



## Crossing the Curriculum 2002 Outdoor Classroom Symposium

by Paul McClendon and Tracy McClendon

Ask anyone one of us and we will almost certainly identify a person who introduced us to nature, revealing a fantastic and mysterious world just outside the door. Maybe it was a parent who took us fishing, or a grandparent who taught us about the birds at the feeder, or a neighbor who allowed us to explore her garden. In many instances that inspirational someone was a committed teacher who took lessons beyond the walls of the school building by using the natural world to supplement classroom teaching. We who are today's educators striving to connect children with nature surely face challenges, but these are far outweighed by the potential rewards.

Georgia's teachers are increasingly challenged to base their lesson plans on the state's Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) objectives. **The 2002 Outdoor Classroom Council Annual Symposium on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Georgia** will focus on helping teachers make direct connections between their standard curriculum and their outdoor learning environments. The symposium is designed for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> teachers, parents, students and administrators. Each session is designed to provide participants with tools for transporting math, science, language arts—even music and technology—beyond the confines of the traditional classroom walls. Imagine spending a brisk autumn morning exploring the school campus woodland and learning about the native plants and animals found there, investigating the history of the land,

studying mathematics applications, and seeking inspiration for creative writing.

This year's keynote speaker, **Diane Davies**, State 4-H Specialist/Coordinator of UGA's Cooperative Extension Service Environmental Education Program, has won numerous awards for her groundbreaking work in environmental education. Her dynamic approach to outdoor learning is guaranteed to stimulate the imagination and set an energizing tone for the day. Experts from around the state, who understand the challenges of incorporating outdoor activities with curriculum requirements, will teach the concurrent sessions. **Steve Rich**, the closing speaker, is a fifth-grade teacher who recently won the Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching. He will discuss how outdoor classrooms affect student learning and how individual schools and teachers can benefit from the recognition that comes with innovative teaching methods.

Participants will have the opportunity to network with teachers and non-formal educators from around the state. Everyone can expect to go home with new resources and ideas for outdoor lesson plans. **Teachers who wish to receive an SDU credit for the symposium** should plan to attend a workshop the previous evening in addition to the symposium. Lodging will be available at beautiful Rock Eagle 4-H Center, host site of the symposium.



Attend the 2002 Outdoor Classroom Council Symposium in October and you will no longer have to tackle the challenge of outdoor learning on your own or wonder how to utilize your outdoor teaching areas. With new tools and resources at your disposal, your classroom will "grow" and help make each day a new learning adventure, for you and your students! Be sure to register early as the symposium fills every year! For registration and other information, visit EEA's website: [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org) or contact Laura Bryant, 770-787-7887, [lbryant@gwf.org](mailto:lbryant@gwf.org).

# Georgia EE Providers: Region 2



*Editor's Note: With publication of The Georgia Environmental Education Teacher Resource Guide, EEA and the Link continue to share with our members and readers a sampling of EE providers. In this issue, we highlight The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, University of Georgia, 2450 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605*



**The State Botanical Garden of Georgia** is a 313-acre preserve set aside by the University of Georgia in 1968 for the study of plants and nature. Located 3 miles south of the Athens campus, it is a living laboratory serving educational, research, recreational, and public service roles for the university and the citizens of Georgia. The Garden's mission is to acquire and disseminate botanical knowledge and to foster stewardship of plants and nature through collections and

displays, horticultural gardens, research, educational programs, and special events.

The Garden strives to provide a wholesome environment where people of all ages can witness the beauty and diversity of plants, and seeks to communicate humankind's global dependence on plants and the rich treasure that plants represent. The Garden serves as a repository for special collections, including native flora, commercially important cultivars, and rare and endangered plants. The Garden is a member of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, and recently joined Gardens for Peace, an international network of Gardens to promote world peace and understanding.

The Garden offers field trips, public tours, teacher workshops, lectures, garden rambles and adult workshops, and includes more than six miles of nature trails. One trail parallels the Oconee River for approximately one mile. To learn more about the Garden, including educational and special events, visit the website at [www.uga.edu/botgarden](http://www.uga.edu/botgarden).

## EEA Spotlight Anne Shenk

EEA Board Member and *Link* contributing editor Anne Shenk says her love of environmental education began in Rhode Island where she first taught residential EE programs. Graduate school lured her to Colorado to study science/environmental education and to enjoy Rocky Mountain 'highs' each weekend. She joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to a high school located on a beach near a coral reef in Fiji where, she claims, her students taught *her* biology and island ecology!

