Missouri Environmental Education News
February 2018

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NAAEE Affiliate Workshop Meeting

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Affiliate Workshop meets at Asilomar State Park, CA

by: Jan Weaver, MEEA Executive Director
(second row, just above and to the left of the woman in the turquoise shirt)

NAAEE is the North American equivalent of MEEA. It coordinates and supports the actions of over 40 state affiliate groups, including MEEA.

Its vision is a sustainable world where environmental and social responsibility drive individual and institutional choices. Its mission is to accelerate environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of environmental education.

Its three strategic goals are 1) Driving Excellence by promoting best practice and excellence in EE; 2) Cultivating Collective Impact by bringing people together to promote change; and 3) Mobilizing Support by championing EE at all levels.

As part of goal 1, Driving Excellence, NAAEE has developed a diverse, comprehensive and high quality library of online resources at eePRO, its hub for EE professional development. Below is a sampling of some of the webinars offered in the Learning section of EE pro (most would count for workshops in MEEA’s EE Certification program).

- Integrating Civic Action into K-12 Teaching
- Growing and Supporting the Movement - Funder’s Perspectives
- People Powered Impacts - Using Citizen Science to Save the World

As part of goal 2, Cultivating Collective Impact, NAAEE sponsors an annual workshop for state affiliate groups. Normally we would have met at the fall conference in Puerto Rico, but the hurricane made that impossible. Instead they organized a 3-day workshop at Asilomar State Park January 16-19 to bring over 30 affiliates together to share ideas and make plans.

One of the sessions was a series of mini-courses on issues facing affiliates. We had 20 minutes with each of three state EE organizations that were trying ways to increase diversity and inclusion, impact state policy and be more relevant to members.

- Maine - Emerging Environmental Change Makers Network - Maine had a number of youth groups working on environmental issues and wanted to help them network. Their idea was a week long camp experience that had a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. The planning team was intergenerational, 15 to 65, but the programs were all youth led, and included clear ground rules and anti-oppression training as well as environmental issues. LESSON LEARNED - The energy and vision of youth combined with the hands-on experience of veterans strengthens all efforts. http://www.meeassociation.org/index.php/emerging-changemakers
- New Mexico - Jumping into Community Engagement - The New Mexico Public Education Department was seeking comment on adoption of NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and the EE Association of NM actively
engaged its members in the process by reviewing and commenting on each version of the standards put out by the department. As a result of these and other efforts NGSS was adopted without any changes. (Note: STOM filled this role in MO). LESSON LEARNED - EE organizations can play an important role in thoughtful engagement with critical policy issues. - https://eenm.org/urgent-update-next-generation-science-standards/

- Colorado - Member Outreach and Listening Tour - Organizations need members for their new ideas, their leadership potential, the unrestricted funding provided by fees and their collective voice and action on critical issues. But why do members need organizations? The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education sought some expert advice on that question. In general, people are seeking experiences rather than benefits or value, good customer service matters, and belonging should make members feel good about being a member. LESSON LEARNED - Highlight diverse and engaging experiences for our members in our materials. http://ceae.org/membership

As part of 3, Mobilizing Support, NAAEE created eeWORKS, to develop communication tools, Global Initiatives and State Environmental Literacy Plans. For example, it worked with Stanford University to review 119 peer-reviewed studies published over 20 years that measured the impacts of ee for K-12 students.

- EE integrated into the curriculum improved performance on standardized mathematics assessments
- when controlling for GPA, gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, students in ee programs scored significantly higher on measures of critical thinking skills
- teachers that use ee curricula report advancing their skills in teaching for depth of understanding and contextualized learning
- teachers and parents note experiential EE provides better opportunities to learn complex concepts for students with learning disadvantages
- in many cases, lower achieving students make the greatest gains in skills

Most of NAAEE’s resources are available for free on their website. Take some time this week to check out eePro Learning Tools and its great resources!

MEEA Board Positions open for Nomination!

Nothing can change the past, but organizations with leadership that is visionary, committed and practical can change the future.

You can be the person who helps Missouri to a future that is smarter, healthier and greener for all.

You can join MEEA’s board and take the lead!

Visit Take the Lead! to find out more about positions on MEEA’s board.

We seek diverse representation from every gender, race, ethnic group, economic status and geographic region of the state. All MEEA members are eligible for the following positions:

- President-Elect/Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Member-at-Large positions

Nominations/Applications are due February 28.

