



*Delaware Association for
Environmental Education*

14th Annual DAEE Environmental Education Conference

*Nature's Best Hope,
Our Role as Educators*

**May 13, 2023
Brandywine Springs School
Wilmington, Delaware**



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WELCOME

This year we celebrate 14 years of DAEE! That's over a decade of promoting environmental literacy and connecting groups 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 2023 Conference Committee and the countless hours dedicated to this annual event set to enrich 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 on this beautiful day to learn more about *Nature's Best Hope, Our Role as Educators!*

Ashley Melvin

DAEE Chair

2023 Conference Keynote Speaker: Dr. Doug Tallamy *Nature's Best Hope, Our Role as Educators*



Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 112 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 42 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His books include *Bringing Nature Home*, *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, *Nature's Best Hope*, a New York Times Best Seller, *The Nature of Oaks*, winner of the American Horticultural Society's 2022 book award. In 2021 he cofounded Homegrown National Park with Michelle Alfandari. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writer's Association, Audubon, The National Wildlife Federation, Allegheny College, Ecoforesters, The Garden Club of America and The American Horticultural Association.

Start a new **HABITAT**®



HOMEGROWN
NATIONAL PARK®

Afternoon Keynote Speaker: *Dr. Katera Moore*



Dr. Moore is an experienced educator who holds a doctorate in Earth and Environmental Sciences with a specialization in geography from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is an urban geographer who uses an environmental justice lens to focus on and examine how socio-political structures contribute to disparities that impact everyday life.

Prior to joining DNREC in 2022 as ombudsman for the DNREC Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances, Dr. Moore served as the interim associate director of the Einstein Health Network's "A Better Start" program, building a strategic plan to address community public health, an overarching symptom of broader environmental injustice. For five years Dr. Moore served in a similar role as the director of the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center for Community Partnerships. Dr. Moore received her Master of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Urban Studies degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

In early 2023, DNREC announced the launch of a new environmental justice webpage designed to be an evolving tool for two-way communication between the Department and constituents – especially those residing in the state's underserved communities, for whom DNREC can help facilitate environmental justice that may be overdue.

Secretary Shawn Garvin notes that "the new online resource is the result of community feedback, but it is a work in progress, so we encourage the community members to give us feedback on how we can make this EJ tool better," he said of the new page de.gov/dnrecej. "This is a 'living' site for engaging Delawareans on their environmental justice concerns – engagement being an overarching tenet of our EJ mission."

The new environmental justice webpage will also include a mapping tool that DNREC is currently developing that will enable Delawareans to use a wide range of screening criteria for pinpointing areas that have historically been vulnerable to contaminants and other pollution to the state's land, air and water. Users are encouraged to make comments and suggestions for expanding both online content and capabilities in helping DNREC serve constituents.

News.delaware.gov. February 1, 2013, *DNREC Appoints Dr. Katera Moore as State's First Environmental Justice Coordinator.*

