



Innovations In Outdoor Learning

at the 2016 Outdoor Learning Symposium

Friday, October 14, 2016 • Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Atlanta

The Council Of Outdoor Learning (COOL) presents “Innovations in Outdoor Learning” at the 2016 Outdoor Learning Symposium (OLS). The conference takes place on Friday, October 14, 2016 at the Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration and conference information is available at www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium. The cost is \$35 for members of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia and \$60 for non-members, which includes a one-year membership.

OLS is an annual fall event intended for private and public school teachers, PTA volunteers, youth organization leaders, resource agency educators, nature center instructors, camp counselors, and all interested volunteers from across the state, providing opportunities for networking, sharing lessons learned, exciting outdoor teaching ideas, and strategies for taking students outside. This year’s Symposium will provide sessions on Georgia reptiles and amphibians, simple app creation for use in outdoor learning, Georgia geology and biogeography, garden math, citizen science, and much more. The Symposium begins at 8:00 am with registration followed by age-oriented outdoor learning sessions, networking opportunities, and a super lunch provided by local chefs.

“I cannot begin to tell you what a wonderful opportunity the Outdoor Learning Symposium is for educators, PTA volunteers, Para-Pros, and other interested persons. The networking opportunities are worth \$35.00 alone, but the learning sessions, which are presented by persons with experience in successful outdoor learning programs, are invaluable. Return to your school or facility with great ideas and information to improve your own Outdoor STEM Learning Areas and programs.” –Ranger Jerry Hightower, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, EEA Advisory Council Chair, and Council of Outdoor Learning Chair

Notable About OLS 2016

- The Symposium is being presented at a school with a growing, successful outdoor learning area and program.
- Each session is targeted at a distinct grade level: elementary school, middle school, high school, fourth grade and higher, and all ages.
- Sessions on basic content knowledge are offered along with sessions on innovations, techniques, and strategies.

Register today for the 2016 Outdoor Learning Symposium at www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium.
Read more about the Symposium on page 12.

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An excerpt from

GOING GREEN: MERGING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

by Staci Hauschild, Elena Poltavtchenko, and Fredricka L. Stoller

Originally published in [English Teaching Forum](#) 2012, Volume 50, Number 2
U.S. State Department

WITH THE NUMBER OF CHALLENGES THAT OUR PLANET FACES TODAY, raising students' environmental awareness and teaching them about grassroots movements that they could engage in have never seemed as pertinent or necessary as they do now. By integrating environmental education into the language classroom, educators can (1) heighten students' interest in contemporary issues that might directly influence their futures; (2) teach students how to contribute to a healthier, more sustainable world; and (3) promote language learning and meaningful communication.

Discrete-skills instruction

Environmental topics can still be used to teach discrete skills. For example, to practice grammar, Brown (1991) suggests integrating simple facts about the environment into exercises that focus on imperatives (e.g., *Don't waste water*), verb tenses (e.g., *Polluted rivers are making people sick*), and Wh- questions (e.g., *What happens to our trash?*). Environmental texts can be downloaded from websites, including the [National Audubon Society](#) and the [Sierra Club](#), and used for skimming, scanning, and note-taking practice in reading classrooms (Gambée and Klausman 1992). Similar texts may be used to promote critical thinking skills, as intermediate and advanced learners learn to distinguish fact from opinion, recognize bias, and provide oral responses to potentially controversial information. Statistics and numerical data about "green" topics can be used in dictations to help students practice numbers, as shown in this question-and-answer dictation example:

Question: What percentage of cell phones was recycled or reused between 1999 and 2003?

Answer: Less than one percent; 2.5 million phones were collected to be recycled or reused.

Similarly, writing teachers can use "green" texts to guide students in analyzing paragraph patterns, essay types, and writing styles. Moreover, error identification exercises focusing on, for example, punctuation, capitalization, or sentence structure can center on environmental topics.

Integrated-skills instruction through project work

Environmental awareness can be raised and language skills improved when students engage in process- and product-oriented projects that oblige skill integration and connections between what students are learning in the classroom and their lives outside of it (Jacobs 1993). Environmental topics can come to life through a variety of reading and writing projects that involve (1) researching topics of interest and writing academic papers; (2) writing and illustrating children's books or comic strips; (3) creating posters, brochures, or bulletin board displays; and (4) writing stories or opinion pieces for the school newspaper (Brown 1991). Additionally, listening and speaking projects may involve students in debating an important environmental topic, giving a persuasive presentation that encourages classmates to engage in more earth friendly habits, and engaging in role plays that explore provocative environmental topics.

