

This agenda shows only the Concurrent Sessions. Click on the session title to view the session description.

STRAND	Connecting People with Nature	EE and Formal Education	Cultivating Environmental Leaders	Innovative and Inclusive EE
Concurrent Session I 10:50 - 11:35 a.m.	<u>Food For Thought</u>	<u>Project Learning Tree: Forests of the World</u>	<u>Delaware State Parks Volunteer Programs - Engaging Young People in Hands-on, Environmental Learning through Programs at all Levels</u>	<u>Beyond the Glass: Making Natural History Exhibits Accessible</u>
Concurrent Session II 11:45- 12:20 p.m.	<u>Learning to See, Seeing to Learn with Macroinvertebrates.org</u>	<u>Supporting the MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience)</u>	<u>Delaware Teen Science Cafe: Introducing Teens to STEAM Careers</u>	<u>Kent County's Newest Nature Center presents Audience-Centered Education (ACE)</u>
Concurrent Session III 1:20 - 2:05 p.m.	<u>Arctic Meets the Equator</u>	<u>Integrating Environmental Science in Writing</u>	<u>Greening STEM Technologies: DIY Sensor Stations for Stream Monitoring and Education</u>	<u>EE Activities for Global Citizenship: People, Food, Energy and Sustainability</u>
Concurrent Session IV 2:45- 3:30 p.m.	<u>Creating a Statewide Master Naturalist Certification Program</u>	<u>Become a National Geographic Certified Educator</u>	<u>Las Americas Aspira Academy Campus Tour: When Community Comes Together</u>	<u>Engaging Students Using iNaturalist</u>

CONCURRENT SESSION I

Food For Thought

10:50 - 11:35 a.m.

Come explore innovative ways food can be used to connect people with nature in different settings! Elizabeth Androskaut will examine how three Delaware State Parks used food as a method to connect visitors in a unique way to the site's resources. Lindsay Lancaster will share how Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids' connects students with food through its school vegetable garden program. The successes and challenges in each setting will be discussed as well.

Presenters: Elizabeth Androskaut, Wilmington State Parks
Lindsay Lancaster, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids



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CONCURRENT SESSION I

10:50 - 11:35 a.m.

Project Learning Tree: Forests of the World

The world's forests are a natural resource we all share and cherish. Forests provide a multitude of useful products as well as many important environmental services. In this session, participants will be introduced to Project Learning Tree's Global Connections module: Forests of the World. We will review strategies to help students explore their connections to the forests of the world and to learn how forests affect people and how people affect forests. This session will focus on one of the guide's activities, How People Use Forests designed to analyze the effects of different ways that people use the world's forests. These materials are designed for high school students or adults who want to learn more about the forests of the world.

PRESENTER: Ashley Melvin, Education Coordinator, Delaware Forest Service



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CONCURRENT SESSION I

10:50 - 11:35 a.m.

Delaware State Parks Volunteer Programs - Engaging Young People in Hands-on, Environmental Learning through Programs at all Levels

This session will discuss the various programs and opportunities within the Delaware State Parks Volunteer, and Youth Conservation Corps Programs. Following this session, attendees will leave with resources for students interested in year-round volunteer, internship, or summer job opportunities within DE State Parks. We will also discuss the successful partnership between DSPYCC and CR School District for regular summer maintenance of their outdoor classrooms, in an effort to inspire other districts to consider doing the same.

PRESENTER: Ashleigh McKinney, YCC Program Manager, Delaware State Parks

PRESENTER: Glen Stubbolo, Chief of Volunteer and Community Engagement



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CONCURRENT SESSION I

10:50 - 11:35 a.m.

Beyond the Glass: Making Natural History Exhibits Accessible

Natural History museums generally have a reputation for being static and non-interactive. Text-laden panels, intended for a specific type of learner, are frequently the only means of interpretation alongside taxidermy-filled dioramas. During high-visitation days, however, Museum programming efforts increase to include differing types of learners. Gallery guides, manned with a few choice objects, rove the galleries successfully engaging guests of all ages and abilities. What if these friendly occurrences weren't limited to special event days? The Delaware Museum of Natural History, working with a team of experienced Accessibility-related community advisors, has submitted a grant request whereby Museum representatives will be able to engage visitors at several dioramas throughout Mammal Hall on a daily basis. The once static dioramas will be brought to life using highly tactile and relatable objects including models and skull, pelt and scat replicas. As a result, visitors with varying knowledge, experience and abilities will be able to have hands-on experiences, which we believe will lead to an increase in basic scientific observation skills. Topics including adaptations, habitats and food webs will be explored on an individualized manner, depending upon guests' needs/interest. We hope these biofacts, coupled with on-site, out-of-doors nature walk programming, will empower guests with practical skill sets they can use and share long after they've left the Museum. The presentation will discuss development stages through implementation of this innovative exhibits/programming initiative via gallery images, biofacts, data gathered, visitor feedback.

