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SUMMER 2016

**45th Annual Conference NAAEE
North American Association for Environmental
Education**

Join environmental educators from throughout North America at the 45th annual conference of NAAEE in October. The conference will be held in Madison, Wisconsin working in partnership with the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education. The conference will link powerful stories of innovation and success in EE from around the world with how environmental education builds community and creates purposeful change. The conference will celebrate the ways in which our work inspires people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature, contribute to healthy environments and empowered communities, and shape a more sustainable future.

There will be six strands of sessions during the conference.

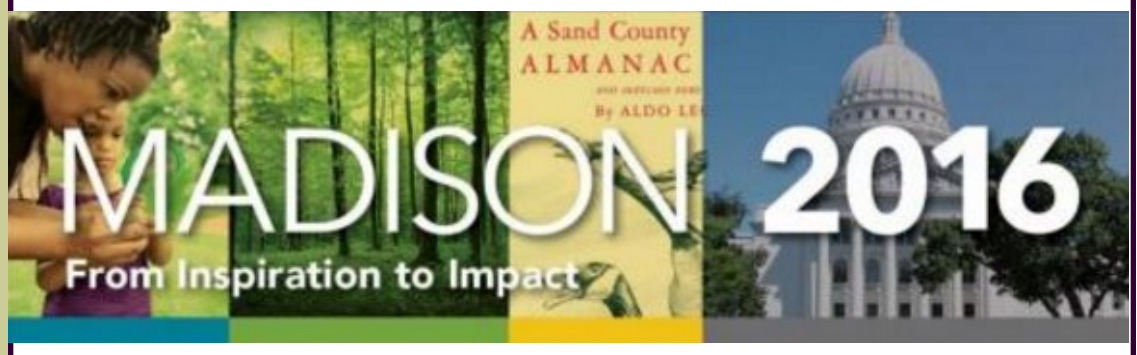
- * Applying Research to Increase Our Impact
- * Conservation and Environmental Education
- * Educating for Sustainable Communities
- * Green School
- * Inspiring Connections to the Outdoors
- * Leadership and Capacity Building

Field trip opportunities will include:

- * Canoe and Hike Milwaukee with the urban Ecology Center
- * Bike Tour de nature Net: What Does Environmental Education Look Like in Madison?
- * EE in the 21st Century—Where nature Meets Technology
- * Sand County Tour

For more information about the NAAEE annual conference, visit

<https://naaee.org>



Close Reading of the EE Kind

By Heather L. Montgomery

“Close” reading is all the buzz these days – and for good reason! As a writer myself, I know the value of taking a really close look at writing. In studying kidlit nonfiction, I close read for many reasons:

- * Who – who is the intended audience?
- * What – what content is similar or different between two passages on the same topic?
- * Why – why did the author select a particular fact, analogy, structure, intended audience?
- * How – how did the author use word choice, sentence length, voice to make their point?

Your students can too. Here are some great titles and ideas for close reading:

Water is Water, by Miranda Paul and All the Water in the World, George by Ella Lyon

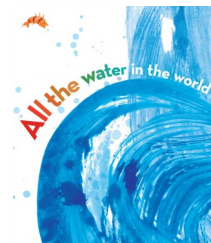
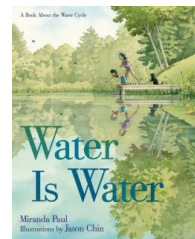
* Before reading the book, show half of the students one illustration from one book and half of the students one illustration from the other book (select images on similar topics). Ask them to write a sentence that might go on that page. Compare their sentences. How did the art impact their sentences? Read the books. How does the art compliment the writing?

* Read aloud one line from one book while showing the art from the other book. Does it work? Why or why not?

* Have students create a Venn diagram of the facts presented in each book and the facts contained in both books. Ask students to consider the author’s purpose and why they selected certain facts.

* Present students with just the art and main ideas from one spread from either book.

Ask them to try to write text in the other author’s style. Tough!

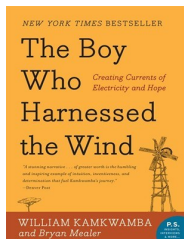
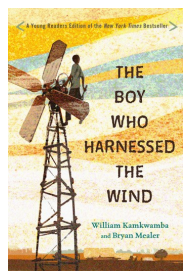
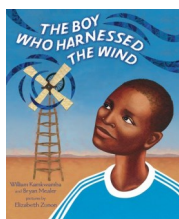


The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. The same factual story is presented as a picture book, a middle grade and an adult novel.

