

2011 NEEEA Conference

Navigating New England Environmental Education: Charting a Course to an Environmentally Literate Future

Join us in Prindle Pond Conference Center in Charlton, MA October 21 – 23, 2011.

The 45th annual New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) Conference is proudly presented by The Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES). Learn more at <http://neeea.org/conference>.

Presenter Bios

David Arfa is a pioneer in Jewish environmental education. He has combined traditional text study in Jerusalem with a M.S. in Environmental Education and has developed many innovative Jewish environmental programs over the past 20 years. David is also an experienced Shretelech guide (Yiddish word for the little people). He leads groups in forests and fields with goals of meeting the little people, sharing Judaism's ancient environmental wisdom, and sharing a few good stories. Maggid (Mah-geed; storyteller) David also performs stories at prayer services, family programs, and interfaith community events.

Adrian Ayson is a recovering NEEEA addict, having been to most NEEEA conferences since the '80s. He seems to get his thrills from presenting workshops on a broad range of EE topics at conferences of NEEEA, MEES, Land Trust Alliance, Association of Nature Center Administrators, and North American Alliance for Environmental Education. Adrian vaguely remembers serving as president, way back when, of NEEEA and of MEES, and also as editor of the New England Journal of Environmental Education. As for actual paying jobs, he has held senior leadership roles with NAAEE, Center for Whole Communities, VINS, and Mass Audubon, and as a consultant, he has developed master interpretive plans, educational programs, exhibits, and curriculum materials for a bunch of museums, parks, nature centers and botanical gardens. Lately, Adrian has focused on helping EE organizations grapple with the strategic and programmatic applications of new communications technologies, even though he hardly ever updates his Facebook page.

Michael J. Caduto is known for his entertaining, dynamic presentations of science, storytelling, song and stewardship. His popular books include the *Keepers of the Earth®* series; *Pond and Brook: A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environments*; *Earth Tales from Around the World* and *A Guide on Environmental Values Education* (UNESCO-UNEP). Michael has received NEEEA's Environmental Educator Award, the Aesop Prize, NAPPA Gold Award, Storytelling World Award and the New York State Art & Literary Award. He is the Director of P.E.A.C.E®—Programs for Environmental Awareness & Cultural Exchange, and the Education Director for The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens on New Hampshire's Lake Sunapee.

Larry Chambers M.Ed., an innovative outdoor, designs outdoor education experiences to engage students of all ages. Storytelling, curiosity, harmonica playing, passion and immersion are all ingredients Larry uses to: Engage Educate, Encourage, and Excite his students!

Dawn Chávez As the Network Director since BYEN's founding in 2006, Dawn works to connect public and private industry, environmental education, park stewardship, and youth development organizations around the goal of increasing environmental youth employment opportunities and stewardship in Boston. From 2003 through 2007, she worked as the Education Program Director at the Urban Ecology Institute (UEI), serving students and teachers in the Boston metropolitan area. Prior to joining UEI, she worked for eight years leading low-income inner city students from New York in environmental learning experiences. While at Cornell University, Dawn coordinated an environmental science internship for low-income high school students – a program in which she had participated. She later developed a youth program called "Birds of the Bronx" and received an EPA grant to implement it. At a grassroots level, Dawn directed the Manice Education Center - a residential outdoor environmental education center that prepared inner city youth to be informed citizens and concerned stewards of natural areas in their own neighborhoods.

Meg Connerton is the Director of Operations for the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Meg has worked with the Conservancy for over 12 years and, among other things, is responsible for Human Resources and is coordinating the roll-out of the LEAF Program within Boston, MA.

Elizabeth Cooper has been playing with and teaching children in the outdoors for many years. She's an educator, designer, and naturalist with an affinity for plants, especially trees, and a love of wild places. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry, and Masters degrees in Landscape Design and Environmental Education with professional experience as a designer, educator, naturalist, outdoor guide, and landowner consultant. Since graduating from The Conway School of Landscape Design in the class of 2010 she has been focused on working with schools and communities to build and recreate meaningful connections with natural systems and surroundings through planning, design and education.

Stephen DeFlorio is a teacher naturalist currently working at the Apple Montessori School. He has worked for Mass Audubon and at National Wildlife Refuges in both education and research. Stephen has been a facilitator of Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Project WET, Project Learning Tree for many years. Stephen has a particular interest in Native Americans and incorporating ancestral wisdom into natural history. He is highly skilled at curriculum development and teaching. He is passionate about teaching and life-long learning.

