



2005 EEA Annual Conference March 11-13, 2005

Keys for Successful Partnerships

Join educators from all walks of life representing non-profit organizations, nature centers, public and independent schools, universities, municipal, county, state and federal agencies in sharing experiences and discussing *Keys for Successful Partnerships* at the 2005 EEA Annual Conference.

Every day we employ some type of partnership to accomplish our objectives, both individually and institutionally, whether from silent partners that work behind the scenes to fiscal partners who

provide the much-needed dollars. Without partnerships, it would be difficult to accomplish our lofty goals of nurturing environmentally literate citizens and positively impacting the environment. A variety of conference sessions will highlight how environmental educators, both traditional (in the

classroom) and non-traditional (in the field), can work with partners to achieve mutual EE objectives.

You might be an environmental educator if you are a/an...

- * Classroom Teacher
- * Community Volunteer
- * College Student
- * Scout Leader
- * Aquarium, Public Garden, Nature Center Science Museum, Or Zoo Professional
- * Curriculum Specialist
- * Extension Agent
- * Youth Development Employee
- * Parent Volunteer
- * Community Outreach Professional
- * Environmental Specialist
- * School Administrator
- * University Professor
- * Natural Resource Manager
- * Interpretive Naturalist
- * Business Representative
- * Garden Club Member
- * Person Who Works To Create An Environmentally Literate Citizenry

To address our *Keys for Successful Partnership*, we have invited three keynote speakers to help bring meaning to the conference theme. *Carol Couch*, Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Department of Natural Resources, will present the future direction of EPD and how partnerships with outside agencies are key to protecting Georgia's environment. *Sue Smith*, National Director of Education for Keep America Beautiful, Inc. will talk about ways to tell your organization's

story, while highlighting important partnerships forged by her own organization. *Margaret Gray*, Program



Officer for Environment and Outdoor Activities Grants, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, will share lessons learned and impacts of collaboration grants in "Getting Better Together, A Foundation Report on Collaborative Grants," produced by the Blank Foundation.

This annual professional development event is specifically designed for individuals who seek to be better informed of EE teaching strategies and desire to increase their content knowledge, while meeting and networking with professionals, students and volunteers from formal and non-formal EE institutions and organizations. 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 understanding of the world around us.

Registration:

Registration forms completed and postmarked with payment by February 10, 2005 will qualify for early and discounted registration rates. To make room reservations, contact Unicoi Lodge at 706-878-2201 or 1 800-864-7275. Ask for reservations and tell them you are with EEA. We have reserved a block of rooms at \$74.00 per night. The deadline for reduced rate



From left to right: How sweet it is! EEA wins the NAAEE National Award for best state affiliate! Accepting the award at the NAAEE Annual Conference in Biloxi Mississippi: Suki Janssen, Keep Georgia Beautiful; Karen Garland, Georgia Conservancy; Kim Bailey, EEinGEORGIA; Naomi Thompson, Stone Mountain Park; Heather Merbs, Oatland Island Education Center, and, Abigail Ruskey, NAAEE President.

lodging at The Lodge at Unicoi is February 10th, but we strongly encourage you to reserve your room early.

On-site registration and check-in begins on Thursday, March 10 from 3:00 p.m.



site registration is available beginning at 8:30 a.m.

For early arrivals on Thursday, March 10th, conference participants are invited to join the EEA Hospitality Committee at 6:30 p.m. for dinner at the Lodge at Unicoi. The restaurant has a southern fare buffet with a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains. Dinner expenses are not included in your registration fee. You are also invited to join Dr. Bob Hill at 8:00 p.m. for a fluorescent look at lichens night hike. The 2005 Conference planning committee looks forward to personally welcoming you to the Lodge at Unicoi in March!

Our conference site offers a unique wilderness experience. The Lodge at Unicoi State Park is nestled on 1,081 acres of scenic mountain vistas in Northeast Georgia. The Lodge is in the midst of the Chattahoochee National Forest and located two miles from the alpine village of Helen. There are 12 miles of hiking trails, lake and trout stream fishing, and mountain bike trails. Accommodations are available in the Lodge as well as in cabins. For more information about the Unicoi State Park and Lodge visit:

www.gastateparks.org/info/unicoi. Lodging is limited so register early.

to 5 p.m. and from 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. On-site registration continues Friday, March 11, at 8:00 a.m. and goes throughout the day. On Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13 respectively, on-

EE Conference Sponsors-2005



ALL registration information (fees, deadlines, directions, lodging, scholarship applications and field trips) are available online at the EEA website at

<http://www.eealliance.org/conference.htm>.

