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Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Summer 2020

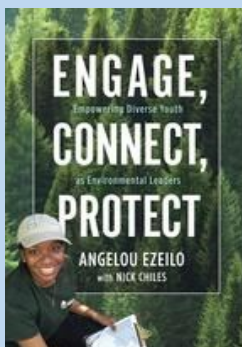
## GreenSleeves is Here!

EEA is excited to host a virtual book club where members are able to explore environmental topics, spark meaningful conversations, and learn new ways to take action in our communities. There is no commitment other than to enjoy reading and sharing books about nature. The book club will meet via Zoom several times a year on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be August 31, 2020, and we will be discussing Angela Ezeilo's *Engage, Connect, Protect: Empowering Diverse Youth as Environmental Leaders* with the author.

To register for the August 31 event, learn about future book selections, or sign up for notifications about the book club please visit the [GreenSleeves](#) page.

**Join us for our first meeting with author Angelou Ezeilo!**

*Engage, Connect, Protect: Empowering Diverse Youth as Environmental Leaders*  
by Angelou Ezeilo with Nick Chiles  
August 31 at 6:00 p.m.



### SAVE THE DATE

The Council of Outdoor Learning  
will host their

### Virtual Outdoor Learning Symposium

October 17, 2020  
9AM-12PM

Registration Available Sept 9

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## Calendar

**August 29**  
MAG Educator Workshop  
@ Autrey Mill  
**August 31**  
GreenSleeves  
**October 3**  
Pollinator Symposium  
**October 17**  
Outdoor Learning  
Symposium  
**October 26**  
GreenSleeves  
**December 1**  
Giving Tuesday!

**EEA 2020-2021 Board of Directors**

President, Michael O'Shield  
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 Environmental Stewardship and Community Engagement Opportunities,  
 Darryl Haddock  
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 Member Services Committee Chair, Hannah Penn  
 Conference Committee Chair, LeAnn Rutledge  
 Volunteer Committee Chair, Jackie Sherry  
 Past President and Newsletter Coordinator, Franke Smith  
 ATEEG Certification Advisory Board Chair, Stacy Smith  
 Communications Committee Chair, Susan Wood

We enthusiastically welcome our new members and invite you to learn more about them by visiting <https://eeageorgia.weebly.com/2020-21-eea-board--staff.html>

**Calendar****August 29**

MAG Educator Workshop  
 @ Autrey Mill

**August 31**

GreenSleeves

**October 3**

Pollinator Symposium

**October 17**

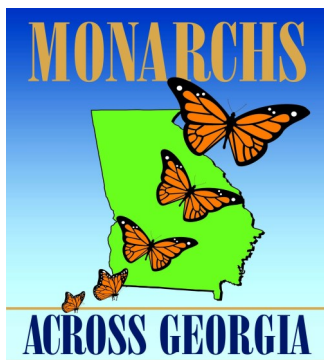
Outdoor Learning Symposium

**October 26**

GreenSleeves

**December 1**

Giving Tuesday!

**MAG's Virtual Biennial Pollinator Symposium****October 3 & 4****Hosted by The State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

Join Monarchs Across Georgia VIRTUALLY for this two-day pollinator-filled event to learn more about what is being done throughout the state to conserve, protect, and educate the public about important insect pollinators. The Symposium will kick-off with a keynote address from Brannen Basham on "Restoring Pollinator Habitat." Topics on Day 1 include Project Monarch Health, Bee Smart Eat Smart, Pocket Pollinator Gardens and a Children's Garden tour. Day 2 offers three virtual field trips with pollinator and plant conservation experts.

