



*Delaware Association for
Environmental Education*

13th Annual Conference ~ Virtual


May 11 & May 12, 2022

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The Power of Connection Working Together for a Collective Impact

A working group-based approach to further DAEE's commitment to environmental education and strive for advancement in:

 Environmental Justice, Equity, Inclusion, Diversity & Accessibility (JEIDA)

 The Outdoor Learning Network

 Communities in Nature



Join us here: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/95253533705>

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,95253533705# US (Chicago);

+16468769923,,95253533705# US (New York)

Current DAEE Board

Ashley Melvin, Chair
Delaware Forest Service

Lisa Watt, Vice Chair
DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Holmes, Secretary
DNREC

Shweta Arya, Co-Secretary
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light

Claire Mickletz, Treasurer
DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

David Christopher, Co-Treasurer
Delaware Sea Grant

Stacey Helmer, NAAEE Liaison
Delaware Solid Waster Authority

Todd Klawinski, Member at Large
Caesar Rodney School District

Angel Burns
DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

David Pragoff,
Delaware Nature Society

Brian Marsh
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Dean Goodwin
Odyssey Charter School

Cheryl Jackson
Gore Associates

Kerry Wilson
Delaware Nature Society



WELCOME

This year we celebrate 13 years of DAEE! 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 2022 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.

This year we decided to suspend the usual conference offerings and extend a real opportunity for members to get involved in DAEE's Strategic Priorities. Over the next two nights, we are going to shape the direction of three of our most important working committees.

Thank you for joining us virtually and showcasing, *"The Power of Connection: Working Together for a Collective Impact!"*

Ashley Melvin

13TH Annual Conference

The Power of Connection: Working Together for a Collective Impact

May 11 & 12, 6-8pm

Conference Agenda: Night 1

6:00 p.m. Welcome & DAEE 2021 Annual Business Meeting

Ashley Melvin, DAEE Chair

6:10 p.m. Building Capacity for Environmental Literacy

David Christopher, Delaware Sea Grant

Tonyea Mead, Delaware Department of Education

6:30 p.m. Gallaher's Gallant Outdoor Classroom Mini-Grant Report

Rebecca LeJeune, Gallaher Elementary

6:40 p.m. BREAK

6:50 p.m. DAEE's Strategic Priorities – Ashley Melvin

7:00 p.m. Working Committee Breakouts

7:55 p.m. Closing Remarks

Conference Agenda: Night 2

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

6:05 p.m. Achieving Environmental Literacy: An Evidence-Based Model for Public School *Dr. Todd Klawinski, Caesar Rodney School District*

6:30 p.m. BREAK

6:40 p.m. Working Committee Breakouts

7:30 p.m. Working Committee Report Out

7:55 p.m. Closing Remarks

DAEE 2022 Annual Business Meeting

Delaware Association for Environmental Education Annual Business Meeting Agenda 13th Annual Conference ~ Virtual May 11, 2022

- ◇ **Welcome to new DAEE Members**
- ◇ **Review of 2021 Activities**
 - 2021 Conference
- ◇ **Membership vote on 2022-2022 DAEE Board Members (Bios on next page)**

Renewing Board Members

Angel Burns, Delaware State Parks

Stacey Helmer, DSWA

Lisa Watt, Delaware State Parks

Brian Marsh, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Ashley Melvin, Delaware Forest Service

David Pragoff, Delaware Nature Society

Todd Klawinski, Caesar Rodney School District

Dean Goodwin, Odyssey Charter School

New Board Member Nominations

Katie Pollock, UD Lab School

Lisa Swanger, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Maureen Larkin

Jen Cipolla, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Kara Okonewski, Howell Mill Nature Center

Brigid Gregory, Plastic Free 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 or send us an email at
daeeonline@gmail.com

DAEE's Strategic Priorities

DAEE is devoting the conference to advancing our three main priority areas:

Environmental Justice, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (JEIDA), The Outdoor Learning Network (OLN), and Communities in Nature (CIN).

Throughout the two nights of the conference, members will help shape the direction of these major initiatives. Through a facilitated process, we will define roles and responsibilities, discuss future goals, and set the meeting schedule.

The theme of this year's conference is, *The Power of Connection, Working Together for a Collective Impact* and we feel this year's format will set the stage for an exciting time in DAEE's history.

