

Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2019 Annual Report



Highlights

- January 1** EENC's Executive Director becomes full-time!
- February 11** Launch new mini-grant program for members.
- February 28** First joint conference in partnership with NCAEEC Annual meeting and EENC's Mini-Conference.
NC Arboretum, Asheville
- June 23 - 28** Board members and staff travel to California for NAAEE's ee360 Leadership Clinic.
Pacific Grove, California
- September 27 - 29** Annual Conference
Schiele Museum, Gastonia
- November 2** Equity and the Environment workshop
YMI Cultural Center, Asheville

From the President

Over the past decade, Environmental Educators of North Carolina has seen extraordinary growth and 2019 was no exception. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, our Board and the generosity of donors, EENC was able to hire our Executive Director, Lauren Pyle, full time! Having a full time employee allowed us to accomplish additional organizational goals and provide stronger support for North Carolina's community of environmental educators.

A few highlights include hosting our first joint meeting with the North Carolina Association of Environmental Education Centers, launching a new mini-grant program for our members, and attending regional and national trainings with other environmental education leaders. We also hosted our annual conference at the Schiele Museum of Natural Sciences in the Piedmont section, the first since the section was created.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without our dedicated members, Board and now staff. Thank you for an exciting and productive year and I can't wait to see where the organization will go next!

- Christine Wittmeier, EENC President 2019



EENC's mission is to build connections, provide professional development, and promote excellence for North Carolina's community of environmental educators.

Our vision is to inspire those we work with to create an environmentally literate citizenry.

28th Annual Conference – MemoriEEs Make Us

September 19 - 21

The Schiele Museum of Natural Sciences, Gastonia

The EENC Board and staff were excited to host the first full conference in the Piedmont section since its creation in 2015. The Schiele Museum of Natural Sciences in Gastonia provided a unique location with exhibits available throughout the conference for participants to enjoy.



Field trip to Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens

Making MemoriEEs

The conference began with two workshops: Methods of Teaching Environmental Education and the new Don't Waste It! Solid Waste Educator Guide. Those that wanted to explore the area could choose a community service project with the Boys and Girl's Club and field trips at the US National Whitewater Center, a Food System Tour, Crowders Mountain State Park or Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. We ended the day with a social at Cavendish Brewing to relax and network.

Thanks to a generous donation in honor of former President, Deborah Miller, the EENC Inclusion Scholarship fund was reestablished!

The next two days were filled with 36 peer driven sessions, a research symposium, section meetings and first time



2019 First Higher Education Summit

higher education summit and panel of formal educators. During Friday's awards luncheon, we honored six incredible environmental educators and organizations for their outstanding work in the field. Throughout the three days, over 150 educators attended the conference.

Night at the Museum

The learning and fun continued into the evening with a "Night at the Museum" that included a Planetarium show, private access to the museum and a cocktail hour with a poster session and silent auction. A huge thank you to the Schiele Museum staff for all their help with logistics throughout the weekend.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Carolyn Finney, who is a storyteller, cultural geographer and author of *Black Faces, Whites Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. She shared her unique personal story growing up in a primarily white suburb, untold stories of outdoor leaders and how we need to address current relationships before we can have a sustainable future.

Thanks to the generous support from conference attendees, we raised \$6,922 for future scholarships and mini-grants in our raffle, silent and live auctions!



Keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Finney



Trent Stanforth, Membership Chair, presenting the Outstanding Practitioner Award to Mandy Smith-Thompson

Congratulations to the 2019 award winners!

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

Environmental Educator of the Year:
Meredith Morgan

Exceptional Environmental Education Program:
North Carolina Envirothon (accepted by Erin Hines)

Outstanding Partner:
Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs

Outstanding Practitioner:
Mandy Smith-Thompson

Outstanding Service:
Brad Daniel

Special Recognition: Lifetime of Environmental Education:
Tanya Poole

EENC & NCAEEC Joint Meeting

February 28—March 2, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

Environmental Educators of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Environmental Education Centers (NCAEEC) united to host a 2019 joint conference at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. The week began with EENC's Mini-Conference with six different sessions to choose from in the morning and afternoon. The joint evening reception included dinner and the keynote speaker Kim DeLozier, author of *Bear in the Back Seat: Adventures of a Wildlife Ranger*.

The next day was NCAEEC's annual meeting with eight sessions and the keynote speakers Dr. Caren Cooper, author of *Citizen Science: How Ordinary People are Changing the Face of Discovery*, and Dr. KC Busch, Assistant Professor at N.C. State University.

