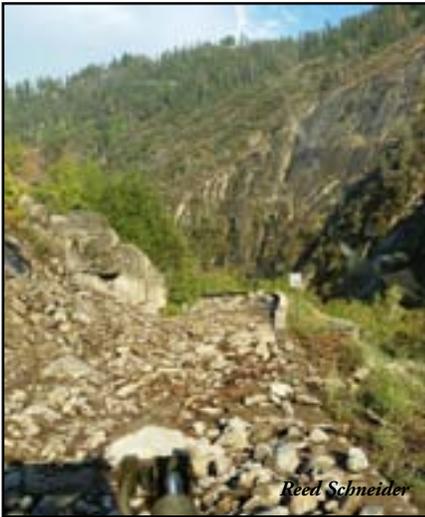




California AEOE

Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education

September 2015 Newsletter



Reed Schneider

From the President

Last month I attended a three-day fire science training. There was significant overlap with outdoor and environmental education, but the training was largely designed for the classroom teacher. During one of the mixer events, I found myself in a conversation about what outdoor and environmental education are. As the President of AEOE, this is a conversation that I have often, and truth be told, enjoy. If someone were to ask you, how would you define what you do?

is when passions are kindled and connections are made. On any given week in any given program, a future senator, congresswoman, or president might hold a California newt, get lost in the beauty of a beetle carapace, or be inspired by granite walls taller than any building they have seen. What we do matters, and we all need to be able to describe what we do, to argue that it's an important job, and worthy of the respect of your college roommates, friends in the City, and (maybe more importantly) your parents. You need a one liner, an elevator speech, and a 20 minute well thought discussion about what we do and the merits of our field. Have a staff debate about what it is exactly that you do: *Outdoor* education? *Environmental* education? Both? Neither?

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What is outdoor and environmental education?

In my experience, if you asked 10 different people, you would get 10 different answers. It's not an easy question. You may not have spent the time to think about and define environmental and outdoor education in your own words, and frankly, you need to.

Every year our field grows in size and relevance. Now more than ever, outdoor and environmental education is something that all students should have a right to. Our world is changing and growing at an alarming rate, and I firmly believe that change does not happen at the highest levels of government; it happens in the precious years of elementary and middle school. That

Great, good start.

Now tell me why it matters.

So get to work, but don't miss the point, it's not about one or the other. It's not about science vs. connection or hands-on vs. stewardship. It's about making the conversations around what we do louder and more important. Define it any way you like, just get on board.

Reed Schneider
AEOE President



Presenting the AEOE Board of Directors

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- President—Reed Schneider,
NatureBridge, Yosemite
- Vice President—Tracey Weiss,
Exploring New Horizons
- CFO and Treasurer—Steve Morris,
YMCA Camp Surf
- Secretary—Katie Andersen
Cuyamaca Outdoor School



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Curriculum Consultant
- Michael Charnofsky,
East Bay Regional Park District
- John Oliver
Walden West Outdoor School
- Angie Kemsley
Cuyamaca Outdoor School
- Tom Drake
High School Science Teacher
- Robb Stolberg,
Walden West Outdoor School

Council positions that are also Board members

- Korena David, Northern Council Chair,
Foothill Horizons Outdoor School
- Mariana Diaz, Northern Council Chair-Elect,
UC Davis
- Desiree Gant,, Northern Council Past Chair,
WOLF School
- Amanda Martin, Southern Council Chair,
San Diego Children's Discovery Museum
- Andrea Haley, Southern Council Past Chair,

AEOE Mission

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education supports and inspires educators in their quest for the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to help all learners understand, appreciate, and care for their environment.

As an integral part of achieving our mission, we encourage direct experience outdoors.



Echoes from the Past

In the early years of AEOE, two brothers were honored for their contributions to the world of environmental and outdoor education.

In 1966, the Howard Bell Award was awarded to Dr. Donald Hammerman of the Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University. Dr. Hammerman was a professor and headed the department of Outdoor Teacher Education for the University. He was known for his many contributions to the field. The foremost being teacher education in both outdoor education and traditional settings. Dr. Hammerman authored

many books including "Teaching In The Outdoors" which he co-authored with his brother Bill (AEOE President) and was widely used in California as programs began to develop.

In 1970, Donald's brother, William Hammerman, was honored with the same award. A Professor of Education at San Francisco State University, Mr. Hammerman was president of AEOE and authored many books and research articles focusing on outdoor education. His most notable book was the aforementioned "Teaching In The Outdoors."

