



*Delaware Association for  
Environmental Education*

*Every*CHILD Learns Outside



Connect with our Outdoor Learning Network for ways to create  
outdoor learning spaces, develop curriculum, and successfully  
teach outside!

**12th Annual Conference ~ Virtual**  
**April 20 & April 21, 2021**  
**6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Join us here: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/99653682600>

# Current DAEE Board

**Ashley Melvin, Chair**

Delaware Forest Service

**Lisa Watt, Vice Chair**

DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

**Claire Mickletz, Treasurer**

DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

**David Christopher, Co-Treasurer**

Delaware Sea Grant

**Connie Hendricks, Secretary**

The Jefferson School

**Stacey Helmer, NAAEE Liaison**

Delaware Solid Waster Authority

**Jennifer Holmes, At Large Member**

DNREC

**Lindsay Lancaster**

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

**Angel Burns**

DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

**David Pragoff,**

Delaware Nature Society

**Todd Klawinski**

Caesar Rodney School District

**Brian Marsh**

US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Dean Goodwin**

Odyssey Charter School

**Cheryl Jackson**

Gore



*Every* **CHILD**  
**Learns Outside**



## WELCOME

This year we celebrate 12 years of DAEE with our first ever two-night, virtual conference. That's over a decade of promoting environmental literacy and connecting folks with nature throughout the state! We are proud of our accomplishments.

In addition to growing membership each year and constantly improving our annual conference, we have also extended our reach through our Facebook page, mini grant and scholarship opportunities. We also have diverse offerings of member events and workshops throughout the year, which bring us together for fun and professional development opportunities.

As you will discover, DAEE is a very welcoming organization which has brought both non-formal and formal educators together in a unique and beneficial way for over 10 years.

Special thanks to the 2021 Conference Committee and the countless hours dedicated to this annual event set to enrich the outdoor educators from all walks of life—classroom teachers, professors, environmental educators, outdoor educators, youth group professionals and all who teach about, for, or in the outdoors.

Thank you for joining us virtually as we improve our strategies for ensuring “Every Child Learns Outside!”

*Ashley Melvin*

DAEE Chair



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual DAEE Conference Keynote Speaker:

**Kerry Wilson**

Director of Outdoor Education  
St. Anne's Episcopal School

**“Two Paths, One Journey:  
The Powerful Intersection of  
Environmental Education and  
Social Justice”**

**Every Child Learns  
Outside**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**



Kerry Wilson is the Director of Outdoor Education at Saint Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown Delaware. She has been developing the campus and the school's outdoor education programs for the last six years. Kerry teaches STEM, which includes the sciences and computer science for preschool age children through 4th grade. Kerry has also taught Chemistry and Biology at the high school level. She has a bachelors degree in environmental science and masters in marine biology/biochemistry. Kerry has worked for NOAA on sea-going vessels as an oceanographer and a marine turtle specialist. She has also worked on dredges as an endangered species observer in the Gulf. Kerry is most passionate about developing cross-curricular inclusive learning opportunities in nature. She has developed literature-based programming as well as integrated historical and culturally significant aspects into programs to increase diversity and inclusion among families at the school. In 2019, she became a certified naturalist with Delaware Nature Society. When not toiling at school, Kerry can be found in her own native gardens at home in Wilmington. She still gets to adventure in nature with her two daughters and husband and waits for their next. Her heart skips a beat whenever she drives past a native plant garden.

The important work being done at St. Anne's was highlighted by ABC Channel 6 on September 8, 2020: <https://6abc.com/back-to-school-saint-annes-episcopal-middletown-delaware/6412588/>

# Conference Agenda: Night 1

**6:00 p.m.**      **Welcome:** *Ashley Melvin, DAEE Chair*

## **DAEE 2021 Annual Business Meeting**

**6:10 p.m.**      **Keynote Address:** *Kerry Wilson, St. Anne's Episcopal School*

*"Two Paths, One Journey: The Powerful Intersection of Environmental Education and Social Justice"*

**6:50 p.m.**      **BREAK/Scavenger Hunt!**

**7:00 p.m.**      **Panel 1: Elements of Successful Outdoor Learning Spaces**

The goal of this panel is to offer insight into how an outdoor learning space is planned, implemented and maintained on school grounds. These outdoor learning places allow students to observe, draw, write, think and question while experiencing and interacting with the natural environment. Successful spaces need several working partnerships during every stage of development as well as a team to carry out daily maintenance. Regular assessment is also needed to continually evolve the outdoor space. Outdoor learning spaces can be met with challenges, but successful implementation stands to foster a valuable relationship between students and the natural environment. Through our discussion with well established members of the DAEE Outdoor Learning Network (OLN), we hope to provide the necessary tools for other educators to implement outdoor learning places and further grow the OLN community.

