

# Inside - Outside

## Promising Practices in Nature- and Place-based Elementary Education

Saturday, October 27, 2018  
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Symonds Elementary School  
79 Park Avenue, Keene, NH



Join us for this day-long conference of 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.

Registration Check-In will open at 8:00 am. You will select your workshops at this time. Please read the descriptions here and come prepared to make your selections. There will be morning beverages and healthy refreshments as well. Our ceremonial opening will begin at 9:00 am, followed by a morning keynote on the concept of "wall-less-ness." A hearty lunch is provided at noon.

Our afternoon program begins with a key-NOT (pun intended)! Cheryl Charles will engage you in active conversations on relevant topics. Linking to the keynote theme of wall-less-ness, come to share positive examples of your work teaching children outdoors. An afternoon session of workshops and a closing circle rounds out the day.

### Hoar Frost

In the cloud gray mornings  
I heard the herons Flying  
And when I came into my garden,  
My silken outer-garment  
Trailed over withered leaves.  
A dried leaf crumbles at a touch,  
But I have seen many Autumns  
With herons blowing like smoke  
Across the sky.

Amy Lowell



Support for this event is a collaborative effort of the following organizations:



## Structure of the Day

8:00 am– 9:00 am	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 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Afternoon Key-NOT
2:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Afternoon Workshops
3:50 pm – 4:00 pm	Closing Circle

# Morning Keynote

## Wall-less-ness: Breaking Down the Barriers to Innovative Education

Nature- and place-based education done well can break down the barriers between schools and communities. Wall-less-ness as a concept was identified by educators at the Green School in Bali, Indonesia. Their idea was that wall-less-ness means removing physical and figurative barriers to sustainability education. Playing with terminology around nature- and place-based education can help us make sure we are not complacent in our vision for education but adaptive to the ever-changing context of schools and communities. Paul and Aimee believe that wall-less-ness describes education that opens doors and breaks down barriers in order to playfully access context-rich learning that integrates the natural, built and cultural environment.

Paul and Aimee will share in presenting their take on wall-less-ness and how it has impacted their professional practice. Each will also share specific examples of wall-less-ness in images, stories, and discussion.

*Paul Bocko, is a faculty member in the Education Department, Antioch University New England. His teaching focuses on place-based education, sustainability education, and coordinating meaningful internships. He also manages the 645 acre Horatio Colony Nature Preserve in Keene, NH. He will earn his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in 2019.*



*Aimee Arandia Østensen, is a Professional Learning Facilitator in education for sustainability (EFS) at Shelburne Farms in Vermont. Formerly, she was an EFS Program Facilitator for New York City educators with the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation. Aimee was the founding teacher at the project-based, Hudson Lab School in the Hudson Valley of New York. Urban parks, dance studios, and farms, were her classrooms while teaching Pre-K-5th grade at Manhattan Country School in NY.*



# Morning Workshops

## Droppers, Poppers, and Passers: How Seeds Get to Where They're Going

*Vanessa Stern, Grade 5 Teacher, Union Street School, Springfield, VT*

Have you ever wondered how seeds move? How they are dispersed? Or what seed features make them suited to wind or animal travel? Come explore answers to these questions in this workshop. Following an outdoor seed hunt, we will closely examine our findings and discuss how their different structures support their various modes of transportation. Using our paper bag journals we will make before embarking outside, we will sketch and write about the seeds we have collected with an emphasis on why they travel the way they do.

## Water Wheels: An Engineering Design Challenge

*Sarah Boehm, Science Teacher, Community Day Charter Public School, Lawrence, MA*

Old mill buildings and abandoned dams are common across New England. Before electricity, water power was used to cut wood, grind grain and make cloth. We will explore how potential and kinetic energy in river water was used to power mills in Keene and other cities. We will become engineers, using the design process to build, test, and improve water wheels. We will also talk about how these science lessons could fit into an interdisciplinary study of the industrial revolution using primary sources, literature, and field trips.

