

Leveraging Our Natural Assets: Making the Most of What We Already Have!

N.C. Association of Environmental Education Centers
Spring 2010 Meeting of the Membership
Friday, March 5th, 2010, 9:00am – 4:30pm
Agapé Center for Environmental Education, Fuquay-Varina



The Meeting:

The North Carolina Association of Environmental Education Centers' spring meeting is the one formal meeting of the Association membership. It is designed to assemble environmental education center administrators and staff to enhance communication between environmental education centers, provide an opportunity for center staff to expand their peer base and further the mission of our organization. Whether an environmental education center director or an active staff member, participation in this meeting will help strengthen the organization, allow you to enrich your knowledge base and broaden your contact with fellow members. Gather with your colleagues from across the state to network, share ideas, solve problems and learn new ways to educate your participants and visitors!

Conference Theme:

Leveraging Our Natural Assets: Making the Most of What We Already Have!

Using the beautiful Camp Agapé environs as a living laboratory, we'll gather local experts from site-based environmental education programs to share their own hands-on approaches. We'll also focus on how to partner with others in NCAEEC and the environmental education community in order to maximize existing resources. This meeting will be of special interest to new centers and camps or retreats that are starting EE programs, as well as existing centers seeking fresh, new ideas!

Morning Session/Keynote Address:

Johnny Randall - *Assistant Director for Natural Areas and Conservation Programs, North Carolina Botanical Garden.*

Johnny last spoke to NCAEEC in 2004 and was a big hit. He focused on invasive species then and now will expand his presentation to include land management and plant preservation. Whether you manage a small urban lot or thousands of acres, we know you will find Johnny's address useful and entertaining!

Natural Area Management and Rare Plant Recovery at the North Carolina Botanical Garden

The North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill administers approximately 800 acres of natural areas - all of which require some management - from invasive plant species removal to prescribed fire. We have active rehabilitation projects that focus on the conversion of old agricultural fields to native plant meadows, the creation of open woodlands that can support shade intolerant herbaceous plants, and reintroducing rare plants to appropriate locations. We strive to collect seeds for our rehabilitation projects from within 30 miles of our rehabilitation sites from plants that occur in matched habitats (in order to capture ecotypically similar genotypes). And we approach rare plant reintroductions experimentally in order to test for success among various treatments, which are regularly monitored, and are appropriately managed.

Lunch and Live Auction (and Door Prizes!)

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions:

Composting and Green Building Construction:

Randy Youngquist-Thurow, Executive Director, Agapé-Kure Beach Ministries
Alissa Oleson, Program Director, Agapé-Kure Beach Ministries

Tour the Agapé Woodlands Center, constructed 2009, and learn about the obvious, not-so-obvious and behind-the-scenes sustainable concepts used in the construction of the building. Recycled plastic soda bottles, recycled rubber, sky tubes, earth-friendly paint and more! AND, what lives underground, eats dead organic material and can have a million individuals living in one acre? Worms, of course! Learn all about worms and their talent for turning our food scraps into rich soil. Vermicomposting in action – it's all about the worms (and their friends)!

Resource Management (Forest Management/Prescribed Burning)

Alton Perry, Outreach Coordinator with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources will show you how to manage your forest resources with prescribed burning, and also discuss ways to incorporate it as an educational component at your center.

“Wait! Don’t throw that away!” “I could use that for something.” “We might need that.” If you’ve ever heard yourself or a colleague uttering any of those phrases, you’re in good company! If you aren’t inclined to be a ‘saver,’ you just might be after learning what can be accomplished for low to no cost by reusing items that may otherwise be thrown away.

Exotic Invasives

Join us for a “hands-on” demonstration of exotic’s management! We’ll show you how to identify common exotic invasive and demonstrate techniques on removal and management. We’ll be removing some of the invasives found at Agapé, so prepare to get your hands dirty!

