



Monarchs Across Georgia presents the 2017 Pollinator Symposium

Saturday, September 23, 2017
Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers

Monarchs Across Georgia is hosting a Pollinator Symposium, September 23, 2017, at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. The \$75 cost will include lunch and a one year membership in the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Participants will take part in four presenter sessions, nature walks around the grounds of the monastery, and a demonstration of monarch tagging and testing for the OE parasite. Exhibitors will be on site with information. The Monastery's Abbey Garden Center will have pollinator plants, including native milkweeds, for sale.

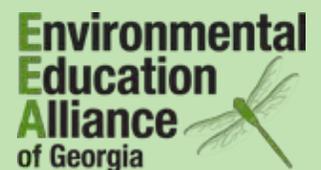
Learn more about pollinators and pollinator gardens at these presenter sessions!

Monarch Butterfly, presented by Sonia Altizer: Sonia Altizer graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in Biology and the University of Minnesota with a Ph.D. in Ecology. She is currently a professor with the Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia. Her research interests include population ecology; ecology and evolution of infectious diseases; evolution of host resistance and parasite virulence; monarch butterfly ecology and evolution; anthropogenic change; and infectious disease emergence. Sonia will be presenting on the population ecology and general status of the monarch butterfly as well as infectious diseases of the monarch butterfly.

Native Bees, presented by Nancy Adamson: Ecologist Nancy Adamson is the East Region Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Greensboro, NC. She promotes habitat restoration that benefits pollinators and other beneficial insects on farm lands and in community and home landscapes. She loves sharing her passion for native plants and all the wildlife they support. She studied native bees, native plants, and native grasses for ecological (habitat) restoration. She has long been involved in inventorying, collecting seed, and propagating native plants for habitat restoration. Join us to learn about common native bees we can support by protecting and planting pollinator habitat. In Georgia, we have more than 500 native species and a few introduced species in addition to the European honey bee. Bumble bees, mason bees, mining or digger bees, sunflower bees, carpenter bees, hibiscus bees, and leafcutter bees are all groups you can easily recognize when you slow down and take a look. Nancy's program will highlight nesting habits to help you in supporting these diverse native pollinators.

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EDIBLE ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXERCISES

by Liz Swafford

Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority and Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful
EEA Regional Director - North

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job as a non-formal environmental educator for the Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority is the opportunity to lead students visiting our recycling center and landfill for a tour in educational activities that they normally wouldn't do at school. Lessons about the carrying capacity of a habitat, the lifecycle of a tree, or those about identifying the right things to recycle are disguised as fun games. Usually the games are so entertaining that students don't realize they're learning until the game is over.

As fun as the recycling relay race and other games are, the most memorable lessons tend to be the ones with an edible component. Yes, you read that right – edible. I have found that adding an edible component to an otherwise stale lesson enriches a student's educational experience. When there's food involved, a two-dimensional lesson printed on a worksheet can become a three-dimensional object that students can touch, move, see, smell, and - if the teacher allows – eat.



Red licorice and small colorful marshmallows are used to build a DNA sequence. A final twist completes the double helix, giving students a three-dimensional and edible way to study DNA.

Photo credit: [Edible DNA Model](#)

Edible educational exercises tend to be multi-sensory experiences that are memorable, different, fun, delicious, creative, adaptable, and engaging. Edible lessons are available in almost any subject and are adaptable for most grade levels. Lower elementary students may enjoy making an edible color wheel to learn about primary and secondary colors. Middle school aged students could make a model of a biological cell for a science class project.

The main thing these lessons have in common is that one or more of the components are a food item that represents an item or concept in a lesson. For example, in math, students may use M&M's candies to learn concepts like estimation, sorting, graphing, counting, fair shares, and finding averages. Students will use their notebook paper or worksheets, but instead of counting with their hands, they will be counting the individual candy pieces to help them solve problems.

Food items for lessons can be fresh too. A lesson called "Eat the Rainbow" brings the school garden indoors by arranging colorful fruits or vegetables on a serving tray in the shape of a rainbow for students to eat. A rainbow made of fruit could include strawberries, oranges, pineapple, kiwi, blue berries, and red grapes. Each fruit represents a color of the rainbow from red to violet. This is a creative way to present fruit to kids and encourage them to eat different colors of fruits to stay healthy.

