



Volume 10, Number 1

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Winter Newsletter 2001

EEA's Annual Conference



Georgia's Environment.
Reaching and Teaching Communities Conference
March 2 - 4, 2001
in Columbus, Georgia

You don't want to miss it! This year's EEA conference is packed full of opportunities to learn, network, and have fun. The theme of the conference, "Reaching and Teaching Communities," has just what you need to spark your enthusiasm, sharpen your skills, give you innovative ideas and resources, renew your old acquaintances, and make new ones. The registration form inside outlines the schedule of events and educational sessions in detail. Registration must be postmarked by February 17 for early bird rates.

Conference Highlights Inside This Newsletter!

The conference begins on Friday, March 2, at 9:00 am with check-in and on-site registration at the Rivertown Inn. A full day of educational opportunities await you, including a PLT workshop, hands-on sessions on groundwater, endangered plants, honeybees and aquatic displays. Also offered are presentations on river clean-ups, Project WILD, the Georgia EE certification program, minority participation in EE, Adopt-A-Stream, and more! Field trips are scheduled, including a special "on your own" field trip, the "Buzzard Bike/Hike Scavenger Hunt." Bring your bike or your sneakers and go on a scavenger hunt along the Chattahoochee River. Please note: Hotel rooms are spacious enough for your bikes! Friday will end with a social at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center.

On Saturday, conference check-in opens at 9:00 am. Educational opportunities include a Project WET Educator workshop, hands-on sessions on worm composting, earth science activities, monarch butterflies, and backyard wildlife habitats. Presentations highlight the Chattahoochee River, PLT in the City, volunteer monitoring, and environmental science in the classroom. Field trips include the "Buzzard

Bike/Hike Scavenger Hunt," early morning birding, a riverboat cruise, and Oxbow Meadows. On Saturday evening, join us for a cash bar social at 6:30. At 7:30, we'll recognize the scavenger hunt winners and celebrate our achievements with an awards banquet and entertainment.

On Sunday, hands-on sessions will cover grant writing and water conservation. Presentations will be made on Georgia's aquatic environments and outdoor classrooms. The conference will conclude with a special keynote presentation by Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*.

For more information.....

On page 2, learn more about Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, the site of the field trip, "EE Outside with a Techno Twist!" Enjoy our spotlight on Becky Champion, Conference Local Arrangements Chair and EEA Board Member.

On page 3, learn about the conference keynote speaker, Janisse Ray, celebrated author and an individual with a powerful message. For those of you interested in PLT facilitator training, find out about your next opportunity at a pre-conference workshop.

On the back of this newsletter, read about Georgia environmental education's biggest award bash of the year. For lodging reservations call (706) 322-2522 and tell them you are with the EEA conference.

Rates are \$56/night (Includes a breakfast buffet). Call early to ensure a reservation!



*The River Walk in Columbus.
Site of this year's EEA conference.*

Georgia EE Providers: Region 3



Editors' Note: With the 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 from various regions across Georgia. In this issue, we highlight Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus GA 31907

Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center's brochure reads: "Imagine . . . A time and place where plants and animals are free to grow and develop as they were meant to in nature." Now imagine *yourself* in that time and place. At EEA's Annual Conference you *can* be there to explore this hands-on, interpretive facility!

An outreach program of Columbus State University associated with Columbus Water Works, this nature discovery center is located on 1,600 acres in an oxbow bend of the Chattahoochee River. Nestled in a hardwood wetland, Oxbow Meadows is a place where nature can be itself. Two walking trails wind between ponds and take hikers into the realm of native flora and fauna. Marsh dwellers and pond life like butterflies, birds, turtles and dragonflies abound. Located at the junction of the Riverwalk and the Fort Benning trail system, Oxbow provides a variety of programs and is open to the general public.

The Learning Center is a 2,000 square foot building focused on the natural history of the region. Displays include mounted specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles and a small, live animal collection of local reptiles, insects and other pond life. Center staff provide programs for groups of adults and children as young as pre-K. A pavilion adjacent to the building functions as an outdoor classroom and as a picnic area.

