

Spring 2019

Newsletter



Introducing Estrella Risinger *Get to Know AEOE's New Executive Director*

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California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education is proud to announce the Opening Speaker, Estrella Risinger, Executive Director, at the California Statewide Environmental Education Spring Conference 2019, Friday March 29 – Sunday March 31, Westminster Woods, Occidental, CA. For details: <http://aEOE.org/events>

Estrella Risinger is AEOE's first Executive Director, partnering with the Board of Directors to expand program offerings and educational opportunities, and increase the impact of outdoor and environmental education in California. She also continues to serve as Nature-Bridge's National Education Manager, focusing on social and emotional development. Estrella started her career in the classroom, teaching second and third grade in Oakland, with summers

as an outdoor educator. She is thrilled to be kicking off this year's conference on the importance of identity and belonging in forging a connection to the natural world.

Advancing the Impact of Environmental and Outdoor Education in California!



Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings, AEOE Friends & Supporters!

What an honor it is to step into this new role as your first Executive Director. I've spent my first weeks immersing myself within the landscape of environmental education in our state and familiarizing myself with the ins and outs of the organization. The best part of the job so far has been getting to know the board members and volunteers that work countless hours to make this organization run. I have been blown away by their passion, their kindness, and their commitment to our mission. How lucky I feel to get to work alongside these

rockstars! I am looking forward to getting to know the rest of our community as well. That means you! Please make a point to introduce yourself at the spring conference.

This year's conference theme of "Thinking Outside the Box" resonates particularly strongly with me. Because, isn't that what we all do, every day? We strive to inspire awe and wonder, to help young people develop connections and experience the world in a new way. In addition to grounding myself in our organization's current state, I've been thinking a lot about opportunity recently. After a devastating fall season

California Ecography; Where Science and Art Meet to Tell the Tale of a Changing Landscape

Introducing 2019 Spring Conference Keynote Speaker Obi Kaufmann



For Poet, painter and naturalist Obi Kaufmann, California is a magic network of living systems that connect in a grand, quilted array of ecology and beauty. Author of the bestselling and award winning California Field Atlas, Obi takes readers off the beaten path and outside normal conceptions of California, revealing its myriad ecologies, topographies, and histories with hundreds of exquisite hand-painted maps and trail paintings. Obi's work blends science and art to illuminate the multifaceted array of the natural world, forming a uniquely elemental narrative based on the shaping forces of earth, air, fire, and water.

In the California Field Atlas, Obi depicts layer after layer of the natural world, delighting in the grand scale and details alike. The effect is staggeringly beautiful: presented alongside California divided into its fifty-eight counties, for example, we consider California made up of dancing tectonic plates, of watersheds, of wildflower gardens. Maps are enhanced by spirited illustrations of wildlife, keys that explain natural phenomena, and a clear-sighted but reverential text. Full of character and color, The California Field Atlas is the ultimate road trip companion and love letter to a place.

Since its publishing, the California Field Atlas (HEYDAY books, 2017) reached #1 on the San Francisco Chronicle's best-sellers list and won both the 2018 book of the year by the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association, and the 2018 gold medal for significant contribution to publishing by the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

An avid conservationist, Obi regularly travels around the state, speaking on issues of ecological restoration and preservation to such groups as the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the Mojave Desert Land Trust, the Anza Borrego Foundation, The Mono Lake Committee, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the California Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society, the Rivers and Lands Conservancy, and Friends of the River. A life-long resident of California, Obi Kaufmann makes his home base in Oakland and is currently working on Field Atlases to come. He posts



regularly on instagram @coyotethunder.

Growing up in the East Bay as the son of an astrophysicist and a psychologist, Obi Kaufmann spent most of high school practicing calculus and breaking away on weekends to scramble around Mount Diablo, mapping and naming the creeks, oak forests and sage mazes. Into adulthood he would regularly journey into the mountains, spending more summer nights without a roof than with one as his identity as a wilderness naturalist took hold and that is where he began work on his first book, the California Field Atlas. For Obi, the epic narrative of the California backcountry holds enough art, science, mythology and language for a hundred atlases to come.

Books to come by Obi Kaufmann

1. The State of Water, Understanding California's Most Precious Resource (HEYDAY, June 2019)
2. The Forests of California, the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 1 (HEYDAY, spring 2020)
3. The Coasts of California, the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 2 (HEYDAY, fall 2020)
4. The Deserts of California, the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 3 (HEYDAY, spring 2021)
5. The State of Fire, Understanding Why, Where and How California Burns (HEYDAY, fall 2021)



Executive Director, continued from pg. 1

with some of the most costly and damaging wildfires our state has seen, the winter rains of the past weeks have brought relief in countless ways. With rain comes new growth, fresh ideas, and opportunities to look inwards. In the winter I am at my most reflective, and, I think, most creative. There's something about this season, the rainy day art projects and early evening walks with my young family – tiptoeing around the worms – that gets my brain going.

