

# Program of Events

## 2022 Annual Conference

### March 31– April 3



The codes that follow each session description indicate which strand the session addresses as follows:

NH=Natural History;

TC=STEM and Careers;

IW=Inclusive World of EE

PC=Population, Climate, and Outdoor Ed

EC= Early Childhood

## Graduate Credit and Contact Hours are Available!

### Thursday, March 31, 2022

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

#### Ohio Student Wildlife Research Symposium

Join high school students and teachers from around Ohio as they present their wildlife and habitat research projects in this symposium for high school students. \$35 for adults, \$25 for students, includes lunch. Please see the agenda online at <http://eeco.wildapricot.org>

### Friday, April 1, 2022

**9:00 am - 4 pm**

#### Friday Full Day Field Trip

##### F1—Miami Museums and Ecological Research Center (\$10)

NH/TC

At the Hefner Museum, learn about the use of exhibits, collections and specimens, and interactive programs to teach visitors of all ages about animal biodiversity, conservation, and ecology. *Next, head to the Limper Geology Museum which contains hundreds of specimens of the world-famous fossils of southwestern Ohio as well as minerals, rocks, fossils, and meteorites from all over the world. You'll also get a chance to play with the Death Star on the museum's interactive digital OmniGlobe. Then head to the Ecological Research Center (ERC) for lunch and a tour.* The (ERC) is the focal point for ecological field research at Miami University and provides a venue for educational opportunities for middle, high school, and university students interested in both aquatic and terrestrial research. *Steve Sullivan, Hefner Museum; Kendall Hauer, Limper Museum; and Jeremy Fruth, ERC.*

*Indoors & Outdoors*

**9:00 am - 4 pm**

#### Friday Full Day Workshop

##### W1—Climate, Climate, Climate! Three Resources in One! (\$10)

PC/TC

The three Projects, WET, WILD, and Learning Tree, have all recently introduced climate education modules to their suite of materials. These modules, geared to middle and high school, help educators teach about climate science in a factual, non-controversial way. Learn about the science of climate and its impacts on wildlife, fish, plants, water, air quality, and human health. You'll go home with all three program's climate-focused modules and an enormous wealth of educational resources. *Dennis Clement Ohio EPA Office of EE, Jen Dennison ODNR Division of Wildlife, and Sue Wintering, ODNR Division of Forestry.*

*Indoors & Outdoors*

**9:00 am - noon**

#### Friday Morning Field Trip

##### F2—Spring has sprung, the grass has riz...I wonder what that flower is? (\$5)

NH/PC

Let's search for and gain insight into the many changes that are taking place in the woods during spring. While you might notice spring flowers, have you noticed tree blossoms? You may have heard birds singing, but did you hear the frogs calling? What will we find if we just take a closer look? *Don Koller, Naturalist, Hefner Museum.*

*Outdoors*

## **Noon - 1:00 pm**

## **Lunch Break**

An optional box lunch is available for \$15. Otherwise, participants should make plans to provide their own lunch, either by ordering from the lodge restaurant, or packing their own.

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## **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

## **Friday Afternoon Workshop**

### **W2—My Backyard Stream, a Citizen Science Program (\$5)**

**TC**

An introduction to My Backyard Stream program and watershed education resources provided by Ohio University's Voinovich School through a grant from American Electric Power Foundation. Presenters will discuss common issues facing Ohio waterways, and the corresponding lesson plans and materials found on [watersheddata.com/education](http://watersheddata.com/education). Attendees will go outdoors to go through all the steps of My Backyard Stream and learn water testing techniques. Questions related to water quality and water quality testing will be addressed. Rubber/rain boots are recommended. Appropriate for middle and high school teachers (grades 7-12), environmental educators, and organizations. *Jen Bowman and Maya Clouse-Henry, Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs.*

*Indoors & Outdoors*

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## **4:15 pm - 5:45 pm**

## **Friday Pre-Dinner Field Trip**

### **F3—Fossil Field trip; The Rocks of Hueston Woods and the Stories They Tell of Our Marine Past (\$5)**

**NH**

More than twice as long ago as when the first dinosaurs roamed the Earth, southwestern Ohio was located about 25 degrees south of the equator and lay beneath a warm shallow sea. Within this sea lived an amazingly diverse collection of invertebrate animals, and the rocks of Hueston Woods are literally bursting with their fossils. Participants will be allowed to keep their fossil finds as we surface collect at one of the park's designated collecting sites. Geologists from Miami University will be on hand to identify fossils and answer questions about the area's geological history.

