

2018 Annual



Conference

The Environmental Education Association of Alabama  
presents

## Rivers to the Gulf, Flowing Home

*CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EEAA!*



February 22 - 24, 2018

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

101 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Conference Program

## Thursday, February 22, 2018

4:00 pm

**Registration begins! Location: Shelby Center Lobby**

**Dinner on your own!!!**

7:00 pm

**Following dinner, please join the EEAA Board of Directors for an evening of storytelling, celebrating 30 years of EEAA conferences! Past presidents will be honored at a reception at the Shelby Fisheries Center for an opportunity to share their stories, experiences, and EEAA history. Listen, enjoy appetizers and beverages and gain insight into the organization.**

## Friday, February 23

7:00 am – 8:00 am

**Breakfast in the Dining Hall**

8:45 am

**Silent Auction Begins! Location: Endeavor Lab**

**Field Trips**

**8:45 am Field Trip Option 1: VIP Tour of Estuarium and Tour of Fort Gaines**

The Estuarium highlights the four key habitats of coastal Alabama: the Mobile Tensaw River Delta, Mobile Bay, the Barrier Islands and the Northern Gulf of Mexico. It showcases the plants, animals, and other natural resources. Go behind the scenes to see the 31 aquariums totaling over 30,000 gallons with more than 100 species on display. Then walk across the street to see one of the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay for more than 150 years. 24 participants maximum

**EEAA Board Facilitator: Margaret Sedlecky Location: Shelby Auditorium**

**8:00 am Field Trip Option 2: Dauphin Island Birding Trip**

Join state wildlife biologist Roger Clay as we tour Dauphin Island in search of wintering coastal birds. One hundred forty nine bird species have been documented on the island during February. Reasons to visit may include (but not limited to) shell mounds, Audubon Park, airport marsh, Ft. Gaines area, public beach. Walking level is moderate. Be prepared with cameras/binoculars, good walking shoes, and layered clothing appropriate for the weather. 9 participants maximum

**Facilitator: Roger Clay, Wildlife Biologist, EEAA Board Facilitator: Angela Underwood Location: Meet at Shelby Auditorium**

**8:00 am Field Trip Option 3: MCPSS Environmental Studies Center**

The Environmental Studies Center is 500 acres of pine and bay forests, swamps, freshwater streams, carnivorous plant bog, and twenty acre lake. An environmental education program and wildlife rehabilitation program are part of the Center's attraction., featuring native wildlife that are non-releasable and are now part of the education program that highlights animals that have unique characteristics and life cycles.

**EEAA Board Facilitator: Desiree Bishop Location: Meet at Shelby Auditorium**

**7:45 am Field Trip Option 4: Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuaries Boat Trip**

Join the Dauphin Island Sea Lab marine biologists on their research vessel to explore Mobile Bay. Learn about the biology, ecology, and diversity of this incredible ecosystem by trawling to collect and identify animals that inhabit Alabama's coastal waters. To board the boat you must provide this completed this form (<https://tinyurl.com/boatperm>) signed by a Notary Public.

**EEAA Board Facilitator Michelle Location: Meet at Shelby Auditorium**

12:00 noon

**Lunch and LEARN in the Dining Hall**

**Did you enjoy your morning environmental education field experience? Learn about MORE wonderful environmental education opportunities in the state of Alabama offered through Legacy, the Alapark Team, and other groups. This presentation will provide EEAA Conference attendees with valuable information about EE learning opportunities around the state – field trips, outreach programs, curriculum resources, teacher workshops and MORE! Presenters: Renee Raney, Tasha Simon, Maggie Johnston, David Matson, Tina Miller- Way, Kelly Reetz, et.al.**

1:30 pm

**Welcome!**  
**Kimberly Murray, President of EEAA**  
**Shelby Center Auditorium**  
**Keynote Speaker**

2:00 pm

**Dr. Bob Shipp**  
**Scientist and Author of**  
***Dr. Bob Shipp's Guide to the Fishes of the Gulf of Mexico***

### **Ecosystem Transformation of the Gulf of Mexico - Implications for Fishery Management**

Dr Bob Shipp has taught at the University of South Alabama since 1972 where he served as chairman of the Department of Marine Sciences, director of the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies, and heads the Alabama Oyster Restoration program. He served on the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and was president of the southeastern division. His semi-popular/semi-technical "Dr. Bob Shipp's Guide to Fishes of the Gulf of Mexico" is currently in its fifth printing, and is used by the US Coast Guard and National Marine Fisheries Service for field identification of fishes. He has also authored scores of scientific as well as popular papers and articles.

