



2006 EEA Annual Conference

March 17 - 19, 2006

Green with EE: The Art, Science, and Business of Environmental Education

You won't want to miss an exciting array of professional development and networking opportunities at the 2006 EEA Annual Conference. Build your knowledge, enhance your skills, discover new resources, and discuss ideas that will inspire your efforts to educate others about the environment through the *art, science, and business* of environmental education!

As we strive for standards of excellence in our work, we must connect with a wider circle of people to win broader support. Novice to experienced formal and informal educators, administrators, and interpreters who work with K-12, university, and adult audiences through schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies across Georgia are invited to join in this rejuvenating and educational opportunity!

A variety of conference sessions will provide participants with opportunities to actively engage in challenging hands-on, inquiry-based field trips as well as a diversity of interactive concurrent sessions, exhibits, and

workshops that foster and promote curiosity, knowledge, and an understanding of the world around us.

The Art of EE:

Teaching and communicating about the environment is an art that requires people to creatively share their experiences, knowledge, and skills with diverse audiences. This strand will focus on the imaginative and artistic strategies environmental educators use to teach and reach Georgia's citizens, from assessing and monitoring their local environments to creating art exhibits with environmental themes.

The Science of EE:

Environmental educators are often times the link between the researchers in the natural and social sciences and the general public. This strand will provide insight into current scientific findings on Georgia's natural environments and their components - the air, water, land, flora, and fauna that make our state unique.

The Business of EE:

The business of environmental

education is the intersection of educational leadership, administration, and management. This strand will focus on elements including strategic planning, board development, curriculum design evaluation and assessment, financial management, human resources management and social marketing.



Building on the theme of "green with EE," the conference site offers a natural experience to teach and expand the horizons of its guests. A gift from Lucie Simpson, an Atlanta and Gwinnett county teacher of 35 years, Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center is a 227-acre tract of land along

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the Chattahoochee River in Norcross. Following the river the site also offers over three miles of quiet nature paths. Onsite overnight accommodations are available. For more information about the center visit www.simpsonwood.org.

Keynote speakers will help bring meaning to the conference theme as Ken Voorhis, Executive Director of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont delivers inspiration on connecting art to the natural world. Tony Mills, Educational Outreach Program Coordinator for the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory will bring science to life as he connects current research practices with education. Brian Day, Executive Director of North American Association for Environmental Education will share his business wisdom as he unites EE with social marketing.

For early arrivals on Thursday, March 16, conference participants are invited to join the EEA Hospitality Committee at 6:30 pm for an informal group dinner at a local offsite restaurant. Thursday evening dinner expenses are not included in your registration fee.

In an effort to further engage participants, the first field trip of the conference will be a Friday evening group event to the new Georgia Aquarium – Learning Loop where

participants are invited to tour the education floor and learn about diverse aquatic environments. Transportation will be provided to and from the aquarium, so just sit back, relax, and enjoy the adventure!

Important Notes:

- Registration must be postmarked by February 10, 2006 to receive the early bird discount. After this date only onsite registration will be available.
- Limited scholarships are available. Please visit www.eealliance.org for additional information and an application form, which is due January 20, 2006.
- Lodging is available at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. To reserve a room, you must fill out and submit the lodging portion of the registration form. Rates are based on the number of people per room. Please check the registration form for exact costs.
- On-site registration and check-in begins on Thursday, March 16 from 3:00 PM to 5 PM and from 8:00 PM to 9 PM. On-site registration continues Friday, March 17, at 8:00 AM and goes throughout the day. On Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19 respectively, on-site registration is available beginning at 8:30 AM.

Other conference highlights include the Saturday Awards Luncheon where the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia will honor its 2006 award recipients. Following the luncheon participants will head off to explore the wonders of Atlanta with field trips to area attractions.

But the fun doesn't end yet! Saturday evening everyone is invited to attend the 4th Annual

Eco-beneficio Silent Auction at the National Park Service's Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center. Conference participants will feast on scrumptious "bizcochos y pasteries" at the Café Verde, while helping raise money for the EEA Scholarship Program, which has raised over \$12,000 since 2003.

Registration:

All registration information (fees, deadlines, directions, lodging, scholarship applications and field trips) are available online at the EEA website at www.eealliance.org/conference.

Need PLU credit for participating in the conference? Be sure to check the

line on the registration form if you are interested in receiving 1 PLU for attending the conference. Information on PLU paperwork will also be at the registration desk. If you have any questions, contact Deborah Riddleberger at 706-757-3114 or email at driddleberger@jackson.k12.ga.us or Karen Garland at 404-876-2900 x 113 or email at kgarland@gaconservancy.org.

