



League of Environmental
Educators in Florida

welcome

TO THE 2024

Spring Conference

Unplug | Reconnect | Recharge

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Wekiwa Springs
State Park



wildpath



St. Johns River
Water Management District



2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Unplug | Reconnect | Recharge

March 22-24, Wekiwa Springs State Park



Join us as we gather in person to share best practices in Prek-12 education, learn new Environmental activities, explore professional development opportunities, honor changemakers in our field, and discover exciting new research from over 30 presenters and a keynote address from Don Philpott, President of the Wekiwa Wilderness Trust.

Registration includes a chance to win exciting door prizes from our sponsors, and meals during the event.

Schedule at a glance

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Birding and Community Science Field Trip at Mead Botanical Gardens
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Eco-Buggy Tour of Lake Apopka North Shore
- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Florida-Focused Climate Change Education Workshop (Recreation Hall)
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - WILD Kingdom Workshop (Pavilion)
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Friendly Flames Tram Field Trip (Amphitheatre)
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Welcome Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Fireside Storytelling and S'mores (Fire Circle)
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Film Viewing: Path of the Panther (Recreation Hall)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Registration Open
- 9:00 am - Silent Auction Opens
- 9:00 am - 11:50 am - Concurrent Sessions 1-3
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00 pm - 4:50 pm - Concurrent Sessions 4-6
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Memorial Tree Planting (Meet outside Recreation Hall)
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 6:15 pm - Silent Auction Closes
- 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Keynote Speaker, Awards & Social (Recreation Hall)

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:00 am - 11:00 am - Room Check Out
- 9:00 am - 11:00 am - Aquatic Species Workshop & Certification, (Pavilion)
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Youth Education at UF's School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geometric Sciences (Recreation Hall)
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Concurrent Session, Nature Journaling (Pavilion)
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Board Member Meeting (Dining Hall)

2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Unplug | Reconnect | Recharge



LEEF President Welcome

AUTUMN REICH, LEEF PRESIDENT

As we join together to UNPLUG, Reconnect and Recharge at the 2024 Annual LEEF Conference at Wekiwa Springs State Park, I welcome you! This year's conference committee has done a fantastic job of putting together a great lineup of field trips, workshops, and presenters, all nestled in the heart of natural Florida! There is no better place to unplug and be refreshed, reconnect with old friends and make new connections; and lastly we hope you leave here recharged and ready to take on the challenges we all face as we commit to our work in EE!



The past year has been a time of rebuilding LEEF's overall capacity as an organization through strategic planning, reviewing and improving the structure of organization and recruiting to fill the LEEF's Board of Directors with dedicated qualified candidates. But the work is not done...we still need YOU, the members, to step up and step into key leadership roles within the organization. It is our hope that you find your niche within this organization during your time at the conference!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Conference Committee, I am honored to welcome you to this year's conference.



Keynote Speaker

6:30 pm - Saturday, Recreation Hall

DON PHILPOTT, PRESIDENT WEKIVA WILDERNESS TRUST



Don Philpott has over 40 years' experience as an award-winning writer, journalist, marketing consultant, public relations practitioner and passionate campaigner for conservation and the environment. Don Philpott is now a full-time writer and volunteer. He has more than 250 books published on a wide range of subjects. When not writing, Don is a volunteer at Wekiwa Springs State Park where he helps run the nature center and interpretive programs, both within the park and as part of the outreach program. Because of his expedition experience he also teaches 'Edible Florida' and 'Basic Survival' courses throughout Florida. He is President of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, the park's Citizen Support Organization, a director of the Florida State Parks Foundation, and Vice President of the National Association of State Parks Foundations. He is a Florida Master Naturalist (FMN) and an instructor with the University of Florida's FMN program teaching classes in Seminole County, FL. He is also a Florida Master Gardener and a Certified Interpretive Guide. In 2023, he was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteer service, having logged more than 30,000 hours with Florida state parks.

Friday, March 22

FIELD TRIPS

Birding and Community Science with Students in an Urban Landscape

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Mead Botanical Gardens - Fee based

- Join the **Orange Audubon Society** as we hike through the varied habitats of Mead Botanical Gardens undergoing areas of native plant restoration. During this hike, our focus will be on observing the various species of birds that use the urban landscape.

Eco-Buggy Field Trip & Tour of Lake Apopka's North Shore

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Lake Apopka's North Shore - Fee based

- Join the **St. Johns River Water Management District's Lake Apopka Land Manager and Education Coordinator** for an educational tour of the Lake Apopka North Shore. You will learn about the work the District does to protect and restore water resources and the restoration efforts and success of the Lake Apopka property.

