



55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 2-5, 2023

AT THE FRESH AIR FUND'S SHARPE RESERVATION
436 VAN WYCK LAKE ROAD, FISHKILL, NY 12524



55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IS ELEMENTAL



WELCOME FRIENDS -

CONNECT BY GETTING INVOLVED IN NYSOEA COMMITTEES!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
EQUITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY COMMITTEE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AWARDS COMMITTEE
NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

One of the best ways to get more involved in NYSOEA is to join a committee. Committees help shape the organization and move it towards specific outcomes. For many, they offer the opportunity to network and build skill sets that complement and enhance personal goals. For retirees, committees offer the opportunity to help guide members who have less experience.

To join a particular committee, sign up at the annual conference or send an email to the committee chair.

[HTTPS://WWW.NYSOEA.ORG/COMMITTEES.HTML](https://www.nysoea.org/committees.html)



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2023 NYSOEA Annual Conference is being held at Sharpe Reservation - on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican, Wappinger, Schaghticoke, and Munsee Lenape Peoples, who are the indigenous people of the land, and who stewarded it throughout generations.

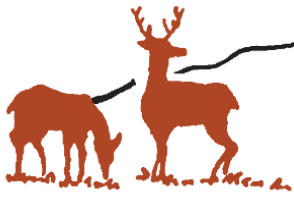
It is with gratitude and humility that we honor and pay respect to the spirit of the ancestors on this land we inhabit. We recognize their sovereignty and long-standing presence on this place, and are grateful for the opportunity to come together on this land, and work in support of their sovereignty as independent nations.

We, as stewards of the land, need to move beyond just acknowledgements, and offer to work with the nations. We can find ways to use education to center indigenous relationships with the land, and encourage all of us to work together to find those ways. Our hope is that we can all commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit, and to building a more respectful, equitable, and inclusive life for all of us.

MORE INFORMATION: [HTTPS://NATIVE-LAND.CA/](https://native-land.ca/)



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

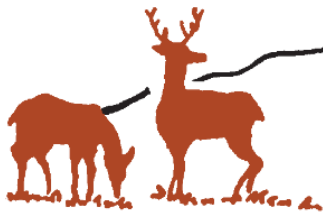


Taconic Outdoor Education Center
Fahnestock Memorial State Park "The Four Season Park"



**WE COULDN'T
DO IT OUTDOORS
WITHOUT YOU!**





SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:

Taconic Outdoor Education Center Fahnestock Memorial State Park "The Four Season Park"



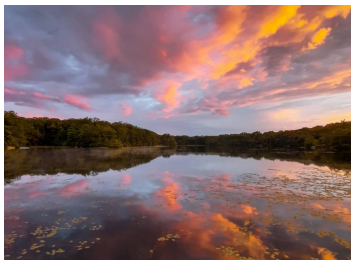
Highland Lodge

A stone fireplace dominates Highland Lodge, warming the soul on wintry days and nights



Interactive Exhibits

Colorful displays help visitors learn about their natural surroundings



The Lake Front

The lake offers opportunities for aquatic ecology, fishing, boating, and ice-skating

Open year-round- outdoor learning in the Hudson Valley. Our secluded, forested hills provide a comfortable learning atmosphere for schools, scouts, organized groups, and community programs. Visitors benefit from a helpful and knowledgeable staff, inviting facility, and excellent meal service.

Day Trips - We offer a variety of lessons that support NYS Science Standards and Boy/Girl Scout badges.

Program & Lunch- Complement your day of environmental programs with a hot lunch

Overnight - Programs include lessons, meals, and lodging. Minimum group size is 35.

Programs at School - If you like, invite us to your class. Choose either *All About Birds* or a *Skins & Skulls* Wildlife lesson.

Adventure Programming - High and low Project Adventure challenge courses foster leadership development, group cooperation skills, and team building activities.

Maple Sugaring - Experience the tradition and history of maple sugaring. Learn how to collect sap from a Maple tree and turn it into syrup (Feb.-Apr.)

Public Programs - Throughout the seasons we sponsor special events. Call for dates.

- Winterfest- February
Sap to Syrup- March

Schools- Need Support and Funding?

Contact your local BOCES Outdoor Education office for more information.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**



Accommodations

Our comfortable cabins are heated for all-season use and have an accessible bathroom



Adventure Programming

Group activities that stress team-building, problem solving, and cooperation



Nature Shop

Our shop offers a unique variety of educational merchandise reflective of our programs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



REBECCA HOUSER
NYSOEA PRESIDENT



Welcome all!

I am beyond grateful to all of you for joining us this year at NYSOEA's 55th annual conference, "Environmental Education is Elemental". Our annual conference brings people together to share ideas, resources, and our collective talents, creating a community that together strengthens connections with the natural world, ourselves, and each other.

The conference committee has done an excellent job putting together our conference, with a great line-up of speakers, workshops, and activities. We all have our connection to nature, and environmental education in common, and I encourage you to meet new people, and feel inspired by our speakers and workshop presenters. Thank you for being here and participating in the growth of environmental and outdoor education. I look forward to seeing all of you!

Rebecca Houser
NYSOEA President

2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2023 NYSOEA Conference:
Environmental Education is Elemental! Thank you all for being here.
We hope you enjoy the variety of workshops and engaging speakers.
Take this weekend to connect with other educators and find
inspiration to continue the wonderful work that you do.