Panelists:

*Melissa Tracy, Odyssey Charter School*

*Nicole Sturgill, Las Americas ASPIRA Academy*

*Leona Williams, Forwood Elementary School*

*Michelle Savage, Shue-Medill Middle School*

*Kerry Wilson, St. Anne's Episcopal School*

**7:45 p.m.**      **DAEE Mini-grant Presentation:** *Lindsay Lancaster*

**7:55 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks & Reflection:** *Ashley Melvin, DAEE Chair*



# Conference Agenda: Night 2

**6:00 p.m.**      **Welcome:** *Lisa Watt, DAEE Vice-Chair*

**6:05 p.m.**      **DAEE Awards for Excellence Presentation:** *Angel Burns*

**6:25 p.m.**      **DAEE's Network:** *Ashley Melvin, DAEE Chair*

**6:35 p.m.**      **Panel 2: Forging Sustainable Partnerships**

The goal of this panel is to emphasize how DAEE and its partner organizations can provide the necessary guidance to those with a goal of creating a outdoor learning spaces. This group of panelists is composed of DAEE board members who work for various environmental organizations around the state. They will share their expertise and experiences as partners in helping to grow Delaware's Outdoor Learning Network. One of the main goals of DAEE, is to expand the use of outdoor learning spaces in schools and communities to foster a deep connection between people and nature. An emphasis remains on creating these places for children where they can learn, grow, and develop respect for our environment. DAEE plans to build upon this panel session further, by developing a "toolkit" for creating these outdoor learning spaces and curating a statewide Story Map highlighting the work being done.

Panelists:

*Lindsay Lancaster, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids*

*Todd Klawinski, Caesar Rodney School District*

*Brian Marsh, US Fish & Wildlife Service*

*David Pragoff, Delaware Nature Society*

*Ashley Melvin, Delaware Forest Service.*

**7:20 p.m.**      **BREAK/Trivia**

**7:30 p.m.**      **The Amazing Adventures of DAEE:** *Jennifer Holmes, DAEE  
Member-at-Large*

**7:50 p.m.**      **Environment! Education! ACTION!!!!**



# DAEE 2021 Annual Business Meeting

## Delaware Association for Environmental Education

### Annual Business Meeting Agenda

### 12th Annual Conference ~ Virtual

April 20, 2021

- ◇ **Welcome to new DAEE Members**
- ◇ **Join a DAEE Committee**
- ◇ **Review of 2020 Activities**
  - 2020 Conference
  - 2020-2025 Strategic Planning
- ◇ **New and Renewing\* Board Member Nominations (Bios on next page)**
  - Kerry Wilson, St. Anne's Episcopal School*
  - Shweta Arya, Delaware Interfaith Power and Light*
  - Jennifer Holmes, DNREC\**
  - Claire Mickletz, Delaware State Parks\**
  - David Christopher, Delaware Sea Grant\**
- ◇ **Outgoing Board Members ~ Thank you for your service!**
  - Suzanne French, Winterthur Museum*
  - Penny Rodrick-Williams, Tower Hill School*
  - Martha Narvaez, University of Delaware*
- ◇ **Items from the floor**



## SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow us on Facebook (@DAEEpage), Twitter (@DAEEonline), or Instagram (@DAEEonline).

Visit our website at: [daeeonline.org](http://daeeonline.org) or send us an email at [daeeonline@gmail.com](mailto:daeeonline@gmail.com)

# DAEE Committees

## Want to get more involved?

We are always on the lookout for people to help us continue to grow and improve the organization. If you think this sounds like something you would like to learn more about send an email to [DAEEonline@gmail.com](mailto:DAEEonline@gmail.com) letting us know which committee or committees you want to be involved with in 2021. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Marketing & Media-** Maximizes our organization's marketing strategy and communications including the newsletter, website, and social media.

**DAEE Mini Grants-** Review the mini-grant applicants and help steer the direction of future grant opportunities.

**Events & Program Planning-** Plans and implements non-conference DAEE events (behind-the-scenes tours, paddling trips, etc.), and professional development workshops.

**Membership-** Determines how to attract, retain, and best serve our members.

**Conference Planning-** Assist with everything from conference topic planning to booking of spaces and advertising

**Budget-** Help us grow as an organization by creating monthly, yearly, and multi-year budgets

**Audit-** Works with an external auditor to ensure DAEE has proper financial reporting and disclosure.

**Diversity and Inclusion –** Works to ensure environmental education and meaningful experiences with nature are accessible to everyone.

**Communities in Nature-** Works to engage communities and promote environmental and outdoor education to facilitate positive impacts.

**Outdoor Learning Network-** Works to coordinate a unified voice for outdoor learning. Helps to schedule tours and gather resources.

