Making strides to enhance the quality, scope and effectiveness of environmental education in Arizona.
2016 Impact & Accomplishment Highlights

23 Committed Volunteers

1,069 Volunteer Hours

= $24,400 Value of Volunteer Hours

304 @ E-Newsletter Subscribers

19 Hours of Training & Professional Development

2 Educator Workshops

16 Environmental Educators Certified
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Letter from the AAEE Board President

Dear AAEE Donors, Members, Partners and Supporters:

2016 was an exciting year for Environmental Educators in Arizona. After several years of rebuilding capacity, the Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) made great strides in solidifying our role in the field, at both the state and national level.

As an Affiliate Network of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), AAEE returned to the international conversation and realized many successes, including:

- Developing and delivering an Environmental Education Certification Program on par with other NAAEE Affiliate Certification Programs
- Began to redraft the Environmental Literacy Strategy of AAEE to further strengthen the practice of Environmental Education (EE) both as a profession as well as an integrated tool for developing environmental literacy in Arizona
- Restructuring the AAEE Board of Directors’ work around major projects and committees to ensure AAEE will continue to have the required resources to elevate our profession
- Rebuilding AAEE’s networks of supporters through increased communication efforts
- Connecting with Affiliate Network colleagues, learning more about their projects and programs

As we move into 2017, AAEE is now equipped with a group of dedicated professionals volunteering their time and passion to make our organization a success. And together, we are continuing the AAEE vision to increase capacity to provide quality programs and educate others in and about the natural world within the state of Arizona.

As defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency¹, Environmental Education is...

a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. Rather, environmental education teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Who performs the critical work of Environmental Education? Anyone, of any age, who educates others about the environment and our natural resources OR uses these as a tool for engaging others in learning. Environmental Education does not only happen in science classrooms and is more than just information about the environment – it happens every day in non-formal and informal educational settings and interactions, driven by others or by oneself. While formal educators have powerful opportunities to use Environmental Education to teach every student who comes through the school doors, the value of learning by experiencing our natural world through critical thinking and self-reflection is of equal importance.

Why is Environmental Education so critically important? Humans have become increasingly disconnected from nature. We must see ourselves as part of our planet’s ecosystem, not in command of it, in order to appreciate the natural world. Learning life skills to make smart choices and decisions and developing a desire to protect our planet for years to come – not just while we and our children are upon it is the impact we can achieve.

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey, no matter how difficult. More specifically:

- Think more critically about the environment
- Reflect on your own personal experience
- Join us as an AAEE member to connect with other environmentally conscious individuals & educators
- Share your personal stories with us
- Gain professional skills to help you educate others
- Learn more about the environment and how to better utilize the tools used to educate others about our natural world
- Mentor others about Environmental Education
- Join an AAEE Committee or our Board of Directors

Together we are stronger and can deliver a more powerful message about Environmental Education to stakeholders, students and the public – in Arizona and beyond. The Arizona Association for Environmental Education will provide the resources to elevate the profession of Environmental Education and demonstrate the importance of engaging with each other in and about natural world.

And most of all, thank you for supporting and engaging in the work that the AAEE embodies.

Sincerely,

LoriAnne Barnett
AAEE Board President

Footnote Reference 1: http://www.epa.gov/education/what-environmental-education
Our Vision

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education envisions a future where, through lifelong learning, all people in Arizona understand the interconnection between humanity and the environment and will make informed decisions and take responsible actions to promote a healthy sustainable environment.

Our Mission

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education strives to enhance the quality, scope and effectiveness of environmental education in Arizona by working with diverse audiences to promote professional development, networking and collaborative relationships.

Our Guiding Purposes

- **ENSURE**
  Forward best practices to ensure quality environmental education.

- **PROMOTE**
  Promote environmental education as a unique field and profession worthy of support.

- **CONNECT**
  Connect people and resources by providing quality environmental education.