Promoting personal responsibility

In addition to promoting language and content learning, environmental topics give educators the opportunity to help students understand how changes in daily behaviors can benefit Mother Nature. Teachers can organize field trips to local recycling centers, if they exist, to learn how important recycling is, how the process works, and what items can and cannot be recycled. Invited guest speakers—both native and non-native English speakers—

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Going Green... Continued from page 2

can educate students about local environmental issues and help students understand what can be done to make a difference. Prior to such activities, the theme and pertinent vocabulary can be introduced and students can prepare questions to ask the speakers. During field trips and guest speaker presentations, students can take notes. Afterwards, they can prepare an oral or written response in which they explain both what they learned and what they can do to be more environmentally responsible.

Connecting classroom learning with real-world actions

Environmentally friendly actions (inside and outside the classroom) naturally lend themselves to meaningful language use. While it may not appear that reducing waste promotes language practice, classroom discussions about the importance of “green” habits lead to authentic communication and, at the same time, increase the likelihood that students will put their newly acquired knowledge into practice. For example, before encouraging students (and other teachers) to print homework assignments and handouts on both sides of the paper, teachers can introduce the topic of conservation and the importance of saving trees as part of a speaking-listening activity; the topic can be further exploited as part of an elaborated project. Other daily habits that students (and teachers) can be encouraged to embrace include (1) turning off classroom/computer lab lights when not in use, (2) using reusable beverage containers instead of disposable plastic water bottles or coffee cups, and (3) submitting homework assignments digitally, whenever possible.

Role-plays can also be used to link classroom learning with personal responsibility. Carefully crafted role-play activities highlight topics of relevance to students and their communities and (1) give students opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of environmental topics, (2) motivate students to discuss and express opinions on controversial issues, (3) encourage students to connect what they have learned about the environment to their daily lives, and (4) help students determine when it might be appropriate to take action and possibly persuade schoolmates, family members, and their communities to be more environmentally responsible. (To see an example of a role-play activity devised for this purpose, go to www.greensresources.weebly.com, click on “Ready-to-go Activities,” scroll down, and then download the role-play activity.)



Teachers can organize field trips and invite guest speakers, both native and non-native English speakers, to educate students about local environmental issues and help students understand what can be done to make a difference. Photo credit: Danielle Bunch, [Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center](http://www.melvinlnewmanwetlandscenter.com)

Language teachers have many opportunities to heighten students’ awareness about the environmental problems plaguing the planet while remaining committed to improving students’ English skills. In addition to supporting meaningful language instruction, such theme-based instruction encourages students to think critically, provides them with real world knowledge, increases motivation, and promotes learner autonomy.

To help time-pressed language educators gather information and materials about environmental topics, the authors have compiled a list of “green” resources—including environmental curricula, songs, videos, graded readers, and art projects—at www.greensresources.weebly.com.

To read this article in its entirety, including lesson plans and references, please go to https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/50_2_3_hauschild-et-al.pdf.



Experience the wetlands firsthand on the Center's ADA accessible boardwalk trail.

During the **2015 Wetlands and Watershed Festival**, attendees learned all about the wetlands and its wildlife. The 2016 festival will take place on Saturday, October 1st.



Families enjoy a safe, peaceful learning space.



A great blue heron spotted in Pate's Creek.



John Jensen, herpetologist and senior biologist with the Georgia DNR, leads a Frog Talk at the Center.



Facility Spotlight: Newman Wetlands Center

by Danielle Bunch
Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center
COOL Committee Member

For the past 21 years, [Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center](#) (NWC) has provided over 300,000 visitors from metro Atlanta and elsewhere across the globe with quality wetlands education. The 32-acre site, owned and operated by Clayton County Water Authority, features an ADA accessible boardwalk trail through a restored wetland, upland trails along an old land-application system corridor, a Learning Center, picnic area, and native plant garden. NWC's goal is to "educate the public on wetlands conservation and to inspire community action for the health of our local watershed."

NWC's trails are well-maintained and monitored to ensure a safe, peaceful learning space for all visitors. They are frequented by families who enjoy being outdoors, nature photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers, homeschool co-ops, K-12 groups, and many more. Visitors often have the opportunity to view wild creatures such as river otter, white-tailed deer, muskrat, watersnakes, green treefrogs, numerous dragonfly and butterfly species, and over 150 species of birds!



Fayette County ESOL students create nature themed artwork.

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Newman Wetlands Center... Continued from page 4

The NWC Learning Center focal point is a central exhibit area that highlights local water issues, CCWA's use of constructed treatment wetlands to recycle 80% of Clayton County's waste water, native wildlife, and an active hive of honey bees. Attached to the exhibit area is a classroom used for public and school programs, teacher workshops, and other community events. The native plant garden and picnic areas are just outside of the Learning Center and can be enjoyed on a first-come basis.