Friendly Flames: An Introduction to Fire Ecology & Forest Health for Classroom Applications & Tram Tour

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Conference Site Amphitheatre - Fee based

- Join us as we learn from a **Wekiwa Springs State Park Specialist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection** regarding fire ecology and forest health complete with a fire truck, tools, science experiences, and a tram tour.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch (Dining Hall)

WORKSHOPS

Florida-Focused Climate Change Education: Resources and Tools for all Learning Environments

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Wekiwa Springs State Park Recreation Hall - Fee based

- In this workshop, **Florida Gulf Coast University** will engage participants in example activities and will provide access to the entire body of resources that have been collected to date. Participants will come away with an awareness of and optimism for the climate change education work that is already being done in our state.

WILD Kingdom Workshop, a Project WILD Workshop using Project WILD and Aquatic WILD Curricula

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Wekiwa Spring State Park Pavilion - Fee based

- Project WILD is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program that focuses on wildlife and habitat. Aquatic WILD uses an emphasis on aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecology. All educators will receive educational materials and a certificate of completion at the end of the workshop. Geared for both formal and informal educators.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Welcome Dinner (Dining Hall)

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Fireside Storytelling & S'mores (Fire Circle)

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Film Viewing: Path of the Panther (Recreation Hall)



Meet up Location:

Mead Botanical Gardens

1300 S Denning Dr,
Winter Park, FL 32789

Meet up Location:

Clay Island Trail Head

22526 Carolyn Lane,
Astatula, FL 34705

Meet up Location:

Conference Site Amphitheatre

Saturday, March 23



8:00 am - 9:00 am - Breakfast (Dining Hall)

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Registration Check In (Recreation Hall Patio)

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 9:00 am - 9:50 am

- **Our Climate, Our Future - Have the Talk (Pavilion)**

Kasondra Miller, Action for Climate Emergency

- This lesson will prepare learners to have an authentic and effective climate conversation by exploring the psychology behind having climate conversations, role-playing, and using inquiry-based models of communication to have these conversations. Participants will be provided with a Lesson Plan to utilize this lesson in other settings.

- **Meaningful Watershed Education as a Means to Teach Middle Grades Science in Florida (Recreation Hall)**

Johnathan Bysura, Out-of-Door Academy

- By allowing students to develop a responsibility and passion for the outdoors, teaching science and environmental concepts becomes not only engaging and fun but is also meaningful and long lasting. By using a bottom-up approach, I get students away from books, classrooms, and technology and into the outdoors for observation and data collection. Ultimately, by understanding the interconnected aspects of wild places beginning with simple identification and classification, students are more inclined to make responsible choices on issues dealing with Florida plants, animals, and water resources in the future.

- **Prescription for Nature: Why Being Outside Is So Good For Us (Nature Hut Porch)**

Lauren Butcher, Grassy Waters Preserve

- Still suffering from post-Covid burn out? Are you so busy connecting kids with nature that you forget to fill your own well? Re-discover some of the many research-supported ways that spending time in nature improves our physical and emotional wellbeing – and experience several guided activities that you can add to your educator toolbox to help yourself and others “unplug, reconnect, and recharge” in the natural world.

- **Don't Rub Me the Wrong Way and Leaf Me Alone (Euclaw Porch)**

Dawn Miller Walker, Science Eye & Environmental Conservation Organization

- Explore the outdoors using leaves! This presentation begins with a brief introduction to the importance of leaves and then uses a dichotomous key to identify different plant species, fostering an appreciation for biodiversity and ecological awareness. We will also discuss different ways to keep your leaves longer if you can't pick them fresh. I'll try not to "rub you the wrong way" and I definitely won't "leaf you alone" on this hands-on activity!

CONCURRENT SESSION 2 10:00 am - 10:50 am

- **Growing Environmental Scientists - Tips for Introducing Students to Field Methods (Pavilion)**

Jim McGinity, Learning Gate Community School

- During this presentation, Jim will share a few of the “hands on” activities he uses with his students (K - 5th grades) to introduce them to a variety of environmental professions. Everything from aquatic, macro-invertebrates, entomological tools, herping tricks, dendrology and conducting migratory bird band research on the school's natural campus will be discussed.