Your 2023 Conference Committee,

Lucas Hanss (Chair), Mary Ronan (Co-Chair), Ashawna Abbott, Sunny
Corrao, Anna Harrod-McGrew, Helena Mazurek, Liam O'Connor





2023 NYSOEA Conference

Environmental Education is Elemental

WORKSHOP STRANDS

Education is Elemental: Land, Air, and Waters

Education about Earth's processes and how we interact with them

Teaching ways that educators can incorporate our connection to Earth cycles in meaningful ways.

Soil and Agriculture

Digging into our relationships with food and farming

Education can deepen our understanding of soil health and our relationship to food, from simple seed starting experiments and soil labs to leading full farm system programming.

Outdoors is for Everyone: Equity, Access, and Inclusion

Connecting through best practices for EAI

Showcase innovative ideas to address barriers to inclusion in outdoor education activities, share successful stories on advocating for environmental education and outdoor education, and share successes in social and environmental justice programs and practices.

We are One

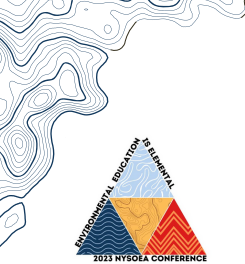
Making community connections through outdoor education

Outdoor education creates community by strengthening connections with the natural world, natural history, ourselves, and each other.

Sparking Passion for the Outdoors

Connecting to nature through games, songs, and stories

Embrace your inner child by learning and sharing your favorite outdoor activities to foster creative learning and play.



2023 NYSOEA Conference Schedule at a Glance

TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:00 AM		7 AM Bird Walk	7 AM Bird Walk	
7:30 AM				
8:00 AM		8 - 9 AM Breakfast Registration Opens	8 - 9 AM Breakfast Registration Opens	8 - 9 AM Breakfast
8:30 AM				
9:00 AM		Workshop Block A	Workshop Block D	Hands-on Workshops
9:30 AM				
10:00 AM		10:15: Welcome Activity	10:15: NYSOEA Memorial	
10:30 AM			10:30 - 11:45 Keynote Speaker: J.R. Harris	
11:00 AM		Workshop Block B		
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM		12 - 1 PM Lunch	12 - 1 PM Lunch	
12:30 PM		NYSOEA Award Presentation	NYSOEA Award Presentation <i>Saturday Raffle Drawing</i>	
1:00 PM	1:00 - 4:00 PM Pre-Conference Workshop: I Fish NY	1:00 - 2:00 PM Annual and Regional Meetings	Group Mentor Sessions	
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM		Workshop Bock C	1:45 - 3:15 PM <i>NYSOEA EAI Committee Presents: Youth Panel</i>	
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM				
3:30 PM		3:30 - 4:45 PM Featured Speaker: Benita Law-Diao	Workshop Block E	
4:00 PM	4:45: Friday Raffle Drawing			
4:30 PM		Registration / Check-in (Open 4-9 PM)		
5:00 PM	5 - 6 PM Dinner	5 - 6 PM Dinner	Cocktail Hour Artist/Author Corner	
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM	Film Screening of "Wild Hope" and Talk Back	Evening Activities : Trivia Karaoke Campfire	6 - 10 PM Banquet Awards Live Auction	
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM				
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM				
8:30 PM				
9:00 PM				
9:30 PM				
10:00 PM				

55TH ANNUAL NYSOEA CONFERENCE- SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

1PM-4PM	Pre-Conference Workshops <i>I Fish NY Demonstration - with NYSDEC at Camp Hidden Valley</i>
4PM-9PM	Check-in, Registration - Dining Hall
6PM-9PM	Film Screening - <u>Wild Hope: The Big Oyster</u> <i>discussion to follow</i>