*Outdoors*

# Silent Auction

The silent auction raises money to help EECO grow.

The silent auction will be in the Council Fire Room and will be open on Friday and Saturday. Hours will be posted at the conference.

All bids end at 6 pm on Saturday.

If you would like to donate to the silent auction, we will really appreciate it.

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## **6:00pm - 7:00 pm**

## **Friday Night Welcome Dinner**

Join us on Friday evening as we officially kick-off the 2022 EECO Annual Conference. We'll inform you of some of the latest successes of EECO and introduce the Board of Directors and Regional Directors.

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## **7:00pm - 8:30 pm**

## **Open Space**

Have you ever had a topic that you would like to discuss at an EECO Conference? Great! Bring your topic ideas and your expertise to the EECO Open Space! During the Open Space we will have attendees put up topics they would like to discuss around Environmental Education, Outdoor Education, and Nonprofit/small organizations. Once the topics have been specified we will break up into small groups to discuss the topics. If the group you start out in is not your cup of tea please, feel free to join another group, or feel free to float to various groups. We are excited to see what "Aha" moments are formed from this Friday evening activity.

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## **7:15 pm Earthrise to Racing Extinction: Nature Photography & the Environmental Movement**

Join Carolyn Watkins, with the Ohio EPA, for this special session in the Ohioami Room.

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## **Evening Activities**

### **9:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Night hike (**Weather permitting**)

Fire pit or fire within Fireside Room (**depends upon weather**)

Hospitality suite

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**

**Concurrent Sessions, Keynotes, Exhibits**

**7:00 am - 8:00 pm** Bird Hike tentative

**8:00 am - 9:00 am** Breakfast—Join your EECO Regions and network while enjoying your breakfast

**9:00 am - 9:15 am** Welcome and Conference Opening—Brenda Metcalf, EECO Executive Director

## EECO Kids Conference 2022

On Saturday, while you are attending EECO conference sessions, your child/children can, too! EECO is offering a Mini Kids Conference! Kids will **LEARN** about Environmental Education and gain an appreciation for nature and environmental stewardship. Like our adult attendees, they will **CONNECT** with new friends in a positive and supportive setting. This is a fabulous opportunity to enjoy the conference and begin a family tradition for your children to **GROW** into our future EECO Leaders, all while enjoying the amenities of the state park!

Ages 6 and up are welcome!

Activities will include: Hiking the Mudlick Trail, learning about Wonderful Wildlife and Super Soils, and getting up close with nature with microscopes.

All sessions meet and end at the registration table so children can join parents between sessions.

*\$15 fee per child will be charged for the full 4 session kids conference. This is payable at the registration table.*

*Lunch is not provided. Children's meal tickets will be available at the registration table. Other options include ordering from the restaurant, or packing your own.*

**9:30 am - 10:30 am**

**Concurrent Session 1**

### **A1- Double Session: Bird Banding**

Learn about the complex and fascinating world of birds as you learn the bird banding technique. There is nothing like the excitement of tracing a banded bird's migration! Families welcome. *Dave Russell, Miami University.*

**NH**

*Outdoors*

### **A2- Using Phenology and Citizen Science to Investigate Climate Change**

Learn how to use phenology and citizen science to explore climate change. Educators will learn how to collect various data, use visualization tools, and explore ideas to integrate these activities into science, math, social studies, and technology content areas. Lessons from BSCS Invitations to Inquiry with Data using Fieldscope will be introduced. *Tracy Cindric, EECO Nerd.*

**PC**

*Indoors & Outdoors*

### **A3- Using a Strike Team to Combat European Frogbit: How education and stewardship combine to fight invasive species at Old Woman Creek**

Old Woman Creek has created an invasive species program that trains volunteers and provides them with supplies to help us fight European Frogbit. They are our Frogbit Strike Team. We have a classroom training and an on the water training to hit both understanding and skill building. We will discuss both training aspects, the volunteer and supply coordination and the results of our strike team. We call this type of program conservation action education. *Jennifer Bucheit, ODNR, Old Women Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve.*

**NH**

*Indoors*

### **A4- Book It Outside! Blazing a Trail to Nature Engagement Through Stories**

Picture books can be a gateway for introducing young explorers to environmental concepts and outdoor adventure. We'll talk about what makes a great, inclusive book collection, innovative ways to use picture books and helpful library services. Some of the newest titles will be available for browsing. *Sarah Esala, youth library associate and a nature*

