

Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2018 Annual Report



Highlights

- January 1** EENC hires its first staff in its 27-year history, a part-time executive director
- January 16-19** EENC is selected as one of 10 leadership states, attends ee360 Leadership Clinic *Alisomar, California*
- January 20-21** Board develops three-year strategic plan
- June 15** Piedmont-Western Section Mini-Conference *Camp T.N. Spencer Park, Concord*
- July 12** EENC holds its first fundraising event, raising over \$3,000 to support our work *Lake Johnson Park, Raleigh*
- September 27-29** Annual Conference *Millennium Hotel, Durham*
- December 13** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Workshop *NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh*



From the President

The EENC Board of Directors has been working on a lot of new projects and initiatives this year. Most notably, EENC has hired our first ever Executive Director, Lauren Pyle! The Board has been working toward this goal for many, many years. Lauren's passion, commitment, and desire to grow EENC is amazing. We have already accomplished a lot with her help and are excited to see it continue as the position moves from part-time to full-time in January 2019.

The Board is invested in making EENC and environmental education accessible and welcoming to all communities. Our 2018 conference theme was "EE for All," and this became a phrase we used throughout the year. We desire to have our membership be reflective of North Carolina's community of environmental educators. We also want to help environmental educators learn how to make their programs accessible to all by offering trainings and resources throughout the year.

Going into 2019, and beyond, we will continue to look for opportunities to grow as an organization. Thank you for a wonderful year. Here's to many more!

- Shannon Culpepper, EENC President 2018

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.



Conference attendees at a field trip at Duke Gardens



Juan Martinez, keynote speaker, with Shannon Culpepper, EENC President



Attendees at one of 35 sessions

Annual Conference— EE for All!

September 27-29, Millennium Hotel, Durham

EENC has traditionally moved the annual conference between each section to help ensure it is accessible to all attendees. This year's conference was all set to take place in Atlantic Beach. Two weeks before the conference, Hurricane Florence made landfall on the coast of North Carolina. Rather than cancel the conference, the EENC Board and Executive Director worked very quickly, and we were able to move it to the Millennium Hotel in Durham. Thank you to everyone who helped make this wonderful conference possible!

Lots of Learning

The conference opened with a workshop, Why Inclusion Matters for your Teaching, Programs, and Facility led by Desiree Adaway and Ericka Hines, along with five local field trips. The next two days included more than 35 sessions, a poster session, and research symposium. Topics included citizen science, getting students outside, offering adult programming, advocacy, STEM, and more. Thank you to all the speakers who gave their time and shared their knowledge!

Keynote Speaker

Friday night included a keynote address from Juan D. Martinez. Juan took us through his experience of growing up in South Central L.A. and his journey with

environmental education. He has made a commitment to help empower the next generation of conservation and outdoor recreation leaders. Juan shared his advice for working with traditionally underserved populations, and attendees shared that they felt inspired. Thank you to Juan for the wonderful keynote address.

Thanks to the generous support from conference attendees, we raised \$5,047 for future scholarships and mini-grants in our annual silent and live auctions!



Congratulations to this year's 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. Award winners are listed below from left to right as pictured above.

Outstanding Newcomer: Chelsea Sloggy

Outstanding Practitioner: Dana Fitz-Simons

Exceptional Environmental Education Program: AmeriCorps Project CONSERVE (Trudie Henninger accepted the award)

Outstanding Service: Erin Hines

Special Recognition: Donna Rogers

Environmental Educator of the Year: Patrick Brannon (not pictured)

Mini-Conference— Nature is Calling

June 15, Camp T.N. Spencer, Concord

On June 15, 2018, sixty educators gathered outside at the secluded Camp T.N. Spencer for a day of hands-on learning and relaxation in nature. The "Nature is Calling" Mini-Conference was hosted by the Piedmont and Western sections, and was EENC's first mini-conference held in the Piedmont Section. The day began with a networking breakfast on a lakeside screen porch, and continued through four sessions, each offering a variety of presentation options. Participants had the opportunity to engage in activities such as building a garden plot, sampling for pond insects, practicing mindfulness under the shade of an oak, and much more. The presentations all focused in some way on the question of how to incorporate nature in education programs, whether in a formal school setting or in the context of non-formal education. The event concluded with an evening social held at Cabarrus Brewing Company, giving everyone a chance to soak in the lessons of the day and allow their brains to relax. The Mini-Conference was an inspiring way to kick off the summer months, and EENC looks forward to offering more opportunities like these in the future!



