

NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2022



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www.nysoea.org

Annual Report written and prepared by Rebecca Houser





A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



NYSOEA

17 Liberty Street
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Chelsea, NY 12512

Executive Board

Rebecca Houser
President

Kevin Wickersham
VP for Administration

Ashawna Abbott
VP for Human Resources

Conrad Baker
VP for Communications
and Technology

Emily Nestlerode
VP for Programs

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Northern
Linda Besio

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Shinara Sunderlal
Christina Tobitsch

Office Manager
Lily Ropes

Over the past year NYSOEA has been hard at work building our memberships and connections to our affiliates. This year had its challenges, but together our work and the commitment of our members, has been substantial in reach.

The Annual Report is a time to reflect on our organization's accomplishments and highlight our achievements over the past year. This document outlines what NYSOEA and its members have done, above and beyond our daily work as professionals. It is a testament that despite the obstacles of this year, we are united in purpose to fulfill a greater vision.

This year our goals have been to continue to strengthen NYSOEA's commitment to equity, access, and inclusion in our organization as well as promote awareness to the value of our organization. Our board continues this commitment by providing resources, fiscal responsibility, outreach, and scholarships. The EAI committee is very engaged and active in their work.

We continue our partnership with the Stony Kill Foundation, and our office manager Lily Ropes has done an outstanding job supporting our organization in all our daily operations.

PATHWAYS, our quarterly newsletter, has a new chief editor Jamie Winans-Solis and a new graphic designer Emily Marcet. The both have continued to create a beautiful newsletter, providing our members with professional content - highlighting regional events, affiliate members, environmental education and natural history.

Our Brother Yusuf Campership fund, which supports our Affiliate organizations by allowing them to offer camp scholarships in their regions, was able to send two kids to summer camp. This fund not only provides scholarship funds to our Affiliates but gives youth the opportunity to experience summer camp.

Winter Weekend was a huge success! Over 50 people joined us for this annual event where workshop presenters shared their passion and knowledge for different topics, all while having fun, and enjoying the outdoors.

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual appeal and donated to our scholarship fund. We were able to provide nine scholarships this year to our annual conference.

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Please consider joining one of our committees or speaking with us about joining the board. Our best tools are each other, and it is important that we continue to support one another and keep creating pathways to the outdoors.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Houser

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

Albert Einstein

CONFERENCE 2021



With all the uncertainty from COVID, the 2021 Conference Committee selected a theme of "Riding the Wave of Change in Environmental Education"

and tried a new conference format: a hybrid of virtual and in-person activities. It was risky, but the enthusiastic team succeeded in providing a great experience for more than 150 registered participants.

The Conference kicked off with "NYSOEA Name That Tune," a virtual musical competition that had people laughing and singing all night. Two days of virtual workshops gave members new perspectives on everything from teaching about fossils to teaching about climate change, while the "Bonfire with the Elders" provided historical perspectives and sage advice for those just entering the outdoor education field. Those who weren't too tired by Friday night joined the fascinating "Climate Change and the Wine Industry" presentation. It's only a guess, but sales of Ben Goldfarb's entertaining book "Eager" probably rose following his enlightening talk about the benefits of beavers. And attendees will never look at bottled water the same way after Dr. Sherri Mason's keynote address about plastics pollution.

Saturday Educator Activity Exchanges fulfilled our craving for face-to-face interactions as we gathered at three nature centers across the state. The "Open Space" sessions at Montezuma Audubon and Five Rivers Environmental Education Center were so popular they may appear at future conferences!

Best of all, NYSOEA members gave back to NYS in multiple ways: the Bioblitz competition logged 893 observations of more than 300 species across New York State into iNaturalist, attendees "popped" honeysuckle for Montezuma Audubon, picked up trash at Jones Beach Energy & Nature Center, and collected non perishables for a Long Island food pantry.

"I loved how the conference was a mix of virtual, participatory and in-person! You all did a great job this year."

Mission Statement

The New York State Outdoor Education Association (NYSOEA) is a professional organization that promotes interdisciplinary life-long learning in, for, and about the outdoors and seeks to inspire appreciation of the environment by all people.

