

**Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia
Annual Conference – March 22-23, 2013
Presenter List**

Adang, Jo

Jo Adang is the GA Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) state coordinator and is employed by the GA Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division in this capacity. She also serves on the national board of Project WET.

Aguilar, Juan Carlos

Juan-Carlos Aguilar is the Science Program Manager, Division of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Georgia Department of Education.

Belmonte, Nikki

Nikki Belmonte is the Education Coordinator for Atlanta Audubon Society. She has been a Teacher-Naturalist for over 10 years and holds a master's degree in environmental education from Antioch University New England and a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Carter, Lesley

Lesley Carter is currently the School Communications Program Manager at The Clean Air Campaign. She gained her communications background at Augusta State University and Oglethorpe University and has extensive experience in the field through her work as a Freelance Copywriter/Editor, Guest English Teacher at Gyeonggi Girls' Commercial High School, and a Junior Copywriter.

Caspary, Melissa

Dr. Melissa Caspary is Assistant Professor of Biology, School of Science & Tech, Georgia Gwinnett College. She was awarded her degree from the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia in 2011. Since then she has been teaching botany, environmental science, and biology to undergraduate students in Georgia.

Clark, Joseph

Joseph Clark is an instructional-technology and faculty-development consultant working on a PhD in Communication, emphasis on environmental communication.

Crooks, Laurie

Laurie Crooks is a retired DeKalb County media specialist and classroom teacher after 34 years of service. She currently serves as the liaison for the Environmental Education Alliance of GA (EEA) with the national organization, NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) on current issues and is a certified environmental educator with EEA.

Edwards, Leslie

Dr. Leslie Edwards is a lecturer at Georgia State University and co-author of the recently published "The Natural Communities of Georgia" textbook. Workshops and classes taught by Dr. Edwards for the University of Georgia Extension Service Master Naturalist Certificate, as well as for the Georgia Botanical Garden for the Native Plant Certificate and are geared towards educating the general public about Georgia's natural heritage.

Finnegan, Dave

Dave Finnegan got a BA from Cornell and a Masters in Public Health Education from UC Berkeley. After ten years working in Family Planning programs in East Asia, he toured the US for 30 years, presenting my previous program, Juggling for Success, in over 2,000 elementary schools in 41 states and 12 countries. His current focus is climate change. He works now with University of Central Florida College of Education, Southern Student Renewable Energy Coalition and others to find trainees to deliver this program all over the US and wants to start here in Florida and Georgia, as we are among the most vulnerable states to sea level rise.

Gilbert, Rebecca

Rebecca Gilbert, Director of Community Programs at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, is a certified environmental education with the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia.

Higgins, Katie

Katie Higgins is the Education Coordinator for the Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

Hightower, Jerry

Jerry Hightower is probably one of the most high-profile members of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area team. Jerry visits local schools to teach young children about Chattahoochee River NRA and how they can work to guard it and help

it flourish. He performs roving and basic interpretation, leading hikes and canoes trips and teaching visitors about the history and wonder of the park. He leads environmental education programs, helps around the park headquarters, offers teacher training, and so much more.

Lowe, Nancy

Nancy Lowe studied video and other time arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and for the last fifteen years, has focused on art and science collaborations. To encourage students to become better observers of natural history, she has taught scientific illustration and nature journaling at biological field stations, universities, museums and other institutions in the US and Costa Rica.

Maerz, Margeaux

Margeaux Maerz is Vice-President of Outreach for the last two years for Herpetological Society of University of Georgia. She has helped with developing, organizing, and running outreach programs, organizing and training volunteers, networking with nature centers, zoos, and schools, and participated in events throughout the state, including the Claxton Wildlife Festival.

McCullough, Carol

Carol McCullough is an educational consultant in Avondale Estates, GA who promotes best practices in education and is a member of ASCD (formerly the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development).

Meyers, Susan

Susan Meyers has a Master's of Science in Environmental Science from Florida Institute of Technology and has over 12 years of non-formal educator experience as a facilitator of Projects WET, WILD, Learning Tree, Monarchs in the Classroom, and GA Adopt-A-Stream. Currently employed by Stone Mountain Memorial Association as a science instructor, she is also a certified environmental educator with the Environmental Education Alliance and a Certified Interpretive Trainer with the National Association of Interpretation.

Mobley, Jenna

Jenna Mobley is a garden teacher at Springdale Park Elementary School. She runs a website called "Tending Our Common Ground" (www.tendingourcommonground.wordpress.com) where she blogs about the school programming and shares resources she has created.

Penland, Jonathon

Jonathon Penland is a professor at Toccoa Falls College where he teaches anthropology, adult education, and sustainable development courses. He has a PhD in Adult Education and a PhD in Anthropology at UGA. While at UGA, he completed a graduate certificate in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development and defended a dissertation on the topic of "Expanding Our Understanding of the Knowledge-action Process following Environmentally-based Study Abroad Programs."

Swafford, Liz

Liz Swafford is the Executive Director of Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful and coordinates a variety of programs on Litter Prevention, Beautification, and Waste Reduction and Recycling. She is also a certified environmental educator with the Environmental Education Alliance.

Thompson, Naomi

Naomi Thompson has taught natural history programs and workshops to students and teachers for 15 years with the National Park Service, UGA 4H, and Stone Mountain Memorial Association. She is a certified environmental educator with the Environmental Education Alliance and a Certified Interpretive Trainer with the National Association of Interpretation.

Wall, Michael

Michael Wall, a seventh-generation Georgian, has been the communication director at Georgia Organics since December 2008. He has previously served in public relations as the Atlanta Regional Commission and Georgia State University. Before that, he worked as a reporter for Creative Loafing, the Atlanta Business Chronicle, the Virgin Islands Daily News, and the Morgan County Citizen.