Mini-Conference attendees enjoying the various hands-on activities.

Additional Events

Section Events

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

Eastern

Maria McDaniel, the Eastern Section Chair, tabled at A Time for Science Expo and Aurora Fossil Festival to reach educators and let them know about EENC.

Central

The Central Section Chair, Stephanie Avett, created a Nature Book Club for those interested in reading about nature and science. They read five books throughout the year! The Central Section also had a trip to the Greensboro Science Center, Morehead Planetarium & Science Center, and paddling at the Roberson Millpond Preserve; along with their annual GrEEN crafting event at Blue Jay County Park.

Piedmont

Besides the Mini-Conference, the Piedmont Section held two NAAEE Guidelines workshops— one in February and one in December.

Western

Pulling from the popularity of both outdoor events and beer in our region, the Western Section Chair, Emily Walker, hosted "Salamanders and Suds" and "Rumbling Bald and Beers" events.

In total, over 200 people attended section events across the state!

DEI Workshops

In support of EENC's efforts to make "EE for All," we held two diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings. One pre-conference workshop in September was full with 25 attendees. A second workshop was held in Raleigh in December, with 80 attendees.

EENC Echoes

Our members-only newsletters reached 1,494 educators across the state.

NAAEE Webinars

The North American Association of Environmental Educators hosts monthly webinars with a variety of topics. EENC co-sponsored these webinars in 2018, which reached 3,359 people and an additional 3,819 views of the recordings online.

EENC Outreach

EENC attended statewide and regional meetings/events to foster publicity, partnerships, and outreach, including:

- SEEA annual regional conference in St. Petersburg, FL
- NAAEE annual conference in Spokane, WA
- NSTA conference in Charlotte, NC
- NC Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference in Raleigh, NC
- NC Office of EE's Non-formal Educator Meeting in Raleigh, NC
- Classes/Clubs at 12 NC Universities

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 Board consists of fifteen 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.



First row: Mara Mitchell, Stephanie Avett, Emily Walker
Second row: Chris Goforth, Christine Brown, Elissa Riley
Third row: Danielle Lawson, Lauren Pyle, Shannon Culpepper
Fourth row: Tanya Poole, Brad Daniel, Jonathan Marchal, Trent Stanforth
Not pictured: Maria McDaniel, Erin Lineberger, Aaron Jennings

The Board of Directors had a busy year in 2018, starting right off in January. A group of five: Brad Daniel, Lauren Pyle, Michelle Pearce, Renee Strnad, and Shannon Culpepper, represented EENC at the NAAEE ee360 Leadership Clinic at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. Over four days, the group received training and time to work together to set goals for the organization. The ee360 grant included funding which we used to provide training for Board Members and our Executive Director, and hold a diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop for our membership and the EE community.

Then it was straight into the Board retreat in Atlantic Beach! With the help of a consultant, Dave Chase, the Board developed a strategic plan for 2018-2020 focusing on five categories: diversification, membership, branding/marketing, fundraising, and EE capacity.

The ee360 grant funding enabled the Board to improve their skills related to non-profit management through training. At the March Board meeting, Staci Barfield, with Armstrong McGuire, provided fundraising training. Desiree Adaway provided diversity, equity, and inclusion training in June. Each Board Member also received funding for training related to their specific position.

The Board planned several successful events throughout the year including section events, a Piedmont-Western mini-conference, and the annual conference in September. We ended the year with another successful crowdfunding campaign, raising \$36,593!

The Board members contributed 2,682 hours of volunteer service to EENC. Using the federal volunteer rate of \$24.69 per hour, the Board contributed a total of \$66,225 in volunteerism! That contribution has led to the success and growth of EENC.