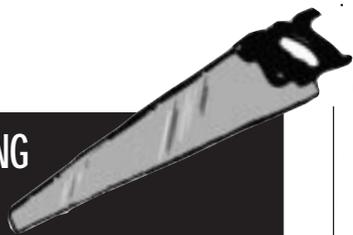
Tours last approximately 90 minutes. Tour topics are diverse and range from natural history to technology, including: Oxbow's history (rehabilitating a wetland); wetland habitats; water quality and ecosystems; Oxbow's plants and trees; animal adaptations; dipping for aquatic insects; turtles; predator-prey relationships; food web basics; Global Positioning Systems (GPS); bees; snakes, and dissecting owl pellets.

In addition to tours, Columbus State University courses, guided trail walks, summer camps, school field trips, birthday parties, and seasonal events, all are invited to Oxbow on the second Sunday of each month for a special nature program. For more information, call (707) 687-4090 or visit <http://oxbow.colstate.edu>.



Young naturalists experiment at the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

SHARPENING the Educator's Saw*



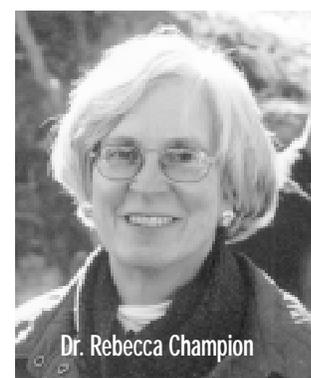
" Learning obviously often involves acquiring the ability to do something – an ability that we often describe as possessing *know-how*. We are also able to develop a fuller understanding of a subject in and of itself, even when we do not possess a high degree of its relevant skill component. We can grow in our *know-what*. Beyond know-how and know-what, we can grow in our understanding of the meaning and value of the subject or activity and come to see it in its larger context as a form of human activity. This we can call our *know-why*." – Peter Vaile, *Learning as a Way of Being: Strategies for Survival in a World of Permanent White Water*, Jossey-Bass, p. 20-21.

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

EEA Spotlight: Rebecca Champion

EEA Board member Dr. Rebecca Champion personifies the adage that if you want to get something done, enlist the help of a busy person! An Associate Professor of Biology at Columbus State University, she serves on several boards and is also the director of Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center.

As Becky explains it, Oxbow is a local nature center that takes an active role in regional issues, especially the protection of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) rivers. A few years back, Becky championed the Chattahoochee's designation as an American Heritage River, bringing together not just the scientific community, but historians, recreation groups, business people, educators — anyone having anything to do with the river. When the designation did not occur, Becky decided to act "as if," and helped to found the nonprofit organization, Voyage of Discovery, Inc., to promote a healthy river system while encouraging nature- and heritage-based tourism.



Dr. Rebecca Champion

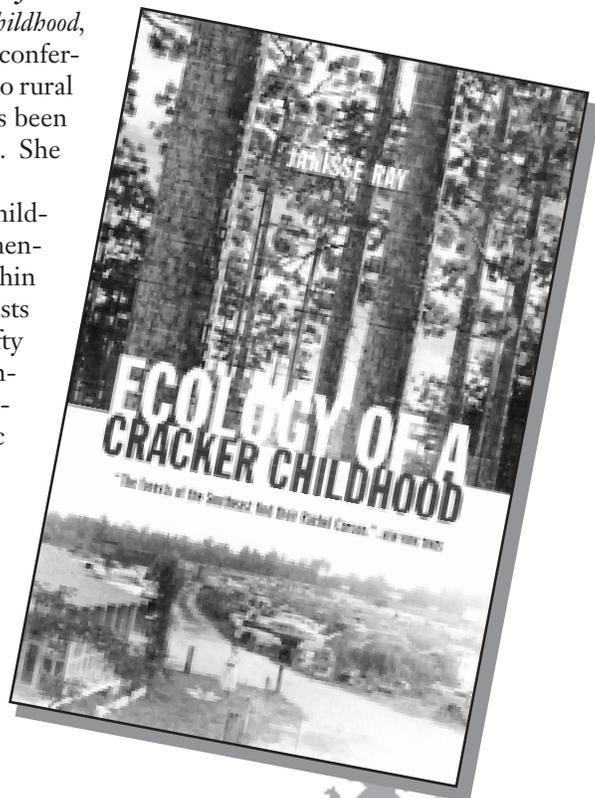
An exciting new project is underway in partnership with Georgia's DNR to develop a birding trail throughout the ACF watershed, building on the model of Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding Trail. Come to EEA's Annual Conference and meet Becky Champion – she'll inspire you with her passion for environmental education and the Chattahoochee River!

