



# EEAI 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Pere Marquette Lodge | Grafton, IL  
March 27-28, 2026

## Conference Schedule At-a-Glance

*Charting a Course for Change*

THURSDAY EVENTS • PROJECT WET WORKSHOP • BIRDS & BREWS • RIVER TRAVEL: PAST & PRESENT • BIG MEDICINE: YORK OUTDOORS SCREENING

Friday, March 27	Lewis	Clark	York	Joliet	Visitor Center	Great Room
7:30am	<b>Guided Hike</b>					<b>Exhibit Hall Open 8:30am-5pm</b>
8:00am	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>					
9:00am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>					
Session 1 9:30am	What is Phenology & Why Does it Matter	Build a Better Backpack: Designing Outdoor Learning	Investigating Crayfish & Freshwater Ecosystems		Surfing the Cosmic Gnar - A Feet on the Ground/Head in the Stars Training	
Session 2 11am	Accessorize Your Program	Becoming Weatherwise	Going Solar Made Easy - How the Illinois Shines Program Helps Public Schools Add Solar			
<b>Lunch and Regional Meet-up in Great Room 12 pm-1 pm</b>						
Session 3 1:15pm	Twenty-Eight Years In—and Still Learning	Shifting Perspectives	Hidden Trails: Nature-based UGRR History			
Session 4 2:15pm	Building a Strategic Plan for Illinois Environmental Educators	Sprouts, Spades & Shenanigans: Learning Gardens	The Wild World of Woolly Worms	Look to the Nurse Logs: Joyful Changemakers	Grow with me: Creating EE throughout all years of life	
Networking 4:00pm	<b>Poster Sessions Cocktail Hour - Great Room</b>					
Keynote	<b>Networking and Silent Auction Opens</b>					
	<b>Jean Ponzi Keynote - 5:00pm</b>					
6:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>Awards Banquet</b> Dinner, Silent Auction, Entertainment & More!					

Sat, March 28	Lewis	Clark	York	Joliet	Visitor Center	Great Room
8:30am	<b>EEAI Annual Member Meeting and Breakfast</b>					<b>Yoga 7:30-8:30 am</b>
	All are welcome to attend in the Grand Ballroom!					
Session 5 10:30am	Rivers in Flux: Project WET for Floods, Climate, & Land Use Change	Teachable Moments... Squirrel! (outdoors)			Partnerships for People and the Environment	
12:00pm	<b>Farewell and Lunch</b> Grand Ballroom					

Learn more at [www.EEAI.net](http://www.EEAI.net)



EEAI strives to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table; we encourage attendees of all identities and backgrounds to attend the Annual Conference.