Jymn "Scooby" Meier, Historian



Pictured: William Hammerman



Pictured: Dr. Donald Hammerman

Call for Presenters: Fall Conferences

At the upcoming fall conferences (see next page) AEOE will offer over numerous. If you or anyone you know would like to present, the application process is simple and you can receive a \$20 discount on the early registration rate.

Presenter Application can be found on www.aeoe.org.

The deadlines for workshop presenter applications are:

- **Northern Fall Conference: 9/23/2015**
- **Southern Fall Conference: 10/6/2015**
- Although early applications are encouraged, workshop decisions will be made at the deadline and announced after the deadline has passed.
- Do NOT register for the conference until you hear from us as discount codes will be provided to accepted presenters.
- For more information: www.aeoe.org or **Northern Chair:** Korena David, korena@aeoe.org **Southern Chair:** Amanda Martin, amanda@aeoe.org



From the AEOE Southern Chair



Amanda Martin

Greetings, Southern CA friends. I am so excited to be your new Southern Chair! I've enjoyed getting to know many of you throughout the last couple of years and look forward to meeting many more of your needs throughout the next year. As the upcoming regional fall and 2016 Spring State Conference Chair in addition to being the Membership Chair and Media and Marketing Co-Chair, I have ambitious goals to bring a wider variety of educators together to exchange best practices, develop partnerships, and provide you all with numerous opportunities to stay connected. Please send me a message anytime with suggestions,

wants, needs, or if you're interested in getting more involved with as little or as much commitment you're able to provide at Amanda@aeoe.org.



Amanda Martin

AEOE is nothing without its members, so please know how much I value your feedback and contributions. I look forward to working with you all more soon, hopefully at the fall conference at YMCA Camp Edwards of High Trails Outdoor School, located at the base of Mt. San Gorgonio, Southern California's highest peak, in the middle of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Amanda Martin, AEOE Southern Council Chair

Register Now! [AEOE Fall Conferences](#) **Share your photos** [#AEOEFall2015](#)

Northern Conference:

October 23-25, 2015

Foothill Horizons Outdoor School*, Sonora, CA
Early Registration through 10/3/15, 9:59 pm: \$40
Regular Registration from 10/4/15-10/20: \$60
*This is a camping only conference. Bring your gear!

Registration includes:

- 15+ workshops or field trips
- Light Saturday/Sunday breakfasts
- Saturday dinner
- Campfire entertainment
- Chance to meet and learn from other educators!

Presenter Info:

Application Deadline: 9/23/15
Accepted Lead Presenter: \$20 discount
Register at: <https://aeoe.org/events/>

Southern Conference:

November 6-8, 2015

Camp Edwards*, Angelus Oaks, CA
Early registration through 10/17 9:59pm: \$40
Regular Registration 10/18-11/3: \$60
*Camping available, but dorms are preferable.

Registration includes:

- 15+ workshops or field trips
- Light Saturday/Sunday breakfasts
- Saturday dinner
- Campfire entertainment
- Chance to meet and learn from other educators!

Presenter Info:

Presenter application deadline: 10/6
*Accepted presenters: \$20 discount
Register at: <https://aeoe.org/events/>



From the AEOE Northern Chair



It's hard to believe that fall is almost upon us. Here in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada we are looking forward to a break from the hot, dry weather. The Buckeye and Poison Oak lost their leaves long ago and the summer campers have gone home. So starts a new year of outdoor education for thousands of students. It is also a new beginning for the hundreds of naturalists who are starting jobs across the state. I'm thrilled to welcome all educators, new or veteran, to another year with AEOE.

I'm hoping that you are looking forward to joining our community at the Northern Fall Conference from October 23-25, at Foothill Horizons Outdoor School in Sonora, California. Come explore and camp in the oak woodland of the Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation of 2,500 ft. Sonora is about two-and-a-half hours from the Bay Area and an hour from the entrance to Yosemite National Park. Our Conference theme is "Nurturing the Wild" and I

cannot wait for our presenters and attendees to share the ways they nurture the wild in their students, their communities, and themselves!

