

Thank you for joining us for the
2023 EECO Annual Conference

This conference could not take place without
the generosity of the following sponsors:



Join us on April 12-14, 2024
at Salt Fork State Park Lodge
for the next Annual Conference.



Environmental Education for



*Annual
ECCO Conference
April 13-16, 2023
Deer Creek State Park Lodge*



What is my EECO Region?

Ohio EPA—Environmental Education Council of Ohio
Partnership Regions



Who Is My EECO Regional Director?

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2	Jennifer Elsworth Jennifer.Elsworth@metroparkstoledo.com	6	Karen Pryor kpryor@richlandcountyoh.gov
3	Sheila Cubick SheilaC@zoominternet.net	7	Dan Vorisek dan@ruralaction.org
4	Vacant	8	Dawn Wrench sunnywrench@att.net

EECO Membership Sections

Sections provide members the opportunity to network among peers with similar interests, to provide input into EECO's current programs and services, and to shape our projects and vision for the future. EECO members may join one section at no additional cost to regular membership dues. Each additional section joined is \$5 per section.

Business, Industry and Trade Associations Section

People from business, industry and related trade associations who have environment-related education, training or outreach as one of their objectives such as utility companies, manufacturers, law firms, engineering firms and agriculture.

Environmental and Community-based Organizations Section

Staff and members who work for local, state and national non-governmental organizations that have environment related education, training or outreach as one of their objectives; typically non-profit organizations such as conservation organizations, community action groups, local watershed groups, or faith-based organizations.

Environmental Education and Outdoor Education Organizations Section

Educators, staff and members of an organization that has environmental and outdoor education as its primary mission such as an EE center, nature center, park, camp, resident outdoor education center, zoo, museum, arboretum, or historical site; may bring their education programs to schools and other settings; typically non-profit organizations.

Government Agency Section

Staff and administrators from local, state and federal government agencies who have environment-related education, training and outreach as one of their objectives such as county soil and water conservation districts, health departments, planning commissions, solid waste districts, municipal groups.

Higher Education Section

Students, faculty and administrators from colleges and universities offering associate, bachelor, Masters and Ph.D. degrees; includes programs in teacher education and environment-related education, training and outreach as well as environmental literacy courses as part of general education requirements.

Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education Section

Teachers, curriculum supervisors, administrators and other staff who work for early childhood, elementary, and secondary public and private schools, before and after school programs as well as parents who home-school their children.

Research Section

People who conduct research in environment-related education, training and outreach and environmental sciences and those interested in applying the results of such research.

EECO Donors from 2022

Marty McTigue
Janet Broda
Wendy Baker
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Nikole Thomas

Silent Auction

The silent auction raises money to help EECO grow.
The silent auction will be open on Friday and Saturday.
Hours are posted at the registration desk.

All bids end at 6pm on Saturday.

Mission

EECO leads in facilitating environmental education that fosters global stewardship and a sustainable future for all Ohioans.

Vision

All Ohioans are environmentally literate and engage in decision making that ensures sustainability for future generations.

Purpose

At EECO, it is our mission to be a leader in the promotion and facilitation of Environmental Education (EE), and to nurture knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. We want a healthy and sustainable environment and the key to this is education. Through EECO, individuals and groups are not only educated, but also develop partnerships with other individuals and organizations. These partnerships strengthen EE in Ohio, leading to a more environmentally literate population and a healthier environment.

For more information about EECO, please contact:

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EECO Leadership:

Executive Director: Brenda Metcalf
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Vice President: Jeff Montavon
Past President: Josh Dyer
Secretary: Jenny Adkins
Treasurer: Vacant
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Advisor - ODE: Lydia Hunter
Advisor- ODNR: Jen Dennison

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Newsletter: Lynn White
Social Media: Brenda Metcalf
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Ebony Hood
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Anne Drake, Co-Chair
Sheila Cubick, Co-Chair
Jen Dennison
Marty McTigue
Brenda Metcalf
Lynn White



Conference Schedule

Thursday, April 13

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

Friday, April 14

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

All Day Field Trip

F1 Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park - Flora, Fauna and More!

Battelle Darby Creek is the largest Metro Park in Ohio, with over 1,600 acres of restored wetlands and prairies. Tour the nature center with living stream inside, visit with a hellbender, and learn about the wildlife tunnel. Afterward, we'll hike to visit the park's resident bison, see the prairie seed collection area, and tour a few prairie and reforestation sites *Metro Park Naturalists and Resource Management Staff*.

