

Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2015 Annual Report
January 1 - December 31

Empowering Educators For A Healthier Environment

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Pat Curley giving Bill Crowell his presenter' s gift at the 2015 conference at Eastern 4H Educational Conference Center.

About EENC



Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC) is North Carolina's affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), an integrated network of professionals in the field of environmental education with membership throughout North America and in more than 55 countries.

EENC's mission is to promote excellence in professional development and facilitate networking opportunities, inspiring educators to create an environmentally literate citizenry.

EENC's vision is to connect diverse professionals and organizations to each other and to high quality environmental education materials and programs, demonstrating leadership in North Carolina and beyond.

EENC is an entirely volunteer run, membership-based organization. To meet the needs of smaller groups throughout the state, North Carolina is organized into three sections: Western, Central, and Eastern. Committee & section meetings and retreats occur throughout the year and culminate at the statewide annual conference.



www.eenc.org

President's Letter

Dear EE Colleagues,

On behalf the EENC Board of Directors, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of environmental education in North Carolina. EENC is our state's professional organization for environmental educators. Your efforts provide opportunities for strong professional growth and networking among your peers. Our 500+ members include classroom teachers, museum educators, nature center staff, park rangers and other professionals working to provide environmental education opportunities.



Environmental
Educators of
North Carolina

2015 was an exciting year for EENC. In September, we hosted the 24th EENC Annual Conference at the Eastern 4H Environmental Education and Conference Center in Columbia, NC. The three day event highlighted the many successful environmental education programs and activities that are taking place here in North Carolina. This year's theme focused on Sound Decisions in EE. The theme was developed from the 4H motto of Head, Hands, Heart and Health. The Annual Awards Ceremony recognized talented educators and outstanding programs. The *Executive Summary* in this document lists other major 2015 accomplishments. 2016 is going to be a great year. Our Board is dedicated to constant improvement and 2016 President Michelle Pearce has some exciting ideas for the organization.

I would like to say a special thank you to two groups. First, the EENC Board members and volunteers that worked very hard to make the organization stronger. I want to acknowledge the contributions of outgoing board members Jonathan Navarro, Beth Cranford, Pat Curley, Kathryn Stevenson and Eric McDuffie. Thank you for your service, your creative energy, and your collaborative spirit! A special thanks also goes out to our partners that work so hard to move EE forward in North Carolina and the Southeast region. Lisa Tolley and Marty Wiggins at the state office, the North Carolina Association for EE Centers, and Ashley Hoffman and her team at SEEA were wonderful collaborators.

We live in a time when environmental education is needed more than ever – education that engages the heart, stimulates the mind, and nurtures the spirit. It is a privilege to engage in this work together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Sarah Fuller

Sarah Fuller, EENC President, 2015

EENC 2015 Board of Directors

President	Sarah Fuller, Randolph County Schools
President-Elect	Michelle Pearce, The NC Arboretum
Past-President	Brad Daniel, Montreat College
Treasurer	Renee Strnad, NC State University
Secretary.....	Lauren Pyle, WNC Nature Center
Communication Chair	Karan Barber, E-Corps Expeditions, Inc. Jonathan Navarro, NC Division of Air Quality
Education Co-Chairs	Eric McDuffie, CW Stanford Middle School Kathryn Stevenson, NC State University
Membership Chair	Catrina Dillard, NC Arboretum
Partnership Chair	Keith Bamberger, NC Division of Air Quality
Policy Chair	Shannon Culpepper, NC Division of Air Quality
Resource Development Chair.....	Elissa Riley, New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District
Eastern Section Chair	Pat Curley, Center for Marine Science and Technology
Central Section Co-Chairs	Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Agape Center for EE Beth Cranford, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Western Section Co-Chairs	Jonathan Marchal, The NC Arboretum Joy Shuck, REI

EENC 2015 Executive Summary

- Updated EENC Policy Manual
- Redefined the section lines and created a new section to better meet the needs of the membership
- Conducted a Board Retreat
- Awarded \$1350.00 in conference scholarships
- Sent two Board Members to NAAEE Conference
- Held 1st Annual Western Mini Conference with over 80 attendees
- Published four EE Echoes newsletters to the membership



Western Mini Conference attendees having a discussion.

