

Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

July 2018

Educational Highlight

Beetles Project

The Beetles Project is a collection of passionate science and environmental educators devoted to improving the quality of outdoor science education.



BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning, and Expertise Sharing) is devoted to creating:

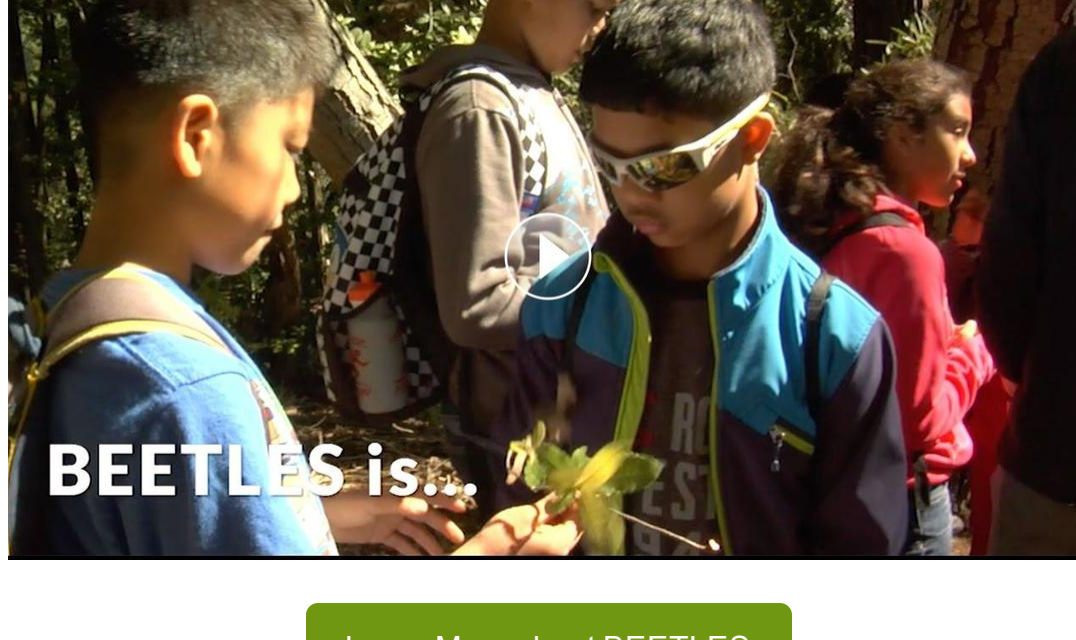
~ versatile environmental education professional learning materials;

~ student activities for use in the field;

~ a collaborative, resource-sharing network of environmental educators;

~ additional resources for field instructors, leaders, and classroom teachers.

All BEETLES resources are based on current research and understandings about how people learn, and tested by dozens of programs in diverse settings all over the country (and beyond!). Although BEETLES materials have been designed for residential outdoor science schools, they've been snatched up and used successfully in a wide variety of outdoor science education settings.



[Learn More about BEETLES](#)

[BEETLES Educator Resources](#)

This Month Is...

Lakes Appreciation Month

The surface area and number of lakes in North America far exceed those of any other continent. Yet lakes are our nations most underappreciated natural resource. The public uses lakes for a variety of purposes: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation including boating, swimming, and fishing; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment.



[Water Safety Tips](#)

[Tennessee State Park Lake Events](#)

Don't Miss...

National Moth Week

July 21-29

Held annually the last full week in July, National Moth Week brings together everyone interested in moths to celebrate these amazing insects.



Getting involved during National Moth Week is easy: attend a National Moth Night event, start an event, join friends and neighbors to check porch lights from time to time, set up a light and see what is in your own backyard, or read literature about moths.

Looking for a FREE and FUN Moth Event?

Long Hunter State Park invites you on **July 21st at 8pm** to their Deer Trail to celebrate the diversity and beauty of moths. They will use special bait and lights to lure moths so that visitors of all ages can discover this diverse group of insects!