- **RECOGNIZE**
  Recognize and celebrate notable achievements within the field of environmental education.

Environmental Education Initiatives

- Environmental Education Certification
- Early Childhood Natural Start Alliance
- No Child Left Inside Initiative
- E-STEM
- Environmental Education included within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Climate Change Education
- Diversity and Inclusion
### Historical Timeline of Environmental Education in Arizona

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>The Arizona Association for Learning in and about the Environment (AALE) is Established as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization by a Coalition of Outdoor and Environmental Educators in Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Arizona Environmental Education Act (ARS 15-706) Passed by Arizona State Legislature</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Arizona Environmental Education Act (ARS 15-706) Repealed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td><strong>AALE Conference and Workshop</strong> Held at Chauncey Ranch in September</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td><strong>AALE Revisioning Conference</strong> Held at Lake Pleasant</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td><strong>AAEE Conference</strong> <em>Environmental Education: A NEtwork in Progress</em>, <strong>First AAEE Board of Directors elected</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td><strong>Fall Campout</strong> Held at Dead Horse Ranch State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td><strong>Joseph Cornell Workshops</strong> Held in Prescott and Phoenix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td><strong>Arizona Crossroads Summit</strong> Held at Heard Museum, <em>Spring Event – Connections: People and Environment</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td><strong>Fall Conference</strong> Co-Sponsored with Sustainable Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td><strong>Joseph Cornell 2-Day Workshop</strong> Held at Desert Outdoor Learning Center, Co-Sponsored <strong>National Association of Interpreters Region 8 Conference</strong> Held at Desert Outdoor Learning Center, <strong>Fall Event</strong> Held at Montezuma Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td><strong>Statewide Environmental Literacy Plan Kick-Off Meeting, 2-day Questing Workshop</strong> Held at Rio Salado Audubon Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td><strong>Arizona Framework for Environmental Concepts and Themes</strong> Produced Through Statewide Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td><strong>White Paper: The Arizona Plan for Statewide Environmental Literacy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td><strong>Arizona State Certification for Environmental Educators Launches Online Platform</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Education has strong roots in Arizona.

In 1992, a group of stakeholders led by the then twelve-year-old AAEE, authored the first statewide environmental literacy plan in the nation. As the first document of its kind, the Arizona plan was modeled in the development of the Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education, now used worldwide. Unfortunately, that plan was repealed in 1994, yet Environmental Education has continued to thrive in both formal and non-formal education venues all across the state of Arizona.

Today, all three state universities in Arizona offer Environmental Education in the form of outreach programs and teacher training, and Arizona State University has recently launched an Environmental Education Certificate for students drawn to both formal and non-formal education.

Educator events that emphasize environmental education, such as the annual EarthFest Educator Night provided by Arizona Forward, continue to draw hundreds of educators seeking resources and support to use Environmental Education in their classrooms.

As many as one hundred nonprofits, non-governmental agencies as well as local and state government agencies emphasize Environmental Education as part of their core outreach efforts and many have developed strong partnerships with schools and other organizations to maximize impact.

Environmental Education as an educational strategy is prevalent across the state of Arizona, however there is a strong need to elevate the profession and promote the integration of Environmental Education into experiences across the life of learners rather than maintaining isolated opportunities.

Arizona greatly needs a new statewide strategy to develop environmental literacy.

With a holistic approach to providing high-quality Environmental Education opportunities through activities in the classroom, with non-formal institutions and at home - with strong support from all sectors statewide: business, education and legislation.

Arizona is on track to strengthen Environmental Education both as a profession and as an integrated tool for developing environmental literacy, and AAEE is helping lead the way.

In March of 2016, Environmental Literacy Summits were held in several locations across Arizona for the purpose of gathering stakeholder input to revitalize movement toward a statewide strategy to develop environmental literacy.

Representatives from schools, non-formal learning institutions, government agencies and businesses all came together to provide their important perspectives in regards to: why we need a statewide strategy, what should be included as well as who is still missing from the conversation.