2018 Board Meetings

January 19-21	Board Retreat, Trinity Center, <i>Atlantic Beach</i>	June 2	Asheville Greenworks, <i>Asheville</i>
March 3	Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling, <i>Pittsboro</i>	December 8	NC Museum of Natural Sciences, <i>Raleigh</i>

February - November Monthly Conference Calls

2018 Board of Directors

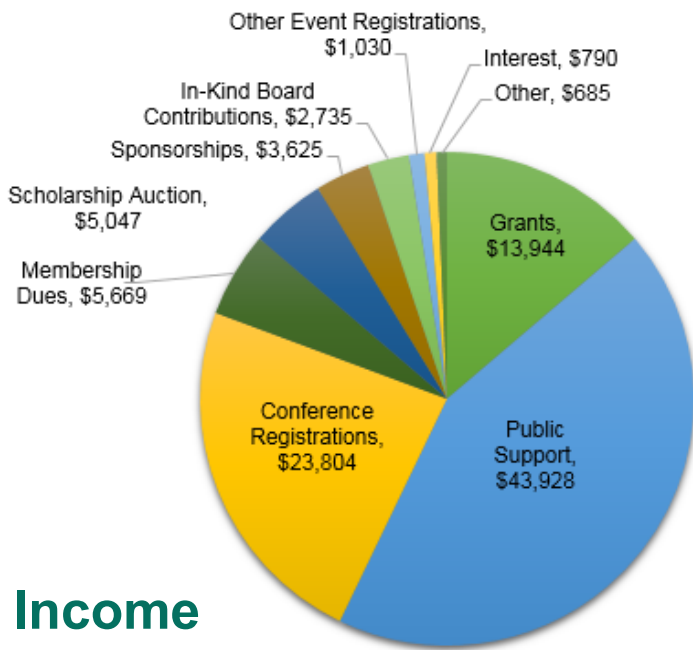
President: Shannon Culpepper
President- Elect: Christine Brown
Past-President: Jonathan Marchal
Secretary: Tanya Poole
Treasurer: Aaron Jennings
Communications Chair: Chris Goforth
Education Chair: Danielle Lawson
Membership Chair: Trent Stanforth
Partnership Chair: Brad Daniel
Policy Chair: Mara Mitchell
Resource Development Chair: Elissa Riley
Eastern Section Chair: Maria McDaniel
Central Section Chair: Stephanie Avett
Piedmont Section Chair: Erin Hines
Western Section Chair: Emily Walker



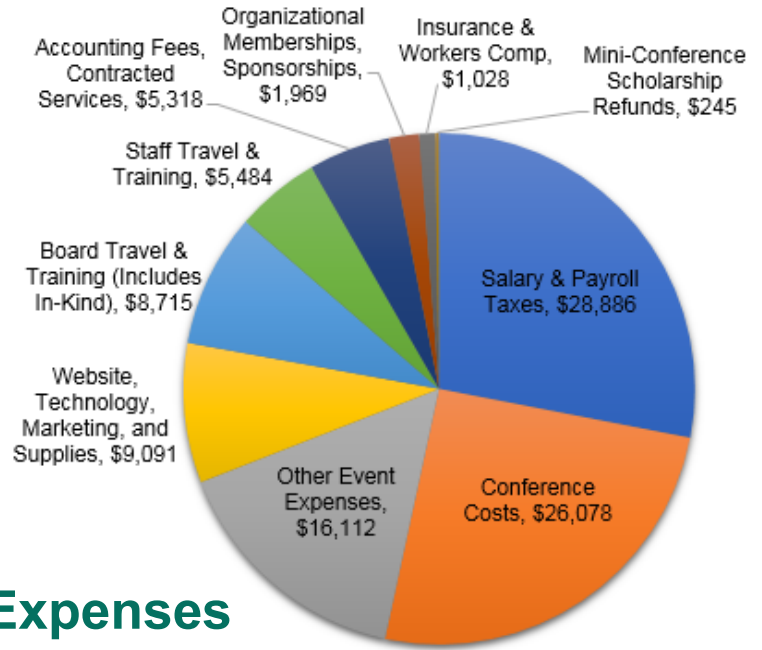
Polar Plunge, January 2018

The Board of directors jumped into the Atlantic Ocean as a reward to our donors for reaching our fundraising goal of \$20,000 in 2017.

Budget Summary



Income



Expenses

In 2018, EENC's total income was \$101,257 and total expenses were \$102,926.

In addition, EENC awarded \$4,000 in scholarships in the form of reduced registration fees for the Annual Conference.

The Board approved this single-year deficit budget due to the one-time and new expenses incurred by hiring our first staff person.

Thank you to our supporters!