Drew Dumsch is the Executive director of Ferry Beach Ecology School in Saco, Maine. MA (1993) University of Tennessee, BA (1990) Kalamazoo College (both degrees in English). Drew has worked as a naturalist in California and Chicago and since 1991 has been an ecologist, naturalist and educator at Ferry Beach. He founded Ferry Beach Ecology School in 1998, is treasurer of the Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) and the New England

Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA). Drew is an affiliate representative to the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE). When not working to advance the cause of ecology & sustainability education, Drew spends his time with his wife, Lisa, and two daughters, Nia and Sophie, on the Nonesuch River behind their house.

Alexander Dunn is a lifelong bird watcher and educator currently working in the field of museum education. His interest in birds and professional experience in education have merged and he has become fascinated by the intersection. His guiding question is: how do people learn to identify birds? He works with both adults and children through the Mass Audubon, the Worcester Art Museum, and most recently the EcoTarium in Worcester, MA as well as an independent artist working at schools and with youth groups around the region.

Meg Egstrom I came to Ferry Beach Ecology School (FBES) 4 years ago after spending 3 years teaching 4th grade, and have served in the position of Outreach Director during that time. FBES has enabled me to apply my formal classroom experience to teach the science of ecology and the practice of sustainability. My job has administrative and instructional components, both of which allow me to affect change through the creation and implementation of field ecology curriculum. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the FBES naturalist staff and school teachers to provide relevant, hands-on science programs for students at a time when time for science instruction, money for field experiences, and professional development for teachers have all suffered drastic cuts. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of my job is collaborating with others in the field of environmental and ecology education to provide cutting edge educational opportunities for an environmentally literate future.

Sheryl Farnam is a long time Mass Audubon Natural History Guide and specializes in introductory birding courses and leads a variety of their canoe programs for all ages.

Barbara Fiore is an Education Consultant with KIDS Consortium, where she designs and delivers service-learning professional development, and collaborates with school district and community leadership teams as they develop policies and supports to integrate and sustain service-learning. Barbara also managed a collaboration with the Choices Program at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. Prior to joining KIDS in 2005, Barbara was an Outward Bound instructor and Program Director for fifteen years. Among her many achievements at Outward Bound's Newry Mountain Center, were the creation of the first International Wilderness Leadership Semester Course offered for college credits and the design of Educational Services contract courses for schools and organizations. Barbara serves on the Advisory Board of the Watershed School in Rockland, Maine and the Board of Directors for the Institute for Humane Education in Surry, Maine. She worked as the Program Director for the Outdoor Center for Learning and Leadership at the University of Southern Maine. She holds a B.A. from the University of Maine at Orono and a M.Ed. from Antioch New England Graduate School.

Jennifer Forman Orth is an invasive species ecologist currently working as the State's Plant Pest Survey Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, where she performs surveys for high-priority invasive pests, weeds, and plant diseases and does educational outreach about her work. Before working for MDAR, Jennifer was a post-doctoral research associate at UMass Boston, where she worked on a project to help biologists develop digital versions of field guides to plants and animals.

John Foster's natural history articles have appeared in magazines such as *Back packer* and *Wild Earth*. He has conducted wildlife research for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Bat Conservation International and the Mass. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. His many years of wildlife field research, extensive people skills and program experience combine to create uniquely researched, powerful environmental education programs with a strong hands-on, ecology focus. His presentations have been called an "educational joy" and have been used by well known institutions such as The Appalachian Mountain Club, Audubon, Harvard University, New England Forestry Foundation, Boston Science Museum and The Trustees of Reservations and clubs all over New England to educate the public and inspire their members. His status as a leading Naturalist has been established through his extensive field experience, deep knowledge and captivating persona.

Aimee Gelinis, M.Ed., is a musician, cultural and environmental educator who founded Tamarack Hollow, an educational business providing music, cultural, environmental education and curriculum building for all ages throughout the Berkshires and Pioneer Valley. She co-founded the world music drumming and vocal ensemble *Gaia Roots* (www.gaiaroots.com), the Latin folk group *Trio Candela* and the original hard rock band *Sifer* (www.sifer.net). Aimee's CD's and nature photos and crafts will be available for sale at the conference. Visit her website for more info: www.tamarackhollow.com.