Students in science class may learn the different phases of the moon using Oreo cookies. For this activity, divide students into groups of two or three. Each group needs eight cookies, a butter knife, paper towel or plate, and a chart showing the phases of the moon. Instruct students to carefully separate the cookies, making sure one side has all the frosting and the other has none.

Based on the diagram, carefully scrape away the white filling to represent the shapes of each phase of the moon. Or carefully cut the half of the cookie with no filling to represent the phases and place that on top of the side with filling. What better way to remember what a waxing crescent moon looks like than to make it yourself?

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Edible Exercises... Continued from page 2

During a facility tour, I've lead students in making an edible aquifer, which is a model of ground water. Many students in the area use well water at home, making this an important educational exercise to understand how pollution can infiltrate water sources underground. There's nothing like seeing pollution (represented by red cake sprinkles), soak through the layers of soil and clay (crushed cereal and ice cream), to reach the drinking water trapped below. Making a functional model of ground water helps students take a concept described in a textbook and turns it into a tangible experience that is memorable.

The variety of edible lessons is astounding. From models of the layers of soil to models of a DNA molecule, there's an activity to match what students are currently studying. With so many schools focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) or STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), edibles are a natural fit. Last year, I even introduced an edible landfill model activity so students can learn how a modern day landfill is constructed.

To find instructions for the edible aquifer and over a hundred other edible educational activities, visit my

edible education board online at [pinterest.com/lizswafford/edible-lessons-for-kids](https://www.pinterest.com/lizswafford/edible-lessons-for-kids).

Liz Swafford is the Recycling and Education Program Coordinator for the Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority. Have a recycling question? For more details about facility tours and resources for environmental education, contact her at 706-278-5001, or e-mail lswafford@dswa.org.



Fruit arranged by color helps young children learn the colors of the rainbow and the importance of eating a variety of colorful fruits.

Photo credit: livelearnloveeat.com

Pollinator Symposium... Continued from cover

Hummingbirds, presented by Kim Bailey: Kim Bailey has a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction – Science Education. An environmental educator for over 20 years, Kim has enjoyed a wide range of experiences including teaching middle school life science, leading wilderness adventure trips, conducting ecology outreach programs, directing outdoor education programs, and training teachers and naturalists. After 14 years coordinating a statewide environmental education program for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, she fulfilled her longtime dream of launching Milkweed Meadows Farm in Fruitland, NC. She now enjoys growing milkweed, wildflowers, fruits, and vegetables; producing open-pollinated seeds for Sow True Seed; keeping bees; and raising butterflies. Kim also works for the Captain Planet Foundation as their Curriculum Editor. Kim will present facts and feats of hummingbirds and how to attract them.



Black-chinned hummingbird (Archilochus alexandri)

Photo credit: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Gardening for Pollinators, presented by

Karen Giovengo: Karen Giovengo is the EcoScapes program manager with UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. She provides education, outreach, technical assistance, and research support regarding natural resource-based sustainable land use practices in Georgia. Karen will provide a brief overview of the diversity of pollinators in Georgia, challenges they face, and basic habitat requirements that need to be addressed in pollinator gardens. She will emphasize sustainable best management practices and tools that gardeners can implement to achieve these habitat requirements.

Registration information will soon be posted at www.ealliance.org/mag-events.



Drawing on Empathy

by Susan Ask

Originally published by the [Center for Humans & Nature](#), April 3, 2014



I teach a natural history class for non-traditional college students. Several years ago, I began assigning a weekly field journal to my students to help improve their observational skills by doing independent field observations and describing one plant and one animal in their journals. It also gives us an excuse to get out of the dim, dank classroom—and into the natural world we are talking about. I bring the class on walks that seem casual, but are softly encouraging of observation. We walk and talk, sit on the ground and describe what we see, smell, feel, and hear.

One student, a woman in her forties, sat by a tree in a city park and watched ants gathering and carrying food to their nest. As she reflected on these ants, she compared their work to her own work of feeding her family. She confessed that she was glad she hadn't crushed the ants—which was sometimes her response to these "nuisance" animals. Instead, she watched them and understood their effort in relation to her own. She made room for them to co-exist alongside her.