Since AEOE and our conferences are all volunteer run, we need you to present a workshop. I've heard it said many times that a naturalist is a person who knows a little about a whole lot. In order to keep increasing our knowledge we need to learn from each other. Have a topic you are passionate about? Have you done some interesting research? Do you have great skills, games, or teaching tips? Please share them with us! Don't be intimidated if you are new to the field or to our organization, we are the friendliest and most enthusiastic audience you are likely to ever have! Presenters also get a great discount on the conference fee. To fill out the quick and easy presenter application go to: <https://aeoe.org/events/>

We have other volunteer jobs for the conference, so if you are not feeling ready to present but want to help in some other way, please email me at korena@aeoe.org. There will be campfire time at the conference to share your songs, skits and other talents.

Please feel free to contact me and the AEOE Northern Council with ideas or suggestions at any time. We're looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you soon.

Korena David, AEOE Northern Council Chair

Call for Environmental Educator of the Year Nominations

It's not too late to make a nomination for this year's Environmental Educator of the Year Award!

The Environmental Educator of the Year Award was created to honor current educators who have contributed to the success of environmental education in the state. This year it could be someone on YOUR staff!

Nominations are accepted all year for a separate winner for each section, with awards

being presented at both sections' fall conferences. The recipient must be an active member of AEOE and attend their fall conference. Nominate someone who inspires YOU!

Nominations can be made online at:

Northern: <http://form.jotform.us/form/32391430116141>

Southern: <http://form.jotform.us/form/32390884632156>



AEOE Fall Conference Registration

We are excited to have our online membership and registration system (MRS) available for conference registration again! We hope you'll find the registration process easy, quick, and efficient.

Register Online at: <https://aeoe.org/events/>

Direct Questions or Problems to: helen@aeoe.org

Payment Types Accepted through the MRS:

- Credit Card – Your credit card bill will show AEOE as the payee. If you have a question about an AEOE charge on your credit card bill, please contact Helen@aeoe.org first (rather than your credit card company) to clarify the charge.
- Check – you will be prompted to print your registration confirmation and send your check payment and registration confirmation in the mail to Helen de la Maza.
- Purchase Order – you will be prompted to print your registration confirmation and send it in the mail to Helen de la Maza.

If you have used/signed into the MRS before:

1. Sign in.
2. Click “Events.”
3. Click “AEOE Northern Section Fall Conference 2015” or “AEOE Southern Section Fall Conference 2015” depending on which one you want to attend.
4. Click “Register.”
5. Follow the prompts.
6. Once you have submitted your payment and completed the registration, you will receive an automated email with your receipt. Please print it and use it to submit for reimbursement to your employer, for tax purposes, or whatever you need it for. We are moving toward self-sufficiency and want to avoid having to spend time creating receipts for people after the conference. Thanks for your cooperation!

If you have not signed into the MRS before:

1. Click “Become a Member.”
2. Follow the prompts.
3. Then click “Events.”
4. Click “AEOE Northern Section Fall Conference 2015” or “AEOE Southern Section Fall Conference 2015” depending on which one you want to attend.

5. Click “Register.”
6. Follow the prompts.
7. Once you have submitted your payment and completed the registration, you will receive an automated email with your receipt. Please print it and use it to submit for reimbursement to your Employer, for tax purposes, or whatever you need it for. We are moving towards self-sufficiency and want to avoid having to spend time creating receipts for people after the conference. Thanks for your cooperation!

Note: If you attempt to register for the event without having a membership, you will be prompted to become a member or renew your membership.

The MRS does not allow group registration:

Each individual person must go through either of the steps above. We do not allow group registrations as we need to maintain an accurate membership database. The registration system is dynamically integrated with our membership system and vice versa.

Organizations with Institutional Membership:

If you are registering for the conference AND you are the Contact Person for your organization's Institutional Membership, you may register for the conference by signing in through your Institutional Membership account.

If other MRS employees from your organization are registering, they must create or use their own Individual Membership accounts. The Institutional Membership does NOT include memberships for employees of your organization.

If you can't access the internet to register via the MRS:

Contact Helen de la Maza at 714-838-8990 (between 8am–9pm).

Refund Policy: Registration and current membership are required for all AEOE activities. Please note the registration deadline. No refunds are given for no-shows or for cancellations less than seven days from the start of the activity. Seventy-five percent of the activity fee will be refunded for cancellations received at least 14 days in advance, and 50% for cancellations received between seven and 13 days before the activity. Membership fees are non-refundable. All refunds are via check.