14th Annual DAEE Conference Agenda

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration, Networking & Silent Auction				
9:00 a.m.	Welcome: Curtis Bedford, Principal, Brandywine Springs School Morning Announcements: Ashley Melvin, DAEE Chair Opening Remarks: Senator Stephanie Hansen				
PLENARY SESSION 9:20 - 10:20 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Doug Tallamy <i>Nature's Best Hope, Our Role as Educators</i>				
PLENARY SESSION 10:20 - 10:45 a.m.	DAEE Mini-grant Presentation: Todd Klawinski DAEE Annual Business Meeting: All				
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Break, Networking, Silent Auction				
STRAND	Connecting People with Nature	Connecting People with Nature	EE and Formal Education	Cultivating Environmental Leaders	Innovative and Inclusive EE
Classrooms	200A	200B	200C	200D	201
Moderator	Jen Cipolla	Maureen Larkin	David Pragoff	Todd Klawinski	Kara Okonewski
CONCURRENT SESSION I 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. (45 min. session)	I. Pollinators in Crisis: Ways to Take Action II. Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Bringing Home Nature <i>I. Emily Wine, De Dept of Ag II. Caroline Kurtz, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance</i>	Delaware Native Species Commission, Biodiversity and You! <i>Sheila Smith, Delaware Native Species Comm</i> ★	District and School Environmental Literacy Planning <i>David Christopher, De Seagrant & David Pragoff, De Nature Society</i>	How the heck are we going to get all of this done: Tales from the other side <i>Todd Klawinski, Caesar Rodney School District</i>	EE Network & Professional Discussion <i>Kara Okonewski, DAEE Board of Directors</i>
11:45 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch, Networking, Silent Auction & Laughter YOGA				
PLENARY SESSION 12:30 - 1:20 p.m.	Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Dr. Katera Moore, Environmental Justice Coordinator, DNREC DAEE Awards for Excellence				
CONCURRENT SESSION II 1:25 - 2:10 p.m. (45 min. session)	Embracing Outdoor Education Through School Gardens in a Post Covid World <i>Jen Cipolla & Rachel Terracina, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids</i>	One Ecosystem at a Time: The Delaware Museum of Nature & Science <i>Helen Bilinski & Jill Karlson, Delaware Museum of Nature & Science</i> ★	Incorporating "Leave No Trace Principles" into Science and Social Studies <i>Tess Charney, Delaware State Parks</i>	An Interdisciplinary and Community Approach to the Environmental Literacy Movement <i>David Christopher, De Seagrant, Sarah Jennings, Earth Force & Malika Yates, Global Ripple Effect Project Inc</i>	How to use literature to engage, enhance and inspire environmental learning <i>Kathy Doyle</i>
CONCURRENT SESSION III 2:15 - 3:00 p.m. (45 min session)	Native Alternatives to Invasive Ornamentals <i>Leah Brooks, Mt. Cuba Center</i>	Amazing Monarch Butterflies <i>Maureen Larkin, DAEE Board of Directors</i>			Delaware's Historical Landscapes: Connecting Delaware's History to Environmental Literacy <i>Kaitlyn Dykes & Jennifer Bowman, De Division of Cultural & Historical Affa</i> ★
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break, Networking, Silent Auction closes at 3:10 p.m.				
CONCURRENT SESSION IV 3:15 - 3:35 p.m. (20 min session)	Community Conservation in Delaware <i>Joe Schell, DNREC, Division of Watershed Stewardsh</i> ★	Building up STEAM at Hagley Museum <i>Leigh Ann Scholtz, Hagley Museum & Library</i>	Small Adventures: Lowering Barriers to Growing Confident Outdoor Kids <i>Dan Shortridge</i>	Brandywine Springs School's Green Schools Pathway <i>Sonia Saunders, Brandywine Springs School</i>	Souls Under the Highway – Establishing Pollinator Habitat in an Historic Cemetery <i>Faith Kuehn, State of Delaware, Planting Hope Urban Garden</i>
PLENARY SESSION 3:35 - 3:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks & Evaluations				
3:45 - 4:30 p.m.	Networking & Silent Auction Pickup				



Session will be held in auditorium

DAEE Annual Business Meeting

Delaware Association for Environmental Education

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

14th Annual Conference

Brandywine Springs School, Wilmington

May 13, 2023

- ◇ **Welcome to new DAEE Members**
- ◇ **Treasurer's Report**
- ◇ **DAEE Year in Review**
- ◇ **2023-2024 DAEE Board of Directors Election**

Renewing Board Members

Claire Mickletz, DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

David Christopher, Delaware Sea Grant

Cheryl Jackson, Gore & Associates

Kerry Wilson, Delaware Nature Society

New Board Member Nominations

Tess Charney, DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation

Laurel Sullivan, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve

Karen Igou, Green Building United

Leah Brooks, Mt. Cuba Center

Sonia Saunders, Brandywine Springs School

- ◇ **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**



promotes environmental education and meaningful outdoor experiences to create positive community impacts that lead to the conservation and sustainability of Delaware's natural resources.

