Missouri Environmental Education News
January 2018

Happy New Year from MEEA’s Board!

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MEEA Highlights of 2017

December 2017 MELAB Meeting at Runge Nature Center

MELAB - MEEA worked with 22 other organizations to build EE capacity in Missouri. At our Missouri Environmental Literacy Advisory Board meetings we are shaping the Missouri Green Schools program, creating a Careers Pathways road map for Missouri youth, and figuring out how to discover outstanding examples of Stewardship in communities throughout the state thanks to: MU School of Natural Resources, MO State Parks, Springfield Master Naturalists, Prairie Forks Conservation Area, St. Louis Science Center, MO Recycling Association, MO Healthy Food Americorps, Springfield Environmental Services, MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri Department of Conservation, MO Botanical Garden, Kansas City Public Schools, Mid-America Regional Council, Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School, Rain Tree School, Code Green, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Grow Native, Tyson Research Institute, US Green Building Council, St. Louis University High School, and CFM’s Conservation Leadership Corps. Check out MELAB here.

Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance members attend Conservation Day at the Capitol. They are one of MEEA’s 2017 grant recipients

Grants - MEEA awarded $250 grants for each of 5 EE projects. The Washington University student group, VERDE (Volunteers for Environmental Restoration, Development, and Education) will provide field trips to Earth Dance Farms and Urban Harvest STL for the teachers they are partnering with in St. Louis schools. Phelps Center for Gifted Children in Springfield will take their students to a Landfill, a Wastewater Treatment Plant and Springfield Underground. Macon Parents as Teachers will present on recycling, growing and preparing food, stewardship in nature and other topics at their monthly meetings with high-risk families. Delaware Elementary in Springfield will provide a five-week program on wildlife and habitat for students in the after-school program. The Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance will train students to raise awareness of conservation issues at four colleges across Missouri. Find out more
Certification - MEEA had 7 educators apply for, complete Level I, complete Level II, or renew their Environmental Educator Certification this year. We received applications from Beyza Bajraktari, Marti Bicknesse, Kevin Mouser, and Warren Simon; Elizabeth Petersen completed Level I, Geoffrey Stillwell completed Level II and Carey Scherder renewed her certification. Find out more about Certification here.

Conference - MEEA hosted over 20 at the MO Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference. Topics included food waste, Stormwater, props for presentations, healthy schools, green schools, STEM and Sustainability, Discover Nature Schools, climate change in the classroom, certification, seeds, children's nature play, kids nature programs, journaling composting, socio-scientific issues for environmental literacy and more. And we completed our first ever sustainability audit to better understand how we can reduce the conference carbon footprint in the future. Learn more about the conference here.

Missouri Green Schools - MEEA had 9 schools participate in nominations for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Awards. Three schools were recognized as National Green Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education - McKelvey Elementary School, Maplewood-Richmond Heights Elementary School and Parkway North High School. Learn more about Missouri Green Schools here.


Members - MEEA added 116 new members for a total of 416 members. Check out membership here.

Newsletters - MEEA published 12 monthly newsletters listing 79 grant opportunities, over 100 professional development opportunities and dozens of EE related jobs in Missouri. Features covered Missouri River Education, the role of the EPA, and Teaching Climate Change. Check out past newsletters here

Awards - MEEA recognized 5 educators and organizations doing outstanding work in Missouri. Rebecca Groebe, whose Middle School team bird recognition app won MDC’s Science Fair Award, received our Individual Award. KC Water, which created a "Journey of Stormwater" curriculum for 4th and 6th grade, won our Organization/Agency Award. KC Greenworks, which prepares at-risk youth for environmental careers, won our Grassroots Award. The Park Hill Plaza Middle School Green Team, which created Waste-less Wednesdays at their school won our Student Award. And the Lifetime Service Award went to Debbie Barker who volunteered over 5000 hours as a Master Naturalist volunteer for 12 organizations in the KC area. Read more about these folks here

Outreach - MEEA connected in person with at least 345 educators by tabling and presenting at conferences. Online we
MEEA Board Positions open for Nomination!

Nominations/Applications are due January 15 (note new date!). All MEEA members are eligible for the following positions:

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

The Board seeks diverse representation from every gender, race, ethnic group, economic status and geographic region of the state.


Submit completed nominations to MEEA President-elect/Secretary, Linda Lacy, at MOEnvEduAssn@gmail.com no later than Jan. 15.

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

- 5 National Bird Day - [http://nationalbirdday.com](http://nationalbirdday.com)
- Last Saturday of January - Seed Swap Day - [http://seedswapday.blogspot.com](http://seedswapday.blogspot.com)

Check out all the 2018 Green Holidays.