EENC 2015 Conference Sponsors

Aerin Benavides The University of North Carolina Greensboro

Brad Daniel Montreat College

Renee Strnad NC State University

Stephanie Avett Volunteer Environmental Educator

Terri Kirby Hathaway North Carolina Sea Grant

Albemarle- Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)

North Carolina Children and Nature Coalition (NCCAN)



Observing Bulls Bay

EENC Annual Awards

Each year the Environmental Educators of North Carolina publicly recognizes environmental educators, EENC members, organizations, and partners for their valuable contributions to EENC, the North Carolina community, and to the field of environmental education.



Sarah Fuller (President) and Cat Dillard (Membership Chair) presenting Shannon Culpepper (Policy Chair) with the Newcomer Award.

Outstanding Practitioner Award

Mir Youngquist-Thurow
Environmental Education Director at
Agape Kure Beach Ministries
EENC Central Section Co-Chair

Outstanding Newcomer Award

Shannon Culpepper
NC Division of Air Quality
EENC Policy Chair

EENC Annual Awards



Jonathan Marchel (President Elect) and Cat Dillard (Membership Chair) presenting Chimney Rock with the Partnership Award.

Outstanding Partner Award

Chimney Rock Management,
LLC at Chimney Rock State Park

Exceptional Environmental Education Program Award

Urban Outdoor Connection Program
Anthony Shaheen, Outdoor Recreation Specialist
Accepted award on behalf of the program

EENC Annual Awards

Environmental Educator of the Year Award

CC King

Piedmont Outreach Education Specialist
North Carolina Wildlife Commission

Melva Fager Okun Lifetime Achievement Award

Dottie Shuman

Professor of Outdoor and Environmental Education at
Montreat College



Renee Strnad (Treasurer) and Sarah Fuller (President) awarding Chris Goforth with the Naturalist Challenge award.

1st Annual Western Mini Conference

The 2015 EENC Western Section Mini-Conference at Chimney Rock was held on February 9, 2015.

Over 80 educators from all over Western North Carolina attended workshops on: the *Geology of Chimney Rock* by Anthony Love, Laboratory Coordinator, Appalachian State University Department of Geology; *The Hickory Nut Gorge Ecosystem* by Ron Lance, Park Naturalist, Chimney Rock Management, and eight other programs and workshops led by EE professionals from all areas of EE. Participants received 6 hours of Criteria II, Criteria III, or Continuing Education Credit while exploring one of North Carolina's newest state parks. The mini-conference is one way EENC will be serving members who cannot always attend the annual conference.



Western Mini Conference Group photo at Chimney Rock.

WNC Science EduCamp

The WNC Science EduCamp was a partnership between EENC, the North Carolina Science Teacher Association (NCSTA), and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching and was held on August 8, 2015.

Amanda Clapp, North Carolina Science Teacher Association, District 8 Director, and Keith Bamberger, Environmental Educators of North Carolina, Partnership Chair, had 27 educators, teachers, and EE program providers participate in the WNC Science EduCamp. An EduCamp is an open format workshop that asks attendees to bring questions, ideas, and things they would like to share to the workshop. North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching provided both food and lodging for the EduCamp.