The joint meeting ended with field experiences to the Highland Biological Station, Biltmore Estate, Asheville Museum of Science and Botanical Gardens, Chimney Rock State Park, Intro to Schoolyard Citizen Science with the NC Arboretum and Track Trails and a hike with Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Overall, the event was a success with over 130 attendees and provided an opportunity for both organizations to network together.



EENC and NCAEEC joint conference attendees.

Additional Events

Section Events

Section Chairs and their subcommittees work to hold events throughout the year, which vary in topic and location. These events are a way for local environmental educators to network with each other and are open to members and non-members. Below are some 2019 highlights.

Eastern

Eastern section partnered with Cape Fear's Going Green for an environmental book club to read Peter Kalmus's *Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution*.

Central

Central section chair organized a social at the North Carolina Symphony to attend Vivaldi's Four Seasons that combines music with images of nature from across North Carolina.

Piedmont

Piedmont section organized a meetup at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens for their "Holiday at the Gardens" light display.

Western

Western section organized a hike beginning from Kituwah Mound, Mother Town of the Cherokee, to Clingmans Dome, highest peak in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**In total, over
294 people
attended 25
section events
across the
state!**



Western Section Chair leading a hike in the Smokies.

Workshops

EENC was one of four states to pilot a state-level Guidelines Trainer Bureau for NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence, teaching four workshops in Raleigh, Salisbury, Greensboro and Wilmington.

Additionally, in support of EENC's efforts to

make "EE for All," we held an Equity and The Environment workshop in Asheville at the historic YMI Cultural Center.

EENC Echoes

Our members-only newsletters reached 8,037 educators across the state in 2019!

NAAEE Webinars

The North American Association of Environmental Educators hosts monthly webinars with a variety of topics. EENC co-sponsored eight webinars, which reached 1,297 people and an additional 1,808 views of the recordings online.

EENC Outreach

EENC attended statewide and regional events to foster publicity, partnerships, and outreach, including NAAEE's conference, NC Science Teacher Association's conference, NC Office of EE's Certification Celebration, and many more, reaching 947 people in 2019!

EENC Board of Directors



An all-volunteer Board of Directors governs EENC, and 100% of our board members contribute financially to the organization each year.

The 2019 Board consists of sixteen members who work to seek funding for the organization and manage the budget; plan the annual conference, mini-conference, and other events; manage and recruit members; and much more. Section Chairs organize section-specific events, and help spread the word about the activities of members within their section.

Left to Right: Corey Sperling, Christine Wittmeier, Trent Stanforth, Chris Goforth, Stephanie Avett, Kelly Hendrick, Mara Mitchell, Jessica Metz, Erin Hines, Shannon Culpepper, Brad Daniel, Amy Renfranz, Chelsea Sloggy

The Board of Directors is an amazing group of dedicated volunteers that helped make all of EENC's 2019 accomplishments a reality. In January, the Board met at Crowder's Ridge Camp in Gastonia for the annual Board Retreat where we worked on updating the strategic plan, reviewed membership levels and even had time for a silly flash mob at the Schiele!

March was another busy month with our Mini-Conference and Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance's (SEEA) Leadership Summit. Board members and staff received valuable training, networked with other Southeastern EE organizations and devoted time to develop a membership plan for the organization. SEEA awarded each affiliate \$5,000 to implement their plan and EENC conducted a membership survey in partnership with North Carolina State University.



Board and staff at the SEEA Leadership Clinic in March

In June, Lauren Pyle and Shannon Culpeper attended the ee360 Leadership Clinic in Pacific Grove, California and received support for implementing organizational plans. The Board also planned several successful events including a "Feast with the Beasts" at Grandfather Mountain and a fundraiser in Asheville. The year ended strong with a successful crowdfunding campaign that raised \$37,161 for the organization! The Board members contributed 2,676 hours of volunteer service to EENC. Using the federal volunteer rate of \$25.43 per hour, the Board contributed a total of \$68,050 in volunteerism!