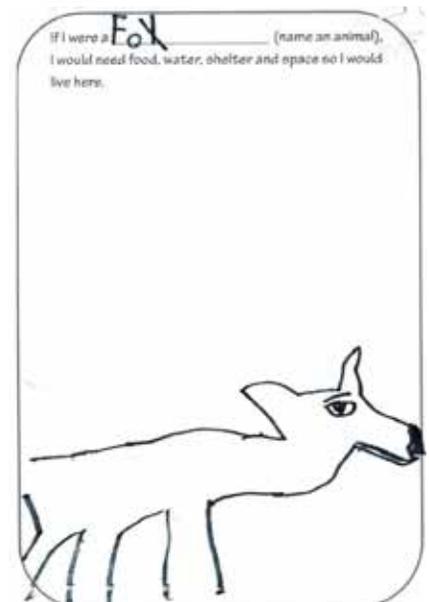
I thought—if adults, self-proclaimed non-scientists, could learn new and cliché-shattering ways to look at the world around them, to observe and understand, and empathize with animals they once considered varmints—what would this be like with kids?

Let's leap forward, wind in the hair, to several weeks ago. A cold, icy day in downtown Chicago.

We ([animalia project](#)) had been invited to join Family Science Days and to share a scientific activity with families who attended the giant fair. The event was part of a major scientific meeting, hosted by the [AAAS](#) (American Association for the Advancement of Science, publishers of the journal *Science*). The goal was to get people excited about science and to show how we use science every day. The animalia project combines science with fun to inspire understanding and action, so the fair was the perfect place for us to spend a weekend.

At the event, science projects are everywhere I look, transforming an ordinary Hyatt conference room into a labyrinth of mini-laboratories. On one side of the hall, silly melodies are played on musical bananas. Plastic whirligigs fly over the heads of passersby. Amid the smoke balloons, 3D printers, and robots—we ask kids to draw pictures of animals.

As explosions boom across the hall and the bubble machines envelop children in shiny spheres, our booth is silent. But it is busy. We encourage the young scientists to draw animals from memory or from images we provide as prompts. Then we ask them to illustrate the ecological relationship of the animal to its environment by drawing food sources, water supplies, shelter, and habitat. Hundreds of children, their tongues stuck out in earnest concentration, ignore the noise and sit down to draw animals with us. Markers snap under the strain; we run out of brown.



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Drawing on Empathy... Continued from page 4

Looking through the drawings, what strikes me is that in addition to the details of plumage, beak shape, color patterns, and habitats, the kids draw real characters—animals that you want to get to know. A dog who can barely contain her excitement for the bowls of food and water in front of her. (You can see her enthusiasm in her raised paws and the motion lines to either side of her tail.) The bunny grinning broadly at the endless expanse of green vegetation surrounding him. The fox with the saucy sidelong glance, off on an adventure.

In the minds of these kids—these animals are alive. The animals not only have needs, some express real happiness when those needs are met.

I watch quietly as imaginations spark, and boys and girls lose themselves in their animal's world, even amid the allure of buttons to be pushed and robots to be walked. A few parents comment that this is their favorite science station—because it offers an activity that is quiet, contemplative. More than a few kids come back to draw another critter, even as their family members are lured back to the 3D printer to make more plastic shapes. One girl draws a tiger, then a bee that

loves flowers, then a snake. She draws a diverse bestiary—seeing a range of life in front of her—showing that all creatures are viable, important, and worthy of her time and interest. No one draws exterminators or traps or guns or raging monsters.



By drawing animals—and their homes—the children empathized with the critters they drew. And they thought about the animals as more than just cute things; they portrayed them as living creatures who share the world with us. In a room full of energetic exhibitions, the children at our booth exhibited enthusiastic empathy. Psychologist Gene Myers argues that “children relate to animals because they recognize them as another animate being... This connection reaches into the child’s thoughts, feelings and actions” (in Bekoff, ed., [Ignoring Nature No More](#)). Empathy, in this view, is the foundation for a relationship that allows space and resources for animals to live. No matter what animal they chose to draw, my hope is that the boys and girls who visited our booth will want to better know the critters they drew—rather than dismiss them as faceless pests or fear them as menaces.

I hope we also helped kids, and their parents, to think about natural history as a science—expanding their definition of science beyond the boundaries of physics and chemistry, which often dominate STEM teaching (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). It seems to me that the STEM focus often parallels the “conquering hero” myth by focusing on technology and tools that can be used to manage and master nature. By asking children to draw animals as a method of doing science, we were prompting them to expand beyond a perspective of science-as-conquest and to explore possibilities for co-existing with nature.