Take Her Stories Home: Janisse Ray, Keynote Speaker

Join us on Sunday, March 4, at 12:00 noon for lunch and literature. Janisse Ray, naturalist, environmentalist, and author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, will close the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia annual conference. Janisse grew up in Baxley, went off to college and then returned to rural Georgia where she now lives on a farm with her son. Her writing has been published in *Wild Earth*, *Onion*, *Florida Naturalist*, and *Georgia Wildlife*. She is also a nature commentator for Georgia Public Radio.

In *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Janisse reveals the world of her childhood spent growing up on the edge of a junkyard and reared in fundamentalist religion by relatives as colorful as any found in fiction. Woven within her story is a beautiful natural history guide to the longleaf pine forests where orchids grow among wiregrass at the feet of widely spaced lofty trees. In countless ways the stories are the same. Inspired and informed by both worlds, Janisse grew up with a passion to save the almost vanished and fragmented longleaf pine ecosystem. National Public Radio commentator Bailey White says of Janisse, "Every endangered ecosystem should have such an eloquent spokesman."

Janisse believes that "there are no wastelands on this planet, only places that could regain some of the balance and beauty that lies not so far in the past." She will share her powerful message at the closing luncheon on the last day of the conference, Sunday, March 4th. Janisse will be available after lunch to sign copies of her book. Be there so you can take her stories home with YOU!



Pre-Conference Workshop: Georgia Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training

Georgia Project Learning Tree will present a two-day facilitator training workshop on Thursday and Friday, March 1st and 2nd, 2001.

The workshop begins one day prior to the start of the EEA Conference in Columbus. The workshop will run from 9:30 am. - 5:00 pm. on Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Friday. Workshop cost is \$40 and includes lunch both days. Staff Development Units and Continuing Forestry Education Credits are available for an additional processing fee of \$10. For

more information and to register, contact Carla Rapp at 770/416-7621 (1-800-9 GROW GA), via e-mail clrapp@gfagrow.org, or Sharon Dolliver at 912/751-3528 (1-800-GA TREES), via e-mail dolliver@gfc.state.ga.us.



Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, Inc.

Elachee Nature Science Center • 2125 Elachee Drive • Gainesville, GA 30504

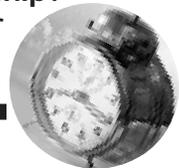
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EEA is a self-governed, non-profit organization that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education in Georgia. EEA is an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

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



The Awards Ceremony of the Year

On Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 6:30 pm., relax at the bar along with your environmentally-involved friends. Find out how you did on the Buzzard Bike/Hike Scavenger hunt and win great door prizes. Then at 7:30 pm., join fellow citizens, educators and organizations from across the state to honor OUR best volunteers. We promise to entertain and inspire you.

Two of Georgia's best known storytellers, Veronica Byrd and Bert Tanner, provide our evening's entertainment. Their hilarious performance is guaranteed to tickle your "tree-hugging" souls. They are theater veterans who have performed for more than 20 years with such companies as The Alliance Theater, Jomandi Productions and Academy Theater.

Jerry Hightower, National Park Service Interpreter and "all around guru of environmental education in Georgia," will perform as Master of Ceremonies. His stories about Environmental Education Alliance members over the years are sure to make us chuckle. Conference partners including Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Project Learning Tree and Project WET will present awards to their most committed volunteers and honored employees.

The menu will reflect the needs of our herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Just check "vegan" or "vegetarian" on the registration form. Don't miss this event and be prepared to have fun!



