



*Delaware Association for  
Environmental Education*



**Leap Into Nature:  
Connecting People  
Throughout the Community**

**11th Annual  
Environmental Education Conference**

**The Jefferson School, Georgetown, DE**

**February 29, 2020**

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## WELCOME

This year we celebrate 11 years of DAEE with an exciting variety of unique sessions, an on-site field trip, and networking opportunities for educators of all kinds. 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.

I encourage everyone to become more involved in the year-round workings of the organization and help us grow to achieve our next steps with participation in one of our committees. We have a lot of exciting things coming in 2020 centered around the recent adoption of the Delaware Children in Nature (DCIN) initiative. I also encourage to bid at the silent auction, which raises money for the annual mini-grant program.

Special thanks to the 2020 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 today at The Jefferson School, we are set to “Leap Into Nature!!”

*Lisa Watt*

DAEE Chair

# 2020 Conference Keynote Speaker



**Kesha Braunskill**

**Urban Forester**

**Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program**

**Delaware Forest Service**

Kesha has had a fascination and appreciation of the natural world as far back as she can remember. As a girl, she dreamt of being a veterinarian, so went to college to study animal science at the University of Maryland. Her interests in plant and animal interactions led her to subsequently earn a Masters Degree in Ecology from Delaware State University, researching seed dispersal mechanisms of the wild horses on Assateague Island in Virginia.

Kesha secured a seasonal position working for the Delaware Forest Service before becoming the Urban Forestry Outreach and Partnership Coordinator.

Highlighted by American Forests in 2019, Kesha reflects on her path to the Forest Service, "I found my way here nontraditionally like many folks. I'm an introverted person, but what has clicked with me is the social aspect of the work. The difference we can make in this program for the community makes a difference. We go into a community and plant trees, and it makes a difference. I'm able to make a difference in real time, and over the long haul."

For the last four years, Kesha has served the state of Delaware as the head of its **Urban and Community Forestry Program**. She has put her educational background to use and has worked tirelessly to build trust and a culture of collaboration between the state forestry program, local municipal forestry programs, and communities.

Kesha noted, "Urban Forestry is ecology; I can bring in the plant and animal interactions that I'm passionate about. I'm African American and Native American; I feel deeply tied to the earth, and to giving honor to everything—plants, animals, the ground, the air, the water. Urban forestry is the perfect place to remind people they can connect with those things even in an urban setting."

Her work to build the capacity of local partners on the ground like churches, libraries, and other grassroots groups has yielded a more equipped volunteer network, ensuring a ready base for planting and upkeep throughout the year.

Over her tenure, Kesha instituted new accountability measures through regular check-ins and follow-up activities with planting and maintenance partners, including keeping a detailed inventory with maintenance data on the newly-planted trees. Her data-driven ethos, patience, and holistic approach to the work have been lauded as excellent by her peers in the region.



Read the entire article here: <https://www.americanforests.org/blog/leadership-profile-kesha-braunskill/>

# 11th Annual DAEE Conference Agenda

8:45 am	Registration, Morning Refreshments			
<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> 9:15 - 10:10 am	<b>Opening Remarks: Lisa Watt, DAEE Chair</b> <b>Welcome: Connie Hendricks, The Jefferson School</b> <b>Keynote Speaker: Kesha Braunskill, Delaware Forest Service</b>			
<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> 10:10 - 10:50 am	<b>DAEE Mini-grant Presentation</b> <b>DAEE/CIN Awards</b> <b>DAEE Annual Business Meeting</b>			
10:50 - 11:00 am	Break, Networking, Silent Auction			
<b>STRAND</b>	<b>Connecting People to Nature</b>	<b>EE and Formal Education</b>	<b>Cultivating Environmental Leaders</b>	<b>Outdoor Classroom Network</b>
<b>CLASSROOM</b>	<b>ORANGE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>BLUE</b>	<b>PURPLE</b>
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION I</b> 11:00 - 11:45 am	National Geographic Educator Certification	Starting a School Vegetable Garden	Rooting a Forest of Environmental Leaders	Outdoor Classroom Restoration at the DuPont Environmental Education Center
11:45 - 12:30 pm	<b>LUNCH, Networking, Silent Auction</b>			
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION II</b> 12:30 - 1:15 pm	The Three B's of Winter Tree Identification	eBird in the Classroom	Cultivating Connections with Experiential Nature Based Activities	Newark Charter Nature Club- More Green Time, Less Screen Time!
1:15 - 1:30 pm	Break, Networking, Silent Auction			
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION III</b> 1:30 - 2:15 pm	Promoting Tidal and Marine Invasive Species Awareness Among Delaware Stakeholders	STEM-ulating Activities on Human Ecology	Using Youth Advocacy Training to Empower Teens to Bring Their Ideas to Action	Naturally Inspired Restoration, Education and Research at St. Anne's Episcopal School
2:15 - 2:45 pm	<b>POSTER SESSION</b>			
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION IV</b> 2:45 - 3:30 pm	Citizen Science, Inquiry and Birds: A Recipe for Environmental Literacy	Murals as Models: Integrating Art into Climate Education while Supporting 3-D Learning	National Geographic Geo-Inquiry Workshop	The Jefferson School Environmental Learning Campus Tour
3:30- 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks & Silent Auction Checkout			

## The Jefferson School – Nature Explore Campus

“The thing that sets The Jefferson School apart from all other school in our regions is the way we use our campus.”