The Wetlands Center provides guided programs for K-12, college, homeschool, and other community groups. On any given day, students can be seen collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates, identifying and measuring turtles caught in live turtle traps, painting a wetlands scene on canvas, role-playing a part in the water cycle, filming and photographing nature to create wetlands documentaries, discussing how land is a part of our community, doing a "bee dance," and more. NWC staff works with educators to customize flexible and dynamic programs that hit a variety of standards across curricula.

Newly emerged dragonfly spotted along the trail.



A young and avid birder enjoys a self-guided tour with her grandparents.



Students from Lovejoy Middle School make observations during a tour.



Rivers Alive cleanup participants show off their spoils.



Clayton County Public School teacher exploring leaf packs during a teacher training.

In addition to guided school programs, there are public programs, guided hikes, and events such as the Wetlands and Watershed Festival and the West Region Envirothon for middle and high school students. In February 2015, an on-site art exhibit, *Unfiltered*, highlighted the importance of wetlands. This year, *Unfiltered II* will continue to celebrate wetlands through the works of local photographers, sculptors, painters, and more.

Clayton County Water Authority provides other educational opportunities focused on water treatment systems, careers in the water industry, and watershed issues. Water Production and Water Reclamation staff offer guided tours of the drinking water treatment plants, water reclamation facilities, and 532-acres of constructed treatment wetlands that provide a truly sustainable water supply for the community. The site hosts annual Rivers Alive volunteer clean-ups and water quality education, high school internships for Clayton County high school students, in-school demonstrations and career day presentations, Project WET activities, and Enviroscape demos.

For more information on educational and recreation opportunities offered by Clayton County Water Authority, please visit www.ccwa.us.

Images: Danielle Bunch, Suzanne Brown, and Harry Hyaduck

FRESH FACES, FRESH IDEAS

Featuring EEA's Newer Members

by Sonya Wood Mahler
Cobb County Water System
EEA Member Services Chair

*It's a lucky student who gets to go on a field trip with **Mary Ann Pawlowski**, Education Coordinator at the [Pettit Environmental Preserve](#) in Cartersville, Georgia. She has been an EEA member for just two years but has been introducing kids to nature for over three decades.*

Finding EEA

The director of Pettit Environmental Preserve, Marina Robertson, recommended that Mary Ann join EEA in 2014.

Her Story

Mary Ann received her B.S. in Education from the University of Georgia, her M.ED in Special Education from Georgia State University, and her Education Specialist degree from Piedmont College.

Retiring after 30 years as an elementary school classroom teacher (divided between the Cartersville City and Bartow County systems), Mary Ann decided to pursue her passion for nature by joining the Pettit Preserve staff. She became a part-time educator for the Preserve in August 2014. Mary Ann also spent years as a leader for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and has led hikes for the Appalachian Trail Club for adults and inner city youth. Over the years, she has participated in many AT and other trail maintenance projects.

Her Work in Environmental Education

Mary Ann describes her job as "wonderful." The majority of her time is spent working with school groups. The Pettit Preserve offers at least two programs at each grade level that correspond with Georgia standards. The teacher chooses the desired program, and every program includes a hike. Along the hike, children learn about the flora and fauna of the Preserve, why it is important to take care of our natural resources, and how to see the beauty around them. In addition to the hike, the children participate in hands-on learning stations.



The Preserve also offers scout programs, homeschool programs, and programmed hikes. Each hike has a theme designed to appeal to nature lovers of all ages. Their most recent one was about fireflies. Mary Ann offers guided or independent hikes and a craft designed for school age children. She enjoys these programmed hikes tremendously because it gives her the opportunity to nurture a love of nature in children and adults.



Best EE Moment

This one is easy because this child made such an impact on Mary Ann. A young elementary student exited the bus crying. This is very unusual because most children love a field trip anywhere. When Mary Ann asked him what was wrong, he said he did not like being outside because it was scary. During the field trip, Mary Ann noticed that as he became engaged in the activities, he seemed to enjoy himself. When he left, he came up to her and said, "I like outside now. It really isn't scary." This made her feel as though she had opened some new doors for this child to explore.

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Fresh Faces, Fresh Ideas... Continued from page 6

Fresh Air Therapy

When Mary Ann is not working, she is camping with her husband and two dogs, hiking, kayaking, gardening, riding motorcycles, and reading.