For more information about the conference, contact 2006 EEA Conference Co-Chair: Kim Morris Zarneke, kzarneke@georgiaaquarium.org.

Support for this conference is provided by: Athens-Clark Co. Recycling Division, Cobb Co. Water System, Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Dunwoody Nature Center, EEInGeorgia, EIC Program, Fernbank Science Center, Friends of Chattahoochee River, GA Adopt-A-Stream, Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Conservancy, GA DNR Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia PTA, Monarchs Across GA, GA Project Learning Tree, GA Project WET, Gray Elementary School, Gwinnett Co. Dept. of Public Utilities, Jackson Co. PRISM Program, Keep Bartow Beautiful, Lumpkin Co. Schools, Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences, Oatland Island Education Center, Oxford College, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Stone Mountain Memorial Association, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, UGA College of Environment and Design, UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, US National Park Service Chattahoochee River, and Zoo Atlanta.



2006 Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference Keynote Speakers

The Art of EE

Ken Voorhis is the executive director of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont where he has served since 1984. He and his staff have developed a varied schedule of successful programs that promote an appreciation of the Smokies and their participants' connection to the natural world. Tremont is nationally known and respected as being one of only several residential environmental education centers located within a national park.

Holding a B.S. from West Virginia University in Parks & Recreation with an emphasis in Nature Interpretation and a M.S. in Experiential Education from Mankato State University in Minnesota, Ken has been involved in connecting people and nature for over 30 years working in programs in Ohio, North Carolina, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and now Tennessee. He is a proponent for using the arts to inspire others and is also an avid photographer, storyteller, and musician in addition to enjoying many outdoor pursuits. He firmly believes that, "The arts provide an incredible vehicle for taking the inspiration that we gain from the natural world and making it real for others as well as a source of renewal in ourselves of what we value."

The Science of EE

Tony Mills has been working in the field of environmental education for two decades with an emphasis on southeastern animals and plants. During his college years and after graduating from Georgia Southern University in 1985, he worked in a variety of positions as a naturalist in state and national parks and nature centers.

Tony now works as the educational outreach program coordinator for the University of Georgia's Savannah River



Brian Day, Business Keynote



Tony Mills, Science Keynote



Ken Voorhis, Art Keynote

Ecology Laboratory. His job is to conduct educational programs promoting the lab's research to the general public. These programs include lectures, video and television appearances, field trips, teacher workshops, and exhibits. He also writes a newspaper column and numerous articles on local plants and animals for the popular media. Although Tony spends a major portion of his time writing and giving lectures, he also continues his extensive fieldwork at the Savannah River Ecology Lab. Past research trips have taken him on excursions into the jungles of Mexico and Costa Rica to conduct studies on snakes and lizards and to the everglades of southern Florida to collect introduced pythons and endangered crocodiles.

The Business of EE

Brian Day has been active in the field as an environmental educator and communicator with nearly 30 years experience in more than 30 countries. Prior to serving NAAEE in the new role as acting executive director, Brian served as board member, treasurer, chair of the finance and communication committees as well as the international commission. He also served as co-chair of the Guidelines Promotion Council. He is also the founder and president of

Environmental Communication & Training, LLC a firm dedicated to providing the best possible training in media, presentation and communication with a considerable focus of the training to date has focused on social marketing and behavior change. Clients have ranged from international projects in the South Pacific, West Africa, Washington based non-profits, marketing for environmental publications, to the networks of environmental organizations. Brian has also served as project director of the USAID global project in environmental education and communication (GreenCOM) at the Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D.C.

Brian is also founder and editor the peer-reviewed journal, *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, published by Taylor and Francis. Brian has taught for the University of Michigan, Duke University, for American University, Wayne State University and the Washington Center. He is co-editor of the *Environmental Education & Communication for a Sustainable World: Handbook for International Practitioners* with Martha Monroe and author of numerous chapters, articles and other publications.

2006 Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference Field Trips

You will need to register in advance for the following field trips, whether there is a cost involved or not. Please see the "Conference Registration Form" posted at www.ealliance.org/conference. Transportation to and from the field trip is not provided. Carpooling as a group will be encouraged. Maps will be available at the registration desk. *This year field trips will be offered on Saturday, March 17 only.*

Before Breakfast Outings

1. Lutra Loop Trail Sunrise Stroll

The Jones Bridge Area's Lutra Loop Trail is an ideal place to see a diversity of birds and other wildlife in this 195-acre site opposite the conference center. Meet at the Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center at 5 am for coffee, tea, muffins, and a wonderful sunrise walk. Travel time to Center: 18 min; Time on trail: 1.75 hrs. No limit on participants. Cost: Free.