Located at the edge of the Redden State Forest, The Jefferson School campus is an ecological treasure, with two ponds, trails with five family fitness stations, a garden, greenhouse, a five member goat tribe and a bee observation window. Since 2010, we have been cultivating alliances with regional partners to build a nature-centered, hands-on curriculum for our students. Our goal is to create a nature-centered, hands-on



educational facility that can be share with others in the community. The Jefferson



School works with a variety of collaborative partners to enhance their curriculum, develop the outdoor classroom areas and attend annual community events like “Science Saturday.”



**The Jefferson School was chosen for the 2018 DAEE Excellence Award, “Healthy Innovative Award” for their approach to connecting children with the outdoors and with healthy lifestyles in DE. A HUGE THANK YOU to The Jefferson School for hosting the 11th Annual DAEE Environmental Education Conference!**

# DAEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## 2019

### **Outstanding Field Educator – Katie Pollock**

Katie Pollock received two nominations for recognition in environmental education excellence. She has worked diligently to establish the University of Delaware Lab School's Nature Preschool. Katie is a certified naturalist and has participated in countless meetings, conferences, and forums to learn and to teach about nature education. Feedback from families indicated that the impact of Katie's nature program went beyond the time their children spend in the program; they reported spending much more family time in nature and participating in nature-related activities than ever before. A nomination from a parent noted that Katie has greatly impacted her son. The parent states "Instead of cowering when a butterfly passed by on a family hike, my child followed it, trying to identify its name (he determined it was a Swallow Tail). Through these small interactions, I can tell she has instilled not only confidence in him but understanding of the natural world. He approaches things with curiosity, not fear anymore." But Katie's impact wasn't only on the families; pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, and administrators at the University of DE and around the state are drawn to learn more from her. Her passion and genuine love for nature education has been contagious.

### **Meaningful Impact – Caroline Fazzini**

As Mt. Cuba Center's Assistant Manager of Interpretation, Caroline Fazzini has made an effort to address the challenge of reaching diverse audiences through a series of events. Caroline worked with four community partners to create programs that would target specific underrepresented audiences, including people of color and millennials. She used resources such as the Partner Power resource from the Of/By/For All program to ensure her conversations with potential partners were equitable and that the goals and objectives of both Mt. Cuba Center and the partner organizations were achieved. These events included the Ladybug Garden Crawl, Family Fun Night with the Christina Cultural Arts Center, and Exploring Nature through Collage, and Botanical Body Art.

### **Exemplary Partnership – Delaware Futures**

Delaware Futures has been an involved partner with Delaware Nature Society annually for the last 10 years. Each summer, Delaware Futures joins DNS for a program called Summer Marsh Experience at the DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) on the Wilmington riverfront. It is affectionately known by the youth as "DEEC Week." Delaware Futures' new 9th grade cohort spend a full week doing service learning activities that expose them to new horizons out of doors, while helping improve the ecology and accessibility of the marsh in which DEEC sits. Their impact on DEEC has been so substantial that there is virtually no area you could visit that hasn't been built or improved by Delaware Futures youth. It is a residential program so each night, the youth stay in DNS' Ashland Nature Center lodge. Delaware Future's values how the outdoor activities with DNS build camaraderie and teamwork among the youth. Delaware Futures is "all in" with their support of the programming. They do not just drop off the youth for the week and return on Friday to pick them up. They stay with the students over the course of the week working with and guiding them during their projects and activities, even staying overnight at the lodge. They also provide daily transportation to and from Ashland Nature Center. Like DNS, they too look for ways to improve the program and the partnership including inviting DNS staff to join their staff development trainings.



## **Healthy Innovation – The Urban Garden Initiative**

The Urban Garden Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Megan Chen. The mission of this organization is to "inspire and empower youth to achieve urban sustainability through gardening". Megan Chen is a junior at Newark Charter High School. Through her work with TUGI, Megan partners with schools in the area offering workshops to teach students sustainability. The workshops are conducted in two parts, one in the fall and one in the spring. During her time at schools, Megan provides an interactive experience where students learn about the adverse effects of climate change and the direct impacts on our health and food sources. The TUGI student workshops also offer a hands-on component where students have an opportunity to plant edibles. The benefits of this program extend beyond the reach of the classroom by providing meaningful environmental education experiences. Students learn skills that can be used throughout their lives and in a variety of settings.