Working Committees:

Environmental Justice, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (JEIDA) – Works to ensure environmental education and meaningful experiences with nature are accessible to everyone.

Outdoor Learning Network (OLN)– Works to coordinate a unified voice for outdoor learning. Helps to schedule tours and gather resources.

Communities in Nature (CIN)– Works to engage communities and promote environmental and outdoor education to facilitate positive impacts.

13TH Annual Conference

*The Power of Connection:
Working Together for a
Collective Impact*

May 11 & 12, 6-8pm

DAEE's Mission

**Promote environmental and
outdoor education to facilitate
positive community impacts on
the conservation and
sustainability of
Delaware's resources.**

2022 Board Member Nominations

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.
Angel Burns Delaware State Parks 20+ Years in Environmental Education / Interpretation Served on DAEE Board since it started in 2008 Past Board Positions: Chair, Secretary Past Children in Coordinator Coordinator Current Chief of Programming / Interpretation for Delaware State Parks	Delaware Association for Environmental Education is a champion for environmental education and literacy in Delaware. I believe in that vision and the inspiration and powerful networking opportunities DAEE holds for our professional network. I would like to continue my support of DAEE by working on strategic planning, continuing to support and promote the awards program, serve on the DEIJ and Communities in Nature committees as well as continue to support marketing/social media accounts. Thank you
Stacey Helmer DSWA 9 years of environmental education focusing on Delaware's waste management systems.	Continue with my role as affiliate liaison and take lead if we move forward with a regional affiliate. I have become part of the Affiliate Advisory group working to help set NAAEE's new goals (est 2021) and help establish a pathway for other all affiliates to meet these goals. Very much all behind the scenes at the moment!
Lisa Watt Delaware State Parks I have been in the EE field for 20 yrs. I enjoy networking with fellow educators throughout the state and working to bring quality outdoor experiences for children & families of Delaware. Board member of DAEE since 2016, chair in 2017-2020. Vice Chair 2021, Member of Christina Water Cleanup Committee since 2014, along with the BVEF (now BVEC).	I will continue to be an active board member and executive committee member along with my role as Vice Chair and my roles on DAEE committees.
Brian Marsh US Fish and Wildlife Service I've supported habitat projects at schools in different ways since about 2005 first in NJ in our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and then in DE, NJ, and in the Delaware River Watershed through our Coastal Program.	I can continue to maintain the website and build onto it based on ideas from others on the board. I'll continue to support schoolyard habitat projects. I can't spend a lot of time on school projects and DAEE work over the next few years due to other work requirements but I want to stay involved as much as I can.

<p>Ashley Melvin Delaware Forest Service</p> <p>Professional Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Learning Tree Coordinator • Project WILD & Project WET Facilitator • Current DAEE Chair • Former DAEE NAAEE Liaison, Vice Chair & Treasurer • DAEE Annual Conference Planning Committee <p>In addition, I run two Education Centers for field trip opportunities and develop curriculum for visits. I coordinate the Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Program reaching 9,000 first graders annually and the Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest/Free Seedling Program in which over 4,000 K-5 students participate each year. I am in direct contact with hundreds of K-5 teachers each year and have identified myself and my agency as a resource for their classrooms.</p>	<p>DAEE is very near and dear to my heart. I was a part of first “focus group” that determined a collaboration of efforts was needed. It has been my pleasure to be involved with the earliest planning of DAEE and presented at the very first conference. I served previously as the DAEE NAAEE Liaison and traveled to the NAAEE Conference when I could. I stepped into the role as Treasurer in 2016 and helped to develop an active reporting system of our assets as well as train our new Treasurer. I have been in the role of Vice Chair since 2018 and Chair in 2020. I attend most board meetings unless a prior engagement precludes me from doing so. I am heavily involved with the annual conference planning and coordinate registration and produce the conference brochure. I am committed to seeing this organization reach its full potential and would be honored to remain on the Board of Directors for a two-year term.</p>
<p>David Pragoff Delaware Nature Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 25 years’ experience working in Environmental Education - Detailed knowledge connecting youth and adults with the natural world through hands-on experiences - Extensive program and curriculum development for school students, teachers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the general public - DAEE founding Board member 	<p>If elected to continue on the Board, I will assist with the development, planning and delivery of activities and programs that engage Delaware residents and those of the surrounding region in personal experiences with nature that motivate them to protect, enhance and enjoy Delaware’s natural and cultural resources.</p>
<p>Todd Klawinski Caesar Rodney School District</p> <p>Current member of DAEE board, 20+ years in public school formal education with 5 years as Environmental Education Specialist</p>	<p>I am committed to achieving environmental literacy for all in DE and the region and will continue to work toward further integration of our formal and non-formal professional education communities.</p>
<p>Dean Goodwin The Charter School of Wilmington</p> <p>PhD, Certified science teacher,</p>	<p>As we move on from the disruption that has been caused by COVID, I hope to be able to resume my contributions to the DAEE Board. In particular with the student poster session, and other activities in the annual conference. I am also interested in the partnerships with organizations such as Children in Nature, and learning how we can continue and move forward successfully. I am passionate about educating others about our natural world. I would also like to see if DAEE could establish an “Environmental Quiz Bowl” for middle and high school students in Delaware. That would be cool!</p>