**Environmental Literacy –** Works to update and advance Delaware's Environmental Literacy Plan aimed at preparing individuals and communities to become environmentally literate.

### DAEE's Mission

**Promote environmental and outdoor education to facilitate positive community impacts on the conservation and sustainability of Delaware's resources. Using the environment as a basis for study can improve student achievement, reduce behavioral problems, and connect students and adults to tangible, real-world topics.**

# 2021 Board Member Nominations

| New DAEE Board Members   |   |
|--|---|
| Name, Affiliation and Professional Qualifications  | Please include a short description of how you plan to support DAEE as a board member.   |
| <p><b>Kerry Wilson, St. Anne's Episcopal School</b></p> <p>I have a BS in environmental science and a MS in marine science. I have taught early childhood students through college level students over the course of my career. I have worked with many partners including state, federal, and nonprofit agencies in creating a greener maintenance strategy for our campus, while restoring habitats and developing our campus (125 acres) to integrate our teaching and learning with the outdoors. I enjoy collaborating with others and building partnerships. I obtained my naturalist certification with Delaware Nature Society in 2019.</p>                                  | <p>I would like to support DAEE as a conduit for reaching more teachers and students in Delaware. I would like to work on a larger scale to reimagine school yards to be managed for wildlife habitat as well as place-based nature education for all students in the state. At the center of the work, I would like to support a strong tie among social justice, racial literacy, and environmental literacy.</p> |
| <p><b>Shweta Arya, Outreach Director, Delaware Interfaith Power and Light</b></p> <p>I currently work as an Outreach Director for Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, a faith based environmental nonprofit and our mission is to inspire and mobilize faith communities and communities partners to address climate change by taking steps to protect and advocate for the environment. I am proud of the new initiative NWF's 'Sacred Grounds' that we kicked off last year helping connect our places of worship with the sacred spaces, to help build more wildlife habitats that can support wildlife, people and our planet! I have a Masters in Business Administration.</p> | <p>I was an intern with DAEE in 2017! I love the work DAEE is doing and would love to contribute and support your work as a board member. I am an outdoor enthusiast and understand the importance of connecting with nature especially for our young children. I am a certified PA Master Naturalist and Teacher Naturalist. I have taught as an environmental educator at DNS and Tyler Arboretum.</p>            |



| Returning DAEE Board Members  |  |
|---|--|
| Name, Affiliation and Professional Qualifications   | Please include a short description of how you plan to support DAEE as a board member.  |
| <p><b>Jennifer Holmes, DNREC</b></p> <p>Education has been a common theme throughout my professional career. Two years prior to my current position as the Coastal Training Coordinator for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, I taught middle school, high school, and college level classes for four years at Calvary Christian Academy in Dover, Delaware as a science and mathematics instructor. From 2008 – 2014, I served as the Education Coordinator (EC) for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. As the EC, I thoroughly enjoyed working with a wide variety of audiences and gained a love for teaching. In a previous position back in 2002, I was offered the opportunity to become the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) coordinator for Delaware. This was a wonderful opportunity to work alongside of educators to pass on the importance of protecting our water resources for future generations. I have a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources Management with a specialization in Wetland Ecology from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Salem-Teikyo University</p> | <p>If given the opportunity, I would like to continue to serve on the DAEE Board to further the Delaware Children in Nature initiative and build upon the great work that has already been accomplished by so many. I have a heart to connect others to the natural resources that provide us with the basic necessities of life and the benefits that come from spending time outdoors. It has been my true honor to have served on the DAEE board in the past in various roles including the chair, vice chair, at-large, and DAEE's representative on the State of Delaware Children in Nature Task Force. As a founding member of DAEE, I am looking forward to the opportunity to stay engaged in environmental and outdoor education in Delaware and beyond.</p> |
| <p><b>Claire Mickletz, Delaware State Parks</b></p> <p>I have worked as an Interpretive Programs Manager for Delaware State Parks since 2008, prior to that I was with Kentucky State Parks as a naturalist for 3 years. I have degrees in both Education and Environmental Biology from the University of Dayton. I supervise programming at White Clay Creek State Park. I am the Project WILD coordinator for Delaware, a Certified Interpretive Trainer with NAI, and an American Red Cross small craft instructor and an Emergency Medical Responder.</p>  | <p>I support DAEE as a professional organization for both formal and informal educators to come together to support Delaware's students. I am currently on the executive board as the Treasurer. There are exciting things happening in Delaware even during this pandemic. I have been a member of DAEE since the beginning and believe in the mission of this organization. I strongly support what DAEE is doing for Environmental Education in Delaware and look forward to the future of the organization.</p>  |
| <p><b>David M Christopher, Delaware Sea Grant</b></p> <p>Currently the Marine Education Specialist for Delaware Sea Grant. I have over 20 years of experience in the environmental education field. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a Master's of Education from Goucher.</p>  | <p>I plan to be an active member of the board. I have connections to the University of Delaware plus i am active in marine education nationwide. I am currently on the DAEE Board. During my term, I have helped plan the annual conference and assisted with the strategic plan survey.</p>   |

# DAEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## 2020

### **Exemplary Partnership – The Arden's Community Based Spotted Lantern Fly Control Project**

This award is presented to a group working in Delaware that demonstrate an outstanding partnership in the environmental field that serves as a model and inspiration to others.