## **Exemplary Achievement in Environmental Education – Tonyea Mead**

Tonyea has worked in many school districts, and along the way has earned district, state and national awards, most of it was for her love of science and environmental education. She helped train teachers on Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, and Project Wild, so teachers and students would be outside integrating all subjects into the outdoors. She wrote several grants to get the project started and ended up winning a Delaware State Chamber Commerce “Superstars” Award for her work. During her six years at Lord Baltimore Elementary, Tonyea her students participated in beach cleanup and beach grass planting yearly. In the summers, she worked for Delaware Department of Natural Resources, Trap Pond State Park. At that time, Trap Pond State Park didn’t have an environmental center, so she converted the old concession stand into an environmental center with little money. She was named Delaware Nature Society’s (DNS) Environmental Educator and decided to give back to DNS by volunteering for 10 years teaching environmental classes and summer camps for young children at Abbott’s Mill. She worked with Abbott’s Mill staff to create field trips that tied to the Smithsonian science kits. Also, she taught environmental education and methods of science courses for University of Delaware through DNS, so teachers would have an outdoor component to their course work.

Tonyea was one of the founding members of the Delaware Science Coalition. The Coalition consists of members from school districts, informal educators, higher education, Department of Education representatives, and businesses, who work together to share science resources, professional development and science assessments. Since the founding of the Delaware Science Coalition in 1997, Tonyea has been instrumental in this organization. The Science Coalition partnered with the Aquatic Resource Center to develop a field trip that tied to the 5th grade Ecosystems unit. Tonyea was a part of this group in creating one of the most popular field trip experiences in Delaware, for 5th graders. went to Japan for a month to learn about their culture and how they taught science in K-12.

### **2018 Award Winners**

#### **Exemplary Partnership:**

Shue-Medill Middle School

Brian Marsh/ US Fish & Wildlife Service

#### **Healthy Innovation Award:**

Leona Williams, Forwood Elementary School

#### **Impact Award:**

Melissa Tracy, Odyssey Charter School

#### **Outstanding Field Educator:**

The Jefferson School

#### **Exemplary Service :**

Rick Mickowski



**Outdoor Classroom Restoration  
at DuPont Environmental  
Education Center**

Willa Rowan  
Education Coordinator  
DuPont Environmental Education  
Center

Serah Jo Pesce  
Teacher Naturalist  
Delaware Nature Society

**Strand: Outdoor Classroom Network**  
**Room: Purple**

A 2019 DAEE Mini-grant recipient, The DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) of Delaware Nature Society will share their progress on restoring their outdoor classroom. The Outdoor Classroom is some of the only upland instructional space at DEEC and is perched right on the Christina River with lovely views of the water. Many hands have made the Outdoor Classroom what it is, with benches and other structures created by Wilmington youth from Delaware Futures during a week of restoration projects and team building that occurs every summer. The primary purpose of the project was to create an educational habitat garden that provided more native plant habitat than its current surroundings, which are overwhelmed by invasive plants. The garden project not only provided valuable habitat for pollinators at the center but increased the likelihood that students and visitors at the site will have the opportunity to see those pollinators up close. Youth from Delaware Futures re-positioned raised beds and planted perennials and a new tree thanks to the mini-grant. A summer camp, titled "Butterflies in Bloom" watered the new plantings and explored their winged & buzzing visitors.

**The Three B's of Winter Tree  
Identification**

Ashley Melvin  
Education Coordinator  
Delaware Forest Service

**Strand: Connecting People with Nature**  
**Room: Orange**

You may think of winter as the worst time to identify trees, however, leaves are just one feature used in their identification. For winter tree identification, it's all about the three B's: branching, buds and bark. In this session, you will get up close and personal with several native trees species and their "identifiable characteristics." Participants will learn how to use a "Tree Key" developed to identify trees in winter and have the chance to test their skills at the Jefferson Learning Campus. This session will also highlight Project Learning Tree's new, Nature Activities for Families devoted to connecting the children in your life to the outdoors and nature. All participants will receive the hard-backed book, *Delaware Trees*.

**eBird in the Classroom**

Kelly Schaeffer  
Outreach Coordinator, Cornell Lab of  
Ornithology

**Strand: EE and Formal Education**  
**Room: Green**

In this presentation, teachers will explore how citizen science can connect students to their local environment through free mobile apps such as Merlin Bird ID and eBird while developing student science practices and meeting standards. From listening to and confidently identifying birds in the field to submitting citizen-science data on the go, the tools we'll share allow students to work with one another to discover, name, and document the birds in their neighborhood. We'll then share how participants can access eBirds extensive database to explore species status and trends and meet science and math standards. These data tools and models provide powerful ways to engage students in graphing, mapping, and analyzing data, making it possible for students to investigate questions related to bird populations in their communities and throughout the world.