Newsletter Committee

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

Kristen Smith, *Production Artist*

Printing courtesy of Georgia Power

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

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

E-mail articles to: Vicki Seastrom, seastrom@nwf.org, (404) 876-2602, ext. 2 or to Barbara McDonald, barmac@bigfoot.com, (706) 559-4224.

Georgia's Environment:

Reaching and Teaching Communities Conference
March 2-4, 2001



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes sessions, keynote speaker, networking opportunities, resources, lunches and breaks.

Lodging Information

Note: You must make your own lodging reservations. Rivertown Inn — (706) 322-2522, FAX (706) 322-9059. Rate: \$56/night includes breakfast buffet. Tell them you are part of the EEA Conference. The Rivertown Inn is located at 1325 Veteran's Parkway, on the corner of 14th Street in Columbus, GA. The hotel is located across from the Columbus Water Works building.

Registration must be postmarked by FEBRUARY 17, 2001 for early bird rates.

This is the only hard copy of the registration form you will receive. You may download additional forms at www.eealliance.org. Please make a copy of this entire registration form for your records.

NOTE: To complete registration, you must provide contact and fee information and you must select sessions from each of the five schedule blocks listed on the following pages. If your selected session reaches seating capacity, we will assign your next priority. To improve your chance to receive your first choice for sessions, please register early.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Should this affiliation be part of the mailing address? YES NO

Do you need SDU credit? YES NO

	Postmarked by February 17	Onsite	
EEA Member	\$75	\$95	Registration Fee (includes lunch Fri., Sat. & Sun.) _____
Nonmember	\$90	\$110	Meals: <input type="checkbox"/> vegan <input type="checkbox"/> vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> non-vegetarian
Member Per Day	\$30	\$50	Awards Banquet Ceremony (\$20) _____
Nonmember Per Day	\$40	\$60	Field Trips (see descriptions and prices below) _____
Student Member	\$30	\$50	EEA Membership (\$15 ind./\$50 org./\$100 corporate) _____
Student Nonmember	\$40	\$60	TOTAL _____
Student Member Per Day	\$15	\$35	
Student Nonmember Per Day ...	\$25	\$45	

Make check payable to EEA and mail it with your registration form (all pages) to:
Monica Kilpatrick, DNR/EPD Georgia Project WET, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.

REMEMBER, MUST BE POSTMARKED BY **FEBRUARY 17, 2001** for early bird rates.



BLOCK 1: Choose Sessions Below – For this block, number 1-5 in order of preference.

Friday March 2

10:00 am – 5:00 pm Workshop: **Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop**,
Gayle Slauson, Georgia Forestry Commission. PLT uses the forest as a “window on the world.” Participants will receive training and resource materials including a book (PreK-8) with 96 interdisciplinary and OCC-correlated activities. SDU credit is available if you take PLT and Project WET training.

10:00 – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **Native & Endangered Plants for Home, School & Nature Center**,
Anne Shenk, State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Would you like to plant a garden of rare and endangered plants on your home, school or nature center site? In this hands-on session you will learn propagation techniques to grow these species. A slide show and inquiry science activity will introduce *The Georgia Endangered Plant Stewardship Network*.

10:00 – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **From the Groundwater Up**,
Anne Frick, UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium. Join us for a lively crash course in groundwater and water conservation issues in Coastal Georgia. Learn about the Groundwater Guardian Program and take home activities for the classroom.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **Georgia Environmental Education Certification Program**,
Richard Osorio, Bear River Consulting. Developing and implementing professional standards for environmental educators in Georgia is an initiative of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Participants will explore the framework and purpose of the Georgia Environmental Education Certification Program and its benefits to professional development.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **Raise the Roof of Your River Cleanup Efforts**,
Becky Champion, Columbus State University. Beginning with 500 participants in 1994, Columbus topped the state in 2000 with approximately 10,000 volunteers in our river cleanup effort. See how your community can plug into this system. Creeks, riverbanks, parks, schoolyards and neighborhoods beware.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **From Awareness to Responsible Action: Introduction to Project WILD**,
Linda May, DNR, Wildlife Resources Division. Find out about this nationally-recognized education training program and how you can receive two activity guides with over 100 wildlife and conservation activities for K-12 students.