The Arden's Community Based Spotted Lantern Fly Control Project is a multigenerational, community-based Citizen Science project focusing on the development of a core group of residents skilled in applying Integrated Pest Management methods to address the SLF infestation in wooded areas of the Ardens.



"A well-designed and implemented citizen science project," including data collection on SLF control, training for adults and young adults, and a well-received Outreach and Education component.

### **Meaningful Impact Award – Delaware Sea Grant/University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean and Environment**

This award recognizes accomplishments toward facilitating positive community impacts on conservation, sustainability, and / or career advancement in the environmental field in Delaware. Since 1976, Delaware Coast Day has provided an opportunity for meaningful outreach to the community.

With over 100 exhibitors annually, all focused on the environment, Coast Day is Delaware's largest conservation and sustainability event. In 2020 the Coast Day team made the decision to pivot the 8,000-10,000 participant in-person event, to virtual.



Harnessing internal expertise along with key partners they delivered content focused on environmental careers, diversity, the arts, and industry, with science and the environment as the common thread.

An opportunity to share environmental work, connect with the public, and spend time with family, the success of Coast Day is demonstrated through feedback showing raising awareness of the environment and generating interest in, and fostering existing

commitment to environmental stewardship.



## Healthy Innovation – Aquatic Resource Education Center (AREC) Eco-Explorer Team

This award recognizes new approaches to connecting children, individuals, and/or families with the outdoors and healthy lifestyles in Delaware.

In the past 20 years, 56,000 fifth-grade students have engaged in tasks that real scientists would perform by participating in the Eco-Explorers Program at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna.

Over the years, this team has provided robust, innovative, and comprehensive outdoor and hands-on education to K-12 students and college students. This impactful program would not be possible without the dedication and expertise of the staff at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in the Eco-Explorers Program. In 2020, the staff at AREC did not let Covid-19 stop them from providing programming to local students and launched the virtual Eco-Explorers Program. Each member of this team has years of experiences and is very dedicated to make a difference to improve the lives of many people in the state.



## Outstanding Field Educator – Nicole Sturgill, Las Americas Aspira Academy Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE)

This award is presented to an individual and/or organization working in Delaware who demonstrates outstanding environmental education efforts at the local, regional level and/or global level.

Nicole took a retention pond, that was an eye-sore, and turned it into an outdoor learning environment for the students at Las Americas Aspira Academy. Through fundraising & partnerships with other teachers and community organizations, Nicole's OLE successes include a vegetable and herb garden, water garden, composting program, monarch tagging and releasing, perennial plantings, bird houses, fairy garden, living willow structures, weigh station and balance beam and a paver labyrinth.



The OLE's most recent addition is solar panels to help with cleaning the water at the pond.

**Thank you & Congratulations to all!**  
2021 Nominations Due Fall 2021



# Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

## Teachers on the Estuary

*May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2  
from 4:00- 6:30 p.m. ET*



This **FREE** virtual professional development highlights ways to remotely connect students to the estuary through data analysis, observation and critical thinking skills.

**Sign up by April 28 at:**  
**Public School Teachers: Course #29661 on PDMS**  
**All Other Educators:**  
<https://forms.gle/DFG2ENckMKjnqgja6>

## MID-ATLANTIC CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

[WWW.MACCEC.ORG](http://WWW.MACCEC.ORG)



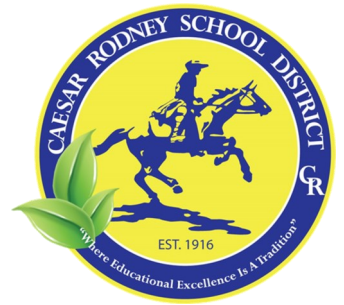
SAVE THE DATE  
JUNE 29 - JULY 1  
2021

Please save June 29 to July 1, 2021 for the second Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Education Conference (MACCEC).

Visit our website (<https://www.maccec.org/>) to subscribe to our mailing list and check in on the evolving conference agenda, call for proposals, and conference registration.

The [Call for Proposals](#) has been extended to Friday, April 23rd at 5pm.

Thank you for your support!



**DELAWARE** STATE PARKS  
YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



**Odyssey Charter School**  
Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Learning



Healthy Foods  
FOR Healthy Kids 