

# California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education ( AEOE )



## Highlights:

Outings Announcements	Pg. 1
Northern Chair Message	Pg. 2
Southern Chair Message	Pg. 3
EE'er of the Year Awards	Pg. 4-5
Staying in the Loop	Pg. 6
Job Opportunities	Pg. 7
AEOE Contacts	Pg. 8

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

2011 AEOE  
SPRING CONFERENCE  
APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
WESTMINSTER WOODS  
OCCIDENTAL, CA

## Upcoming AEOE Outings

### **Snow Play Hoopla**

January 28-30, 2011

Cost: \$5

Place: Stephen Hopkins' House  
4840 Sierra Springs Dr; Pollock  
Pines, CA 95726

Register: [hopy4840@att.net](mailto:hopy4840@att.net); or  
call 530-644-3487

Close to Cross Country/ Snowshoe/  
Alpine Ski/Boarding and Mountain  
Biking areas; Tour the Sly Park  
Environmental Education Center;  
Evening volleyball; S'mores; Hot  
Cider; Special guest naturalist Ben  
Walker ("Moose Chocolate" from  
Green Meadows OS) will present his  
fire-makin' tricks and some playful  
Knot Fu; Network and hangout with  
other AEOE members.

What to bring: • Appropriate  
clothing and sports equipment;  
• sleeping bag • personal items;  
• food/ snacks/ desert/ drinks to  
share... Carry snow chains when  
driving in the Sierras in the winter.

Limitations: Must be a member of  
AEOE. Sign up on site or on-line at  
[AEOE.ORG](http://AEOE.ORG) (\$20/yr)

Contact Stephen "Hoppy" Hopkins  
for more information or to sign up  
at [hopy4840@att.net](mailto:hopy4840@att.net).

### **Colorado River Canoe Trip**

February 5-6, 2011

Cost: \$62 per person (must be a  
current AEOE member)  
(Includes canoes, camping, shuttle)

Join us for another great adventure  
down the Black Canyon section of  
the Colorado River! We will be  
camping Friday night at Lake Mead,  
and then we will head down the  
river Saturday morning and get  
picked up Sunday around 3:00 p.m.  
There will be an option for a Sunday  
night spent in Las Vegas. Spaces are  
limited - sign up before January  
22nd to reserve a spot!

#### What to Expect

• Beautiful hot springs and sauna  
caves after moderate hikes • 11 miles  
of calm downstream canoeing •  
Wildlife sightings—possibly  
peregrine falcons, bighorn,  
cormorants, etc • Fun company with  
great people • Sunny during the day  
and cool at night

#### What to Bring

• Camping gear & food • Water  
shoes or sturdy sandals • Dry bag or  
large garbage bag

Contact Bryan "Rain" Snyder for  
more information or to sign up at  
[southern.outings@aeoe.org](mailto:southern.outings@aeoe.org) by  
January 22, 2011.



## Greetings from the Northern Chair!

I write this article amidst falling leaves and the sounds of children playing in the distance. There is something magical about the fall. It puts me in a reflective state of mind. Be it the changing colors of our majestic forests, the slight chill in the air or the crackling pops of a cozy fire, I draw inspiration and gain a sense of togetherness that is common with the season. It is *togetherness* that moves me these days.

A short time ago many of you joined us in the warm embrace of the redwood forest to celebrate our Northern Fall Conference. Having attended many conferences over the years it was quite fun to experience one from a different point of view. As Conference Coordinator I spent much of my time making sure things were running well and that everyone was as happy as we could make them. I did this not alone but *together* with an amazing team. I want to thank the members of the Northern Council, the countless folks who jumped in at a moments notice (too many to name but I won't forget your efforts) and especially Robb "Big Brown Bat" Stolberg who served as my right hand man.

There were many moments from the weekend that stood out to me. From Yeti and Sasquatch embracing their director, George Stratman, upon receiving the Environmental Educator of the Year award to members showcasing their talents during our campfire program. From meeting four friends who drove all the way from Washington State to join us to wandering the grounds watching presenters share their talents and knowledge while members took it all in with an inspired spark in their eye. From a presenter-less workshop whose attendees turned the workshop into a success to a very passionate Northern Council meeting. While I will not soon forget the time we shared *together*; the experience in and of itself is not new.