Favorite Thing about being an Environmental Educator

Mary Ann lists a few of her favorite things as working with children in an outdoor setting, coming up with new hands-on activities, and having the opportunity to offer educational and fun experiences. The [Margaret & Luke Pettit Environmental Preserve](#) consists of 60 acres of forest and lake ecosystem. The board and staff there support the concept of "No Child Left Inside," with all of their programs taking place outdoors.



Save the Date!

Saturday, April 8th, 2017 at 10:00am - Sunday, April 9th, 2017 at 3:00pm

Park Paddlers Club Challenge Part III

Stephen C. Foster State Park and Crooked River State Park



Join EEA and other environmental educators as we kayak the Okefenokee Swamp to historic Billy's Landing and back in Stephen C. Foster (look for alligators, black bears, and wood storks) and on a tidal river through salt marsh and past sandbars in Crooked River (look for dolphins and fiddler crabs). Lunch along the way. Out to supper together. Lodging in a nearby motel.

Visit www.eealliance.org/member-field-excursions for cost details, lodging information, registration, and more.

Celebrate EEA's 25th Anniversary

Since 1992, the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia has served as the professional education and networking association for environmental educators throughout the state, and we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary during the 2016-17 year. EEA believes environmental education encourages inquiry, investigation, and the development of skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that positively impact the environment.

From a small group of dedicated members 25 years ago, EEA has grown to a statewide organization, supporting environmental educators through conferences, workshops, grants, networking, and so much more. We hope you will celebrate with EEA at these upcoming events!

Outdoor Learning Symposium • October 14, 2016 • Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Atlanta (see cover)

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Regional Conference and Research Symposium • March 3-5, 2017 • Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, Buford (see page 15)

Park Paddlers Member Event • April 8-9, 2016 • Stephen C. Foster State Park and Crooked River State Park

Do you value the work EEA has done over the last 25 years? Please consider making a donation so that we can continue our meaningful work of supporting Georgia's environmental educators and creating a statewide culture of environmental literacy and stewardship. Learn more at www.eealliance.org/donation.

Take your Teaching to the Next Level with ATEEG

by Catherine Ridley, Program Administrator
Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG)

It's that time of year again! Across Georgia, temperatures are beginning to drop, leaves will soon start to turn, and students and educators are back in the classroom. It's hard not to feel energized about the fresh slate of a new year – and excited about the opportunities to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

If you're searching for ways to capitalize on your back-to-school energy, why not take your teaching to the next level by becoming a certified environmental educator? The next round of [Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia](#) (ATEEG) courses begins this November.

Whether you're new to the field of environmental education or simply looking to reinvigorate your current teaching, ATEEG can provide the foundation, resources, and network to take your career to the next level. Open to formal and non-formal educators across the state, the program helps participants of all backgrounds better measure the success of their programs, expand their knowledge of instructional techniques, and get to know other educators working in the field.

"As an aspiring non-formal educator, ATEEG has opened all sorts of exciting doors for me," says Tixie Fowler, executive director at Garden4GrowingCommunity in Gwinnett County. "The program has strengthened my ability to connect with teachers and students, and has helped me refine my own approach for teaching EE. I've discovered hugely useful resources, met some amazing people, and am having a wonderful time passing these connections forward."

A nationally-accredited professional certification program based on the [North American Association for Environmental Education](#) (NAAEE) Guidelines for Excellence, ATEEG certification consists of three core courses, 30 hours of specialization workshops, and an independent study. Each participant is matched with a professional mentor to guide them through the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating their final project. Participants have three years from the start of their first core course to complete the requirements for certification.

The first course, Foundations of EE, will be held on **November 18-20, 2016** at the [Charlie Elliott Conference Center](#) in Mansfield, Georgia. During the weekend, participants learn the history and principles behind environmental education, current research in the field, and why EE matters. Click [here](#) to learn more and register online.

Core Course 2, Fostering Learning, is slated for **January 27-29, 2017** at Charlie Elliott. This class centers on different styles of teaching and learning, curriculum planning, and how environmental educators can most effectively foster learning. Click [here](#) to learn more and register online.

Core Course 3, Assessment and Evaluation, is scheduled for **March 31-April 2, 2017** at Charlie Elliott. At this course, the goal is to increase participant's skills and knowledge associated with the program evaluation process that includes identifying outcomes, data collection methods, and data analysis and interpretation. After completing Core Course 1, participants can choose to take the second and third courses in either order.

For more information about ATEEG, please contact the Program Administrator at ATEEG@eealliance.org or visit our website at www.eealliance.org/ateeg. If you're attending the [October 14th Outdoor Learning Symposium](#) at the Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, don't miss an informative session by current ATEEG participant Tixie Fowler and ATEEG board member Jackie Sherry!