**EC**

**10:30 am - 10:45 am**

**Morning Break / Visit the Silent Auction**

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**10:45 am - 11:45 am**

**Concurrent Session 2**

**B1- Bird Banding (Continued from session 1)** Learn about the complex and fascinating world of birds as you learn the bird banding technique. There is nothing like the excitement of tracing a banded bird's migration! Families welcome.  
*Dave Russell, Miami University* **Outdoors NH**

**B2- Equity in Education – The Importance of Utilizing all Stakeholders in Environmental Education** **IW**  
"Each Child Our Future" is Ohio's shared plan for ensuring that each student is challenged, prepared, and empowered. Learn how the incorporation of environmental education can be one of the best strategies to assure equity in education.  
*Dave Murdock, Champion Local Schools* **Indoors**

**B3- Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children** **EC/NH**  
You are invited to increase the quantity and quality of the experiences children (ages 1-6) have with nature, both indoors and outdoors. Come have a fun time exploring elements of nature with specially selected activities from this new early childhood guide *Trees & Me* by Project Learning Tree. *Sue Wintering, Project Learning Tree* **Indoors**

**B4- Costumes and Characters** **EC**  
Characters brought to life through costume and play increases knowledge production and embodied experience, and encourages children to build on their own connections with their natural environment. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of arts-based pedagogies for exploring and understanding the natural world in an early childhood education program. *Melissa Proffitt, Warren Co. SWCD.* **Indoors**

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**12:00pm - 2:00pm**

**Lunch, Business Meeting, & Keynote Speaker**

Join us for a lunch and find out what EECO's been up to in the past year. This will include an opportunity to meet your current Board of Directors and review the annual budget.

**Keynote: Shawn Connor, *Into the Big Woods***

Join Shawn Connor as he tells about the history of Hueston Woods. Learn about the brothers, Matthew and Thomas Hueston, whose pioneer roles would forever be ingrained in the early beginnings of Hueston Woods. Shawn will discuss what makes the Big Woods a big woods and how Hueston Woods' old growth forest became a national natural landmark. Finally, Mr. Connors will share some of the live animals that reside in the Big Woods.

Shawn began his career with ODNR in 1999. He graduated from Wittenberg University with a degree in Biology. He has been the Naturalist of the Hueston Woods Nature Center since 2006. Shawn enjoys the diverse opportunities the park offers to his work day, the visitor's experience, and the park's wildlife inhabitants!



## **2:15pm - 3:15pm**

### **Concurrent Session 3**

#### **C1- Brookville's Biodiversity: A Problem Based Learning Experience**

**PC**

The Brookville Biodiversity Project provides the opportunity for seventh grade students to work collaboratively in small groups to investigate and solve the question: What is Brookville's biodiversity and how can you improve it? The goal of this project is to increase student awareness and knowledge of their local environment, to make informed decisions, and take action to improve their community. *Ann Drake, Brookville Intermediate School.*

*Indoors*

#### **C2- "Who Works for Water? for Wildlife? for the Forest?"**

**TC**

Sample three career-focused activities from Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree to teach interview skills and showcase a variety of careers in water treatment, wildlife management and forestry. *Carolyn Watkins with Ohio EPA, and Jen Dennison with ODNR Division of Wildlife.*

*Indoors*

#### **C3- Forest Recipes: Food, Drinks and Medicines**

**NH**

In this hands-on workshop, participants will sample a variety of foods, drinks and medicines that can be made from trees and plants in the woods, using ethical wildcrafting. *Beth Bridgeman, Antioch College.*

*Indoors*

#### **C4- Don't You Know! There's No Such Thing As A Gruffalo**

**EC**

Nature Focused/based curriculum is becoming more and more popular in America, but what does it look like in a public school kindergarten classroom? Learn more on how a Kindergarten teacher developed and integrated Nature Focused Curriculum in the classroom and create your own Gruffalo! *Jonathon Shaw, Hudson City Schools.*

*Indoors*

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## **3:15 am - 3:30 pm**

### **Afternoon Break / Visit the Silent Auction**

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## **3:30pm - 4:30pm**

### **Concurrent Session 4**

#### **D1- Building and Using Microcosms in the Classroom**

**NH**

Learn about local pond ecosystems and build a microcosm of a pond ecosystem for classroom use to explain ecosystem structure, succession and human impact. *Linda Sigismondi, University of Rio Grande.*

