As MEES celebrates its 40th anniversary, we look back at how the field of Environmental Education (EE) has transformed over the past century. In the first half of the century, EE was based on the premise that land must be conserved and wildlife protected. Then, in 1970, the field had a political coming out on the first Earth Day. In the 80s, a wave of progressive nature-based teachers and the environmental justice movement brought the field into classrooms and urban centers and in the 90s the focus shifted to waste, energy, and green communities. Like science, environmental education itself continues to evolve. In the early 2000s through today and into tomorrow, the EE community has been educating not only our students but ourselves, on climate change, sea level rise, green technologies, sustainable food systems, and renewable energy – professional arenas far afield from our nature-centered roots.

The 2017 MEES Conference will look to the past to help us shape the future of EE in Massachusetts.

- With the increase in technology, is there still value in teaching basic naturalist skills?
- Are we or should we be expanding the definition of an environmental educator?
- How do we engage more traditional classroom teachers to use the environment in teaching core subjects?
- How can we paint an accurate portrait of the people in the EE community in Massachusetts, and highlight the diversity in the field and the work already being accomplished?
- Can the EE field grow and attract new practitioners with current wages and time commitments?
All these questions and more will be discussed in (and out of!) the conference workshops.

In 2017 MEES hopes to both look back at our roots and look forward to where our outer branches are reaching and stretching.

**Registration will open early in January.**

**Conference Registration Information**

Registration fee includes conference attendance and lunch.

- **Early Bird Rate**—$75
  For those registered by Wednesday, February 15

- **Registration Rate**—$105
  For those registered between February 15 and March 1

- **Student Rate**—$25
  Applies to high school, undergraduate and graduate students.

  Scholarships are available each year on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Exhibitor Information**

To become an exhibitor, please register to attend the conference and add on an Exhibitor Half Table for $10 or Exhibitor Full table for $20. Lunch is included in your registration and those attending as Exhibitors can also attend the conference workshops.

Additional Exhibitors beyond the person who registers for the table should register as an attendee.

**Presenter Information**

Lead Presenters are required to register for the conference and attend for free. Any additional Presenters must register for the conference and pay $40.

**40th Anniversary Gala Information**

The gala will be a ticketed event with cocktails and appetizers. More information will be posted to the MEES website when the venue is booked.