



Connecting Florida: Past, Present and Future

Schedule at a glance

Friday April 1, 2022

8:30AM-12 PM Project Learning Tree Training (Grafton Center)
9 AM-12 PM Blackwater Creek/Lake Norris Paddle Trip
12 PM Lunch & Silent Auction Opens (Smith Center)
1-2:00PM Nature Videography 101 Sharathon: Session A (Grafton Center)
2-3:00PM Nature Videography 101 Sharathon: Session B (Grafton Center)
1-4:30 PM Macro-invertebrate and Fish Netting
2-3:30 PM Dora Canal Scenic Boat Cruise
3:30-4:30 PM *Land Remembered* book discussion (Grafton Center)
5:30 PM Cash Bar Opens (Smith Center)
6:00 PM Dinner (Smith Center)
6:30 PM Keynote Speaker : A Land Remembered Re-enacted by John Bowles
7:45 PM Fireside Storytelling with John Bowles (Smith Center Deck)

Saturday April 2, 2022

7 AM Early Morning Birding
8 AM Breakfast (Smith Center)
8 AM Registration & Silent Auction Opens (Smith Center)
9-12 PM Concurrent Sessions (Grafton Center)
9-12 PM Project Wet: Climate, Water, Resilience (Grafton Center)
9:45 AM Morning Break (Grafton Center)
12 PM Lunch (Smith Center)
1-3 PM Concurrent Sessions Continue (Grafton Center)
3 PM Afternoon Social & Member Meeting (Smith Center)
4 PM Final Concurrent Sessions (Grafton Center)
5:15 PM Silent Auction Ends and Cash Bar Opens (Smith Center)
6:00 PM Dinner, Keynote Speaker, and Awards (Smith Center)
7:45 PM Live Auction Begins (Smith Center)

Sunday April 3, 2022

7 AM Memorial Tree Planting (location TBA)
8 AM Breakfast (Smith Center)
8:30-12 PM "Don't Waste It!" Training (Grafton Center)
8:30-12 PM Early Childhood Workshop (Grafton Center)

APRIL 1-3, 2022
8 AM FRI TILL 11:30 AM SUN

Location: Florida Elks Youth Camp

24175 SE Hwy 450 Umatilla, FL 32784

REGISTRATION

Member Standard Full Conference Attendance – \$250.00 Full conference attendance Friday to Sunday. Includes Friday lunch and dinner, all Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.

Member Standard Saturday Only Conference Attendance – \$150.00 One Day Registration for Saturday only. Includes all Saturday meals.

Non-member Full Conference Attendance – \$300.00 Full conference attendance, non-member. Includes Friday lunch, dinner, all Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.

Non-member Saturday Only Conference Attendance – \$200.00 Day Registration for Saturday. All Saturday meals included.

Member STUDENT Full Conference Attendance – \$130.00 Full conference attendance. Includes Friday lunch and dinner, all Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.

Non-member STUDENT (college) Full Conference Attendance – \$145. Includes Friday lunch and dinner, All Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.

Register at:

<https://www.leef-florida.org/event-4603623/>
Registration

Friday April 1, 2022

Field Trips

9 AM–12 PM Blackwater Creek/Lake Norris Paddle Trip. Space is very limited. Pre registration and additional fee is required. Vessels will be provided. Meet in the Lake Norris Road parking area of the Lake Norris Conservation Area. **\$15**

1PM–4:30 PM Macroinvertebrate and Freshwater Fish Collection & ID. Additional fee required. Learn to dip net to collect macroinvertebrates. These aquatic insects are used as water quality indicators and their presence will tell you about the health of the waters. You will sample various fish through electroshocking and other scientific methods to learn about Florida's freshwater fish species. This is a hands-on workshop where you will get personal experience. Meet at registration area. **\$15**

2PM–3:30 PM Lake Dora and Dora Canal Scenic Boat Cruise. Space is very limited. Pre-registration and additional fee is required. Enjoy a narrated tour of by local guides. Meet at the Premier Boat Tour Boat Dock, 100 Alexander St, Mount Dora. **\$15**