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8AM - 9AM	BREAKFAST - WELCOME-ANNOUNCEMENTS - Dining Hall
9 - 10 am	<u>WORKSHOPS A</u> <i>Videos to Bust Barriers, Push Programs – Conrad Baker (Arts & Crafts)</i> <i>Introduction to Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs - Jamie Cantin (Nature Center)</i> <i>Supporting Outdoor Learning for All - Jen Hackett (Blavatnik Main Room)</i> <i>Winter Wildflowers - Kristen Rosenberg (Blavatnik Room #1)</i> <i>Planting Seeds for a Nutritious Future - Nicki Bogie (Kitchen)</i>
10am - 11am	Team- Building/Welcome Activities
11am - 12pm	<u>WORKSHOPS B</u> <i>The Incredible Carbon Journey - Lauren Borer (Arts & Crafts)</i> <i>How-tos and Tips and Tricks for Starting Your Own Maple Program - Elijah Kruger (Nature Center)</i> <i>Intimate Insects: The Weird and Wonderful World of Arthropod Reproduction - Michael Forgione (Blavatnik Room #1)</i> <i>Building Meaning and Purpose in Interpretive Programs - Judith Velosky (Admin)</i> <i>Diversity Education In Nature, The Earth as a Model for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging - Dan Kriesberg (Blavatnik Room #2)</i>
12pm- 1pm	LUNCH - Dining Hall
1pm - 2PM	ANNUAL MEETING and REGIONAL MEET UPS - Dining Hall
2PM- 3:15PM	<u>WORKSHOPS C</u> <i>Get Grounded! - Jill Eisenstein (TBD - outdoors)</i> <i>Heritage Breed Livestock Ambassadors to Ag Education - Tim Stanley (Field near Dining Hall)</i> <i>Classroom Teacher Collaboration for Place-based Curriculum Design in NYC - Eli Caref (Arts & Crafts)</i> <i>NYBG Partnerships Expand Bronx Community Resources - Tai Montanarella (Nature Center)</i> <i>Increasing Access and Diversity in the Adirondacks: The Northern Forest Explorers - Matt Burnett (Blavatnik Room #1)</i> <i>Exploring the Night Sky - Pat Farrell & Jen Hargrave (planetarium)</i>
3:30PM - 5PM	<u>FEATURED SPEAKER - Benita Law-Daio - Dining Hall</u> <i>4:45pm Raffle Winners!</i>
5 - 6 pm	DINNER - Dining Hall
6 - 9 pm	EVENING ACTIVITIES - Dining Hall <i>Trivia Night followed by Campfire Fun!</i>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7am	Morning Bird Walk w/ George & Elijah
8AM - 9AM	BREAKFAST - WELCOME-ANNOUNCEMENTS - Dining Hall
9AM - 10AM	<u>WORKSHOPS D</u> <i>Timbuctoo Institute: A Pathway for Diversifying the Environmental Economy - Alexandra Walls (Admin)</i> <i>Educating for Change: Successes & Challenges - Sunny Corrao (Blavatnik Room #1)</i> <i>Promoting Leadership Through Ecological Research - Max Falkenberg (Nature Center)</i> <i>Bringing Geology to Life - Josh Teeter (Blavatnik Room #2)</i> <i>Schoolyard Soil Ecology - Ashley Alred & Becky Van Tassell (Arts & Crafts)</i>
10:15am	NYSOEA Memorial
10:30AM - 12PM	<u>KEYNOTE SPEAKERS - Dining Hall</u> <u>J.R. Harris</u>
12PM -1PM	LUNCH - RAFFLE WINNERS! - Dining Hall
1PM - 1:30PM	<u>ACTIVITY BREAK : Mentor Meetings!</u>
1:45PM - 3:15PM	<u>EAI SPONSORED YOUTH PANEL</u>
3:30PM - 4:45PM	<u>WORKSHOPS E</u> <i>Climate Stories: Using Storytelling to Make Communities more Resilient - Mary Leou, Debra Laefer, Shaghig Chaparian, Tania Tania Goicoechea, and Amy Zhu (Blavatnik Room #1)</i> <i>Towards Respectful Relationality: Un-settling Outdoor Education - Jae M. Zimmerman (Admin)</i> <i>The School Of Rock - Rick Glatz (Nature Center)</i> <i>Practical Puppetry: Teaching Ecology Through Play - Emily Gaines (Blavatnik Room #2)</i> <i>Gather Around the Campfire - George Steele (Arts & Crafts)</i>
5 - 6 pm	COCKTAIL HOUR
6 - 9 pm	<u>AWARDS BANQUET and LIVE AUCTION</u>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8 - 9 am	BREAKFAST - Dining Hall
9 am - 10 am	<u>FINAL ACTIVITY: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS</u> <i>WRITE-OUT - Tom Stock</i> <i>Earth's Minerals and Gemstone Jewelry - Dorothea Panayotou</i> <i>Free the Outdoors - Aimee Schwartz</i>



2023 CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Workshop Block A

Friday, 9am-10am

Videos to Bust Barriers, Push Programs - Conrad Baker- (Arts & Crafts)

Learn basic tips and tricks for building a robust, consistent educational video plan to deliver recorded programs, advertise your in-person program schedule, and advertise your park, preserve, or site.

Introduction to Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs - Jamie Cantin - (Nature Center)

Can the experience of fishing really be used to overcome a very serious issue that is affecting our young people today? Absolutely! Join in on the fun and be introduced to The Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked on Fishing – Not on drugs program! (HOFNOD). This program is taught throughout the country with the goal of building youths' outdoor skills.

Supporting Outdoor Learning for All - Jen Hackett - (Blavatnik Main Room)

Come learn about the work being done on The Autism Nature Trail in Letchworth State Park and at The Adirondack Family Camp in Lowville. Both settings specialize in individuals and families facing autism and related disabilities. Our work and specialty focus on autism, challenging behavior, mobility, and communication needs. We have tricks of the trade to share and tools to take away.

Winter Wildflowers - Kristen Rosenburg (Blavatnik Room #1)

Explore the world of winter plants and see what next summer's wildflowers will look like. Learn tips for winter plant ID and resources.

Planting seed for a nutritious future - Nicki Bogie (Kitchen)

This workshop is an overview of a time-tested nutrition program which is part of the Fresh Air Farm, where participants learn basics of farm-to-plate. Educators will gain insight into tips and techniques for teaching students to conduct positive conversations surrounding food, recognize the importance of good nutrition, and see how to do build a nutritious meal with or without a farm in their backyard. Integrated into learning about nutritious foods, students learn the basics of culinary art. A seasonal snack will be prepared during the workshop.

Workshop Block B

Friday, 11am-12pm

The Incredible Carbon Journey - Lauren Borer (Arts & Crafts)

Looking for engaging ways to teach about Earth's cycles and climate change with upper elementary and middle school students? Join Environmental Educator and Naturalist Lauren Borer from Mohonk Preserve for an introduction to teaching the science of climate change in engaging and hands-on ways. Learn how to teach the carbon cycle to students (youth and adults!) through a carbon cycle game based on the water cycle Incredible Journey activity. Resources for more activities will be available during this session.

How-tos and Tips & Tricks for Starting Your Own Maple Program - Elijah Kruger (Nature Center)

Maple is an important agricultural product in New York that is unique to our little piece of the world. Maple-based education programs provide seemingly limitless opportunities for interdisciplinary study and can be a valuable addition to any formal or informal educator's repertoire. However, there can be many challenges to overcome when getting started and the thought of maintaining a maple operation may seem daunting to some. This workshop will give an overview of the basics of starting a small maple operation for education, highlight interdisciplinary opportunities related to maple, as well as provide tips for overcoming hurdles and ideas for turning challenges into opportunities.