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

All Day Field Trip

F2- Ohio Native American Earthworks and Natural History Tour

We'll tour Hopewell Culture and Seip Mound. The advance of spring and early spring wildflowers along with Ohio caves will be the focus of hikes at the Highlands Nature Sanctuary. This area of the Arc of Appalachia is ecologically diverse and has stunning views of the Rocky Fork Gorge. *Ohio State Park Naturalist and Shawnee State University Instructor Matthew Minter*.

9:00 am - noon

Morning Workshop

W1- Landscape for Life

Harness nature's power to create a healthy, beautiful landscape at school, nature center, farm or home. Landscape for Life curriculum offers climate resilient and sustainable landscape education for any setting. *Denise Natoli Brooks, Central State University Extension*.

Indoors and Out

9:00 am - noon

Morning Workshop

W2- Loose Parts and the Environment

Cancelled, please select another workshop

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Afternoon Workshop

W3- Climate Water and Resilience- Project WET's Climate Curriculum

Participants will receive the curriculum guide and instruction/peer teaching on 9 climate related activities for middle/high school and adult learners. Other resources (e.g., palm cards and grant information) the Office of EE has will also be provided. Dennis Clement, Ohio EPA, Office of EE.

Indoors

D3- Building Lasting Connections & Knowledge with Native Reptiles

Discover the underrated roles of native reptiles, such as box turtles and snakes, along with tools to help students connect with them in an engaging, hands-on way. *Emily Horne, Greenacres Foundation*. *Indoors and Out*

D4- Fears to Cheers: Employing Fear for Conservation Values

When exploring the outdoors, encountering Poison Ivy, snakes, spiders, and other "scary nature" is inevitable. Explore how to get audiences celebrating their fears through this hands-on session with live specimens *Joshua York & Erin Rowekamp, Naturalist Five Rivers MetroParks*.

4:30 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.

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

EE Certification Alumni Meetup

EE Cert Alumni can meetup in the Parlour Foyer to share their experiences with the program.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

EE Certification Poster Session

Check out all of the hard work accomplished by the EE Certification class during their poster session at the Parlour Foyer.

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.

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Hospitality suite (Room 101)

Sunday, April 16

7:00 am - 8:00 am

Bird Hike with Karen Pryor (*weather permitting*)

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Breakfast

9:00 am - 12 pm

Hike

A Deer's Eye View of Deer Creek State Park

Take a walk, hike and drive to see and learn the natural and historical highlights of this park that is a treasure for Ohio. *Deer Creek State Park Naturalist*.

2:15pm - 3:15pm

Concurrent Session 3

C1- Into the Wild: Urban High School Students Experience Midwestern Geology

Learn about my experiences taking urban high school students on camping trips to explore Midwestern geology first hand. I have taken students to Hocking Hills State Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, as well as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and Mammoth Cave National Park. The presentation will focus on the benefits of inquiry and hands-on learning. *Pamela Haywood-Imbrogno, Toledo School for the Arts.*

C2- Integrating Project WET, Wetlands & H2Ohio into 7th grade

This multidisciplinary project was funded by an Ohio EPA OEEF mini grant for the benefit of St. Brigid of Kildare School in Dublin and sought to integrate 14 Project WET lessons into the 7th grade curriculum with the goal of fostering a deeper understanding of both science concepts related to fresh water and the social context in which they occur. *Laura Manns, Ohio Wetlands Association.*

C3- Kids Town: Let Your Students Lead & Learn

Learn how you can let kids create their own town and incorporate different topics such as economics, government, natural history, problem solving, community building and more. *Mary Gordon, Greenacres Foundation.*

Indoors and Out

C4- Making it Fun! Collaboration and Education Through Fishing

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Fishing Derby aligns perfectly with our mission of educating and cultivating new stewards for the natural, historical and recreational resources along the Ohio & Erie Canal. *Amber Genet*

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Afternoon Break / Visit the Silent Auction

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Concurrent Session 4

D1- Invisible Disabilities: How SPD, ACES & PTSD Impact Activities

1 out of 6 children have invisible disabilities: SPD, Sensory Processing Disorder, ACES, Adverse Childhood Experiences, or PTSD, trauma. Creating educational activities for inclusion of all learning styles is possible! *Joanie Calem, First Do No Harm.*

D2- Ice Age Mammals of Ohio

Learn about the variety of interesting and amazing mammals that lived in Ohio at the end of the Pleistocene, and how climate change at that time was different than today. *David Dyer, Ohio History Connection.*