Workshops

8:30 AM– 12 PM Project Learning Tree Training. Registration and additional fee is required. **Grafton Center Lakeview Patio B**

PLT's new flagship curriculum **Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide** includes 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about their environment. Activities include detailed step-by-step instructions, academic correlations, time and material requirements, and corresponding student worksheets with green career connections. This supplementary curriculum replaces the previous PLT K-8 Guide; topics include trees and forests, wildlife, water, air, energy, waste, climate change, invasive species, community planning, and more and is designed to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Participants will receive this new guide. **\$20**



1-2:00 PM & 2-3:00 PM Nature Videography Share-a-thon Grafton Center Lakeview Patio A Includes two discussion sessions facilitated by Katherine Caldwell (Archbold Biological Station) to share the tools and tricks needed to make educational nature videos using cell phones. All experience levels are welcome. Please bring a cell phone and any other equipment you'd like to practice with. Session A: We will discuss cell phone videography equipment, tips for recording, editing advice, and more. Session B: Participants can take turns trying out cell phone videography equipment. The facilitator is bringing: cell phone macro lenses, a tripod, a cell phone gimbal, a selfie-stick, and two microphone systems.

3:30-4:30 PM Land Remembered Book Discussion Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C. Read—or read again—*A Land Remembered*. *This should be a fun read for everyone as it appeals to a wide range of audiences including youth and adults, men and women, early Florida history buffs and historical fiction aficionados, adventure seekers and tracers of family ancestry—almost everyone who likes to read!*

5:30 PM Cash Bar (Smith Center Ballroom)

6:00 PM Dinner & Keynote Speaker: **A Land Remembered** Re-enacted by John Bowles

7:30 PM Fireside Storytelling with John Bowles (Smith Center Deck)
Friday evening social event with our Keynote storyteller, John Bowles. Bring your own favorite stories and songs to share while enjoying camaraderie around the fire circle!

LODGING

DELUXE DOUBLE HOTEL ROOM (2 DOUBLE BEDS) - \$130

CAMPER GROUP CABIN - PRICED \$50.00 PER NIGHT PER PERSON TO SHARE 5 PERSON CABIN

RV SITE - \$40.00 PER NIGHT (INCLUDES WATER AND ELECTRIC HOOKUP)

REGISTRATION

Location: Smith Center

**Open: 8 am—12 pm
1 pm—9 pm**

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Ocean Conservancy®



CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Saturday April 2, 2022

7 AM Early Morning Birding (Meet at Registration, Smith Center)

8 AM Breakfast and Silent Auction Begins (Smith Center)

8 AM Registration Check in Opens (Smith Center)

Half Day Workshop

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C

9-12 PM Project WET's *Climate, Water, and Resilience*

This workshop helps educators teach secondary school students 7-12th grades about climate and climate change using interactive, objective, science-based activities that students will enjoy. Participants will receive the guide, lesson plans, and additional resources to use with activities. Additional Fee required \$20.



Concurrent Sessions

Speed Rounds Grafton Center Lakeview Patio B

(Each speaker has 15 min to present on topic with Q & A after)

9 AM

- **Using Immersive 360 Imagery and Science Portraits for K-12 Education –Dustin Angell with Archbold Biological Station**

My Florida Explorers is an immersive online habitat tour combining portraits of scientists, video clips, text, and interactive 360 habitat scenes. Participants will also receive a PDF of the 4th grade teacher guide.

- **The New Radio – Podcasting in Environmental Education-Lara Milligan & Shannon Carnevale with University of Florida**

Presenters will share the process involved in starting a podcast and showcase results of newly launched "Naturally Florida" podcast created by presenters. This presentation will highlight software platforms used for the development, editing, promotion and analysis of the podcast in addition to featuring lessons learned in the world of podcasting.

- **Digitized Gardening-Monika Moorman with Central Park Elementary**

This presentation will briefly explore strategies and tools that make gardening even more engaging, interactive, and relevant. Participants will walk away with nonconventional strategies that engage students of ALL abilities in exciting educational experiences including computer science integration (micro:bits), and digital journaling (Seesaw).