2019 Board Meetings

January 11-13	Board Retreat, Crowder's Ridge, <i>Gastonia</i>	June 8	Henderson County, <i>Hendersonville</i>
March 16	Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, <i>Fayetteville</i>	December 7	Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center, <i>Four Oaks</i>
February - November	Monthly Conference Calls		

2019 Board of Directors

President: Christine Wittmeier

President-Elect: Amy Renfranz

Past-President: Shannon Culpepper

Secretary: Mara Mitchell

Treasurer: Aaron Jennings

Communications Chair: Chris Goforth

Education Chair: Corey Sperling

Membership Chair: Trent Stanforth

Partnership Chair: Brad Daniel

Policy Chair: Kelly Hendrix

Resource Development Co-Chair: Chelsea Sloggy

Resource Development Co-Chair: Emily Walker

Eastern Section Chair: Elissa Anderson

Central Section Chair: Stephanie Avett

Piedmont Section Chair: Erin Hines

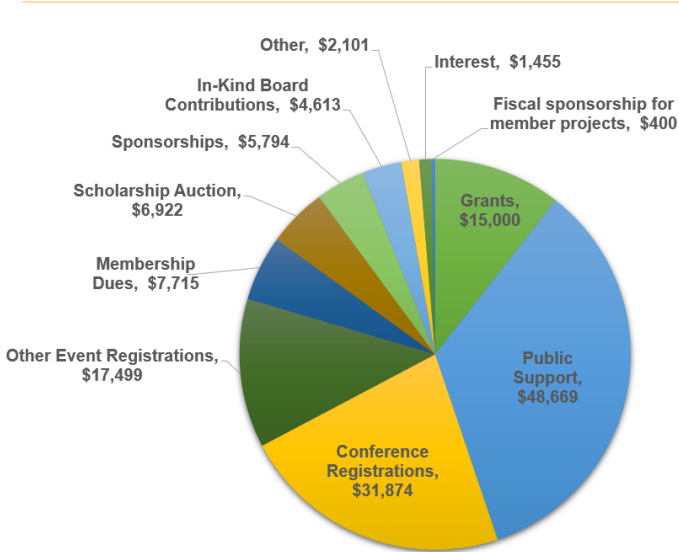
Western Section Chair: Jessica Metz



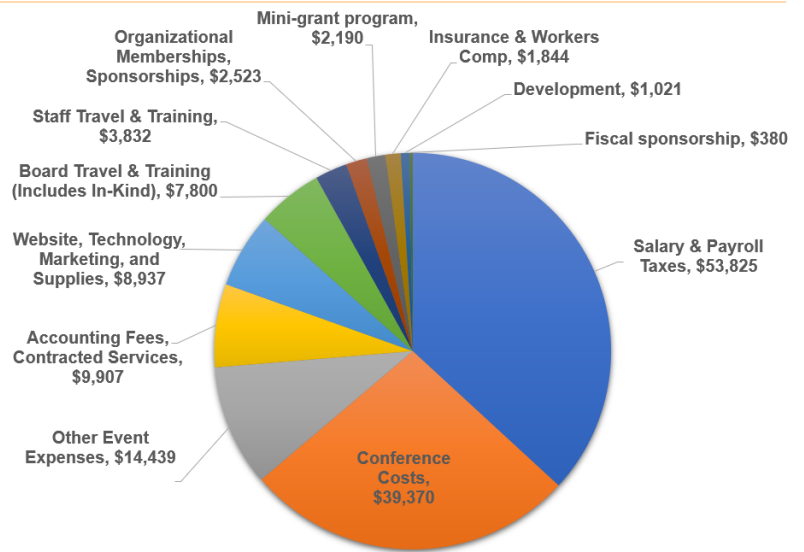
Flash Mob, January 2019

The Board of directors performed a dance flash mob at The Schiele after a successful crowdfunding campaign in 2018, raising \$36,966 for EENC.

Budget Summary



Income



Expenses

In 2019, EENC's total income was \$142,042 and total expenses were \$146,067.

In addition, we awarded \$3,260 in scholarships in the form of reduced registration fees for the Annual Conference.

Finally, EENC performed a financial audit that indicated the organization is in accordance with general accounting principles.

Thank you to our supporters!