<p>Over \$2500</p>  <p>From Inspiration to Impact</p> <p>Multiple Anonymous Supporters</p>	<p>\$1000+</p>  <p>Aerin Benevides</p>	  <p>Arthur Florack, Brad Daniel, Anonymous Donors</p>	<p>\$500+</p>   <p>Anonymous Donors</p>	 <p>at Chimney Rock State Park</p>
<p>\$250+</p> <p>NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Anne Ireton, Elizabeth Stanforth, Lois Nixon, Michael Florack, Samuel H Walker, Scott Fister, Sheila Jones, Stacie Hagwood, Stephanie Avett, and Anonymous.</p>				

Additional Support:

Aaron Jennings, Aaron Stannard, Alfred J Frager, Alice Cohen, Alyssa M Florack, Amanda Leigh Jones, Amber Baker, Amy McCarter, Ann May Woodward, Ann Vaughan, Anna Greer Bagwell, Ashley Hoffman, Beverly E Ross, Bianca Howard, Blair Ogburn, Bob Disney, Bonnie Eamick, Brian Holtel, Camille Brown, Caroline M Clark, Carolyn Munn, Catherine Bythewood, Cathleen Reas, Charles Peterson, Chelsea Sloggy, Cheri Borries, Chris Goforth, Christie Coggins, Christina Ramirez, Christine Brown, Christine Miga, Cindy Ford, Colleen Strnad, Courtney M Long, Craig Dressler, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Danette Scott, Daniel M Ayer, Daniel Rhodes, Danielle Lawson, David Cranford, David Freeman, David N Woodbury, Dawn Chavez, Deb Wojcik, Debbie Abel, Diane P Folk, D'Nise Hefner, Drucilla Ann Harrison, Edward Hinson, Elfin Noce, Elissa Riley, Elizabeth J. Cranford, Ella Denny Tzinberg, Ellen Frost, Ellen L Vitek, Emily Walker, Erica Williams, Erin Hines, Evelyn Warner, Frank Lopez, Frankie Lineberger, George Mathis, Grace Brown, Holly Denham, Holly Sweeney, Jackie Trickle, Jalamair Cochran, Jamie Sorensen, Jane Holt, Janet D Dixon, Jayson E. Carey, Jennifer Dennison, Jennifer Fine, Jennifer Griffith, Jesse Pope, Jessica Reardon, Joe and Heather Riley, Joey Allen, John Roberts, Jonathan Navarro, Jonathan R Kimberly, Joy E. Shuck, Julie Hall, Karen W. Polk, Kathryn Strickland, Kathryn T Stevenson, Keith Bamberger, Kendra Byers, Kevin Hining, Kevin Steller, Lara White, Laura A Thompson, Laura Downey, Laura K. White, Laura Nichols Mahan, Laura Webb Smith, Laurell Malone, Lauren Cannon, Lauren Pyle, Lesley Vernon, Linda Graves, Lindsey Wall, Lisa D Florack, Liz Baird, Lois Nixon, Lori Dumas, Lydia Banister, M Youngquist Thurow, Mara H Mitchell, Marcus A Jones, Margaret Hayes, Maria McDaniel, Mark Mullert, Marshall Harvey, Martha Kane, Mary Lou Addor, Mary Meyer, Matt Rutherford, Megan Bame, Melanie Frank, Melissa Watkins, Melissa Wilson, Michelle K Pearce, Mickey Jo Sorrell, Misty Varnell, Monique Peoples, Nancy Avett, Natalie Elkins, Nathan Gruver, Olivia S. Poto, Patty Long, Penelope Reed, Phillip Cox, Randall Hartwell, Randy Moser, Rebekkah LaBlue, Renee L Strnad, Richard Marchal, Ronald Allen, Ruth Allen, Sabrina Kensinger, Sally Doyle, Samuel J Ray, Sandra Jennings, Sara Bell, Sara Lang, Sara Macon Walker, Sarah Freeman, Sarah Schneider, Sarah Smith, Shane Barber, Shannon Culppepper, Shannon Jones, Stephanie A Workman, Stephanie Jeffries, Steve & Rita Coggins, Steven Trotter, Suki R Affatato, Susan Metz, Suzanne Connelly, Suzanne Wodek, Tanya Poole, Terri Hathaway, Thomas Lineberger, Travis H McCormick, Trent Stanforth, Tyler A Martone, Walter Harris, Will Crook, William B Faircloth, William Bennett, William J Marchal, William R McLellan, William Wittmeier, and Anonymous.