

# Environmental Educators of North Carolina

2017 Annual Report  
*January 1 - December 31*



*Empowering Educators For A Healthier Environment*

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President Jonathan Marchal with keynote speaker and author Mary Ellen Hannibal at the 2017 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 as well as the organization's Executive Director.



## President's Letter

Dear EE Colleagues,

On behalf the EENC Board of Directors, thank you for a wonderful 2017. This year we saw the culmination of several milestones and accomplishments, as well as a demonstrated effort on the part of our membership to effect change. It was a year of great growth for the organization, continued dedication by our board to serve our members, and further engagement within the national and southeastern region environmental education communities.

When continued funding for the NC Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs was placed in legislative jeopardy, our board of directors, our members, and our supporters went to work. You expressed to lawmakers in our capital the importance of the office, of the certification program, of the communication enabled by the Non-formal Educators/Department of Public Instruction Annual Meeting and the environmental education listserv. For this reason our state's environmental education office continues to do the good work they accomplish.

The year continued with many section events and, in September, at our annual conference. This year the conference was held at the Agape Center for Environmental Education- the stomping grounds of our veteran board member, Mir Youngquist-Thurow. Mir and her team were wonderful hosts, and the forested site provided the setting for valuable sessions, workshops, and, of course, spontaneous conversations and networking. Our keynote speaker, Mary Ellen Hannibal, spent the weekend in our sessions. For her presentation she applauded our efforts while at the same time encouraged us to speak our truth and stay engaged.

The year also saw a big step for the organization as we begin the process of hiring an Executive Director. As we take on the challenge of paying for a staff position we are seeing an increasing need for increasing our revenues. To that end we concluded the year with a very successful crowdfunding campaign- surpassing our goal of \$20,000.

I am excited to see Shannon Culpepper take the reigns as President in 2018. Shannon's leadership and work ethic have been illustrated by her work with the ee360 group as well as her past positions on the board, and feel that this organization could not find a better suited individual to move forward.

Thank you all for your support and your service.

*Jonathan Marchal*

Jonathan Marchal, EENC President, 2017

## EENC 2017 Board of Directors

President .....	Jonathan Marchal, The NC Arboretum
President-Elect .....	Shannon Culpepper, Chatham Co Solid Waste and Recycling
Past-President .....	Michelle Pearce, The NC Arboretum
Treasurer .....	Renee Strnad, NC State University
Secretary.....	Tanya Poole, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Communication Chair .....	Chris Goforth, NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Education Co-Chairs .....	Rachel Szczytko, NC State University
Membership Chair .....	Trent Stanforth, Museum of Life + Science
Partnership Chair .....	Brad Daniel, Montreat College
Policy Chair .....	Vacant
Resource Development Chair....	Elissa Riley, New Hanover Co Soil and Water
Eastern Section Chair .....	Maria McDaniel, A Time for Science
Central Section Chair .....	Stephanie Avett
Piedmont Chair.....	Erin Lineberger, Cabarrus Co Soil and Water
Western Section Chair .....	Tom Randolph, NC State Parks
Historian.....	Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Agape EE Center
SEEA Liaison .....	Beth Cranford, NC Museum of Natural Sciences

## EENC 2017 Executive Summary

- Conducted a Board Retreat, featured annual planning and conference work, acceptance of a Diversity Statement
- Provided ee360 Guidelines Workshops resulting in approximately 60 participants and 10 new guidelines trainers.
- Advocated for the Office of EE and Public Affairs with lawmakers this year and developed connections with them for future.
- Planned and Implemented an EE Summit that allowed for an opportunity to collaborate, support one another better, and start forming the idea of a super conference.
- Participated in the ee360 leadership training, making NC a part of the first 10 states trained.
- Began monthly conference calls for the Board of Directors.
- Raised \$6,442.00 in conference scholarships from the conference auctions.
- Used crowdfunding to raise \$20,000 for the organization.
- Took steps necessary to hire a part-time Executive Director.



ee360 Leadership Team: Beth Cranford, Brad Daniel, Shannon Culpepper, Michelle Pearce and Renee Strnad.

# EENC 2017 Conference Sponsors

A Thank you to our corporate Sponsors:

- Fair Game Beverage
- Ponysaurus
- Sweet Sands of Salvo

Thanks also to the following individual conference sponsors:

- Brad Daniel
- Lois Nixon
- Julie Hall
- Kathryn Stevenson
- Stephanie Avett
- Renee Strnad
- Josh Enoch
- Lauren Greene
- Jackie Trickel
- Cathy Reas
- Mickey Jo Sorrell
- Gretta Steffens
- Charlotte Clark
- Shannon Culpepper



# 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.



**2017 Awards were presented by each of the past presidents in attendance at the 2017 Annual Conference**

**Environmental Educator of the Year:** Jennifer Browndorf, Hilburn Academy; Kim Kelleher

**Environmental Education Program of the Year:** Outdoor Environmental Learning Centers at schools in New Hanover County (pictured above)

**Outstanding Practitioner:** Melissa Dowland, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (pictured above)

**Outstanding Service:** Lauren Pyle, Western North Carolina Nature Center (pictured above)

**Melva Fager Okun Life Achievement:** Kim Smart, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences



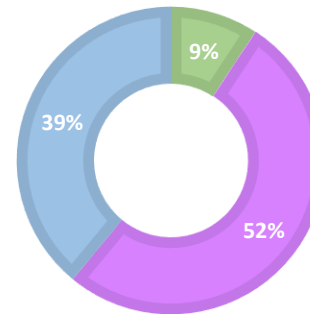
# EENC Treasurer's Report

## 2017 Income vs Expenses

Income	
Membership	\$5,404
Conference	\$30,243
Development*	\$22,810
	\$58,457
Expenses	
Board**	\$5,991
Communication	\$1,122
Conference	\$17,694
Committee Work	\$4,012
	\$28,885

