

## Fall 2018 LEEF Mini-Conference Report

ABRIDGED WEB VERSION

Prepared by Dustin Angell, 2019



The League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) held a fall mini-conference for 63 people at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida in Naples, FL on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The event schedule included: field trips and a heritage craft workshop, a keynote speaker, lunch, regional meetings, concurrent presentation sessions, and a general membership meeting. This was the first LEEF mini-conference to incorporate field trips as well as partner with a related organization – the Environmental Education Alliance of Southwest Florida. The Saturday event shared the same space and theme as the EE Alliance’s conference the day before. We cross promoted the event and invited attendees of both to a Friday night social. This mini-conference brought in a net profit of \$2,082.96.

### Conference Details

- Attendance: 63 people
  - 94% attendees registered online
  - 71% of online registrations received
- early bird pricing Theme: Unique Faces of Environmental Education
- Collaboration with the EE Alliance of SW Florida
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold Biological Station
- 3 field trips, offered with no additional charge
- 1 heritage craft workshop, \$10 charge
- 10 presenters (excluding keynote)
- 14 presentations (excluding keynote)

### Facilities and Food

- Location provided free of charge
- Naples Zoo provided a behind the scenes tour at no charge to LEEF or participants
- Jason’s Deli provided lunches at a reduced fee

### Accounting

- Total Revenue: \$3,180.00
- Total Expenses: \$1,097.04
- **Net Profit: \$2,082.96**

### Conference Chair

- Dustin Angell

### Conference Committee

- Heather Skaza Acosta
- Andrea Andersen
- Lisa Andrews
- Vicki Crisp
- Dolly Cummings
- Katie Ferron
- Cheryl Latif
- Lilian Norris

### LEEF Board 2018-2019

- President - Andrea Leavitt Andersen
- President Elect - Sarah Davis
- Past President - Dustin Angell
- Secretary - Robin Reccasina
- Treasurer - Vicki Crisp
- Big Bend/Panhandle - Stephanie Cornais
- Crown - Christie Harrod
- North - Leslie Straub
- West Central - Lilian Norris
- East Central - Jamie Craighead
- Southeast - Megan Harris
- Southwest - Jennifer Macbeth
- South - Dawn Miller-Walker

**APPENDIX I: LEEF SAVE THE DATE GRAPHIC**



**APPENDIX II: SAVE THE DATE FLYER FOR EE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE**

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
FIFTH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

  
CONSERVANCY  
of Southwest Florida  
OUR WATER, LAND, WILDLIFE, FUTURE.

  
FLORIDA  
GULF COAST  
UNIVERSITY

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

**Unique Faces of  
Environmental Education**

**Friday, October 5, 2018**  
**9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Hosted by the  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
1495 Smith Preserve Way, Naples, Florida 34102  
(Just south of Naples Zoo off Goodlette-Frank Rd.)

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:**  
Let's learn from each other! Share your unique program, idea, activity, or  
operating strategy in a Concurrent Session!