<p>\$2500+</p> <p>Anonymous</p>	<p>\$1000+</p> <p>Anonymous</p>	<p>\$500+</p> <p>Anne & Bill Ireton, Brad Daniel, Jonathan Marchal, Owen and Charlie Lineberger, Renee Strnad, William Wittmeier, Anonymous</p>
<p>\$250+</p>	<p>\$250+</p> <p>Amy Renfranz, Anne Walker, Beth Stanforth, Emily Walker, Erin Hines, Gerald Wayne Miller, Lauren Pyle, Lois Nixon, Mary Jaeger-Gale, Michael Florack, Lineberger's Maple Springs Farm, Anonymous</p>	

Additional Support:

Aaron Jennings, Adrian Ayson, Aerin Benavides, Alex Porpora, Alex Washington, Alison Ormsby, Andrea Holmes, Andrew Bobilya, Anna Bracco, April Cheuvront, Ardath Dixon, Art and Ellie Florack, Ashley Hoffman, Barb Florack, Barbara Sinclair, Barrie Terrell, Barry Lineberger, Becca Tait, Becky Holmes, Beth Cranford, Bob Disney, Brad Faircloth, Breanna Walker, Brenda Weiser, Bruce Young, Caitlin Reardon, Cathy Reas Foster, Chad Hartwell, Chanda Cooper, Charlotte Galloway, Chelsea Sloggy, Chelsea Blount, Cheri Granillo, Chip Freund, Chris Goforth, Chris Meloni, Christine Brown, Christy Williams, Cindy Ford, Cindy and Jean Ford and Crist, Claire Bishop, Collette Summitt, Corey L. Sperling, Courtney M Lang, Craig Setzer, Daniel Roth, Danielle Lawson, Dave Chase, Dawn Brooks, Dawn Chavez, Debbie Abel, Deborah Wise, Diane Silver, Don Brown, Donald Renfranz, Donna Tolar, Dorothea K. Shuman, Ed Maggart, Elise Windmiller, Elise Tellez, Elissa Anderson, Elissa Riley, Ellen Morrison, Ellen L Vitek, Emily Tadlock, Emily Davis, Emily Avery, Emily Beaman, Eric Bradford, Erica Farrell, Evelyn Warner, Frankie Lineberger, Gaynell Gull, George Matthis, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, Gretta Steffens, Hal Vaughan, Hayden Walker, Heather Riley, Heather Strickland, Jackie Trickle, Jamie Dunleavy, Jamie Williams, Jamie Williams, Jamie Dunleavy, Jeff Matheson, Jennifer Shiver, Jennifer Wellard, Jim Koon, Jim and Paulette Avett, John Prodan, John Renfranz, Jordan Astoske, Joy Shuck, Julie Hall, Justin Dodson, Justin Young, KAEE, Karen Lineberger, Kat Scala, Katelyn Haithcock, Katherine Brooks, Kathryn Strickland, Kathryn Stevenson, Katie Hinely, Katie C Breckheimer, Keith Bamberger, Kelli Isenhour, Kelli Walker, Kelly Hendrix, Kendra Byers, Kevin Hinch, Kevin Auman, Kevin Steller, Kim Bailey, Kimberly Smart, Kristina Maytan Howard, Landdis Hollifield, Lannette Rangel, Laura Collard, Laura Downey, Lauren Lampley, Lillian Lovingood, Lisa Renfranz, Lisa and Jim Brown, Lisa Brown, Lisa D Florack, Lori Dumas, Lynette Farmer, Madison McDiarmid, Marcus Jones, Margaret Renfranz, Maria McDaniel, Marisa Sedlak, Marissa Blackburn, Martha T. Kane, Matt Morris, Matthew Rutherford, Megan Shaner, Megan Powell, Melissa Wilson, Melissa Cox, Melissa Weddell, Melody Lineberger, Michael Slayton, Millie Langley, Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Misty Varnell, Muriel Williman, Nancy Avett, Narissa Rahaman, Natalie Lamond, Nathan Gruver, Nioucha Branstrom, Olivia Grisct, Ramona Big Eagle, Rhonda White, Richard Groves, Richard Brightman, Ron Allen, Ruby Compton, Sarah Yelton, Sarah Whitmeyer, Sarah Davis Cagle, Sarah Ray, Scott Fister, Shannon Culppepper, Sheila B. Jones, Shelby Laird, Stacey Maignan, Stacie Hagwood, Stephanie Avett, Stephanie Grubb, Stephanie Zwade, Stephen Coggins, Steve & Rita Coggins, Susan Bergman, Tanya Poole, Terri Kirby Hathaway, Thomas Lineberger, Thomas Randolph, Tina Robinson, Todd Morse, Tracy Feldman, Trent Stanforth, Trudie Henninger, Valerie Robertson, William McLellan, William Sloggy, Yulia Royal, Yuliya Kukharchuk, Zach Wright, Zachary Horn