

Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2016 Annual Report
January 1 - December 31

Empowering Educators For A Healthier Environment

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President Michelle Pearce with special guest Richard Louv at the 2016 Annual Conference.

ABOUT EENC

EENC's mission is to build connections, provide professional development, and promote excellence in environmental education.

We do this by promoting and facilitating professional development, fostering networking opportunities, and demonstrating high quality environmental education programs and materials. EENC strives to be a leader in the field of environmental education within North Carolina, the southeast, and the nation.

EENC's vision is to inspire those we work with to create an environmentally literate citizenry.

Our organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit, governed by bylaws that are voted on by our membership. The organization is managed by an all volunteer board of directors that is elected annually by the members.



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.

2016 was a year of growth and change for EENC. In September, we hosted the 25th EENC Annual Conference at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly and Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. The three day event highlighted the many successful environmental education programs and activities that are taking place here in North Carolina. The theme for the conference was Lasting Legacies, to acknowledge not only where EENC has been over the last 25 years, but where it and the field of EE is going in North Carolina. The Annual Awards Ceremony recognized talented educators and outstanding programs. The *Executive Summary* in this document lists other major 2016 accomplishments. 2017 is going to be a great year. Our Board is dedicated to constant improvement and 2017 President Jonathan Marchal 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 Mir Youngquist-Thurrow, Keith Bamberger, Cat Dillard, Sarah Fuller, Karan Barber, Joy Shuck and Lauren Pyle. Thank you for your creative energy, collaborative spirit, and your time and service! 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 continue to be wonderful collaborators.

This is an invaluable time for environmental education in our state and our country. Sharing our enthusiasm for this good work with generations past, present and future has reached a level of importance like never before. It is a privilege to engage in this work together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Michelle Pearce

Michelle Pearce, EENC President, 2016

EENC 2016 Board of Directors

President Michelle Pearce, The NC Arboretum
President-Elect Jonathan Marchal, The NC Arboretum
Past-President Sarah Fuller, Randolph County Schools
Treasurer Renee Strnad, NC State University
Secretary..... Lauren Pyle, WNC Nature Center
Communication Chair Karan Barber, NC Division of Air Quality
Education Co-Chairs Kristin Frew, NC State University
Membership Chair Catrina Dillard, The 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
Eastern Section Chair Maria McDaniel, A Time for Science
Central Section Chairs Chris Goforth, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Piedmont Chair..... Joy Shuck, REI
Western Section Chair Brad Daniel, Montreat College
Historian..... Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Agape EE Center
SEEA LiaisonBeth Cranford, NC Museum of Natural Sciences

EENC 2015 Executive Summary

- Revised and approved changes to the EENC Policy Manual
- Conducted a Board Retreat, featured consultation with Dave Chase, rewriting of the mission and vision
- Awarded \$2042.00 in conference scholarships
- Redesigned the logo and marketing materials for an updated look, moved to a new website and membership database (Wild Apricot)
- Celebrated 25 years as an organization at the Annual Conference
- Sent Board members to NAAEE
- 2nd Annual Western Mini Conference (attendance over 70 people)
- Razzo fundraiser raised \$8000 for the organization



Winter Board Retreat consultation with Dave Chase

EENC 2015 Conference Sponsors

Aerin Benavides Greensboro	The University of North Carolina
Brad Daniel	Montreat College
Renee Strnad	NC State University
Stephanie Avett	Volunteer Environmental Educator
Terri Kirby Hathaway	North Carolina Sea Grant
North Carolina Children and Nature Coalition (NCCAN)	



Blue Ridge Center at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

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.



2016 Award Winners with NAAEE Executive Director Judy Braus and Membership Chair Cat Dillard. Anne Ellis not pictured.

EENC Annual Awards

Environmental Educator of the Year Award

Sarah Fuller
Randolph County Schools, Past President

Exceptional Environmental Education Program Award

The Mountain Science Expo
Michelle Pearce
The North Carolina Arboretum

Outstanding Practitioner Award

Anne Ellis
Director of Tom E. Smith Nature Exploratorium

Outstanding Newcomer Award

Elissa Riley
New Hanover County Soil and Water

Outstanding Partner Award

Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area and New River
State Park
Tomas Randolph

Outstanding Service Award

Keith Bamberger
NC Division of Air Quality, EENC Life Member

Melva Fager Okun Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Brad Daniel
Professor of Biology, Environmental Studies,
and Outdoor Education

2nd Annual Western Mini Conference

- The 2016 EENC Western Section Mini-Conference at Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area and New River State Park February 19, 2016.
- Over 70 educators from all over Western North Carolina attended workshops on: the *Exploring the Winter Woodlands of New River State Park* with Paul Baily, Retired Park Ranger; *Spanish Fort Found in the Most Unlikely of Places in Western North Carolina* by Dr. Wright, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Appalachian State University, *Khitchen Khemistry* with Keith Bamberger with NC Division of Air Quality and five 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 oldest wild areas. The format of a mini-conference is one way EENC will be serving members who cannot attend the Annual Conference due to scheduling or location.