* Read the entire picture book with students. Select one spread from the picture book and have students read the corresponding chapter from the middle grade and adult version. Have students find facts that were left out in the picture book and infer reasons each fact was omitted.

* Which analogies were carried in all three books? Which were eliminated? Why?

* Pull out three sentences on the same topic from each of the books. Have students compare/contrast and provide reasons for the differences. Present one paragraph from the adult version and ask the students to re-write for the middle grade and picture book (one sentence).



First Nature Based Preschool in Alabama

Once upon a time... in a magical land called Camp McDowell, the dream of providing a safe, healthy, growing place for local youngsters was born. The dream is ready to take flight with the opening of Magnolia Nature Preschool at Camp McDowell! This is the first Nature based preschool in Alabama. For over twenty three years, McDowell Environmental Center has brought school children from around the southeast to learn more about the wonders of nature and their connections to it. McDowell Farm School has been a residential experience for school children for about 3 years. For even longer, Camp McDowell has housed a summer camp where thousands of children come to learn more about the world around them and what God is calling them to be. McDowell is now creating an z



opportunity for preschoolers in the local community to attend a nature-based preschool on the Camp McDowell site.

Magnolia Nature Preschool will accept twelve students for a Summer Day Camp experience for the month of June. Registration information and applications can be found by contacting Madeleine Pearce, the preschool director, at mcdowellpreschool@campmcdowell.com or by calling or texting her at 205-792-1969.

So what is Nature-based preschool? It is a growing trend across the country of realizing that good old fashioned playing outdoors teaches children so much about socialization, kindergarten readiness, and provides a great background for later science, math and engineering learning. Preschools are realizing the importance of allowing inquiry based learning to start at an early age. This is a child centered, yet adult guided, exciting style of learning. It is the goal of Magnolia Nature Preschool to have the majority of the day spent outside playing in sandboxes, exploring trails (with grownups of course), visiting the Farm School animals, and even wading in shallow streams and making mud pies! The fall preschool program is also accepting applications. You may also contact Madeleine for more information on the fall program.



A Tale of Two Frog Hunters

If you have the opportunity to talk with Jimmy Stiles from the Auburn University Environmental Institute, he can share many interesting facts about the wildlife in animal; in particular, Alabama's amphibians. Alabama is celebrated for its biodiversity, and Stiles works in the field conducting biological inventories across the state. Within Alabama, there is one five acre area that has more salamander species than any other five acre area in the world. The Southeast United States has more salamander diversity than any other place in the world. Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina compete to see who has the highest salamander richness in the United States. It is hard to determine as salamander classification is sometimes debated, however, Alabama has more salamanders than the entire rain forest, more than the entire continents of Africa, Australia, and Antarctica. Alabama has more salamander species than two thirds of our planet put together. Alabama is not only rich in



Photo Credit: Jimmy Stiles
Left: Jimmy Stiles Right: Brian Holt

salamanders when it comes to amphibian biodiversity, but also frogs. In fact until just recently Alabama tied with Georgia as second in our country for frog richness. Both Alabama and Georgia had 30 species of frog, which put them right behind the state of Texas which has 32 species of frog. This is where the exciting tale of our frog hunters comes in. Brian Holt with the Department of Conservation, State Lands Division, Natural Heritage Section has been hearing the call of crawfish frogs in Sumter County for the past year or so. This is a frog species that had not been confirmed to exist in the state of Alabama, although it has been suspected to be found here. After hearing the calls of

the crawfish frog, then next step was to locate one and photograph it. However, Holt was unable to gain access onto the private property near the location where he was hearing the calls. He shared with Stiles the GPS point of interest. On a rainy February night, Stiles decided to take advantage of the frog friendly weather, and drove to the GPS location. Upon arriving, he got out of his car with a flashlight, and saw a grey lump near the side of the road. As he looked more closely, he realized that it was a crawfish frog! He immediately called Holt, and that is how Alabama became the second most biodiverse state for frog richness. To learn more about Alabama's frogs and salamanders, visit the Outdoor Alabama website at outdooralabama.com.