For more information contact:
2005 EEA Conference Chair
Anne Shenk, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, ashenk@uga.edu

Need PLU credit for participating in the conference? Be sure to check the line on the registration form if you are interested. If you have any questions, contact Deborah Riddleberger at 706-757-3114 or via email at driddleberger@jackson.k12.ga.us.

Support for this conference is provided by: Alpharetta Engineering/Public Works Dept., Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division, Blue

Ridge Outdoor Education Center, Clean Air Campaign Program, Cobb County Adopt-A-Stream, Dunwoody Nature Center, EEinGEORGIA.org, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Friends of the Chattahoochee River, Fulton County Office of Environmental Affairs Water Quality Program, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Georgia Aquarium, Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Forestry Association, Georgia Parent Teacher Association, Georgia Project WET, Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, Georgia Wildlife Federation, Georgia Youth & Science Technology Centers, Gwinnett Adopt-A-Stream, Keep Bartow Beautiful, Keep Georgia Beautiful, Macon Museum of Science and Art, National Wildlife Federation, Newman Wetlands Center, Oatland Island Education Center, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, Oxford College, Piedmont & Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Stone Mountain Memorial Association, The Georgia Conservancy, University of Georgia Marine Education Center and Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta.

EEA Wins National Award!

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia was established in 1992 to serve as a self-governed, non-profit organization. Its mission has been to provide a networking forum that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education throughout Georgia. As an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), EEA works to promote environmental education by providing opportunities for member organizations, schools, and the general public to get involved through the annual EEA conference, Outdoor Classroom Symposium, member newsletter, environmental events posted on its website, and teacher resource directory.

Due to this dedication of promoting environmental education throughout Georgia, EEA had the honor of winning the "Outstanding NAAEE Affiliate" award at this year's Annual NAAEE Conference held in Biloxi, Mississippi. The many hours of hardwork, talent, and devotion given by numerous volunteers from many different organizations throughout the years have led EEA to this shining moment.

The many accomplishments that the organization was recognized for include its:

- Newsletter and Website
- Annual Conference
- Outdoor Classroom Council's Annual Symposium
- Statewide Directory of EE Providers, Second Edition
- Monarchs Across Georgia
- EIC Schools
- Certification Program for Environmental Educators
- Online Clearinghouse for Environmental Education in Georgia

For more information on these initiatives please visit EEA's website at www.eealliance.org. Congratulations EEA for a job well done!

Greening Our Conference

Interested in making a carpooling connection to the conference? Contact Rebecca Gilbert at (770) 992-2055, extension 236 to be matched with others interested in carpooling from your area.

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia Conference March 11-13, 2005; Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

You will need to register in advance for the following field trips. Please see the Conference Registration Form, posted at <http://www.eealliance.org/conference.htm>. Please note: Transportation to and from field trip destinations is not provided. Carpooling as a group will be encouraged. Maps will be available.

Thursday, March 10, 2005

1) 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Lichen Walk

This adventure in the night is not only for bats and owls! Most folks know that lichens are unique organisms but few know that some of them fluoresce under UV light. This workshop is a walk in the night to explore the fluorescent world of lichens after dark. Limited to 30 participants. Free.

Friday, March 11, 2005

2) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

John C. Campbell Folk School and Brasstown Bald

Participants will travel 40 miles north to visit the John C. Campbell Folk School -

a place where history lives, tradition lingers and people come together to discover their creative spirit. You'll tour the school to experience a special blend of history, art and natural beauty and you'll want to visit the Craft Store to view and purchase student artwork. Next, you'll venture to Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia where you can see the city of Atlanta skyline on a clear day! (please note this is weather dependent) At the summit, you can tour their interpretive museum to learn more about the North Georgia Mountains and enjoy the majestic view. Limited to 30 participants. Free.

3) 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Buzzard Hike and Bike

Compete in this annual event by answering cultural and natural clues while strolling around Unicoi State Park. Use the clues in your registration packet and explore on your own. Completed Buzzard Hike and Bike forms can be turned in at registration to receive your free 2005 Buzzard Hike and Bike patch. Free.



4) 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Fly Fishing at Smithgall Woods State Park

Join us to learn some of the techniques involved in trying to fool a three-pound fish with a bug that weighs less than air. Come learn the basics of fly fishing through demonstration and hands-on fly casting. Limited to 20 participants. \$2.00/car parking fee to be paid upon arrival at park.

