

2018 EEA Annual Conference
Bird's Eye View: Soaring Beyond the Backyard
March 2-4, 2018
Unicoi State Park and Lodge



SCHEDULE

Friday, March 2

8:00 Check In, Breakfast on your own, Silent Auction Open
9:30 Welcome and Announcements
10:00-12:00 Research Symposium
Monarchs in the Classroom Educator workshop
Field Trips
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:30-5:00 Research Symposium
Monarchs in the Classroom Educator workshop, continued
Field Trips
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Team Trivia Social
8:00 Silent Auction Closes

Saturday, March 3

7:00 Check In, Breakfast Buffet in Unicoi Restaurant, Silent Auction Open
8:00 Welcome and Announcements
8:30-10:30 Long Sessions A
10:45-11:45 Short Sessions B
12:00-1:00 Lunch Buffet in Unicoi Restaurant
1:00 Keynote Address by Jenna Mobley
2:00 ATEEG Graduation Ceremony
2:30-4:30 Long Sessions C
2:30-3:30 Short Sessions D
3:45-4:45 Short Sessions E
5:00-6:00 Short Sessions F
6:30 Dinner Banquet and Awards Ceremony
8:00 Campfire and S'mores Social
8:30 Silent Auction Closes

Sunday, March 4

7:00 Check In, Breakfast Buffet in Unicoi Restaurant
8:00 Welcome and Announcements
8:30-9:15 Family Fun Day Session A
9:30-10:15 Family Fun Day Session B
10:30-11:15 Family Fun Day Session C

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

[Monarchs in the Classroom Educator Workshop \(10:00-5:00\) - \\$25](#)

This workshop will give educators the information and tools needed to teach pollinator conservation in the classroom using pollinator gardens and citizen science opportunities. Monarch biology and ecology will be the major focus. Monarchs in the Classroom is appropriate for educators of Grades K-8. The \$25 registration fee includes a curriculum guide and other resources for each participant. **Meet at Dogwood Room in Building D.**

[Research Symposium \(Morning Sessions – 10:00-12:00\)](#)

Enlisting Undergraduates to Strengthen Earth Week Campus & Community K-16 Environmental Interest

Adrienne Schwarte, Associate Professor of Art, Graphic Design and Sustainability; Mark O’Gorman, Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies, Maryville College

Environmental Literacy continues to lag among young people, and lack of engagement cannot continue during a time when pressing ecological and systems-level 'wicked problems' demand greater understanding and advocacy. One solution is to have students teach each other, with programs and events that target their peers' interests and sensibilities. At Maryville College in East Tennessee, an introductory sustainability/environmental studies course imbeds an end-of-semester student-run class project where groups of students are required to design and implement an Earth Week event in late April. This presentation explains the project, its challenges and successes, and what learning outcomes for students, faculty and campus are achieved.

Aquaponics: Changing Classrooms One Workshop at a Time

Natalie Perkins, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia

The use of aquaponics is growing rapidly in many different settings. While small-scale aquaponics have been around for some time, large commercial aquaponic centers are gaining steam, and the use of these setups to help alleviate food deserts is rising. Research involving the varying applications of aquaponics has grown, as well, and aquaponic systems in academic settings are getting increased attention from educators. A research project currently underway at UGA is making an effort to provide a resource for those teachers in the Athens-Clarke County area through a two-day workshop. The content of the workshop will be developed based on data from educators themselves, who have participated in several surveys designed to uncover what information educators need to feel confident running a system on their own.

Climate Change Education and Environmental Education: Perceptions, Barriers, Efforts, and Knowledge among Environmental Educators in the Southeastern United States

Lauren Johnson, Columbus State University and Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

Climate change is a current and future problem that will impact the population and planet in a multitude of ways. The use of education as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation can provide opportunities for reaching the goals of both EE and climate change education. This study will examine what level of climate change knowledge, barriers, and perceptions environmental educators located in the Southeastern United States report in regards to climate change and climate change education. The population for this study will be members of EE associations located in the Southeast United States. Mixed- methods will be used in data collection through an online survey and an email interview.