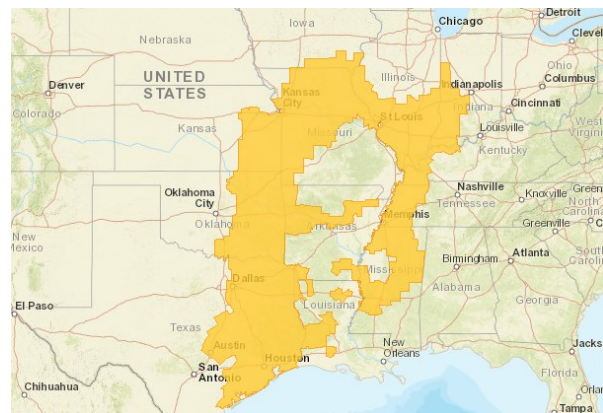
Photo Credit: Jimmy Stiles
Crawfish Frog

Crawfish Frog Biology

Historically, crawfish frogs have been associated with grassland and savannah habitats. In particular, these frogs made use of flooded bison wallows during breeding season. This species has suffered population declines throughout its range due to the loss of habitat. In addition to grassland habitats and breeding wetlands, these frogs also make use of crawfish burrows. As crawfish frog habitat has been converted to pine plantations and other crop plantations, populations have declined. Jimmy Stiles describes the chorus of crawfish frogs that he heard in Sumter County to be hundreds of frogs. This population in Alabama may in fact end up being one of the highest populations of crawfish frogs in the United States, preserved in part due to cattle farming which has offered a suitable habitat for this species.



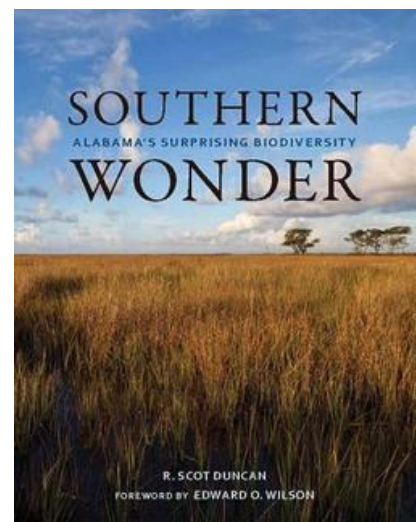
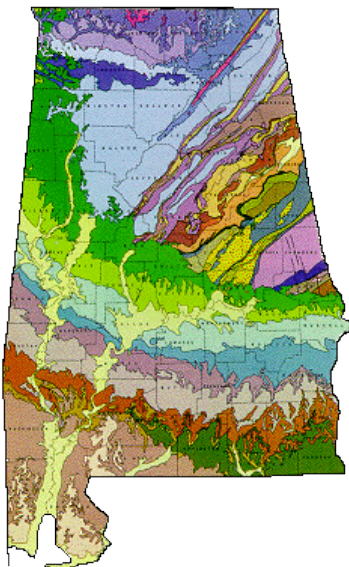
Crawfish Frog in Burrow



Crawfish Frog range map
Retrieved from International Union for
Conservation of Nature

Southern Wonder

If you would like to learn more about Alabama's amazing biodiversity, consider purchasing Dr. R. Scott Duncan's *Southern Wonder*. In it you will learn why Alabama ranks fifth in the nation for the number of plant and animal species. Alabama is surpassed only by some of the much larger western states including California, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Alabama is particularly rich in aquatic biodiversity, leading the nation in species of freshwater fishes, turtles, mussels, crayfish, snails, damselflies, and carnivorous plants. Duncan interweaves ecology, evolution, meteorology, and geology to explain why Alabama is biotically rich, encouraging efforts in preservation.