DAEE is

1. A volunteer led and run organization
2. An affiliate of the NAAEE
3. Committed to increasing meaningful outdoor opportunities for all citizens of Delaware

DAEE works through two main areas of focus:

1. Engaging Professionals in Environmental Education
2. Engaging Communities in Nature

DAEE devoted the 2022 Annual Conference to formalizing our three main priority areas into Working Committees:

- ❖ **Environmental Justice, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (JEIDA)**
- ❖ **Outdoor Learning Network (OLN)**
- ❖ **Communities in Nature (CIN)**

I. Pollinators in Crisis: Ways to Take Action

Presenter: Emily Wine, State Apiarist,
Delaware Department of Agriculture

**II. Nanticoke Watershed Alliance
Bringing Home Nature (20 mins)**

Presenter: Caroline Kurtz, Outreach Coordinator,
Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200A

Session I: This presentation will describe the current status of pollinators in the United States. It will also provide information on citizen science efforts to track and support pollinators.

Session II: This session will inform attendees about the Nanticoke River, the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, and tie it back to bringing home nature.

**Delaware Native Species
Commission, Biodiversity and You!**

Presenter: Sheila Smith
Delaware Native Species Commission

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200B

The Delaware Native Species Commission was formed by the Delaware General Assembly to continue the work started by the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force and to implement recommendations made in the final report of the Task Force. The Commission, made up of a diverse group of individuals reflecting a balance of interests between environmental professionals, government, and business stakeholders, began its work in the summer of 2018. This session will provide information about the Delaware Native Species Commission: Its mission, the specific goals, how environmental educators and independent organizations can support the goals.

**District and School Environmental
Literacy Planning**

Presenters:
David Christopher
Marine Education Specialist, Delaware
Sea Grant

David Pragoff, Associate Director of
School & Group Programs,
Delaware Nature Society

Strand: EE and Formal Education

Room: 200C

Environmental Literacy Plans are documents created by a district or school that show the environmental literacy connections across the school or district curriculum, how environmental literacy and environmental education is being implemented in the school or district, and how the district or school is sustainably managing their school grounds and school facilities. In this session, participants will be introduced to the newly created Delaware Environmental Literacy Template as well as learn how environmental literacy can be used to meet larger school goals. This session will also highlight tools to help your school or district in your Environmental Literacy planning.

How the heck are we going to get all this done: Tales from the other side

Presenter: Todd Klawinski
Environmental Education Specialist
Caesar Rodney School District

Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders

Room: 200D

From start to finish and all along the variety of pathways to increasing and achieving environmental literacy (ELit) for all Delawareans, this session will take participants along a single journey from childhood wonder years to exemplary adult educational leadership. Highlighting some innovative research and leadership happening locally within the Caesar Rodney School District (CRSD) in Kent County, participants will be inspired to consider what's possible when we paint a picture of a shared vision that can inspire entire communities and overcome barriers. We will share three critical elements to understanding "How the Heck Did CRSD Do This?": connecting partners to projects, diving deep into the world of grant-writing, and making BOLD requests of stakeholders all along the way.

EE Network & Professional Discussion

Presenter: Kara Okonewski
DAEE Board of Directors

Delaware has many organizations and committees that provide resources and tools for educators and professionals. This session will help you spin a web of connections between yourself and other professionals to grow your network and resources. Please come and introduce yourself. Feel free to share any online resources, inspiring podcasts, recommended books and/or helpful tips & tricks for subjects including, but not limited to, environmental education, professional leadership, communication skills, professional confidence, team building, and more!

CONCURRENT SESSION II

1:25 - 2:10 p.m.

Embracing Outdoor Education Through School Gardens in a Post Covid World

Presenter: Jen Cipolla
Program Manager, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Rachel Terracina, Program Coordinator for Kent and Sussex Counties,
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200A

Over the past 3 years we've all learned how important outside time is not only for students but for everyone. In trying to find a safe place to teach and learn, we discovered the additional benefits that come with getting students out into the sunshine and getting their hands into the earth. Take those advantages and combine them with a program that teaches them where their food comes from, how to grow their own food, the science behind it, and encourages healthy eating habits and you have a successful school garden! HFHK is uniquely poised to help schools transition to more outside time as The First State School Garden Experts. We will walk you through the process of integrating a school garden seed-to-cafeteria table program in your school and what it can mean for your students. Come learn about our sustainable Education Cultivation Program and how your students can benefit from our curriculum. This presentation is best suited for Preschool - 7th grade educators.