I founded animalia project to strengthen the relationships between people and other animals, to inspire children and adults to imagine a world that is better—for all of us in the Animal Kingdom—and to be active participants in making that imagined world a reality. I can’t stop looking at the drawings—the empathy they embody gives me hope.

Susan Ask is a contributor to the Center for Humans and Nature. This essay was originally published on the Center’s City Creatures blog, a storytelling community that encourages people to share their experiences and encounters with nature within an urban setting. At the Center’s website, humansandnature.org, you are invited to join the growing community of thinkers and share your reflections.

Read the original post at www.humansandnature.org/drawing-empathy.

All drawings were made by kids at the AAAS Family Science Days event in February 2014.

2017 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference Recap



The EEA Buzzard checks out the EEA store and meets the conference keynote speaker, **Christopher Uhl**.



Buford Trout Hatchery field trip participants view the tanks where the trout are raised.

"I WAS SO FORTUNATE to be able to attend the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance 2017 Annual Conference on a scholarship this March. My official journey into EE began only a year ago, so this conference was a totally new experience for me. I knew I could expect to learn a few tricks of the trade, but I had no idea I'd find an entire tribe of "my people." The body of educators striving to make a difference on this planet is truly inspiring, and I continue to keep in touch with those I met at the event.

In addition to expanding my EE network, I had the opportunity to learn the do's and don'ts of outdoor education from Brad Daniel, and Ranger Jerry Hightower taught me how to entertain kids (and adults) with decaying wood. I picked up an ensemble of "Brain Education" techniques from Penny Costanzo, and I gained valuable insight into program planning on a tight budget thanks to Jackie Sherry and Hannah Penn - all lessons which should prove helpful in my role as Bear Hollow Zoo Camp Director this summer!"

by Melissa Ray

MNR Candidate & Graduate Teaching Assistant

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia



Captain Planet stops by to meet conference attendees and their families during the Sunday Family Fun Day.



A fairy house constructed during the "Building Nature Observation Skills through Fairy Houses" session.

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Conference Recap... Continued from page 6

“Teaching with Native Fishes” session.



Saturday Evening Social participants having fun at the photo booth.



Congratulations to all of the EEA, Project WET, and Monarchs Across Georgia award winners!

From the EEA Conference Planning Committee

THE 2017 SOUTHEASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE CONFERENCE & RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM took place March 3-5 at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford. Over 200 educators attended and enjoyed three days of networking, learning, and fun. Thank you to all of those who participated, and we hope everyone left the conference inspired, energized, and ready to hit the ground running with new environmental education techniques, knowledge, and resources.

EEA would also like to thank the Environmental and Heritage Center for hosting the event, the Conference Committee, all of the great presenters and speakers, the wonderful volunteers, and everyone else that helped along the way. Thank you for all that you did to make the conference such a success!

The Annual Conference gives us the opportunity to collaborate, learn, and share best practices to advance the field of environmental education. If you have yet to experience an EEA conference first-hand, we encourage you to save the date for next year's conference: **March 2-4, 2018 at Unicoi State Park.**

Interested in helping to plan next year's conference? Contact the Conference Committee at conference@eealliance.org.

Want to re-visit your favorite conference session? Download handouts and resources the [Conference Resources](#) webpage.

View all of our conference photos at our [Facebook page](#).

Photo credits: Sonya Wood Mahler, Carole Teja, Vicki Culbreth, & Jackie Sherry

FRESH FACES, FRESH IDEAS

Getting to Know Our Newer Members

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



Michela Williams is a Greening Youth intern for the U.S. Forest Service. She works at the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Gainesville, Georgia.

Finding EEA

When Michela started her position with the U.S. Forest Service, her supervisor suggested that she join EEA. Her supervisor was once a member and felt that EEA would be a great way to network with other environmental educators.

Day to day work in environmental education

Michela's days vary! One day she is visiting schools and the next she is sitting in on conference calls. Michela and her co-worker visit elementary schools to provide 4th graders with Every Kid in the Park passes. To date, they have provided EKIP passes to over 3,250 4th graders. When Michela is not doing school programs, she is

searching for grants and coordinating events for the Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network.