Community Problem-Solvers: Elementary School Students Tackle Watershed Conservation

Liz French, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia

The Community Problem-Solving Team at Howard B. Stroud Elementary School in Athens, GA learned about local watershed issues in their community throughout the 2016-2017 school year. Instructors incorporated problem-solving techniques with environmental education lessons and activities. The goals of the class were to

improve student knowledge and assist students in a project that addressed an environmental issue. The students discovered watershed issues through research and activities, connected with local groups to learn more about potential solutions, created a public service announcement for their peers, and built a rain garden at their school. At the end of the school year, the students wrote a report about their process for a community problem solving competition, which earned them first place in the state of Georgia and second place internationally in the environmental issues category.

The Amphibian Foundation - An Atlanta-based Response to Global Amphibian Declines

Mark Mandica, Executive Director, The Amphibian Foundation

Amphibians are an interesting group of vertebrates with a rich global biodiversity. Despite their ability to adapt to extreme conditions, amphibians are declining worldwide — from pristine as well as developed environments. Scientists have identified multiple anthropogenic factors contributing synergistically to amphibian declines, which are now affecting over 40% of the global amphibian population. Therefore, a multifaceted approach is necessary to address the amphibian decline phenomenon. We will explore the major documented causes, as well as some of the most impacted species of the world and Southeast US.

[Research Symposium \(Afternoon Sessions – 1:30-3:00\)](#)

Citizen Science and The Metro Atlanta Amphibian Monitoring Program

Mark Mandica, Executive Director, The Amphibian Foundation

In response to global amphibian declines, the Amphibian Foundation has initiated a Metro Atlanta Amphibian Monitoring Program (maamp.us) aimed at identifying and monitoring amphibian breeding populations in our urban landscape. Scientists, naturalists and concerned citizens are working with city and county parks as well as private land-owners in a comprehensive monthly amphibian survey in and around the 285 perimeter. The surveys will provide valuable data to assess the health of urban amphibian communities, despite the challenges of living in a major city. Another goal of the MAAMP is to provide a tool to assess restoration efforts as well as identify potential areas for habitat restoration.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC): A growing program in Georgia

Dr. Kris M. Irwin, Senior Public Service Associate Faculty, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, The University of Georgia.

A survey of the Upper Oconee Trout Unlimited Chapter TIC schools was conducted in December 2016. The purpose of this pilot study was to gather information to inform a statewide survey project. Data was gathered from an online questionnaire, and from teacher interviews. While the sample size was small (n=7) the results proved valuable to guide the development of a state-wide survey. Face-to-face interviews (n=3) provided the opportunity for a deep-dive into specific issues. Three major barriers to program success and sustainability were identified. Teachers lacked the technical knowledge to troubleshoot mechanical failures and water quality issues. There is a lack of funding to pay for transportation of students to release site. Teachers need additional teaching materials and activities to engage students while raising fish from eggs to fingerlings.

Translating Research on EE into Strategies for More Effective Learning Experiences

Karan Wood, Captain Planet Foundation Institute

Spoiler Alert: Adults who look back on their childhoods don't typically think school was key to their pro-environmental behavior; nor do children who study environmental science necessarily grow up to care about and act on behalf of the planet. How, then, can we educate, equip and inspire students to become the next generation of environmental problem-solvers? There is evidence that providing opportunities for children to connect with nature and experience curiosity, awe and wonder outdoors at an early age (Sobel), as well as supporting and scaffolding student-initiated environmental actions (Chawla) can motivate and empower

children. In this session, we will survey research on these topics, explore the implications for teachers, naturalists and informal educators, and consider practical strategies for transforming environmental education.