One Ecosystem at a Time: The Delaware Museum of Nature & Science's Metamorphosis Connects Guests with Nature

Presenters: Helen Bilinski, Director of Exhibits, Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

Jill Karlson, Director of Public Engagement, Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200B

In May, 2022, the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science completed a long-awaited, museum-wide capital campaign called "Museum Metamorphosis: Connecting Delaware to Our World." This massive renovation reimagined all of our gallery spaces, highlighting the vital but delicate relationship between humans and all other living organisms.

We created new, dynamic and immersive journeys through various ecosystems, celebrating the biodiversity within, and exploring the physical features shaping each one. Exhibit interactives in the galleries promote key behaviors for connecting people with nature in meaningful ways, while staff reinforce these positive behaviors through relevant dialog with guests of all ages about stewardship, sustainability and citizen science, promoting life-long learning and transferable life-skills

Incorporating "Leave No Trace Principles" into Science and Social Studies

Presenter: Tess Charney
Delaware State Parks

Double session

Strand: EE and Formal Education

Room: 200C

Although Leave No Trace can seem like a big idea, there is a pretty easy way to remember the main concepts -the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace. You'll notice that we don't call them rules, that's because they're not! The principles are guidelines to help us make decisions when we're in the outdoors, and they're there to help us do the best we can.

Understanding Leave No Trace through the Seven Principles is a foundational element of our stewardship curriculum. Just as important as the Seven Principles concepts, however, are their underlying values that are familiar in so many of our children's daily lives—responsibility, caring and honesty. At the end of the day, the more linkages that children can make between the stewardship concepts of Leave No Trace and their own everyday lives, the stronger their personal outdoor ethic will be tomorrow and beyond. Hands-on activities and lesson ideas for science and social studies will be incorporated into this workshop.

An Interdisciplinary and Community Approach to the Environmental Literacy Movement

Presenters: David Christopher
Marine Education Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant

Sarah Jennings, Program Manager, Earth Force

Malika Yates, Global Ripple Effect Project Inc.

Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders

Are you interested in learning more about the environmental literacy movement in Delaware? Would you like to understand, collaborate, and be a part of the movement to implement the DE Environmental Literacy Plan in your local community? Participants will learn how the ELP embraces NAAEE's Community Engagement Guidelines for Excellence as an organizing structure and about our plans to help young people become active participants in local environmental decision making. Join us for a collaborative and interdisciplinary discussion of how our Community of Practice is expanding environmental literacy in the First State. Participants will get an introduction to Delaware's environmental Literacy movement including an overview of the Delaware Environmental Literacy Plan and identify ways they can engage in this growing community. We welcome representatives from a diverse array of organizations including: schools, environmental education nature centers, environmental justice organizations, historical and cultural centers, and businesses.

How to use literature to engage, enhance and inspire environmental learning

Presenter: Kathy Doyle

Strand: Innovative and Inclusive EE

Room: 201

Regardless of what age level you teach, incorporating literature (from picture books to poetry) can enhance your lessons, help students engage more quickly, and inspire them to explore more deeply on their own. Who says? Anyone who has ever read a great book AND the National Science Teaching Association. This session will provide you with strategies for using literature - without adding hours to your planning. You will be invited to add your own favorite titles or authors to a list of resources which will be mailed to you soon after the session.

CONCURRENT SESSION III

2:15 - 3:00 p.m.

Native Alternatives to Invasive Ornamentals

Presenter: Leah Brooks
Public Programs Coordinator
Mt. Cuba Center

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200A

Non-native invasive plants, like Japanese barberry and English ivy, damage our environment by invading natural areas and outcompeting native plants. To help stop the spread, the Delaware state legislature passed a law that banned the sale of 36 invasive plant species. Join Leah Brooks as she presents native alternatives to invasive ornamentals and explains how making these substitutions helps protect our ecosystems.

Amazing Monarch Butterflies

Presenter: Maureen M Larkin, Certified
Environmental Educator

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200B

Did you know that Monarch butterflies weigh less than a paperclip and can fly 2,700 miles!! Did you know that males and females can be easily identified once you learn a simple trick. Come learn all about the Amazing Monarch Butterflies including their lifecycle, its amazing spring and fall migrations, why we should care about monarch butterflies, and what we can do to help them to survive.

