

Use the following session descriptions to select the session of your choice for each of the five Concurrent Sessions. For quick reference, the numbers at the end of the titles on the agenda correspond to their descriptions in this document. The sessions are listed by title and number on Eventbrite.

Concurrent Session I

10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

STRAND TITLE DESCRIPTION/SPEAKER

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| <p>Experience Nature through Play</p> | <p>The Evolution of Nature Play in Maryland</p> <p>1</p> | <p>The Maryland Nature Play Work Group has made significant progress in the past 7 years to promote nature play in parks, nature centers, schools, and early childhood settings throughout the state. In this session you'll learn about how this group of local experts (which includes planners, policymakers, educators and designers) has shaped a movement in our neighboring state. We will share resources, training ideas and highlight some of our favorite projects.</p> <p>Amy S. Henry, Conservation Education Specialist, Maryland Dept of Natural Resources</p> <p>Nancy Striniste, MLD - Founder and Principal Designer at EarlySpace</p> |
| <p>Connect with Nature Using Science</p> | <p>Project Learning Tree, Early Childhood: Evergreens in Winter!</p> <p>Double Session (110 minutes)</p> <p>2</p> | <p>Come paint with evergreen brushes and feel “tickly and prickly branches.” Inspect a branch up close and learn how to estimate its age or take the time to sort cones of all sizes. Evergreen trees offer a sensory overload! They can provide experiences for children to touch, smell, see, hear, and taste the season of winter. Project Learning Tree’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood guide integrates nature-based exploration, art, literature, math, music and movement, and outdoor play into early childhood education programs. It allows children to explore, discover, and communicate in expressive ways. This session will introduce participants to PLT’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood and activities for incorporating trees into your program, even in the winter!</p> <p>Ashley Peebles, Education Coordinator, Delaware Forest Service</p> |
| <p>Engage Nature with Technology</p> | <p>Fusing Technology and Nature</p> <p>3</p> | <p>This session will focus on examining various applications that can be used outdoors to incorporate technology and learning. Topics may include using Google Docs to create nature journals, Using Google Keep as a nature sketch book, and Pokémon Go and moving students outdoors. We may also examine using digital cameras, mapping applications, geocaching, and more. Ideally, participants will have time to question and utilize the various apps. If weather permits, we can move outside as well. The ultimate goal of the session is to present a variety of resources and then tie the resources together into a lesson plan. Participants will need a device and if the weather is nice, we will go outdoors!</p> <p>Justin Malin, Instructional Technology Specialist, Smyrna School District</p> |

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| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Inspire Learning through Nature</p> | <p>Starting a School Vegetable Garden</p> | <p>Are you interested in starting a school vegetable garden using a garden-based curriculum that aligns with state content standards? Looking for a great hands-on experiential outdoor learning opportunity that can take place right outside of your classroom each year? Excited about healthy produce for your school cafeteria or a possible classroom cooking demonstration? Then this informational workshop is for you! Come learn how to setup a vegetable garden that will enable students to participate in seed to table growing each spring and fall. In this workshop, we will discuss the academic and health benefits of a school vegetable garden program, our typical program structure and format, as well as the time commitment and resources necessary for the implementation of a successful program. Presentation will also touch upon opportunities for project-based learning and conclude with a delicious stir-fry cooking demo featuring our favorite garden veggies. This presentation is best suited for Kindergarten-8th grade educators.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lindsay Lancaster, Program Manager, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids</p> |
| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Connect with your Audience</p> | <p>Climate Change 101: Too much of this produces too much of that, causing too much of this other stuff; and what we can do about it</p> | <p>It's in the Next Generation Science Standards; we're getting more and more questions about it from our program participants; and some call it the number one issue facing life on our planet. Climate change is all around us. It's happening, we're the cause, it's already having impacts, and there are things we can do about it. In this session, participants will explore a series of hands-on activities and demonstrations, that each dig into a climate change topic: weather vs. climate, the carbon cycle, greenhouse gases, ocean acidification, sea level rise (thermal expansion, land subsidence, melting land ice vs. sea ice), ocean circulation, and solutions (adaptation and mitigation strategies). Then, we will discuss how all these puzzle pieces fit together. Participants will leave the session with a better understanding of climate change, more confidence to teach about it, and lots of activities to add to their toolbox. Resources will be made available to session participants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Christopher Petrone, Marine Education Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant Melissa Rogers, Education Coordinator, MADE CLEAR Project</p> |

End of Concurrent I session descriptions

Select one of the five following sessions. The sessions are listed by title and number on Eventbrite.