Bradford Glass has provided leadership for individuals, teams and businesses – as a manager, as an educator, and as a coach for over 30 years. He teaches the art of personal leadership to those with the courage and desire to reclaim their deepest truth, think for themselves, and step into the unlimited power of their own greatest potential. Whether speaking, writing or coaching, Brad helps people transform the way people see and think – about themselves, others, life, work, and world. He has served as Adjunct Professor at Antioch University's Graduate School, and holds master's degrees in both Astrophysics and Environmental Studies.

Brigitte Griswold is the Director of Youth Programs for the Nature Conservancy. Since 2003, Brigitte has worked to create the first national urban youth initiative at The Nature Conservancy. Brigitte serves on the Diversity Council of the Nature Conservancy and is a 2009 Fellow of Green for All, a national organization dedicated to building an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. She leads the Education Advisory Panel of The National Forum on Children & Nature and is a Regional Leader of the Children and Nature Network.

Dan Gross I have been teaching for over a decade in a wide variety of settings and locations. For the past 7 years I have been teaching middle school science at Valleyview Middle School in Denville, NJ. While teaching at Valleyview, I also have taught online and on-the-ground college Environmental Science courses at Centenary College for four years. Prior to teaching at Valleyview, I was a founding teacher of a new sustainability/outdoor-education based charter school in Blairstown, NJ called Ridge and Valley Charter School. Before teaching, I was an organic farmer for three years at Primo Restaurant in Rockland, Maine growing food and flowers for the restaurant right on their property. During the summers of my college years and for a few years after college, I taught environmental education classes in the Redwoods of California, on an organic farm by San Francisco called Hidden Villa, and led month long backpacking trips in the four-corners region for Deerhill Expeditions. I have presented at conferences to both the public and to teachers at GreenFest NJ and Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) annual conference on the topics of product lifecycle and biomimicry.

Stacy Kilb is the Asian Longhorned Beetle Outreach Coordinator for the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources. In addition to presenting workshops on ALB throughout the state, Stacy is currently using her extensive background in education to develop curricula on invasive forest pests for K-12 students, and to develop Spanish language versions of existing ALB outreach materials. Before working for MDAR, Stacy worked as a DCR Park Interpreter, and received her Master of Education from Suffolk University.

Jamie Kordack has been a federal Park Ranger with both the National Park Service and currently with the US Army Corps of Engineers for over 20 years. A professional speaker/interpreter with an emphasis in environmental education, she's presented hands-on themes including vernal pool hikes, junior ranger programs, women in science related fields, the wildlife in your backyard, and the importance of water, just to name a few.

Elizabeth Lemire has been an educator for over 20 years. For the past 9 years she has been the science specialist for the Dwight Englewood Lower School, in Englewood, NJ, teaching science for preschool through grade four students. A graduate of Lesley University's Masters Program in Ecological Teaching and Learning, and presenter at the New Jersey Association for Independent Schools, Elizabeth is passionate about helping children find their voice as they become empowered as the next generation of earth-stewards.

Coleen O'Connell's teaching and scholarship have been focused on expanding the definition and underlying notions of Environmental Education to be that of Ecological Teaching and Learning integrated across the curriculum. She is focused on changing the code for education such that education becomes the practice of educating for ecological global citizenship replacing the present system of educating for global consumerism and competition. Sustainability, systems thinking, deep ecology, intentional communities, and traditional indigenous knowledge are key concepts woven into her teaching practice.

Diana Payne, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor as well as the Education Coordinator for the Connecticut Sea Grant. She is a board member for the National Marine Educators Association and the Southeastern New England Marine Educators Association. She earned her B.S. and M.S. in Biology from the Southern Connecticut State University and her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education.

Don Salvatore is a long-time science educator at the Museum of Science in Boston. He has taught a wide variety of programs to all kinds of audiences. He is currently the Coordinator for the Firefly Watch Citizen Science Project. He also has a nature website - Backyard Biology (www.backyardbiology.net) that contains stories of little known local wildlife.

Ryder Scott, has been teaching and leading groups of young people and adults in the outdoors for fifteen years. He studied Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic, and earned a Masters degree in Environmental Education from Prescott College. After working for Outward Bound, and Chewonki for many years, Ryder helped found the UMaine 4-H Center at Bryant Pond in 2008. As Program Director, Ryder represents Bryant Pond on the board of the Maine Environmental Education Association, where he is currently president. Ryder is also on the Board of his local Watershed Coalition. With his wife, Amy and children Nyla (5), Grace (2), and Braden (3 months), Ryder lives in Greenwood in a passive solar house he designed and built in 2004. When not at Bryant Pond, the whole family can be found hiking, paddling, gardening, fishing, and skiing.