This past fall at the NAAEE conference in Spokane, the National Affiliate network began looking at the components of a healthy, thriving network. As California's Affiliate organization, I am excited about how we connect as individuals, institutions, and partners throughout the state to increase the impact of outdoor and environmental education and reach out to audiences we have yet to serve. That includes strengthening our support network of managers and leaders through EOSM, establishing a certification program for environmental educators, and continuing to offer exceptional networking and professional development opportunities through our conferences. I am thrilled to be serving the organization in this new capacity, supporting the exceptional outdoor and environmental education programs (and the amazing individuals who make all the magic happen!) throughout our state.

I am looking forward to thinking, playing, and learning with all of you in March. See you soon!

Warmly,

Estrella Risinger
AEOE Executive Director

Save the Date!

The CA Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) is proud to announce our Statewide Spring Conference on March 29 - 31, 2019 at Westminster Woods in Occidental, CA.

Our theme this year is **'Teaching Outside the Box.'** Join us for 60+ workshops; keynote address by Obi Kaufmann, music, Saturday evening entertainment, the job fair, and networking!
Workshop Presenter Applications are accepted until 02/24/19.

Online registration is now open at www.aeoe.org!

Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 3rd 2019 at 9:59p.m.

(\$195 for the weekend - includes 5 meals, 2 nights camping or cabins, and the conference). All attendees must be current members of AEOE. Alternative registration options are available. Cabins and camping are included in registration costs. Premium housing available for an additional cost; contact kelly@aeoe.org.

Find more details at <https://aeoe.org/events>

Registration Deadlines

Early Registration: now - March 3, 2019, 9:59 p.m.

Regular Registration: March 3, 2019, 10:01 p.m. - March 17, 2019, 9:59 p.m.

Walk-in Registration (at the conf.): March 29-30, 2019

Westminster Woods Campus Map

(https://aeoe.org/uls/resources/Westminster_Woods_Campus_Map.pdf)

↳ 2019 ◀
 AEOE Statewide Environmental
 Education Spring Conference
 "Teaching Outside the Box"
 March 29-31st
 * early registration NOW thru March 3rd at 9:59p.m.*
 Regular registration March 3rd - March 17th
 For more information, visit <http://aeoe.org/events>
WESTMINSTER WOODS
 6510 Bohemian Highway
 Occidental, CA 95465

California
AEOE
 Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education

Calling All Donations for Silent and Live Auctions

All proceeds go toward Joie's Daisies Scholarship Fund

Are you an artist or maker of some sort? Does your organization have some extra sweatshirts with your logo on them laying around? Perhaps you know someone who works at a museum, aquarium, or outdoor gear company? Or maybe you just like reaching out to companies for free stuff? If so, AEOE would love your help with getting items donated for our annual silent & live auction at the spring conference! Please help us raise funds for the Joie's Daisies Scholarship Fund by donating new or gently used items for our silent and live auctions taking place at the conference. Need ideas? Our members love to bid on artwork, outdoor gear, sustainable products, branded items from your program and certificates to local attractions and restaurants.

Please fill out this form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQCKXc0VBTikBVzbNRD9rU-nQX-AMFH2AL7nOe427m5vknGxg/viewform>) if you have an item to donate.

Questions? Contact Katie Andersen, katie@aeoe.org.



EOSM Annual Retreat

by Ryan Mayeda

EOSM Events & Spring Conference Breakout

Despite a surprise winter storm on the night of January 20, there were 6 attendees from 3 different programs who attended an EOSM meeting on the 21st. Thanks to Arrowhead Ranch for still hosting and facilitating the meeting in my absence. They discussed everything from staff retention, morale, housing options, security deposits, facility accessibility and social media. It was a very productive meeting with each attendee taking back lots of information to apply back at their own programs.