PRESENTER: Helen Bilinski, Director of Exhibits, Delaware Museum of Natural History



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Learning to See, Seeing to Learn with Macroinvertebrates.org

Macroinvertebrates.org is an innovative digital teaching tool based on explorable, high-resolution annotated images with supplemental multimedia to assist the development of identification skills of freshwater invertebrates. Funded by the National Science Foundation, this online learning platform entitled 'Learning to See, Seeing to Learn,' concentrates on providing tools for training citizen scientists to identify aquatic macroinvertebrates for water quality monitoring projects, furthering conservation efforts of many national and international entities. This open educational resource is a powerful supplement to more traditional identification keys used by volunteers and educators and assists greatly for bringing PPSR into the classroom and beyond. Tools feature zoomable, high-resolution images for the 150 most commonly found taxa in the Eastern United States with additional diagnostic characters for 50 selected taxa at the order, family, and genus level. These explorable images can be dynamically manipulated by the user to see and learn these important characters in context. Detailed descriptions of the diagnostic characters, life history, food preferences, ecological information, pollution tolerance values, and terminology supports are also provided to aid identification for each taxon. In this session we will provide attendees with hands-on opportunities to dive deeper into the site as a learning and training tool. Bring a laptop or smart pad!

PRESENTER: Tara Muenz, Assistant Director of Education, Stroud Water Research Center



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CONCURRENT SESSION II

11:45 – 12:20 p.m.

Supporting the MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience)

The Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) is the bedrock upon which the region's environmental literacy efforts have been built. School divisions, non-profit organizations, state natural resource agencies, universities, and others, have answered the call to implement MWEEs, although gaps still exist across the region. Partners from the Bay Program have come together to create an innovative solution to reach more of these key groups and to provide continued support to those already engaged. This session will showcase the Bay Programs brand new online course for educators, teachers, and their leadership to support the widespread implementation of MWEEs. This session will showcase the resources available through the course, provide examples of how organizations might embrace the tools for supporting their existing teacher professional development programs, and connect to other resources that reinforce integration of NGSS and using data in the classroom.

PRESENTER: Bart Merrick, Education Coordinator, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office



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CONCURRENT SESSION II

11:45 – 12:20 p.m.

Delaware Teen Science Cafe: Introducing Teens to STEAM Careers

This year the Delaware Museum of Natural History launched the first Teen Science Café in Delaware. Held throughout the country, Teen Science Cafés are free science presentation series for teens lead by experts in STEAM fields. An integral part of this program is that all of the cafes are designed and run by a group of local teens, the Teen Leadership Team. Teens that join the leadership team learn valuable skills and teens that attend the café find new ways of viewing science and STEAM careers that they are not exposed to in school. We will be discussing how the program works and how it got started, the impact it can have on teens, how you can get your students/teens involved, and ways of expanding the program to reach more teen audiences.

PRESENTER: Becca Holloway, Informal Education Coordinator, Delaware Museum of Natural History



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CONCURRENT SESSION II

11:45 – 12:20 p.m.

Kent County's Newest Nature Center presents Audience-Centered Education (ACE)

Throughout time, interpretation has evolved and adapted to meet the needs of our audiences as well as our resources. The objective of Audience-Centered Education (ACE) is to facilitate conversations, open minds and bring deeper meaning to their experience. By developing open-ended questions, we can encourage the thought process and create meaningful experience for our audience. During this session, you will be introduced to Kent County's newest Nature Center, the Howell Mill Nature Center, at Brecknock Park in Camden, Delaware. Then, we will then dive into strategies for audience-centered education and audience-centered interpretation. Be prepared for participation!

PRESENTER: Kara Okonewski, Volunteer Interpretive Specialist, Kent County Parks and Rec, Brecknock Park



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CONCURRENT SESSION III

Arctic Meets the Equator

1:20 – 2:05 p.m.

Lindsay Lancaster and Stacy Gasteiger team up to share their expedition experiences to two very unique parts of the world as part of the 2018 National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Program! Learn about their exploration and adventures in Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and the Galapagos with Lindblad Expeditions. They will take you on an unforgettable journey. Both educators will highlight how they plan to incorporate their expedition into the classroom and how it has transformed their teaching. They will also share details about National Geographic's free Teacher Certification program, the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship, and how you can apply for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

PRESENTER: Lindsay Lancaster, Program Manager, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

PRESENTER: Stacy Gasteiger, 5th Grade Teacher, Selinsgrove Intermediate School



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1:20 – 2:05 p.m.

Integrating Environmental Science in Writing

This session shares how environment based Next Generation Science Standards on Grade 5-LS2-1 Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems and Grade 4-PS3 Energy and 4-ESS3 Earth & Human Activity can be incorporated into writing including report, persuasive, and narrative writing to support student academic growth and develop sustainability understanding.

PRESENTER: Leona Williams, Grade 4 Teacher, Forwood Elementary School



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CONCURRENT SESSION III

1:20 – 2:05 p.m.