Saturday, March 23

CONCURRENT SESSION 2 (CONT.) 10:00 am - 10:50 am



- **Everglades Learning Exploration Kits (Recreation Hall)**

Amanda Purnell, Friends of the Everglades

- The Young Friends of the Everglades program teaches children about the Everglades, ignites passion for nature and conservation, and fosters a lifelong love for the environment. We empower youth to be informed change-makers in their communities and beyond. Now educators can bring an Everglades experience to their classrooms with our Everglades Learning Exploration Kits - packed with books, maps, games, and more! Our lessons are designed to achieve cross-curricular learning standards in 4th and 5th grade - at no cost to educators! In South Florida, our programming also includes interactive presentations from Friends of the Everglades educators.

- **What Happens Above Effects Below! (Nature Hut Porch)**

Claudia Rowe, Lake County Water Authority

- Demonstration of how to implement an Enviroscape Model and an Aquifer Model to explain what happens above effects below, our aquifer. This session is interactive with discussion, demo of models and resources.

- **Dirt Therapy (Euclaw Porch)**

John Martinez, Millennia Gardens Eco Club

- Getting kids outside in the dirt (away from technology) is the key to healthy mental health.

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 11:00 am - 11:50 am

- **Engineering Solutions to Runoff Problems on a K-12 Campus (Pavilion)**

Brenda Breil, PK Yonge Developmental Research School

- Participants will be led through the engineering design process as they apply it to solving campus runoff problems. We will consider reliable resources and how to help students navigate the process to produce their own engineering plan. The goal is for educators to become comfortable approaching environmental problems from an engineering point of view so students can see themselves as engineers that can solve environmental problems.

- **360 Degree Videography and Virtual Reality Storytelling (Recreation Hall)**

Dustin Angell, Archbold Biological Station

- Session Summary: Can plugging into immersive storytelling content help students connect with nature? This presentation is both an introduction and a discussion of 360 videography and virtual reality storytelling. Attendees will learn the basics of filming and editing 360 video and photography. Dustin will also show examples of 360 and virtual reality already being used in environmental education.

- **Watersheds and Wildlife (Nature Hut Porch)**

Kirsi Johnson, St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Dept.

- In the St. Lucie Watersheds & Wildlife program, students from an underserved, local elementary school traveled to the Oxbow Eco-Center and Preserve to experience an immersive, educational program and outdoor experience. The presentation will share program concepts and how they were conveyed to students in meaningful ways, focusing on native, exotic and invasive species and basic needs of living things.

- **Citizen Science for Educators: Exploring the Natural World (Euclaw Porch)**

Caroline Nickerson, SciStarter

- Participants will emerge with an understanding of how to facilitate citizen science projects in classroom and non-classroom settings, and even engage in an outdoor demo.

Saturday, March 23

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch (Dining Hall)

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm



- **Florida Young Birders Club Takes Flight (Pavilion)**

Jim McGinity, Florida Avian Conservation

- This interactive presentation will share the journey of the club from a few local bird walks to a state-wide club with chapters in six different parts of the state (and growing)! We will cover the history of young birders clubs around the country, the activities and will wrap up with a bird quiz at the end to test your bird ID skills.

- **Conservation Escape Room (Recreation Hall)**

Lori Nicholson, USFW/St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

- This immersive activity that allows participants to experience the National Wildlife Refuge System in a new and challenging way. Throughout this physical adventure game, players solve a series of puzzles and riddles to help save species from extinction within a set time limit. Very interactive activity that has participants Gather, Create and Solve while learning about Conservation.

- **Environmental Education in Action: Opportunities with the Florida Master Naturalist Program (Nature Hut Porch)**

Caitlin Robison, Florida Master Naturalist Program (UF/IFAS)

- Are you looking for new ways to augment your environmental education programs? Does your organization share a commitment to preserving and protecting natural resources? Interested in gaining knowledge and hands-on experiences with local flora, fauna, and conservation in your region? Join us to learn more about how to get engaged with the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) as participants and instructors to support the conservation ethic in our beautiful state! This presentation will describe the program's structure, pedagogy, and reach since its inception in 2001. We will also discuss how to get involved with FMNP courses as either a participant or as part of our instructor network.

- **Youth Action Through Roots & Shoots (Euclaw Porch)**

Bonnie Eaton, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

- Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots youth action program recently opened an office in the Tampa Bay region but will also serve as a resource statewide. The mission of Roots & Shoots is to empower young people to affect positive change in their communities. The program offers resources, training, and support for youth groups to develop community service projects benefiting people, other animals, and the environment we all share. Come and learn more about Roots & Shoots and walk through the process of planning a Roots & Shoots project.