2022 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>Katie Pollock UD Lab School</p> <p>Professional Qualifications: Master Teacher, UD Lab School Nature Preschool ---- DNS trained naturalist - Working on Nature Based Early Childhood Certificate from Antioch University</p>	<p>Early Childhood is often forgotten from the K-12 world of education. I believe that there is both a desire and a need to increase outreach to early childhood educators. I also believe that this is a way to make the most difference in children's ecological identities and environmental literacy. Start young!</p> <p>Last summer I worked with the Delaware Institute for Early Childhood on the Let's Go Outside Initiative. This summer the work will continue with further financial support. It is our hope for early childhood centers to think of their outdoor areas as learning environments just as they think of their indoor spaces.</p> <p>My goal is for access to natural outdoor play spaces improve and both children, teachers and families benefit.</p>
<p>Lisa Swanger Delaware Center for the Inland Bays</p> <p>Professional Qualifications: Detailed CV to be emailed separately. EDUCATION: M.S. in Marine Resource Management from the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, specializing in education and outreach (2012); B.A. in Sociology (major) and Biology (minor) at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (2009). PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Outreach & Education Coordinator, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, DE (2000-present); Coastal Waccamaw Watershed Education Programs Coordinator, Coastal Carolina University, SC (2014-2020); Volunteer Services Coordinator, Oregon Coast Aquarium, OR (2013-2014); Project Coordinator for International Science Center Impact Study, John Falk Research, OR (2012-2013); Salmon Bowl Regional Coordinator, Oregon State University, OR (2010-2012); Animal Experience Specialist, Adventure Aquarium, NJ (2009-2010); Seasonal Shorebird Steward/Field Assistant, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (2009).</p>	<p>I believe that my eleven years of experience in environmental education and program management will benefit the Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE). I currently serve as the Outreach & Education Coordinator at the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays with the goal of combining sound science with engaging, outcomes-based education and outreach programs that build meaningful community-connections resulting in enhanced environmental literacy and informed decision making that improve our natural resources. I thrive in collaborative environments and am excited for the opportunity to work with a diverse network of professionals to enhance DAEE's capacity to foster greater community understanding of, appreciation for, and engagement in the protection of Delaware's natural resources. I have extensive experience in developing, delivering, and promoting outdoor experiential learning programs for both youth and adults, coordinating public and professional conferences at regional and national levels, as well as coordinating professional education-based consortiums and workgroups. Additionally, I believe my passion for the environment, coupled with my strong communication skills and detail-oriented work ethic will greatly support the mission of DAEE.</p>