2. Chattahoochee River Sunrise Paddle

With the mist gently swirling over the current, slip your boat into the river before the sun has reached the treetops. With the sounds of the early morning all around, paddle this beautiful section of the Chattahoochee and catch a glimpse of the river of old. Information for this outing is the same as that listed for the "After Lunch Outing #4."

After Lunch Outings Leaving at 1:30 PM

3. Stone Mountain Park

Join us for a rewarding hike on one of Georgia's most famous natural wonders! Learn about the interesting

geology of Stone Mountain and the unique ecology of the granite outcrops, while completing the 2.8-mile hike to the top of the mountain and back. This field trip will also include a visit to the education center and climbing certificates! Travel time to the park: 45 min; Time at park: 2.5 hrs. Limited to 30 participants. Cost: Free.

4. Chattahoochee River Canoe Float

Discover the scenic beauty of the Chattahoochee as you leisurely float the river from Jones Bridge past Simpsonwood to Garrard Landing. This is an excellent section for seeing birds and the occasional otter. You may bring your own canoe or use one of the 18 National Park Service

canoes. Travel time to Garrard Landing: 15 min; Time on river: 2.5 -3 hrs. Limited to 18 NPS canoes. Cost: Free.

5. Chattahoochee River Kayak Trip

Experience the Chattahoochee River from Abbott's Bridge to Garrard Landing in a tandem kayak. Paddle with Richard Groves who has paddled the entire length of the Chattahoochee and several other rivers all the way to the sea. This is an easy ten-mile section with great scenery and wildlife. Travel time to Garrard Landing: 15 min; Time on river 2.5 - 3.5 hrs.

Limited to 16 participants. Cost: \$20 for kayak rental.

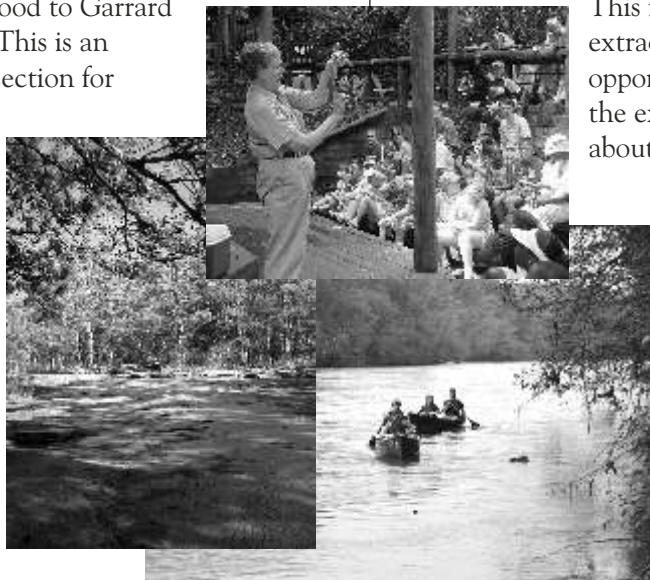
6. Chattahoochee Botany at Simpsonwood

Bring your notebooks and join botanist and wetland ecologist, Steve Bowling, for an in-depth journey of the rich botanical resources found along the Chattahoochee River corridor. Meet at the Fieldtrip Station. Limited to 25 participants. Cost: Free.

7. Simpsonwood Bird Banding

This is an extraordinary opportunity to join the experts in learning about bird banding.

Set up the mist net and see what spring migrants or local friends "fly in." Meet at the Field trip Station. Limited to 25 participants. Cost: Free.



8. Zoo Atlanta

Take a walk on the wild side and visit Zoo Atlanta's pandas and gorillas. This self-guided visit will include animal encounters and interpretation stations for conference participants to engage in. Travel time to the zoo: 30 min; Time at zoo: 2 hrs. No limit on participants. Cost: Free.

9. Chattahoochee Nature Center VIP Tour

Tour the ins and outs of this nature center that has served students and the public for three decades. Led by staff

naturalists, you will see all aspects of this center from its aviary and wildlife department to its greenhouse and hiking trails. Travel time to the center: 20 min; Time at center: 2 hrs. Limited to 20 participants. Cost: Free.