5) 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Adventures

Come learn the basics to survival in the great outdoors. You will learn important outdoor skills such as orienteering, wilderness survival, shelter building, fire building, and knot tying. Free.

6) 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Horseback Riding

Saddle up and enjoy a scenic horseback ride through Georgia's beautiful Chattahoochee National Forest. Enjoy a leisurely, relaxing ride or test your ability with a more challenging ride at a faster pace. Rides available for every level of experience. Children 8 years and older welcome with parent or guardian. Limited to 15 people. \$35 fee.

7) 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Lake Burton Fish Hatchery Tour

Please join us for a tour of the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) Lake Burton Trout Hatchery. Learn about aquaculture and trout ecology and management as biologists with WRD discuss the trout stocking program in NE



Left: Lichen Walk



Buzzard Hike and Bike

Georgia. Participants will receive a tour of the hatchery and a program on trout ecology and life history. Free.

Saturday, March 12, 2005
8) 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Birding with John DiDiego

Please join John for an early morning walk through the mountains. Bring your own binoculars. Free.

9) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mountain Biking

A 14-mile downhill and some uphill ride through the Chattahoochee National Forest. Limited to 15 participants. \$45 fee covers bike, helmet and shuttle; \$15 shuttle fee if you bring your own bike and helmet.

10) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Canoe the Hooch

Enjoy a five-mile, gentle stretch down one of our greatest natural resources - the Chattahoochee River. \$25.00 fee covers boat rental, equipment and

shuttle; \$6.00 shuttle fee if you bring your own boat and equipment.

11) 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Buzzard Hike and Bike

Compete in this annual event by answering cultural and natural clues while strolling around Unicoi State Park. Use the clues in your registration packet and explore on your own. Completed Buzzard Hike and Bike forms can be turned in at registration to receive your free 2005 Buzzard Hike and Bike patch. Free.

12) 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Gold Mine Hike at Smithgall Woods State Park

Come explore the Martin's Mine area of Smithgall Woods Conservation Area. Through a guided hike, learn about the first discovery of gold in Georgia and some of the history surrounding gold mining. Limited to 15 participants.



\$2.00/car parking fee to be paid upon arrival at park.

13) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mountain History & Mountain Culture Programs

Join us to learn about the natural history of the area, from the time of the Cherokees to the discovery of gold. We will explore how the first settlers lived off the land and how life was in the mountains years ago. Demonstrations include cider making, butter churning, candle dipping, folk toys, spinning, etc. Free.

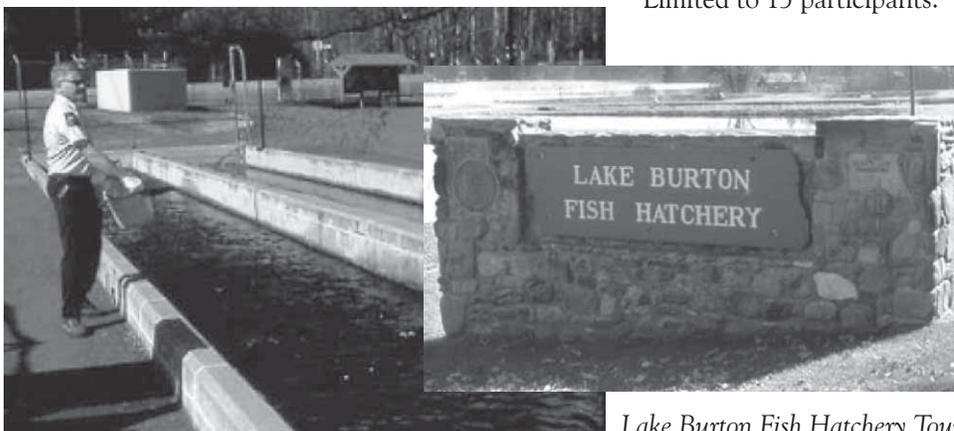
14) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Team Building and Unicoi's New Ropes Course

Learn through hands-on demonstration how you can incorporate leadership and team building activities in your classroom. A tour of Unicoi's new rope course will be offered. Free.

Sunday, March 13, 2005

15) 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Birding with Ellen Graham

Please join Ellen for an early morning bird walk through the mountains. Bring your own binoculars. Free.



Lake Burton Fish Hatchery Tour

2005 EEA Annual Conference KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Carol A. Couch is the current Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) within the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Appointed by Governor Perdue and the Board of Natural Resources in October 2003, Dr. Couch is the first woman to lead EPD in its 32-year history. As Director, she is responsible for an 800-person agency that implements and enforces 26 state and 4 federal laws designed to protect, conserve and restore Georgia's environmental resources.