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

- **Growing Environmental Literacy Through Farm to School Education in Southwest Florida (Dining Hall)**

Florida Gulf Coast University

- Since 2021 FGCU and the School District of Lee County have collaborated to support teachers and students in secondary schools in the development of school gardens through a USDA-funded Farm to School program. School gardens include hydroponic systems, raised beds, farm animals, and more. Intended outcomes are increased food and environmental literacy, as well as STEM identity and intention for participating students and teachers. In this session, FGCU and School District of Lee County partners will share Farm to School program features, the supports provided by both organizations, and the challenges and highlights from two years of implementation. Attendees can expect to learn how to apply lessons learned in their own school districts for productive university/school district partnerships in school gardening.

Saturday, March 23



CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (CONT.) 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

- **Lightning Sessions - 20 Minutes Each (Pavilion)**

- **From the Classroom to the Creek: The Creekside Environmental Education for Kids**

Keara Clancy, Alachua Conservation Trust

- The Creekside Environmental Ed for Kids (CrEEK) Program serves 1,200 students from underserved communities annually for a day of free-to-access outdoor learning at Little Orange Creek Nature Park. Students embrace the role of scientists for the day through activities such as catching bugs with a sweep net in the grass fields, dip-netting for invertebrates in the creek, going on guided nature hikes to identify different species of plants and animals, and cataloging all of their discoveries in their science journal. These activities are paired with guidance and discussion with a diverse array of ecologists and environmental educators to change perceptions about who scientists are. Join us to learn more about the CrEEK Program, and how we are working to empower the next generation of conservationists and scientists!

- **Printed Oceans - Alexa Simeone, Lele Art Lab**

- We highlight a shift from traditional learning materials, utilizing trash as our medium, encouraging participants to test, unplug, create, and explore. Through our powerful maker lab experience, we aim to reconnect individuals with the environment using a creative and innovative approach. The intention is to recharge participants' commitment to environmental sustainability and awareness, inviting them to think outside the box and create art for the purpose of a greener planet and cleaner ocean.

- **The Florida Environment & Natural History Collection: Revitalizing Environmental Education by Revisiting the Past (Recreation Hall)**

Erin Peel and Sydney Jordan, University of South Florida Libraries

- The University of South Florida Libraries' Florida Environment and Natural History (FLENH) collection is a strategic collecting area with the purpose of preserving and digitizing books and historical records related to Florida's unique and rapidly changing environment. Resources cover a wide variety of topics, such as ornithology, wildlife conservation, land management, watersheds, species decline, citizen environmental activism, and changes to Florida's lands and climate over time. This presentation will provide an overview of the collections within FLENH and illustrate how the library has collaborated to contextualize and transform these historical documents into openly accessible, relevant, discoverable, and approachable educational resources for a variety of audiences. The presenters will share stories of success, as well as ways in which Florida educators can utilize USF Libraries resources for learning and climate activism.

- **Nature Narratives: The Intersection of Science and Art in Environmental Journaling (Nature Hut Porch)**

Monika Moorman, Broward County Public Schools; Grosvenor Fellow with National Geographic & Lindblad Expeditions

- Join us for 'Nature Narratives,' a session where we delve into both digital and traditional journaling in the realm of environmental storytelling. Discover the purpose and myriad benefits of merging scientific observation with creative expression. Whether pen meets paper or pixels on a screen, explore the unique qualities of each method in crafting your environmental journal. Uncover the transformative power of interdisciplinary journaling, fostering a deeper connection with science and an enriched appreciation for the beauty of the natural world.

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Memorial Tree Planting (Meet Outside Recreation Hall)

Saturday, March 23



CONCURRENT SESSION 6 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

- **Lightning Sessions - 20 Minutes Each (Pavilion)**

- **Bilingual, Peer-Reviewed Elementary Resources for Afterschool Programs in Urban, Underserved Communities**

John Pipoly III, PhD, Broward County Parks and Recreation

- We explore the urgent need for reinforcement of science pedagogy among Pre-K to 12 school children, especially those for whom English may not be their first language or for the desperately underserved minorities living in our unincorporated areas within metropolitan areas. Many of these areas are not only food deserts, but academic ones as well, with virtually no support for the students at home and complicated scholastic conditions. We first completed the series for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in English and Spanish. In our third year, we can report that 299 students raised their science grades from below a "C" to a "B" or above, largely through the efforts of collegiate volunteer interns who related wonderfully to the students even though their majors were health sciences and others. There are several new initiatives starting that should give us complete Pre-K to 12 coverage by the end of 2025.