Things to Look for (or Look Out for) in February

- 2 World Wetlands Day (annually)- http://www.wetland.org

Check out all the 2018 Green Holidays.

What to Look for Right Now - MDC’s list of What’s Out There in February!

MEEA News

- People Team
  - Welcome to these new members in January: Jennifer Fakes, Stacey Wolf and Josh Adams.
  - Thanks to renewing members Geoffrey Stillwell, Dave Tobey, Eric Hadley, Jeff Centrell, and Alex Dzurick.
- Networking - Executive Director Jan Weaver attended the ee360 Affiliate Workshop at Asilomar State Park in California thanks to a grant from NAAEE. See a summary of some of what she learned above. Look for MEEA at Interface. Jan will be presenting at Interface A (K-6) and B (7-12) on Weather Math and Science and on Climate Change, and will be tabling at both sessions.

- Purpose Team
  - The 2018 MO Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference will be held in Columbia MO, Saturday November 3, at Jefferson Junior High. Board Liaison Christine Li is setting up the next meeting.
  - MEEA has also had some interest expressed about hosting the next meeting in 2019 in St. Louis. Susan Flowers will start working with interested parties on that planning.
  - Missouri Green Schools - MEEA has received evaluations for the five schools that submitted nominations. E.D. Jan Weaver will be meeting with John Kitchens (MO DESE), Rob Hunt (MO DNR) and Steve Juhlin (MDC) in February to select schools as Missouri nominees for the US Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools
Resources
- **Accounting** - Board members approved the 2018 Budget. Our current accountant is retiring, so E.D. Jan Weaver will seek bids for accounting needs going forward. Jan will finalize the 4th Quarter report with the current accountant and begin preparation of the 2017 990 EZ.
- **Fund Development** - E.D. Jan Weaver will prepare the paperwork for the annual Missouri Environmental Fund application. MEF is a workplace giving program. Please look for it when your employer provides opportunities to sign up for workplace giving!

Governance Team
- **Board of Directors** - The board met January 16 and reviewed ideas for tabling materials, compiled a list of events at which to table, asked for final feedback on the conference sustainability report, considered how to effectively edit the monthly newsletters, decided to seek feedback from the conference committee about registration fees, approved the 2018 budget with the provision that it should be reviewed again at the end of the first quarter, approved increasing Jan Weaver's salary to $13,000 for 520 hours (approximately) of work, discussed Jan's plan to retire within the next 15 months and the need to review MEEA's staff needs in advance of hiring a replacement, and will develop a plan for evaluating the E.D.
- **Administration** - Unfortunately President Elect Linda Lacy had to resign from her position on the board, so President was added to the positions for which MEEA is seeking nominations.

Grant Funding
- **Missouri River Relief** - E.D. Jan Weaver is helping to tally up the match from the MRR subgrants.

Coming Up in the Next Two Months

Grants, Contests and Awards Deadlines more info here
- Exploravision (2/8); Lowe's Toolbox for Education (2/9); NSF Community College Innovation Challenge (2/14); UL Innovative Education Award (2/21); World of 7 Billion Video Contest (2/28); Young Eco-Hero Award (2/28); President's Environmental Youth Awards (3/1); Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (3/1)

Conferences and Meetings more info here
- 36th Annual Residential Outdoor Environmental Education Conference (1) - February 16-19, YMCA Ozarks, Potosi

Workshops and Events around Missouri more info here
- Wildcats of Missouri (2/28) Kirksville
- Map and Compass Night Navigations (2/10) Kansas City
- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (2/17) Jefferson City
- Drawing in Nature (2/13) St. Charles
- Black Bears in Missouri (2/10) Branson
- Fly Tying (2/27) Rolla
- Build a Bluebird House (2/15) Cape Girardeau

(These count for Environmental Educator Certification categories 1, 2 or 3. Visit the EE Certification page here)

Outdoor, Nature, Environmental and Sustainability Event Calendars - visit our page of organization and agency calendars - if you would like to have your organization's regularly updated calendar added, email Executive Director Jan Weaver

EE Jobs more info here
- Part-Time Executive Director, EE Association of Illinois
- Program Specialist, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
- Seasonal Gardener, Powell Gardens Educational Garden
- Zoo Education Interpreter (seasonal), St. Louis Zoo
- Education Instructor (part time), KC Zoo