Delaware's Historical Landscapes: Connecting Delaware's History to Environmental Literacy

Presenters: Kaitlyn Dykes, Site
Supervisor, Cooch's Bridge Historic Site,
Delaware Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Jennifer Bowman, Volunteer Manager
Delaware Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Strand: Innovative and Inclusive EE

Room: 201

History is more than dates and events; it is also the ecosystems that people occupy. Humans have altered and shaped the natural spaces around themselves for centuries. Why did people settle where they did in Delaware? How did people navigate rivers in winter storms and make use of natural marshland grasses for grazing livestock? How did we change the structure and density of forests and wildlife populations over the years? This presentation will explore these questions and identify the resources offered by the Delaware Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs six museums and their partners in interpreting and exploring the historic landscapes and environmental shifts throughout Delaware.

**Community Conservation in Delaware:
How a New DNREC Program Could Be
Used as a Tool for Environmental
Education**

Presenters: Joe Schell, Community
Conservation Specialist, DNREC -
Division of Watershed Stewardship

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200A

DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship has just launched the Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program (DeCAP) which provides support and financial incentives for landowners interested in installing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Delaware's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Eligible BMPs include rain gardens, wetlands, tree plantings, and pollinator meadows. In addition to working with individual landowners, these BMPs are well-suited to implementation as outdoor environmental education classrooms. We hope to use this session as a robust discussion on how this program could work for you and your organization.

Building up STEAM at Hagley Museum

Presenter: Leigh Ann Scholtz, STEAM
Education Program Coordinator
Hagley Museum and Library

Strand: Connecting People with Nature

Room: 200B

Home of the original gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802, Hagley Museum is an example of early American industrial history, featuring restored mills, a workers' community, and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family. Over the past 5 decades, Hagley has engaged thousands of student on field trips, learning about 19th century life and industry. Recently, Hagley's mission has been expanded to include ingenuity and innovation in the 19th century with more focus on building their STEM/STEAM education programs and a new Nation of Inventors Exhibit which opened in Fall 2022. In this session, learn

**Small Adventures: Lowering Barriers to
Growing Confident Outdoor Kids**

Presenters: Dan Shortridge

Strand: EE and Formal Education

Room: 200C

How can we remove obstacles to environmental education and outdoor experiences for our youngest learners? This rapid-fire session for educators and lands managers will focus on three pathways to improve the Total Toddler Experience – eliminating knowledge, systemic, and experiential barriers – with ideas that you can implement immediately.

**Brandywine Springs Elementary's
Green School Pathway**

Presenters: Sonia Saunders
Brandywine Springs Elementary School

Strand: Cultivating Environmental
Leaders

Room: 200D

Brandywine Springs School joined the Green Eco-School Network in 2017 and has since focused on the Energy Conservation, Healthy Lifestyles, and Schoolyard Habitats Pathways. Our Green School mission is to educate, empower, and engage students in the love of nature, a healthy and balanced lifestyle, and conservation of our Earth's resources for a sustainable future. Come and hear about BSS's journey to increase their culture of environmental awareness through projects and literacy.

**Souls Under the Highway – Establishing
Pollinator Habitat in an Historic
Cemetery**

Presenter: Faith B. Kuehn, Planting Hope
Administrator, State of Delaware

Strand: Innovative and Inclusive EE

Room: 201

During construction of Interstate 95 in the 1960s, a 20ft. embankment was built over a county potter's field and the adjacent wetland destroyed. The cemetery and wetland were forgotten, turning into an overgrown dump. Delaware Naturalists and historians recently cleared the trash and invasive plants, installed a State historic marker, and are establishing pollinator habitat borders. The cemetery's location adjacent to a major Greenway trail offer opportunities to educate the public about the area's history and the vital importance of native plants and ecological landscaping. Pollinator landscaping will connect the past to the present and future and bring dignity long-denied to the souls buried there..

