state's science frameworks, including Alabama's new standards. Our scientific understanding of climate change and its impacts is growing quickly. How up-to-date is your knowledge? Are you looking for engaging activities to do in the classroom and in the field with your students? Join us for this multi-day workshop, supported by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, to learn more about climate change from researchers, conduct relevant hands-on activities suitable for your students, explore data-rich online resources you can use in your classroom, and develop lesson plans.

\$100 Registration fee (refunded upon completion of workshop).

June 17 - 20, 2018

Restoration: What's the Big Deal?

While restoring natural areas has been happening for a long time, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill resulted in a significant increase in the number and size of restoration projects in Alabama and the northern Gulf of Mexico region. What is restoration? Why do we do it? How does it contribute to a more resilient community? How do we know when it has been successful? Join us for this immersive, multi-day workshop supported by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, to learn more about the science of restoration, the importance of restoration for a healthy environment, and current restoration efforts in the Gulf. Visit restoration sites, hear from researchers studying restoration, explore hands-on restoration activities suitable for classrooms, and discuss possible restoration activities or citizen science projects for your school.

\$100 Registration fee (refunded upon completion of workshop).

July 8 - 12, 2018

Technology in Marine Science: Underwater Robotics

Are you a high school or middle school teacher looking to increase STEM activities into your classroom? This may be just the workshop for you! Remotely operated vehicles, or ROVs, are underwater robots. Building and using ROVs combines skills from the engineering design process, and the fields of physics, robotics, marine science and technology. In this multi-day workshop, teachers will learn about ROVs and how they are used to explore, research, and work in the ocean. Participants will build an ROV from the circuit board up to take back to their classroom and share with their students. Field experiences include a trip aboard the R/V Alabama-Discovery and driving a professional ROV. Come join us and share the excitement of the field of marine technology!

\$100 Registration fee (refunded upon completion of workshop).

July 22 - 26, 2018

Please visit <http://www.disl.org/dhp/educator-workshops> for additional program information.

Contact Sara Johnson at (251)861-2141 x7515 or DHPsummer@disl.org.



2018 Legacy Workshops for Educators

For information/to register, see:

<http://legacyenvd.org/educator-workshops/>

Alabama's Wonderful Wildlife

June 9, 2018 – Alabama Wildlife Center in Pelham, Alabama

This workshop takes place at the **Alabama Wildlife Center**, *Alabama's oldest and largest wildlife rehabilitation facility*, returning rehabilitated native birds to the wild while educating the public about Alabama's wildlife. Participants will get a first-person look at the rehabilitation of native wildlife that call Alabama home.

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$25.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$30.00

Explore your World

June 14, 2018 – Anniston Museum of Natural History

Taking place at the **Anniston Museum of Natural History**, a **Smithsonian Affiliated Museum**, we will examine various habitats from around the world and the animal adaptations necessary for those habitats. Experience the Bird of Prey Trail and their specific habitat enclosures. We will also walk through the Longleaf Botanical Gardens and learn to identify native tree species.

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$25.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$30.00

Agricultural Advocates: Farming as Teaching

June 18-20, 2018 – McDowell Farm School

This workshop takes place at the **McDowell Farm School** at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama. Learn more about how important farming is to Alabama. Enjoy harvesting food straight from the earth and prepping a farm-to-table meal. Learn about raised beds, greenhouses, & animal husbandry (goats, chickens, and pigs).

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$75.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$90.00

Mountains to the Gulf: Teachers Making Connections

June 24-July 1, 2018 – 8 Days Across the Great State of Alabama

Leading scientific experts will guide 20 educators throughout the state of Alabama, sharing their collective knowledge of the Waters, Geology, Flora, and Fauna to show how all things are connected! Your journey begins in Northwest Alabama at Camp McDowell Environmental Center, then zig-zag in a chartered bus across the state on an educational adventure of a lifetime! Visit Cheaha State Park – Alabama's highest point, kayak the Tallapoosa River, visit the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, and search for fossils in south Alabama streams. The final destination will be Dauphin Island Sea Lab, where educators will visit the Gulf shoreline and waters. Uncover the unique geology of Alabama with **Jim Lacefield**, author of *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks*. Wade the streams of Alabama with **Bill Deutsch**, founder of Alabama Water Watch. Discover the incredible and sometimes curious diversity of native Alabama flora with botanist **Brooke McMin** of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. **Trish Smrecak** Geologist and environmental educator will guide you through canyons & mountains seeing the geology of Alabama first-hand. Track the reintroduction of the federally threatened Eastern Indigo Snake in the Conecuh Forest with herpetologist, **Jimmy Stiles**.

Not Strenuous and is appropriate for most physical abilities!