Intimate Insects: The Weird and Wonderful World of Arthropod Reproduction Reproduction: The end goal of most life forms - Michael Forgione (Blavatnik Room #1)

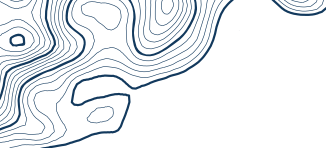
At its core, a fairly simple concept - until you actually try to get two independent adults of the same species to meet at the right time! This is arguably the single biggest challenge for any sexually reproducing species, and evolution has been working away at it for billions of years. For insects and arthropods, it's come up with some truly bizarre solutions. We'll be looking at some of the strangest in this workshop - and the best way to spark a new passion for nature is to learn about passion in nature!

Building Meaning and Purpose in Interpretive Programs - Judith Velosky (Admin)

This workshop will review the National Association of Interpretation's Approach to Communication and discuss how environmental educators can reach their audiences in a more purposeful, engaging, and relevant way. This will be an interactive workshop where participants will be encouraged to share their best teaching practices as well as learn new programming skills together.

Diversity Education In Nature (DEIN), The Earth as a Model for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging - Dan Kriesberg (Blavatnik Room #2)

This workshop will review the National Association of Interpretation's Approach to Communication and discuss how environmental educators can reach their audiences in a more purposeful, engaging, and relevant way. This will be an interactive workshop where participants will be encouraged to share their best teaching practices as well as learn new programming skills together.



Workshop Block C

Friday, 2pm-3:15pm

Get Grounded! - Jill Eisenstein (TBD - outdoors)

This workshop will dig into what makes healthy soil and how healthy soil is foundational to our own health. We will look for life beneath our feet. We will explore vermicomposting, look at soil layers, and get our hands dirty with different kinds of soil. Participants will learn not only how to build healthy soil but also how to teach others about it.

Heritage Breed Livestock Ambassadors to Ag Education - Tim Stanley (Field near Dining Hall)

This workshop is a case study of how Stony Kill Foundation deepened its historical, environmental, and agricultural mission by expanding its educational programs using Heritage Breed Livestock. Stony Kill Farm has successfully integrated rare breeds of livestock, enabling it to tell the three-century historical and agricultural story of the farm, and to bring the significance and relevance of these animals to the forefront of the modern agricultural movement. The farm has expanded its educational outreach through partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H program, the Livestock Conservancy, and Breed Associations. Participants will learn about and meet ambassadors from America's first and oldest agricultural breeds: American Milking Devon Cattle, Tunis sheep and Dominique chickens.

Classroom Teacher Collaboration for Place-based Curriculum Design in NYC - Eli Caref (Arts & Crafts)

Billion Oyster Project provides place-based, inquiry-driven curricula for teachers, which involves collaboration with teachers as part of a "pilot program" that pays them to use the curriculum and provide feedback. Our two pilot programs over the last two years comprised 18 teachers to pilot up to 30 lessons. Through regular discussion and written responses, teachers provided meaningful feedback that improved the final curricula, which are now available online for free. Our presentation will describe the pilot process: recruitment of teachers, biweekly meetings, editing, and results from teacher evaluations. This process of engaging teachers directly, and paying them for their time, significantly improves our curriculum and ensures that we spend time writing material that teachers are excited about utilizing in their classroom.

NYBG Partnerships Expand Bronx Community Resources - Tai Montanarella (Nature Center)

By opening its plant museum to new people in new ways during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Garden increased access and influence reflective of its neighbors in its cultural and outdoor spaces. Children's Education bridges those successes with local schools by providing free STEM programs and professional learning that support students, teachers, and communities in place-based science education that connect to lived experiences, cultural identities, and a sense of well-being. Identify opportunities to strengthen connections between the community in which your institution is located, and the change you see necessary to provide equitable learning experiences that reflect this audience.

Increasing Access and Diversity in the Adirondacks: The Northern Forest Explorers- Matt Burnett (Blavatnik Rm #1)

The Northern Forest Explorers program has been hosting paddle groups in the Adirondacks for ages 9-16 for over 10 years. Through increased advocacy, this effort has grown from its initial mission, which is to increase education and access of our natural resources to the regional communities of the Northern Forest Corridor. Through the generous support of our sponsors, (including the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Brother Yusef Campership, the Adirondack Diversity Initiative and many others) we are working with several organizations to expand this opportunity to new communities. This lecture will celebrate the successful impact of this program on past participants and summarize the challenges and efforts of bringing outdoor programming to urban communities who have not previously experienced it. The opportunities and challenges for sharing, cross cultural collaboration and environmental education in the outdoor classroom will be emphasized.

Exploring the Night Sky - Pat Farrell & Jen Hargrave (planetarium)

Exploring the night sky with activities geared toward learning about our night sky can be fun! Participants will explore the moon, stars, and other astronomical objects as we mix in some astronomy trivia too. We'll be spending some time in Sharpe's planetarium to observe first hand the night sky, and view two short films on the planetarium dome. Participants will leave with ideas to share the exciting world of astronomy with their own community and/or program.



Workshops Block D

Saturday, 9am-10am

Timbuctoo Institute: A Pathway for Diversifying the Environmental Economy - Alexandra Walls (Admin)

We have been working to diversify who is employed in climate and environmental fields for years, have you ever questioned why our shift has been so slow? The Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Institute aims to address the barriers that are still in place, limiting many environmental and climate experiences for high schoolers. Through a series of 2-week summer sessions beginning in New York City, traveling to Kingston, Syracuse, and the Adirondacks the Institute is structured in a way to provide awareness, access, and opportunity to pathways to these careers, alleviating systemic challenges to recruitment. Join the presenters, Institute staff and participants to explore the program structure and policies designed to make this climate education experience accessible to underrepresented populations in natural resource fields.