10 AM

- **Dances with Voles: Let's Study Ways to Connect People with Wildlife Through Movement-Bryan Nichols with Florida Atlantic University**

In this brief introduction you'll learn how you can work with experts on wildlife education, interspecies compassion, and dance to develop new programs for your participants. Develop, implement, and study how to build challenging but potentially meaningful connections between lesser known wildlife and people of all ages.

- **Integrating Civics and Environmental Advocacy Into Your Curriculum - Case Study of the Florida Scrub Jay for State Bird Campaign-Kris Cole with Seminole High School**

Learn the educational benefits of incorporating current events, integrated curriculum, and project based learning into classes. Motivate students to incorporate their specific skills into a class curriculum. Kris explains how teachers can use this or other current events to make learning more relevant and meaningful.

- **The Impact of Content and Pedagogical Experience on Knowledge, Self- efficacy, and Actual Efficacy of Informal Educators –Tess Catlan with Florida Gulf Coast University**

Educators are evaluated on content knowledge, self-efficacy, and actual efficacy of marine science instruction. This is measured using surveys, interviews, and observation of the educators by utilizing the Science Teaching Efficacy Belief Instrument, the International Ocean Literacy Survey, and the Teaching Dimensions Observation Protocol. The results of this research will be shared..

11 AM

- **Bird ID and Citizen Science with eBird –Kathy Rigling with Orange Audubon Society**

Participants will get experience in the use of simple tools to help them and their students to identify birds of their campus and how to submit their finding to eBird.

- **Water, Water, Everywhere Watershed Education Anywhere –Taylor Bates with Florida Gulf Coast University**

Participants will learn simple ways to teach about water from simple models to curriculum planning. Water cycle, energy, and connecting the environment to the classroom in meaningful ways. engaging them in the environment and scientific investigations.

AUCTION ITEMS

What would a LEEF conference be without the opportunity to bring home treasures from the silent and live auction, benefitting environmental education in Florida! Help fund our mission by donating new nature-themed items such as jewelry, books, shirts, EE toys and gift items. Larger ticket items, like memberships, theme park tickets, and AirBnB stays will be reserved for the live auction. If you are unable to attend, contact Auction Chair Debbie Fritz-Quincy at hsnature@aol.com to arrange pickup and delivery.

The Silent Auction runs from 12pm Friday to 5:15pm Saturday in the Smith Center.

The Live Auction Begins at 7:45pm Saturday.

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EXHIBIT ITEMS/ SWAP ITEMS

Bring items, brochures, business cards and more to share from you agency or school. We will have tables available for you to display and exhibit your information and pick up new information and or goodies from other agencies or schools.

*GENTLY USED CURRICULUM AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ACCEPTED FOR SWAP.

Saturday April 2, 2022 (Continued)

- **Engaging Underserved Youth Through STEM and EE 4-H Club**—Sarah Davis with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County 4-H

This presentation will highlight the program and audience 4-H worked with striving to make longer term impact in our community and reaching out to an underserved audience. Each experience was theme-based and focused on a STEM or EE activity. The STEM special interest 4-H club is a partnership with the local housing authority. Black middle school youth living in housing engaged in monthly lessons.

Long Sessions (40 min each with Q & A)

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio A

9 AM Green Schools Challenge: Whole-System Approach to Integrating Environmental Education – Barbara Martinez-Guerrero with Dream in Green

The Green Schools Challenge (GSC) is an academic-year long environmental education (EE) program that engages pre K-12 students and teachers in an environmental sustainability curriculum that includes monthly hands-on environmental lessons and stewardship activities around core, locally relevant environmental concepts serving over 110 South Florida schools annually. Our curriculum focuses on the following core sustainability concepts: energy efficiency, waste reduction & recycling, water quality & conservation, alternative transportation, food security, and green buildings & careers. This session will engage the audience in innovative thinking about holistic approaches by providing proven practices to serve as a model on how to use Green Schools as a pathway to service learning, student leadership, civic engagement, outdoor learning, and other effective education practices.