BLOCK 2: Choose Sessions Below – For this block, number 1-5 in order of preference.

1:00 – 3:00 pm Hands-On: **Selecting Displays for Aquatic Education Activities**,
Haile Macurdy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Considering an aquarium? Is a touch pool only a dream? Need advice on filter selection? Well, roll up your sleeves...assist in setting up a touch pool and discuss the ins and outs of water in your classroom.

1:00 – 3:00 pm Hands-On: **Buzzing a Hive**,
Karen Garland, The Georgia Conservancy. By participating in this program educators will explore the complexity of the honeybee's life cycle, social behavior, communication and hive environment. Many teaching approaches in a variety of combinations will then allow students to learn science concepts through dramatics, role-playing, games and art projects, as well as through observations, comparison and discussions.

1:00 – 1:45 am Presentation: **Georgia Adopt-A-Stream & the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum**,
Ginny Brady, National Science Center's Fort Discovery. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream activities are hands-on, inquiry-based and interdisciplinary. Learn how these activities correlate to the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum standards for grades K-12.

1:00 – 1:45 am Presentation: **Increasing Minority Participation in Environmental Organizations at the State Level**,
Jacqueline Echols, Clark Atlanta University. This presentation promotes state level environmental organizations as the most practical focal point for developing and implementing plans to diversify the environmental movement. State organizations hold the most promise for surmounting the most significant barrier to increased minority participation – inflexibility.

1:00 – 1:45 am Presentation: **Robert W. Groves High Botanical Gardens**,
Gail Brown, Robert W. Groves High School. This is a continuous project in Garden City designed to instill teamwork, camaraderie, and environmental appreciation in teenagers. Each year, the project has changed in an effort to reflect its true action research origins.

BLOCK 3: Choose Sessions Below – For this block, number 1-5 in order of preference.

Saturday, March 3

10:00 am – 5:00 pm Workshop: **Project WET Educator Workshop**,
Participants will receive a curriculum and activity guide with over 90 interdisciplinary water education activities for K-12 students. The activities promote critical thinking and problem solving skills and help provide young people with the knowledge and experience they will need to make informed decisions regarding water resources management. SDU credit is available if you take PLT and Project WET training.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **GeoClock**,
David Schaar, SciTrek. Ever wonder how paleontologists date samples of fossil or rock? Participate in a simulation which includes a fossil dig, stratigraphic analysis, and Carbon 14 dating activities. Keep samples you find. Infuse an Earth Science classroom with integrated, indoor action!

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **Worms In My Kitchen**,
Trecia Neal, Fernbank Science Center. In this exciting hands-on workshop, participants will find out how citizens of Georgia are affected by the problems of solid waste disposal, learn how worms called red wigglers turn food waste into nutrient rich compost, pick up activities on vermicomposting, and leave with their own worm bin.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **From Volunteer Monitoring to Implementation**,
Michele Droszcz, DNR/EPD Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. Learn about this new initiative to create a network of statewide partners who can help citizens make physical improvements to their water bodies. Find out how you can get involved in revegetating stream buffers, improving aquatic habitats and bettering the quality of your streams, lakes and wetlands.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **It's in Our Hands**,
Christine M. Robie, High Meadows School and Camp. Learn about water as a precious resource, watersheds, point and non-point source pollution and ways to help. It's "Hands on, handouts" and using Multiple Intelligence Theory and Brain-Based Learning across the K-5 curriculum.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **EE in Brazil and the United States: What Can We Learn From Each Other**,
Christi Heidt, DeKalb Extension Service. The United States and Brazil are working to build environmental education programs in their schools. We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages found in both countries and how by working together we may find a solution to success and sustainability.

BLOCK 4: Choose Sessions Below – For this block, number 1-5 in order of preference.

1:00 – 3:00 pm Hands-On: **Backyard Wildlife Habitat for Watersheds – At Home, School, Church, Work**,
Vicki Seastrom, National Wildlife Federation. A primer workshop on the basics of developing a wildlife habitat in any watershed setting by considering how to provide the four elements – food, water, shelter and places to raise young – in variety of ways, leading to certification by NWF.