## Caterpillars: Misconceptions and Metamorphosis

*Sam Jaffe, The Caterpillar Lab, Marlborough, NH*

This interactive, hands-on workshop will present many aspects of caterpillar biology and challenge long-standing misconceptions about metamorphosis. We'll model activities that can be done in the classroom to illuminate the fascinating lives of Lepidopterans, and discuss how teachers can build knowledge and confidence to work with even-more dynamic and interesting schoolyard insects. Lots of live animals on hand! Outdoors, naturalist Sam Jaffe will demonstrate many insect-finding and live-collection techniques that help bring insects and students together.





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## Morning Workshops

### Creativity in the ARTdoors

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

Making beautiful creations outdoors with natural materials is fun and the results are amazing! We'll collect materials, use them to make art in nature, and discover the wide variety of shapes, colors, and patterns the earth provides for us. Discover how you can repurpose natural materials in new and interesting ways. We will learn how to apply this process to the everyday elementary curriculum – through mindfulness, math, writing, measurement, data, shapes, color, patterns, science, social skills, appreciating diversity . . . and more! You might make a spiral, a Mandala, 3D art or something totally of your own design. In any case, you'll end up with a beautiful creation that you can leave in place for others to enjoy.

### Nature Writing: Connecting Students to the Natural World and their Local Community

**Betsy Bennett Stacey**, Extensions Teacher, Keene Middle School, Keene, NH and The Monadnock Place-Based Education Committee

Learn how to establish a nature writing program in your school, teach outdoors, and connect students to their community through exhibits and public readings. We'll explore how this can be done over the course of a school year using Betsy's work with students at the Keene Middle School boardwalk and the Horatio Colony House Museum and Nature Preserve as examples. There will be time to share our experiences with one another to inspire you to connect your schools and local communities in a similar way.

### Unearthing History

**Jason Lovett**, Lead Special Educator/Case Manager and Archaeologist, and **Kendall Edkins**, Program Coordinator, Kindle Farm, Newfane, VT

Have you ever wondered what history is buried under our feet? Join us on a treasure hunt as we delve into the world of exploratory archaeology with the use of metal detectors. We'll show you how to connect this hands-on activity with curriculum frameworks in both social studies and science. After a brief tutorial on how these machines work and how to properly excavate your finds, you will be able to use one of our metal detectors to try your hand at digging up history!

## Lunch

A healthy lunch is provided. Please indicate any dietary restrictions when registering.



## Afternoon Key-NOT

### Inroads to Nature- and Place-based Education

**Cheryl Charles**, Nature-based Leadership Institute, Antioch University New England, Keene, NH, co-founder of the Children & Nature Network



Cheryl Charles will facilitate an activity that engages conference participants in networking discussions designed to uncover their ideas about the ins and outs of implementing nature- and place-based education. We will expand on the morning keynote's topic of wall-lessness by focusing on the inroads (*i.e.* promoting forces for innovative teaching and learning) that exist in our classrooms, schools, and organizations that encourage implementation of nature- and place-based education. Whether you are a beginner, expert, or somewhere in-between, each of us will have a voice in this lively conversation.

## Afternoon Workshops

### There are Birds in your Neighborhood!

**Polly Pattison**, Teacher/Naturalist, The Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock, NH and **Andy Dube**, Grade 3 Teacher, Franklin School, Keene, NH

Join us as we demonstrate how third graders in Keene are being introduced to the world of birding. Our indoor segment will look at methods of studying adaptations and nesting habitats. We'll learn to use binoculars and learn some bird ID strategies as well. Outside, we'll put our newly acquired tools into practice. Binoculars and guides will be provided for our walking work.