As we continue to get feedback from participants, the following calendar for EOSM has been decided:

- Breakout Discussion Sessions at Fall Regional Conferences
- Annual EOSM Retreat in November
- Winter Regional EOSM Meetings
- Breakout Discussion Sessions at Statewide Conference

CA AEOE Board Nominees

Andrew Boyd-Goodrich

Position Sought: *Member at Large*

Tom Drake

Position Sought: *Member at Large*

Sarah Caycee Foglesong

Position Sought: *Member at Large*

Kelly Prendiville

Position Sought: *Member at Large*

Tracey Weiss

Position Sought: *Vice President*

Find out more information about all Board Nominees on pages 5 and 6



This should spread out the EOSM events and meetings in hopes that fewer scheduling conflicts will occur. Please keep a mental note for these events in the future. Speaking of events and the conferences, remember that there will be about an hour for the EOSM breakout session at the upcoming spring conference. If you're in a leadership position at your program, we encourage you to attend the conference for the leadership strand of workshops and the EOSM breakout. There will also be plenty of opportunities to network and collaborate with other leadership staff outside of these formal workshops. We hope to see you at the spring conference!

Ryan Mayeda
AEOE Board Member
EOSM Coordinator



Board Nominee Details



Andrew Boyd-Goodrich

Position Sought: Member At Large

Current Employer: Camp Ocean Pines, Executive Director

Areas of Interest/Expertise: Fundraising, Administration, Financial, Conference Planning, Program development/management; staff development

Background: *(Professional accomplishments and AEOE contributions if applicable)* Strong community outreach and partner relationships skills. Over 30 years in camping and environmental education, with 20+ in leadership roles. Most recently Executive Director at YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, where I strengthened the relationships with the two resident OE programs (SJOE and SMOE). Previously YMCA trainer in staff leadership, coaching, project management and supervision.

Why are you interested in serving on the AEOE Board? My life mission is to make millions of people happy. To me, this means something deep. Yes, everyone needs joy and laughter. But they also need access, wellness, connection, voice, community, knowledge, engagement, creative outlets, and so on. And all of these are in service to us having a robust liberal democracy and a healthier planet on which to live. I firmly believe that environmental education is a critical component of me achieving these goals.

In order to do that, the field of environmental education needs to be strong. It needs quality programs with high accountability, curricula and pedagogy based around youth development best practices, and operations and policies that reflect contemporary standards. The field also needs to self-critical and self-correcting. Specifically, we need to ensure that we are accessible, culturally relevant, and inclusive in service to making the deepest impact.

I try to practice all of the above, and move the needle where I can. I sometimes don't get it right.

I was a naturalist and then a program director and then an executive with a very large organization that had a very broad reach and programmatic agenda beyond environmental engagement, namely the YMCA. Now I am an executive with a much smaller organization with a narrower focus on environmentalism, with arguably less reach but more individual influence. Both scales are important, and have differing benefits and weaknesses, and I have learned valuable skills and important perspectives in both.

As a Board Member for AEOE I would be a fierce advocate for a more impactful environmental education movement. That we recognize and better leverage our many strengths, daylight and then address our weaknesses, in service to making our programs the best that they should be. I want to empower our (literally) on-the-ground staff, and broaden who we serve and how. I want to find more supporters and partners, and I am good at building bridges across those gaps.

I want to make people happy.



Tom Drake

Position Sought: Member At Large

Current Employer: Fontana Unified School District / High School Science Teacher

Areas of Interest/Expertise: Marketing, Administration, Financial, Conference Planning, Social Media

Continued on pg. 6

Drake, continued from pg. 5

Drake, continued from pg. 5

Background: (Professional accomplishments and AEOE contributions if applicable)

AEOE Marketing Coordinator, AEOE Past President, Team leader for AEOE non-profit status, AEOE Past Southern Chair, AEOE Conference Coordinator for Spring Conference 2006 and Southern Fall Conference Coordinator 2006 at Joshua Tree, Southern Fall Conference Coordinator 2007, Santa Barbara. Southern Fall Conference Coordinator 2012, Wildlands Conservancy, Whitewater Canyon, CSTA Marketing Committee Member, CEEIN California Environmental Education Inter-agency Network, representing (AEOE)

Certificated High School Science Teacher: geology, marine-biology, biology, NGSS District Lead Teacher

Past Instructor at Orange County Outdoor Science School (2 years)

Masters of Education Curriculum and Instruction, Minor Science K-14

BA Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing with additional course work in biological sciences.

Why are you interested in serving on the AEOE Board?

I'm interested in making a difference in science education by incorporating environmental principles and concepts into science curriculum and encouraging future generations to better understand and care for our planet, and its many inhabitants.