10. Buford Trout Hatchery Tour

Big fish, little fish, and the science and management that make it all happen. This is a fascinating facility that is worth the visit. Travel time to hatchery: 40 min; Time at hatchery 2 hrs. No limit on participants. Cost: Free.

11. Fernbank Science Center

Take a guided "behind the scenes" tour of this Atlanta landmark. Enjoy the exhibits, labs, classrooms, and education forest on this special tour. Travel time to the center: 45 min; Time at the center: 2 hrs. Limited to 20 participants. Cost: Free.

12. McDaniel's Farm Park

Step back in time and experience life on a farm from the early 20th century! This former cotton farm has been restored to depict a typical 1930s subsistence farm in Gwinnett County. One of the original tenant farmhouses on the property has been restored, as well as the barn, well house, chicken coop, buggy shed and blacksmith shed. The natural beauty of the park can also be experienced through 2.5 miles of connecting, paved multi-purpose trails, a picnic pavilion, and a play area. Travel time to the center: 30 min; Time at the center: 2 hrs. No limit on participants. Cost: Entry fee of \$3.00.

13. Waste 101

Join us for an adventure in trash as you discover the journey trash takes once it leaves our homes, schools, or businesses! We will travel to the BJ Transfer Station to learn more about the role it plays in waste disposal. In addition, we will visit the now closed Waste Management Landfill to see how "landfill gas" gets reused at the gas recovery center. The trip will end with a tour of the recycling facility, The Recycling Bank of Gwinnett, where waste reduction is key. Meet at the Fieldtrip station. Travel time: 30 min; Time of the entire trip: 3 hrs. Limited to 30 participants. Cost: Free

14. Buzzard Hike

Compete in this annual event by answering cultural and natural questions while strolling around Simpsonwood. Completed Buzzard Hike forms can be turned in to receive a free 2006 Buzzard Hike patch. Time on hike: At least 2 hrs. No limit on participants. Cost: Free.

For a list of "On Your Own Outing Options" please visit www.eealliance.org/conference. Additional information, brochures, and maps for these and other "On Your Own Outing Options" will also be available at the Field trip Station.

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 made out to "EEA" to P.O. Box 286, Mansfield, GA 30055.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- **Quarterly Newsletter** - Provides educational resources, legislative updates, notice of workshops and events, grant opportunities, and much more.
- **Annual Spring Conference and Fall Symposium** - Held at different sites throughout Georgia with guest speakers, workshops and field trips. A great opportunity to meet people and share.
- **Sharing and Exchanging Resources** - The opportunity to find and exchange ideas with member organizations.
- **Discount to Events** - Attend the annual conference and the Outdoor Classroom Symposium at a discounted rate.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

- Membership Category: Individual \$25
 Organizational* \$100
 Corporate* \$150

**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

Friday Night Field Trip: The Georgia Aquarium Welcomes You!

Having fun is not just for kids! We're taking the fieldtrip experience to new depths when EEA shuttles the entire conference to the Georgia Aquarium for an educational adventure.

Registered conference participants will board buses at Simpsonwood and be ferried to the Learning Loop of the Georgia Aquarium where they will immerse themselves in a fun-filled pizza party. The evening will continue with

an exciting tour of the education floor that includes an opportunity to touch animals, explore both freshwater and marine environments, and go behind the scenes of the coral reef exhibit.

Buses will begin leaving Simpsonwood at 5:30 PM and return around 10:00 PM. The cost of the event is included in your registration fee.



Café Verde and Eco-Beneficio: The Nature of Desserts and More!

You are invited to indulge in a truly delectable fundraiser at Café Verde and Eco-Beneficio on Saturday from 7:00 PM 9:30 PM at the Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center. No need to drive, as shuttles will be available to whisk you to and fro.

Café Verde will consist of numerous scrumptious "bizcochos y pastries," a cash bar with coffee mixed drinks, wine and beer, live music,



an opportunity to socialize with other guests, and the 4th Annual Eco-Beneficio Silent Auction. This event does much more than offer an evening for indulging in sweets and gift basket bidding. The proceeds from this delightful event are to benefit the EEA Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for classroom teachers and other environmental educators to attend EEA's annual conference.

"We were elated last year when this event raised more than \$5,200 in funding for scholarships," said Anne Shenk, EEA president. "The generosity of the EE community is incredible and we're especially excited about this year's event, which will feature some of the finest and most unique auction items yet."