10 AM Increasing Diversity to Strengthen Your Programs—Laura Valencia with University of Florida Extension, Osceola County 4-H

As the diversity of your clientele continues to grow, it is essential for your staff, volunteers, and stakeholders to consider new ways of supporting these populations. In this interactive workshop, we will examine cultural competence practices toward enhanced equity across race, culture, ethnicity, class, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and experiences of our learners; to assist your staff in designing, developing, and implementing programs. We will examine strategies to build cultural engagement intentionally, commitment to cross-cultural teaching and learning, and celebrate and recognize diversity among all.

11 AM Environmental Center Classroom Connections to Field Experiences -Jarin Trombley with School District of Osceola County Environmental Center

The Watershed Teacher Leadership Academy (WeTLand) creates a community of practice connecting university researchers and K-12 teachers resulting in increased inquiry-based watershed science in Lee County Schoolyards and increased student achievement in science. University faculty invite teachers to participate in authentic research within their laboratories and fieldwork and teachers then translate their research experiences and new scientific knowledge gained through the experiences into their classroom activities and curricula. Here we share results from the 3-year applied project, including lessons learned from the partnership and best practices for increasing teacher efficacy for outdoor learning.

Outside Sessions

Grafton Center Outside Classroom Lakeside (follow directional signs)

9 AM Protecting Pollinators -Debbie Fritz-Quincy & Tracy Boothby with Hobe Sound Nature Center

Pollinators need your help! Bring the world of bees, butterflies, bats, hummingbirds and other pollinators to your visitors and students through fun and educational materials, activities, games and crafts.

10 AM Nature Journaling -Autumn Reich with City of Safety Harbor-Leisure Services Department

Want your students to be more observant, increase vocabulary and develop a greater sense of appreciation for the natural world? Nature Journaling is not about pretty pictures, but about numbers, words and pictures. In this hands on session you will be introduced to the benefits of Nature Journaling; acquire the basic skills to teach Nature Journaling and given resources to take back to your classroom.

11 AM Exploring Florida with STEAM -Kelly Quinn & Blake Wheeler with Canvas of the Wild

In this presentation, Canvas of the Wild will share the journey from hosting art classes at wildlife centers to publishing activity books, creating interactive murals, hosting a knowledge base of habitats and species, and an open library of art lessons. After this quick intro, Kelly Quinn will teach a 30 minute art lesson for all who want to participate.

12 PM Lunch (Smith Center)

Friday Keynote, Friday & Saturday Social Sponsor



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Saturday Keynote, Awards & Auction Sponsor



Field Trip Sponsors



Lake County
WATER AUTHORITY



Saturday April 2, 2022 (Continued)

Speed Rounds

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio B

1PM

- **Museums, Online Learning, and COVID-19** –Dr. Megan Ennes with University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History
In this talk I'll discuss how museums transitioned their programs online as a response to COVID-19. I'll share the trends we saw a year after closures. We'll use Jamboard to share resources, success es, and challenges from session participants and discuss the future of online learning in museums and other informal learning spaces.
- **Creating a Community of Practice of Nonformal Educators and K-12 students for Climate Change Resilience in Southwest Florida** –Dr. Jennifer Jones & Dr. Heather Skaza Acosta with Florida Gulf Coast University
The Watershed Education for Resilience in Southwest Florida (WATERS) project creates a community of practice around modeling and field exploration of climate impacts in Southwest Florida's watershed by connecting nonformal educators with K-12 students. Educators received asynchronous training to prepare them to support programs focused on extreme weather, sea level rise, wildlife impacts, and student-generated action plans. Here we share preliminary results, including best practices for training after-school educators on local STEM content and lessons learned on creating mentorships across grade levels.
- **Building and Fostering Resilience into Environmental Education Programming** – Kenneth Rainer with University of Florida
This presentation will highlight the piloted tool designed to assist environmental educators develop, deliver, and evaluate programs that build and foster multiple types of resilience. This tool has incorporated resilience-based recommendations, principles, and frameworks synthesized from multiple disciplines, including engineering, psychology, ecology, and education.