Established in 1968, NYSOEA is a New York State non-profit, all volunteer organization supporting outdoor and environmental education, outdoor recreation, and interpretive services. Members make up a broad network of students and professionals working and learning together from classroom teachers and college professors to naturalists and interpreters, from students and youth leaders to parents and outdoor recreation specialists.

All of us are dedicated to education and the outdoors.



2021 NYSOEA AWARD RECIPIENTS



Margie Turin
Leadership Award



Marty Strong
Presidential Award



Mary-Ellen Campbell
Art & Literary Award

2021 NYSOEA Award Winners



Elisa Caref
Volunteer Award



**NYSOEA EAI
Committee
Appreciation
Award**

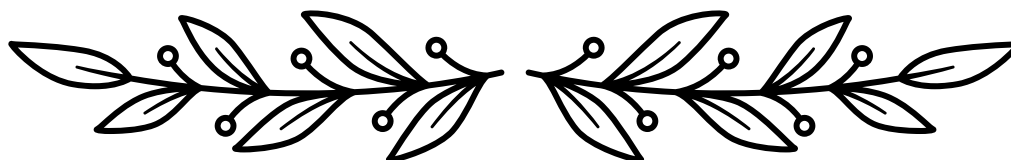


Eric Powers
Outdoor Educator
Award

Feminist Bird Club
Environmental Impact Award



A VARIETY OF AWARDS ARE PRESENTED BY NYSOEA EACH YEAR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION.



BROTHER YUSUF CAMBERSHIP

NYSOEA has a dedicated scholarship fund providing youth an opportunity to experience summer camp. The scholarship honors Brother Yusuf, past NYSOEA member and friend. He was a founding member of NYSOEA's Diversity Committee (now the Equity, Access, and Inclusion Committee) and the coordinator of the DEC's Capital District Campership Diversity Program. Money for camperships is raised at the annual conference and regional events through raffles, as well as personal donations. NYSOEA's Equity Access & Inclusion Committee, along with the NYSOEA regional board of directors, award the scholarships for campers.



2022 Summer Campers



It is with much gratitude for the scholarships that you extended to our campers for what became one of the most memorable activities they did all summer. The girls feed off of each other's strengths and sense of adventure. Neither one knew quite what they'd be doing before their journey. They were filled with questions and nervousness but both vowed to give it their all. When I picked them up, they were tired and drained but filled with a confidence I hadn't seen before out of them. I appreciate the opportunity you gave each of them to thrive!

EQUITY, ACCESS, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

NYSOEA's Equity, Access & Inclusion (EAI) Committee is committed to providing educational programming for the NYSOEA membership with the mission to increase diversity, accessibility, equity and inclusion in the field of environmental education.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BOOK CLUB AT WINTER WEEKEND

COOKIES & COCO

CONFERENCE PANEL/WORKSHOP

FIRST NATIONS TRAINING AND COORDINATION WITH NYSDEC

2 DAY TRAINING VIRTUAL

CENTRAL/WESTERN NY TRAINING

SAFE SPACE COMMITMENT

PATHWAY ARTICLES

ARTICLE DISCUSSIONS

FUNDRAISING FOR CAMPERSHIPS AT SHARPE MAPLE CELEBRATION

FUNDRAISING AT WINTER WEEKEND RAFFLE

JUNETEENTH INFOGRAPHIC

NEW MEMBERS!

VIRTUAL WEBINAR FOR NAAEE 2021 CONFERENCE

MEMBER EVENT: EQUITABLE FUNDING PRESENTATION & EQUITY IN EE WEBINAR W/ MOHONK PRESERVE

7 WAYS TO ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



ASSESS YOUR ALLYSHIP

by devoting time and energy to self-study and reflection on your biases. Maintain a student mentality, remain nonjudgmental, and actively listen when others are sharing. If you are struggling with discomfort, try journaling about your feelings or adopt a willing accountability buddy.

PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

who are addressing systemic racism, using your platform to elevate BIPOC voices and their work. Seek out and share infographics, podcasts, videos, articles, webinars, social media accounts, literature, and documentaries related to environmental racism.