Concurrent Session II

11:20 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

| STRAND | TITLE | DESCRIPTION/SPEAKER |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Experience Nature through Play | <p>Earth-friendly, Child-friendly Natural Play and Learning Spaces</p> <p>6</p> | <p>An experienced landscape designer/former teacher shares inspiring images of her earth-friendly, child-friendly designs for ECE, schools and parks. Discover essential elements of natural play and learning spaces and their importance for healthy development: natural climbing, digging and pretending places; outdoor art, literacy spaces; beautiful native and edible kid-friendly plants.</p> <p>Nancy Striniste, Landscape Designer, EarlySpace, LLC</p> |
| Connect with Nature Using Science | <p>Project Learning Tree, Early Childhood: Evergreens in Winter!</p> | <p>Double Session. Must select this session in Concurrent Session I to participate.</p> |
| Engage Nature with Technology | <p>Community Watershed Engagement & Learning Tools at Wikiwatershed.org</p> <p>7</p> | <p>Wikiwatershed® is a community web toolkit to support citizens, conservation practitioners, researchers, educators, and students to collaboratively advance knowledge and stewardship of fresh water. Attendees will be guided through the online Model My Watershed (MMW) GIS and the Water Quality mobile app. MMW is designed to support citizen science efforts by providing rapid visualization of watershed data, advanced geospatial analysis capabilities, and science-based predictions of stormwater runoff and water quality. As part of an NSF grant a MMW curriculum currently piloted in 5 states will also be shared. We will also explore the Water Quality mobile app. Site profile, water chemistry and physical parameters, and macroinvertebrate bioassessment data can be entered in the app, emailed to others, and interpreted for stream health determination. Some laptops will be provided. Participants are encouraged to also bring their own computer and download the Water Quality app to their mobile device.</p> <p>Steve Kerlin, Director of Education Tara Muenz, Assistant Director of Education Stroud Water Research Center</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Inspire Learning through Nature</p> | <p>Noticing Nature: Nature Journaling for Everyone!</p> | <p>Nature journaling is a fantastic activity for learners of all ages and abilities! You don't have to be a skilled artist to keep a nature journal. In this session, we will explore the versatile practice of creating and utilizing a nature journal, and its connection to sensory observation activities and hands-on learning. Whether you would like to learn basic artistic and reflective skills of nature journaling for yourself, or to teach your students how to create nature sketches of the school garden, a rainy day activity of drawing a leaf at their desks, or a fun way to refocus an over-stimulated group of learners by tuning into their senses, there's something for everyone in this practice.</p> <p>Students of all ages, abilities and various subjects can gain a great deal from learning the skills and methods of observation and reflection, especially about the natural world! We will discuss journaling on a budget, logistics, materials and techniques, how to choose your setting or subject material, working with sensitivity through no-show and tell, identifying opportunities for nature journaling, and evaluation. We will also briefly discuss the practice of Phenology, the study of natural cycles and seasons, and supportive resources for nature journaling. Participants will create a basic nature journal to take home!</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Connect with your Audience</p> | <p>Climate Change 101: Too much of this produces too much of that, causing too much of this other stuff; and what we can do about it</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer Bowman, Environmental Educator, Resource Smart LLC</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Double Session. Must select this title in Concurrent Session I</p> |

End of Concurrent II session descriptions

Select one of the five following sessions. The sessions are listed by title and number on Eventbrite.