2PM

- **Connecting People and Nature: Citizen Science in Nature Centers** –Stephanie Somerville with University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
The purpose of my research was to explore the successes and challenges that nature centers experienced in developing place-based citizen science programs and to discover the motivations of the citizen scientists who participate in them.
- **Writing a Place-Based Children's Book** –Jake Fitzroy with FWC- FYCCN
This presentation would go over the process of creating a children's book based on a specific location. I'm the co-author of A Home for Ozzie, a 2015 book that had the story based on areas along the nature trails at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.
- **Connections of Climate Change to our Ocean**– Daniel Padilla-Ochoa with Ocean Conservancy
Introduce the connections of climate change to our ocean's health. Will introduce quick facts about the ocean, its contributions to our climate, the role of blue carbon, and the threats to the marine environment from climate change.

Long Sessions (40 min each with Q & A)

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio A

1 PM Everglades 101: The Science Behind Everglades Restoration –Kim Gooch with The Everglades Foundation

Go with the flow and learn more about the Everglades watershed! This session will overview an interdisciplinary Everglades curriculum lesson focused on the ecological changes to the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades watershed and the associated environmental, economic, and health impacts. Learn how to introduce students to the importance and necessity of Everglades restoration and how this lesson can be scaffolded and adapted for all grade levels.

2 PM Everglades Restoration Fights Climate Change –Kim Gooch with The Everglades Foundation

How do we make progress on climate change? Go with the flow to learn how it starts in America's Everglades. Everglades restoration will make Florida more resilient to the harmful impacts of sea level rise and climate change. In this session, participants will learn about protecting ecosystem services, how Everglades restoration will mitigate the effects of climate change, and how the next generation of Everglades stewards can take action.

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C

1 PM Empowering Youth Development through Community Action Projects for the Environment—Sarah Davis & Beth Kerr with UF/IFAS Extension 4-H

CAPE (Community Action Projects for the Environment) is a new program currently being developed with 4-H clubs and councils in Florida. The program guides youth in identifying and conducting a project that makes a long-term difference to the local environment by asking a decision maker to create change. Groups in this pilot phase are working with microplastics, supporting state parks, and addressing climate change.

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Saturday April 2, 2022 (Continued)

Long Sessions (40 min each with Q & A)

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C

2 PM Supporting Students' Interest in Civics and the Environment Through an Undergraduate Fellowship—Dr. Megan Ennes, Dr. Michelle LeFebvre & Mariela Pajeuelo with University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History

The Thompson Earth Systems Institute in the Florida Museum of Natural History has recently begun a new program to support students' interest in civic engagement for the environment. Our pilot program, the TESI Environmental Leaders Fellowship, brings together students from diverse majors and backgrounds and provides them with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and network to advocate for the planet as they take on leadership roles in their respective careers. This session will talk about the program, initial outcomes, and considerations for beginning a similar program at your institution.

Outside Sessions

Grafton Center Outside Classroom Lakeside (follow directional signs)

1 PM A New Generation of Education—Melissa Landis with Lake Worth Waterkeeper/Elevate Palm Beach

This presentation will be an overview of systemic thinking that created our current educational trends while promoting the paradigm change needed to create long-lasting educational change.

2 PM Endangered Ecosystems—Dawn Miller-Walker with Science Eye & Environmental Conservation Organization

An opportunity for students to observe, classify and analyze endangered ecosystems like the wetlands, beaches, forests and deserts – all which are found here in the US! Students become "Wildlife Managers" who search for food chains within complex food webs, test natural waters for sources of pollution and contamination, reconstruct a fragmented ecosystem and make decisions which may affect life on earth.

3 PM Afternoon Social & Member Meeting (Smith Center Ballroom)

Please join us for an update on LEEF's progress, introduction of new board members and a gourmet popcorn bar! All attendees are welcome.

Speed Rounds

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio B

4 PM

- **Partnering University Scientists and Classroom Teachers to Improve Outdoor Education in Florida Schoolyards**— Dr. Molly Nation & Dr. Jen Jones with Florida Gulf Coast University

The Watershed Teacher Leadership Academy (WeTLand) creates a community of practice connecting university researchers and K-12 teachers resulting in increased inquiry-based watershed science in Lee County Schoolyards and increased student achievement in science. University faculty invite teachers to participate in authentic research within their laboratories and fieldwork and teachers then translate their research experiences and new scientific knowledge gained through the experiences into their classroom activities and curricula. Here we share results from the 3-year applied project, including lessons learned from the partnership and best practices for increasing teacher efficacy for outdoor learning.