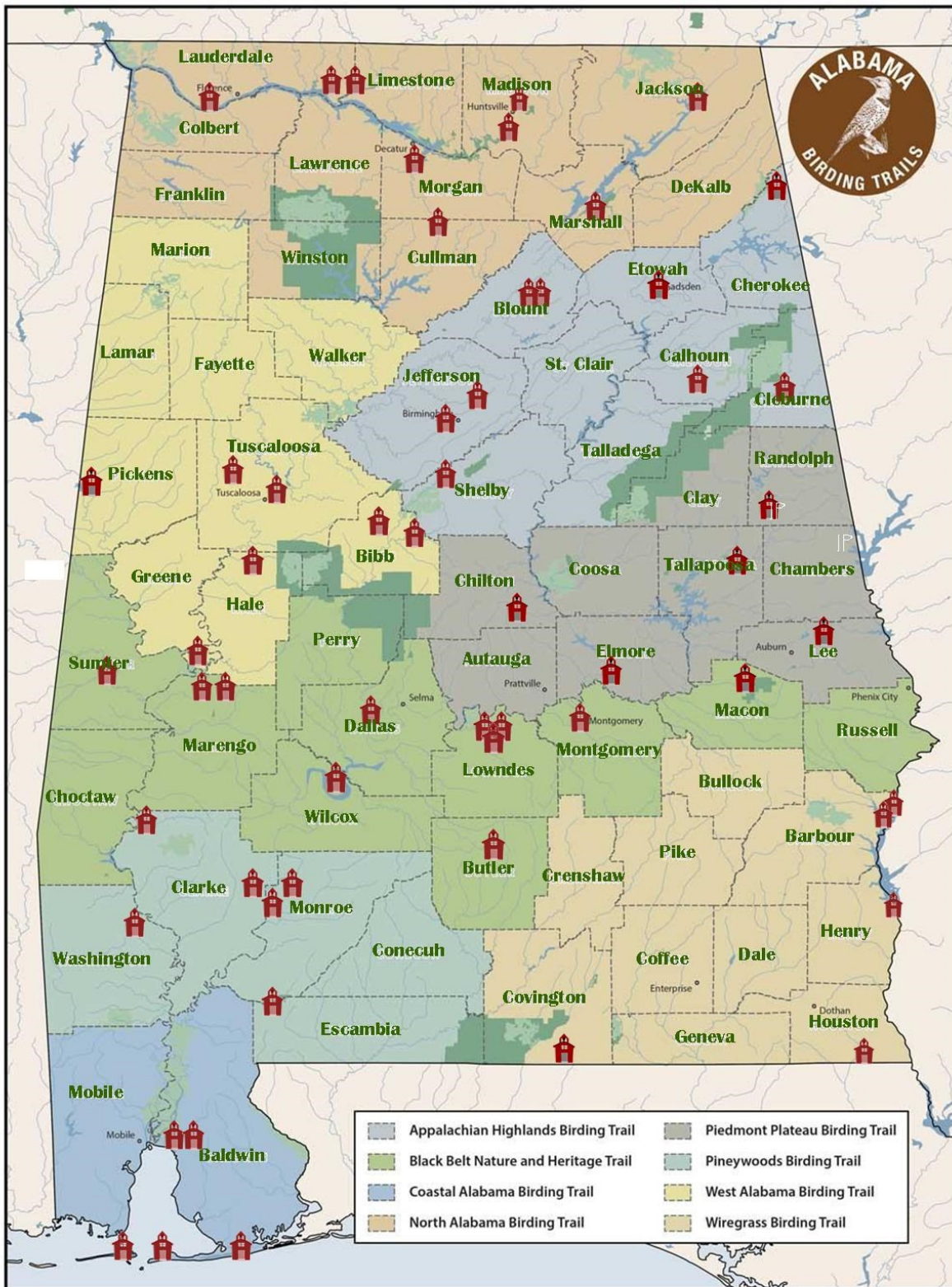


Outdoor Classroom Sites on Alabama's Birding Trails

The Alabama Birding Trails (<http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/>) and the Environmental Educators Association of Alabama (EEAA) are teaming up together with a new and exciting project to bring the classroom to the outdoors! This stimulating project will help to provide young birders with the hands-on tools and information needed to learn and improve birding skills while teaching about Alabama's environment and our abundant natural resources. The project allows teachers to enhance their teaching tools of incorporating environmental topics into the curricula while actually experiencing the outdoors; this makes learning much more rewarding. The Alabama Birding Trails include over 270 sites from the mountains to the gulf to visit, learn and watch the birds.