PRESETNER BIOS

Helen Bilinski, Director of Exhibits, has been in the museum field for over 10 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Villanova University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from West Chester University, a Collections Management Advanced degree from George Washington University, and Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University. She is a strong advocate for accessibility initiatives in natural history museums. Through research, evaluation and community dialogue, Helen strives to represent the visitors' perspective in all aspects of informal education.

Leah Brooks is Mt. Cuba Center's Public Programs Coordinator. She graduated from the University of Delaware with dual bachelor's degrees in Environmental Science and Wildlife Ecology. She's an avid contributor to the Delaware Native Plant Identification and Exchange group on Facebook. Her passion is sharing the joy of nature and native gardening with others.

Jennifer Bowman (she/her) has been organizing, teaching, and celebrating science, ecology, culture and history through art and community engagement over the last 20 years at state, federal and non-profit organizations from Delaware to New England. Jen has an M.S. Environmental Science, and B.A. in Psychology and Animal Behavior, and is a Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher. Outside the office, you can find Jen enjoying the outdoors with gardening projects, sewing, and painting, as well as traveling (and laughing) with friends and family.

Tess Charney is a former Science, Social Studies and English teacher but currently works for Delaware State Parks as a recreation planner. A self-proclaimed "tree-hugger" and "bird-nerd", Tess has been teaching and practicing "Leave No Trace" for many years. Tess is an avid hiker/backpacker and Tess is a Master Educator with "Leave No Trace". Other than hiking, in her spare time Tess loves anything outdoors: gardening, running, walking the dog and sketching. Tess and her husband have a small hobby-farm where they raise bees, chickens and make hand-crafted soaps and lotion bars from home-grown herbs and flowers.

David Christopher is the Marine Education Specialist at Delaware Sea Grant at the University of Delaware. David Christopher has over 20 years of experience in the marine and informal education field. David has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a Master's of Education from Goucher. He worked for 18 years at the National Aquarium where he created and implemented a Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences for Baltimore City Schools. David serves on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association, National Marine Educators Association, and the Delaware Association for Environmental Education.

Jen Cipolla has worked for Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids since May 2019. As the Program Manager, she enjoys working with children, teaching them new skills and watching their curiosity bloom as they plant gardens and try new vegetables. Jen was a certified swim instructor for the YMCA of Delaware for 9 years. She has incorporated her teaching experience into how she interacts with students and teachers at our Partner Schools. Jen recently created our Early Learners Program and piloted it in Fall 2022. Jen has an M.S. in Environmental Engineering and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. Jen is also a board member of the Delaware Association for Environmental Education.

Kathleen Marie Doyle is an award winning children's book author and teacher committed to education, the environment, and democracy. She has been teaching teachers and teenagers in Delaware for over 30 years. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching at Brown University and her Bachelor of Arts in Social Thought and Political Economy at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where her interest in social and environmental justice was nurtured. She is also a graduate of The Institute of Children's Literature.

Kaitlyn Dykes (she/her) has been creating and managing meaningful education programs and public engagement experiences in history and culture for many years. She currently serves as the Site Supervisor for HCA's Cooch's Bridge historic site, the site of the state's only Revolutionary War battle, and the Cooch-Dayett Mill property in Newark, Delaware. Kaitlyn previously served as the lead historic site interpreter at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes, and the interpretive program manager at First State Heritage Park with Delaware State Parks. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in anthropology from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Sarah Jennings coordinates the Caring for Our Watersheds Chesapeake Bay challenge. She also coaches and trains educators, school districts, STEM professionals, and other environmental educators and organizations on Environmental Action Civics, in the Mid-Atlantic region. Sarah is a prior K-12 educator who taught in Massachusetts, DC Public Schools, and NYC. She also was a prior NOAA BWET MWEE recipient for another nonprofit organization in southeastern MA where she grew up. Sarah now resides in south-central PA with her partner and two pups.

Jill Karlson, Director of Public Engagement, has over 30 years experience working in the informal education field including nature centers, a zoo, state parks, and museums. As a little girl her father fostered wonder and excitement for nature, which guided her career path. She earned her BS degree in Biology from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and her Master of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Museum Education from the College of William & Mary. Her passion for nature, science and igniting the spark in museum guests to not only learn, but to take an active role in protecting our fragile earth is at the heart of Jill's purpose.