**LEEF Mini Conference to follow  
EE Alliance on Saturday, Oct. 6.  
Stay tuned. More information to follow.**

 **leef**

**APPENDIX III: KEYNOTE SPEAKER GRAPHIC FOR LEEF WEBSITE**



## APPENDIX IV: PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Presenter Name	Short Bio (who are you?)
<p>Brian Ogle, Beacon College</p>	<p>Dr. Brian Ogle is an assistant professor of anthrozoology and the department chair for humanities and general education. He holds a doctorate in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction. His research activities focus on instructional issues related to higher education science teaching as well as public perception of zoo animals. He serves on the National Science Teachers Association's committee on college science teaching, the Board of Directors for the Humane Education Coalition and the education advisor for the felid and cervid taxon advisory groups of the Association of Zoos &amp; Aquariums.</p>
<p>Dr John Pipoly, Science Liaison, Program Coordinator STEAM/Environmental Ed, Broward County Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>From Detroit, BS Mich State, M.Phil &amp; Ph.D. CUNY/NY Bot Garden, Post Doc Smithsonian; Curator at Broward Co MO Bot Gard, Head Research Bot Res Inst Texas, Dir Center for Plant Conservation Fairchild Trop Gard, 10 years Broward Extension as Parks Staff train Master Gardeners &amp; Naturalists, now outreach for Parks; Eng, Sp, Port</p>
<p>Dolly Cummings, Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center</p>	<p>Director of this small 501c3 non-profit nature center in Ruskin, Hillsborough, FL and Biological Scientist for Dr. Hutton's Tomato Breeders Lab at UF/IFAS- GCREC in Balm.</p>
<p>Dustin Angell, Archbold Biological Station</p>	<p>Dustin Angell is an environmental educator and conservation photographer living and working in the headwaters of Florida's Everglades. As the Education Coordinator at Archbold Biological Station in Venus, FL, he builds community relationships and interprets ecological research for audience of all ages. Dustin holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Alfred University. As an artist, he uses photography to document the science and conservation challenges of the region and the people trying to solve them. His photo essay on Florida Grasshopper Sparrows was published in the Spring 2017 issue of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Living Bird Magazine. Dustin is the Past President of the League of Environmental Educators in Florida and the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Educator Award from the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society.</p>
<p>Megan Harris, Loxahatchee River District's River Center</p>	<p>I am the Environmental Education Coordinator at the River Center in Jupiter, Florida as well as the Southeast Regional Director for LEEF. I earned my Bachelor's in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of South Florida and currently earning my Master's of Environmental Education from Florida Atlantic University. As an educator I enjoy focusing on water resources and conservation, getting students of all ages out on the water, and creating engaging experiences that allows them to have those ah-ha moments in nature.</p>

Eileen Tramontana, Trout Lake Nature Center	Long-time environmental educator and current executive director at a 230-acre nature center in Eustis. Eileen has worked for local, regional and federal organizations until finally settling in the non-profit world.
Lilian Norris, OLLI at Eckerd College	Lilian Norris is a multi-disciplined environmental and science educator, experienced in communications, marketing, project management and program coordination. Her passions: science and art with nature in her heart. She is working on writing and illustrating kids books to inspire and empower them in STEM/STEAM and foster an appreciation for our amazing natural world.
Dawn Miller-Walker, Science Eye & Environmental Conservation Organization	I am the owner/operator of Science Eye an educational consulting and instruction company. I've been teaching hands-on, inquiry-based science topics in schools and in the field to any organized group for 19 years, although my company has been around since 1985. I attend and present at many various science and environmental conferences and workshops. Science is a verb, not a noun!
Sarah Davis, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County 4-H	Sarah Davis, MS is the 4-H Youth Development Faculty at University of Florida IFAS Extension of Sarasota County. As the 4-H Extension Agent, she coordinates 4-H youth and volunteer education and programs for Sarasota County. Prior to this she served as Instructor II, campus naturalist and coordinator of the University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future at Florida Gulf Coast University and also taught Environmental Science, Environmental Education and Interpretation courses. Her research interests include environmental education, the importance of connecting children with nature and natural and cultural resource interpretation. She is a certified interpretive guide and trainer and teaches UF Florida Master Naturalist classes. She serves on the board for the League of Environmental Educators of Florida and serves as one of the Florida representative to the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance.
Alan Rivero, Archbold Biological Station	Alan recently finished a summer internship with the Education Department at Archbold Biological Station. He is currently a student at Florida Gulf Coast University and a part time herpetology technician for Archbold Biological Station.



**Unique Faces  
of  
Environmental Education**

League of Environmental Educators in Florida

Fall 2018 Mini-Conference

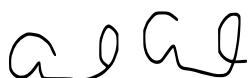
October 6, 2018

The Conservancy of SW Florida in Naples

# LEEF President's Welcome

On behalf of the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), I am honored to welcome you to this year's Fall 2018 LEEF Mini-Conference. This year's conference chair, Dustin Angell, along with the conference committee have done a great job of putting together a variety of field trips, presentations, and workshops that are sure to enrich and inspire. Thank you! I would also like to express our gratitude to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for hosting this event and to the Environmental Education Alliance of Southwest Florida for partnering with LEEF to organize our conferences in tandem. We hope participants will find new ideas and resources as well as opportunities to network with other EE professionals. Enjoy the conference and be sure to look for opportunities to get involved with LEEF!