Educating for Change: Successes & Challenges - Sunny Corrao (Blavatnik Room #1)

Is environmental and outdoor education adapting to meet modern audiences and are we reflective of the audiences we serve? We have been talking the talk, but who is walking the walk? Come prepared to engage in this fishbowl format discussion. We will begin by hearing from peers in our field about the tools or programs they are utilizing to inspire change within their organization, school, or community. Then everyone can choose to participate as we share successes, discuss questions, and hopefully leave with ideas to inspire changes in our communities.

Promoting Leadership Through Ecology Research - Max Falkenberg (Nature Center)

Near-peer mentorship has been shown to have significant benefits for mentors and mentees. Project TRUE (Teens Researching Urban Ecology) is an internship program in which students learn how to conduct scientific research while promoting community and fostering professional skills. The program uses a near-peer mentorship model where undergraduate mentors are taught leadership and mentoring skills and utilize them while leading small teams of high school students through developing and conducting field research projects. This workshop will discuss how near-peer mentorship has been integrated into Project TRUE, and how it can be adapted for use in other environmental education contexts.

Bringing Geology to Life - Josh Teeter (Blavatnik Room #2)

This session will explore how someone who dropped geology in college has gone on to teach thousands of people about one of the most geologically complicated places on Earth. Using the geology of the Finger Lakes we will explore different ways to take complicated topics and make them fun and understandable for a wide audience. Please think about topics that are a little tricky for you to explain and we will discuss as a group possible ways to help make them more understandable.

Schoolyard Soil Ecology - Ashley Alred & Becky Van Tassell (Arts & Crafts)

Learn how to engage your students (or yourself!) with the soil that exists right beneath their feet. How is soil structured? What history lies in the land? How did your soil form, and how can we assess soil health? We will use accessible scientific tools to investigate, get our hands “soily,” and conclude with a lesson on how to create soil pigment paint to contribute to students’ scientific understanding through artistic expression.

Workshop Block E

Saturday, 3:30-4:45pm

Climate Stories: Using Storytelling to Make Communities More Resilient- Mary Leou, Debra Laefer, Shaghig Chaparian, Tania Tania Goicoechea, and Amy Zhu (Blavatnik Room #1)

This workshop session will introduce oral history methodologies and storytelling strategies to support educators in designing inclusive, culturally responsive, and community-based Environmental Education (EE) programs. Also, it will highlight the significance of interacting with community members and organizations, strengthening the connections, and integrating their voices and environmental justice issues in EE programs. A multi-disciplinary team will share the results of an oral history project aiming to explore flooding effects on socially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, investigate community resilience, and uncover risk communication methods before, during, and after Hurricane Sandy. This workshop will engage the participants in storytelling activities, explain the procedure/methodologies, and provide practical tips for implementing such activities with students at different grade levels using examples of the stories/narratives of tri-lingual and multi-ethnic urban community members.

Towards Respectful Relationality: Un-settling Outdoor Education - Jae M. Zimmerman (Admin)

In this workshop by and for Settler educators, the leader will present a short case study of their work co-creating a youth environmental advocacy education program with an Indigenous organization in Oaxaca, Mexico. They will offer lessons learned—both personal and practical— as starting points for hands-on activities in which participants will explore what they might need to learn or unlearn in order to offer outdoor education programs that are culturally relevant and welcoming to Native youth and their communities.

The School Of Rock - Rick Glatz (Nature Center)

Participants will do a rock survey at Sharpe Reservation that can be done anywhere on their school grounds or nature center to see where you fit on the "rock cycle". Get ready to dig down and get dirty.

Practical Puppetry: Teaching Ecology Through Play - Emily Gaines (Blavatnik Room #2)

Participants will learn how to integrate puppetry and other theater concepts into teaching spaces – no experience needed and on a budget! Use this workshop as a tool to connect students to the natural world through creative play. Receive resources on purchasing materials, designing a puppet theater, writing scripts, and engaging students. Then, put your improv skills to the test by developing and performing a short ecological skit!

Gather Around The Campfire - George Steele (Arts & Crafts)

It's said that human evolution took a big turn with the use of fire. To this day there's something about being around campfire. Come to this fire to share its warmth and glow, explore fire building, share campfire songs and stories, use fire to make something, and eat what it cooks. Yes, enjoy an old-time outdoor ed favorite, a tin foil meal along with an experiment of making a venison stew as natives would prior to contact with Europeans.



Sunday Morning Workshops

Sunday, 9am-10am

Writeout - Tom Stock

Bring and present a short reading of a well known outdoor writer. Following the presentation, participants will have writing time followed by a share-out session.