**Special thanks to The State Botanical Garden of Georgia for  
 hosting the virtual presentation of this event.**

Saturday, October 3, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 4, 2020, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

\$40 EEA members/ \$65 non-EEA members

**Registration is limited and now open:**

<https://eealliance.org/pollinator-symposium.html>

<https://eeageorgia.weebly.com/pollinator-symposium.html>

## Why Teachers Do Nature: An ATEEG Story

When veteran Environmental Sciences teacher Valerie Russell introduced herself to her classmates at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, she began with "I'm a city girl, I don't do nature." But thanks to her experience in the Advanced Training for Environment Education in Georgia program (ATEEG), Valerie now not only "does nature" with her students, she frequently leads her son's Scout troop on overnight campouts and recently beat the kids to the top of Stone Mountain. When asked what inspired a self-proclaimed "city girl" to sign up for a nature-based certification program, Russell didn't hesitate.

"I wanted to learn more about a subject I knew little about despite having taught it. I mean, I know the vocabulary and concepts that the standards demand we teach, and I've been teaching them to high school AP students for over 30 years," she said. "But I wanted to 'up my level' of knowledge so I could make the content more exciting for my students. And I liked the idea of being certified in what I recognized as a very unique program."

ATEEG is indeed unique. ATEEG was the first state environmental education certification program in the country to receive accreditation status from the North American Association for Environmental Education. The program represents the collective genius of stakeholders across the state including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Division, and the Warnell School of Forestry &



**Each ATEEG cohort engages educators in 3 days of focused learning at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield, GA. Hosted by the GA Dept of Natural Resources/Non Game Division, the program fee includes room and board as well as an exciting opportunity to become immersed in learning.**

Natural Resources at The University of Georgia, which serves as the program's certifying agent.

Despite the program's in-depth content scope and rigorous certification requirements, 36 graduates are now officially certified as environmental educators. One of the program's 2020 graduates is Suzanne Pitz, who is in her 11th year of teaching gifted elementary students. Despite her experience, Pitz said ATEEG opened her eyes to a whole new body of educational approaches, techniques and resources to make learning more relevant and hands on.

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## EE Around the State

**From Georgia 4-H :** "Zoom into Science" is an educational series offered by Georgia 4-H. Each program lasts one hour, and allows participants to learn from experts in different disciplines and wraps up with a Q & A session. This program is not limited to registered 4-H members. Visit <https://bit.ly/GA4HZoom> for more details.

**From Georgia Audubon:** Georgia Audubon is hosting a series of free webinars and other digital events throughout the fall. Of note is a Facebook Live presentation given by former EEA Board Member and Audubon Director of Education Melanie Furr, titled "A Year in the Life of a Hummingbird." Visit <https://bit.ly/GAAudubon> for more details.

*\* If you would like to have your program listed in 'EE Around the State,' please contact our Newsletter Coordinator [fsmith@hickory-hill.org](mailto:fsmith@hickory-hill.org).*



## Why Teachers Do Nature Cont.

"I also really value that I've been able to network and collaborate with other like-minded educators throughout the program. That's always energizing, and I've definitely taken advantage of these connections during the pandemic," she added.



**ATEEG's first class! Since then, over 129 formal and nonformal educators have completed the 3 cohorts, each of which covers essential aspects of environmental literacy and incorporating it into Georgia standards.**

Russell is determined to earn what she agrees is a highly valuable certification. "It's taking me longer to finish up than I expected, but it's absolutely worth the effort," noted Russell. "ATEEG gave me a better understanding of the "naturalistic" piece of Environmental Studies, which I had mainly always taught from a "social justice perspective" - too scared to venture out, I suppose. But ATEEG gave me the desire and confidence to explore nature with my students, and I did. It has been incredibly rewarding for all of us." 🌟

## The Symbolic Migration Is Going Virtual!

The real monarchs will soon begin their annual migration to Mexico, arriving there around the 1<sup>st</sup> of November! Join the celebration by participating in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Symbolic Migration!