Sincerely,



Andrea Andersen  
LEEF President



## Unique Collaboration

*LEEF is collaborating with the Environmental Education Alliance of Southwest Florida to hold back-to-back conferences in the same location and united under the same theme.*

*This collaboration is the result of LEEF's latest outreach project, the Florida Environmental Literacy Working Group or FELWG.*

### Agenda Quick Check

- 7:30 -8:30 – Registration  
Light Breakfast
- 8:30-10:30 – Field Trips  
Craft Workshop
- 10:30-10:45 – Opening Remarks
- 10:45-11:45 – Keynote:  
Dr. Mark Deyrup
- 11-45-12:45 – Lunch
- 12:45-1:15 – Regional  
Meetings
- 1:15-2:00 – Session 1
- 2:00-2:45 – Session 2
- 2:45-3:00 – Snack Break
- 3:00-3:45 – Session 3
- 3:45-4:15 – LEEF Membership  
Meeting
- 4:15-4:30 – **Closing Remarks**



## Field Trips & Craft Workshop

8:30-10:30

### field trip

#### **Field Trip #1: Tour of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida**

Field Trip Leader: Heather Skaza Acosta, Director of Environmental Education, Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Join us for an exciting tour of the Dalton Discovery Center followed by an electric boat ride tour of the Gordon River. The Dalton Discovery Center features live animals and exhibits. You'll learn about the wondrous ecosystems of Southwest Florida - the amazing uplands, unique Everglades, majestic mangroves, beautiful beaches and more. We will take a leisurely, informative and fun 45-minute cruise along the beautiful Gordon River here in Naples. <https://www.conservancy.org/> Limit 20 people.

### field trip

#### **Field Trip #2: Tour of the Naples Zoo**

Field Trip Leader: Rachel Forbes, Educational Programs Manager, Naples Zoo.

Enjoy a morning exploring the Naples Zoo! The tour will include a primate boat ride, a tour of the zoo and its education classroom and, if we are lucky, a behind-the-scenes look at a panther! At the dock on the shore of Lake Victoria at the zoo, a primate expedition cruise guide will welcome you aboard one of the catamarans for a fifteen to twenty minute cruise through islands of primates living in natural habitats. As the catamarans float next to the islands, your guide will narrate the interesting details about these fascinating animals. During the tour, you'll see the three major types of primates: monkeys, lemurs, and apes. <http://www.napleszoo.org/> Limit 30 people

### field trip

#### **Field Trip #3: Tour of the Gordon River Greenway**

Field Trip Leader: Molly DuVall, Environmental Specialist with the Collier County, Conservation Collier Program

The Gordon River Greenway offers a scenic, paved nature trail with water access along the Gordon River, in the heart of Naples. Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust has just completed a large native planting restoration project after exotics removal. The Gordon river flows along a habitat of pine flatwoods, scrub and mangrove fringe. Native plants found in this nature preserve include slash pine, cabbage palm, gumbo limbo, live oak, wild coffee, saw palmetto, myrsine, braken fern, white indigo berry, buttonwood, red mangrove, white mangrove and liatris ("blazing star.") <http://www.gordonrivergreenway.org> Limit 25 people.

# Crafts

## **Heritage Craft Workshop: Pine Needle Baskets**

Pine Needle Basket Making Workshop Instructor: Emily Angell, Archbold Biological Station

Learn the basics of making a pine needle basket. The pine needles we will be using for this class come from the longleaf pine forest sites where Emily monitors Red-cockaded Woodpeckers! Limit 15 people.

**\*\*Please note:** *This workshop costs an additional \$10 per person for supplies (RSVP and pay during online registration. If there are extra spaces, participants can sign up on arrival.)\*\**

# Keynote Speaker

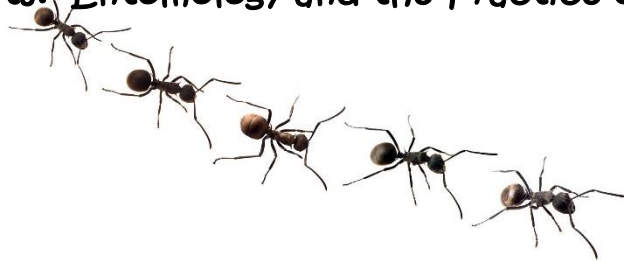
## **Dr. Mark Deyrup**

Senior Research Biologist Emeritus, Archbold Biological Station  
Director of Invertebrate Ecology Research Program, 1982-2018

Mark Deyrup grew up in the concrete landscape of New York /city, and has been attempting to compensate for childhood insect deprivation ever since. He earned an undergraduate degree in entomology at Cornell University, then spent two years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador (one of the hot-spots of insect diversity), obtained a PhD in forest entomology at the University of Washington, and taught entomology at Purdue University. For the last 36 years he has had the ideal bug person's job: insect ecologist at the Archbold Biological Station, and independent natural history institution in Venus, Florida.