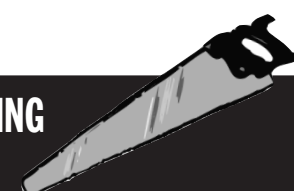


Anne is now Director of Education at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia (SBG), Athens, and has coordinated and developed a variety of EE programs for adults and children, including outdoor classroom programs. In 1996 she helped launch the Georgia Endangered Plant Stewardship Network to provide teachers with resources to grow and teach about endangered species at their schools. She also helped

facilitate the first EEA-sponsored Monarchs in the Classroom program. Through SBG's Garden Earth program, she has helped many schools develop site plans for outdoor classrooms and lesson plans for school site investigations.

The World Bank Global Environment Fund provided funding in 2000 for Anne to collaborate with the Maquipucuna Foundation in Ecuador to develop a site-based environmental education project. Anne adapted SBG's field trip, camp and Garden Earth activities to this ecosystem. Children in Ecuador are discovering their cloudforest, and that even their school sites and back yards are ecosystems that do neat things like clean the air, produce food, control pests and more. When she isn't on the way to one of their ball games or piano lessons, Anne also loves to garden with her two children Zack (11) and Leah (9).

### SHARPENING the EDUCATOR'S SAW\*



Dr. Gerald A. Lieberman, founder and director of the State Education and Environment Roundtable ([www.seer.org](http://www.seer.org)):

*“Using the real world is the way learning has happened for 99.9% of human existence. Only in the last hundred years have we put it in a little box called a classroom.”*

From an article, “Letting nature shape childhood,” by Will Nixon, published in *The Amicus Journal*, Fall 1997, page 34.

\*Inspired by Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Share your ideas for renewal in this regular feature!

# Mary Lin Elementary School BOG GARDEN

By Jessica Tanner, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and Language Arts Teacher, Mary Lin Elementary School, Atlanta Public Schools

As educators we are always looking for unique opportunities for our students. Last year I had the opportunity to build a bog garden with my fifth grade class. A bog garden is a unique environment where carnivorous plants such as Venus Fly Traps and Pitcher plants live. Through a great partnership with several of my students' parents, we developed and implemented the idea for a bog garden.

Beginning in October we dug the garden and had all classes help fill it with a mixture of soil and sand. Approximately fifty students helped move soil, mix sand and soil, add water, and place the stones for the garden. The students thoroughly enjoyed creating an entire ecosystem which started as a mere hole in the ground. Our bog garden became a point of pride for the fifth grade science students as they recorded their observations and witnessed the plants' progression.

Now the fourth grade students have inherited the garden, and they are very excited about working with the plants and learning about a bog garden. Fortunately, I received the Outdoor Classroom Grant so we will be able to continue to improve the bog as well as add two more gardens to our outdoor classroom.

The bog garden was worth the time and effort. Students took pride in their work and looked forward to the activities regarding the bog garden. Additionally, this outdoor garden provided students with another opportunity to interact

with an environment they may never have encountered. Finally, we have an outdoor science area that intrigues students. A Venus Fly Trap or Pitcher plant is fascinating to students. Even students who do not typically like science find the bog garden a source of learning and enjoyment.



*Building the bog garden*

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## NEWS, NOTES, AND UP-COMING EVENTS

**EEA Conference Call for Proposals:** visit [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org) for more information. Proposals due 10/21/02.

**EEA Members:** Nominate individuals to serve as directors and officers and help the Nominations Committee accomplish its mission "to promote cultural, geographical and organizational diversity in EEA's leadership." Although the bylaws are currently in revision, recommended terms are three years for directors, two years for vice-president and treasurer and one year for president, president-elect and secretary. To submit nominations, send resumes today or no later than November 20, 2002 to Mary Terry, [mjerry@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:mjerry@co.dekalb.ga.us), 770-484-3060 phone/770-484-3059 fax.