COLLABORATE AND CREATE

progressive programming that addresses environmental justice and racism through community engagement. Research and connect with BIPOC-led organizations to discuss their goals, ask how you can support them, and suggest resources or ideas to be of service to them.

SURVEY YOUR CONSTITUENTS

to determine what factors may deter or prevent certain demographics from visiting your site. Examples may include income, primary language, culture, transportation, or disability. Hold a community meeting to discuss how to address those barriers at a convenient location.

INITIATE INCLUSIVITY

at your site through staff or educator trainings, diversity-based programs, and best practices like use of pronouns, traditional land recognition, and accurate historical representations. Host or compensate partners to offer workshops on inclusive practices in education and the workplace.

RE-FRAME THE NARRATIVE

of your site with the inclusive, accurate, and honest history of racial, social, and environmental conflict in your region. Incorporate the stories of BIPOC in educational programs and materials. Do not shy away from difficult topics, but do present them with empathy for those affected

DEDICATE FUNDING

to the inclusion of underrepresented and underserved groups in your programs. Advocate for the allocation of resources to diversity-based scholarships, camperships, internships, grants, and career pathways to increase exposure to the environmental field for people of color. If you can, try to offer more full time positions instead of part time roles to all educators as well.

Created by Rachel Jones & Shiana Sunderlin of the EAI Committee



The EAI committee finds ways to increase the equity, access, and inclusivity of our membership by identifying avenues to bring greater diversity to NYSOEA through speakers, workshops and collaborating with organizations that promote the outdoors to diverse audiences.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Central Region

The First Day Hike took place at Taughannock Falls State Park in Trumansburg, NY. Park Staff, and volunteers welcomed over 1000 hikers, answered questions, and handed out snacks. NYSOEA Central region rep Josh Teeter gave out a variety items (trekking poles, packs, and first aid kits) to encourage people to spend more time outdoors. Each item seemed to find the perfect human to enjoy it!



Western Region

NYSOEA co-hosted an environmental educators meet-up in the Western Region at Tifft Nature Preserve in May. Twenty-two educators from more than fifteen different organizations gathered for dinner before hitting the trails to look for birds, spring flowers, insects, and more. The crew then continued to Resurgence Brewery to continue the trail-side conversations. It was a great mix of past and current NYSOEA board members, Western Region members, and educators just getting into the field or learning about the organization.



REGIONAL EVENTS

Northern Region

The Nicandri nature center, in Massena, NY, recently hosted a special program Celebrating Sturgeon- A Fishy Family Day. NYSDEC, The US Fish and wildlife service, Sea Grant and a special guest from the St. Regis Mohawk tribe came together to celebrate these impressive animals. Displays, games, crafts and more were available to the public and over 300 people enjoyed the day.



Metro Region

Indoor Education Facilities Roundtable: NYSOEA metro region members, along with EEAC members, came back together for a check-in and share out regarding directions we are moving in for program offerings and safety protocols for spring and summer.

Eastern & Metro Region

NYSOEA and the Taconic Outdoor Education Center teamed up to host over 50 educators from around the state for our annual Winter Weekend. Participants gathered for a weekend full of indoor and outdoor workshops, forest bathing, snow tubing, birding, hikes and the trade blanket.