Ronald G. Shapiro, Ph.D., a Fellow in the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) and the American Psychological Association (APA) and a Certified Human Factors Professional (CHFP), is an independent consultant in Human Factors/Ergonomics, Human Resources, Education/Learning and Career Development. He has managed Technical Learning, Human Factors, New Employee Orientation, University Tuition Payment Programs and Career Services for a Fortune 500 company. Ron is the Secretary Treasurer of HFES and serves on its Executive Council. He is a past-president of the Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology Division of the APA. Ron has also served as the chair of National Ergonomics Month, the HFES Speakers Bureau and HFES Volunteers Committee. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering. Ron received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Ohio State in Experimental Psychology. He has taught at Ohio State, Denison University, University of Connecticut and Dutchess Community College. Ron frequently speaks with groups of teachers and students in the classroom as well as at professional conferences addressing human capabilities and limitations, human factors/ergonomics, and career development.

Beth Short currently works for Nature's Classroom as an Associate Director. Her work focuses on integrating academic and social experiences, helping students to discover their relationship with natural and manmade systems. Last year Beth completed her M.S. in Ecological Teaching and Learning.

Judy Silverberg Ph.D. oversees all conservation education programs for the NH Fish and Game Department, and has provided leadership on state, regional and national levels during her 35 years in the field. Judy serves as New Hampshire's Watchable Wildlife Coordinator, and authored the state's *Wildlife Viewing Guide* as well as numerous other publications. She was a founding member and president of the New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE), served on the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) board, and was the 2003 recipient of the NEEEA President's Award. Judy has been actively involved in shaping the North American Conservation Education Strategy since its inception and currently chairs its National Committee.

Bora Simmons serves as the founding director of the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education. The Project has drawn on the insights of literally thousands of educators across the United States and around the world to craft guidelines for top-quality environmental education. After twenty years as a professor of environmental education at Northern Illinois University, Bora retired in 2007 and moved the Project to the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon.

Bora has been actively involved in environmental education research, evaluation, and professional development for over thirty years. She has taught courses, given presentations, and facilitated workshops throughout the United States and Canada as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle-East and Latin America. She was chair of the NCATE environmental education standards writing committee. She served as president of NAAEE; serves on numerous steering committees and boards of directors, and was an executive editor of the Journal of Environmental Education. For her achievements, Bora received the Walter E. Jeske Award for Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Education, and the NAAEE Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research in Environmental Education.

Kris Scopinich is the Education Manager at Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, where she oversees and manages on and off-site educational programs for schools, teachers, youth, families, and adults. She and her staff work with over 800 schools throughout the state and partner with several school districts developing curriculum that addresses science learning through place-based field studies and community-based science. Education projects she has developed capitalize on bringing diverse groups of people together to design and implement place-based environmental education programs where youth, teachers, adult mentors and citizens learn about local habitats and implement stewardship projects in their communities. Her interest is in developing learning environments, in the field and using technology, that encourage youth to explore their connection to the environment as well as the role they can play in its conservation.

Deb Sugerman, Ph.D. has been teaching leadership development for the past 30 years. She taught outdoor education at the graduate and undergraduate level for 25 years, and now provides results-oriented leadership training and outcome evaluation designed to maximize the operational

effectiveness of experientially based organizations through her consulting business, *Experiential Concepts*.

Marilyn C. Wyzga's work as wildlife educator spans wildlife habitat enhancement, exhibit design, and teacher professional development. She created and coordinates Project HOME, the NH Fish & Game Department's schoolyard habitat program, which applies field investigations and inquiry-based learning. Marilyn serves on the board of the New England Environmental Education Alliance and coordinates the NH Children in Nature Coalition. She co-authored *Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead*, a publication that offers a new way of thinking about shaping home grounds and public spaces to include native landscapes and wildlife habitat.

Michael Wojtech spent his childhood roaming the pine barrens of southern New Jersey. After a 15-year career in business, where he developed his skills as a communicator and teacher, he decided to pursue his love of natural history and writing. He earned his Master's Degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England, where he edited the journal *Whole Terrain*. His thesis at Antioch on tree bark became the basis for his newly released book, *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast*. Michael is a freelance writer, teacher, illustrator, and photographer. His main focus is trees, but the woods surrounding his home in western Massachusetts are filled with other, equally splendid topics that he finds hard to pass up. For more information visit: <http://www.knowyourtrees.com>