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$275.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$300.00



2018 Legacy Workshops for Educators (continued)

For information/to register, see:

<http://legacyenvd.org/educator-workshops/>

Exploring Living River's Streams

July 13-15, 2018 – Cahaba Environmental Center

Be inspired to connect your students with nature while visiting the **Cahaba River**. The Cahaba River is the longest undammed river in Alabama and has been named one of the top five rivers in the world for biodiversity by World Wildlife Fund & the Sierra Club. You will explore the Cahaba and the surrounding watershed while learning experiential activities that you can take back to your classroom. Participants will leave the workshop trained and certified by **Alabama Water Watch** in "water chemistry" and "biomonitoring"

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$75.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$90.00

Arts and the Environment

July 23-25, 2018 – Cheaha State Park

This workshop takes place atop **Alabama's highest mountain** where we explore the natural wonder of Alabama's Cheaha State Park. Exploring, observing, interpreting, building a hand-made nature journal, writing creatively, and engaging in botanical arts and enchanted environmental education activities are few highlights of this "nature and arts" workshop on Alabama's highest mountain!

Legacy Partner Registration Fee: \$75.00

Non-Partner Registration Fee: \$90.00



WORKSHOPS ARE FILLING UP

&

DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING!



DON'T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY!

Show Your Support for Alabama's Rivers!

Join Alabama Rivers Alliance for a Paddle with a Purpose

Alabama River, Montgomery



#DefendRivers Paddle

PADDLE WITH A PURPOSE

SATURDAY, JULY 14

ALL AGES & EXPERIENCE LEVELS!
THE ALABAMA RIVER | MONTGOMERY



For more information, click here:

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

To register, click here:

<https://alabamarivers.wufoo.com/forms/ps4eqxq1sjlhd6/>



WORKSHOPS FOR EDUCATORS AT CHEAHA STATE PARK

Triple Teacher-Educator Training

Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree, June 20-21, 2018

Bring the best environmental education curricula in the world to your students...from the highest mountain in Alabama!

What are Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree?

- * Environmental Education that supports the State of Alabama Standards and Best Practices in EE
- * Research-based and field tested
- * Interdisciplinary, integratable, hands-on and activity-based
- * Fun for students and instructors, indoors or out

Professional Learning Units Available through Jacksonville State University (14 PD hours); receive tons of educational materials and resources to help you make your lessons a success; network with natural resource professionals and other educators. \$150 per person (includes lodging and meals). Please register by contacting [Renee Raney](#) at Cheaha State Park.

Project Leave No Trace Educator Workshop

July 19, 2018

9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Bigfoot LNT Education Pavilion

Building connections to the natural world through outdoor recreation, land ethics, science, and experiences.

What is Project Leave No Trace?

- * Interdisciplinary, integratable, hands-on and activity-based
- * Conservation, stewardship, and ecology
- * Fun for students and instructors, indoors or outside

Professional Learning Units Available through Jacksonville State University (4 PD hours). \$40.00 per person (lunch and resource materials); Contact [Cheaha Sales](#) at 256-488-5885 to register or [Mandy Pearson](#) for more information.

"Making Connections" Environmental Education and Arts Teacher Workshop

July 23-25, 2018

Provided by Legacy Partners in EE, RC&D Council of Alabama, and Alabama State Parks

Exploring, observing, interpreting, building a hand-made nature journal, writing creatively, and engaging in botanical arts and enchanted environmental education activities are few highlights of this "nature and arts" workshop on Alabama's highest mountain! CEUs available through Jacksonville State University In-Service (18 PD hours). Workshop Registration Fees (includes meals and lodging): Legacy Partner \$75; Non-partner \$90; Register at [Legacy Partners in EE](#) or contact [Renee Raney](#).

Attention Teachers:

Federal Funds Available for Environmental Education!

The information below is from the Director of Policy & Affiliate Relations of NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education). Please share this information with your school's superintendent. Federal money is available to support environmental education during the coming school year.

Please share!

Environmental educators have a critical opportunity now and over the next few months to reach out to school district leaders, encouraging them to use applicable funds from the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** to support environmental education. ESSA is the law that governs K-12 education in the United States (formerly No Child Left Behind). The legislation passed at the end of 2015 and includes, for the first time, language that makes environmental education explicitly eligible for funding under a Title IV grant program. The fiscal year 2018 budget agreement includes \$1.1 billion for Title IV, Part A, which is nearly three times more than was allocated for 2017, the first year for ESSA implementation. This increase makes the 2018-19 school year the first truly meaningful opportunity for Title IV, Part A programs to make an impact in many school districts—and those programs include environmental education! ([Read more about EE in the Every Student Succeeds Act](#))

Federal ESSA funds will be distributed to states July 1, and then states will distribute funds to school districts, which have great flexibility for how to use them (including for environmental education). School districts need to submit a plan to the state outlining their intentions for using ESSA funds in order to receive their allocation. Specific deadlines for applications and dissemination of funds will vary by state (in Colorado, for example, plans are due June 30 while in Maryland, they are not due until Oct. 15) but now and over the next few weeks and months is generally an excellent time to reach out to school district administrators to encourage them to include EE in their plans for ESSA Title IV funds. ([You can find a comprehensive timeline for ESSA implementation here](#)).