Earth's Minerals and Gemstone Jewelry - Dorothea Panayotou

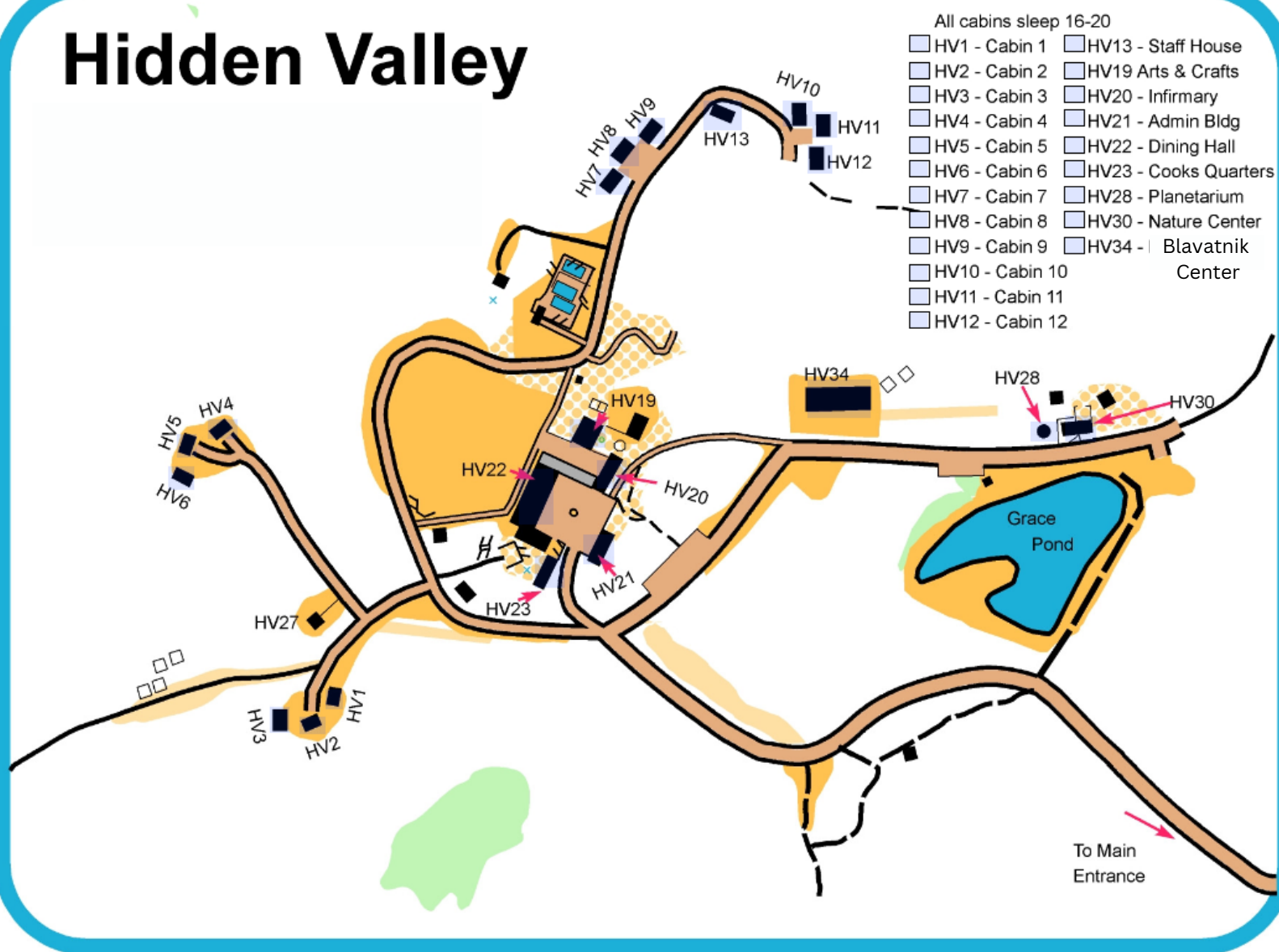
Come to this workshop and learn about the science of minerals and the creation of gemstone jewelry. In this STEAM presentation and hands-on jewelry making activity or demonstration, you will learn how minerals are formed deep within the Earth, how we extract these minerals, and how to create gemstone jewelry using your own creativity. These potential gemstones may include, but are not limited to agates, amber, quartz, moonstone, mixed stones, and others. There will be a presentation, followed by a demonstration and/or the opportunity to purchase kits for a minor fee and create a necklace, bracelet, a pair of earrings, or bookmarks. Please contact me at dorotheastream@gmail.com if interested in making a piece of jewelry.

Free the Outdoors - Aimee Schwartz

A meditation and mandala nature journaling activity followed by a conversation focused on providing access to free outdoor programming. We will meditate, create nature art in journals, and then spend time sharing resources and ideas to provide access to free or low-cost outdoor programming

HIDDEN VALLEY CAMPUS MAP

Hidden Valley



the *Fresh Air* fund
because a summer can last a lifetime™
SHARPE RESERVATION

MEET THE SPEAKER:

BENITA LAW-DIAO



Ms. Law-Diao is a NYS Licensed Public Health Nutritionist/Dietitian and Member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Throughout her life Ms. Law-Diao has held a strong passion for the environment, travel and sustainable living. For five consecutive years, she and her co-workers rode bicycles across New York State to market the re-opening of the Erie Canal and increase public awareness of this world class recreational asset. As a Life Member, past President of the Hudson-Mohawk Council, and a National Board Member of Hostelling International USA (HIUSA), she led efforts to encourage more people of color to participate in travel and recreation. Every year, she hosts a trip for African Americans to tour Martha's Vineyard via HIUSA's hostel, where they learn the history of African Americans on the island, hike, bicycle and share "A Taste of African Heritage" heart-healthy meals together.