Helen de la Maza, Membership Coordinator



For the Outdoor Classroom: Activity

Overview/Goals: This activity can be incorporated into waste reduction or water ecology classes. It will teach participants about the impact of pollution and predation on different species. It will then pave the way for a conversation about what participants can do every day to improve water quality. A diagram of the activity set-up is on the next page.

Materials Needed:

- 15ft rope or webbing (don't use anything too thin!)
- 1 bag of dried great northern beans, some with x's drawn on them
- 1-2 predator puppets (choose appropriate predators for your ecosystem)
- 3 aprons, 1 with attached recyclables, one with attached plastic bags, and one with attached wrappers to be worn by students in the "Litterbug Lagoon"
- 13 small cones
- 2-5 frog images (choose appropriate frogs for your ecosystem)
- Portable white board and marker
- Small tote bags to collect beans in

Procedure:

1. Tell the participants that we are going to play a game that is a CHALLENGE. A "survival" challenge. Each student is now a frog. Pass around images of local frog species.
2. Ask the students to list the types of challenges they think frogs might face in their lives. Write what they come up with on the portable white board.
3. "This game is about the many challenges frogs face in [your region]. Your goal is to survive. In order to do that you need to get enough food. There are challenges between you and the food. This is kind of like an OBSTACLE COURSE!"
4. Walk students through the obstacle course.
 - *Obstacle 1:* Motor boat (a rope that two students are squiggling/moving along the ground). If a the rope hits a frog, they have to return to behind the starting line and wait ten seconds to start again.
 - *Obstacle 2:* Litterbug Lagoon (2-3 students with arms linked that function as "it" in a game of tag. The students represent floating plastic bags and other garbage that could tangle and drown frogs. They are wearing aprons with plastic bottles, bags, wrappers, etc. attached. One apron is covered with all items that could be recycled, one with plastic bags, and one with wrappers.) If a frog is tagged by the linked students, they have to return to behind the starting line and wait ten seconds to start again.
 - *Obstacle 3:* Predator Zone (1-2 students with predator puppets stand inside designated zone. The "predators" cannot exit the square, but can reach out of it to tag frogs who are collecting food. Food is scattered in and around the area). Frogs that get tagged must give all food to the predator that tagged them and return to the starting line. They must wait ten seconds to start again.
5. For each round, secure 2 volunteers to move the rope for the Motor Boat obstacle, 2-3 volunteers for the Litterbug Lagoon obstacle, and 1-2 to be predators in the Predator Zone. Switch out volunteers with each round.

Gameplay (play 2-3 rounds):

- A frog's goal: start gameplay when the teacher yells SPRING. Avoid all obstacles, pick up one piece of food (can only gather one at a time) and return to behind the start line, then repeat until the teacher signals that the game is over by yelling WINTER.
- When WINTER sets in (after about 3 minutes) have students return to the start line and count their food.
- Next, return all food to the Predator Zone, and play again. Get different volunteers to staff the obstacles.

Recap:

- What was hard about being a frog? What was easy? What would you change to make life easier for a frog? Was your first trip for food easier or harder than your last one? Why? Any frog that is holding a bean with an x on it accidentally ate plastic and didn't survive. Have any survivors step forward. Discuss.
- What do you think the linked together students in the litterbug lagoon represent? What could you do every day to make sure the lagoon goes away? (Recycle, pick up litter, reuse) Write ideas on the white board.

Final round (2 min):

- "The frog's habitat has been cleaned up by a group of students who are making sure that they and their families recycle and pick up litter when they see it on the streets."
- Final round gameplay: no more litterbug lagoon. No more beans with x's.

Conclusion:

- Was this round easier or harder as a frog?
- What about as a predator?

References:

- Pathfinder Ranch, www.pathfinderranch.com, Forest Ecology Lesson Plan
- North Lakeland Discovery Center, www.discoverycenter.net, Licia Johnson