Concurrent Session III

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

| STRAND | TITLE | DESCRIPTION/SPEAKER |
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| Experience Nature through Play | <p>Enchanted Woods: The Magical Children's Garden at Winterthur</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p> | <p>Fieldtrip to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library to explore Enchanted Woods, the children's garden. Fieldtrip will provide inspiration and insight into creating outdoor gardens and play spaces for children.</p> <p>This is a capped session. Transportation will be provided. Please dress for weather. In the event of inclement weather, an indoor presentation will be substituted.</p> <p>Suzanne French, Garden Horticulturist, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library</p> |
| Connect with Nature Using Science | <p>Bioblitz: Community and School Science in the Field</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> | <p>Pulling together local university researchers, professors, scientist, community members and students for a 'snapshot' of species in the field takes a great deal of patience and coordination. White Clay Creek State Park held their first Bioblitz, partnering with the Delaware Geographic Alliance and supported through a grant from the Delaware Association for Environmental Education. This presentation will focus on the student engagement program that brought 5th grade students into the field, introduced them to the iNaturalist app and provided a timeline for them to download their observations for species of interest in our park. Participants are encouraged to have and bring thier cell phone for active participation. Pre loading iNaturalist is a plus!</p> <p>Barbara Woodford, Interpretive Program Manager, Delaware State Parks Lorin Felter, Interpretation and Education Coordinator, First State National Historical Park Nora Reynolds, Natural Resources Intern, First State National Historical Park</p> |
| Engage Nature with Technology | <p>Diving deep into digital storytelling and virtual reality to create immersive science education experiences</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p> | <p>Go virtual! See for yourself how emerging digital tools allow you to literally immerse your audience into your projects and make the experience fun – you just need to embrace the innovative approaches that these new technologies allow!</p> <p>At Delaware Sea Grant, we've been using Google Cardboard viewers to provide virtual "field trips" that give participants the opportunity to experience unusual places, like a scientific ocean drilling vessel and state-of-the art microbial laboratory. Learn how we're combining these virtual experiences with a variety of video offerings and insights from experts to help users understand the complexity, challenges, and importance of the deep biosphere.</p> <p>Lisa Tossey, Ed.D. Candidate, University of Delaware Christopher Petrone, Marine Education Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant</p> |

Select one of the five following sessions. The sessions are listed by title and number on Eventbrite.

Concurrent Session IV

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

| STRAND | TITLE | DESCRIPTION/SPEAKER |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Experience Nature through Play | Enchanted Woods: The Magical Children's Garden at Winterthur 14 | Fieldtrip to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library to explore Enchanted Woods, the children's garden. Fieldtrip will provide inspiration and insight into creating outdoor gardens and play spaces for children. This is a capped session. Transportation will be provided. Please dress for weather. In the event of inclement weather, an indoor presentation will be substituted. Suzanne French, Garden Horticulturist, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library |
| Connect with Nature Using Science | Learning from the Center of the Earth 15 | Journey to the center of the world in the Delaware Children's Museum's (DCM) Earth Balloon! See the earth from a new perspective and learn how a different view can help to make connections students may not have noticed before. The DCM's travelling exhibit is a standards-based resource available to educators as a hands-on supplement to geography, geology, and other social studies topics. Discover how a 19-foot inflatable globe engages students from Kindergarten to 12th grade in learning about our amazing world, its resources, and its people. Learn by participating in a presentation designed for 1st graders. Rebecca Virden, Field Trip and Outreach Supervisor, Delaware Children's Museum |
| Engage Nature with Technology | Using Technology for Environmental Stewardship 16 | In this hands-on session you will learn to utilize two technology platforms developed by The Nature Conservancy to engage people in learning about nature and doing conservation. Habitat Network is a citizen science mapping tool used to capture, identify, and share habitat information in your backyard and explore opportunities for improvement using ecologically relevant practices. Nature Works Everywhere is a collection of lesson plans with videos aimed at middle and high school students. The curriculum units are relevant across geographies and align with national Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards. Topics include water, food, clean air, energy and habitat protection. Maria Dziembowska, Director, Outreach and Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy |

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| Inspire Learning through Nature | Managing animals for successful educational programming | Double Session. Must select this title in Concurrent Session III. |
| Connect with your Audience | <p>Observe to Learn: Wildlife in your classroom</p> <p>DOUBLE, 20 MINUTE SESSION</p> <p>Improving nature connectivity through bird blinds and bird feeders</p> <p>17</p> | <p>Monitoring wildlife with your classroom reaches beyond science curriculum. The Brandywine Zoo has multiple opportunities for teachers to integrate wildlife studies into a multidisciplinary course for students of all ages.</p> <p>Learn about how observing animal behavior can translate into math, science and language arts skills at the Zoo or in your classroom. Or, get involved with some of the Zoo's Citizen Science programs, such as the American Kestrel Nest Box program, a partnership citizen science program with the Peregrine Fund's American Kestrel Partnership, or take a STEM Lab with your class to learn about the science of animal behavior.</p> <p>Jacque Williamson, Curator of Education, Brandywine Zoo Hannah Pretz, School Programs Coordinator</p> <p>Bird blinds are simple wooden sheds or stands that are situated overlooking an area where birds congregate such as a lake, marsh, or woodland, especially where bird feeders have been provided. By sitting quietly inside them and looking out the port-holes people can view birds much closer than would otherwise be possible. This makes blinds an excellent way to get people interested in nature watching and wildlife photography because there is no need for expensive binoculars or a sophisticated camera. Providing bird feeders with different seed content, position, or design also allows people to observe nature's variety since these will attract different species of birds with very different feeding styles.</p> <p>Ian Stewart, Ornithologist, Delaware Nature Society</p> |

End of Concurrent IV session descriptions

Select one of the five following sessions. The sessions are listed by title and number on Eventbrite.

