



OUTDOOR LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

Life University

June 24, 2022 Marietta, GA

Welcome to OLS

The act of taking children outdoors to learn and explore provides them a freedom within their own minds and body, to learn, grow and develop in a more natural way.

We are excited to welcome you to a day of professional development and networking. Thank you for attending the 2022 Outdoor Learning Symposium! We have an amazing array of presenters who are locally active in the field of environmental and social justice education.

We hope you walk away today inspired and enthusiastic about teaching children and adults. It is well known that not everyone is comfortable taking students into nature to learn. The outside environment provides an incredible source of inspiration, real world situations, hands-on experiences, fears to face and inhibitions to conquer. Outdoor learning makes strong and lasting memories. Leave here today and share your experiences with those who are less inclined to take those first steps outdoors. Throughout the day, think back to the first time someone showed you a mineral in the sand, tuned you into a calling bird, or had you focus on the feel of water as it glided through your fingers and splashed at your feet. Find new ways to pass those feelings on to your students. Share the outdoors and continue learning together.

Thank you to Life University for providing OLS with an amazing campus to gather and learn from today, and to SOIL 3 and CBEEN for your generous support and donations.

Schedule at a Glance

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

8:00a - 9:00a Registration Open

9:00a - 9:35a Opening Remarks

Keynote Address

Morning Long Sessions

9:45a - 12:00p

Morning Short Sessions

9:45a - 10:50a Session 1

11:05a - 12:10p Session 2

Lunch Break

12:10p-12:50p

Afternoon Long Sessions

1:00p - 3:15p

Afternoon Short Sessions

1:00p - 2:00p Session 1

2:15p - 3:20p Session 2

Closing Remarks

3:30p - 3:45p Room 127

Use your phone
camera to access
the OLS sessions



Council of Outdoor Learning

@EEinGA

#OLS2022

The Council of Outdoor Learning is proud to provide a safe environment that values and promotes inclusion, equity and diversity. Thank you for engaging today, and everyday, to create a respectful environment for all.

Opening Remarks: Join us at 9:00am in Room 127

Welcome to the 2022 Outdoor Learning Symposium

Karan Wood, Environmental Education Alliance, Executive Director

Stefan Moss, Council of Outdoor Learning, Chair

Michael Kahle, Outdoor Learning Symposium, Chair

Dr. Gilles LaMarche, Vice President, Life University

Keynote Presentation: Lessons Learned from Martin and Maathai: What Nature Teaches



Brendon Barclay

Manager of Education and Engagement, National Wildlife Federation, Georgia

Brendon manages the development and execution of the National Wildlife Federation/NWF's education programs throughout the state of Georgia. A primary focus of his work is the advancement of NWF's school-based programming, including Eco-Schools USA, Earth Tomorrow and Schoolyard Habitats, with an emphasis on integrating these programs in school districts in urban centers and promoting environmental education as a means to improving student academic performance and increasing children's connection to the outdoors. Brendon has a B.A. in Psychology from Morehouse College and is an Alumni Senior Fellow of the

Environmental Leadership Program (D.C.) He has over 20 years of experience in environmental education, service learning initiatives, team building, facilitation, grant writing and project management. He's the founding Director of Sustaining Urban Villages Inc. where he developed many robust partnerships including with Metro Area County School Systems, The National Wildlife Federation, AmeriCorps Alums, Hands-On Atlanta/Network, City of Atlanta's Outdoor Activity Center, Disney Parks' "Give A Day Get a Disney Day" and more. He is an adept educator having worked as a faculty Outdoor Education Instructor at Spelman College and Outdoor School Instructor for REI, a leading outdoor retailer.

Brendon was a part of the inaugural class of AmeriCorps volunteers and as an AmeriCorps Alumni he was featured in a national TV commercial campaign promoting civic engagement titled "Be The Change." The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), commercial series, spotlighted Brendon on "Future Friendly" initiatives sponsored by P&G and OWN. He was the 2011 honoree of the Champion of Inspiration award from the Points of Light Institute. He served as a Federal Advisory Committee Member on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, US Department of the Interior during the Obama Administration. In 2017 he received the Mentoring Award from the NWF's, Earth Tomorrow Program for his many years of service as a team building facilitator. He joined the NWF staff in 2021. Brendon and his wife live with their 3 sons in the Atlanta metro area. He credits "the boys" as his most valuable experience in on-the-job "wildlife" training.

Session Descriptions

Rottenwood, Great Rocks!

Bill Witherspoon georgiarocks.us

9:45-12:00 Meets in Room 108, Walks to Rottenwood Creek

The Rottenwood Creek location at Life University includes outcrops, stream gravel deposits, and building stones from distant quarries. Roadside Geology of Georgia co-author Dr. Bill Witherspoon will guide participants to the learning opportunities that each of these provide. You are invited to download the University of Wisconsin's free "Rockd" App to your phone ahead of time, as part of your outdoor teaching toolbox.