Maureen Larkin is a Certified Environmental Educator and a Delaware Master Gardener. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching and has taught science and nature to children and adults at various nature centers and schools in Maryland and Delaware.

Dr. Todd Klawinski recently completed his doctoral dissertation in educational leadership. This was done in the context of the unique role of Environmental Education Specialist (EES) in the Caesar Rodney School District which he has developed over the past six years. The EES role is responsible for (1) locating and securing grant funding and resources to support student, staff, and community initiatives, (2) supporting district Strategic Plan priorities by integrating environmental literacy (ELit) systemically into what the District is already doing, (3) designing, installing, and maintaining meaningful outdoor learning and sustainability education facilities, and (4) reviewing and supporting project proposals submitted by students, staff, and community.



Dr. Faith B. Kuehn served as Environmental Program Administrator for the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries from 2001-2018. Starting in 2010, Faith developed Planting Hope community and therapeutic gardens at DHSS's Holloway Campus and Delaware Psychiatric Center. These are now managed by Bright Spot Farms and Planting to Thrive. In conjunction with the gardens, she has led efforts to restore and dignify the Campus's three Potter's Field cemeteries. Faith earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Arizona in 1984, a M.S. in Botany and Zoology from the University of Oklahoma, a B.A. in Zoology from Connecticut College. and an M.B.A from the University of Delaware in 1994. Faith currently manages Green Cabinet, a project that encompasses her interests in pollinator conservation, therapeutic gardens, and artful entomology. She works as a contractor for the DE Department of Health and Social Services, administering Planting Hope and tending to the 3 Potter's Field cemeteries on the Herman Holloway Campus.

Caroline Kurtz has lived on the Eastern Shore for the majority of her life and is so excited to participate at the conference.

Kara Okonewski has been an environmental educator in Delaware for more than a decade and spent the last 2 years as a herpetology assistant for the National Aquarium. Currently, she is member of the National Society for Leadership and Success and manages local art education and outreach for the Mispillion Art League. On wednesday evenings, she brings her passion for science and art together to create colorful experiments for teens at the Mispillion Art League where she works with kids ages 11-17 on color, confidence, and compassion. Kara's professional and academic timeline, like many, is not linear. She is constantly working to overcome challenges including anxiety and ADHD to grow personally and professionally.

David Pragoff is the School and Group Programs Team Leader with Delaware Nature Society, based at the Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware. David oversees program development and delivery for school, scout, and group audiences including children and adults together reaching approximately 35,000 participants each year. In his 15 years working at the Delaware Nature Society, David has collaborated with numerous groups to advance environmental education in Delaware. David was the 2021 DAEE Awards for Excellence, Exemplary Partnership recipient and is a long serving DAEE Board Member.

Sonia Saunders is a fifth-grade teacher at Brandywine Springs School, Wilmington, Delaware. She has received prominent awards such as: State Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics ; Environmental Educator of the Year, Ashland Nature Society; Distinguished Teacher Award, National Council of Geographic Education; and Distinguished Teacher Award, Delaware Geographic Alliance. As a Co-leader for the Green School Program at Brandywine Springs School, Ms. Saunders works tirelessly with her Green Team, writes grants, and creates community networks to support BSS Green School Pathways of Energy, Healthy Lifestyles, and Schoolyard Habitats. She is driven to encourage students to innovate problem-based solutions that respect the delicate balance of interdependencies and interconnections within our local and global communities.

Joe Schell is the Community Conservation Specialist for Delaware DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship as head of the Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program (DeCAP). He has previous experience with the National Park Service, USDA-APHIS, and Delaware State Parks, but his focus has always been on bridging the gap between conservation issues and people.

Leigh Ann Scholtz has worked in science education for over 10 years in various roles. She began her career studying Biology, earning a B.S. and M.S. in plant ecology. She then began a Ph.D. candidacy but after three years, left to focus on teaching science. For three years Leigh Ann taught 6th-8th grade Science at Great Oaks Charter School in Wilmington while volunteering at Hagley Museum on their Science Advisory board. In 2018, she joined Hagley to eventually hold her current role of STEAM Education Program Coordinator. In addition to her role at Hagley, she has taught as an Adjunct Professor teaching Environmental Science at Saint Joseph's University. Leigh Ann lives in northern Delaware with her husband, 9 month old son and two French Bulldogs.

