

Professional Development Director (2 nominations)

Name: Alexis Thorbecke

Title: Public Programs Manager **Agency:** Powdermill Nature Reserve

Education and Training: BSc. in Environmental Science, NAI CIG

Experience: 10+ years as an environmental educator, 5 years of developing and leading professional development programs for formal and informal educators

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? I am a Pennsylvania native, but I have spent most of my career in Maryland. I want to become more involved in the Pennsylvania EE community. I am also passionate about professional development. I think I like teaching and working with adults even more than I like teaching children. I would love to bring my experience and passion for professional development to PAEE.

Professional Accomplishments:

- Laurel Highlands Coordinator for the Climate and Rural Systems Partnership, Connecting Community to the Classroom – NAAEE Annual Conference 2021
- Advanced Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences – MAEOE Annual Conference 2020
- Watershed Education from a Distance Panelist – Diver Deeper Summit 2020
- Getting Practical with Student-led Action - VAEE Annual Conference 2019

Hobbies and Other Interests: Scent Work (I train my dog to find hidden scent in competitions. I am also hoping to train him to be a Working Dog for Conservation), Native Plants (growing my own and gardening with them)

Name: Emily Cantor

Title: Elementary School Teacher **Agency:** Yellow Breeches Education Center

Education and Training: AAS: ECE prek-4th, BA: Geography MS (come Dec. 2024): M.ed Environmental Education

Experience: I have been volunteering and working with PAEE for a little over a year now. I have helped with a few PD's and have connected with multiple members of our organization. I still volunteer with the BSA and this is my 10th year!

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? Environmental Education is where I have found my soul to be the happiest. Many educators (not their fault) struggle to understand EE and its implementation. I want to continue to help reach people and advocate for EE in PA by providing quality trainings via webinars. I have facilitated 2 myself and they were so much fun. I also have attended a few NAAEE PD's and have networked with those representatives as well.

Professional Accomplishments: PAEE: PD and DEIJA committees, BSA: Certified Ecology Director

Hobbies and Other Interests: Indoor plants, veggie gardening, crafting, reading books, watching birds, hiking and camping, flower gardening, ect.

Southeast Region Director (1 nomination)

Name: Heather Drzal

Title: Director, School & Youth Programs

Agency: Longwood Gardens

Education and Training: Pennsylvania State University | 2013

M.Ed Agricultural and Extension Education, Teacher Certification

Delaware Valley University | 2017

Horticultural Therapy Certificate

Delaware Valley University | 2011

B.S. Biology, Environmental Science Emphasis

Experience: Director, School & Youth Programs

April 2017 – PRESENT

Longwood Gardens

- Created and evaluated programs and their supporting materials for appropriateness at each grade level to ensure alignment with state and national standards.
- Established new ideas and revamped current programming to support strategic plan, mission and vision of the Gardens.
- Developed positive working relationships with other staff to ensure successful implementation of educational initiatives.
- Oversaw budgeting and financial management activities to ensure efficient use of resources for mission-based programming.
- Analyzed data to identify areas of improvement.
- Provided administrative oversight and direction to School & Youth team to support strategic initiatives.

Teacher, January 2014 - April 2017

Garden Spot High School

- Motivated and engaged students, developing skills and knowledge for an agricultural and environmental science foundation in conjunction with an FFA intracurricular experience.
- Used a variety of teaching techniques to maximize individual and group learning by adapting curriculum to address needs of the students with varying abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Science In Motion Director / Mobile Educator

October 2013 - January 2014

Lehigh Carbon Community College

- Developed and implemented interactive science lessons for students and their teachers.

- Maintained up-to-date knowledge of educational standards and best practices in science education.

Substitute Teacher

August 2013 - January 2014 Substitute Teacher Service

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? I have been thoroughly enjoying my time as the Southeast Regional Director. I have learned so much through participating in the PAEE Board. It has helped me to grow professionally and personally. Should I have the opportunity to serve again in this role, I am excited at the prospect of growing the region to include new members and new opportunities for the members.

Professional Accomplishments: PAEE Southeast Regional Director - 2022 - Present

Horticultural Therapy HTR

Project Wet, WILD,

Multiple presentations at various PAEE conferences

Presentation at PRPS 2021

PAEE Conference Planning Committee - Scholarship Committee Chair

Hobbies and Other Interests: Spending time with my family and friends, Gardening, Exploring new places, Reading, Spending time outdoors

Southcentral Region Director (1 nomination)

Name: Jennifer Peglow

Title: Professional Learning Coordinator

Agency: The Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Education and Training: MA Science Education; MS Natural Resource Management

Experience: Professional Learning Coordinator at CBF and currently the PAEE SC Regional Director.

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? Since I have only been the PAEE SC Regional Director for a few months, I would like the opportunity to continue and contribute.