The eight regional birding trails throughout Alabama are identified as: Appalachian Highlands, Black Belt Nature and Heritage, Coastal Alabama, North Alabama, Piedmont Plateau, Pineywoods, West Alabama and Wiregrass. A preliminary total of 58 birding sites throughout these regions have been identified as Outdoor Classrooms. Each region has multiple locations that can be visited in a one-day trip. Visit the website to learn of upcoming events and plan an educational field trip. Teachers are able to contact the designated outdoor classroom sites directly to make arrangements and develop an excursion suited to their needs. In most cases a covered pavilion is provided where an outdoor teaching session or sack lunch could be enjoyed. With over 430 bird species documented in Alabama, the learning experiences are endless.

The overall Alabama Birding Trail project itself has been a ten-year long collaborative project: The Alabama Tourism Department has provided much of the funding; The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development provides the leadership role of facilitation and project scope; The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides their depth of knowledge relative to wildlife habitat, birding and previous birding trails experience; The Birmingham Audubon Society provides the experiences that only deeply knowledgeable birders could. Chambers of Commerce, Extension offices and other community organizations across the state have taken great pride in the project, as have our Federal partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Forest Service and others.



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Environmental Education Professional Development Fund

EEAA's Professional Development Fund was established to assist professionals who wish to continue to develop their knowledge in the field of environmental education. Grant funding is available for financial assistance to attend professional conferences/workshops.

Guidelines:

- An application form and one-page synopsis are mandatory (see form at right). Incomplete applications will be declared ineligible.
- A review committee comprised of EEAA board members will determine the awards of the fund. Decisions of the committee are final.
- Recipients will be notified of awards within 4 - 5 weeks after deadline dates and will receive reimbursement for the awarded amount AFTER submitting receipts for expenses incurred while attending the workshop.
- Maximum grant is \$250 per person in a 12 - month period.
- Award recipients may be asked to take EEAA brochures to distribute at the workshop they attend.
- Award recipients must maintain a current, active EEAA membership.
- Award recipients must submit an article for the newsletter or present a session at EEAA's next conference.
- Priority consideration will be given to requests for Environmental or Natural Science training workshops.
- Awards will be presented quarterly. Applications must be postmarked by:
 Spring quarter: March 1
 Summer quarter: June 1
 Fall quarter: September 1
 Winter quarter: December 1

EEAA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Work phone _____ Email _____

Profession/Title _____

Employer _____

Employer's address _____

Conference/Workshop for which funds are being requested _____

Conference/Workshop date(s) _____

Conference/Workshop Location _____

Have you obtained approval to attend the conference/workshop from your employer? Yes No

Amount of funds requested \$ _____

The funds will be used for (check all that apply):

Conference/Workshop registration

Travel - what form of transportation? _____

Accommodations

Other (please specify) _____

“ I agree to represent the
Environmental Education Association of Alabama
 to the best of my professional ability. I understand that, by accepting these funds, I will be required to submit receipts and either write an article for EEAA's newsletter or present a session at EEAA's Conference directly following the conference/workshop that I attend. ”

Signature _____ Date _____

Please include a one-page synopsis detailing how you will apply your experiences to promote environmental education in Alabama and an itemized list of expenses for which you are asking for funding. **Failure to include** any of this information or an incomplete form could result in your application being disqualified from consideration.

Clip & Mail to: EEAA PDF, P.O. Box 3641, Montgomery, AL 36109



EXPLORING OUR LIVING STREAMS

*Stream Biomonitoring and Water Chemistry
Monitoring with 4-H AL Water Watch*

The 4-H Alabama Water Watch Program is partnering with five great environmental centers around the state to provide teachers and volunteer educators with the opportunity to learn how to use the [Exploring Our Living Streams Stream Biomonitoring and Water Chemistry Monitoring Curriculum](#).

The [EOLS curriculum](#) provides hands-on activities for teaching students about watershed science, and provides educators with the skills and platform to involve youth in citizen science focused on water quality. During each 2 day workshop, participants will be certified as water monitors and will learn how they can certify their students as 4-H AWW Water Monitors. In addition, staff of each Environmental Center will provide unique programming that represents what they have to offer educators and students.





Participants who complete the workshop can receive Continuing Education Units from Auburn University. Lodging and food will be provided to participants. Contact the 4-H AWW Coordinator with questions:

Mona Dominguez
srs0013@auburn.edu
334-844-9323

Workshop Registration: \$25

Find additional info and registration in the Enviro Edu section of www.alabamawaterwatch.org.