ATEEG participant and EEA board member, Liz Swafford, teaching an environmental education lesson during an ATEEG course.

Building a Living Shoreline

AT BURTON 4-H CENTER

by Paul Coote, Burton 4-H Center, EEA Treasurer and
Melanie Biersmith, Extension 4-H Specialist for Environmental Education



The [Burton 4-H Center](#) is one of five residential environmental education centers around the state of Georgia operated by Georgia 4-H. All are part of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service. The Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island hosts as many as 9,000 participants a year through the residential education program using coastal and marine ecology as the basis for instruction.

Horsepen Creek, a tidal creek forming a boundary edge of the property at Burton 4-H Center, was cutting into the soft sediment and compromising power and water lines and several buildings. Faced with several options for stabilization, Georgia 4-H worked in partnership with UGA Marine Extension to develop a plan to use a Living Shoreline as an ecologically sensitive method to stabilize the erosion.

Benefits of this technique include the creation of habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, improvement of water quality through filtration, protection of surrounding environments, and opportunities for education about natural processes of salt marshes. It is a very strategic and complex solution, and it requires that thousands of bagged oyster shells be placed along the bank. With planning and permitting steps well in motion, hundreds of volunteers participated in bagging events, which accomplished the first steps of implementation.

Volunteers (including 4-H'ers from Chatham, Bryan, and Emanuel Counties, a UGA class from the College of Environment and Design, residents of Tybee, UGA MAREX staff, visiting environmental education students, and UGA Georgia 4-H staff) worked in small teams to transform six 18-wheeler truckloads of oyster shell into individual net bags. At the first event alone, held in January 2015, approximately 750 bushels of oyster shells were placed into about 2,000 individual net bags.

As of the end of August 2016, the living shoreline was 99% complete. The last step to be done in September or October 2016 is the planting of native grasses, shrubs, and perennial flowering plants along the edge where the dry upland transitions into creek bed. This will create a more natural transition between the man-made structure and the creek.



BURTON 4-H CENTER



CORNER STONES

Recognizing the Founders of EEA

by Sonya Wood Mahler

Cobb County Water System, EEA Member Services Chair

Throughout our 25th year celebration, we want to take the opportunity recognize the founders of EEA and those who have helped to make it great. Who better to start with in our first installment than **Jerry Hightower**? Jerry is the Environmental Education Coordinator for the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Sandy Springs, Georgia. Jerry has been a member of EEA's Advisory Council, the Council of Outdoor Learning, and several other committees. In 1995 through 1996, Jerry served as the President of EEA. He received the Odum Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 and the Outdoor Classroom Service Award in 2011.

How long have you been involved in environmental education?

A bit over 45 years. I gave my first environmental education program along the Chattahoochee River in what is now Winterthur subdivision to Galloway School kindergarten students in April of 1970. I had returned from serving with the 1st Infantry Division Military Police in Vietnam about 90 days earlier and was still a sergeant in the Military Police stationed with the Third Army at Fort McPherson.

What kind of EE work do you do day to day?

I design, develop, and deliver curriculum-based programming for preschool through graduate school, but mostly kindergarten through 5th. My focus is Title One. I provide training to formal and non-formal educators.

When did you first become involved with EEA?

I was a member and then a board member of the Georgia Environmental Education Council in the late 1980s. That organization collapsed under poor management by the executive board. In 1991, I was called by Andrea Timpone and asked if I thought Georgia needed an organization for non-formal environmental educators. Andrea asked if I wanted to join in the development of such an organization. Others were moving the idea forward. I

was "on board" with EEA as a charter member of sorts right then, but we were using the old name (GEEC) at first. As the organization evolved, it was decided that the name needed to be changed because of the Governor's Environmental Education Council. The new name was voted on in front of the fireplace at the Geosphere Environmental Education Center (now the Chattahoochee River EE Center). I later became a member at large on the expanding Board of Directors.

What roles have you taken in your service to EEA?

I served on the board for six years and was president for two years. I was co-chair for three annual conferences.



What is a fond memory you have of the early years of EEA?

Organizing and implementing an early EEA conference at Oatland Island Outdoor Education Center with Petey Giroux. We did quite a bit with Oatland in those days. Savannah was always a great place for trainings and conferences. Dr. Hans Neuhauser was our keynote speaker. I escorted him to the podium wearing a dolphin costume that Petey had created.

What would you like to share about the history of EEA and its members?