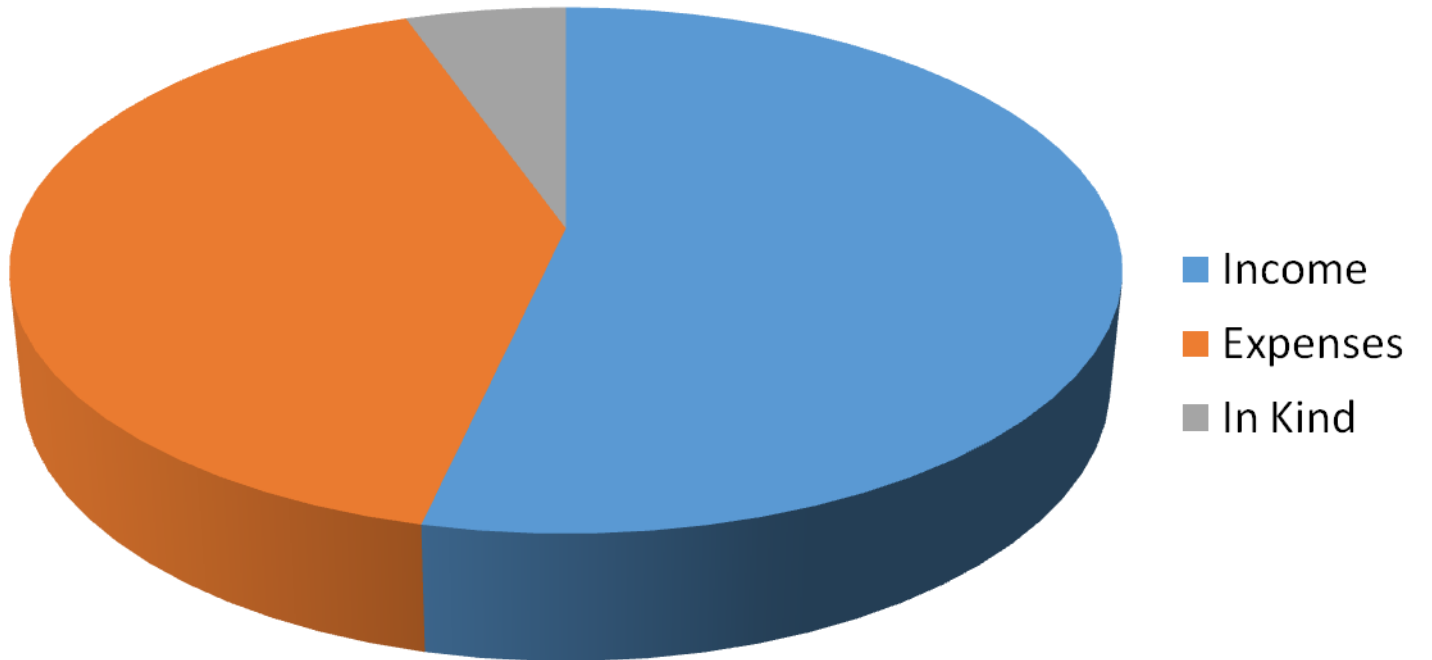


Western Mini Conference Group photo

EENC Treasurer's Report 2016 Income vs Expenses

INCOME	55,293.00
EXPENSES	42,312.00
IN-KIND	5,618.00

Income vs Expenses vs In Kind

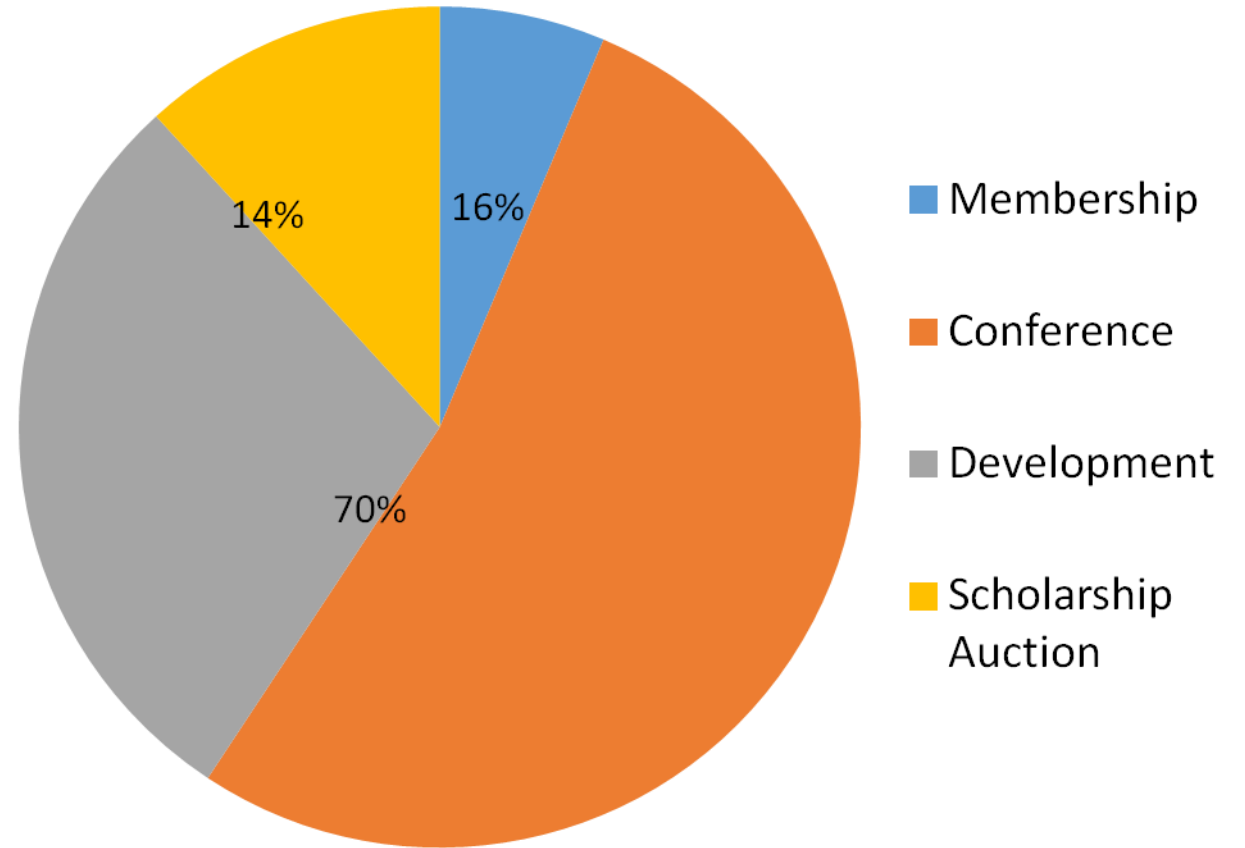


EENC Treasurer's Report

2015 Income and In Kind

2015 EENC Income

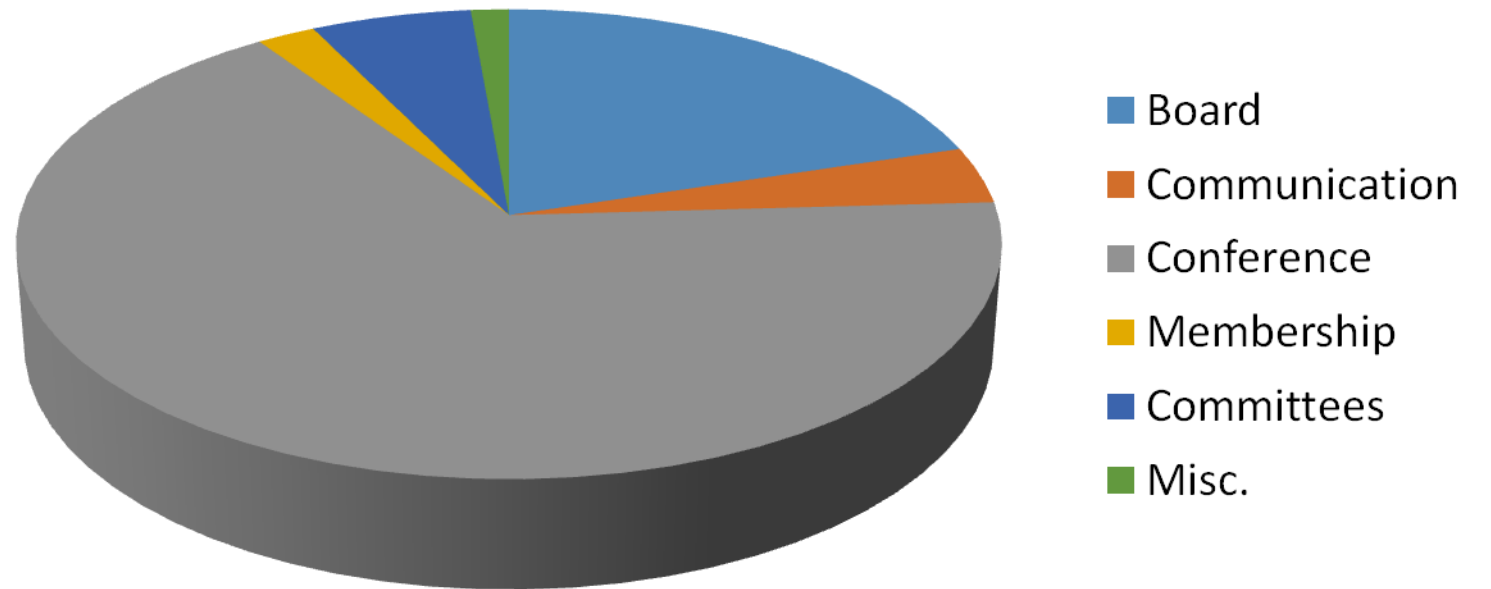
IN-KIND	
NC DIV of Air Quality	721
NC State Parks	205
NCSU Extension Forestry	251
Board	4441
TOTAL	5,618



Treasurer's Report 2015 Expenses

EXPENSES	
board	8549
communication	1651
conference	28089
membership	918
committees	2510
misc	595
TOTAL	42,312

Breakdown of 2016 Expenses



2015 Donations

<u>Board Donations</u>	<u>Board In-Kind</u>	<u>Board Volunteer</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Renee Strnad	NCSU Extension Forestry		2098 hours
Catrina Dillard	Renee Strnad		\$21.46 Volunteer rate x 2098 hours =
Mir Youngquist-Thurow	Brad Daniel		\$45,044
Keith Bamberger	Joy Shuck		
Brad Daniel	Mir Youngquist-Thurow		
Mir Youngquist-Thurow	Lauren Pyle		
Shannon Culpepper	Michelle Pearce		