NAAEE has prepared some resources to help you, including a [template for a letter or email](#) and some [talking points](#) for any meetings with school administrators that you might secure. Feel free to reach out to let us know what additional information might be helpful, and let us know how it goes!

Resources:

[Webinar: Outreach to Superintendents on EE in ESSA](#)

[Fact sheet: EE in the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

[Talking Points](#)

[Template for Letters/Emails to Superintendent](#)



Are You a Member of EEAA?

If not, you can join using the form below:

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

Sometimes, Money DOES Grow on Trees!



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.

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):

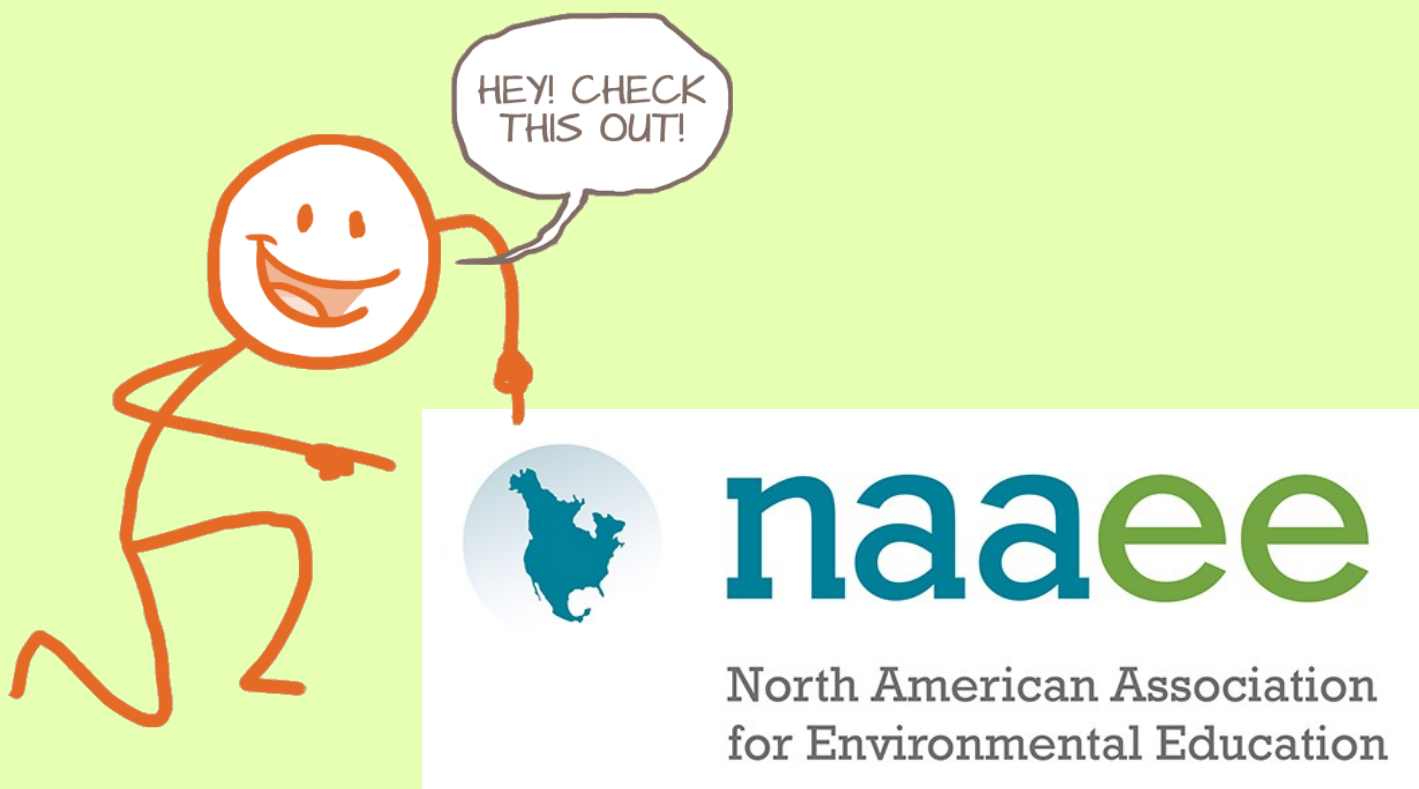
- ☐ Conference/Workshop registration
- ☐ Travel – what form of transportation? _____
- ☐ Accommodations
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

“ 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



Here is the link to the **NAAEE website** for a TON of great national and international EE information:

<https://naaee.org/>

And, a wonderful resource available through NAAEE is **EEPro**, an online platform for environmental education professional development and materials. Check it out—this is your link to EE jobs, grant funding opportunities, workshops, conferences, networking, EE blogs, and more! Anyone can join EEPro!