The broad participation serves as a testament to the positive direction that we’re heading. Although we currently operate in an uncertain political climate, the work of the Arizona Association for Environmental Education and our partners will continue to strengthen the support for and efficacy of environmental education in Arizona.

Learn more about the results of the 2016 AAEE Environmental Literacy Summits on page 9!
AAEE Members Live and Work Across Arizona

AAEE Members by Sector:
- Nonprofit: 22.50%
- Government Agency: 20.00%
- PreK - 12 School: 17.92%
- Higher Education: 15.42%
- Business or Consultant: 12.08%
- Student: 6.25%
- Retired: 5.00%
- Other: 0.83%

AAEE Members Live and Work All Across Arizona
Assessing the Needs of Environmental Education Stakeholders in Arizona

In 2016, the Arizona Association for Environmental Education sent out a survey to stakeholders asking what type of support do they think environmental educators in the state of Arizona need as well as what they would like from AAEE in the near future.

What Support Do Environmental Educators in Arizona Need?

- Need support from teachers, schools and the Arizona Department of Education to encourage experiences in the outdoors as well as focus on further integrating Environmental Education into the school curriculums within the state of Arizona
- Livable wages for environmental educators
- Access to funding and information about other available or untapped resources
- Certification courses, trainings, workshops as well as other professional development opportunities for Environmental Educators
- A statewide Environmental Literacy Plan, this effort should be calibrated in such a way which leverages Arizona’s ability to get funding – especially through the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Advocacy: political championship and support from our Arizona state lawmakers
- A unified voice: the opportunity to network as well as exchange ideas with each other on a state level

What Would You Like to See From AAEE in the Coming Years?

- Monthly e-newsletter
- Networking and gathering opportunities
- Environmental education professional development for all educators: teachers as well as other educators
- Environmental Education certification expanded to reach across a variety of fields
- An annual statewide conference for professional development
- A directory of Environmental Educators
- Clearinghouse for grants as well as other funding opportunities available within the state of Arizona
- Informative, educational infographics about Environmental Education and its impact that can be shared on social media outlets
- A strong plan to build constituency as well as advocacy
- Coordination with the Arizona Department of Education
- A way to connect schools, teachers and other agencies to Environmental Education services and resources
- Engage with University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University as well as the Arizona Community College educational systems
- Collaboration with both national and Arizona state parks
- Additional positive local news coverage promoting Environmental Education in the state of Arizona

Thank You to All Stakeholders Who Participated in the 2016 AAEE Survey!
The Arizona Environmental Education Certification Program

In 2016, the Arizona Association for Environmental Education celebrated the successful launch of the Arizona Environmental Education Basic Certification.

Made possible by a partnership with Estrella Mountain Community College, this new online certification course aligns with both the Guidelines for Excellence Preparation & Professional Development and the Guidelines for Excellence: Best Practice in Environmental Education provided by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

Participants from our public pilot agree that the course has supported their professional growth:

I have been challenged to research new topics, explore environmental education topics of interest that lay dormant and build on my master’s level coursework and teaching knowledge. Learning and growing my knowledge of environmental education has been fulfilling and I am more confident that I can move from being a generalist with a lifelong love of nature to a specialist as I utilize new knowledge of environmental education history, policy and systems approaches to environmental education. To paraphrase a popular saying, “The more I learn, the more I want to learn, and the more I realize I need to learn.” I look forward to implementing my growth plan for immediate, short-term and long-term goals. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this inaugural program.

– Lisa Parce, University of Arizona, Adjunct Faculty

Phenomenal, I enjoyed learning about environmental education, the history and values integrated within it. My favorite assignment would be the four interviews I had with various environmental educators. This sums up what this course is all about.

Loved this cohort and the assignments! I have learned a lot about environmental education and will carry this knowledge with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for this opportunity.