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS AND DATES:

-  Troy University in Phenix City, Riverfront Campus, **June 7 -9**
-  Weeks Bay Watershed Program and Foundation in Fairhope, **June 14-16**
-  SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) in Lineville, **June 28-30**
-  Black Belt Conservation and Research Institute at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, **July 12-14**
-  McDowell Environmental Center in Nauvoo, **July 26-28**

Development of EOLS Curriculum and workshop facilitation is supported in part by a grant from the EPA Office of Environmental Education. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M and Auburn University), is an equal opportunity educator. Everyone is welcome!

www.aces.edu | www.alabama4h.com



MCDOWELL EDUCATION EVENTS 2016



FAMILY FARM CAMP - APRIL 22 - 24	All Ages, Family Event
GET GROWN WEEKEND! - MAY 27-29	Adult Event
MOUNTAINS TO THE GULF - JUNE 12-19	Teacher Workshop
GROWING ROOTS - JULY 10 - 12	All Ages, Family Event
SOUTHERN ROOTS WORKSHOP - JULY 19-21	Teacher Workshop
FALL FAMILY FARM CAMP - NOVEMBER 18-20	All Ages, Family Event

Details and Registration available online!

Camp McDowell, 105 Delong Rd, Nauvoo, AL 35578 • www.campmcdowell.com



MCDOWELL EDUCATION EVENTS 2016



Get Grown Weekend: McDowell Farm School's first Get Grown Weekend allows adults to spend a couple days focusing on one of four areas; Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Gardening, Chickens or Goats. Everyone will take time to harvest and prepare our Saturday Farm to Table supper, then finish the weekend with Brunch in the Barn Sunday morning!

Mountains to the Gulf: Leading scientific experts will guide 20 educators throughout the state of Alabama, sharing their collective knowledge of the Waters, Geology, Flora and Fauna to show how all things are connected! Discover the unique geology of Alabama with **Jim Lacefield**, author of *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks*. Wade the streams of Alabama with **Bill Deutsch**, founder of Alabama Water Watch. Track the reintroduction of the federally threatened Eastern Indigo Snake in the Conecuh Forest with herpetologist, **Jimmy Stiles**. Presentations by **Scot Duncan**, Birmingham-Southern College professor and author of *Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity*. The journey will begin in northwest Alabama at Camp McDowell Environmental Center, then zig zag through the state on an educational adventure of a

lifetime! Visit Mt Cheaha State Park – Alabama's highest point, kayak the Coosa River, and search for fossils in south Alabama streams. The final destination will be Dauphin Island Sea Lab, where educators will visit the Gulf shoreline and waters and experience a trip in the Gulf aboard one of the new Dauphin Island Sea Lab research vessels.

Growing Roots: Come join the fun and learning as we kick off our 5th year of Growing Roots! Connect to nature and reconnect with your family. Bring your children or grandchildren to explore the woods, streams, canyons and working farm of McDowell with professional teacher naturalists from the McDowell Environmental Center and Farm School.

Southern Roots: Want to know how to bring arts and nature into your classroom? Want to get students excited about learning more about the environment and their connections to it? Let's add an "A" to STEM and build some STEAM. Join the artists of the Alabama Folk School and the farmers of the McDowell Farm School for a three day festival of the arts at beautiful Camp McDowell! Come learn culinary arts prepared from local

seasonal foods in the McDowell Teaching Kitchen and harvest blueberries and make jam. We will create masterpieces such as mosaics, journals from natural materials, and kudzu baskets. We will swim in Clear Creek and paddle boat McDowell's lake. Come return to your Southern roots!

Family Farm Camp: Camp McDowell is beautiful in the spring! Rejuvenate your spirit in the clean, cool air; walk through our woods, play in our pastures, and watch the sun set over Sloan Lake. The feeling is easy-going, and the results will be restorative!

This faith-based program, providing discussion along with traditional camp

activities (like hiking and boating), will make this a truly memorable and holy time for you and yours. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Our knowledgeable farm staff will guide you in planting, harvesting, and food preparation activities, as well as hands-on care of McDowell farm animals. We have goats, chickens, pigs, and some very cute rabbits. And, make no mistake, we are very serious about having fun!

Camp McDowell, 105 Delong Rd, Nauvoo, AL 35578 • www.campmcdowell.com