### Sense of Place through Art and Song

**John Bass**, Art Teacher, and **Peter Siegel**, Music Teacher, Symonds Elementary School, NH

When children take pride in their school, community and ecosystem, deep learning begins. When arts, physical education and media specialists are given the space, time, and resources to collaborate on place-based learning, imagine what kinds of projects can develop! Join Symonds Elementary School's art and music specialists

to build a shelter with saplings and then write a song

about your collaborative work. Prior to construction, you will be inspired while on an interpretive tour of collaborative projects—giant remnants of papier-mâché puppets, "stained glass" permanent art installations, and the school garden.

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## Afternoon Workshops

### Science and Story: Enhancing Reading Comprehension Through Integration

**Deb Kardane**, Interventionist, Academy Elementary School, Brattleboro, VT

Children's understanding of our natural world can be enhanced through the integration of science and literacy. In addition, building knowledge of basic narrative text structure has been found to support comprehension of more complex fictional stories. In this workshop, we'll discuss why it's important to provide children with opportunities to internalize the structure of narrative stories, how this relates to comprehension of more complex texts, and how this can be integrated with outdoor exploration. By creating dramatizations for an authentic audience, we'll explore activities that encourage students to apply their knowledge of the natural world to the re-creation of classic folktales. You'll leave this session with materials and ideas that you can implement immediately with your students!

### A Neighborhood River: Developing an In-Depth Integrated Study

**Linda Donnelly**, Elementary Curriculum & Learning Support Coordinator, and **Chad Odwazny**, Grades 5-6 Teacher, The Common School, Amherst, MA

Rivers are plentiful in New England, often within walking distance of our schools. At The Common School in Amherst, MA, our neighboring river is the Fort River. Discover how this place-based study for 10 to 12-year olds offers rich opportunities for in-depth integrated learning that motivates students to learn about ecology, history, and social justice as they hone their communication skills. In this workshop, you will view a short video of students in the field carrying out their research and hear from the children themselves. Workshop participants will experience some activities that we have found help students prepare to get the most out of their time on the river. We'll examine topographical maps and test water samples from the Fort River. We will also share other related curriculum and resources that can help you create an integrated study of your own neighborhood river.



### Rise and Fall of Water Power: A Place-Based Historical Exploration

**Laura White**, Grade 5 Teacher, Chesterfield School, Chesterfield, NH and **Tricia Hurley**, Cup of Life and Antioch University New England, Keene, NH



How do changes in technology affect local communities? How do the geography, topography and natural resources of an area affect local economies? These larger questions can be explored by delving into the history of your own New England town, in particular the history of water power which used to be at the core of New England economies. Learn how one pair of

teachers used field trips to historic mill sites and primary source documents as the foundation for an engaging place-based history unit which could be replicated in any New England town. Experience the thrill of analyzing manufacturing census data to discover interesting historical patterns. This workshop will address planning from the perspective of Understanding by Design and highlight a variety of resources available to educators.

### Writing Poetry in Nature

**Leigh Anne Keichline**, Grades 3-4 Teacher, Juniper Hill School for Place-based Education, Alna, ME

Explore the vibrating energy of nature all around us, pulsing with inspiration for writers.

We'll go from using our five senses to metaphor, personification, and much more! Children truly delight in hearing, reading, writing, and sharing their poetry in natural settings. You will, too, as we both playfully and peacefully explore the intersections of nature and poetry. We'll read poems written by children, explore active ways to get inspired in nature, and leave with lovely recommendations to add to your resource library. Juicy poems, ripe for the picking!

- Our conference day will include a mix of inside and outside activities ... rain or shine! Dress prepared for the weather.
- A map and directions can be found on the registration page and will be included in the pre-conference email.
- For more information or questions, contact Peg Smeltz, [m-smeltz@antioch.edu](mailto:m-smeltz@antioch.edu), 603-283-2301.

### To Register:

<https://www.antioch.edu/new-england/event/inside-outside/>

### Registration Fees:

Individual Working Professional	\$125
Group Rate (3 people from same school/district)	\$100 each
AUNE Alumni	\$75
AUNE Students	\$50