In the early years of EEA, the organization was very much like a big family. We all shared resources. We all assisted each other with activities, training, and events. Petey and I travelled across the state working with others and spreading the EE word. I think that this shared mission, and everyone's dedication to the mission and each other, attracted new members. And it was a contributing factor in the success of conferences and symposiums where attendance was quite significant.

What about this organization makes you most proud?

EEA brings together environmental education professionals from diverse agencies and organizations into a cohesive force for positive change. ♦

What are your thoughts on ATEEG?

GREETINGS FROM EEA EXECUTIVE BOARD! We are looking forward to a wonderful year of celebrating 25 years of this fabulous organization offering programming and networking opportunities for environmental educators around the state. As part of our celebration, we want to learn how to better serve our members in the best way possible. The EEA Certification Advisory Board (CAB) has been working to improve the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG) Program, and we need to hear from you.

We invite you to participate in a survey to help us identify ways in which the ATEEG Program can meet your needs as an educator. It should take less than 10 minutes, and the information will be anonymous. The survey link will close at midnight on **November 7, 2016**. Click on this link to take the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATEEGAwarenessSurvey2016.

Please feel free to share this with your networks and colleagues. You do not need to be an EEA member or ATEEG participant to take the survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Catherine Ridley, ATEEG Program Administrator, at ateeg@eealliance.org. Thank you very much.

The Monarch Joint Venture Welcomes Monarchs Across Georgia



*Students at a school festival examine live specimens at a Monarchs Across Georgia educational display.
Photo credit: Kim Bailey*

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that [Monarchs Across Georgia](#) (MAG) has been accepted as a [Monarch Joint Venture](#) (MJV) Partner! MAG is a committee of EEA that is dedicated specifically to monarch education, habitat restoration, and citizen science. MAG's goals mirror those of MJV, to conserve monarchs and their habitats and engage a broad audience around this issue. MAG's concentration of work in the southeastern U.S. plays an important part in the effort to protect monarchs. Some MAG programs include:

- **A Pollinator Habitat Certification Program**
- **Pollinator Habitat Grants** for habitat projects across Georgia
- **Educator workshops and sessions:** These monarch workshops educate both formal and non-formal educators to conduct citizen science and monarch education.
- **Plant sales:** Georgians can find GA native milkweeds and native plants appropriate as host and nectar plants for pollinators at MAG plant sales.
- **Web pages and newsletters:** The [MAG website](#) provides links and resources for citizen science, education, habitat restoration, and conservation. The *Chrysalis Newsletter*,

first published in 2005, continues to educate interested members with topics related to the monarch butterfly and pollinators, including research, citizen science opportunities, trips and events, and habitat restoration.

MAG Grant Administrator, Susan Meyers, states, "We are honored to join the ranks of the Monarch Joint Venture partners and hope that this association will both strengthen and provide additional opportunities for the message of monarch conservation to reach the population in Georgia and throughout the southeastern U.S." With MAG's existing regional and national partnerships, they are a great addition to the MJV. The MJV is excited about the connections they will bring to an ever-growing conservation issue and to its partnership. According to MJV Steering Committee Co-Chair Karen Oberhauser, "Monarchs Across Georgia has a long-term investment in monarch conservation. This dedicated team has worked closely with other individuals and organizations throughout the U.S. and has made important contributions to our understanding of monarchs in the southeastern U.S., as well as to their conservation."

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic programs that are working together to support and coordinate efforts to protect the monarch migration across the lower 48 United States. Monarchs Across Georgia will join the ranks alongside U. S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Journey North, Monarch Watch, Project Monarch Health, and [other experts](#) in the fields of monarch conservation and education and who are working to make colossal progress toward our ultimate goal of monarch conservation in the U.S.



OLS... Continued from cover



COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING PRESENTS: Innovations in Outdoor Learning

at the

2016 OUTDOOR LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

Friday, October 14, 2016

Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Atlanta

This year's Symposium will provide sessions on Georgia reptiles and amphibians, simple app creation for use in outdoor learning, Georgia geology and biogeography, garden math, citizen science, and much more. Register at www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium.

2016 Speakers at a Glance:



NATURE PLAY - STUDENTS DEFINE THEIR FUTURE PLAY ZONES

Liz Cole, Senior Project Manager, Greenberg Farrow

The collaboration of students, artists, designers, staff, and elected officials is leading to the creation of outdoor spaces that incorporate natural play elements. Experience the journey of what happens when students are encouraged to express their play zone ideas through drawings that are then transformed into the programming and design of natural play facilities.

HEAD TO HAND TO HEART

Drew Lanham, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Clemson University

Blending evocative writing, photography, and social media messaging for conservation. Participants will use "flash" poetry, "flood" prose, and cell phone photography as tools for communicating nature and environmental conservation to peers and students. Students should bring mobile phones, thinking heads, and feeling hearts!



AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF GEORGIA

John Jensen, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia is home to a highly diverse amphibian and reptile fauna, comprised of at least 182 species. This diversity will be highlighted and the reasons for it explained. Threats and conservation issues specific to amphibians and reptiles will be discussed.

REINFORCING LEARNING WITH STUDENT-PRODUCED VIDEOS

Daniel Lee, Digital Learning Specialist, Clayton County Public Schools

This session will show how teachers can guide students in producing videos that reflect learning. Apps and programs will be introduced that will facilitate movie production and the management of the final product.



FOREST SCHOOLS: HOW LEARNING IN THE WILD CAN BENEFIT EVERY STUDENT

Carl Swafford, Dean of Graduate Studies, Southern Adventist University; Founder, Masters in Outdoor Education program

Jean Lomino, Director of Wauhatchie School; Former Executive Director of Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center

Participants will learn, through videos and a power point presentation, about the philosophy and benefits of Forest Kindergartens/Forest Schools, how they operate in other countries, and also how the movement is growing in the United States. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how outdoor learning can be integrated into their school curriculum as well as a resource guide for establishing such schools.



LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR EEA

by Cora Keber

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at University of Georgia
EEA President 2016-2017

Wow! Have you ever taken time to read through the history of EEA? It is incredible. The amount of time, energy, and knowledge that has accumulated over the years by hardworking, dedicated, and motivated individuals is astounding. The most impressive part, to me, is that the majority of the groundwork that has been laid before us has been done on a volunteer basis. Individuals truly investing in an organization for the greater good of the community. My hat goes off to each person past, present, and future that is investing in efforts to keep the mission of EEA not only alive but with the capabilities to thrive.

I believe much of the success lies in the fact that the founders of EEA had the forward thinking to establish the organization as a self-governed, non-profit organization. This means by-laws, mission statements, budgets, organizational structure, programs, contracts, memberships, fundraising, strategic planning, etc. All of these pieces have to work in sync in order to reach the one main goal of promoting communication and education among professionals in the field of environmental education in Georgia.

A little background information: In 1995 several EEA board members participated in a North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) sponsored workshop on Strategic Planning at the annual conference in Portland, Maine. From this, the organization developed committees, board structure, and a general membership established. Ten years later, the board decided to focus

energy into evaluating the outcomes of the strategic plan and a new plan was approved and adopted in 2006.

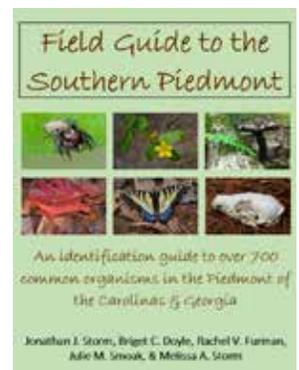
A strategic plan is meant to be used as a tool to measure the outcomes in which an organization is addressing. There are five main components of a strategic plan that include the mission, vision, values/core beliefs, goals, and strategies. Typically, a strategic plan is revisited every three to five years. It has been ten years since the former EEA plan was reviewed, and the advisory board and board of directors feel it is time to get to work and answer some of the questions. Are we reaching our goals? Do we need to set new goals? What strategies do we need in place to reach those goals? Did we achieve our previous goals? Are those goals still applicable to today? What issues have we not been addressing? Yes, these are big questions, but that is where the fun begins! We get to put on our creative thinking caps as a group and address the needs of the organization and the membership.

With all of this said, this upcoming year we are making a plan for "the plan," and we want your input. This is new for a lot of us that are currently serving on the Board of Directors, and your feedback is valued and essential to the future of EEA.

[Click here](#) to view EEA's current strategic plan. If you have ideas, suggestions, or feedback regarding our strategic plan or any aspect of EEA, please email EEA's president, Cora Keber, at president@eealliance.org.

Recommended Resource: Field Guide to the Southern Piedmont

Created by the University of South Carolina Upstate, [The Field Guide to the Southern Piedmont](#) is a picture-based identification guide to over 700 species in the region and includes common animals, plants, fungi, slime molds, animal tracks, skulls and bones, rocks, minerals, and nature sounds. The guide was created to help educate the general public, particularly kids, about the piedmont environment. It can be downloaded for free to any electronic device from www.uscupstate.edu/fieldguide.



REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: GREENFEST AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN

GreenFest 2016: Sustainable Solutions for Your Life
9am to 1pm, Saturday, October 1, 2016
Bulloch County Courthouse Lawn & Downtown
2 N. Main St., Statesboro, GA

GreenFest: Sustainable Solutions for Your Life

[GreenFest](#) is a fun-filled, community sustainability celebration packed with green exhibits, vendors, and workshops to educate visitors about green living. Enjoy live music, activities for the kids, and green products and sustainable solutions for the whole family. Free workshops will help you save green while living green.

Who is invited?

EVERYONE! GreenFest offers something for the whole family. Make a native bee house, tie dye a cloth napkin, create an aquaponic garden for your home, up-cycle a pallet into something new and creative, and bring home information and sustainable solutions for your life. Vendors and exhibitors who sell or promote sustainable products and/or activities will provide information and products on the courthouse lawn and along N. and S. Main Street.

Don't forget that the [Mainstreet Statesboro Farmers Market](#) will be going on across the street from 9am to 12:30pm, offering fresh, local, and sustainable food and craft products.

Meet EEA's Coastal Regional Director, Melanie Sparrow, at GreenFest! Melanie is the point of contact for EEA members and environmental educators in the coastal and southern regions of Georgia, and she will be exhibiting for EEA at GreenFest. [Contact Melanie](#) if you have questions about EEA and the resources that are available to you in your region.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS: ONELESSSTRAW

Did you know that in the United States, an estimated 500 million plastic straws are used every day, equating to 1.6 straws per person? Because of these staggering numbers, Carter and Olivia Ries of [One More Generation](#) have launched the "OneLessStraw Pledge Campaign." As part of the campaign, individuals pledge that they will not use a single plastic straw during the month of October. Businesses and schools can also support the effort, and there is the potential to earn funds for schools.

The OneLessStraw pledge campaign strives to educate the public about the dangers of single use plastic straws, its effects on our health, our environment, and our oceans. Here's how you can help:

- [Take the OneLessStraw Pledge.](#)
- Encourage your favorite business or school to take the pledge and to only provide plastic straws on request. Also ask for them to use biodegradable or reusable options.
- Become a Sponsor of the OneLessStraw pledge campaign.

The newly launched [OneLessStraw.org](#) website has resources and features an interactive map which showcases the schools, businesses, and communities that have taken the pledge. Campaign materials are also available in Spanish.

NAAEE 2016 Conference and Research Symposium: From Inspiration to Impact

45th Annual Conference: Oct. 19-22

13th Annual Research Symposium: Oct. 18-19

Join the [North American Association for Environmental Education](#) (NAAEE) in Madison, Wisconsin to celebrate the ways in which our work inspires people of all backgrounds to connect with nature, empower communities, and shape a more sustainable future.

NAAEE is the national professional association for environmental education. Members include educators in nonformal organizations, K-12 classrooms, universities (both instructors and students), government agencies, and corporate settings throughout North America and in over 55 other countries. The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia is an affiliate of NAAEE.



Save the Date

March 3-5, 2017

SEEA Conference & Research Symposium

Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center



www.eealliance.org
www.southeastee.org



Find us on Facebook and Twitter for pictures, program updates, upcoming events, articles of interest, grant opportunities, and more!



Shop at Kroger and Amazon, Earn Money for EEA!

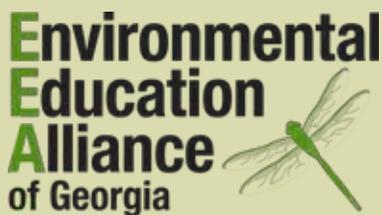
You can now support EEA by shopping at Kroger and on Amazon. Help EEA earn up to \$8000 per quarter by signing up for both of these programs below:

[Register your Kroger Plus Card](#)

[Select EEA as your charitable organization on AmazonSmile.](#)

Search for "Environmental Educational Alliance Inc."

We'd love to hear from you! For comments and article suggestions or submissions, please email news@eealliance.org.



P.O. Box 768081
 Roswell, GA 30076
www.EEAlliance.org

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's mission is to promote communication and enrichment among professionals in the field of environmental education through partnerships, initiatives, and access to knowledge and experiences.

2016-17 Board Officers

President Cora Keber
Treasurer Paul Coote
Secretary Vicki Culbreth

2016-17 Board of Directors

Jasmine Darland	Michael O'Shield	Melanie Sparrow
Jerry Hightower	Aaliyah Ross	Liz Swafford
Lauren Johnson	Megan Sheehan	Kostoula Vallianos
Kathleen Lemley	Jackie Sherry	Mary Winder
Sonya Wood Mahler	Ashli Solinger	

For board member bios, roles and committees, and contact information, visit the Board of Directors page of the EEA website: www.eealliance.org/board-of-directors.