Adapted from *Florida's Fabulous Insects*

**Today's Topic – Ants: Entomology and the Practice of Science**



# SESSION 1

## 1:15pm-2:00pm

**Title: Animal Ambassadors: Techniques and Strategies for Enhancing Live Animal Programming**

**Presenter:** Dr. Brian Ogle, Beacon College

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** This interactive workshop will introduce the techniques and philosophies of incorporating live animals into programming. All recommendations will follow recommendations established in contemporary research on the topic. No live animals will be used in the session; however, videos, data sets, and models will be used. Techniques for live animal incorporation will be demonstrated through replica (plastic) animals and mock enclosures. Participants will be provided with handouts and resources focusing on curriculum design, general guidelines for animal use, and suggested animal-centered activities to meet prescribed standards.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Eaton Conservation Hall

**Title: Backyard Fishing for Conservation & Standards**

**Presenter:** Dawn Miller-Walker, Science Eye & Environmental Conservation Organization

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** Come out and try your hand at casting for backyard fish. Keep? Release? No worries, it's all catch and release here! Learn how to determine what could be kept and how to add in a fun way to teach standards, review concepts, include math, vocabulary words and more.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Water Classroom and outdoors

**Presentation Title: Wowzers! Magnifying Magnificent Wetland Wonders!**

**Presenter:** Lilian Norris, Eckerd College

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** If you are not yet squealing in delight with seeing the amazing protozoan party going on beneath the microscope lens, then this is the session for you! Knowing how to bypass common problems are the first steps in making aquatic microscope studies easy breezy. If you or your audience aren't totally excited when you look through your microscope at your aquatic wetland samples that you have collected, then you need to learn some new approaches that will make a huge difference in your results. Learn how to get great samples that are teaming with life and how to deal with technical issues. Let me share my passion, tech and tips for success with the microscope!

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Land Classroom

**Title: Children's NEP Surveys at Ecology Summer Camp**

**Presenter:** Alan Rivero, Archbold Biological Station

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** Alan will present an overview of Archbold Biological Station's ecology day camps and then detail a camp assessment project that used a children's version of the New Ecological Paradigm. Alan will discuss the results and implications for future camp planning.

**Category:** Research and Evaluation (complete or ongoing)

**Location:** Land Classroom

## SESSION 2: 2:00pm-2:45pm

**Title: Florida Scrub-Jays: Video and Classroom Activity**

**Presenter:** Dustin Angell, Archbold Biological Station

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** Participants will watch a video and do a classroom activity from Archbold Biological Station's "Science in the Scrub" curriculum. Participants will learn about the Florida scrub habitat, cooperative breeding in jays, and prescribed fires as land management. Aligned with current FL science standards.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Eaton Conservation Hall

**Title: Pooh's Hundred Acre Woods**

**Presenter:** Eileen Tramontana, Trout Lake Nature Center

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** Many of us grew up reading Winnie the Pooh stories or watching Disney's Pooh films. Pooh gave many children their first contact with the idea of nature play and inspired children to explore or have adventures. Eileen will present a program on how Pooh has shaped and continues to shape our early impressions of nature.

**Category:** Special Topic

**Location:** Water Classroom

**Title: Exploring Citizen Science options in EE**

**Presenter:** Dolly Cummings, Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** Get your students into real-world research by contributing to one (or 2 or 3?) citizen science programs. Options abound!