Professional Accomplishments: Professional Learning Coordinator with 23 years of teaching experience, holding professional teaching certificates in Biology, English, and General Science and partnering with various organizations to develop training curricula elevating environmental literacy and awareness among stakeholders. These opportunities have led to the development and leading training programs that meet specific needs and programmatic requirements through NOAA B-WET grant funding. Active member and representative of the PA Elit Steering Committee, PA Elit Steering Committee Leader South-Center Hub, FrAY member and partner, & the PAEE Regional Director.

Hobbies and Other Interests: Gardening, kayaking, hiking

Southwest Region Director (1 nomination)

Name: Susie Moffett

Title: Southwest Program Coordinator **Agency:** PA Master Naturalist

Education and Training: BA in Biology from WVU, PhD in Human Genetics from Pitt

Experience: Southwest Program Coordinator for PA Master Naturalist (2021-present)

Environmental Educator for Interactive Environmental Programs (2021-present)

Education Director for Fern Hollow Nature Center (2019-2021)

Program Coordinator for Fern Hollow Nature Center (2009-2019)

Certified PA Master Naturalist Volunteer with 276 service hours to PAEE, Girl Scouts of Western PA and various other organizations (2022-present)

Girl Scout Volunteer (2006 to present)

Village Garden Club conservation volunteer (2006-present)

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? I am deeply committed to improving environmental educational opportunities in our community and see so much potential for PAEE to make a difference by supporting our educators. I have been serving in this position for nearly 2 years and have so many great ideas I haven't been able to put into action yet, but would really like to make a reality. My hope is to offer in person networking/ professional development events throughout the year to build community within our region and continue the work PAEE does through the annual conference. I also would like to expand our membership to include more classroom teachers and students to help support their work as well.

Professional Accomplishments: PAEE Southwest Regional Director (2022-present)

PAEE Conference Co-Chair (2024-present)

PAEE DEIJA Learning Community (2020-present)

PAEE Member (2016 - present)

Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award from the Garden Club of America for outstanding achievements in youth environmental education (2022)

PFBC Certified Fishing Skills Instructor

NASP Certified Archery Instructor

CPR and First Aid Certification

Hobbies and Other Interests: I love gardening and am slowly working to create an oasis of native plants in my yard as an extension of the forest behind my house. I am also very involved at my church in the music ministries, children's ministries and various social justice groups.

Treasurer (1 nomination)

Name: Craig Lukatch

Title: President **Agency:** Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation

Education and Training: BA in Philosophy

Experience: Current Treasurer of the Newfoundland Rotary Club, Current Treasurer of the NEPA Rainbow Alliance, past Chair of Indraloka Animal Sanctuary, past Development Director of PAEE, past board director of the Hazleton YMCA, past board director of Community Services for Sight

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? I am a strong believer in all things environmental, education and nonprofit! As a nonprofit executive and volunteer for over 20 years, I have the experience to serve in the role as treasurer. I would love to give back to PAEE through my talents and expertise.

Professional Accomplishments: Rotarian of the Year for 2024. Serve on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee for Rotary District 7410. Serves as a nonprofit fundraising consultant for several local nonprofits. Serving on the Downtown Hawley Partnership Event Committee and chair of Winterfest.

Hobbies and Other Interests: Hiking, everything outdoors, playing the piano and serving as church organist and choir director at my home parish.

Member At Large (1 nomination)

Name: Jen Schnakenberg

Title: Assistant Director of Education

Agency: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Education and Training: 1995 BS Psychology, University of Pittsburgh; 1999 BS Biology - Ecology & Evolution, University of Pittsburgh

Experience: Over ten years at Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy coordinating school partner programs and serving as assistant director; four years as a contract educator with Pittsburgh Citiparks; volunteer naturalist with Audubon Society of Western Pa, Baltimore Woods (Marcellus NY), and Environmental Field Days (Green Lakes State Park, central NY); Research Coordinator at Carnegie Mellon University in lab studying how children learn science skills

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? As returning PAEE board member-at-large, I bring building familiarity with the workings of PAEE and background and context to the areas where I have been working (DEIJA Learning Community, Conference Program Committee). I've been involved in the recent strategic planning process and am excited to help put the plan into action! Additionally, it's important to me to see city-based EE programming represented within PAEE.

Professional Accomplishments: Member PAEE, NAAEE, Association of Nature Center Administrators

Hobbies and Other Interests: Making nature-inspired jewelry! Interest in nature writing and nature-inspired visual arts.

Development Director (1 nomination)

Name: Mike Zewe

Education and Training: Environmental Studies M.S., Organizational Leadership M.A., CFRE

Experience: 20 years development experience, current PAEE Board Member

Why are you applying to be on the PAEE Board? Development Director

Professional Accomplishments: CFRE, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude

Hobbies and Other Interests: Camping, gardening, beekeeping