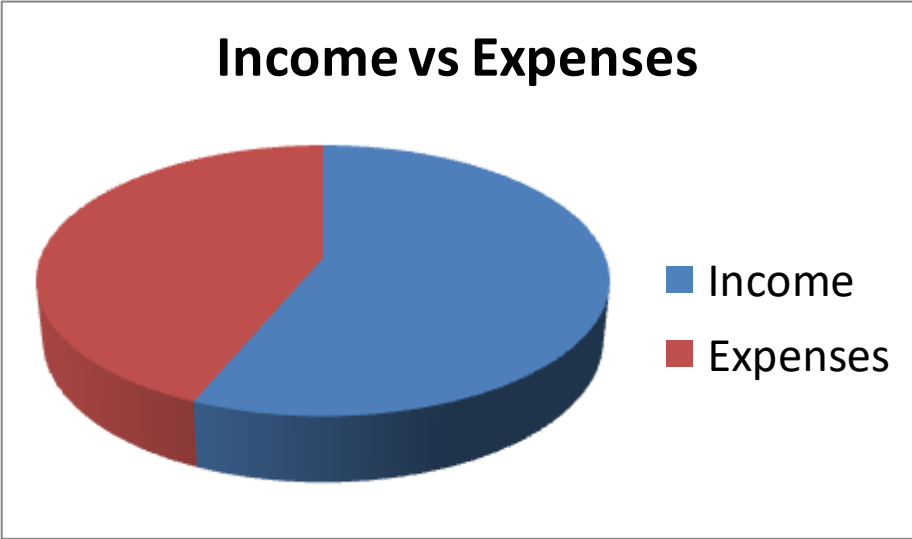
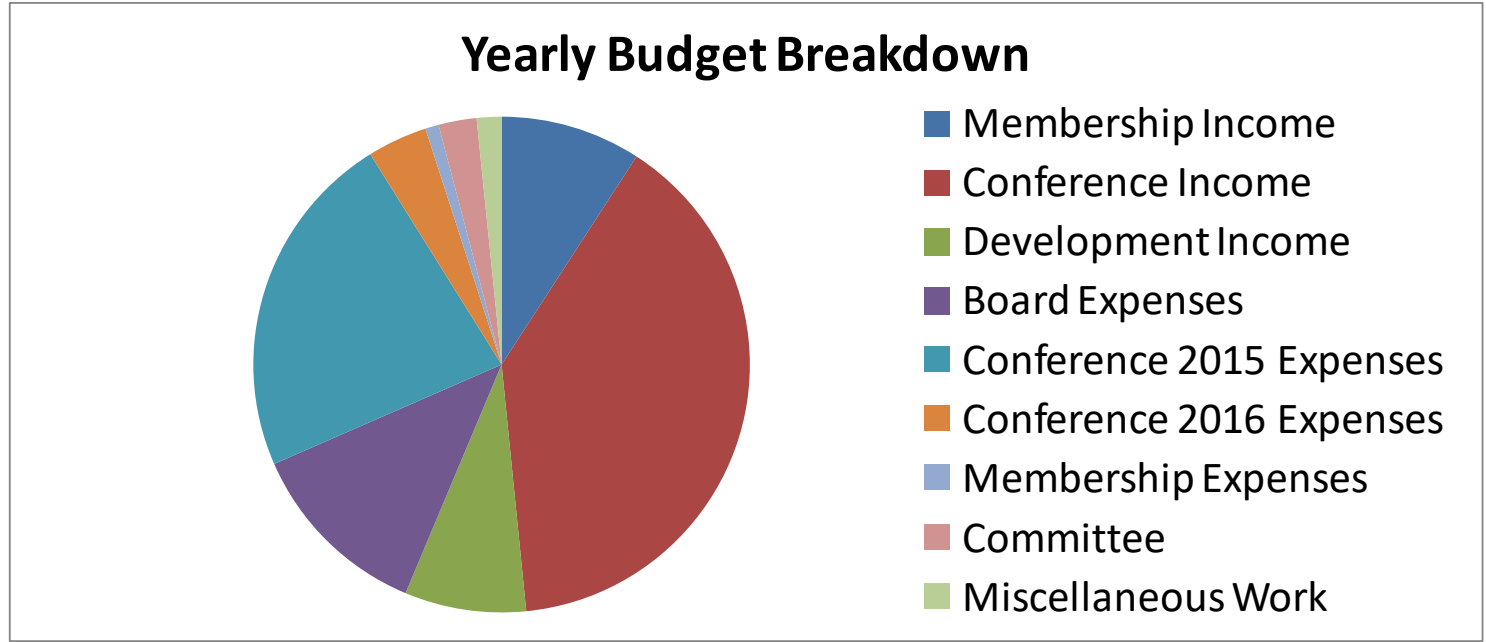
The goal was to get educators and education providers in the same room to discover new ways the two groups can help each other. The EduCamp Education Forum is the perfect way to meet this goal. EduCamp is a unique education workshop format where EduCamp participants determine the topics for the sessions for the day. Participants presented, lead discussions, and facilitated activity sessions.