- **Introducing the Florida Youth Naturalist Program**—Dr. Shelly Johnson with University of Florida, IFAS Extension

The Florida Youth Naturalist Program (FYNP) is a new program developed by UF/IFAS Extension. The 130-page Instructor Field Guide is now available to lead instructors through 24 hours of teaching with 10 interactive lessons. This presentation will provide an overview of the new curriculum, explain how to become involved as an endorsed FYNP Instructor, and answer any questions about the program.

- **Forest Ecology Curriculum, Resources and Youth Engagement**—Beth Kerr with UF/IFAS Extension

Engage youth in exploring the forest ecosystems of Florida with curriculum and website resources from the University of Florida designed for youth between the ages of 8 and 18 years. Curriculum is adaptable for independent study, day camps, workshops, classroom activities, and for home education. 4-H agent Beth Kerr shares tips to expand youth interest in outdoor exploration of ecosystems through both forest and industry-related field trips, shared learning experiences, and career exploration.

President's Message

Welcome to the LEEF 2022 Annual Conference. Today we unite face-to-face for the first time in two years. What a wonderful time to reconnect with LEEFers and new friends, collaborate, learn, discover, and advance environmental literacy together. I want to thank all our sponsors and Florida Elks Youth Camp for helping to make this event a success. We have an incredible line up of workshops, field trips, and presentations. Whether its 360 imagery, digitized gardens, protecting pollinators, or increasing diversity to strengthen your programs, we know you will enjoy this year's conference.

We are excited about the future LEEF. Our Board of Directors remains steadfast in our commitment to work together on one mission, to advance environmental literacy and promote stewardship throughout our state and your respective programs and organizations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and conference committee we welcome you!

Jennifer Diaz, LEEF President



Long Sessions (40 min each with Q & A)

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio A

4 PM Green Actioneers - "Drawdown for Families"-Dave Finnigan with Green Actioneers

Every family needs to learn what they can do to "go green," reducing their energy and water use, saving money and creating a clean and green planet for future generations. Our program, Green Actioneers, does just that, with our Green Actioneers Family Action Guide, which outlines over 100 activities families can undertake in English and Spanish. It tells a story about four diverse families taking steps to be sustainable and it includes a coloring book feature for the little kids, relevant word games and puzzles for older kids, and over 120 quotes on the environment by "famous" people. It can be presented in your school by any "green-hearted" adult.

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C

4 PM The Florida Manatee, Engaging Students to Become the Teachers - Maryann Krisovitch with the Florida Lake Management Society & Marc Crail with the Lake County Water Authority

Florida's manatee population has dropped and risen over the past few decades. We are seeing changes in their behavior and habits. The State of Florida has reached a new high of boat licenses. More boaters means more potentially deadly impacts to manatees. Join "Professor Priscilla" and "Ricky Raindrop" as they learn about the Florida manatee and ways to spread awareness of this gentle sea cow's plight. Take away ideas for hands-on activities and easy to recreate programs plus special programs created specifically for 3rd and 7th graders.

5:15 PM Silent Auction Ends

5:30 PM Cash Bar Opens (Smith Center)

6:00 PM Dinner (Smith Center)

6:30 PM KEYNOTE

Jason Lauritsen is the Chief Conservation Officer of the Florida Wildlife Corridor where he implements the vision and mission of the organization to connect, protect and restore essential conservation habitat statewide.

Lauritsen's expertise includes environmental conservation and restoration, land management science, wetland protection, and Wood Stork recovery in the Western Everglades. He is an experienced speaker, educator, and writer who has authored numerous papers, publications, and presentations throughout his more than 20-year career in conservation and natural resources management.