Dan Shortridge is a father of preschool-age twins, a Leave No Trace Trainer, and an author of books about Delaware experiences and history. A marketing consultant, his writing has appeared in *Camping*, *CampBusiness*, *Scouting*, and *School Administrator* magazines. He holds an M.Ed. in instructional design.

Shelia Smith is a long time Environmental Educator, retired elementary and middle school science teacher, former Delaware Nature Society. teacher/naturalist. Received the DNS Outstanding Environmental Educator Award (30 years ago!) Currently a Backyard Habitat Steward, a Delaware Master Naturalist and I serve on the Delaware Native Species Commission.

Rachel Terracina is our Kent and Sussex Counties Program Coordinator. Rachel joined Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids in May 2022. She is passionate about educating and empowering people from every background to make the best choices for their bodies, communities, and environment. Armed with a B.S. in Biology from the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater and nine years of science communication experience, Rachel is excited to help grow HFHK's programming to reach even more students and teachers in Delaware. Nothing makes Rachel happier than watching a child's confidence grow as they learn new skills. In her free time, Rachel enjoys the wonderful beaches of Delaware and exploring marshes in a kayak. Rachel is currently studying to become a Master Naturalist.

Emily Wine is the State Apiarist for the Delaware Department of Agriculture, where her job is to protect the health of Delaware's pollinators. She has a Master of Science in Entomology from Washington State University.

Malika Yates Malika believes "a simple act of kindness creates an endless ripple." Malika created an Eco-Education Program to teach suburban and underserved students and communities how to live an eco-friendly, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle filled with kindness. Because of her Cherokee heritage, her love of the environment began early, and with every action taken, she ensures that the ripples she has left make a lasting impact. While wearing three hats, the Newark Delaware Chair, Founder of The Global Ripple Effect Project Inc., Creator of the Eco-Education Program TM and a crown as Elite Miss Delaware Earth 2019 and 2020, Malika acted as a mentor during Climate Reality Project's Global and national Training, an MC for day three, and a speaker during Al Gore's Climate Reality Project's national training; she was also a mentor for the Girl Up organization.

Malika created an annual Healthy Community initiative where she works alongside low-income and marginalized communities to teach attendees how to eat healthier and provides healthy food to everyone who attends. She has planted trees in low-income communities to slow heavy rain, enhance air and water quality, help cool down the streets, and more. Malika also created a school garden with the Eco-Club she developed and taught students how to grow their food and the importance of eating healthy meals. Malika has proven her commitment to making global ripples as a Climate Reality Leader and a global citizen.

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

Kathy Doyle
DNREC, Delaware Recycles
Delaware Envirothon
New Castle County Conservation District
Delaware Invasive Species Council
Delaware Native Plant Society
Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Delaware Nature Society
Delaware Forest Service
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Delaware Solid Waste Authority
Delaware Department of Agriculture
Delaware Master Naturalists
Plastic Free Delaware



DAEE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

2022: Virtual, “The Power of Connection, Working Together for a Collective Impact”
2021: Virtual, “Every Child Learns Outside”
2020: The Jefferson School, Georgetown “Leap into Nature”
2019: Las Aspira Academy, Newark “The World is Our Classroom”
2018: F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School, Camden “Powered by Nature”
2017: The Pilot School, Wilmington “Inspired by Nature”
2016: The Tatnall School, Wilmington “3E, Environmental Education Everywhere”
2015: Sussex Technical School, Georgetown “Connecting Education and Nature”
2014: Milford High School, Milford “Environmental Education, It’s Only Natural!”
2013: Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin “The Environmental Education Experience”
2012: Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes “Turning the Tide Towards Environmental Education”
2011: St. Thomas More Academy, Magnolia “Environmental Educators in a Changing Climate”
2010: Blue Ball Barn, Wilmington, “A Child in the Wild”

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Environmental Education*

2023 Conference Resources:

<https://tinyurl.com/mnz8beuw>