## National Geographic Educator Certification

Melissa Tracy  
High School Social Studies Teacher  
Green Team Leader  
Odyssey Charter School

**Strand: Connecting People with Nature**

**Room: Orange**

Do you love creating thematic units? Do you believe in developing students who are responsible global citizens? Then this is the session for you! During our time together we will examine the National Geographic Learning Framework, which asks students to think like an explorer, and share our ideas for interdisciplinary units as we complete Phase 1 of National Geographic's Educator Certification program. We will also learn about other resources and opportunities available through National Geographic.

## Starting a School Vegetable Garden

Lindsay Lancaster  
Program Manager  
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

**Strand: EE and Formal Education**

**Room: Green**

Are you interested in starting a school vegetable garden using a garden-based curriculum that aligns with state content standards? Looking for a great hands-on experiential outdoor learning opportunity that can take place right outside of your classroom each year? Excited about healthy produce for your school cafeteria or a possible classroom cooking demonstration? Then this informational workshop is for you! Come learn how to setup a vegetable garden that will enable students to participate in seed to table growing each spring and fall. In this workshop, we will discuss the academic and health benefits of a school vegetable garden program, our typical program structure and format, as well as the time commitment and resources necessary for the implementation of a successful program. Presentation will also touch upon opportunities for project-based learning and conclude with a delicious stir-fry cooking demo featuring our favorite garden veggies. This presentation is best suited for Kindergarten-8th grade educators.

## Rooting a Forest of Environmental Leaders

Jennifer Holmes  
Natural Areas Program Manager  
DNREC - Delaware State Parks

Bethany Kline  
Senior, Calvary Christian School

**Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders**

**Room: Blue**

A family tree often gives great insight into cultural heritage, provides information about origins of our ancestors, and provides historical context for family decisions. They are ways of connecting to our past while informing our future. In this session, we will delve into professional lineages and understand the importance of professional relationships as they help define career paths, especially in the field of environmental science and education. You will have the opportunity to explore your own professional lineage, as you seek to pass along your legacy to future generations of environmental leaders.



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## CONCURRENT SESSION II

12:30 - 1:15 pm

### **Cultivating Connections with Experiential Nature Based Activities**

Alice Mohrman  
Education Coordinator/CWH Outreach  
Delaware Nature Society at Abbott's Mill  
Nature Center

**Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders**  
**Room: Blue**

Do you love creating thematic units? Do you believe in developing students who are responsible global citizens? Then this is the session for you! During our time together we will examine the National Geographic Learning Framework, which asks students to think like an explorer, and share our ideas for interdisciplinary units as we complete Phase 1 of National Geographic's Educator Certification program. We will also learn about other resources and opportunities available through National Geographic.

### **Nature Club - More Green Time-Less Screen Time!**

Susan Jester & Lori Davis  
Kindergarten Teachers  
Newark Charter School

**Strand: Outdoor Classroom Network**  
**Room: Purple**

If we want children to become stewards of our earth we need to ignite their passion for outdoor exploration and learning. We started an after school nature club for Kindergarten students. Join us to find out how you can easily start an after school club or how you can make the club experiences become part of your normal day exploring nature with your students!

## CONCURRENT SESSION III

1:30 - 2:15 pm

### **Promoting Tidal and Marine Invasive Species Awareness Among Delaware Stakeholders**

David M Christopher  
Marine Education Specialist  
Delaware Sea Grant / Univ. of Delaware

**Strand: Connecting People with Nature**  
**Room: Orange**

Delaware Sea Grant is engaging in a new initiative to educate Delaware citizens about tidal and marine invasive species. In this session, participants will receive background information on the invasive species targeted by this project and their impact on the native environment. Participants will also learn how Delaware Sea Grant is developing messaging and strategies to raise awareness of this issue with various groups in Delaware including recreational anglers, future environmental stewards, and the general public. The session will conclude with a real world, data-based activity that educators can use in the classroom. This activity is based on data from University of Delaware researchers and demonstrates how invasive and native species populations change over time.

### **STEM-ulating Activities on Human Ecology**

Kathy Doyle  
Teacher Educator  
Population Connection

**Strand: EE and Formal Education**  
**Room: Green**

Discover innovative ways to teach middle school students about human-environmental interactions, while also building STEM skills through problem solving, mathematical modeling, interactive technology and more. Interdisciplinary topics include human population growth, land and ocean use, climate change and biodiversity. Receive electronic lesson plans for use in classrooms and nature centers.