1:00 – 3:00 pm Hands-On: **Monarchs in the Classroom**,
Mary Terry, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. Fascinated by butterflies? "Monarchs in the Classroom" is an international curriculum designed to involve people in the migration and life cycle of the monarch. Would you like to participate in "Monarchs Across Georgia" with other schools, nature centers nonformal educators and citizens? Join us for a hands-on look at monarchs.

1:00 – 1:45 pm Presentation: **The Forgotten Chattahoochee**,
Na'Taki Osborne, National Wildlife Federation. An overview of NWF's Forgotten Chattahoochee River project that promotes community water and habitat restoration activities through personal and civic action focused on clean water and quality of life issues. NWF partners with schools, neighborhood groups, community associations, government and nonprofit organizations.

1:00 – 1:45 am Presentation: **Project Learning Tree in the City**,
Symenthia Gillyard, Outdoor Activity Center. PLT in the City is an environmental education initiative to foster training of teachers in urban areas. This is an exciting project that includes opportunities for small grants.

1:00 – 1:45 pm Presentation: **Take an Interactive Journey with *The Natural Inquirer***,
Jessica Tanner, Univ. of Georgia. Come and experience *The Natural Inquirer*, a natural science and environmental education journal that will be presented interactively using web technology. We'll play environmental games to illustrate the journal's scientific and environmental principles. Receive free copies of *The Natural Inquirer*!

BLOCK 5: Choose Sessions Below – For this block, number 1-5 in order of preference.

Sunday, March 4

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **Conserve Water**,
Monica Kilpatrick, DNR/EPD Georgia Project WET. Participate in Conserve Water, a new national water conservation curriculum. Activities are upper elementary and middle school oriented. Participants will receive lesson plans and other water education resources.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Hands-On: **Grant Writing**,
Alice Chastain, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn how to properly prepare competitive proposals. Enhance your chances through clarification of goals, objectives, methods, evaluation strategies and budget. Find out where you can go for funding, and what judges are looking for.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **Georgia's Aquatic Environments**,
Don Lane, SE2I. In this session participants will be introduced to the aquatic environments of Georgia. Fresh water and saltwater ecosystems will be covered. Emphasis will be placed on environment identification and educational activities. A tool for planning field trips will be introduced.

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **Bringing the Entrepreneurial Spirit to EE**,
Deron Davis, Environmental Education Services. We believe in our work, but how can we make our programs thrive as if we own them? How can you and your staff apply the principles of a prosperous for-profit business to your mission-driven, not-for-profit organization?

10:00 – 10:45 am Presentation: **Splish, Splash What a Bash**,
Jessie Royal, Dade County High School. Get down and dirty in the Dade County Wetlands. A conceived and practical interdisciplinary approach to outdoor classrooms. Everything from art and poetry to varying scientific exploration and evaluation. Student owned from construction and application to project promotion and production.

CHOOSE ACTIVITIES – Pay Careful Attention to Times.

- Social at Oxbow Meadows Env. Learning Center – Friday, March 2, 6:30-9:30 PM
- Cash Bar Social – Saturday, March 3, 6:30-7:30 PM
- Awards Banquet Ceremony (\$20) – Saturday, March 3, 7:30-10:00 PM
- Closing Luncheon with Keynote Speaker – Sunday, March 4, 12:00-1:30 PM

FIELD TRIPS – Pay careful attention to times and prices where marked, and indicate price on the form above.

Please choose your priorities for each day.

Friday, March 2

- 2:00-5:00 pm - Callaway Getway – Butterflies and Big Birds \$3.00
- 2:45-5:00 pm - Native Fauna and Flora of Fort Benning \$8.00

Saturday, March 3

- 7:30 – 9:00 am – Early Birds and Bagels
- 2:00-5:00 pm – Dragonfly Riverboat \$18.00
- 3:00-5:00 pm – EE Outside with a Techno Twist

Please make a copy of this entire registration form for your records.

See you in Columbus!