*Indoors*

#### **D2- Believe in Ohio: STEM/Entrepreneurship with an Environmental Twist**

**TC**

Participants will learn about the free Believe in Ohio STEM and Entrepreneurship program for high school students and develop a STEM Commercialization Plan to bring an environmental product to market. *Sheila Cubick, Ohio Academy of Science.*

*Indoors*

#### **D3- Educating Tomorrow's Conservationists Through Observation and Inquiry**

**NH**

Today's younger generation have rarely experienced our SW Ohio forests without honeysuckle. For them, the overgrown understory is "normal". How do we change their perspective through observation, inquiry and engagement? *Donna McCollum, Three Valley Conservation Trust.*

*Indoors & Outdoors*

#### **D4- Working with Preschoolers in Nature**

**EC**

Join me in exploring techniques and activities that can be used to nurture and transform young children's natural curiosity and excitement into meaningful engagement in nature. *Erin Rowenkamp, Five Rivers Metroparks.*

*Indoors*

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## **4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

### **Networking, Silent Auction**

This is your chance to chat with new and old friends and get your bids in on all the fantastic silent auction items.

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## **5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

### **Environmental Education Certification Poster Session**

Check out all of the hard work accomplished by the EE Certification class during their poster session within the Fireside Room.

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## **6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

### **Awards Banquet and Live Auction**

Join us as we close out the conference with a dinner buffet and stay to congratulate this year's award recipients. We will also have some fantastic items for you to bid on at the Live Auction. All proceeds go to the EECO Endowment Fund.

**Sunday, April 3, 2022**

**7:00 am - 8:00 pm** Bird Hike tentative

**8:00 am - 9:00 am** Breakfast

**Field Trip**

**9:00 am- 3:00 pm**

ET-1—EECO April Tour in SW Ohio

## EECO April Tour

**Preble County Historical Society and Nature Reserve**

**Sunday, April 3, 9:30 am—2:00 pm**

Enjoy a wagon ride to a creek restoration area, view the wetlands, visit the prairie, explore the historical farmstead, and tour exhibit hall.

**Cost:** \$25 (Box lunches can be pre-ordered from the Hueston Woods Lodge)

Find out more about the venue at [www.preblecountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.preblecountyhistoricalsociety.com)

**We hope you find this conference to be an exciting and beneficial professional development opportunity.**

**If you have any questions about the program, the registration process, or any other topics or issues, please contact Brenda Metcalf, EECO Executive Director, at 740-653-2649 or [director@eeco-online.org](mailto:director@eeco-online.org).**

**You can also contact Lynn White, Conference Co-Chair, at 513-785-6666 or [whitelr@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:whitelr@butlercountyohio.org) for assistance.**

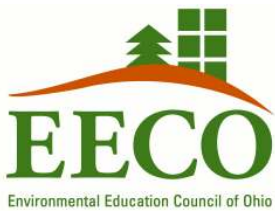
**We look forward to seeing you at Hueston Woods State Park!**



[neorsd.org](http://neorsd.org)

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# 2022 Annual EECO Conference Registration

March 31—April 3, 2022

Hueston Woods State Park

Early Bird Deadline: March 11

Register online at <http://eeco.wildapricot.org/>



## Registration Details (please print)

Name: (last)		(first)	
Name as it should appear on name tag:		Do you have an Ohio EE certification (Yes or No)	
Organization			
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	County
Phone ( )	Cell ( )	Email	
Emergency contact (name)		Phone ( )	

I will bring a silent auction item      Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_ (mobility, vegetarian, food allergies, etc.)

**Presenters:**  I plan to attend the full conference (\$25 discount)       I plan to attend my presentation session only

### Join or renew your EECO Membership and save money on your conference registration!

\$35 Individual	\$20 Student/Senior	\$50 Professional	\$70 Non-Profit	\$100 Sustaining	\$150 Business	\$250 Champion
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See additional information on the next page to join one of EECO's special interest sections.

Please indicate registration choices	Full Conference (Includes Fri dinner, all Sat meals, Sun breakfast)	Saturday Only (Includes all Sat meals)
Member	\$180 Early Bird/\$205 Regular	\$110 Early Bird/\$125 Regular
Non-Member	\$230 Early Bird/\$255 Regular	\$150 Early Bird/\$165 Regular
Student (Must show ID upon arrival)	\$145 Early Bird/\$180 Regular	\$100 Early Bird/\$115 Regular
Presenter (use Code)	\$155/member \$180/non-member	\$110 Early Bird/\$125 Regular

My child/children plans to attend the Saturday Children's Conference.       Number of children planning to attend.