Before joining EPD, Dr. Couch was Chief of the Ecological Synthesis Program for the USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program, leading nationally distributed, multidisciplinary teams of engineers, hydrologists, chemists and biologists in the design, conduct and reporting of the ecological components of water resource investigations. Dr. Couch, a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia, will discuss the future direction of EPD and how partnerships with outside agencies, non-profit, governmental, corporate - are key to protecting Georgia's environment.

Margaret E. Gray is Program Officer for Environment and Outdoor Activities Grants with the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. As a program officer for The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Margaret guides the proposal process for environmental youth development and outdoor activities grant-making. She also develops and oversees proactive initiatives, such as the Foundation's recently launched three-year, Environmental Initiative, which commits at least \$20 million to identify and preserve greenspace and develop parks in Atlanta's urban core. Gray is a member of Atlanta Mayor Shirley

Franklin's Task Force on Parks and Greenspace and was selected as a 2002 Southeastern Council of Foundations' Hull Fellow.

Gray is a graduate of Syracuse University with a B.A. in psychology and started her career in Atlanta as a crisis counselor with the Fulton County Health Department for Emergency Mental Health Services. She will discuss lessons learned and impacts of collaboration grants as documented in "Getting Better Together, A Foundation Report on Collaborative Grants," produced by the Blank Foundation

Sue Smith is National Director of Education for Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Smith was appointed by Congress to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Environmental Education. She was a Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. Among her many accomplishments, she has supervised 350 teachers in 26 states for curricula revision of Waste-In-Place (K-6) and Waste: A Hidden Resource (7-12).

She is a member of the Project Concern Hall of Fame, a National Trainer for 'Risk Communication' as well as a Kiwanis Community Service Award recipient and was the volunteer youth director for Walk for Mankind for 12 years (which involved 1,500 youth per year). She attended the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, and is the author of a middle-school classroom kit illustrated by Peter Max. Other career experiences include serving as an instructor on Environmental Education Issues for Dow Chemical and as a guest instructor for the United Nations Global Forum for students at the White House. Witty and always entertaining, she will discuss ways to tell your organization's story.



Carol A. Couch



Margaret Gray



Sue Smith

Oktoberfest in March



Come join us on the banks of the Chattahoochee River in the picturesque Bavarian village of Helen for an evening of food, drink, folks and fun! The Friday night social will be held in Helen's massive Festhalle, the spot for authentic German sights, sounds, and flavors. Carpooling to the Festhalle from Unicoi is recommended and designated drivers are a must. The Friday evening social will begin with the cash bar opening at 5:30 p.m. which will include a selection of German and domestic beer, wine, and soft drinks. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and

include German Bratwurst (vegetarian wurst options available), German potato salad, red cabbage, tossed salad, rye bread, and dessert. Spend the remainder of the evening dancing the Polka and the chicken dance and enjoying the music and games of *Lorelei Und Schatzi*, or just relax and enjoy a crisp March evening. The Friday evening social offers a great opportunity to network with other environmental educators from around the state. Don't miss this chance to experience an evening in this unique Northeast Georgia mountain community!



Mardis Gras in the Mountains!

In honor of the numerous individuals that make a difference in environmental education throughout the state join us as we celebrate New Orleans style with Mardis Gras in the Mountains!

The Saturday evening event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a Cash Bar Social and the ever-popular 3rd Annual EEA Silent Auction, which benefits the EEA conference scholarship fund. Also during this time join in the festivities by participating in a traditional Mardi Gras mask extravaganza, in which you will be provided an opportunity to craft your own disguise. You will even have a chance to vote on a king and queen!

At 7:00 p.m. a delicious Bourbon Street buffet dinner will be served and will include items like gumbo, jambalaya, catfish, and other New Orleans favorites. Vegetarian options are also available.

The evening wouldn't be complete without entertainment and this year we are pleased to present the **Woopets of Wooten Performance Company**, which will razzle dazzle you with their colorful and vibrant performance that includes life-sized puppets, improvisation, and audience participation.



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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

Karen Garland, Georgia Conservancy
Sheri Henshaw, Keep Bartow Beautiful
Managing Editors

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 2005	March 1
Summer 2005	June 1
Fall 2005	September 1
Winter 2006	December 1

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

EEA Calls for Your Vote

Help the Nominations Committee accomplish its mission to promote cultural, geographical and organizational diversity in the leadership of our organization by going online to vote.

Online Voting: February 25 – March 7, 2005
visit www.eealliance.org to learn more