Field Trips – Morning

Hardman Farm Historic Site Tour (9:45 - 11:15) - \$6 per person

This guided tour includes the Visitor's Center, Historic 19th century mansion, 1920s dairy farm, and the Sautee Nacoochee Indian Mound. Meet at **Meet in the lobby outside of Masters Ballroom at 9:45 to carpool, or on-site at 10:00.**

Nora Mill and Grainery Tour (10:00 -11:00) - FREE

Established in 1876, Nora Mill Granary is an operational gristmill sitting alongside the Chattahoochee River in the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains. They utilize the original 1,500 pound French Burr Stones to grind and produce all kind of corn and wheat based products such as grits, cornmeal, pancake & waffle mixes, and flours. Take a tour of this historic operation with a 4th generation miller to see how this mill is used to create fresh products with no additives or preservatives and old-fashioned quality. **Meet in the lobby outside of Masters Ballroom at 10:00 to carpool, or on-site at 10:15.**

Smithgall Woods Stream Ecology Workshop (9:45-12:00) - \$2 per person

Join a park ranger to discover the diversity of water bugs at Smithgall Woods State Park. We will be having a stream ecology class observing the organisms that reside in Dukes Creek. We will seine and dip net for macro invertebrates, crayfish, and fish, then identify them using our key. Please wear clothes that can get wet or dirty, and water boots to keep your feet dry. **Meet in the lobby outside of Masters Ballroom at 9:45.**

Field Trips – Afternoon

Plein Air Painting with Jo (1:00-3:00) - \$20 per person

Who wants to try their hand at PLEIN AIR painting? Join Jo Adang, a long-time professional artist and Project WET coordinator, for a fun outdoor painting adventure. No experience necessary and all supplies will be provided! If you have your own paints and equipment, please feel free to bring them. Extra easels would be appreciated for those without them. **Meet at the Fireside Lobby.**

Timpson Creek Biodynamic Farm Tour (1:30-5:30) - \$10 per person

Timpson Creek Farm is a certified organic vegetable, fruit, and herb operation utilizing ecologically dynamic designs and growing practices to produce foods that are holistically nutritious and environmentally sustainable. Join us for an afternoon exploring the ways in which the natural systems on our property are enhanced, mimicked, and shared with people of all ages. The visit will include a guided farm tour, an overview of our programs and offerings, an introduction to the ecological growing methods used on the farm, and a hands on workshop applying Biodynamic remedies to our landscape. **Meet in the lobby outside of Masters Ballroom at 1:30 to organize carpool. Timpson Creek Farm is a 30-minute drive from Unicoi.**

Anna Ruby Falls Geology Walk (3:30-6:00) - \$3 per person entrance fee on site

Co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia* Dr. Bill Witherspoon leads this easy walk on a paved trail, less than one mile round trip. Anna Ruby Falls is a pair of beautiful waterfalls, cascading in tandem from a towering cliff in wispy white tendrils. Geologic structures in bedrock along the walk to the falls reveal how these rocks were once under enough heat and pressure to flow like taffy. You are encouraged to bring water, snacks, and appropriate clothing and shoes for the weather to enjoy the trail. **Meet in the lobby outside Masters Ballroom.**

SATURDAY CONCURRENT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Target Grade Levels:

PS – Preschool LE – Lower elementary UE – Upper elementary
MS – Middle school HS – High school HE – Higher education AA – All ages

LONG SESSIONS A (8:30-10:30)

UE
MS
HS
HE

Wetlands of Georgia

Don Lane, Elachee Nature Center

Participants will learn the factors that differentiate wetlands from other ecosystems, be introduced to a wetland classification system used by government agencies and wetland scientists, and discover the various types of wetlands that occur in Georgia. This session will also cover educational activities from *WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands*.

LE
UE
MS

Outdoor Learning: A STEM Dream

Karen Goode and MaryJean Pace, West Fannin Elementary School; Alexa Robinson, City of Griffin

Students remain highly engaged in this real world applicable project through the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. Learn how to incorporate all STEM components using the curriculum provided by the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program.

AA

Making It Count For Birds with Citizen Science

Melanie Furr, Atlanta Audubon Society

Birds are everywhere, and they are fascinating to watch. By going a step further and reporting our sightings, we can help scientists protect birds and their habitats. In this session, we'll brush up on some bird identification skills and become active citizen (community) scientists by learning to use eBird, an online checklist system that is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. Participants will leave the session with tools to guide students in bird observation, community science, and STEM investigations. Part of this session will take place outdoors. Binoculars are recommended.

