



Volume 16, Number 2

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Summer 2008

**Monarchs Across Georgia announces...  
Georgia's 2nd Annual Butterfly Symposium  
"Celebrating Georgia's Pollinators"**

On September 6, 2008, Callaway Gardens will be hosting the 2nd Annual Butterfly Symposium, honoring Georgia's pollinators. Participants will attend a variety of sessions that offer a glimpse into the diverse world of organisms that make plant life possible. Speakers from organizations such as Garden Club of Georgia, University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology, and

Fernbank Science Center, as well as Master Beekeepers and Master Gardeners, will share their knowledge and research on pollinator ecology through presentations and hands-on activities. The symposium is a great way to increase your knowledge of Georgia ecology, get information on how to create a pollinator garden, and learn how to share your knowledge with students.



Callaway Gardens, Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center  
September 6, 2008 • 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (Registration begins at 8:00 am)  
\$55.00 (\$50.00 for current EEA members) Lunch is included. Concurrent sessions will be offered throughout the day. Registrants will be able to sign up for sessions during registration. Space is limited!

Please complete the registration form below and mail your payment to:  
MAG Butterfly Symposium, c/o Susan Meyers  
1497 Candleberry Court, Lilburn, GA 30047

Questions? Visit [monarchsacrossga.org](http://monarchsacrossga.org) for details or contact Susan Meyers at [ssmeyers@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssmeyers@bellsouth.net) or 404.388.8228

**Featured Speakers**

Stacy Byrd, Fernbank Science Center	Jennifer Davidson, UGA Extension
Jim Harris, Master Beekeeper	Kim Bailey, Georgia Master Gardener
Bill Boothe, Hairstreak Chapter, NABA	Z Ganaway, Garden Club of Georgia
Dean and Sally Jue, Florida Natural Areas Inventory	
Dr. Robert Wyatt, UGA, Odum School of Ecology	
Dr. Sonia Altizer, UGA, Odum School of Ecology	
Kim Kilgore, Arrowhead Environmental Education Center	
Henning Von Schmeling, Chattahoochee Nature Center	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your affiliations:  Check here if a **vegetarian** lunch is required

- Member of Environmental Education Alliance  
(Visit [eealliance.org](http://eealliance.org) to join EEA. A \$5 discount is available for current members.)
- Member of North American Butterfly Association (Chapter \_\_\_\_\_)
- Member of Garden Club of Georgia (District \_\_\_\_\_)
- Are you a Master Gardener? (County \_\_\_\_\_)
- Are you a Habitat Steward? (County \_\_\_\_\_)
- Are you a classroom teacher? (School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_)
- Other related affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to EEA (Environmental Education Alliance). All pre-registrations must be postmarked by August 23, 2008. You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is received.

# March 2008 Conference *Scrapbook*

## Sholarship Recipients Share Their EEA Conference Experience

“Registration's this way, hun.” It didn't take long to realize that I was clearly not the only first time attendee...It was as if all of the conference attendants were long-lost friends; like we all had something in common; a collective goal which drew us together. It was as if we were all part of some kind of...alliance...The wide array of topics made the possibilities endless. Hopping from a class concerning outdoor fears to one on biofuels to one on sea turtles was just half the fun. The best part was actually meeting new people in each class. There were schoolteachers, zookeepers, aquarists, and naturalists. All sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds, and everyone seemed extremely excited to be there and eager to share stories and experiences...Not even the severe weather put a damper on anyone's good time. When heavy rain and threats of a tornado caused all of the Saturday field trips to be cancelled, conference participants gathered in groups to socialize and swap tricks of the trade. There was not a second thought given to the missed stream ecology or tree identification excursions as the buzzing of conversation and laughter filled the lodge. Besides, Anna Ruby Falls would look spectacular the next day after all the rain!... As awards were bestowed during the dinner that evening, I could not help but to be impressed by all of the hard work and dedication that had gone into these projects, and even more so, to be impressed by these people. I am reminded of an article written by a friend many years ago. This article was in response to a family tragedy and to being asked repeatedly by the community, “Is there anything we can do?” She made a list.

“#3. Be better stewards of our beautiful earth. Be aware that everything you do affects it. At the very least, recycle and don't litter.

#4. Enjoy the beauty of the earth. Smile back at the flowers nodding in the breeze; listen to the wind whispering through the trees; marvel at a sunset; rejoice over a rainbow.”