**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**     **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Let Alabama's Birds Fly Wild in Your Classroom**

**Location: Galathea Hall**

Come experience our favorite student tested activities using birds as a curriculum focus. Participants will leave with materials and ideas and will be ready to incorporate birds and environmental education in their classroom.

**Presenters: Cerina Splunge, Phillip Perry, Kristen Cunningham; Auburn University at Montgomery**

**Audience: K – 6 educators     Format: hands on, discussion, lecture**

#### **Project WILD Update for Alabama**

**Location: Endeavor Classroom**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) & 4-H is now the coordinating organization for the Project WILD Programs (Project WILD, Flying WILD, Aquatic WILD and Growing Up WILD). Learn how to be trained as a Project WILD educator, facilitator and how to sponsor a workshop at your school/organization. If you have been trained before, come by as we are updating our records and contact information.

**Presenter: Doyle Keasal, ACES / 4-H Youth Development     Audience: Educators     Format : presentation**

#### **How a Fund for a Teacher Fellowship Reconnected Me, My Students and the Community to the Local Tennessee River Ecosystem**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #1**

Learn about the Fund for Teachers Fellowship application process and the fellowship itself. Participants will receive a digital and outdoor student based unit, and create an original digital project along with a natural memento about what it means to be an environmental steward.

**Presenter: Shannon McClain, Bridgeport Middle School, Jackson County, Alabama**

**Audience: All     Format: make and take, presentation, discussion, hands-on**

#### **The Marvel Slab: How a Bridge Changed the Course of the Cahaba River**     **Location: Discovery Hall**

Originally built for the passage of coal trucks, the Marvel Slab played an important part in the history of the Cahaba River. Learn how the Cahaba Environmental Center uses the story of this simple bridge as a testament to how humans interact with the environment, a powerful teaching tool connecting students to the world around them.

**Presenter: Shannon Moore, Mallory Pendleton, Cahaba Environmental Center**

**Audience: 4 – 12 Educators     Format: make and take, presentation, discussion, hands-on**

**4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**     **Concurrent Sessions II**

#### **Alabama's Whooping Crane: A Natural National Treasure**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #2**

One of the rarest species of birds on the planet spends each winter at Alabama's Wheeler National Wildlife Preserve. Listen and learn about the whooping Crane in this interactive presentation designed to connect you to the antics and folklore of these marvelous birds. Participants will also have access to Up-to-date information about the birds that they will have to share.

**Presenter: Amber Wilson, International Crane Foundation     Audience: All     Format: presentation, discussion**

#### **Wow! Why is This Egg Warm?**

**Location: Discovery Hall**

At McDowell Farm School we often hear comments like, "Young people today are disconnected from food sources." Learn how we make learning fun on the farm! Inquiry and evidence based problem solving activities that are designed to connect children to the environment and the food we eat will be shared.

**Presenters: Kelsey Evans & Maggie Johnston, McDowell Farm School     Audience: 4 – 9 educators     Format: hands on**

#### **Integrating Technology into Your Outdoor Classroom**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #3**

Join us to explore the latest technology to integrate into learning about the natural world. Activities include a scavenger hunt and collaboration with scientists. Numerous resources will be provided.

**Presenter: Shirley Farrell, Troy University/Alabama Ornithological Society     Audience: All     Format: hands on**

#### **Hands-on Human Ecology for the Next Generation**

**Location: Endeavor Classroom**

Discover interdisciplinary activities to help students learn and think critically about the challenges of a world with 7.5 billion people, including threats to biodiversity and habitats. Activities include modeling, concept mapping, role playing, group problem solving and debate. Activities will be matched to the Alabama Course of Study

**Presenter: Karen Evans & Jennifer Mesa, University of West Florida     Audience: 4 – 9 educators     Format: hands on**

5:15 pm

**Visit our Exhibitors in the Shelby Center Lobby and NETWORK!**

6:30 pm

**Dinner in the Dining Hall**

7:30 pm

**Annual BEEP Awards and ENVIRO – Auction in the Shelby Center Auditorium!**

Kimberly Murray, EEAA President, will present awards, and Jimmy Stiles, EEAA Board Member, will emcee the EEAA Live Auction, a lively, fun-filled annual event you won't want to miss. Cash, credit cards & checks are accepted! Proceeds benefit Professional Development fund.