MS

Real STEM for Real Students in the Real World

Brian Soash, Lee County Middle School West

Reframe how you think about your STEM units to create a PBL experience that is centered around your own community. Provide students the opportunity to interact with partners in your area and recognize them for their efforts while providing students realistic opportunities to apply their knowledge. See multiple examples of how the outside community is effectively engaged in PBL experiences in 6th through 8th grade, as well as a framework on how a Partners in Excellence program is created for both schools and community stakeholders. Participants will be provided with these templates as well as the design framework to create your own problem based STEM learning experiences.

AA

Creating Wildlife Habitat Outdoor Learning Areas

Jerry Hightower, National Park Service, and Penny Costanzo

Participants will learn how to turn their campus, park, or nature center into an outdoor learning area. These magic gardens become an exciting vehicle for teaching STEM at all grade levels. These areas serve as the bridge between the textbook and the real world. This session covers evaluating and inventorying, planning and diversifying, creating and developing, prioritizing projects, and using technology to document, map, and identify various natural resources within your habitat.

PK
LE

Growing Up Wild

Kim Morris-Zarneke, Amber Barrow, and James Murdock, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education activity guide that builds on a child's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Come join us as we explore a few these amazing nature-based activities for grade PK- 4th and become a kid again for a few hours!

SHORT SESSIONS B (10:45-11:45)

LE
UE
MS
HS

Look Closely and Draw What You See

Cindy Reittinger, Fernbank Science Center

Teaching your students to look closely at the world around them is perhaps the most valuable skill you can teach young scientists today. There is nothing high tech about it! Learn how to incorporate drawing into your lessons as you teach your students to open their eyes and draw what they see. In this session you will be introduced to the basics of scientific illustration, study drawings from early Georgia naturalists, and touch on scientific classification as we draw representatives from the largest class of animals on earth.

UE
MS
HS

Engineering Environmental Education with Legos

Kerstin Motsch and Lauren Johnson, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

Legos are more than just a toy that brings back childhood nostalgia they are an engineering tool that can teach science concepts as well. Join us as we explore ways to use Legos to teach metamorphosis, pollination, recycling, flood prevention, and more!

HS

Conservation Context in the Classroom

Samantha Eubanks and Hayley Wise, Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute

Teachers will learn about current research being done by aquatic scientists in the southeastern United States. This workshop profiles the ways in which Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute staff have collaborated with local teachers on curriculum development and activities that meet Tennessee and Georgia standards. Topics include water quality, science and technology, and native species reintroduction.

LE
UE
MS
HS

Finding Nature

Amy Waite, FD Roosevelt State Park

Just keep looking, Just keep trying... Like the wide-eyed fish who embarks on an epic journey to find her family, educators roam the pathways of learning seeking effective ways to communicate our connectedness to the natural world. Discover creative indoor and outdoor ideas and techniques that make adventures in environmental education successful, memorable, and fun.

AA

Horticultural Therapy Works

Terri Carter, UGA Extension

Horticultural therapy is a type of therapeutic treatment focused around caring for and nourishing plants but it benefits the individual just as much if not more than the plants. It can be done anywhere: in a home garden or at a windowsill with potted plants. Today, horticultural therapy is used to treat a variety of conditions, from everyday stress, to dementia, to post-traumatic stress disorder. The act of tending to plants (sowing seeds, watering, pulling weeds, digging in soil, and harvesting) is thought to nourish both mind, body and spirit.

MS
HS
HE

Native Pollinators, Birds, and Plant Communities: Local Relationships in a Global Context

Leslie Edwards, author of The Natural Communities of Georgia

"Bringing Nature Home" by Doug Tallamy has transformed how we view the relationships among plants, birds, and pollinators, by revealing the vital foundational roles of insects and native plants.

This talk will explicate his insights by exploring the fascinating, seasonal needs of selected birds and native pollinators that depend upon thriving, abundant plant communities. The quantity of insects needed to support our natural communities is astonishing, but insect populations are in decline the world over. Learn how your own local natural landscapes, gardens, and education efforts are a critical part of a much greater whole.