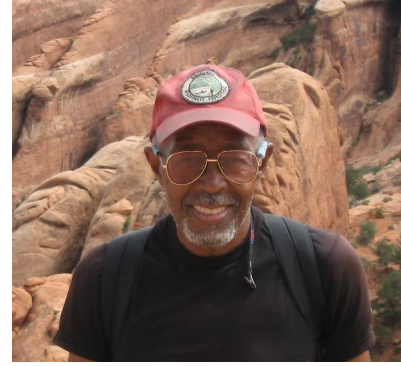
Most recently, Ms. Law-Diao worked as a Community Liaison for the Patroon Creek Greenway Feasibility Study which identified a feasible, multi-use trail connection between the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and the Hudson River waterfront, a 9-mile long trail corridor that would provide a much needed east-west connection for cyclists, pedestrians and other forms of active transportation in the Capital District region.

Ms. Law-Diao is the Outdoor Afro Leader for Albany and Upstate New York and hosts a variety of outdoor experiences for Afros throughout the year. She is a Board Member and Advisor for Eagle Island Camp in Saranac Lake, which is an inclusive, environmentally responsible island camp that works to inspire and empower girls and young women to be confident, collaborative and courageous.

Ms. Law-Diao currently serves on seven Boards: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, the Adirondack Experience Museum (ADKX), the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC) , and John Brown Lives! (JBL!) . Governor Hochul appointed Benita to the Board of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), in May 2022. She is the first African American to serve on the APA Board.

MEET THE SPEAKER:

J.R. HARRIS



I have never been lonely when alone in the wilderness.

It's a reality that motivates my backcountry voyages. As a lifelong resident of New York City, I probably don't fit the profile of a wilderness backpacker but since 1966 I've done more than fifty multi-week treks, all unsupported and most of them alone. During that time I have faced terrible weather, hair-raising river crossings and wildlife encounters, but I've also beheld the awesome majesty and pristine beauty of our incredible planet.

Now in my seventies, I am still an active and enthusiastic trekker under my Brokenbo Wilderness Expeditions banner. Elected into the prestigious Explorers Club in 1993 and included among the HistoryMakers in 2018, I am also founder and president of JRH Marketing Services, the oldest African American-owned research and consulting firm in the United States, and author of Way Out There: Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker.

In addition, I am the subject of a short documentary film called Born Curious, and I am proud and honored that the Exploration Museum in Húsavík, Iceland has awarded me their Leif Erikson Exploration History Award “...for your lifetime of exploration, as well as your tireless efforts to promote diversity in exploration.”

At speaking engagements I like to encourage everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity or physical fitness, to experience, in their own way and at their own pace, all the benefits that come from spending time in the great outdoors. I believe this will motivate them to support, maintain, and protect our natural environments.

YOUTH PANEL

Equity, Access & Inclusion

kite's nest

The Equity, Access and Inclusion committee of NYSOEA has a goal to facilitate youth leadership. By elevating youth voices, we hope to learn more about what is important to them in the outdoor/environmental education space, how they learn, and how these experiences impact their lives.

Join us for a Youth Panel on Saturday, November 4th at 1:45 pm when New York State youth will share their experiences around working with four organizations - Kite's Nest, Kingston YMCA Farm Project, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak.

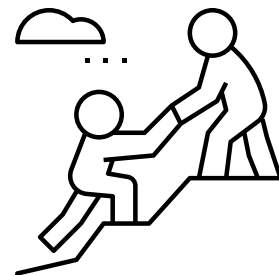


PROFESSIONAL PEER CORNER

For Professional Peers and Individuals either new to the outdoor education field or looking to make a leap in their career.

SATURDAY AT 1:00 PM

Sign up for group sessions in the dining hall.



Participants will be paired and have a scheduled opportunity to seek and share knowledge together in-person at Sharpe Reservation. Slots may still be available, check in at the registration desk during the conference.

Mentor (definition) - *an experienced and trusted guide*

Mentors play an important role in guiding the next generation. They can be found in all facets of our daily lives, from within our implicit or chosen family to teachers and colleagues we work alongside. NYSOEA has been dedicated to welcoming and fostering new members into the outdoor education field. The organization is looking to take the next step and formalize a mentorship program. This is a goal that has been inspired by many, but most recently was gathering energy through the efforts of River DiLeo. Mentoring seemed to come naturally to River, and they were not afraid to share how important being an active mentor to new SCA educators each season was to them.

This year at the conference we are continuing the Professional Peer Corner. An opportunity for experienced professionals in the field to sit down and have candid conversations with students and emerging outdoor educators. This is only the beginning as we want to continue to have these conversations and evolve into NYSOEA's mentoring program.

Members, this is a call to you! Be an inspiring guide to welcome new professionals and make sure they feel they belong. It's these connections that strengthen our community. We are all one!



FILM SCREENING

THURSDAY, 6:30PM



EPISODE 1: THE BIG OYSTER

An alliance of architects, restaurateurs, scientists, and high school students is deploying one billion oysters to restore New York Harbor and protect the city from climate change.

WILD HOPE is a new series of short films highlighting the intrepid changemakers who are working to restore and protect our planet. Each half-hour episode inspires audiences with stories of bold interventions, unexpected alliances, and nature's resilience. Whether tapping oysters to clean New York City waters and prevent flooding, or growing coffee to save Mozambican rainforests, the series reveals how local action can spark powerful change—and provides a refreshing dose of hope in an increasingly cynical world.

Watch WILD HOPE on public television and YouTube now. Sign up for inspiration in your inbox at www.wildhope.tv!





NYSOEA AWARDS

**GIVEN OUT THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE
AND DURING THE BANQUET**



There are a variety of awards presented by NYSOEA to acknowledge the achievements and contributions to New York State Outdoor Education.