We only gather together in body once a year, but we gather together in purpose all year round. If we each just do a little to help make this world a greener place, it will add up. Do your part and you will become an example to all of those around you. I met so many outstanding “examples” at the Environmental Educators Alliance conference this year, and I cannot wait to go back. Maybe I'll even be able to help a lost first year attendee.

*Becky Facer*

As John Sawhill, former CEO of the Nature Conservancy said, “A society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy.” Every person that attended the EEA Conference knows that they play a vital role in creating a healthy society. Whether it is by fostering a greater awareness of the variety of wildlife with which we coexist, reconnecting children with the natural world, or teaching others creative conservation techniques, environmental educators have an impact on the quality of life of their students. We know it in our hearts (Why else would we be working in the hectic and underappreciated field in which we thrive?), but how can we prove these benefits to others that think linearly and mathematically?

The 2008 EEA Conference addressed these concerns. First, I was astounded by the variety of personal backgrounds. From formal educators and concerned PTA members to full-time naturalists; from graduate students to TV producers to wildlife biologists, people came from high and low to exchange ideas and improve their own methods to effectively share what they feel is crucial to the well-being of our world's future. This mishmash of ideas is what keeps environmental education a continually evolving field. As we saw with Jay Scott's keynote speech, we can include cutting edge wildlife research in even elementary school math activities. Or we can involve community members in a state-wide butterfly monitoring program as a means of education. The possibilities are endless. Second, there were a variety of methods to quantitatively assess the impact of environmental education, as well as appease the mathematically-inclined skeptics. I enjoyed learning about Lincoln Larson's kid-friendly survey for the group of disadvantaged middle school children who attended his environmental camp. I also respected Tremont's open attitude about the steps they took to develop their assessment survey. I walked away from these workshops with physical tools that I hope to use to prove the importance of environmental education at my own workplace. Finally, I walked away from the conference feeling energized and empowered. I am energized by the dedication that radiated from every conference participant and empowered by the tools I now have, including a magic wand and a newspaper Christmas tree. I hope to see this group of educators continue to evolve and incorporate new ideas, even if they may seem a bit wacky and untraditional. We have an important job to do and I am glad to be sharing the mission with such a wonderful group of people.

*Emily Toriani-Moura*

One weekend, and I'm hooked. As a graduate student attending the annual EEA conference for the first time, I wasn't sure what to expect. Optimism can be elusive in a field constrained by financial resources and shifting priorities, and I was hoping to leave Unicoi with a renewed source of inspiration — a notion that my efforts to educate children about environmental issues were not in vain. At the 2008 EEA Conference, I found that spark of hope and much, much more.

I had no idea that there were so many great environmental educators in Georgia doing so many innovative and influential things! Workshops across formal and non-formal sectors revealed a number of tricks and techniques that I plan to incorporate into my own programs. My EE arsenal now includes creative activities to address drought-related issues, an extensive reading list to promote environmental literacy, a few fun games to unleash the power of the mind, and new fire-building skills courtesy of the Unicoi park staff. I also had an opportunity to share my research concerning children's environmental attitudes, which generated

some interesting discussion about program evaluation methods and practical strategies for reaching out to a broader audience. The diverse presentations, field trips, and hands-on sessions were very informative, but another asset of the EEA conference was even more impressive: the incredible people.

Never before have I experienced the unique opportunity to collaborate with like-minded peers in such a cooperative, comfortable, informal environment. It is reassuring to know that such a motivated group of educators exists within our state, and I'm proud to be a part of that community. With so many outstanding people devoted to such a good cause, EE in Georgia has a very bright future. Thanks to the Unicoi conference, I am more determined than ever to build my career around environmental education.