Teaching the Social Justice Standards in the School Garden

Jenna Mobley Atlanta Public Schools

9:45-12:00 Meets in Room 125, Walks to Raised Garden Beds

In this session, we will explore the Southern Poverty Law Center's Learning for Justice: Social Justice Standards and how they can be reinforced through lessons in the school garden. The anchor standards (and age appropriate learning outcomes) are divided into four domains—Identity, Diversity, Justice and Action. Attendees will participate in a connected series of academically-aligned school garden lessons and will then discuss how the lesson addressed the Social Justice standards as well. Attendees will also have a chance to discuss what this lesson and what these standards may look like in their unique individual settings.

Twelve Ways to Get Outside/ Twelve Components For Your Outdoor Learning Areas

Jerry Hightower National Park Service

9:45-12:00 Meets in Room 115, Walks to Outside Campus Area 1

Learn great tips and ideas for using the outdoors for learning and discover twelve components that are practical and doable to enhance your wildlife habitat outdoor learning area.

Let's Regenerate our Food!

Marquita Jackson Clay Harmony Leland Elementary School

9:45-10:50 Meets in Room 127, Walks to Raised Garden Beds

In this awesome presentation you will learn how to regrow food from food! Yes, we are growing food from food and learning about the cyclical process of growing fruit and vegetables! We will also be creating a starter garden!

Connecting the Dots - How to be an Outside Interpreter with kids

Christie Hill Chattahoochee Nature Center

9:45-10:50 Meets in Room 117, Walks to Woodland Trail

Every tree, insect and hole in the forest floor can tell a story. Children of all ages are intrigued by noticing the smallest living piece of the forest. It is amazing to learn that these tiny things are part of a much bigger picture in which we are all connected. Planning a program to be taught outside can be challenging. If students are not used to walking or doing activities outside you may feel that variables are hard to control. Many of us have felt that a hike or outdoor activity can seem to fall apart as soon as we walk our students outside. But I believe that we are all nature kids at heart. We all naturally use our senses and observation skills when we are in an outdoor setting. The more we have chances to spend time outdoors the more easily we connect to what is going on and find our place here.

Session Descriptions

Finding Resources for Outdoor Learning

Karan Wood Karan Wood

11:05-12:10 Meets in Room 127

Lack of resources limiting your outdoor learning options? Join us and discover how you can find funds, professional learning, lesson materials, schoolyard improvements, environmental education providers, and technical assistance to help you create meaningful outdoor learning experiences for students. Find out about the new GOLD Grants, Wildlife Viewing mini-grants, Eco-Engineering challenges, nearby outdoor learning providers, and much more.

Fun Friday Field Forays

Mark Ray RayEA, LLC

11:05-12:10 Meets in Classroom 117, Walks to Woodland Trail, Stream

This session will provide a variety of opportunities for building anticipation in the classroom for applied exercises in the middle or at the end of Units of study. Science, STEM, Math, English and Physical Education integration will be shared as well. Includes outdoor examples.

Rain Barrel Make & Take Workshop

Aminta Liu Cobb County Water System

11:05-12:10 Meets in Foyer Outside of Room 127, Walks to Outside Campus Area 2

By collecting rainwater, one can save energy, water, and money. Rain barrels also help reduce erosion and stormwater runoff and increase water quality. Learn how to create one to take home step-by-step with instruction from Cobb County Water System's Environmental Programs Specialist Aminta Liu.

Studying Pond Plankton in the Classroom

Kevin Spingler Whitefield Academy

Jadon Jones Whitefield Academy

1:00-3:15 Meets in Room 125, Walks to Pond

Participants will learn how to collect, observe, preserve and identify plankton that are found in ponds and lakes near your school. This session will gather specimens from the local pond and return to the classroom for analysis.

Getting Students Outdoors to Enhance Learning

Ruth Mead Phinizy Center for Water Sciences

1:00-3:15 Meets in Room 108, Walks to Outside Campus Area 1

Taking students outdoors for learning can be both rewarding and fun. Some students that don't learn well in a classroom setting often excel when learning outdoors. Knowing some basic steps for taking students outdoors can make their first experience studying outside a positive one. This session will explore obstacles and distractions that come with being outdoors and how to overcome these to build a comfortable experience for the students and other teachers as well. This session will spend time outside exploring different campus settings and how to utilize each. It will include several activities that can be used to complement classroom curriculum.

Session Descriptions

Outdoor Learning Collaboratory – An Interactive Session About Best Practices

Karan Wood, Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Stefan Moss, Whitefield Academy and The Moss Group

1:00-3:15 Meets in Room 127

Join us to share your ideas and experience regarding effective outdoor education – both at school and in informal settings. This interactive workshop is intended to surface proven strategies and promising practices for engaging children in outdoor education. The session is part of a year-long, nation-wide community engagement initiative that will result in new “Guidelines for Excellence in EE for Outdoor Learning” as well as a related workshop and online course.