- Leadership Award - Presented to candidates who are responsible for the growth of professionals in the field, who created innovative programs, and/or provided the management support that expanded outdoor education at the local, state, or national level. Recipient does not have to be a member of the Association.
- Service Award - Presented for outstanding support of Association goals by contribution of personal time and energy. Recipient must be a member for three years.
- Outdoor Educator Award - This honor recognizes the outstanding classroom teacher, environmental educator or interpreter in the Association who has used the outdoors to enrich curriculum and/or interpret the natural world in a way that has expanded the environmental appreciation of children or adults. Candidates must be active in the field for five years and a NYSOEA member for two years.
- Art & Literary Award - Given for outstanding artistic or literary ability demonstrated by publication, scholarly pursuits, or other creative art achievements related to outdoor education. Nomination does not require Association membership.
- Environmental Impact Award - Awarded to an individual or organization involved in research, conservation and political action that influenced, protected and successfully dealt with problems associated with the environment. NYSOEA membership is not required.
- Julian Smith Student Award - Presented to deserving undergraduate or graduate student who has shown a commitment to outdoor education through study, leadership, volunteer work and seasonal employment. The student must be enrolled full time (12 hours) and have a grade point average of 2.5 in a program of study related to outdoor education. Applicant must submit a statement of interest and highlight experiences and/or contributions to the field. Two letters of recommendation must be secured from professors or one each from a NYSOEA member and a professor familiar with the student's background.

NYSOEA AWARDS

CONTINUED

- Volunteer Service Award - Awarded to an exemplary volunteer whose dedication and commitment of personal time and energy has significantly contributed to the goals of outdoor/environmental education in a school, park, museum, nature center or residential setting. Nomination does not require Association membership.
- Harlan Gold Metcalf Award - The highest honor presented to a member of the Association. Candidates must have made valuable professional contributions in New York State, demonstrated outstanding leadership, and contributed to and made significant achievements in the field of outdoor education. Recipients must have 10 years of professional experience and be a current NYSOEA member.

AWARDS SPONSORED BY:



**QUESTIONS?
WANT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE?
CONTACT US
AWARDSCOMMITTEE@NYSOEA.
ORG.**

WWW.NYSOEA.ORG/AWARDS

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Acorn Naturalists' collection is brimming with resources that advance environmental and outdoor education. From STEM-based activity manuals and track and skull replicas to hand lenses, games, lab and field equipment, and storybooks, we have just about everything you need to help you explore and teach about the natural world.

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2023 NYSOEA AWARD WINNERS

Leadership
Shinara Sunderlal



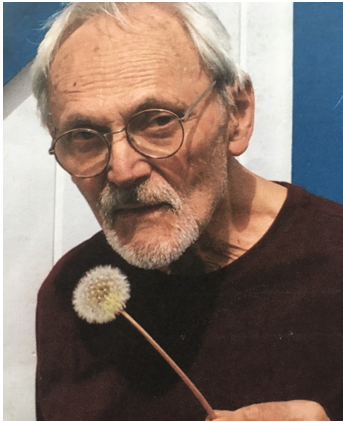
Environmental Educator
Kathalene Lamboy



Julian Smith
Ishika Joshi



Service
Tom Stock



Art and Literary
Christian Cooper



Service
Margaret Maruschak



Appreciation
Josh Teeter



Presidents
John Stowell



NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ABOUT US

NEW YORK'S PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATORS

Established in 1968, NYSOEA is a New York State non-profit, all-volunteer organization supporting outdoor and environmental education, outdoor recreation, and interpretive services. Members make up a broad network of students and professionals working and learning together, from classroom teachers and college professors to naturalists and interpreters, and from students and youth leaders to parents and outdoor recreation specialists. All of us are dedicated to education and the outdoors.

MISSION STATEMENT

NYSOEA is a professional organization that promotes interdisciplinary lifelong learning in, for, and about the outdoors and seeks to inspire appreciation of the environment by all people.



ORGANIZATION GOALS

- To promote public awareness of the value of outdoor and environmental education and interpretation.
- To foster a lifelong appreciation and sense of stewardship for the environment.
- To help classroom teachers and youth leaders use the outdoors to enrich their curricula and programs.
- To assist our members in expanding their knowledge and skills in using the environment for responsible educational purposes.
- To act as a unified voice supporting the fields of environmental education, outdoor education, interpretation, and outdoor recreation.

Contact Us:

New York State Outdoor Education Association

17 Liberty Street, PO Box 216

Chelsea, NY 12512

Office Manager: Lily Ropes

MAIN: (845) 288-3444

Email: NYSOEA@gmail.com



IN MEMORIAM



Patty Lent – Workshop Leader

Wayne Trimm – Workshop Leader, Publications

Cathy Ann Howes – Past President

Ron Bover – Past President

Laura Carey – Workshop Leader, Conference Co-Chair, Board Member

Jim Marion – Board Member

Dr. Marsha Carlson – Workshop Leader, Board Member

George Fuge – Past President

Barry Hopkins – Conference Chair, Workshop Leader

Larry Montalto – Workshop Leader

Louise Standard – publications, Board Member

Max Wheat – publications

Herm Weiskotten – Founding Member, Board Member

Dr. Richard Fisher – Workshop Leader

Jack Sheltmire – Board Member

Kay Teale – Regional Rep

Juanita Bumpus – board member

Kent Reeves – Past President

River DiLeo – Conference Chair, Workshop Leader

John Loret – Past President

Rex Miller – Past President

Harlen Gold Metcalf – Past President



SAVE THE DATE

WINTER WEEKEND 2024

February 2nd- 4th

Taconic Outdoor
Education Center
Cold Spring, NY



SAVE THE DATE



CONFERENCE 2024
NOVEMBER 7-10

*THE YMCA AT WATSON WOODS
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