From its beginning (1954) AEOE has rallied members of the Outdoor and Environmental Education community *together* to share in the ideals and practices of our beloved field. Membership involvement in AEOE, be it attending conferences, outings or volunteering at the sectional or state level is the lifeblood of our organization. With discussions of the future of AEOE moving to the forefront, I highly encourage us all to get involved and be active members for *together* we are the future of AEOE.

Our immediate future includes the Statewide Spring Conference that will be held at Westminster Woods in Occidental, CA the weekend of April 29-May 1st. It is here that our friends from the south will join us in the north as we celebrate Outdoor and Environmental Education in California *together*.

If you are interested in helping with the Spring Conference in any way please contact me at [northern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:northern.chair@aeoe.org)

Have a happy and safe winter!  
Jymn "Scooby" Meier

---

*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."*

Edith Sitwell



## Greetings from the Southern Chair!

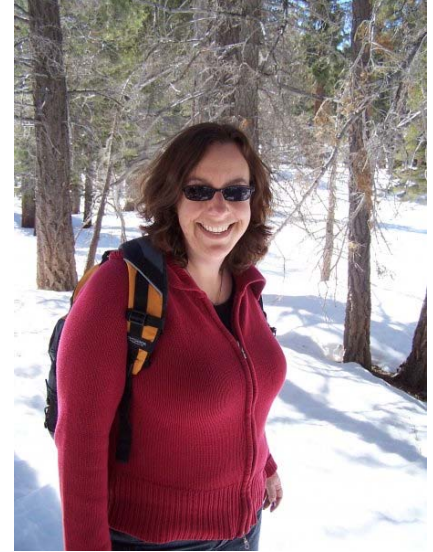
Winter is upon us. I am starting to feel a little nostalgic for previous winters spent working in the snowy mountains of Southern California. I loved the surprised and enchanted looks on the faces of students when they experienced snow for the first time. I hope everyone who is working in the mountains this winter is enjoying the experience and knows that they are giving their students a lifelong memory. Although I am enjoying not having to deal with chains or snow shovels, I do miss those days and admire any of you who frolic in the winter snow to inspire children to appreciate the outdoors in all kinds of weather.

Turning my thoughts from cold wintery days to the warm beaches of San Diego, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Southern Conference. It was an inspiring weekend by the ocean. Surf lessons, fabulous campfire performances, and workshops on a wide variety of topics including swordsmanship, bird watching, and felting were definite highlights. It was a relaxing, fun weekend for all involved. Congratulations to Jay “Blue Jay” Bishop on receiving the Environmental Educator of the Year award. Thank you to all of the Camp Surf staff for providing us with beach fun, a gorgeous location, and a very low rate. We appreciated their hospitality. I am already looking at location ideas for the 2011 Fall conference. If your site is interested in hosting please let me know at [southern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:southern.chair@aeoe.org).

I hope to see many of you at the 2011 Spring Conference at Westminster Woods. The Spring conference is a great place to connect with educators from all over the state. Now is the time to start planning a workshop to present. If you are interested in helping out at the conference contact Jymn Meier at [northern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:northern.chair@aeoe.org).

Enjoy and thank you for all you do for the people of Southern California!

Carrie Bryant  
Southern Chair



---

*“The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination.”*

*Terri Guillemets*



## Environmental Educator of the Year Awards

### NORTHERN 2010 RECIPIENTS

by George Stratman, Director, Shady Creek Outdoor School



Chris and Jason Little (“Yeti” and “Sasquatch”) are the 2010 Environmental Educators of the Year for the remarkable impact they have had at Shady Creek Outdoor School in just 4 years.

For the purpose of this award it is impossible to separate them, as the magic they work in the program stems in part from their interactions with one another (that they are twins and “family” is clear to the students and through this, in part, they are able to effectively invite students to join the larger “Shady Creek Family”).

Best known at AEOE for their music, anyone who has spent any time with Yeti and Sasquatch realizes that the twins’ musical talent is essentially a “bonus.” The true essence of the twins is their sincere, genuine, compassionate, and caring personalities. They always have time for every child and are able to “inject” students with contagious enthusiasm for the program, the outdoors; and, perhaps most importantly, an appreciation by each child for his or herself and who they are.