[Moth Scavenger Hunt \(Printable\)](#)

[Moth Coloring Book \(Printable\)](#)

Nature in the

News

Get Out: Nurturing A Bond Between Black People And Nature

NPR took time this past May to discuss the relationships between Americans and nature in a segment entitled, Get Out: Nurturing A Bond Between Black People And Nature. Prompted by the country-wide response to a 2011 National Park Service survey finding that just 7 percent of all park system visitors were black, the accomplished panel of guest speakers discussed visitor barriers such as time, transportation, fear and equipment along with solutions which include the community-based organization Outdoor Afro.



Discussing and understanding different perspectives of nature can help us all as we endeavor to spark interests, build relationships, and guide learners in environmental education.

[Listen to the NPR Rebroadcast](#)

Professional Development

September 11-14

Tennessee Valley Authority's upcoming Plant Camp investigates invasive plants: What are they? What are their environmental and economic effects? How can we protect against them in Tennessee? And more!



FREE LODGING FREE MEALS FREE INSTRUCTION

Plant Camp Attendees:

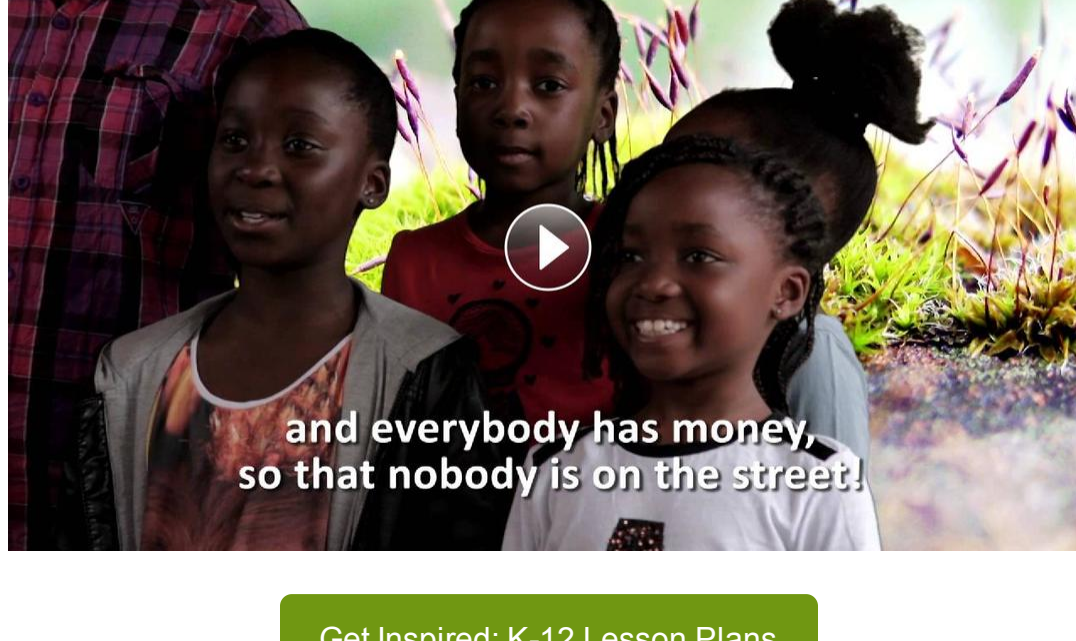
- Learn about native, non-native, and invasive plant
- Gain hands-on field experience with aquatic and wetland plant biology
- Study the ecology of plants in Tennessee Valley natural area
- Practice plant identification technique
- Discover impacts of invasive plants on the Tennessee Valley's ecology and economy

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Sustainability Corner

Education

This month Tennessee's formal and non-formal educators will engage in trainings and discussions about the state's new science standards. During this time, it is important that we stay inspired to incorporate sustainability into education.



[Get Inspired: K-12 Lesson Plans](#)

Sarah Green

Appalachia CARES / AmeriCorps Member

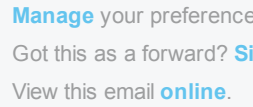
Environmental Literacy Coordinator

Tennessee State Parks

sarah.green@tn.gov



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