Michela received her degree in Economics from Georgia State University. After graduating, she interned with the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless. As an intern, she helped clients start the process of retrieving their birth certificates and electronic benefit transfers. She also interned with the International Rescue Committee under the Economic Empowerment Division. There, her job was to help refugees develop budgets and find jobs. She learned about the U.S. Forest Service internship through Georgia State University and felt that it would be a great opportunity. Her ultimate goal is to provide underrepresented groups with experiences and opportunities they have never had before or are simply less informed about.

Favorite thing about being an environmental educator

Her favorite part of her job is teaching children about nature and watching their faces light up. She loves how one question turns into 15 and they want to learn even more!

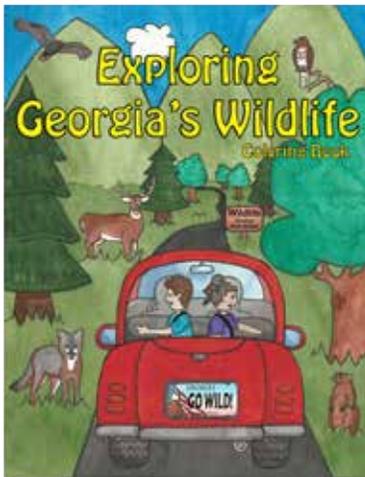
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Recommended Resources

EXPLORING GEORGIA'S WILDLIFE COLORING BOOK

THE NEWLY UPDATED *Exploring Georgia's Wildlife* coloring book is a great teaching aid that covers native animals and plants, ecoregions, habitat requirements, and more! As part of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Kids for Conservation initiative, this coloring book fosters appreciation for Georgia's rich biodiversity and motivates students and their families to embark on outdoor adventures close to home and throughout our great state.



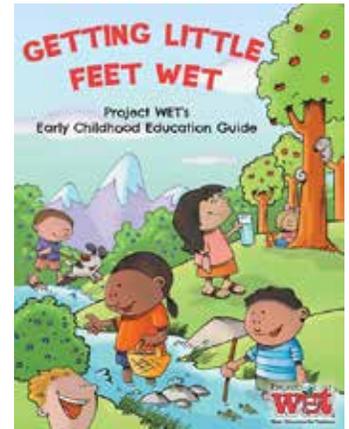
This new edition features an updated ecoregion map that more closely matches the state's science standards (page 9), the latest bald eagle license plate, and additional web resources on the inside back cover (page 19).

Click [here](#) to download a free copy.

GETTING LITTLE FEET WET

PROJECT WET'S NEWEST PUBLICATION for our youngest learners is now available! Developed specifically for teachers working with young children (ages 3-6) and in coordination with early childhood experts and educators, *Getting Little Feet Wet* is Project WET's early childhood curriculum. *Getting Little Feet Wet* contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water, from water properties to water sounds. Each activity offers both Pre-K and K-2 options and is correlated to respective educational standards. Visit the [Project WET website](#) to purchase your digital or printed copy.

Many of the activities are linked to "Water We Singing About", a volume of kid-friendly songs about water written by the NJ WET coordinator, Keven Kopp. [Purchase the CD here.](#)



Fresh Faces... Continued from page 8

Best EE moment

In October 2016, the north Georgia mountains experienced historic wildfires. Throughout the season, Michela and her co-worker visited schools to teach students about wildfire prevention. During the presentations, she shared the story of Smokey Bear. At the end of a presentation, a student from Blackburn Elementary School walked up and thanked her for saving Smokey Bear. She felt so cool!

Relaxation, travel, and fun

Michela loves a good book! When she wants to relax, she finds a good mystery to read. She also really enjoys traveling. Visiting different locations and learning about various cultures allows her to interact with different people with different perspectives. She has traveled to Europe, South America, and a few regions of the United States.

Favorite outdoor place in Georgia

Michela's favorite outdoor spot in Georgia is her parents' backyard in Griffin. She learned to climb a tree and camped for the first time in her own backyard. She has seen beautiful locations in the Georgia mountains, but there is no place like home!