Sarah Fuller	Kristin Frew		
Pat Curley	Shannon Culpepper		
Joy Shuck	NC Museum of Natural Sciences		
Chip Freund	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 SWCD		
			In Kind
			4699.52 Donations

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 29th-31st YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain

Conference planning for 25th anniversary celebration; consultation with Dave Chase to discuss options for hiring permanent staff, evaluate/update our mission and vision, and define partnerships

May 7th

REI Community Room, Charlotte

2016 conference planning, Wild Apricot transition, new logo debut

July 9th

CMAST, Moorehead City

New marketing and fundraising strategies (Razoo fundraiser, sock campaign), and new voting process to board candidates

December 10^h

Pressley-Strnad Home, Durham

Conference review, success of new fundraising efforts, new board member welcome and plans to build a bigger boat!

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:

A Time for Science
Cabarrus County Soil and Water
Montreat College
New Hanover Soil and Water
NC Division of Air Quality
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
NC State University College of Natural Resources
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
The NC Arboretum
REI
WNC Nature Center

NOTES:

An audit was conducted on EENC Finances in 2013. The findings supported that EENC is financially strong. The next audit is scheduled for 2017.

Incoming EENC 2017 Board of Directors



Front Row (L-R): Shannon Culpepper, Erin Lineberger, Elissa Riley

Second Row: Renee Strnad, Stephanie Avett, Chris Goforth

Third Row: Rachel Szczytko, Michelle Pearce

Back Row (L-R): Maria McDaniel, Tom Shepard, Tanya Poole, Jonathan Marchal, Brad Daniel

EENC 2016 Goals

- Create committees that better utilize more of our members' talents.
- Identify and cultivate leaders within the EENC organization.
- Continue to grow 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 CFO or ED



EENC Supporters

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.



Environmental
Educators
of North Carolina

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.