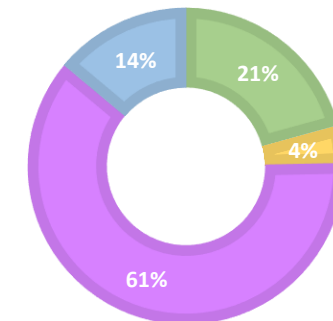
### 2017 INCOME

■ Membership ■ Conference ■ Development



### 2017 EXPENSES

■ Board ■ Communication ■ Conference ■ Committee Work

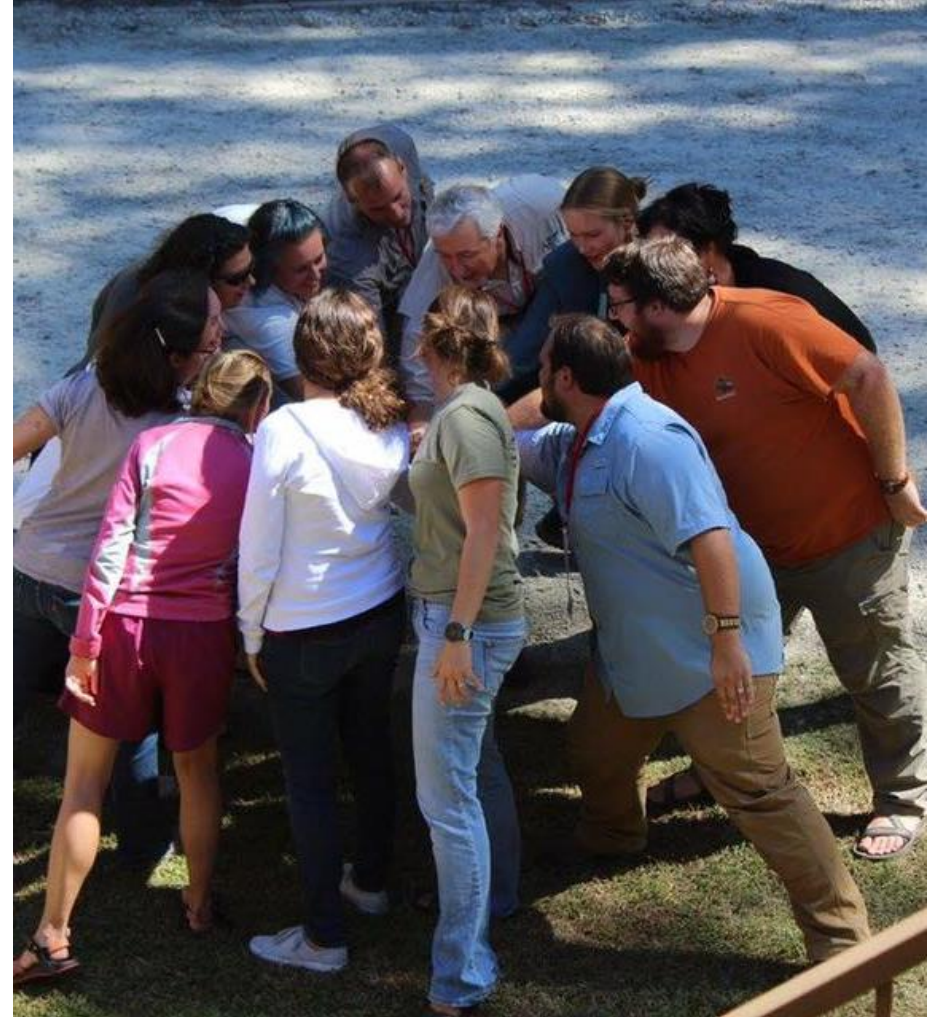


\*Grants and Donations

\*\*Trainings, meetings and travel

# 2017 Donations

- 100% of all Board Members Contributed Cash Donations in 2017
- EENC Board Contributed 2,262.5 hours of volunteer work
- At a value of \$21.46/hr, the board contributed \$48,553.25 in volunteerism



## 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 27-29, 2017**

Board Retreat at Agape Environmental  
Education Center  
Fuquay Varina, NC

Overview: Conference planning, annual  
planning

### **April 1, 2017**

Spring Board Meeting  
Montreat College  
Montreat, NC

Overview: Book keeping options, SEEA  
updates, conference planning

### **July 29, 2017**

Summer Board Meeting  
Cabarrus County Parks and Recreation Center  
Concord, NC

Overview: Review and adoption of ee360 goals,  
approve hiring of executive director

### **December 2, 2017**

Winter Board Meeting  
Pressley-Strnad Home  
Durham, NC

Overview: Crowdfunding, new board member  
transition

## 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:**

The North Carolina Arboretum  
Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling  
North Carolina State University  
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
Museum of Life + Science  
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences  
Montreat College  
New Hanover County Soil and Water Conservation District  
A Time for Science  
Cabarrus County Soil and Water Conservation District  
North Carolina State Parks

## Incoming EENC 2018 Board of Directors



**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

## EENC 2018 Goals

- Engage members in section activities.
- 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.
- Complete process of hiring an executive director.



## Become a Supporter of 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](http://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.