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Afternoon Workshop

W4- Using Phenology to Teach Students About Climate Change

We will introduce participants to phenology and discuss ways of teaching it that makes the subject of climate change more observational, as opposed to conceptual. *Jeffrey Baker, Science Teacher at Alpha & Lindsay Rist, ODNR Division of Wildlife.*

Indoors and Out

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Afternoon Field Trip

FT3- Pickaway County Park District - Old and New

Pickaway County Park District is a newer park. At Metzger Preserve, we'll walk through native prairies and along Deer Creek to learn about the recreation opportunities, view unique geological formations with a State Geologist, and learn about the park's Storybook Trail. At Canal Park, we will learn about canal history, see scenic views of the Scioto River, and take a short walk mile walk along the historic Ohio Erie Canal and the Scioto River. *Arista Hartzler, Pickaway County Park District.*

6:00pm - 7:00 pm

Friday Night Welcome Dinner & Keynote

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.

Keynote: Marci Lininger, Ohio Department of Transportation

Uncommon Partnerships Through Conservation

Learn about her role as an ODOT Environmental Manager, and her role in the environmental education initiatives at ODOT with wildlife corridors and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.



7:00pm - 8:30 pm

Friday Night Session

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.

Evening Activities

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Night hike & fire pit (*Weather permitting*)

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Hospitality suite (Room 101)

Saturday, April 15

7:00 am - 8:00 am Bird Hike with Karen Pryor (*weather permitting*)

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**

Saturday Kids Conference

Like our adult attendees children will CONNECT with new friends in a positive and supportive setting at the Mini Kids Conference! 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 state park!

Sessions times align with the adults conference, allowing you check in with your child.

9:30 am -10:30 am Spirit Animal Connections

10:45 am - 11:45 am Wetland Hike

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Invertebrate Microscopy

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Nature Poetry and Art

Cost: \$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.

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Concurrent Session 1**

A1- Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

Learn about the life of Ohio animals that have disappeared, are endangered or threatened. Trace population changes from the 1770s to the present. Incorporates concepts from the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Wildlife Timeline. *Melissa Proffitt, Warren County SWCD.*

A2- Making Old Woman Creek NERR a More Accessible Place

OWC NERR partnered with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities to find new ways to make our programming more accessible to people with disabilities. Join us to discuss what we learned and how you might apply it to your organization. *Jennifer Bucheit, Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve.*

A3- Loose Parts and the Environment

Benefits of loose parts and the collaboration that extends to races, genders and cultures. Hands-on lessons as well as group activities. *Annette Calhoun, Aspen Academy.*

Indoors and Out

A4- Believe in Ohio- A STEM & Entrepreneur Program for Ohio Youth

Believe in Ohio program overview, sample lessons for program implementation, and ways to implement in your school. *Kasey Harris, Ohio*

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Concurrent Session 2

B1- Population & Climate Change: Activities for any EE Setting

Discover hands-on lessons (games, simulations and group problem solving) to help middle school students connect wildlife and human population trends to resource use and climate change. *Cathy Knoop, Population Education.*

B2- An Overnight in the Woods

A summation of an original, place-based, student driven curriculum and experience centered around spending 24 hours outdoors. Curricular topics will support Leave No Trace ethics, trail etiquette and practical wilderness skills that will build both competence and confidence for this culminating grade level event. This program is highly replicable and can be adapted to your students age and location. Tips on available grants and funding provided. *Erin J McNamara, Old Trail School.*

B3- Building a Wigwam

Native Americans relied on the land's natural resources for survival. Working as a team we'll construct a conical wigwam while learning about the Native American culture of the 1790's. **Dress for the weather!!** *Jennifer Elsworth, Metro-parks Toledo and EECO Region 2 Director, EECO.*

Outdoors

B4- Career Chats: We've Got A Hit on Our Hands!

More than 75 environmental professionals around the state were interviewed by EECO for online recordings about what attracted them to their careers. Learn how high school students are using them and how you can be involved. *Carolyn Watkins, Chief, Office of Environmental Education, Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education.*

12:00pm - 2:00pm Lunch, Business Meeting, & Keynote Speaker

Join us for 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.

Lunch Keynote: **Marijke Hecht**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Education in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

How can we foster eco-hope within ourselves and the learners with which we work?

As environmental educators, we confront eco-anxiety daily. We also experience wonder and awe in the persistent beauty of the world. How can we foster eco-hope within ourselves and the learners we work with through a practice of radical imagining and community action that helps to create new possible futures?