These gentlemen have become, to a great degree, the “face” of the Shady Creek program. Yeti and Sasquatch do whatever it takes to ensure the success of the program. This includes small things like socializing with visiting staff, checking in with students during meals, and collecting trash with students during class. Also included are larger gestures such as helping out in the kitchen and visiting schools. Yeti and Sasquatch, on their own time and without compensation, make post-outdoor school visits to the majority of the schools we serve.

Chris and Jason Little do whatever it takes to ensure that every student in our community has the full “Shady Creek experience,” and send students home every week with the feeling that they just had the best week of their lives.

*The Environmental Educator of the Year Award is given to an individual teaching and loving it, who has contributed to the success of EE in the state and leads by example. Both Southern and Northern California recipients are truly deserving of this honor, as folks who have helped keep AEOE going over the years while still teaching and retaining the joy inherent in our jobs. Next year it could be someone on YOUR staff!*



## Environmental Educator of the Year Awards

### SOUTHERN 2010 RECIPIENT:



The Southern Council was honored to present the Environmental Educator of the Year award to Jay "Blue Jay" Bishop from Rancho Alegre Outdoor School. Below are some of the comments about Jay submitted by his coworkers Lindsay Rosetta Godlis and Nicole Larson from Rancho Alegre.

Jay "Blue Jay" Bishop is one of the most inspiring naturalists I know. Not only is his knowledge of the outdoors extensive, he also has an admirable way of reaching and connecting with students of all personalities. I am always impressed by the quality of his work. He is truly in his element when he is teaching in the outdoors. Jay has been working at Rancho Alegre for over ten years. Every year the school takes in around 4000 kids from the all over the area. Jay has become a well known figure and mentor for many of these students, as well as their teachers. He brings a lot of prestige to the outdoor education field. I believe that being a naturalist is what he was born and meant to do.

Jay "Blue Jay" Bishop has played a tremendous role in the lives of kids, teachers and fellow naturalists for many years. His humor, knowledge and experience really reach all types of students. He has been active in AEOE as well: leading workshops, emceeding skit night and just being an all-around positive force at the conferences. I am a better naturalist for knowing Blue Jay. Jay Bishop is a shining example of what AEOE is all about. He has a lifetime commitment to kids and helping them discover their place in the natural world.

Congratulations, Blue Jay! Thank you for your contributions to our field and to our organization.

---

*"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy."*

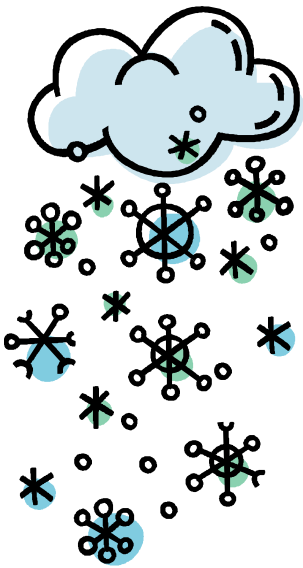
*William Blake*



---

*"Winter is an etching,  
spring a watercolor,  
summer an oil painting  
and autumn a mosaic of  
them all."*

*Stanley Horowitz*



## Staying in the Loop

AEOE has been working to fulfill its mission for over 50 years.

Our mission is to “support and inspire 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.”

Recently the AEOE Executive Board has begun discussion on the topic of where we are as an organization, and where we see ourselves going in the future. If we are to truly support our mission, then first and foremost we need to know if we are meeting your needs. In other words, do we keep doing exactly what we are doing, or do we need to offer more in order to “support and inspire” environmental educators? As a first step in this discussion we are inviting all of our members to participate. By including more member perspectives we will get a clear and accurate picture of how we are doing and what additional support members are genuinely interested in.

AEOE is a member-driven organization run by volunteers, and we want to set ourselves up for another 50 years of supporting the people who are making a positive difference in environmental education. We hope you will join us in this important discussion.