## CONCURRENT SESSION III

1:30 - 2:15 pm

### **Using Youth Advocacy Training to Empower Teens to Bring Their Ideas to Action**

Rachel Minkovitz

Public Allies AmeriCorps Apprentice;  
Clean Water Youth Program Coordinator  
The Nature Conservancy

Kim Hachadoorian  
Stream Stewards Project Manager  
The Nature Conservancy

**Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders**  
**Room: Blue**

In this session, participants will learn about the framework of the Youth Advocacy Training as well as the process of partnering and co-creating a program that is designed both for and by youth, meaning that the teens involved are treated as true partners in the collaborative process in order to help them develop their leadership potential. This model poses both challenges and benefits, and in this session, participants will learn some common examples of both. They will also gain more insight into keeping teens engaged during the process and connecting (social) issues important to teens to nature-based solutions and environmental concerns. Participants will be guided through some activities that can be used to help teens think more globally about issues and recognize connections between nature-based solutions and justice issues. Given this generation's passion for civic engagement and social and environmental/climate justice, it is critical for them to find the most effective and productive method of using their voices to fight for the issues they're most passionate about so they can create as much positive lasting change as possible.

### **Naturally Inspired Restoration, Education, and Research at St. Anne's Episcopal School**

Kerry Wilson  
STEM Teacher/Director of Outdoor Education  
St. Anne's Episcopal School  
[kwilson@saintannesschool.org](mailto:kwilson@saintannesschool.org)

Bart Wilson USFWS, Project Manager

**Strand: Outdoor Classroom Network**  
**Room: Purple**

In an attempt to create a more natural campus and increase outdoor education opportunities for Preschool to Eighth grade, St. Anne's Episcopal School has completed several phases of a multi-phase campus restoration. The restoration was done in conjunction with the education curriculum to increase access to these areas for students, to share with Urban Promise students when they visit our campus, and our greater community through service projects and outreach. Success of this project is the result of many partnerships. Session will include: examples of innovative curriculum, discussion of campus planning decision making, challenges, and lessons learned.

## CONCURRENT SESSION IV

2:45 - 3:30 pm

### **Citizen Science, Inquiry, and Birds: A Recipe for Environmental Literacy**

Kelly Schaeffer  
Outreach Coordinator  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, K-12 Education

**Strand: Connecting People with Nature**  
**Room: Orange**

What do citizen science, inquiry projects, and birds have in common? They are powerful ingredients for creating an authentic interest in science and the natural world. Learn how teachers across the country are using citizen science to inspire schoolyard inquiry projects that actively engage students in a deeper understanding of science and build connections to their local environment. During this workshop, participants will explore free resources that scaffold student investigations and participation in citizen science. We'll discuss the challenges related to authentic scientific inquiry, share stories of successful teachers, and discover how citizen science and inquiry can shape future leaders. Participants will take home a window bird feeder to kickstart their bird observations.

**Murals as Models: Integrating art into climate education while supporting three-dimensional learning**

Christopher Petrone  
Marine Advisory Service Director  
Delaware Sea Grant / Univ. of Delaware

**Strand: EE and Formal Education**  
**Room: Green**

Do you want to integrate more art into your curricula/ program, or align to Next Generation Science Standards? Murals are an engaging addition to any science unit. Developing models in small groups, students practice 21st century skills (the 4 Cs): critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. This session will explore Earth's climate system, how it is changing, impacts and solutions. CAUTION: Creative juices may flow.

**National Geographic Geo-Inquiry Workshop**

Lindsay Lancaster  
Program Manager  
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Melissa Tracy  
High School Social Studies Teacher  
Garden Coordinator, Green Team Leader

**Strand: Cultivating Environmental Leaders**  
**Room: Blue**

Would you like to empower your students to solve real-world issues while enhancing their learning through student-centered inquiry? Would you like a framework to guide you step-by-step through this process? Come learn how National Geographic's Geo-Inquiry process can further students' understanding of the world and empower them to make a difference. The Geo-Inquiry Process is an integrated, five-phase, project-based learning process that connects real-world challenges to the classroom and is applicable for both formal and nonformal educators across disciplines and grade levels. In this interactive session, educators will learn strategies to help students develop the critical thinking skills to ask geographic questions, collect information, visualize data, create compelling stories, and, ultimately, become advocates for change in their own communities. The process is designed to inspire educators to teach students about the world in innovative, experiential, and authentic ways. This session will introduce the Geo-Inquiry Process to educators, highlighting practical applications and examples from a collaborative project between a formal and nonformal educator.

**The Jefferson School Environmental Learning Campus Tour**

Terri Gladus  
Environmental Science Coordinator

**Strand: Outdoor Classroom Network**  
**Room: Purple**

Located at the edge of the Redden State Forest, The Jefferson School campus is an ecological treasure, with forests, fields, two ponds, trails with five family fitness stations, a garden, a greenhouse, a four-member goat tribe, ten chickens, an indoor bee observation hive, and three outside beehives. Our goal is to create a nature-centered, hands-on educational facility that we use daily with our students and can also be shared with others in the community. Join us on a tour of our campus and learn how we use our outdoor environment with our students throughout the year.

## PRESENTER BIOS

**David M Christopher**, Marine Education Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant / Univ. of Delaware  
CONCURRENT SESSION III 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.  
Promoting tidal and marine invasive species awareness among Delaware stakeholders

David Christopher is the Marine Education Specialist at Delaware Sea Grant. David 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.

**Lori Davis**, Kindergarten Teacher, Newark Charter School  
CONCURRENT SESSION II 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.  
Newark Charter Nature Club - More Green Time- Less Screen Time!

Lori is a Kindergarten teacher at Newark Charter School with over 30 years teaching experience. She and her co-teacher, Susan Jester started a Nature Club at NCS last year. Susan and Lori are passionate about getting kids off devices and exploring outdoors! More green time!

**Kathy Doyle**, Teacher Educator, Population Connection  
CONCURRENT SESSION III 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.  
STEM-ulating Activities on Human Ecology

Kathy Doyle, now retired, taught for over 25 years as a middle and high school teacher, as both a social studies and special education teacher. Since 2012, she has also provided professional development workshops for formal and nonformal educators as part of Population Connection's volunteer educators' network. Most recently she presented sessions for DAEE and MAEOE. Kathy received her M.A. in Teaching Secondary Social Studies from Brown University and B.A. in Social Thought and Political Economy from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Terri Gladus**, Environmental Science Coordinator, The Jefferson School  
CONCURRENT SESSION IV 2:45 – 3:30 p.m.  
The Jefferson School Environmental Learning Campus Tour

Terri has been working at The Jefferson School from January 2019 through the present. Not only is she the Environmental Science Coordinator, but also the summer camp director! Before joining The Jefferson School, Terri was the Camp Director and Interpretive Park Ranger for Wicomico County Parks and Recreation in Salisbury, MD. Terri studied abroad in Mumbai, India in 2018 where she conducted interviews and produced a research project on the waste systems of Mumbai. She is the Chair of City of Salisbury's Sustainability Advisory Committee, a member of City of Salisbury Folk Festival Green Committee and involved with the National Council of the Traditional Arts and City of Salisbury to strive towards Zero Waste. Terri holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Salisbury University.

**Kim Hachadoorian**, Stream Stewards Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy  
CONCURRENT SESSION III 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.  
Using Youth Advocacy Training to Empower Teens to Bring Their Ideas to Action

Kim Hachadoorian works for The Nature Conservancy in Delaware managing Stream Stewards, a Citizen Science water quality monitoring program, in partnership with First State National Historical Park. She has a Master's Degree in Environmental and Forest Biology and over 20 years of experience in environmental research, education and outreach. Kim is passionate about engaging people of all ages and backgrounds in the process of science-based conservation projects that help to create a world where people and nature thrive.



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**Jennifer Holmes**, Natural Areas Program Manager, DNREC - Delaware State Parks  
Concurrent Session I 11:00-11:45am  
Rooting a Forest of Environmental Leaders

Jennifer Holmes is the Natural Areas Program Manager for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Parks and Recreation. Prior to her current position, Jennifer was the Federal Consistency Coordinator for the State of Delaware. From 2014-2018 she taught middle school, high school, and college level classes for Calvary Christian Academy in Dover, Delaware as a science and mathematics instructor. From 2008 – 2014, Ms. Holmes served as the Education Coordinator for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. Her Delaware journey, however, began in 2002 as a regulator with the DNREC, Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section and continued as a program manager in the DNREC, Drainage Program. In both of these roles, Jennifer realized the importance of educating constituents on the values of Delaware's natural resources and the means by which they are protected. Ms. Holmes has a Master's of Science degree in Natural Resources Management with a specialization in Wetland Ecology from the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental Science from Salem-Teikyo University (now Salem University) in Salem, West Virginia.

**Susan Jester**, Kindergarten Teacher, Newark Charter School  
CONCURRENT SESSION II 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.  
Newark Charter Nature Club - More Green Time- Less Screen Time!

Susan is a Kindergarten teacher at Newark Charter School with over 30 years teaching experience. She and her co teacher, Lori started a Nature Club at NCS last year. Susan and Lori are passionate about getting kids off devices and exploring outdoors! More green time!