- **Transforming Environmental Education to Create the Large-Scale Behavior Change Necessary to Save the Planet**
Tabitha Stadler, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC)

- Environmental education (EE) aims to protect Earth's natural resources for current and future generations through promoting awareness, knowledge, skill building, and behavioral changes so that audiences take action on environmental issues. Despite this aim, we are experiencing unprecedented destruction of the natural environment, leading to an unraveling of ecosystem services supporting human existence. Why haven't we had a greater impact and how can we have one going forward? In this presentation, ideas are shared to transform the EE profession to have a greater positive impact on the fate of the planet in the future. Various factors, such as historical teachings, changes in communication and marketing, and a lack of strategy and measurement, are explored to uncover why there seems to be less positive impact than we hoped when we became environmental educators.

- **What We Have Lost: Rediscovering our Hippie Roots and the Depth of Environmental Education (Recreation Hall)**

John Scarbrough, AdventHealth University

- Environmental Education grew out of a sense of environmental crisis present in the 1960s and 70s and was an outgrowth of an environmental movement that was generally regarded as counterculture. Practitioners were not always scientific or sophisticated but had a deep and simple wisdom and an appreciation of nature. The focus was on the earth and the interconnectedness of nature. We need to reconnect with these origins and appreciate the reason for environmental education. I want the educational community (at large) to reconnect with these beginnings. In a sense "get back to nature".

- **Forest Kindergarten: How Less is More, Fostering Leadership Skills During Early Childhood (Euchee Porch)**

Patricia Leon, Miami Nature PLAYSchool

- Forest Kindergarten is about childhood, how adults become role models and mentors of young children to help a generation to find their inner motivation to take care about the planet instead to impart a lesson about it.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Dinner (Dining Hall)

6:15 - Silent Auction Closes

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Keynote Speaker Don Philpott, Wekiva Wilderness Trust (Recreation Hall)

- **Board Inductions, Member Meeting, Awards & Social**

Sunday, March 24

8:00 am - 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast (Dining Hall)

8:00 am - 11:00 am - Room Check-Out

WORKSHOPS

Aquatic Species Collection Workshop and Certification

Dawn Miller-Walker, Science Eye

9:00 am - 11:00 am - Pavilion - Fee based

- The primary workshop objective is to promote best practices in the collection and maintenance of aquatic organisms for educational activities. Upon successful completion of the training workshop, a participant receives a certification that is authorized by both FMSEA and Commission representatives (FWC). The certificate does not supersede any state or federal regulations, but it does allow the collection of specified numbers of certain species for educational purposes and to use certain types of collecting gear that would not be allowed under recreational fishing guidelines. No fishing license required.

Youth Education at UF's School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geometric Sciences

Bethan Gilliet & Elise Cassie

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Recreation Hall - Fee based

- Learn what SFFGS has to offer educators and how you and your students can participate in our exciting environmental programs. Integrate hands-on experiences into your curriculum and spark the next generation's passion for the natural world with Project Learning Tree, Aquaculture in the Classroom, and Fishing for Success.

1 HOUR CONCURRENT SESSION

Include Nature Journaling In Your Lessons - Danielle Ivey, Creative Nature Journaling

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Pavilion

- We all want to make our students' environmental education meaningful and memorable. By introducing nature journaling to your activities students can make a closer connection to the world around them by using words, pictures, and numbers in a nature journal. This activity allows students to slow down, think critically and creatively while learning about the world around them.

12:00 pm - Conference Concludes

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Board Member Meeting (Dining Hall)

Thank you for joining
the 2024 LEEF
Spring Conference!





League of Environmental Educators in Florida

Dear Members and Supporters,

I am pleased to share with you the journey of the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) over the past year. The LEEF mission is to make a lasting impact by supporting environmental educators through promoting excellence in environmental literacy and stewardship. LEEF envisions a population that values the natural world and has the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.

In the past year, the executive team has developed professional development programs and provided conference and workshop opportunities. The board has also secured mini grant funding to support members' in their efforts to provide excellent environmental educational opportunities to their students.

Supported by the invaluable generosity of donors, volunteers, members, and advocates like you, LEEF is able to continue to offer these benefits to members. The board is committed to continue to seek funding and new educational programs and opportunities.