Concurrent Session V

3:15 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

| STRAND | TITLE | DESCRIPTION/SPEAKER. |
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| Experience Nature through Play | Laughter Yoga! | <p>Are you ready for 20 minutes of total, unreserved fun and play? Are you stressed or feeling overwhelmed by the world? Do you need a good laugh? Laughter Yoga is here for you!</p> <p>What's Laughter Yoga? Laughter is a universal language. Laughter yoga is a medically inspired activity that combines the act of unconditional laughter exercises with yogic breathing (Pranayama) for health and happiness. Laughter yoga was created by Dr. Madan Kataria in India in 1995. This unique and fun yoga practice is experienced in a group setting as an exercise in breathing, clapping, playfulness, eye-contact, and body movement that transforms into authentic laughter and joy. Laughter benefits the mind, body and spirit because when laughter is sustained for more than 10 minutes, it increases your intake of oxygen and helps to stimulate your immune system, elevate your attitude, reduces stress, improves creativity and cognitive processes, and helps you to cope with daily experiences of life.</p> <p>Jen will lead the group through a series of brief clapping, breathing, and playful laughter exercises and meditations that will stimulate better breathing, get us moving and boost our positive energy. No jokes, experience or yoga mats required! Just bring your playfulness to join the fun!</p> |
| | 18 | Jennifer Bowman, Environmental Educator, Resource Smart LLC |
| Connect with Nature Using Science | Engaging Students in Science through Ecology | <p>Engaging students in topics that they can personally relate to can be the key to ensuring their success in science classes. I have designed an ecology and environmental conservation course that includes a sequence of unique topics during each of the 3 terms throughout the year. Students that have an interest in any specific ecology topic can enroll in the single term class as an elective. Alternatively, they can enroll for the entire year. Students have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of conservation issues and gain hands-on experiences with specific field and research skills. By focusing on these specific ecology topics that students participate in directly, they increase their basic science skills, including data analysis, graph interpretation, mathematical computation, modeling, and scientific communication. Through this innovative class design, students expand their knowledge and share insights of ecological issues through STEM activities, field and research projects, data analysis, and problem-based learning. Students have the opportunity to enhance and refine their science skills and ensure their success in future sciences courses.</p> |
| | 19 | Penny Rodrick-Williams, Science Instructor, Tatnall School |

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| <p>Engage Nature with Technology</p> | <p>Delaware's Children in Nature Initiative</p> <p>20</p> | <p>The mission of the Delaware Children in Nature (CIN) Coalition is to improve environmental literacy, create opportunities for children to participate in outdoor experiences, promote healthy lifestyles and provide better access to green space through schools and community programs. Hear what Delaware's CIN Coalition has been up to since its creation in 2010. Learn about current programs, grant work, committees and projects in motion. Discuss what the CIN Initiative means for you and your group and talk about the direction of the Coalition for the future.</p> <p>Angel Burns, CIN Coordinator, Delaware State Parks</p> |
| <p>Inspire Learning through Nature</p> | <p>Hands on Gardening and Chickens at Camp!</p> <p>21</p> | <p>We are (3) years into a small gardening and chicken (layer) program infused into our summer (and conference group if requested) environmental program. Campers and staff work the gardens, care for the hens and use produce and eggs for their outdoor cooking. The program has really taken off. We would be willing to share our experience, how we started and how we manage if you think this would be helpful.</p> <p>Walt Lafontaine, Executive Director Nancy Lafontaine: Registrar, Conference Programming Teri Valente, Director Camp Arrowhead Carmine Environmental Center</p> |
| <p>Connect with your Audience</p> | <p>Developing an Outreach Strategy to Target Your Audience</p> <p>22</p> | <p>Figuring out how to reach your desired audience can be tough. For Delaware wetland landowners, a three prong approach involving colorful mailers, an interactive ESRI storymap website, and in person open house events was deemed the best way to reach them. This presentation will focus on the thought process that went behind targeting freshwater wetland landowners, and present some tools, tips and tricks for you to use to reach any audience on any budget.</p> <p>Brittany Haywood, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control</p> |

End of Concurrent V session descriptions