LONG SESSIONS C (2:30-4:30)

HS
HE

Chasing Coral & The Unstoppable Exhibition

Savannah Miller, Exposure Labs

This session will include a full screening of the Sundance award-winning film *Chasing Coral* and a brief discussion on how Exposure Labs uses the film as a tool to advance problem-based learning in the classroom. We will discuss learnings from a recent partnership with Charleston County School District high schools and their use of the innovative curriculum to engage students in a real-world context. Imagine hundreds - if not thousands - of high school students actively getting involved in their community; and in so doing, realizing that their voice, their curiosity, and their work makes a difference.

AA

Think Outside the Nest Box

Linda May, Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division

"If you build it, they will come!" may remind you of the movie "Field of Dreams," but it also applies to cavity-nesting songbirds! Participants will construct their own bluebird nest boxes out of native eastern red cedar boards, as well as learn how to create and enhance wildlife habitats at their schools, nature centers and in their community. Make the experience even more meaningful by collecting data for national bird population studies. Limited to 15 participants.

SHORT SESSIONS D (2:30-3:30)

LE
UE
MS

Place Based Learning on Planet Earth

Jasmine Darland, The Garden School

How do we help students grow into a positive, grounded cultural identity and also cultivate citizens of the world? The need to belong is closely related to the need to differentiate, and it is through honoring both needs that we can give our students the internal fire that can sustain a lifetime of attention to environmental justice and ecological stewardship. Participants should come ready to move, sing, get creative, and to consider the sociological and ethnographic forces which have shaped their relationship to the natural world.

AA

DIY Field Education Centers: Transforming Outdoor Education Wherever You Are

Amy Zvonar, Lauren Reynolds, Linda Reed, and Christy Baker Knight, Blue Heron Nature Preserve

Discover the wild in any place when you create your own Field Education Center! Imagine an outdoor learning space where you can connect your community to nature- even if all you have is an asphalt driveway or small strip of grass. We will address obstacles to teaching outside. Participants will learn about how we use Place Based Education and Reggio methods in our programs to create meaningful experiences with nature and promote an environmental ethic of caring for the natural world and understanding our role within it. During the session, participants will work in small groups with one of our educators to design their own Field Education Center and get to see examples of the Field Education Centers at Blue Heron Nature Preserve.

UE
MS

Project Hero: Helping Species in Trouble Through Purposeful PBL

Courtney Kimmel, Captain Planet Foundation

When kids learn about threatened and endangered species, there is a natural empathetic response to want to do something to help. We can seize that moment to catalyze that empathy into action, teaching them agency and problem-solving. Project Hero, an open and free online platform by the Captain Planet Foundation, is intended to engage and empower students in purposeful PBL that guides them on a Quest of exploring locally threatened species in order to take meaningful actions to make a difference. Quests, which are defined by place, ecosystem, and grade-band, are dynamic PBL journeys that help facilitate learning of life science concepts, ELA standards, and 21st century skills.

PK
LE

The New Science Standards & Environmental Education for Primary Students

Angie Curtis, Arcado Elementary

Join this session for take away strategies that incorporate the new state science standards in an outdoor education environment. Come prepared to be actively engaged in learning.

SHORT SESSIONS E (3:45-4:45)

HS
HE

Engaging Youth to Save Endangered Hemlocks

Donna Shearer, Save Georgia's Hemlocks, Inc.

Educators are invited to learn about ways to inform young people and their families about an impending environmental disaster and ways to engage youth in conservation efforts to save a vital native tree species, the hemlock, from nearly total destruction.

UE
MS
HS

Crops, Countries, Classrooms: How Aquaponics Can Change the Game

Natalie Perkins, Warnell School of Forest Resources, UGA

Aquaponics has been transforming how companies and private owners alike look at sustainable food production, but it's not stopping there! School systems have also been rapidly adopting these programs to teach subjects ranging from agricultural education to mathematics and even social science. Join us as we explore how to incorporate aquaponic systems in classrooms to change the way we approach STEM education!

PK
LE

Hopping into Water Conservation with Stuffed Animal Ambassadors

Emily Bilcik, Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office

A stuffed frog named Little Lily has the power to educate and excite young students about water conservation throughout the school year. Learn what teachers had to say about Lily's impact in the classroom and how you can adopt a similar teaching model for any environmental topic.