Excellent curriculum with opportunities for individualization yet with necessary guidance and focus to create a sound research-based certificate. I so enjoyed the interactions with my reviewer!

This certification course has encouraged me to strengthen my management skills and incorporate new presentations and discussions of environmental issues.
2016 AAEE Board & Committee Members

Thank you to the Arizona Association for Environmental Education Board of Directors and Committee Members for their insight, leadership and dedication. Their efforts are paying off for environmental education in Arizona.

2016 AAEE Board Members

LoriAnne Barnett  
Nadine Johnson  
Meghan Dorsett  
Josh Ruddick  
Katie Rodriguez  
Maria Baggett  
Tina Salata  
Shawn McCrohan  
Kathy Mohr-Almeida  
Gabby Hebert  
Adam Yarnes  
Nikki Julien

2016 AAEE Committee Members & Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers that have contributed time and energy by sharing their creative and professional talents with the Arizona Association for Environmental Education in 2016. We could not do it without you.

Auriane Koster  
Brett Pollakoff  
Don Harris  
Eric Proctor  
Jeff Spellman  
Kalman Mannis  
Lisa Herrmann  
Liz Sparks  
Martha Gebhardt  
Melissa Smallwood  
Michelle Mills  
Sabrina Carlson  
Tara Oakes  
Virginia Coco  
Wendy Hehemann

Step Up & Participate as an AAEE Committee or Board Member!

Share your unique skills and expertise while working with other dedicated Arizona environmental educators as together we fulfill the mission and vision of AAEE. Strategically designed to achieve the goals of AAEE, our committees and working groups are at the heart of the work we do. Consider becoming an AAEE committee or board member to actively contribute your ideas as we work together to shape AAEE into the most useful organization possible for the benefit of all formal and informal environmental educators across Arizona.

AAEE committee participation requires a regular time commitment of 2-3 hours each month typically. As of 2016, AAEE has one working group and four committees for which we are seeking participants:

• Environmental Literacy Strategy Working Group  
• Environmental Education Certification Committee  
• Professional Development Committee  
• Membership & Marketing Committee  
• Development Committee

Visit www.ArizonaEE.org to learn more or simply contact Volunteer@ArizonaEE.org to express your interest.
### AAEE Financials for the 2016 Fiscal Year

#### INCOME

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**NET INCOME**

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<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>EE CERTIFICATION</th>
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<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td><strong>NET INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$2,795.64</td>
<td>$-1,122.61</td>
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**Diagram Notes:**

- **Support & Revenue**
  - University of Oregon Grant
  - NAAEE Grant
  - Individual Contributions

- **Expenses**
  - Administration and Management
  - Program and Initiatives
2016 Sponsors, Donors, Collaborators & Partners

Thank you to our generous sponsors, donors and supporters who understand the importance and value of environmental education in Arizona. You are truly elevating the impact of environmental education in Arizona.

Sponsors

Valley of the Sun United Way
AmazonSmile
Benevity
Joseph Stemmy
Kathryn Dorsett

Donors

Collaborators & Partners

• Estrella Mountain Community College
• South Mountain Environmental Education Center
• Outdoors Arizona
• Arizona Audubon Society, Rio Salado Center
• Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry
• Arizona Game and Fish, Region III and IV
• Navapache STEM Connection
• White Mountain Nature Center
• Phoenix Zoo
• International Wildlife Museum
• Cooper Center for Environmental Learning
• Arizona Department of Forestry
• Project Learning Tree
• Arizona State University
• USA National Phenology Network
• Arizona Master Naturalist Association
• Tucson Village Farm
• Arizona 4-H
• Santa Rita Experimental Range

Together we are connecting our communities to nature and enhancing environmental literacy.
Why Support Environmental Education with AAEE?

Environmental education (EE) is a process that helps individuals, communities, and organizations learn more about the environment, develop skills and understand how to address global challenges. It has the power to transform lives and society. It informs and inspires. It influences attitudes. And it motivates action. Environmental education is a key tool in expanding the constituency for the environmental movement and creating healthier and more civically-engaged communities.