Sarah Caycee Foglesong

Board Position Sought: Member At Large

Current Employer: Prescott College, Associate Faculty/ECE&ECSE Program Coordinator/Administrator, The Center for Nature- and Place-based ECE (NPECE Center)

Areas of Interest/Expertise: Graphic design, Conference Planning, Advocacy, Developing with you all an Early Childhood committee or other to act as CAs state affiliate to the Natural Start Alliance

Background: (Professional accomplishments and AEOE contributions if applicable)

12/2018 - Successful renewal of grant from the Storer Foundation

11/2018 - Presented at NAAEE Nat'l Conference "Equity & Inclusion through Nature Play"

08/2018 - Presented at Natural Start Alliance WOW Conference "Where to Grow Next? A Rhizomatic Approach to Planning for Place-based Professional Development"

06/2018 - Co-coordinator & director of the NPECE Centers 2018 Summer Institute

12/2017 - Graduated with MEd in ECE from Prescott College

2013/2014 - Contributed presentations to AEOE fall & spring conferences

Why are you interested in serving on the AEOE Board/Council?

I've gotten really involved in early childhood EE on the national level, and would like to bring that work home to a more local level. After talking to Ryan about some of that work and my interest in getting involved developing an ECE-base of interest in AEOE, he suggested that the best path would be to apply to the board. If you think that being on the board is not quite right, I'm totally open to talking about other ways we could bring an ECE focus to our conversations within AEOE and more ECE folks into the AEOE family. Thanks!



Kelly Prendiville

Board Position Sought: Member At Large

Current Employer and Position: Ocean Institute, Summer Camp Program Coordinator

Areas of Interest/Expertise: Administration, Conference Planning, Social Media, There could be more. Willing to discuss other areas that I may have interest but not necessarily skill

Background: (Professional accomplishments and AEOE contributions if applicable)

Continued on pg. 7

Prendiville, continued from pg. 7

Professional: experienced environmental educator who has received recognition for highly impactful mentorship of newer educators, created new curriculum and collaborated to create and implement an entirely new school program.

AEOE: workshop presenter, workshop coordinator, AEOE Registrar, the reason why coworkers are stoked and now involved in AEOE

Why are you interested in serving on the AEOE Board/Council?

I believe that organizations like AEOE are so important. Outdoor education is a field that can be very isolating in the sense that it is not easy to learn what other programs and companies are doing because there is no product to check out or competitor's store to visit. It's also a very broad field and there are so many great ideas out there. AEOE brings people and ideas together to network, gather new ways to teach topics, to gain support from others in similar positions at different companies, bridge the gap between formal and informal educators, and refresh people and remind them why they're doing what they're doing. I want to be a part of that and help impact the future of this field even further.



Tracey Weiss

Board Position Sought: Vice President

Current Employer and Position: Exploring New Horizons, Executive Director

Areas of Interest/Expertise: Fundraising, Administration, Financial, Advocacy

Background: (Professional accomplishments and AEOE contributions if applicable)

Tracey has been Exploring New Horizon's Executive Director since 2006. With 16+ years of experience in environmental education, she uses her passion for environmental education to inspire and engage youth and their adults to become stewards of California's natural world.

Throughout her professional career, Tracey has been dedicated to serving youth, the environment, and developing strategically sound nonprofits. Her passion for the environment started at a young age with the Girl Scouts. She grew up within the organization and is still an active camper. Tracey continued to help girls 'grow strong' as the Outdoor Program Director for the Girl Scouts of Northern California, and International Groups while living in Germany and the United Kingdom. Her many experiences providing outdoor education opportunities for youth range from taking high school students on environmental tours of Belize, creating a new national model for marine science education at Camp SEA Lab, and working as the Camp Director at Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp.

Tracey is an active member with the Northern California American Camp Association, serves on the Environmental Literacy Task Force for the California Department of Education, and is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. She possesses in-depth knowledge and experience in leading both the complex day-to-day operations of our organization as well as guiding its vision, growth, and unique corporate culture.

Why are you interested in serving on the AEOE Board/Council?

Tracey is interested in continuing to advance EE throughout California, helping to create an individual certification program to increase equity and inclusion in the field of environmental education.

Sneak Preview of a Few Spring '19 Conference Workshops

Presenter: Sandra Derby, Project Learning Tree

Topic: Project Learning Tree to Action!

Presenter: Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission

Topic: Who's at the Beach? A Student Project to Increase Park Accessibility

Presenter: Ryan Mayeda, Pathfinder Ranch

Topic: Staff Training, Growth Mindset & Staff Culture

Presenter: Tom Drake, AEOE

Topic: Talking to students about Climate Change

Presenter: Laura Powell, CREEC Network

Topic: Opportunities in the New Curriculum Frameworks for Bridging Environmental Literacy from the Classroom to the Outdoors



Officers

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Vice President	Tracey Weiss	Tracey@aeoe.org
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	Tom Drake	Tom@aeoe.org
	Ryan Mayeda	Ryan@aeoe.org

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Mission: To advance the impact of environmental and outdoor education in California.



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