*Lincoln Larson*

“Started off with a super interesting keynote speaker Dr. David Wagner. His talk on caterpillars and butterflies inspired me so much I bought one of his books. It was made even more special when I got him to sign it!... I did the buzzard hike with a buddy of mine. We had fun, we got lost- two naturalists wondering through the woods. Finally with the help of a fantastic Unicoi park ranger (Smith) we got back on track... The afternoon class was EE Wizardry- It's Magic! I had the pleasure of introducing Jo Adang and Petey (Guru) Giroux. What an amazing presentation! It was fun with a magical approach to teaching water conservation... GAME NIGHT was a great idea! Our table started out with Scrabble. The words got interesting to say the least. Next we played a game called BLAST. That was a blast! But a few tables over they were having such a good time we wanted to play what they were playing! So we got some of the cards and started to play Pictionary. We ended up being the very last group to leave!... The silent auction is always a fun thing. It's wonderful to chat with old & new friends... The awards banquet was one that I will always remember!!! Some phenomenal people were recognized for the valuable work they do and are still doing. The Eugene Odum Award was given to Petey Giroux and brought tears to my eyes. But that was mild compared to the extra surprise for her. She got to release a barred owl with all of us watching! It could not have been a more perfect evening for such an amazing group of environmental educators... So even though the weather cancelled many of the field trips it was a fantastic conference. I would not have been able to attend with out the help from the EEA scholarship... Thank you for this awesome opportunity.”

Cindy Andrews

“I enjoyed the conference a lot... Besides the talks, I met a lot of new people and saw a lot of familiar faces. The restaurant did a really good job with all the meals. I stayed in the lodge, which was excellent... I would like to say that attending the EEA was a very positive experience for me, in a social and educational way... Many thanks to all who organized it!”

Judith Cocus

## **ATTENTION: Georgia Educators “Save the Date”**

Outdoor Classroom Symposium:

***“My Space is Outside: Connecting Kids to the World Wide Wonders of the Outdoors.”***

Come learn how to set up and use an outdoor classroom at your school.

**Friday, November 14, 2008 from 8-4**

*Event Link:*

<http://www.eealliance.org/core/item/page.aspx?s=60146.0.121.7182>

Rock Eagle 4H Center  
Eatonton, GA

## **Petey Giroux receives Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's highest honor**



At its annual conference last March, Petey Giroux received the Eugene Odum Lifetime Achievement Award from the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia.

Anyone who knows Petey knows how committed she is to making the world a better place. Her enthusiasm for people and the planet is so great

that she has developed an enormous and diverse network of fans.

Some people know her as the dedicated parent who created entertaining and educational characters to teach kids about environmental issues (the garbage strewn Waste Watcher, endangered Canis rufus and freshwater songstress Momma Bass...all starring Petey).

Others have learned how to bring Petey's creative teaching strategies into their indoor and outdoor classrooms through the countless workshops she has conducted across the state (as the first ever chair of environmental education for Georgia PTA and then as the first ever coordinator of Georgia Project WET).

Still others know Petey as a Twilight Twirler, strutting her stuff and spinning her baton up and down parade-filled streets. Then there are the African drummers with whom she has donned a Dashiki and pounded away on percussion instruments. And her graduate school friends (who are less than half her age - sorry

Petey) that know her as a consummate storyteller who made their trip to the Boundary Waters fun and exciting.

Regardless of how you know Petey, you know she's a determined leader.

Wearing “the mommy shoes” as she calls them, she helped her own children become vibrant, successful young women. Two of them are now wearing “mommy shoes” of their own for Petey's four beautiful grandchildren.

Petey transformed the work of PTAs across the state by making environmental education a priority for them.

She worked hand-in-hand with the folks at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to establish a friends group and to create an environmental education training center for adults.

Petey served as conference chair, president, and advisory board chair of the Environmental Education Alliance (EEA) of Georgia, contributing greatly to the successful organization EEA is today.

And let's not forget the mark she left on Project WET USA, the Georgia Aquarium and the Georgia Conservancy (they'll never be the same).

Anyone and everyone who knows Petey knows she is an unparalleled friend to people, plants, and animals (especially her own dogs and cats which she rescued. Petey has earned the love and respect of ALL who know her.



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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.

## Newsletter Committee

Annette Quinting, Oatland Island Education Center  
Patti Ackermann, Blackburn Elementary School  
Claire Hayes, Dunwoody Nature Center  
Johnna Tuttle, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

A New Dimension Graphic Design & Printing - Production

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

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Email your articles and photos/graphics to:  
[annie.quinting@savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us](mailto:annie.quinting@savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us)

## Monarchs in Mexico:

(3) week-long trips in  
February 2009-  
visit

[www.MonarchsAcrossGA.org/MAGevents.htm](http://www.MonarchsAcrossGA.org/MAGevents.htm)

for more information

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