Attendees will receive one free non-alcoholic drink and one free dessert ticket for a chance to sample a delicious confection as they peruse the silent auction items. Additional dessert and drink tickets will be available for purchase at the conference registration table and at the door.

Pre-Conference Afternoon Workshop

Conference keynote speaker, Brian Day, will be offering a special Thursday pre-conference afternoon workshop, "Guidelines For Excellence: An Introduction," on March 16, 2006. If you are looking for a resource that can help you develop comprehensive and cohesive environmental education programs, well, look no further. NAAEE has spent a decade developing a set of voluntary Guidelines to help

raise the bar for improving the quality of environmental education. The National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE), an initiative of NAAEE, has recently completed the complete set of four sets of Guidelines for Excellence: Materials, Learning, Teaching, and Nonformal. The Guidelines provide professionals and the public a common framework for promoting environmental literacy.

Each participant in the workshop will be provided a free complete set of the Guidelines. These Guidelines demonstrate how environmental education can be used to meet standards set by traditional disciplines, while providing the students opportunities to synthesize knowledge and experience across disciplines.

Call for Nominations for the EEA Board of Directors

Do you want to become involved in the leadership of EEA through hands-on involvement? Or maybe that person is you? If so, then a position on the EEA Board of Directors could be just what you are looking for! The heart of an organization is its members, especially those who volunteer and make things happen. Nominations are being accepted January 1 through February 15, 2006 for the following positions:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Board Member (11 positions)

The vice-president commits to three years of service: first year as vice-president, second year as president-elect, and third year as president. The secretary commits to one year. Nominees for vice-president and secretary must have served on the EEA Board of Directors for at least one year (as per bylaws). A board member's term is three years and individuals may serve two consecutive terms. Terms begin May 1.

If you are nominating someone, please have nominees complete a "Prospective

Board Member Application" and submit it by mail, fax, or email to Deborah Riddleberger by February 15. An email will be sent upon receipt of application. Applications and job descriptions can be found on our website at www.eealliance.org. Self-nominations are also accepted.

For more information about the election process and where to send application contact Deborah Riddleberger at 706-757-3114 or email at driddleberger@jackson.k12.ga.us.

Get Caught "Green Handed"

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia is striving to make the 2006 annual conference a "green" one. This year the "Green Team" will be out in force at the conference looking for "green" attendees, presenters, and exhibitors. So make sure you get caught "green handed" at the conference reducing, reusing, and/or recycling. Here are some tips to help you "green" our conference:

Green Tips for Conference Attendees:

- Carpool – (Contact Rebecca Gilbert to make a carpool connection at (770) 992-2055 ext. 236).
- Bring your own mug or water bottle for reuse!
- Take only what you need and will use - from handouts to promotional materials.
- Recycle – we will be recycling the following items at the conference: aluminum cans, glass bottles/jars, plastic containers #1-7, steel/bi-metal containers, plastic shrink wrap, plastic bags, and all grades of

paper (office, newspaper, magazines, paperboard, cardboard, etc.). The materials will be collected mixed (commingled, single stream) in any of the recycling containers on-site. We are partnering with SP Recycling to make recycling happen in a big way at the 2006 conference.

- Don't forget to turn in your name badge holders for reuse at future conferences!

Green Tips for Conference Presenters and Exhibitors:

- Provide handouts electronically if possible – if not, print back-to-back copies on recycled content paper – (we challenge you to meet or exceed EPA standards for recycled paper standards can be found at www.epa.gov).
- Provide give-a-ways made from recycled material OR better yet provide reusable give-a-ways.
- Reduce unnecessary packaging and reuse packing materials.

These are just a few ways to "green" our conference and get caught "green handed." For additional information



and resources on green conferences visit the following websites:

- www.greenbiz.com – "It's Easy Being Green! A Guide to Planning and Conducting Environmentally Aware Meetings and Events"
- www.nrc-recycle.org – Green Meetings Policy
- www.epa.gov – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Meetings Initiative

P.O. Box 286
Mansfield, GA 30055



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.

Newsletter Committee

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Sheri Henshaw, Keep Bartow Beautiful
Managing Editors

Leslie Poythress, Gray Elementary School
Contributing Writer

A New Dimension Graphic Design & Printing
Production

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

Issue	Deadline
Spring 2006	March 15
Summer 2006	June 15
Fall 2006	September 1
Winter 2007	December 1

E-mail articles to Karen Garland at
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or call (404) 876-2900 x 113.