– The North American Association of Environmental Education

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) is Arizona’s official state affiliate of the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE), and works in conjunction with NAAEE to create consistency in environmental education across the U.S. and Canada. AAEE board members are a diverse group of individuals from both formal and non-formal education settings as well as entrepreneurs. Many of our governing board members have at least 20 years of experience in the field of environmental education.

AAEE works with a wide range of environmental educators across all sectors in Arizona. AAEE provides guidance for curriculum standards and connects educators to resources and best practices in Environmental Education. These tools help educators communicate the importance of environmental issues and concepts while educating students.

The environment sustains all life on earth. It provides us with nourishment and inspiration. Our economy thrives on a healthy environment. A growing body of research tells us that time spent in nature provides physical and psychological benefits. Our personal and cultural identities are often tied to the environment around us. At the same time, it’s impossible not to be deeply concerned about the unprecedented environmental, social and economic challenges we face as a global society – from climate change and loss of species and habitats, to declines in civic engagement, decreasing access to nature, a growing gap between the haves and have-nots, and other threats to our health, security and future survival. EE is a process that helps individuals, communities and organizations learn more about the environment, develop skills to investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can help take care of it.

– The North American Association of Environmental Education

AAEE supports all professional, formal and non-formal environmental educators as well as the people that they educate by providing vital services throughout Arizona including: professional development through workshops, an educator certification program, guidelines for teaching and incorporating best practices, an annual conference, website resources, funding and scholarships for environmental education programs, outreach to educators working with an underserved audience, promoting diversity in environmental education as well as facilitating a statewide environmental literacy plan (ELP).

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education envisions a future where through lifelong learning, all people in Arizona understand the interconnection between humanity and the environment and will make informed decisions and take responsible actions to promote a healthy sustainable environment.

Our plans for the future include: building membership capacity, program development, creating an environmental literacy plan for multiple stakeholders beyond environmental educators and hiring staff to help fulfill our mission.
Show Your Support of AAEE: Donate, Join & Volunteer!

A strong commitment to environmental education today is required to create a more sustainable world tomorrow, and your support ensures that – together – we will continue to grow the field of environmental education in Arizona.

Donate: Make a Tax Deductible Gift to Show Your Support

Your generous tax deductible donation to AAEE ensures that Arizona environmental educators will receive the vital support services they need. Please contact Development@ArizonaEE.org for more information about making a tax-deductible donation.

Donate securely online by visiting www.ArizonaEE.org or send your check donation by mail to:

AAEE
P.O. Box 7661 Goodyear, AZ 85338

Join: Become a Valued AAEE Member to Connect, Grow & Learn

AAEE Member Benefits Include:

• Access to Environmental Education Job Postings,
• Discounts on Training Workshops and Other Professional Development Opportunities,
• Help Shape Environmental Education in Arizona with AAEE Educational Projects and Initiatives,
• And So Much More!

Visit www.ArizonaEE.org to become an AAEE member today, or contact Membership@ArizonaEE.org for more information.

Five AAEE Membership Levels:

Student / Retiree Individual...$25
Professional Individual.........$50
Lifetime Individual.............$500
Organizational Team............$200
Corporate Team................$500

Volunteer: Participate as an AAEE Committee or Board Member

Step into a Pro-Active Leadership Role by Volunteering as an AAEE Committee or Board Member!

Share your unique skills and expertise while working with other dedicated Arizona environmental educators as together we fulfill the vision of AAEE: to create a future where, through lifelong learning, all people in Arizona understand the interconnection between humanity and the environment and will make informed decisions and take responsible actions to promote a healthy sustainable environment.

Visit www.ArizonaEE.org to learn more or simply contact Volunteer@ArizonaEE.org to express your interest.

Create a More Sustainable Future by Showing Your Support of AAEE Today!