<https://naaee.org/eeopro>

LOOK! FREE MATERIALS TO TEACH ABOUT THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL



(includes monitoring of long-term effects of the spill and restoration efforts)

Complimentary Marine Science Educational DVDs

DISPATCHES FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO

We are pleased to offer you complimentary DVDs - *including public performance rights* - of the two most recent episodes in our award-winning educational series, **Journey To Planet Earth: Dispatches from the Gulf**
1: Science • Community • Recovery ([Preview Here](#)) **Dispatches from the Gulf 2: Research • Innovation • Discovery** ([Preview Here](#)) The films investigate the impact of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico's communities and ecosystem. A global team of scientists is working together to protect and restore one of our planet's most valuable natural resources. Discusses post-spill issues such as: * Why are so many bottlenose dolphins dying? * Why haven't Louisiana's oysters fully recovered? * What are the long-term health effects on giant creatures like the six-gill shark? * Is it possible to forecast where and when oil will go after a deep ocean spill?



Includes corresponding Educators Guides with Lesson Plans. If these assets will benefit your classroom, you can request your free DVDs by replying to this [e-mail](#) with your name and best mailing address. Or you can fill out a [request form here](#). Digital streaming versions are available upon request. DVD offer only available until supplies run out.

WHAT'S BEEN SAID "Terrific films to teach both adults and children about the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico and the consequences of such a disaster. Highly recommended." -- Library Journal Starred Review "A valuable addition to any environmental library." -- NSTA Recommends "Truly remarkable." -- NPR

Journey To Planet Earth / 4330 Yuma St, NW / Washington, DC 20016 / 202-364-0055 (p)

<http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth>
<http://dispatchesfromthegulf.com>

Bug-Out Educators!



The **Entomological Society of America** is offering **President's Prizes for Outstanding Achievement in Primary and Secondary Education**. If you are a primary or secondary teacher who goes beyond traditional teaching methods and uses insects as a teaching tool, you are eligible!

The award (one primary and one secondary) includes:

- Up to \$400 for teaching materials
- Up to \$400 to travel and present at a professional venue (like an EEAA conference)
- Free registration to the ESA Annual Meeting (in St. Louis, MS November 17-20, 2019)
- Up to \$800 for travel and costs to present at the ESA Annual Meeting

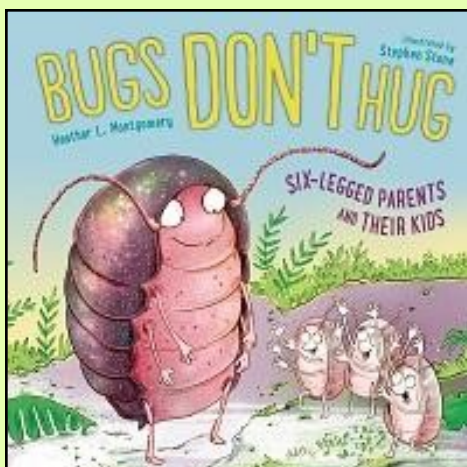
Heather L. Montgomery, author of *Bugs Don't Hug: Six-Legged Parents and Their Kids*, is available to assist anyone interested in applying. Assistance could include brainstorming sessions for lesson planning, a Skype session with students, and access to teacher guides. The teacher guide includes lessons on writing opinion pieces, comparing information in two texts, writing informative texts with concrete details, and more.

Full information on the awards may be found at <https://www.entsoc.org/awards/professional/educational>

For planning assistance, visit <http://www.heatherlmontgomery.com/contact.html>

And, speaking of bugs, you can pre-order Heather's newest book, *Bugs Don't Hug* (coming September, 2018), at the following link:

<https://www.charlesbridge.com/products/bugs-dont-hug-br-font-size-2-six-legged-parents-and-their-kids-font>





Can We Talk?

Do you have events, workshops, grant funding opportunities, field trips, resources, awards, information, etc. that you would like advertised in the EEAA newsletter? If so, please email Shelly Taliaferro, newsletter editor, at: mtaliafe@aum.edu