**eNature.com** National Wildlife Federation's online field guides. Type in your zip code and find photographs and information about wildlife in your area from birds to butterflies and other insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. View photos of certified backyard habitats and post your own. Links to more information about creating your own schoolyard and backyard habitats. [www.eNature.com](http://www.eNature.com)

**Become a Project WET Facilitator!** Get the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide and become certified to lead other educators in Project WET. November 1-3, 2002 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island. Registration fee: \$100.00 for Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia members and \$105.00 for nonmembers. Includes WET curriculum, t-shirt, facilitator notebooks, educational resources, housing, meals and a water education field trip. Contact Deron Davis, [deron\\_davis@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:deron_davis@mail.dnr.state.ga.us), 404-675-1762 phone to register.

**Rivers Alive: Annual Volunteer Cleanup of Georgia's Waterways.** Held throughout the month of October targeting Georgia's streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. During 2001's River Cleanup, more than 18,000 volunteers cleaned over 650 miles of waterways and removed 120,000 pounds of trash. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. For more information or to participate in a cleanup, visit [www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org) or call 404-675-1636. Help "Make Clean Water Georgia's Future"!

**River of Words:** International environmental poetry and art project designed to nurture respect and understanding of the natural world. Students learn their "ecological address" by honing their observation skills and describing through poetry and art their "place in space." Eight students will be chosen as National Grand Prize Winners and receive a trip to Washington DC. To receive a FREE Teacher's Guide (limit: two guides per org.), send your name, organization, address, telephone, fax, and email address to Monica Kilpatrick at [monica\\_kilpatrick@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:monica_kilpatrick@mail.dnr.state.ga.us) or by fax at (404) 675-6245.

**CoastFest 2002!** Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Brunswick GA. For more information, [www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/coastal](http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/coastal)

**Project Learning Tree** Advanced Workshop for High School Modules: Davidson-Mt. Arabia Nature Center, Lithonia GA, October 12, 2002, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration fee: \$8.00, lunch included. Deadline October 4<sup>th</sup>. Contact Karen Garland (404) 876-2900. Facilitator/Advanced Training Workshop, October 24 & 25, 2002, Macon, GA. Registration due 10/11/02, fee: \$40.00 (SDU credit available). Contact Carla Rapp, 1-800-9 GROW GA for more information.

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EEA is a self-governed, non-profit organization that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education in Georgia. EEA is an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

**Time to renew your EEA membership?  
Check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.**



**EEA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*Become a Member Today!*

Fill out this form and mail it along with a check to Elachee Nature Science Center at the address above. Checks should be made out to EE Alliance

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

**Quarterly Newsletter** – Provides educational resources, legislative updates, notice of workshops and events, grant opportunities, and much more.

**Annual Spring Conference and Fall Retreat** – Held at different sites throughout Georgia with guest speakers, workshops and field trips. A great opportunity to meet people and share.

**Sharing and Exchanging Exhibits** – The opportunity to find out and exchange exhibits from member organizations.

**The Georgia Environmental Education Teacher Resource Guide** – 132 pages of environmental education resources and learning opportunities in Georgia.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership Category:  Individual \$15
- Organizational\* \$50
- Corporate\* \$100

*\*Please Note: organizations and businesses can list up to five representatives to receive EEA mailings and information.*

Please check the category of your affiliation so that we may serve you better:

- Community Outreach  Private and/or Non-profit
- Government Agency  Business and Industry
- Environmental Education Center
- Formal Post Secondary Education
- Formal Education, Pre-K through 6
- Formal Education, 7 through 12

Newsletter Committee

Vicki Seastrom, National Wildlife Federation & Barbara McDonald, U.S. Forest Service, *Managing Editors*

Anne Shenk, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, *Contributing Editor*

Paul McClendon, Chattahoochee Nature Center & Eric Lindberg, Rome-Floyd Planning Department, *Contributing Writers*

Kristen Smith, *Production Artist*

*The Link* is published four times annually. EEA member contributions are encouraged. Deadlines for articles and news of interest are:

Issue	Deadline
Winter .....	Conference Newsletter
Spring .....	January 15
Summer .....	April 15
Fall .....	July 15

E-mail articles to: Vicki Seastrom, seastrom@nwf.org, (404) 876-2602, ext. 223 or to Barbara McDonald, barmac@bigfoot.com, (706) 559-4224.

**Save the date!** March 21-23, 2003

**EEA Annual Conference** in

*Savannah, Georgia*

Environmental Education  
**CONNECTING COMMUNITIES  
AND CLASSROOMS**

Call For Proposals due October 21, 2002  
For more information, visit [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org)