As we reflect on the past 40 years, we celebrate the countless success stories and the transformative impact LEEF has had on environmental education in Florida. But the journey is not over. The current board is working to advance the organization; however, the board is underpopulated. Despite the absence of key personnel, both the organization's membership and grant funding are increasing. Greater member and supporter contributions are needed to ensure the vitality of the organization.

The League of Environmental Educators in Florida exists for its members and adheres to the following goals:

- To advocate for the increased practice of environmental education.
- To promote the use of effective, research-based environmental education.
- To highlight emerging trends in environmental education, stewardship, and careers.
- To increase environmental literacy through communication, networking, and the building of partnerships
- To increase the content knowledge, skill level, and confidence of active and potential environmental educators through professional development.

For LEEF to be the voice of environmental educators in Florida, more voices are needed. Members, I encourage you to share your expertise. Please consider the part you can play in LEEF. Share your visions and experiences- join the board (applications are now open on the LEEF website).

Sincerely,

Autumn Reich
LEEF President, 2023-24

LEEF Annual Report Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Grants and Fundraising

- Completed a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant budget and deliverables with all objectives were met.
- Reports submitted on time and on budget with cost savings that will save LEEF \$6,100 in expenditures in FY 2023-24 by moving cost savings into salary otherwise paid for by LEEF.
- Exceeded grant objectives by networking with other North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) affiliates to create NAAEE's Climate Education working group, and applying for joint funding through the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) for a 5-year outdoor classroom grant.
- Completed the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Landscape Analysis grant objectives.
- Managed two (2) Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) grant extensions (Grant 2, in progress and EPA, approved for 2024)
- Submitted three (3) successful grant applications in 2023
- Individual Donors for 2023 was 21, totalling \$5774 in additional revenue.

Conferences

Fall 2022 Conference scheduled and planned to be held in Fort Myers. Conference canceled due to Hurricane Ian and its impact on the Fort Myers area. LEEF members stepped up with days of service for Environmental Educators and Organizations that were affected by the storm.

Spring 2023 virtual conference with over 70 people in attendance and 22 presenters. We designed a virtual website using SCHED to coordinate presenter selection for members, accommodate conference outreach to attendees, and held a very fun and engaging door prize game with attendees. Door prizes were generously donated from sponsors and board members.

Membership

- LEEF membership has increased in the individual, student and organizational membership levels in 2022 to 2023.

Social Media

Social media continues to be the main corridor for communication with members.

- LEEF managed social media posts for Day of Service, Memorial service, 2 Landscape Analysis rollouts, virtual conference and partner organization information.
- Bimonthly LEEFlets newsletters have continued to go out to members and affiliate organizations.

Additional Program Management

- Legacy Circle, a member group, was created to honor LEEF lifetime members and provide a productive outlet for their expertise.
- Mini-Grant Program with new BIPOC, climate education and action project focus that diversified LEEF's partnerships across Florida was offered again for the first time since 2020
- LEEF led an 18-member Florida Climate Education Advisory Council with monthly action project teams.
- LEEF participated in the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Leadership and Landscape Analysis
- LEEF participated in the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Education and Program Staff meetings
- Operations Manager presented at Climate Generation's Teacher Summit and at NAAEE conference in October

FUTURE GOALS

- The board is reviewing and revising current Policies and Procedures and Bylaws. Upon completion, the document will be presented to membership for approval.
- A Board Retreat is planned for August of 2023 in Central Florida to review and update the Strategic Plan.
- LEEF is exploring options for updating the operating platform for the organization's website. Current options include: WildApricot, Wix, Square, MailChimp and WordPress.

League of Environmental Educators In Florida, Inc

Statement of Financial Position

As of July 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Operating Checking	83,433.36
Total Bank Accounts	\$83,433.36
Total Current Assets	\$83,433.36
TOTAL ASSETS	\$83,433.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	
Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	1,185.06
Total Payroll Liabilities	1,185.06
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$1,185.06
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,185.06
Total Liabilities	\$1,185.06
Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	
Project WET	2,923.98
Ripple Scholarship Fund	884.00
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	3,807.98
Unrestricted Net Assets	85,925.44
Net Revenue	-7,485.12
Total Equity	\$82,248.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$83,433.36



League of Environmental
Educators in Florida

save the Date

2024-2025

Mini-Conferences



OCTOBER 26, 2024

**VERO BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER**

MARCH 22, 2025

AUSTIN CARY FOREST, GAINESVILLE