Impressions of EEA so far

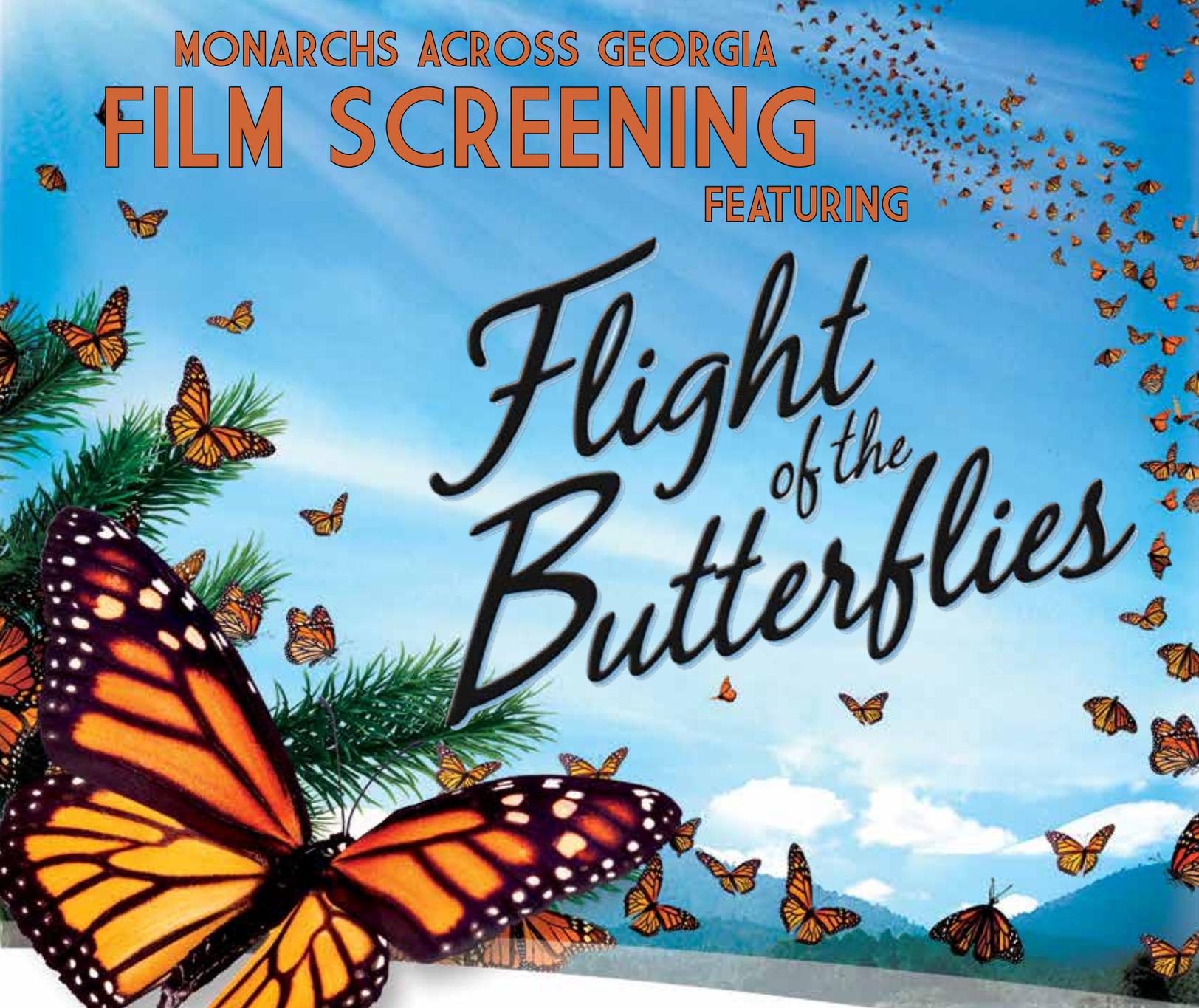
Michela has enjoyed the events she has attended and people she has met through EEA. She loves that she learns something new every time she participates in a conference. EEA has also given her the chance to partner with organizations that offer tangible resources for conservation education.



MONARCHS ACROSS GEORGIA
FILM SCREENING

FEATURING

*Flight
of the
Butterflies*



**SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017
11 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.
MIDTOWN ART CINEMA**

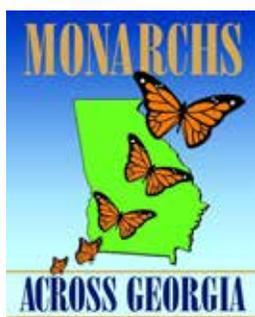
MIDTOWN PROMENADE

931 MONROE DR NE, ATLANTA, GA 30308

Register in advance at www.eealliance.org/mag-events

Your price of admission is a donation to the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Native milkweed plants will be available for sale in the theater foyer after the showing for \$6.00 each.