**Saturday, February 24**

7:00 am – 8:00 am

**Breakfast in the Dining Hall – Visit Exhibitors and Silent Auction (ENDS AT 9:40!)**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

**Concurrent Sessions III**

**Alabama Aliens: Exotic Invasive Species and Their Control**

**Location: Horizon Classroom # 2**

One of the biggest threats to Alabama's amazing biodiversity is invasive species. Learn about the most threatening terrestrial and aquatic invasive species and what can be done to limit their effects on native species. **Presenter: Jimmy Stiles, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Audience: All**

**Format: lecture/presentation**

**Become an Environmental Detective!**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #3**

Student "sleuths" will investigate and solve a real "crime" – a mysterious environmental calamity. Crime scene? Choccolocco Creek – a watershed that includes forests, a town, a river and a pond. *Environmental Detectives* will engage your students in data collection and scientific inquiry as they explore complex environmental scenarios.

**Presenter: Claire Datnow, Media Mint Publishing Audience: 4 – 9 educators Format: hands on**

**Diggin' In: Using Local Rocks to Meet Earth Science Educational Standards**

**Location: Discovery Hall**

Use locally sourced rock and fossil samples to engage students in Earth Science. Investigate backyard geology with digital tools like maps and Google Earth.

**Presenter: Trisha Smrecak, McDowell Environmental Center Audience: 4-12 Educators, All Format: hands on**

**Leave No Trace**

**Location: Endeavor Classroom**

Learn how incorporating *Leave No Trace* skills contributes to a safe and fun outdoor trip. *Leave No Trace* methods help preserve limited recreational resources for today and tomorrow and ensure a positive outdoor experience for all those who spend time outside.

**Presenter: Mandy Pearson, Naturalist, Cheaha State Park**

**Audience: All**

**Format: presentation, discussion**

9:45 am – 11:45 am

**Concurrent Sessions IV**

**The Hidden World of Lichens: A Microcosm**

**Location: Discovery Lab**

Part fungus, part algae and all beautiful and fascinating. Come explore the hidden world of lichens! Isolate micro invertebrates from lichen samples and learn how to identify lichens and methods to use them as bio-indicators of air quality. Participants desiring digital copies of materials should bring a flash drive. LIMIT 20 Participants

**Presenter: J. Kevin England, Ardmore High School and University of West Alabama Herbarium**

**Audience: All Format: hands-on, make and take, discussion, presentation**

**Flying WILD**

**Location: Galathea Hall**

Join this *Flying WILD* training and leave with a plethora of resources to integrate hands-on classroom and outdoor field investigations connecting real-world experiences in bird biology and conservation. *Flying WILD* offers a whole school approach to environmental education using birds as the focus for multi-disciplinary learning experiences. LIMIT 25 Participants

**Presenter: Shirley Farrell, Troy University/Alabama Ornithological Society & Traci Ingleright, Gifted Specialist, Gwin Elementary, Hoover City Schools Audience: All Format: hands on**

**Salt Marsh Savvy**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #1**

If a low country shrimp boil is your favorite weekend tailgate delicacy, meet YOUR salt marsh located in the upland convergence zone along the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Journey to the Salt Marsh on Dauphin Island and learn about salt marsh biodiversity. Field Trip! Appropriate weather gear and closed-toed shoes that can get wet!

**Presenter: Dr. Jerri Lynn Hollyfield Turner, Retired Public School Teacher/Currently Informal Educator**

**Audience: All Format: hands on, make and take, discussion, presentation, field experience**

**Pocketbooks, Snuffboxes and Pigtoes – Oh My!**

**Location: Horizon Classroom #3**

In this session participants will learn about a beautifully written book: *Immersion – The Science and Mystery of Freshwater Mussels* and receive a curriculum guide and materials that complement the book and are ready for classroom use. Attendees will learn how to effortlessly introduce students to the science and mystery of freshwater mussels.

**Presenter: Shelly Taliaferro, Auburn University at Montgomery**

**Audience: All Format: hands on, discussion, presentation**

Noon

**Closing Luncheon in the Dining Hall, Announcement of the new EEAA Board!**

**Board Meeting after lunch in the Shelby Center Auditorium**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Join us next year for the 2019 EEAA Conference at Cheaha State Park!**

**February 28 – March 2, 2019**

**19644 Hwy 281 Delta, AL 36258**