### **A survey will be sent to all of our current members soon.**

Please take a few minutes to give us your ideas. You can also go to the website and directly email any of the board members. Additionally, while visiting the website ([aeoe.org](http://aeoe.org)) you can check out the link to our meeting minutes to see what is being discussed and what we are working on at our monthly meetings.

### **Look for the survey results in the Spring Newsletter!**

Respectfully yours,  
The AEOE Executive Board

---

## AEOE Wants You!

We are looking for interested members to fulfill a few positions within the organization.

### Fundraiser

The Fundraiser will be responsible for developing and presenting to the Board a proposed fundraising campaign for the current year which considers grants, events and solicited donations. The Fundraiser will identify grants for which AEOE might successfully compete and are aligned with the mission and current activities of the organization. The Fundraiser will be responsible for the grant-writing or the delegation of the task to another individual able to do so. The Fundraiser will also communicate with the section Chairs about the fundraising activities of the sections and about needs of the sections which might be served by obtaining a state level grant. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: [president@aeoe.org](mailto:president@aeoe.org).

### Marketing Coordinator

The Marketing Coordinator will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts. S/he will research and reach out to diverse organizations within the EE field by publicizing our organization's events, including regional and statewide conferences. S/he will also develop and present to the Board an annual marketing plan, work to build capacity within the organization, work with the Chief Financial Officer on annual marketing budget, and work with the Fundraiser to form fundraising campaigns. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: [president@aeoe.org](mailto:president@aeoe.org).

### Council Members

As always, we are looking for members interested in helping out on the section councils. If you are interested in joining a council, please speak with a chair.

For the Northern section, please e-mail: [northern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:northern.chair@aeoe.org)

For the Southern section, please e-mail: [southern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:southern.chair@aeoe.org).

### Advocacy Coordinator

The Advocacy Coordinator will be responsible for keeping the board and membership up-to-date on ongoing issues in the environmental education world. S/he will take part in monthly phone calls, be responsible for maintaining and updating an advocacy listserv, occasionally send out updates on things that need action. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: [president@aeoe.org](mailto:president@aeoe.org).

### Administrative Assistant

This is a paid position with AEOE. The essential functions of this job are to provide administrative, secretarial and project assistant services for AEOE, primarily in the areas of individual/institutional relationships, administrative support, and special projects. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: [president@aeoe.org](mailto:president@aeoe.org).

---

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."*

*Anne Bradstreet*



## State-wide Contacts

### Mail Address

15555 Sanborn Rd  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
<http://www.aeoe.org>

### Board Contacts

**President:** Ryan Brennan

[president@aeoe.org](mailto:president@aeoe.org)

**Vice President:** Tara Murgatroyd

[vicepresident@aeoe.org](mailto:vicepresident@aeoe.org)

**Chief Financial Officer:**

Zayanne Gardner Thompson

[cfo@aeoe.org](mailto:cfo@aeoe.org)

**Membership:** Helen de la Maza

[membership@aeoe.org](mailto:membership@aeoe.org)

**Webmaster:** Ryan Brennan

[webmaster@aeoe.org](mailto:webmaster@aeoe.org)

**Secretary:** Coleen Ryan

[secretary@aeoe.org](mailto:secretary@aeoe.org)

**Members-at-Large:**

Michael Charnofsky

[michael.charnofsky@aeoe.org](mailto:michael.charnofsky@aeoe.org)

Tom Drake

[tom.drake@aeoe.org](mailto:tom.drake@aeoe.org)

Tracey Weiss

[tracey.weiss@aeoe.org](mailto:tracey.weiss@aeoe.org)

Robb Stolberg

[robb.stolberg@aeoe.org](mailto:robb.stolberg@aeoe.org)

### Southern Section Contacts

**Chair:** Carrie Bryant

[southern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:southern.chair@aeoe.org)

**Adventure/Outings Coordinator:**

Bryan Snyder

[southern.outings@aeoe.org](mailto:southern.outings@aeoe.org)

### Northern Section Contacts

**Chair:** Jymn Meier

[northern.chair@aeoe.org](mailto:northern.chair@aeoe.org)

**Adventure/ Outings Coordinator:**

Karyn "Kestrel" O'Hearn

Cathy Harkness

[northern.outings@aeoe.org](mailto:northern.outings@aeoe.org)

PLACE LABEL HERE