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Land Classroom

**Title: Providing Successful Science Education for Homeschool Students**

**Presenter:** Megan Harris, Loxahatchee River District's River Center

**Length:** 20 minutes (includes 5 minutes of questions)

**Description:** Providing homeschool programs and workshops in an informal setting can sometimes be a challenging and difficult endeavor. This presentation will focus on how to combat and overcome some of the frustrations that science education providers run into. The River Center has developed and maintained successful field trips and workshops for homeschooling families. We will discuss the right formula for time frames, age levels, topics, activities, and administrative processes to create engaging and positive homeschool programs.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Land Classroom

**Title: The STEAM/Environmental Ed Program at Broward County Parks**

**Presenter:** Dr John Pipoly, Broward County Parks and Recreation

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** Learn about Broward County STEAM programs, including: parks in STEAM Schools/STEAM School Trips in Parks, e-Naturalists, e-learning, Educational Farms, Nature Tots, Junior Naturalists, nighttime naturalist led hikes, and other STEM programs.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Wild Classroom

**Title: Social Media -- Where Do I Begin?**

**Presenter:** Lilian Norris, Eckerd College

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** Learn social media strategies for the work place for increased engagement, which ones to choose, social media etiquette, how to get the most bang for your time, and tips to make your life easier!

**Category:** Behind the Scenes (funding, volunteer management, etc.)

**Location:** Wild Classroom

**SESSION 3:  
3pm-3:45pm**

**Title: iNaturalist Training**

**Presenter:** Dustin Angell, Archbold Biological Station

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** iNaturalist is a free citizen science app that works great with children and adults. It is part field guide, part science project, and part social media. Participants will get an overview of the program, learn ways to adapt it for groups, and practice using it outdoors. Some tablets will be available for use, but participants are encouraged to download the app on their mobile devices beforehand.

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Eaton Conservation Hall

**Title: Fish Mimicry**

**Presenter:** Dawn Miller-Walker, Science Eye & Environmental Conservation Organization

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Description:** In groups, participants will be given a mystery box. Their job is to mimic the fish in their box to see if the other participants can guess which fish and which habitat they are representing. Participants will also see how easy it is to make these table top habitats and "fish".

**Category:** Best Practices (activities, curricula, and success stories)

**Location:** Water Classroom

**Title: Connecting College Students to the Local Environment through Butterflies**

**Presenter:** Dr. Brian Ogle, Beacon College

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** Beacon College was a recipient of a LEEF mini grant. Funds were used to install outdoor interpretative graphics, bug houses, and habitat fixtures to support local pollinators. An evaluation was conducted to examine student use of the upgraded habitat. Methodology followed those similar visitor interactions within exhibit spaces. Results are currently being finalized.

**Category:** Research and Evaluation (complete or ongoing)

**Location:** Land Classroom

**Title: Partner with 4-H and Your Local Extension Office**

**Presenter:** Sarah Davis, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County 4-H

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Description:** UF/IFAS Extension is in 67 counties across the state. There are many programs that relate to environmental education and lots of opportunities to collaborate. 4-H works with youth, emphasizes STEM, citizenship and leadership skills in youth as they work on different projects related to their passions and interests. Come find out about ways to partner with your local 4-H agent and extension office.

**Category:** Professional Groups (tell us about your EE related professional group)

**Location:** Land Classroom

**LEEF Board 2018-2019**

President Andrea Leavitt Andersen  
President Elect Sarah Davis  
Past President Dustin Angell  
Secretary Robin Reccasina  
Treasurer Vicki Crisp  
Big Bend/Panhandle Stephanie Cornais  
Crown Christie Harrod  
North Leslie Straub  
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South Dawn Miller-Walker

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Dolly Cummings

Katie Ferron

Cheryl Latif

*Thank You* Sponsors and Partners!

Archbold Biological Station

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Environmental Education Alliance of Southwest Florida

Florida Gulf Coast University

Jason's Deli

# *Notes*

### Schedule at a Glance

Time	Eaton Conservation Hall	Water Classroom	Land Classroom	Wild Classroom
7:30 -8:30	Registration & Light Breakfast			
8:30-10:30	Field Trips Craft Workshop			
10:30-10:45	Opening Remarks			
10:45-11:45	Keynote: Dr. Mark Deyrup			
11-45-12:45	Lunch			
12:45-1:15	Regional Meetings			
1:15-2:00	Animal Ambassadors	Backyard Fishing	Wowzers!	
			Children's NEP Surveys	
2:00-2:45	Florida Scrub-Jays	Pooh's Hundred Acre Woods	Citizen Science	STEAM
			Success for Home Schoolers	Social Media
2:45-3:00	Snack Break			
3:00-3:45	iNaturalist	Fish Mimicry	Connecting College Students	
			Partner with 4-H	
3:45-4:15	LEEF Membership Meeting			
4:15-4:30	Closing Remarks			

Location Note: The classrooms are all in the Ferguson Learning Lab.