EENC Treasurer's Report

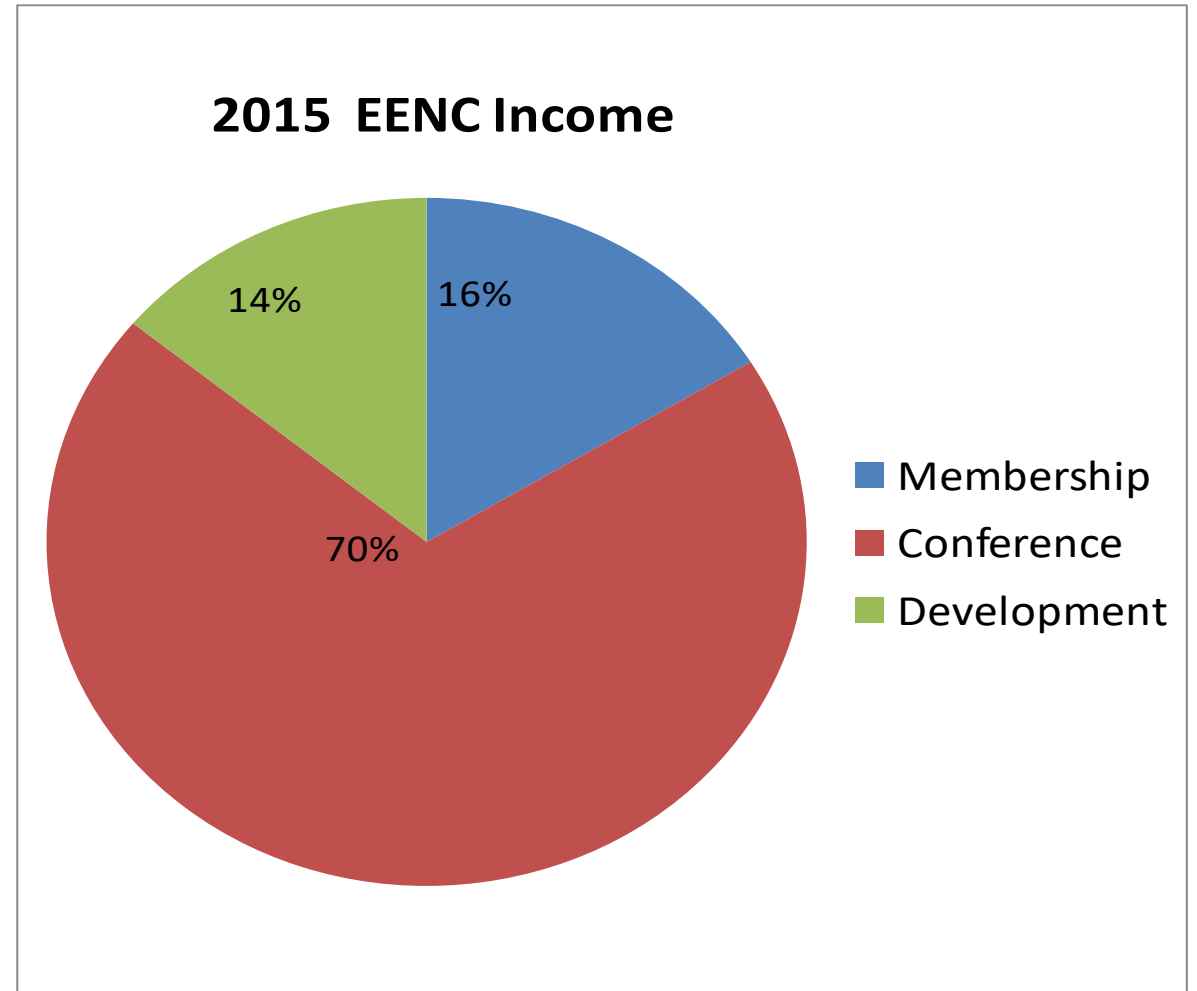
2015 Income vs Expenses

INCOME \$36,044.27
 EXPENSES \$27,948.70



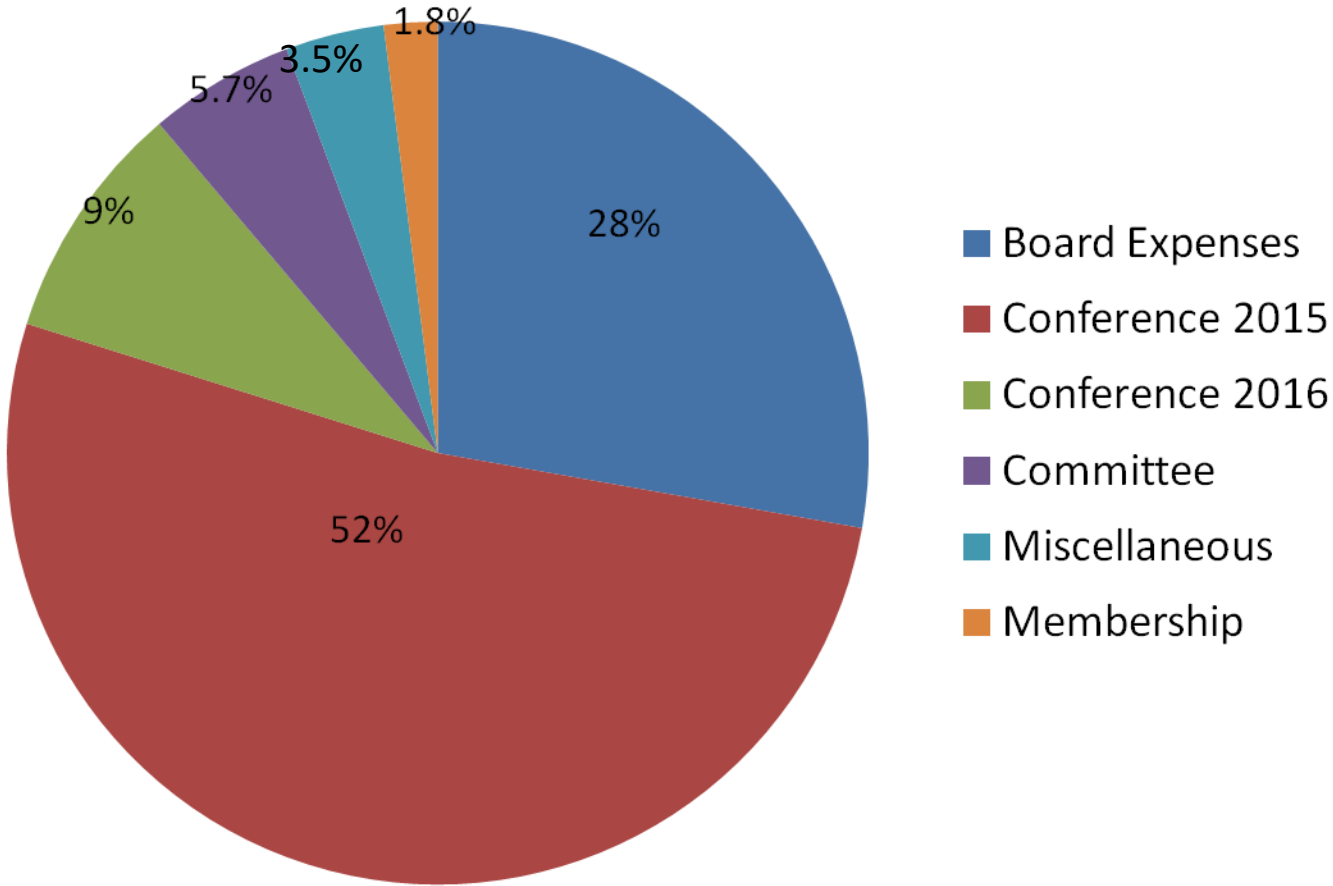
EENC Treasurer's Report 2015 Income

INCOME	36,044.27
Membership	5854.21
Conference	25,127.29
Development	5062.77



EENC Treasurer's Report 2015 Expenses

2015 EENC Expenses



EXPENSES	27,948.70
Board Expense	7750.04
2015 Conference Expenses	14521.03
2016 Conference Expenses	2500.00
Membership	560.10
Committee	1587.53
Miscellaneous Expenses	1030.00