<p>Maureen Larkin Freelance Environmental Educator</p> <p>Professional Qualifications: Certified Master Environmental Educator, M.A.T. in Teaching, Maryland Teaching Certificate (PreK-8), DE Master Gardener, Maryland Master Naturalist</p>	<p>I love sharing science and nature with children and adults by leading nature walks, by planting pollinator gardens at schools, and by teaching environmental education at schools and nature centers. I feel I can best serve DAEE's goals by applying my experience and talents to DAEE's Communities In Nature and Outdoor Learning Network committees.</p>
<p>Jen Cipolla Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids</p> <p>Professional Qualifications: MS in Environmental Engineering; Program Manager for HFHK teaching and supporting garden education in schools throughout Delaware</p>	<p>I will attend board meetings, share my thoughts and ideas, help to plan and attend events and help as needed throughout my time on the board. I whole heartedly agree with your mission that 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.</p>
<p>Kara Okonewski Park Educator, Howell Mill Nature Center</p> <p>Professional Qualifications: I have created & performed interpretive programs in Delaware for nearly 10 years. I run a facility I built from the inside out, first of it's kind at Kent County Parks. I designed and coordinated the Howell Mill Birding Station with the Delaware Audubon Society. I work with multiple outside organizations and community members to provide resources and connections for the public. I volunteer at the National Aquarium in Baltimore as a herpetology assistant in the Rainforest Exhibit. I volunteer at the Mispillion Art League providing a safe and inclusive space for teen students to create and participate. I currently manage nearly 80 volunteers to enhance community stewardship and park areas. I have received the highest Customer Service award from Delaware State Parks and DNREC. I was also recognized for a nomination of 2019 DAEE Environmental Educator of the Year.</p>	<p>I will contribute to DAEE both in both supportive and initiative roles. I want to see the state come together to communicate across parks, schools and neighborhoods. DAEE can do this. I have seen firsthand DAEE provide resources for starting naturalists, as well as opportunities for the growth of seasoned professionals. I am organized, enthusiastic, and determined that we can increase communication, involvement and confidence in our environmental educators. Thank you.</p>
<p>Brigid Gregory Plastic Free Delaware</p> <p>I have over 9 years of experience implementing sustainability projects in the private sector and higher education. I'm passionate about environmental education and advocacy and excited for an opportunity to support them in my home state. Currently, I am the program director for Plastic Free Delaware's (PFD) DE Community Composting Initiative which aims to educate communities and students throughout the state on food waste prevention methods and assist with establishing composting sites to divert wasted food from the landfill. Prior to working at PFD, I was the Waste Reduction and Recycling Sr. Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University.</p>	<p>I bring a diverse background of experiences from multiple states (PA, TX, MD, & DE), and will use these experiences to guide my interactions with the DAEE board and Association. I am particularly interested in joining some of the following committees: Diversity & Inclusion, Communities in Nature, Outdoor Learning Network, and the Conference Committee. Not only am I passionate about these areas, but they directly relate to the work I'm currently doing and therefore I already have a lot of connections to support the committees. For example, it is extremely important to me to equitably provide access to community composting sites throughout the state of Delaware, not just in privileged communities and schools. Therefore, I strive to build relationships with urban farmers and smaller community gardens.</p>

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities



naaee

North American Association
for Environmental Education

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: GUIDELINES FOR EXCELLENCE

This set of guidelines focuses on community wellness and is designed to help create inclusive environments that support effective partnerships and collaborations.

This workshop is offered at no-cost and is designed to:

- Offer insights into joining forces with diverse partners to forge common purposes and collaborate toward shared outcomes
- Outline steps for creating more inclusive working environments that support social equity, effective partnerships and coalitions, and long-term change

Choose one of these workshop dates:

Wednesday, June 7, 1:30pm-5:00pm, The Virden Retreat Center, UD Sharp Campus, 1155 College Dr., Lewes, DE 19958

Thursday, June 8, 9:00am-12:30pm, DuPont Environmental Education Center, 1400 Delmarva Ln, Wilmington, DE, 19801

THESE ARE IN-PERSON EVENTS, NO VIRTUAL OPTION

Register here: <https://guidelines2022.eventbrite.com>

More information on guidelines: <https://naaee.org/eeepro/resources/community-engagement-guidelines>

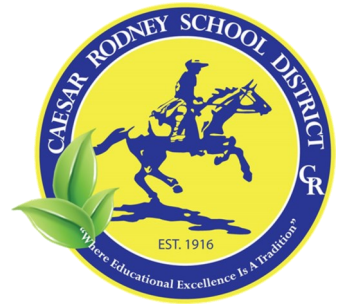


*Delaware Association for
Environmental Education*

Join today: daeeonline.org



Thank you for your support!



DELAWARE STATE PARKS
YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



DELAWARE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY



Odyssey Charter School

Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Learning



**Delaware Interfaith
Power & Light**

A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE
TO CLIMATE CHANGE