AA

Communications 101: Building a Successful Media/Communications Program

Dottie Head, Atlanta Audubon Society

In this session, we will discuss the basics of building a successful communications program. Topics to be covered include writing and formatting press releases, developing a media list, and the do's and don'ts of responding to media inquiries. We will also discuss various social media platforms, and how they can be used to promote your organization's mission, recruit volunteers, and build support for your organization and events. Recognizing that we all have limited time for these activities, we'll discuss some best practices for managing these tasks and accomplishing big things on a small budget.

SHORT SESSIONS F (5:00-6:00)

MS

EE Activities for a Very Popular Planet

Linda Reece, University of North Georgia

Discover lively, interdisciplinary activities that help elementary students understand the human ecological footprint and the challenges of sharing finite resources as our population grows. Build math, literacy and critical thinking skills while fostering global and civic awareness. Receive lesson plans and background materials matched to state standards.

PK

LE

UE

Using Robots to Teach About the Environment

Lauren Johnson, Kerstin Motsch, and Julia King, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

STEM programs and curriculum are becoming more and more important in the traditional classroom setting. However, robots can do more than just teach technology. Learn how tiny robots, Ozobots, can be used to teach environmental and science education with hands-on, student-centered activities.

UE

MS

HS

Trout in the Classroom

Jim Byrd, Upper Chattahoochee Chapter Trout Unlimited

This presentation will provide an overview of Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom program. This is a hands-on educational process for students in grades 4 through 12. TU sets up the tank and provides eggs along with related supplies. Students must conduct water analysis and complete all tasks required to raise trout from eggs to fingerling trout, then release in a cold water stream. This hands-on experience will educate students on effective environmental conservation measures to protect our cold water streams.

HS

HE

Tensions in Sustainability Forum Series: Facilitator Training Workshop

Jonathan Crane, Emory Center for Ethics

The Tensions in Sustainability Forum Series is designed to help people constructively engage the tensions they feel between environmental sustainability and economic/social wellbeing. The Facilitator Training Workshop will provide participants with the tools they need to teach the Tensions in Sustainability Forum Series and to engage people in constructive conversations about environmental sustainability as it intersects with people's religious/cultural and business/economic lives.

LE

UE

MS

HS

Encouraging Science Conservation with Reptiles and Amphibians

Mark Mandica and Crystal Mandica, The Amphibian Foundation

The Amphibian Foundation has initiated several educational programs geared for children ages 6 - 18. Our experience shows us that younger students have the highest potential to enact positive change for our environment. This presentation explains the experience, strength and hope in our programs and activities, such as STEM and STEAM Programs, After School Clubs, Critter Camps, and Frog in Every Classroom. We will also discuss our work as a member of the Atlanta Urban Ecologists, partnering with other area nonprofits in a year-long program to examine different aspects of our regional ecology.

LE

UE

MS

HS

The Athens-Clarke County Green School Program

Cecile Riker, Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program and Stacy Smith, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful

Participants in this session will learn about the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Green School program, which was created to connect the local schools with resources from partnering ACC Government agencies. The program has been in operation for over ten years, with the overall goal of increasing environmental literacy in the community.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS



EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN OF THE OUTDOORS

Jenna Mobley

We are in a time in the educational system, when the right answer is often valued over a thoughtful question (and when the “right” answer is often just a click away). We are in a time when the comfort of a controlled indoor space is the norm over an embrace of the wild unknown of the outdoors. We are in a time when student understanding must be quantifiable and measurable, so we are more interested in what students know, than what they are able to do or how they are able to think.

As educators, how can we incite wonder, awe, and curiosity as we engage children around natural phenomenon out in the real world? How can we model respect for scientific integrity? How can we propel students into creative, collaborative problem solving to lead their local communities towards solutions to the complex environmental challenges of our present and future?

Jenna grew up on 80 acres of farmland in an intentional community in Alabama called Common Ground Community. Her family of ten like-spirited adults valued harmony with the environment through honoring ecosystems and preserving the land and resources. These values guide Jenna’s work in her current home of Atlanta.