2015 Board Member Donations

Board Member Donations

Renee Strnad
 Catrina Dillard
 Mir Youngquist-Thurow
 Keith Bamberger
 Brad Daniel
 Mir Youngquist-Thurow
 Shannon Culpepper
 Sarah Fuller
 Pat Curley
 Joy Shuck
 Chip Freund

Board Member In-Kind Donations

NCSU Extension Forestry
 Renee Strnad
 Brad Daniel
 Joy Shuck
 Mir Youngquist-Thurow
 Lauren Pyle
 Michelle Pearce
 Kristin Frew
 Shannon Culpepper
 NC Museum of Natural Sciences
 NC Division of Air Quality
 Agape Kure Beach Ministries
 Elissa Riley
 US National Whitewater Center
 Catrina Dillard
 Chris Goforth
 Maria McDaniel
 Western NC Nature Center
 New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District

In-Kind Donations Total: \$4699.52

The EENC Board Members volunteered for a total of 2,098 hours in 2015.

At a volunteer rate of \$21.46 an hour that is equivalent to \$45,044.

EENC Board of Directors Meetings

For each meeting, a brief overview of the major topics is listed below. To obtain the full agenda or minutes, please contact the EENC Secretary or President.

January 22nd-24th Agape Center for Environmental Education, Fuquay-Varina

Conference planning, website updates, membership 2015 conference planning, logo, strategic planning, SEEA discussion, new member orientation, and introduction to EENC Board Google site.

March 27th-29th

Board Development Retreat and Strategic Planning, Eastern 4-H Environmental Education and Conference Center, Columbia

Strategic planning, & policy review, budget review and planning, EENC website, and 2015 conference planning.

July 18th

NC Arboretum, Asheville

2015 and 2016 conference planning and policy review.

December 5th

Pressley-Strnad Home, Durham

Conference review, committee reports, membership, website, 2016 conference planning, end of year business, and new Board member welcome.

EENC Supporters

EENC would like to thank the following organizations for donating staff time for their employees to serve on the EENC Board of Directors:

Agape Center for EE
Center for Marine Science and Technology
Montreat College
NC Division of Air Quality
NC Museum of Forestry
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
NC State University College of Natural Resources
New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District
Randolph County Schools
REI
The NC Arboretum
Western NC Nature Center

NOTE: An audit was conducted on EENC Finances in 2013. The findings supported that EENC is financially strong. The next audit is scheduled for 2016.

Incoming EENC 2016 Board of Directors



Front Row (L-R): Renee Strnad, Lauren Pyle, Sarah Fuller

Second Row: Joy Shuck, Shannon Culpepper, Catrina Dillard

Third Row: Michelle Pearce, Christine Goforth

Back Row: Maria McDaniel, Kristin Frew, Keith Bamberger, Jonathan Marchal, Brad Daniel

Not Pictured: Karan Barber and Elissa Riley

EENC 2016 Goals

- Create committees that better utilize more of our members' talents.
- Identify and cultivate leaders within the EENC organization.
- Continue to grow Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) while working towards strong relationships with SEEA states.
- Increase our presence on social media.
- Continue facilitating a research symposium at the annual conference.
- Conduct a cost benefit analysis to determine the implications of hiring a staff position.



Support EENC

Help support environmental educators and the work they do by making a contribution to EENC or becoming actively involved in the organization. Monetary donations are essential for running the organization and its annual conference. Donations can be made online at www.eenc.org. You can also support EENC through using Amazon Smile when ordering through Amazon or by linking your Kroger savings card to EENC.



EENC is an all-volunteer professional membership organization run by environmental educators for environmental educators; no matter what stage of their career they find themselves. You can help your professional organization by helping to plan and participating in local or sectional EENC events. You can also help the Board plan and conduct the annual conference, or join one of the standing committees. And though it may seem daunting, serving on the Board of Directors is an excellent way to learn about your organization.