Wildlife Habitat Structures (nest boxes, easy/cheap habitat enhancement)

Join Brian Bockhahn, a ranger from Falls Lake State Recreation Area, and learn how to use items you may already have to enhance wildlife habitat and to create habitat structures around your center. Brian will also demonstrate some simple but effective monitoring techniques for a variety of wildlife.

Open Facilitated Discussion: EE on a Budget

Come and share ideas with colleagues on how your facility is making the most of what you have!

Refreshments and Lunch:

Bring along your reusable coffee mug to enjoy our 9:00 coffee break (with light breakfast items) and gathering time. We’ll begin the meeting at 9:30. This will ensure an on-time start to the meeting and you’ll have the added benefit of some social time with your EE Center friends. Lunch is included with your registration. There will be a vegetarian option (non-vegan). If you have a special diet, you may want to bring supplemental items to ensure your needs are met. Meals and coffee break items will be prepared by Agapé.

What to Bring:

Along with your coffee mug, bring binoculars and walking shoes and your facility’s brochures and information.

A special highlight of NCAEEC meetings has always been the items we share with each other! As you pack to attend this year’s meeting, think about items you can bring to share with other EE Center folks and help raise funds for NCAEEC, too! We hope you can help by participating in these exciting activities!

Door Prizes: A door prize is an item that is raffled to the membership during the meeting. Past door prizes have included t-shirts, stationery, posters, books, field guides, novelty items, etc. These items are given to the membership as a benefit of attending the meeting and a memento to remember the event and your center.

Auction items: Auction items are significant donations made to the organization in order to raise funds to offset the costs of meetings. Past auction donations have included: baskets of regional treats, handmade afghans, selections of native plants, free registration/meals/lodging for overnight EE programs, hiking gear, high-end logowear and more.

The Deadline:

Completed registration forms are due by February 18th, 2010. Check out the registration forms for the Early Bird Registration special! Register early and SAVE!

NCAEEC is an all-volunteer organization created to enhance networking and unity within North Carolina environmental education centers, and is sponsored by the State of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office of Environmental Education.

Refunds will not be available. If you are unable to attend you may send someone else in your place.

Weather Policy: In the event of winter weather, please contact Agapé at (919) 552-9421

AGAPÉ Contact Information: Phone: (919) 552-9421 Fax: (919) 552-0720
Email: Agapé@Agapekurebeach.org Web site: www.Agapekurebeach.org

Early Arrival Activities: *If you plan to arrive in the area on Thursday, we have some meeting related activities lined up for you!*

Methods of Teaching EE Wed., March 3 & Thurs., March 4, 2010 (at Camp Agapé)

The focus of this 10-hour workshop is to prepare participants from a variety of educational backgrounds and experiences in both the formal and non-formal sectors to use exemplary Environmental Education teaching methods. Participants will learn about a variety of teaching techniques, methods and instructional strategies and the workshop will include multiple interactive components. This is a required workshop for all NC Environmental Education Certification candidates who enrolled in the program after January 1, 2009. Instructors: Deborah Robertson and D’Nise Hefner, Blue Jay County Park.

Raven Rock: Then and Now (EEL) Thursday, March 4, 2010 9:00am – 3:00 pm

Location: Raven Rock State Park

Address: 3009 Raven Rock Road, Lillington, NC 27546 **Office Phone:** (910) 893-4888

This Environmental Education Learning Experience (EEL) developed to provide environmental education through a series of hands-on activities geared to Raven Rock State Park is targeted for grades 5, 6, and 7 and meets curriculum objectives of the standard course of study established by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Major concepts included are: rock cycle geomorphology; formation of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks; weathering and erosion, rock and mineral characteristics; and topography. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bag lunch.

Thursday Evening Campfire Social Join other NCAEEC members for the Evening Campfire Social at Agapé on **Thursday, March 4th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Enjoy stories, songs and s’mores by the campfire as you visit with colleagues from across the state. You may take some ideas to use back at your center.