Monarchs Across Georgia is a committee of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Its mission is to inspire caretakers of the natural environment through monarch and pollinator education.



Celebrating 25 Years of EEA

by Sonya Wood Mahler

Cobb County Water System, EEA Member Services Chair

Theodosia Wade is a professor of Pedagogy in Biology at Oxford College of Emory University in Oxford, Georgia. Theodosia, a longtime leader of EEA, received the Dr. Eugene Odum Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference held at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center in March.

From the beginning, a love of the outdoors

Theodosia's love for the out-of-doors grew out of her childhood spent playing in the woods around her house, building forts out of anything she and her friends could find in the woods, wading in Nancy Creek, and going to YWCA overnight camp each summer at Camp Highland on Nickajack Creek in Smyrna. She hated to come inside at the end of the day when her mother called them home for dinner.

Years of work with teachers in environmental education

Theodosia's first official role in EE was with the creation of the Oxford Institute for Environmental Education (OIEE) in the summer of 1991. Several biology faculty members from Oxford College of Emory University under the guidance of Dr. Eloise Carter and Dr. Steve Baker launched the OIEE to help K-12 teachers, regardless of their background or grade level, develop their own teaching plans using their schoolyards for scientific investigation. Participants learned the basic principles of ecology in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, how to apply this knowledge to lesson plans, and how to develop those school yards for environmental education. There was a move at that time to have schoolyards certified as wildlife habitats, but few teachers were actually using their schoolyards for scientific investigation. The workshop was designed to meet that need.



First involvement with the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Part of Theodosia's job at the OIEE was to represent the Institute at various conferences and recruit students for the summer workshop each year. She quickly found EEA's annual conference to be a hugely important venue for meeting other EE folks and connecting with teachers interested in taking the summer workshop. She was immediately taken with the commitment and dedication of the people who were running EEA. She saw that they were very committed to educating individuals across our state about the workings of the natural world and our impact on it.

Service to EEA

Theodosia wanted to become more involved, so in 2004 she became a member of the EEA Board working under the energetic guidance of Petey Giroux. She served on a number of committees over the next six years, one of which being the newly-formed Higher Ed committee. Theodosia and Becky Champion, who was working at Oxbow Meadows just outside of Columbus, led that committee for a number of years. They were later joined by David Hedgepeth from Valdosta, who went on to become President of EEA in 2010. They actually recruited and worked with EEA's first college-level affiliate group, from Columbus State

University, made up of college students interested in a career in EE. This was a short-lived group, but the students were able to connect with professionals in the field of environmental education and their state professional organization. Theodosia worked with Kitty Spivey and others on the Nominating Committee to find a slate of dedicated EEA members who would join the Board of Directors to help formulate a new strategic plan for the organization.

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*Cornerstones... Continued from page 11***Some leaders in the field who have served as mentors**

Theodosia was fortunate to serve with Kim Bailey, Claire Hayes, and Donna Stewart on the Scholarship Committee of the Annual Conference for several years to help folks in need attend the EEA conference. She watched and learned so much from capable environmental educators like Anne Shenk, Walter Lane, and Lisa Weinstein, who all did so much to make EEA a better organization through their guidance.

A fond memory of the early years of EEA

Theodosia attended a number of the conferences and watched as Petey Giroux, dressed as the EEA Buzzard, encouraged participants to earn a Buzzard Badge for each of the conference sites. She and Jerry Hightower were quite a pair, never afraid to make fools of themselves if it meant exciting folks about their roles as environmental educators. The wackier the better!

The thing about this organization that makes her most proud

One of the things Theodosia is most proud of is being a part of the work of the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG) program since its inception. It began with a conversation around a table at the Chophouse in Madison with Diane Davies, and from there a Steering Committee was formed which evolved into the Certification Advisory Board. A group worked under the guidance of Venetia Butler, Kim Morris-Zarneke, and Kris Irwin to create a statewide certification program for both formal and non-formal educators to become certified environmental educators. Our state program was the first to be recognized by NAAEE and it has taken a lot of hard work to make the program what it is today.



Currently, Theodosia has the privilege of working with Kim Morris-Zarneke and Renee Gracon as teachers of Core Course 1 of the ATEEG Program. She is always amazed and encouraged by the next generation of environmental educators that take the class. They are dedicated, hardworking folks who come together for the weekend class to share a love of the natural world and a desire for future generations to have the same opportunities we have had.

