



Arkansas Environmental Education Association

Outstanding Environmental Educators

2021

FORMAL EDUCATOR

Jackie Scott, Mann Magnet Middle School, Little Rock

AEEA is recognizing Jackie Scott as the 2021 Outstanding Formal Environmental Educator. A formal educator is one who works in a PreK, K-12 grades, or college level setting. Mrs. Scott teaches 6th grade Lab Science, 8th grade Physical Science teacher, and coaches soccer at Mann Magnet Middle School in Little Rock. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University receiving her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies, a Master's in Middle School Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and completed her M.Ed. Gifted Education K-12 online from Arkansas State University. She has taught at Mann Magnet Middle School in Little Rock School District for the past 5 year.

Mrs. Scott has been described as having a “go-getter” attitude and looks for new, interactive, and innovative ways to engage her students in environmental learning. Her approach to include each student in labs and classroom activities fosters success in each of her students. Her most recent endeavor was working with her students to create garden areas around their school. The students learned life skills while building raised bed gardens, which contain native pollinator plants, herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Mrs. Scott is able to engage other teachers and students in this project as well. The art students painted murals on the raised beds with images of native plants, animals, and nature scenes. The National Wildlife Federation recognizes their courtyard as a Certified Schoolyard Habitat.

In May, Mrs. Scott was named one of two “Tree”-mendous Educators by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division and received a pecan tree seedling to be planted on school grounds promoting edible plants. She was also instrumental in securing a donation of handheld state-of-the-art hand-held ultrasound devices to increase student interest in STEM related careers from ArkanSONO, a technology based STEM outreach pilot program of UAMS.

In addition to her award from AEEA, Mrs. Scott was named teacher of the year for Mann Magnet School, LRSD Middle school Teacher of the Year, and a “Tree”-mendous Educator by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division.

“Environmental education is so important for so many reasons!” says Mrs. Scott. “It helps give students real world experiences. They are always asking how what they learn is relevant. Environmental education also helps level the playing field for all students. This year I have seen some of the students who typically struggle in class thrive thanks to our garden space. I’m so glad to be giving my students authentic tasks that help give them a sense of purpose and a connection to nature.”

Mrs. Scott also teaches at the Halberg Ecology Camp during the summer and is a member of multiple educational and environmental organizations including the Arkansas Environmental Education Association, National Science Teachers Association, Arkansas Science Teachers Association, Ozark Chinquapin Foundation and a DonorsChoose Ambassador. She serves as the Formal Education Representative on the Arkansas Project Learning Tree Steering Committee.



Pictured left to right: Randy Rutherford, Executive Director for Secondary Schools; Dr. Marcus Johnson, Mann Principal; Jackie Scott, Outstanding Educator; Tiffany Dunn, former AEEA Board President; Rob Beadel, former AEEA Board President



NON-FORMAL EDUCATOR

Eric Fuselier, Project Manager, Crafton Tull and Associates

AEEA is recognizing Eric Fuselier as the 2021 Outstanding Non-formal Environmental Educator. A non-formal educator is a trained individual who operates in a setting other than a school, such as a nature center, government agency, park, or nonprofit organization. Mr. Fuselier is an Environmental Project Manager at Crafton Tull and Associates, and he demonstrates his passion for the outdoors and conservation through his work as an environmental scientist as well as his many volunteer roles.

As an environmental project manager, his role is to ensure infrastructure projects have minimal impact on the environment. His volunteer time, however, is filled with webinars, hikes, and workshops. He serves on the board of directors for many conservation-related nonprofit organizations, including Board president for the Ozark Natural Science Center; Arkansas Native Plant Society, where he worked with the governor's office to proclaim May Arkansas Native Plant Month; and Wild Ones, Ozark Chapter which he organized in 2020. He also serves on the board of the Society of Wetland Scientists, South Central Chapter. He is also the owner and instructor of Ozark Primitive Skills which he formed in 2014.

As a board member, he does much more than conduct and attend meetings. Using his expertise in native plants, wetland conservation, and primitive outdoor skills, he volunteers his time to benefit not only the organizations where he serves on the board but others as well. Apple Seeds Teaching Farm in Fayetteville, the Arkansas Living History Association, and the Bois D'Arc Primitive Skills Gathering in SW Missouri are a few examples.

Mr. Fuselier shares his knowledge and passion for the natural world in hopes of inspiring others to connect with nature. "Environmental education," says Mr. Fuselier "is not just about teaching people facts or science. At its most fundamental level, it's about helping others form a deep connection to the natural world." He is helping forge this connection for others through his extensive knowledge of native plants, animals, geology, and more as well as his deep passion for nature.



Pictured left to right: Sophia Stephenson, AEEA Executive Director; Eric Fuselier Outstanding Non-formal Educator; Sim Barrow, AEEA Board Member; Schelly Corry, AEEA Board Member