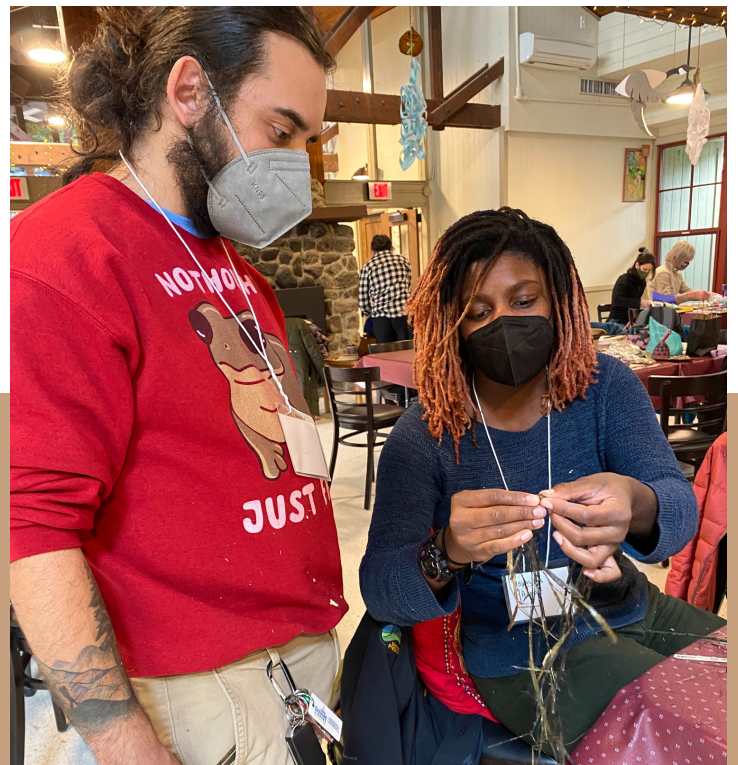


SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

*Winter Weekend
February 10-12, 2023*

TACONIC OUTDOOR
EDUCATION CENTER



**For more
information visit
our website at
www.nysoea.org**

FINANCIAL REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT- NYSOEA

Jan. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2022

STARTING BALANCE: \$15,082.99

EXPENSES

	TO DATE	ESTIMATED TO END OF YEAR
OFFICE QUARTERLY PAYMENTS	5,599.35	7,549.00
PATHWAYS	0	1000.00
PRINTING	1,262.32	1667.00
SUPPLIES	30.90	75.00
INSURANCES	1,961.00	1961.00
WEBSITES	1,263.27	1263.27
MEETINGS/TRAVEL EXPENSES	680.25	800.00
ADVERTISING (REGIONAL TABLES)	0	0
ACCOUNTING	1,400.00	2,800.00
AWARDS	0	239.42
STORE	2,770.77	3,770.77
CONFERENCE 2021	173.75	173.21
CONFERENCE 2022	2,631.00	6,000.00
DEC CAMPERSHIPS	350.00	350.00
TRANSFER TO CAMPSHIP FUND	243.30	500.00
WINTER WEEKEND	2,475.00	2,475.00
MEMBERSHIPS AND BENEFITS	250.00	250.00
TOTAL	\$21,090.91	\$30,873.67

INCOME

	TO DATE	ESTIMATED TO END OF YEAR
MEMBERSHIPS	5,274.32	5,675.00
WINTER WEEKEND	4,118.31	4,118.31
STORE	0	500.00
CAMPERSHIP DONATIONS	350.00 transferred	600.00
ANNUAL APPEAL	2,325.00	2,325.00
GENERAL FUND	520.04	620.00
EAI FUND	4,206.83	4,400.00
CONFERENCE 2022	15,522.47	18,000.00
TOTAL		\$36,238.31

**Estimated Ending
Balance 2022: \$20,447.63**

CAMPERSHIP FUND: \$5,707.23

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$2,401.17

INVESTMENT REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022:

		October 2021
Endowment Fund:	\$103,323.67	\$136,989.89
Memorial Fund	\$9,636.36	\$10,937.37
General Fund:	\$33,226.69	\$41,036.12

FYI:

(\$146,186.72 this yr. vs \$188,963.38 last yr. with a difference of \$42,776.66)

Annual Appeal

Thank you to our generous donors for supporting NYSOEA's mission and allowing us to continue to offer scholarships, grants, and other opportunities to get future generations outdoors. \$2325 was donated.

Anderson Young
Bob & Hillela Ward
Brian Heinz
Fred Stoss
George Steele
Henry Dewey
Jack Swan
Jenny Rigby
Jerry Passer
Jessica Kratz
Jody Reiss
Julie Hart
Rebecca Houser
Katherine Ambrosini
Lucinda Hurley
Martin Strong
Mary Anna Russo
Meaghan Boice-Green
Midge Monat
Rhonda Jacobs
Sally McCracken
Shannon Lyaski
Snapper Petta
Thomas Durkin