An exciting time in her life

Theodosia was honored and humbled to receive the Dr. Eugene Odum Lifetime Achievement Award this year. Having his name on the award is just awe inspiring. Odum was the father of ecology and a wonderful human being who did so much for our understanding of how ecosystems work in Georgia and around the globe.

After working at Oxford College of Emory University for almost 30 years with a wonderful team of students, faculty, and staff, Theodosia is preparing to retire this summer. She began by teaching a number of biology courses and, in the last ten to fifteen years, has been teaching environmental science. Environmental science has been her real passion. Theodosia shared this bit of wisdom with all of us: "Theologian Frederick Buechner wrote, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' Teaching environmental science has been my deep gladness. It combines my curiosity about the world around me and my faith which calls me to be a steward of creation. In a time when environmental issues seem so huge it is especially important for me to do what I can to educate and motivate others toward workable solutions. It will take all of us working together to make the changes needed to protect the earth so that future generations will be able to enjoy the natural world, its ecosystem services, and its resources."

What she wants to do next

In this next phase of her life, Theodosia wants to continue to be involved with issues in her county and state that matter to her. She is anxious to help her county expand and improve the options for riding bikes and walking. She wants to be sure that we watch over our rivers and make them more accessible for outdoor recreation while keeping them safe for aquatic life and as sources of drinking water. She is looking for opportunities to spend time doing more things that renew her spirit and feed her soul - things that strengthen her connections to the natural world and to the people around her.

Become a Certified Environmental Educator with ATEEG

Whether you're new to the field of environmental education or simply looking to reinvigorate your current teaching, [Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia \(ATEEG\)](#) 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.

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. Register for this upcoming course and learn more at www.eealliance.org/ateeg.

Core Course 3 (Assessment and Evaluation) - June 9-11, 2017 at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center - Increase skills and knowledge associated with program evaluation including identifying outcomes, data collection methods, and data analysis and interpretation. **Register by May 25.**

Congratulations ATEEG Graduates!

Congratulations to the most recent graduates of the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia Program! The five graduates were honored at the 2017 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference, held at the Environmental & Heritage Center in Buford, Georgia in March.

Ben Marchman, Environmental Education Coordinator, The Heritage School in Newnan

Joanna Gerber, Teacher, 2nd Grade, Science PK-3rd Grades, Friends School of Atlanta

Cherie Santamaria, Naturalist, Chattahoochee Nature Center (school and community programs) and Middle School Science Teacher, Omega Private Academy

Ann Pierce, Science Teacher, Pope High School in Marietta

Stacy Smith, Education Specialist, Keep Athens Clarke County Beautiful

Well done, ATEEG Graduates!

Monarchs Across Georgia Plant Sale Featuring native milkweeds!

Saturday, May 13, 2017

10am - 5pm

Cobb County Water System

Wildlife and Rain Garden

662 S Cobb Dr, Marietta, GA 30060

Join Monarchs Across Georgia at Cobb County Water System's Rain & Wildlife Garden for a spring plant sale! This garden is one of the seven featured on the annual ["Through the Garden Gate"](#) tour sponsored by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County. Although this plant sale is open to the public, we encourage you to purchase tickets and enjoy the tour. (\$20 in advance, \$25 day of the tour).



Cobb County Water System's Rain & Wildlife Garden



Save the date!
MARCH 2-4, 2018
 Environmental Education Alliance
 of Georgia Annual Conference
 Unicoi State Park and Lodge,
 Helen, GA

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

SOARING BEYOND THE BACKYARD

The 2018 EEA Conference will focus on soaring beyond our backyard using local issues as the springboard to learn about global issues and make a positive impact. Give your lessons from a bird's-eye view by taking advantage of new innovations to bring technology into your classroom and outdoors.

WWW.EEALLIANCE.ORG

save the date



10.20.17

The Council of Outdoor Learning Presents
THE OUTDOOR LEARNING SYMPOSIUM
 Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy • Atlanta, Georgia
eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium



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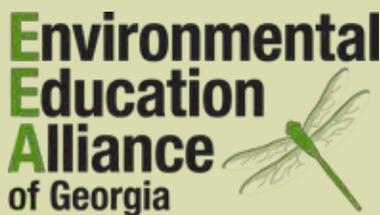
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We'd love to hear from you! For comments and article suggestions or submissions, please email news@eealliance.org.



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 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.

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