**Missouri Green Schools Resources**


**MO Department of Health and Senior Services Culinary Skills Institute** - Free hands-on culinary lab experiences for school food service personnel interested in learning and applying new food preparation skills in their districts. Upcoming trainings Feb 20-22, Hickory County and March 20-22, Kansas City - [http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/culinaryskills/](http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/culinaryskills/)

**MEEA News**

**People Team**

- **Memberships** - Welcome to these new members in December: Dustin Cook, Troy Hogg, Traci Jansen, Patrice Gonzalez, Stan Slaughter, Champagne Minx, Gregory Kirchhofer, John Clinton Brinkley, Kristen Briedemeier, Ann Burke, Diana Wheel, Michael LeDuc, Jim Shamp, Carrie Bucklin, Kristy Daniel, Isis Arsenoe, Max Goldber, Kevin Buena, Stacy Thomas, Olga Hunt, Alicia Ivory-Hourse, Rachel Seago, Sheryl Rogers, Centenial Day, Nakia King, Angela Manson, Terry McCoy, Phyllis Balcerzak, Margie Campbell, Kevin Mouser, and Emily Woll. Thanks to renewing members Sheila Voss, Jan Weaver, Barbara Lucks, Melvin Johnson, Elizabeth Petersen and Linda Lacy.

- **Networking** - MEEA presented at the Missouri Coordinated School Health Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks on December 1 on the Health pillar of the Green Schools program. In January, Executive Director Jan Weaver and President Elect Linda Lacy will attend the NAAEE 360ee Affiliate Capacity Building Workshop (in lieu of the workshop cancelled due to hurricane damage in Puerto Rico)

- **MELAB (Missouri Environmental Literacy Advisory Board)** - From the December 14 MELAB meeting: the Career Pathways group plans to connect with a national group planning a survey similar to the one they developed. The Stewardship group will check out existing state wide award programs for recognizing stewardship efforts. The Green Schools group will work on developing tiers for a year-round Missouri Green Schools program. MELAB is a group of groups whose mission statements include environmental education. Any group, organization, or agency who's mission includes promoting environmental literacy can send a representative to our meeting. Just contact Executive Director Jan Weaver at weaverjc@missouri.edu to be added to the list. The next meeting will be in central Missouri on Thursday May 10, 2018.

- **Recognition and Awards** - see above for 2017 awardees

**Purpose Team**

- **Conference** - The 2018 MO Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference will be held in Columbia MO, Saturday November 3, at Jefferson Junior High.

- **EE Certification** - See above for the current status of Certification Candidates

- **MEEA EE Grants** - See above for the 2017 recipients.

- **Missouri Green Schools** - MEEA is gearing up for this year's crop of Green Schools. The deadline for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools nominations is December 31. We plan to submit Missouri nominees on or before January 31. View the rationale, process and forms for nomination at
• Presentations - Jan Weaver presented on the Health Pillar of the Missouri Green Schools program at the Missouri Coordinated School Health Conference.

• Resources
  o Accounting - Board members reviewed the Q3 financials and asked for clarification on some items.
  o Fund Development - At the end of the 3rd Quarter, grants and donations total $11,098.

• Governance Team
  o Board of Directors - The board met December 19 and reviewed membership policies, how disbursement of grant funds are monitored, the relationship of Missouri Green Schools to state agencies, updating tabling materials and creating a tabling calendar for the board, completion of the NAAEE survey for planning purposes, the conference sustainability report, board recruitment, extending MELAB membership to other groups, updates on the 2018 conference, financials, and hiring a new bookkeeper.
  o Administration - President-Elect Linda Lacy sent out a call for nominations for the 2018 Board elections.

• Grant Funding
  o Missouri River Relief - Executive Director, Jan Weaver is finalizing work on the MRR grant, which will close this year.

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Coming Up in the Next Two Months

• Grants, Contests and Awards Deadlines more info here
  o Teach Earth Fellowship (1/8); Community Action Grants (1/15); New York Life Foundation Aim High Grants (1/26); Fund for Teachers (1/31); MO Agribusiness Academy Applications (2/1); 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
  o Joint WET, WILD, Learning Tree Workshop (1) - January 25-27, Camdenton
  o 36th Annual Residential Outdoor Environmental Education Conference (1) - February 16-19, YMCA Ozarks, Potosi

• Workshops and Events around Missouri more info here
  o Clarksville Eagle Days (2) - January 27-28, Clarksville
  o Nature Revealed (1) - January 16, Mexico
  o Drawing in Nature (2 or 3) - January 8, St. Louis
  o Master Naturalist Information Meeting (3) - January 4, Joplin
  o Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Level 2 Workshop (2) - January 13, Salem
  o Wild Edibles (2) - January 6, 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

Executive Director, Stream Teams United

2018 Green Holidays Calendar

Over 60 holidays related to public health, wildlife, renewable energy and critical habitats - January to December - with links to resources for each. Download the pdf. To print it out, use a 8.5 x 14 piece of paper.