Greening STEM Technologies: DIY Sensor Stations for Stream Monitoring and Education

Environmental monitoring and sensing networks have become powerful tools for assisting individuals to identify and address freshwater and environmental questions. Through an EPA EE National Model grant, we developed a sustainable and replicable model for community stakeholders that include citizen scientists, volunteer monitors, teachers, and students with DIY technology, techniques, training and curricula focused on water quality monitoring. From rivers in Bhutan to Pennsylvania, here we share case studies from this project, how you can engage in these environmentally STEM-oriented technologies, and how data from an electronic ‘Mayfly’ can tell you about water quality! Please join us for this hands-on/mind-on presentation from the Stroud Water Research Center.

PRESENTERS: Tara Muenz, Assistant Director of Education, Stroud Water Research Center
Sarah Ferrell, The Independence School



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CONCURRENT SESSION III

1:20 – 2:05 p.m.

EE Activities for Global Citizenship: People, Food, Energy and Sustainability

Discover interdisciplinary, hands-on activities to prepare all students to think critically and creatively about global challenges to the planet and human well-being as world population grows to over 9 billion by mid-century. Learn how to incorporate these issues into the social studies curriculum, as well as science and mathematics. Engage in role-playing, concept mapping and data analysis on key human ecology and human geography topics. Receive standards-based materials in an electronic format.

PRESENTER: Kathy Doyle, Retired Teacher, Workshop Facilitator



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CONCURRENT SESSION IV

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

Creating a Statewide Master Naturalist Certification Program

An overview of the new statewide Master Naturalist Certification Program being developed by scientists and environmental educators at the University of Delaware and Delaware Nature Society. This program will offer 60 hours of natural history training and critical volunteer opportunities for hundreds of Delaware citizens to conduct ecological restoration efforts all over the state. It will be taught by experienced scientists and environmental educators from the university as well as experts from the nonprofit and public sector.

PRESENTER: McKay Jenkins, Journalism and Environmental Humanities, University of Delaware
Jason Wardrup, University of Delaware



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CONCURRENT SESSION IV

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

Become a National Geographic Certified Educator

What does it take to transform kids into explorers? Become a Nat Geo Certified Educator to find out. This certification is a free professional development program that supports educators to become innovative leaders who teach students about the world, empowering them to succeed and to make it a better place. Overview: In this interactive session, educators will discuss how they teach with a global and geographic perspective, reflecting on their teaching missions and collaborating to build upon one another's best project ideas. They'll also be introduced to National Geographic's Learning Framework, which is a set of attitudes, skills, and knowledge areas that embody the attributes of an explorer—one who seeks solutions to our world's most pressing problems. This session serves as half of Phase 1 of the free professional learning program known as the National Geographic Educator Certification Program. As educators go on to complete Phases 2 and 3, they will have the opportunity to try out new lessons and activities that challenge students to solve real-world problems. National Geographic Certified Educators also receive special access to National Geographic education resources and an online community of like-minded peers.

PRESENTER: Anastasia Cronin, Regional Director, Educator Network, National Geographic Society



Las Americas Aspira Academy Campus Tour: When Community Comes Together

Explore the various gardens which make up the Outdoor Learning Environment on the Las Américas ASPIRA Academy campus. Tour the Monarch waystation, edibles garden, interactive garden, and stormwater retention pond. Learn how educators integrate these spaces as hands-on learning tools to extend their curriculum and how community partnerships are the foundation for nature-based learning at ASPIRA Academy.

PRESENTERS: Nicole Sturgill, Las Americas Aspira Academy
Serah Pesce, Las Americas Aspira Academy, Serah Pesce



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CONCURRENT SESSION IV

Engaging Students Using iNaturalist

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

This session will highlight three separate organizations who have harnessed the power of technology to connect students to nature. The free iNaturalist app and its website offer an opportunity to entice students who are sometimes more aware and comfortable with the digital world than the natural world into observing nature. iNaturalist provides an easy to use interface to record observations of natural life on school grounds and in our communities. In this session, Delaware State Parks will highlight their use of iNaturalist to streamline their biological survey of Rockford Park. Participants will learn how school communities can upload data to US Fish and Wildlife's new Delaware Schoolyard Biodiversity Project. Also included in the this session is the opportunity to participate in The City Nature Challenge, an international competition where cities around the world strive to make the most nature observations, find the most species and engage the most people in the local community. With over 100 cities participating, the Delaware Museum of Natural History and the City of Wilmington, Delaware have joined this amazing initiative to highlight local wildlife and encourage community participation. Come learn about how iNaturalist works and how you can use it to engage students!

PRESENTERS: Brian Marsh, Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Penny Rodrick-Williams, Tower Hill School
Andrew Blinn, Naturalist, Delaware State Parks
Austin Conley, Tour and Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Museum of Natural History
Cathy Perrotto, Scout and Camp Coordinator, Delaware Museum of Natural History



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