### Field Trips and Workshops

Note: No lunch provided on Friday. Participants can order from the lodge restaurant, pre-purchase a box lunch for \$15, or pack a lunch.

#### Friday Field Trips

- FT-1—(full day) Miami Museums & Research —\$10
- FT-2—(am) Signs has Sprung—\$5
- FT-3—(late pm) Rocks /Fossils of Hueston Woods—\$5

#### Friday Workshops

- W1—(full day) Climate, Climate, Climate!—\$10
- W2—(pm) My backyard stream, citizen science—\$5

#### Sunday Field Trips

Lunch and transportation are not provided, please plan accordingly.

- ET-1—Preble EECO Tour \$25

### Saturday Concurrent Sessions—Circle one choice in each column

Session 1 9:30 am	Session 2 10:45 am	Session 3 2:15 pm	Session 4 3:30 pm
A1 Bird banding (double session)	B1 Bird banding (double session)	C1 Brookville's Biodiversity	D1 Building Microcosms
A2 Phenology	B2 Equity in Education	C2 Who Works for Water? Wildlife? Forests?	D2 Believe in Ohio
A3 Strike Team Frogbit	B3 Trees and Me	C3 Forest Recipes	D3 Educating Tomorrow's Conservationists
A4 Book It Outside!	B4 Costumes & Characters	C4 No Such Thing as the Gruffalo	D4 Preschoolers in Nature

Total Registration Costs	
Conference Registration Fee	\$
Friday Field Trips/Workshops	\$
Friday Boxed Lunch	\$
Sunday EECO Tour	\$
EECO Special Section Fee(s) First section is free, additional sections are \$5	\$
EECO Membership	\$
Additional donation to EECO Endowment Fund	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$

Register online at <http://eeco.wildapricot.org> with a credit card or make checks payable to EECO and mail with this completed form to:

Brenda Metcalf  
EECO Executive Director  
PO Box 1004  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
(740) 653-2649

If you wish to bring a guest who will be attending meals, contact Brenda directly to have them registered at a reduced rate.

**Please select all meals you will be attending:**

- Friday Dinner   
 Saturday Breakfast   
 Saturday Lunch   
 Saturday Awards Banquet   
 Sunday Breakfast

## Early Bird Registration Deadline March 11, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in receiving Graduate Credit from Ashland University. The cost is \$210 for one credit hour. Please contact Linda Pettit EECO Region 1 Director, at [linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org](mailto:linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org)

*Certificates with contact hours are available upon request.*

## Lodging Information – Hueston Woods State Park Lodge

5201 Lodge Rd, College Corner, OH 45003

**Room Block will be held until March 3, 2022**

Reservations—(513)-664-3500. Ask for the “EECO Conference” room rates.

Room Rates for Queen, King: \$116.00 per night per room    Cabin rate is \$172 per night per cabin

### Join one of EECO’s special interest sections!

EECO offers special interest sections to its members to promote networking among peers and groups with similar interests. EECO members may join one section at no additional cost to regular membership dues. Each additional section joined is \$5 per section. Please check which section(s) you would like to join.

\_\_\_ *Business, Industry and Trade Associations*

\_\_\_ *Environmental and Community-based Organizations*

\_\_\_ *Environmental Education and Outdoor Education Organizations*

\_\_\_ *Government Agency*

\_\_\_ *Higher Education*

\_\_\_ *Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education*

### Cancellation Policy

All participant cancellations require written notice (U. S. Mail or electronic) to be sent to Brenda Metcalf, EECO Executive Director, P.O. Box 1004, Lancaster, Ohio 43130-1004, [director@eeco-online.org](mailto:director@eeco-online.org) and will be refunded according to the following schedule:

\_\_\_ full refund - at least 30 days before the conference    \_\_\_ 50% - at least 16 days before the conference    \_\_\_ no refunds within 15 days of the conference \_\_\_

Please read and sign the notice below:

Please be aware that activities during this conference may carry risks which may not always be obvious.

I am aware of the risks inherent in these activities and assume all responsibility to myself whatever the cause. I agree to hold EECO, all conference personnel, and all participating agencies/organizations harmless for any injury that I may sustain in the course of participating in the conference.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_