An alumna of the University of Georgia, Jenna began her education career in 2008 and since then has become one of the leading proponents (and providers) of increasing environmental education resources in Atlanta, earning her the EPA’s Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators. At present, she leads workshops around the state and country with partner organizations including FoodCorp, Georgia Organics, Life Lab, Whole Kids Foundation, and the Captain Planet Foundation. She also plays a large role in the curriculum development for Atlanta Public Schools, her pilot school being a school-based rooftop gardening program that has garnered local and national press coverage, as well as numerous grants and awards.

Beyond the school walls, she serves as the Director of Educational Programming for Community Farmers Markets, managing programs aimed educating neighborhoods of Atlanta on the community health, economic, and sustainable benefits of local farmers markets.

SUNDAY FAMILY FUN DAY

Bring your family along as we model educational, hands-on activities for all ages! Sessions will be led by EEA leaders and experienced environmental educators representing organizations across Georgia. In an effort to give back, Family Fun Day will also be open to the Helen community.

8:30-9:15

Morning Bird Walk

Melanie Furr, Atlanta Audubon Society

Take a brisk morning scroll along one of Unicoi's beautiful walking trails and learn to identify some of our local birds by sight and sound.

Insect Life Cycles

Monarchs Across Georgia

Learn about the magic of metamorphosis through skit, story and crafts.

The Power of Movement

Cora Keber, State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Follow along through a series of activities that will wake you up and help you connect with your own body. Discover the water cycle by acting it out, create a rainforest scene through your imagination, and learn a few animal yoga poses!

Oh My, Ozobots!

Lauren Johnson, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

Robotics and nature go hand in hand! Utilize these tiny robots to learn about our environment.

Entomology!

Wahsega 4-H Center

Take a closer look at insects with live giant cave cockroaches and participate in a lubber grasshopper dissection.

Recycled Art

Ashli Solinger, Lee County Schools

It might look like trash at first, but beautiful art can be made from recycled objects! Try your hand at sculpture and composition using a variety of recycled materials. No art experience necessary!

9:30-10:15

Ready, Set, Camouflage!

Monarchs Across Georgia

Join us in games and crafts as we discover some of nature's disguise techniques!

Herpetology!

Wahsega 4-H Center

Participants get the opportunity to handle, observe and learn about our reptilian and amphibian friends that reside right here in Georgia! Instructors will highlight characteristics and adaptations of snakes, turtles, toads, and more.

The Power of Play

Cora Keber, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Come PLAY through song, theater, story time, and puppetry! We'll use our imaginations to enter a world of magic.

Lego We Do!

Kerstin Motsch, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center

Legos are for more than just building towers! We can use them to learn about recycling, pollution, and other topics!

Wondering About Wetlands?

Terry Porter, City of Alpharetta

Learn about wetlands and why they are so important. We will explore a "touchy-feely" bag of wetland related objects and examine specific aspects of wetland soil, water, and plants.

Nature Walk

Maranda Stone, Unicoi State Park and Lodge

Take a guided 2.5 mile hike and learn about the history of the park, local wildlife and vegetation.

10:30-11:15

Wildlife!

Wahsega 4-H Center

Participants will go through activities that enhance their understanding of Georgia's mammals by getting to view and hold animal skulls and pelts. Instructors will go over the importance of a good habitat for animals and help participants identify differences in herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

Who Am I?

Monarchs Across Georgia

Can you identify butterflies and moths using a field guide? Join us in a fun game to learn how to use this valuable tool, then make a seed ball for your home garden!

Bubble Wonders

Mary Winder, Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center

Did you know that animals use bubbles for survival? Come make giant bubbles with us and learn about the properties of bubbles!

Mockingbird Music

Mike Kahle, Cobb County Watershed Stewardship
Experiment with musical instruments and natural materials in this "mockingbird style" jam session! No musical experience or talent required!

Owl Pellet Exploration

Jackie Sherry, Dunwoody Nature Center

Most birds cannot chew their food and owls are no exception. Indigestible material such as teeth, skulls, claws, and fur is regurgitated in an owl pellet. Join us as we dissect owl pellets to discover what prey owls have recently consumed.

Establishing our Living Legacy - A Celebration of Life

Robby Astrove, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Help us install trees to create a new grove for our Memorial Forest. No experience needed. We'll walk you through the process for how to correctly plant and care for trees. Tools and gloves provided.