This program is an international project mirroring the annual migration of the Eastern population of the North American monarch butterfly. In the fall, students\* from across the USA and Canada will

create paper Class Ambassador Butterflies and individual life-sized butterflies to send to Mexico. These Ambassadors, along with an environmental lesson, will be delivered to students in the schools that surround the monarch sanctuaries where Ambassadors will spend the winter. In the spring, as real monarchs migrate northward, participating schools will receive life-sized butterflies made by other students from across North America and a letter from a student in Mexico.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage and schools are turning to virtual or hybrid learning, we have opted to make this season's Symbolic Migration a virtual experience as well. For schools in the USA and Canada, this means that your Class Ambassadors and life-sized butterflies will need to be scanned or photographed and shared with [symbolic-migration@eealliance.org](mailto:symbolic-migration@eealliance.org) through a

Cont. Next Page



A Monarch egg discovered near Augusta in April.

*\*The Symbolic Migration program is written with schools as our main audience but families, organizations, and other groups are welcome to participate. Adults can participate as well; there is no age limit.*

### The Symbolic Migration is Going Virtual Cont.

Google Drive folder. For the schools in Mexico that surround the monarch sanctuaries, virtual participation is not a viable option as most schools and families do not have reliable internet service. We will be shipping paper copies of your butterflies to our environmental educator and courier, Estela Romero, in Angangueo, Michoacán.

Currently, Mexican schools will be closed this fall. We are hopeful that they will reopen in January 2021. In the interim, Estela will be delivering your Ambassadors to the sanctuaries themselves and local churches where small groups of students can retrieve them. You will be able to read about these deliveries and see photos on Estela's Symbolic Migration blog site starting in mid-November.

The cost is a \$10 Passenger Ticket per classroom which supports the visits in Mexico to deliver printed copies of your electronic butterflies and provide conservation education. **The deadline to purchase your Passenger Ticket and to submit your Class Ambassador and life-sized butterflies is October 9, 2020.** See the [Symbolic Migration Teacher Packet](#) for complete details. ✨

*The Symbolic Migration project is a partnership project between Journey North, a program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, and Monarchs Across Georgia, a committee of The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, a 501 (c) (3) organization. [Journey North](#) manages the interactive Symbolic Migration Participant Maps and hosts all educational materials on the Journey North website. [Monarchs Across Georgia](#) administers the program and is responsible for all fundraising.*



### EEA Spotlight

Meet our new Executive Director **Karan Wood!**

Karan joined the EEA team as executive director in January 2020. She previously served as director of the CPF Institute for the Captain Planet Foundation and executive director of the Greater Atlanta Conservation Corps. Karan is a Georgia Science Ambassador and facilitator of Projects WET, Wild, and Learning Tree; Dynamics of Climate, Climate Reality, and Science in the Schoolyard. She created ecoSTEM Kits, the SAGES curriculum project, and GREAT Pathways, a project-based learning initiative. Karan is also a consultant with Inspiring Innovative Solutions, where she collaborates with non-profits and public agencies on strategic planning. She has raised millions in funds and successfully managed grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Improving Teacher Quality program, Community Development Block Grant Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and private sector donors and foundations. Karan studied Natural Resource Management at U of Michigan.







## The EEA 2020 Annual Conference Was a Hit!

- 109 people registered for the conference.
- \$1,250 in sponsorships were provided to attendees.
- Attendees could choose to participate in 3 workshops, 6 field trips, and 22 different sessions.
- At the Sunday Beach Clean-up 54 volunteers picked up 11 bags of trash.
- The silent auction made \$1,735 that will fund scholarship applications for the next annual conference event.
- Several Awards were presented, and winner spotlights will be included in the Fall 2020 Edition of The Link!



Learning from the incomparable Zana Pouncey despite the brief power outage

**We would like to thank our sponsors:** Alliance for International Reforestation, The Kingery Family Foundation, and Southern Conservation Trust. **We would also like to thank those organizations who have donated to the conference:** Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation, Athens-Clarke County Stormwater, Byrd Cookie Company, Cobb County Water System, Coca-Cola, DeKalb County, Flint RiverQuarium, Fulton County Public Works, Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Jekyll Island Visitors Center, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, Keep Glynn County Beautiful, State Botanical Gardens, and Villas By The Sea."

*Villas by the Sea*  
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER