

# Inside-Outside

Promising Practices in  
Nature- and Place-based  
Elementary Education

Saturday, October 26, 2019

9:00am - 4:00pm

Symonds Elementary School  
79 Park Avenue, Keene, NH



## We Invite You

We invite you to join us for this day-long conference for educators who are redefining what's possible in elementary education. As we build school programs around place-based social studies, outdoor science lessons, Forest Fridays and more, we're connecting children to the natural world, local communities, and big ideas.

**Inside-Outside 2019** will begin with the exciting release and premier of **Turning School Inside Out**, our new documentary film on nature- and place-based education. It was produced by local filmmaker Chris Hardee of High Cairn Films at Chesterfield School. Following the movie, a panel of educators will share their experiences in redefining the boundaries of elementary education.

Registration opens at 8:00am. You will select your workshops at this time. Please read the descriptions in this brochure and come prepared to make your selections. There will be morning beverages and healthy refreshments. Our ceremonial opening circle begins promptly at nine. A warm lunch will feed your body and your soul. At the end of the day you will receive a certificate for six professional development contact hours.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY  
NEW ENGLAND

## Morning Keynote

### Turning School Inside Out: Film Premier and Panel Discussion

*Chris Hardee*, filmmaker and Antioch alumnus, High Cairn Films, Chesterfield, NH

This short film follows teachers, administrators, parents and community members at the Chesterfield School (K-8) as they create outdoor education initiatives for students across the grades utilizing land adjacent to the school. Following the film, a panel of principals and teachers will share their experiences in transforming their schools' curriculum and culture to be more nature- and place-based. Time will be allocated for questions from the audience.

### Panel Members:

*Patty Collins*, 5th/6th grade teacher, Reading Elementary School, Reading, VT

*Sharyn D'Eon*, Principal, Chesterfield School, Chesterfield, NH

*Conor Driscoll*, Principal, Gill Elementary School, Gill, MA

*Amy Randall*, Kindergarten Teacher, Chesterfield School, Chesterfield, NH

## Structure for the Day

8:00am-9:00am	Registration Check-In Workshop Selections
9:00 am-9:10 am	Opening Circle
9:15 am-10:15 am	Morning Keynote
10:30 am-12:00 noon	Morning Workshops
12:00 noon-1:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Afternoon KeyNOT
2:15 pm-3:45 pm	Afternoon Workshops
3:50 pm-4:00 pm	Closing Circle

# Morning Workshops

## Place-based Math Projects

*Sam Sintros, 4th/5th grade teacher, The Grammar School, Putney, VT*

Almost every elementary school teacher needs to teach math and it is imperative that we help create active, engaged learners who see the value in learning math and the practicality of it in our everyday lives. Learn how to bring math problems and projects into the

community and the out-of-doors. Find out how to teach core curriculum and brainstorm ideas using the outdoors as your classroom.

Please bring along a particular unit or topic that you'd like help expanding upon, be prepared to share projects you already do in your school, and if you have unit outlines/lesson plans you're willing to share, this is your chance. Together we are stronger!



## Place-based Learning with Museums

*Jenna Carroll, Director of Education  
Historical Society of Cheshire County, Keene, NH*

Learn how to engage students in local history using primary sources from your local historical society or museum. Review best practices for contacting and visiting local history organizations with your class for research projects. Participate in two lessons using local resources, one focused on Finnish immigration history and one focused on Jennie Powers, a woman from the Progressive Era. There will be time to share ideas on how these lessons, or other forms of primary sources, could be used with your class. A list of Historical Society of Cheshire County resources will be provided.

## Fun with Leaves . . . Anywhere!

*Sarah Wilson, Environmental Artist, Antioch University  
New England, Keene, NH*

This hands-on workshop will show you how to use leaves, a simple natural object found most anywhere, for fun, creative activities. We will make our leaves dance, play a game with them, create beautiful leaf artwork, and use our folia to make new friends! We will brainstorm curriculum extensions and if you're a novice to leaf art there will be time for leaf rubbings, too.

## Take it Outside: How Nature Can Transform Behavior in the Classroom

*Janis Lilly, Program Coordinator, The Upper Room—a family resource center, Derry, NH*

Are you searching for ways to remove barriers of disruptive or distracting behaviors in your classroom and have already dug deep into instructional strategies, curriculum and additional services for struggling learners? What if the answers you're seeking are outside your classroom walls? This hands-on workshop considers the relationship between experiencing nature and enhancing the chances that effective teaching and learning will occur. You'll be outside exploring and mapping ways to create, implement and assess nature-based responses to universal challenges. Instill a love of learning and of the natural world, and leave this session declaring, "Take it outside!"



## Upland: An Outdoor Campus

*Nora Gordon & Paul Dedell, 7th/8th grade teachers,  
Hilltop Montessori School, Brattleboro, VT*

What does school in the woods look like? How can an outdoor classroom foster community? Join Hilltop Montessori Middle School teachers Nora and Paul as they share their work teaching on and learning from the land with their students over the past sixteen years. Experience how careful observation, data collection, visiting experts, literature review, and Socratic dialogue can fold together into an interdisciplinary forest ecology study. Hear how building and maintaining an outdoor classroom has become a cornerstone of this program's academic and social-emotional curricula. Come away with materials to use in your own outdoor teaching.



## Searching for Evidence of Wild NH Mammals Outside Our Schools

*Janet Altobello, School Program Director*  
*Jenna Spear, Teacher Naturalist, Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock, NH*

Come learn how we help 4th-grade students and teachers discover which wild animals live in winter woodlands near their schools. You will experience how we support children in noticing and wondering about mammal signs that they find; work with students to generate questions based on their observations and then choose a question to investigate outside; use maps and data sheets to record findings; support students in making evidence-based claims, and use replica skulls to study structure and function. We'll also play games as wild mammals that rely on our senses for survival.

## Afternoon Key-Not

### The Untapped Potential of Our Local Places

Paul will engage us in networking discussions designed to spark ideas about ways we can better form connections to our local history, environment, culture, economy, literature and art. We will expand on the morning panel discussion topic: **Turning School Inside Out**. Beginners, experts, and in-betweens, each of us will have a voice in this lively conversation!

*Paul Bocko is a faculty member in the Education Department at Antioch University New England. His teaching focuses on place-based education, sustainability education and coordinating meaningful internships. He manages the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve in Keene and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts.*



## Thanks to our Co-Sponsors!



Place-based Education Committee

Keene School District  
Symonds Elementary School



## Afternoon Workshops

### A Recipe for Improving Wildlife Habitat: An Interdisciplinary Unit

*Laura White, 5th grade teacher, Chesterfield Central School, Chesterfield, NH.*

How do we improve wildlife habitat? Fruiting shrubs provide food for wildlife through foliage, pollen, nectar and fruit. Experience portions of an interdisciplinary unit in which students research species, evaluate planting site conditions such as soil pH, calculate costs and argue their case for which species to purchase and plant. Participants will leave with resources and lesson plans to carry out a similar project in rural and urban schools, as well as information about applying for a grant.



### The Forest is Our Classroom: Learning Beyond the Classroom Walls

*Janis Boulbol, 6th grade teacher, Sharon Elementary School, Sharon, VT*

Are you interested in creating and implementing an integrated model of learning outdoors throughout the seasons and the school year? In this workshop, we will learn core routines and thematic integration for outdoor learning while exploring the indicators of awareness that are continually developed as we take learning beyond the classroom walls. Creating an engaging, consistent outdoor learning curriculum grows learners who are invested in their place, feel a deep connection to the land and want to sustain it for the future. Using the forest as our classroom evokes joy, wonderment, and a deepened sense of community. Come join us in the forest, beyond the classroom walls!

## Growing in the Garden

*Jean Kayira & Libby McCann, Advisors, Janessa Palmer & Anna Turkle, Co-Coordinator, Community Garden Connections, Antioch University New England, Keene, NH*

Come to this interactive session to learn how gardens of all sorts—rain gardens, veggie gardens, pollinator gardens—can be used across the curriculum to engage learners in hands-on and minds-on ways. Experience garden projects as learning laboratories, take part in interdisciplinary activities, and connect with regional resources to help grow in your garden.



## Place-based Forest Study

*Cristina LaRue, 7th/8th grade teacher, Mountain Village Charter School, Plymouth, NH*

New England is home to some of the nation's most forested states with over 75% of the landscapes of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine covered in forests! Discover how a year-long place-based forest study for middle school integrates local history, culture, and economics with ecology, systems thinking, and nature connection. Experience learning activities that can help students explore the pieces, patterns, and processes of a local New England forest. Identify trees, simulate



transforming observations into a scientific inquiry, and learn simple practices to deepen our connection to the forest. A curriculum overview will be provided.

## Poetry in Place

*Meggie Donovan, 6th grade English & History teacher, Heronfield Academy, Newcastle, NH*

Poetry is a wonderful way to ground ourselves and pay tribute to place! We'll explore language and learn how poetry connects to our everyday lives. Beginning with a short lesson on poetry technique, we'll focus on style, voice, observation, and topic generation in nature poetry. We will read several nature poets for inspiration. Then we'll explore the outdoors and write some poetry of our own! Immerse yourself in nature and release the energy and creativity that is inside you in a fun and supportive setting. Bring your favorite pen or pencil and dress for the day's weather!

## There's Fungus Among Us: So Study It!

*Robin Huntley and Sarah Schrader, 3rd/4th grade teachers, Juniper Hill School for Place-based Education, Alna, ME*

Mushrooms make their appearance in the landscape from spring to fall, inspiring magic, inciting fear, and inviting foraging.

Growing only in their favorite places and under just the right conditions, mushrooms are a fascinating topic of scientific study. When armed with basic but essential information

about mushroom identification, teachers can confidently lead students in exploring the mushrooms found in their learning environment. Learn major identifying characteristics, study a variety of collected specimens, taste some edible species, and explore mushroom reproduction through spore prints and mycelium dissection. We may even make our own mushroom logs!



Workshop selection will happen during the morning registration check-in time. Our conference day will include a mix of inside and outside . . . rain or shine! A map and directions can be found on the registration page.

If you have questions, or need more information, contact Peg Smeltz, msmeltz@antioch.edu, 603-283-2301.

## Registration Fees:

**Working Professional:** . . . . . \$125

**Group Rate** . . . . . \$100 each  
(3 people from the same school/organization)

**AUNE Alumni/Co-sponsors** . . . . . \$75

**AUNE/College ED/ESstudents** . . . . . \$50

**To Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/inside-outside-2019>