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.
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
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.

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, 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
• 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
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.

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
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
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.
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.
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

Yearly Budget Breakdown
- Membership Income
- Conference Income
- Development Income
- Board Expenses
- Conference 2015 Expenses
- Conference 2016 Expenses
- Membership Expenses
- Committee
- Miscellaneous Work
### EENC Treasurer’s Report 2015 Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td>36,044.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>25,127.29</td>
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<td>Development</td>
<td>5062.77</td>
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#### 2015 EENC Income

- **Membership**: 16%
- **Conference**: 70%
- **Development**: 14%

![Pie Chart](image-url)
EENC Treasurer’s Report 2015 Expenses

2015 EENC Expenses

- Board Expenses: 28%
- Conference 2015: 52%
- Conference 2016: 9%
- Committee: 5.7%
- Miscellaneous: 3.5%
- Membership: 1.8%

EXPENSES: 27,948.70

- Board Expense: 7,750.04
- 2015 Conference Expenses: 14,521.03
- 2016 Conference Expenses: 2,500.00
- Membership: 560.10
- Committee: 1,587.53
- Miscellaneous Expenses: 1,030.00
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.
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 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.