7:45 PM Live Auction Begins (Smith Center)

Past President & Conference Chair's Message

It is with mixed emotions that I come into this LEEF conference weekend, for after nearly ten years in Florida – eight as a LEEF member and five serving on the executive board - I am flying north to make a new home in Calgary, Alberta. When I arrived in Florida, I had little experience of environmental education and, after a year of hearing "Have you joined LEEF yet?" I nervously attended my first LEEF conference in Ocala. At the risk of sounding melodramatic, it was this conference – the presentations, the campfire stories, the infectious enthusiasm for nature and teaching, and most of all the incredible long-time LEEFers who were like rockstars to me – that showed me, for the first time, examples of a purpose-driven life I could see myself in. Since then, I've been inspired by LEEF's growth: a new logo, two new websites, engagement with other state affiliates and the national stage, strategic action plans, adoption of professional accounting services and new technologies, an executive director position, a statewide landscape analysis of EE, a book club and speaker series, a successful virtual conference, weekly board meetings, and grants and grants and grants - and the list goes on. Thank you to all the LEEFers I've met along the way. And for any first-time LEEFers, may this conference be the start of something special for you, too!

Dustin Angell, Past President



Sunday April 3, 2022

7 AM Memorial Tree Planting (location TBA)

8 AM Breakfast (Smith Center)

8:30AM-12:00PM **Don't Waste It! NEW**

Training Grafton Center Lakeview Patio A

An educator guide to waste management, recycling, composting, and waste reduction, which includes 11 lessons covering five themes: municipal solid waste, recycling, plastics, composting, and landfills. Lessons for pre-K to 12th graders include a group activity, independent practice, extensions, additional activities, and correlations to Florida's standards. Participants will receive this new guide and a materials kit for use with the lessons. Additional fee required. \$20



8:30AM-12:00PM **Early Childhood Education Workshop**

Grafton Center Lakeview Patio C

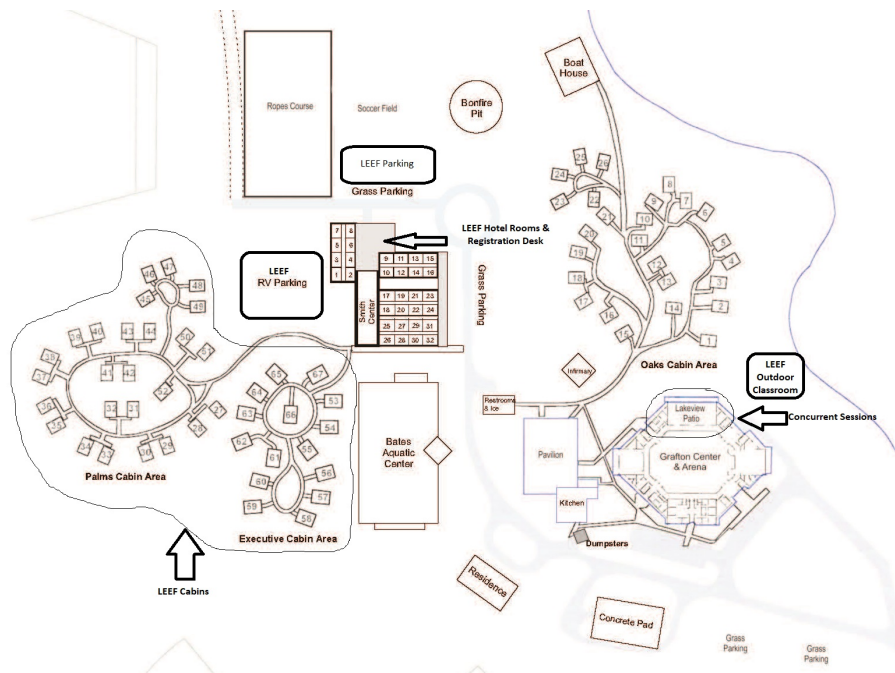
A trio of educator guides that supply instructors of young children with foundational skills and experiences in nature that help foster curiosity while rooting them in the real natural world. Each participant will receive the guides for:

- Project Wet's **Getting Little Feet Wet** features interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds.
- Project WILD's **Growing up Wild** builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them.
- PLT's **Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood** engages children in outdoor play and exploration to develop a relationship with the natural world by exploring nature, primarily trees, with all five senses.

Additional fee required. \$20

12:00PM Conference Closes

Florida Elks Youth Camp Map



Workshop Sponsors



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