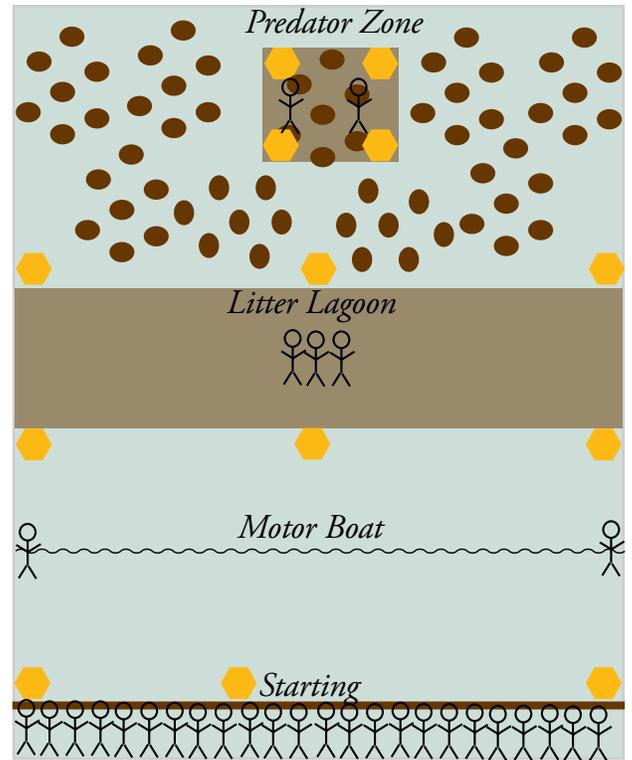
For the Outdoor Classroom: Diagram

(Continued)

Use this diagram to help as you set up the “Hip Hop Survive” activity described on the previous page. Cones are represented by yellow shapes. “Food” is represented by brown dots. Webbing is illustrated with a wavy line.

Contact Angie with any questions at:

newsletter@aeoe.org



Created by: Angie Ziobro,
AEOE Newsletter Editor

Save the Date!



AEOE Statewide Spring Conference
April 29-May 1 2016
Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu, CA



Call for Volunteers

Are you looking for ways to develop new skills or utilize your strengths? We're looking for your help to take AEOE to the next level. Consider volunteering for the following committees:

Conference: Robb@aeoe.org

- Regional
- State

Media & Marketing: Tom@aeoe.org

- Newsletter
- Website
- Social Media

Professional Development: John@aeoe.org

- Outdoor Professional Learning Sessions
- Environmental Outdoor School Managers
- Outings

Governance: Tracey@aeoe.org

- Bylaws
- Strategic Plan

Membership: Amanda@aeoe.org

- Recruitment (Institutional and Individual)
- Surveys
- Membership Retention
- Administration

Finance: Steve@aeoe.org

Position Opening: Webmaster (stipended)

The webmaster maintains and enhances the AEOE website (aeoe.org) with text and images. The website is updated through a content management system so no knowledge of HTML or other coding is necessary. We are looking for someone to expand the "Reference" section, be able to respond to requests for support (e.g., job postings) within 2 days, post newsletters on the website, and work with various other volunteers, such as the registrar, to keep members informed of AEOE events and business. This is a volunteer stipended position with an estimated average time commitment of 10 hours/month. A minimum two year commitment is preferred. Questions should be directed to Helen at helen@aeoe.org.

Please submit a letter of interest to AEOE President at reed@aeoe.org by the application deadline: September 30, 2015.

Are you interested in contributing to the AEOE Newsletter? Approved articles earn a \$20 Acorn Naturalist Gift Certificate!

Ideas for articles include:

- Lesson Plans
- Recipes
- Seasonal Nature Art
- Inspirational or Funny Teaching Stories
- Student Quotes/Letters
- Phenology Events
- Educational Games

Contact The AEOE Newsletter editor, Angie Ziobro, at newsletter@aeoe.org for all of the details.

The deadline to submit articles, photos, and information for consideration for the December 2015 Issue of The AEOE Newsletter is October 19.

Position Opening: Southern Chair Elect

Would you be interested in helping AEOE get to the next level? Are you looking for ways to gain new skills and experiences to better market yourself? Southern Council is looking to fill the Southern Chair Elect position at the Fall Conference. Ideally, it's a three-year commitment: 1st year-as Southern Chair Elect, support Southern Chair as needed; 2nd year-take over as Southern Chair and help plan fall conference; 3rd year-serve as Past Chair to support council as needed. As a board member, you will be required to participate in occasional board and council calls as well. If this interests you or if you have any other questions, please send Amanda@aeoe.org a brief paragraph of why you want the position and what you think you can bring to the organization.



California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE)

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PLACE LABEL HERE



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Secretary: Katie Andersen _____ katie@aeoe.org

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Northern Chair-Elect: Mariana Diaz _____ mariana@aeoe.org
Northern Past Chair: Desiree Gant _____ desiree@aeoe.org
Southern Chair: Amanda Martin _____ amanda@aeoe.org
Southern Chair-Elect: Vacant _____ vacant
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