**Bethany Kline**, High school student, Calvary Christian Academy  
Concurrent Session I 11:00-11:45am  
Rooting a Forest of Environmental Leaders

Bethany Kline is a senior high school student at Calvary Christian Academy (CCA). She is interested in pursuing a career in environmental chemistry and sustainability. Ms. Kline is a member of CCA's Envirothon team and is conducting research on micro-plastics under the advisement of Dr. Kari St. Laurent at the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Concurrent Session I: Rooting a Forest of Environmental Leaders

**Lindsay Lancaster**, Program Manager, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids  
Concurrent Session I 11:00 – 11:45am  
Starting a School Vegetable Garden  
Concurrent Session IV 2:45-3:30pm  
National Geographic Geo-Inquiry

Lindsay Lancaster is passionate about connecting students with plants, nature, and healthy food. Since 2012, She has been working with Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK) where she models garden lessons, trains teachers in garden-based curriculum, coordinates the volunteer program, and assists with PR, fundraising, and strategic planning initiatives. Prior to her position at HFHK, Lindsay was a third grade teacher for three years at Green Woods Charter School, a school with an environmentally integrated curriculum. In 2018, she was selected as one of National Geographic's Grosvenor Teacher Fellows and embarked on an epic expedition to the Arctic with Lindblad Expeditions.

**Ashley Melvin**, Education Coordinator, Delaware Forest Service  
Concurrent Session II 12:30-1:15pm  
The Three B's of Winter Tree Identification

Ashley Melvin joined the Delaware Forest Service as a casual seasonal in 2001 after receiving her bachelor's degree in Plant Science from Delaware State University. She worked as the botanist for the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) Program for three years before moving into the education position in 2004. A native Delawarean, Ashley developed a deep connection with nature at a young age and understands the importance of fostering that connection in today's youth. Currently she serves as Delaware's Project Learning Tree (PLT) Coordinator and manages two education centers at Blackbird and Redden State Forests. A founding member of the Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE) and current Treasurer, Ashley helps increase the quality and opportunity for outdoor learning on a state, regional and national level. Ashley enjoys sharing her love of nature and the outdoors with her 2-year-old son, Marcus.

**Rachel Minkovitz**, Public Allies AmeriCorps Apprentice; Clean Water Youth Program Coordinator,  
The Nature Conservancy

CONCURRENT SESSION III 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Using Youth Advocacy Training to Empower Teens to Bring Their Ideas to Action

Rachel Minkovitz is a Public Allies AmeriCorps Apprentice positioned as the Clean Water Youth Program Coordinator at the Delaware field office of The Nature Conservancy. She graduated from Bates College with Bachelor's degrees in psychology and French and Francophone Studies. Rachel aims to help provide people with the tools they need to advocate for social, environmental, and climate justice, particularly for those populations that have been historically marginalized.

**Alice Mohrman**, Education Coordinator/CWH Outreach,  
Delaware Nature Society at Abbott's Mill Nature Center

CONCURRENT SESSION II 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

Cultivating Connections

An Environmental Educator since 1986, I have had the opportunity to explore the flora and fauna of coastal communities from Massachusetts to Georgia. I earned a MEd, with a focus on Constructivist Education, from UMass in 2000. I am currently the Education Coordinator and Certified Wildlife Outreach agent for the Delaware Nature Society at Abbott's Mill Nature Center.

**Serah Jo Pesce**, Teacher Naturalist, Delaware Nature Society

Concurrent Session I 11:00-11:45am

Outdoor Classroom Restoration at the DuPont Environmental Education Center

Serah Pesce is first and foremost the mother of three nature-loving children. She and her family live in New Castle on a fifth of an acre of DNS and NWF certified backyard habitat. She has been an involved parent at Las Americas ASPIRA Academy since 2013 and serves on the Board of Directors. In 2017, Ms. Pesce won the Delaware Charter School Network Cornerstone Award for her involvement in the creation and installation of the ASPIRA Outdoor Learning Environment. Ms. Pesce volunteers with the Delaware Nature Society as a Habitat Steward sharing her expertise with several Delaware schools to assist them in their own schoolyard habitat projects. She has been a member of the Delaware Association for Environmental Education since 2017. She is a Teacher Naturalist for the Delaware Nature Society and seasonal horticulturist at Mt. Cuba Center, the botanical garden in Hockessin, DE. Ms. Pesce received a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University in Landscape Contracting.

**Christopher Petrone**, Marine Advisory Service Director, Delaware Sea Grant / Univ. of Delaware

CONCURRENT SESSION IV 2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

Murals as Models: Integrating art into climate education while supporting three-dimensional learning

Christopher Petrone is the Director of the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service (MAS), which is housed within the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. Based at the UD Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Chris oversees eight extension and education specialists who work with stakeholders and partners to solve community issues using the best available science. Prior to his current position, Chris was the Marine Education Specialist with Delaware Sea Grant, conducting professional development opportunities for classroom teachers and informal educators in ocean and climate science and wind energy. Chris has a B.S. in Biology from Washington College (Maryland) and an M.S. in Marine Biosciences from the University of Delaware. Prior to working with Delaware Sea Grant, he has been a classroom teacher, commercial oyster farmer, and a Marine Education Specialist with Virginia Sea Grant and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

**Willa Rowan**, Education Coordinator, DuPont Environmental Education Center, Delaware Nature Society

Concurrent Session I 11:00-11:45am

Outdoor Classroom Restoration at the DuPont Environmental Education Center

Willa Rowan is the Education Coordinator at DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) of Delaware Nature Society. In previous roles she was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the environmentally-themed Wissahickon Charter School and led high schoolers in boat-building and river ecology afterschool programming in Northeast Philadelphia. She loves having a freshwater tidal marsh as her office at DEEC and sharing in the delights of every seasonal change with the children and families who visit for programs. She is a proud resident of West Philadelphia.

**Kelly Schaeffer**, Outreach Coordinator, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, K-12 Education  
CONCURRENT SESSION II, 12:30 – 1:15 p.m. eBird in the Classroom  
CONCURRENT SESSION IV, 2:45 – 3:30p.m. Citizen Science, Inquiry, and Birds: A Recipe for Environmental Literacy

Kelly Schaeffer graduated from the University of Delaware with degrees in Wildlife Conservation and Entomology. As an undergraduate, Kelly fell in love with the world of avian research and spent the next few years traveling and working as a field research technician, where she became inspired to pursue a career in environmental education. After internships with the Delaware Nature Society and International Crane Foundation, Kelly was officially hooked on environmental education. She obtained her MS from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in Environmental Education and Interpretation while teaching at an environmentally focused boarding high school in northern Wisconsin. In 2015, Kelly began work with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's K-12 Education team, where she writes curriculum, and leads educator professional development workshops with a focus on supporting educators as they connect to their students to birds and nature through scientific exploration.

**Melissa Tracy**, High School Social Studies Teacher, Garden Coordinator, Green Team Leader  
Odyssey Charter School  
Concurrent Session I, 11:00-11:45am National Geographic Educator Certification  
Concurrent Session IV, 2:45-3:30pm National Geographic Geo-Inquiry

Melissa Tracy is a National Board Certified social studies teacher in Wilmington, Delaware at Odyssey Charter School. Melissa previously taught 6th-12th grade social studies at Conrad Schools of Science for a decade. Melissa currently teaches Food Studies, AP Human Geography, African-American History and Culture, and U.S. History at Odyssey and serves as the high school social studies department chair. Melissa is also a teacher adviser for Model UN, Youth in Government, and the Rho Kappa National Honors Society. Melissa is the KN-12th grade garden coordinator and co-leader of the OCS Green Team. Prior to teaching in Delaware, Melissa taught in India, Poland, and Thailand. Melissa earned a B.A. in history from Tulane University, a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction (social studies) from the University of Delaware, and a M.A. in U.S. history at Villanova University as a James Madison Memorial Foundation fellow. Additionally, Melissa is a 2020 NEA Global Learning Fellow, a 2014 National Hope Street Group Teacher Fellow, a National America Achieves Fellow, a National Geographic Certified Teacher, and an American Geographical Society Teacher Fellow. Melissa was a Red Clay School District finalist for teacher of the year in 2014 and was nationally recognized for excellence in geography teaching by the National Council for Geographic Education. Melissa is the 2019 Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher of the Year (2019). This past September, Melissa participated in an expedition to the Galapagos as a 2019 National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow with Lindblad Expeditions. Melissa is proud to be a Delaware educator, and she's highly passionate about food justice, global studies, and ensuring that all students receive a high quality education.

**Kerry Wilson**, STEM teacher/Director of Outdoor Education, St. Anne's Episcopal School  
CONCURRENT SESSION III, 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Naturally Inspired Restoration, Education, and Research at St. Anne's Episcopal School

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 five 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 as a field biologist studying sea turtles and worked as an oceanographer. 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. Most recently she became a certified naturalist with Delaware Nature Society. In her free time she enjoys travel, camping, and gardening.

**Bart Wilson**, Project Manager, USFWS  
CONCURRENT SESSION III, 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Naturally Inspired Restoration, Education, and Research at St. Anne's Episcopal School

Bart is a geologist who serves as the Project Manager for the Coastal Delaware Refuge Complex. He oversees habitat management and restoration at the refuges, which includes such things as: the use of prescribed fire, control of invasive species, vegetation management, and converting former fallow fields into pollinator and bird habitat. He enjoys camping, hiking, going to see live music with Kerry (his wife) and daughters, Shay and Sadie.

## 2020 Conference Vendors & Exhibitors

Usborne Books & More  
Population Connection  
Delaware Forest Service  
DNREC - Delaware Recycles  
Stroud Water Research Center  
Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
New Castle Conservation District  
Delaware Envirothon  
Delaware Sea Grant  
Delaware Nature Society  
DNREC- Delaware State Parks  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

## Silent Auction Donors

Thank to all the organizations and individuals who donated to the silent auction! All proceeds from the auction are used for the DAEE Mini-grant program for members to implement environmental education projects at their school or site. Each year the auction grows and we are able to support more DAEE members.

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**[Daeonline.org/minigrant](http://Daeonline.org/minigrant)**

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