Bugs, Birds, Bees, Bats, Butterflies, & Books in the School Yard

Steve Rich Independent Science Author & Educator

1:00-2:00 Meets in Room 117, Walks to Woodland Trail

Join a former state science specialist who created outdoor classrooms for elementary & middle schools, successfully implementing state standards and integrating all subjects. Citizen science, nature journals, and childrens literature take center stage along with natural artifacts and discovery learning. Free seeds!

Gardens as Human Ecology and Resiliency Learning Labs

Stephanie Wakefield Life University

1:00-2:00 Meets in Room 115, Walks to Raised Garden Beds

Drawing on experiences teaching Human Ecology to undergraduates at Life University, this presentation will explore how educators can enrich classroom learning around topics like climate change, resiliency, and cultural adaptations by using the garden as a living laboratory. The presentation will discuss how to set up the space itself, as well as several garden-based learning activities used in our Human Ecology courses.

Pollinator Community Science

Susan Meyers & Sharon McCullough Monarchs Across Georgia

2:15-3:20 Meets in Room 117, Walks to Outside Campus Areas 2, 3, 4

Participate in pollinator-related community science projects. Learn to identify types of pollinators. Discover key components of pollinator habitat. Receive resources for further exploration.

The Early Connection- Nature Engagement During Early Childhood

Charmaine Godley Children & Nature Network

Traci Coleman Owner and Executive Director of “Grow Montessori School”

2:15-3:20 Meets in Room 115, Walks to Outside Campus Areas 1

Research shows that connecting young children (0-5 years old) to nature during the early years of life has long term benefits, i.e. improving physical and mental health, and preparing children for school.

In The Exhibition Hall

Exhibit & Informational Booths

Soil 3
Georgia Environmental Education Alliance
Cobb County Water System Education
Life University Department of Human Ecology
Chattahoochee Nature Center

Cobb County Green Schools Initiative
Georgia Project WET
Georgia Adopt A Stream
Monarchs Across Georgia
ATEEG

Lunch: In the Exhibit Hall from 12:10-12:50

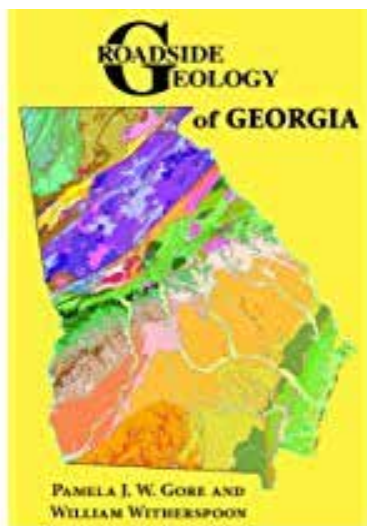
Lunch boxes from Jason's Deli are available, please take one boxed lunch and one drink. First come first served basis for options. Half will be put out at noon, and half at 12:15 for those coming from outward session locations. We are serving smoked turkey, chicken salad and veggie sandwiches.

Enjoy dining outside in the commons. There are plenty of picnic tables and garden benches.

RECYCLE your boxes and cans. Thank you Keep Smyrna Beautiful for providing recycle bins for this event. Enjoy your lunch!

Meet the Author

Dr. Bill Witherspoon



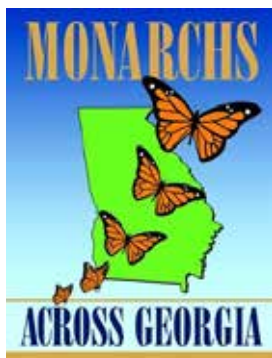
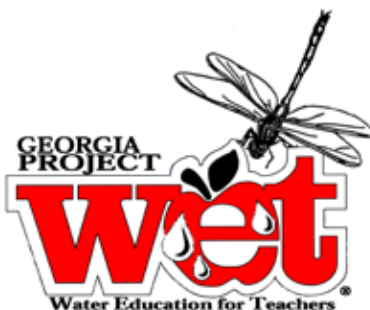
Purchase your own signed copy from Bill in the exhibition hall during morning registration and lunch.

Ride along with geologists Pamela Gore and Bill Witherspoon on this extraordinary tour of the Peach State's varied terrain. In 35 detailed and densely illustrated road guides, the Roadside Geology of Georgia examines Georgia's fascinating geology and reveals the stories that lie beneath the surface.

You'll be amazed at Georgia's geological diversity, from its shifting barrier islands along the coast to the sandstone ridges in its northwest corner. At the Cumberland Island National Seashore you'll find the ruins of Dungeness, the once-magnificent Carnegie estate built of local mineral resources, and encounter wild horses grazing among windswept dunes. In Atlanta, the white whaleback of granite called Stone Mountain will impress you with its protruding "cat's paw" minerals and stony layers that are sloughing off like the layers of an onion.

In the Blue Ridge Mountains you can witness Amicalola Falls, one of the highest cascading waterfalls east of the Mississippi River, and Tallulah Gorge, one the deepest gorges in the eastern United States. And in the iconic Okefenokee Swamp of south Georgia, you'll wade through the gator-filled blackwater of one of the largest wetlands in North America. With its engaging prose and 250-plus color photos, maps, and figures, Roadside Geology of Georgia takes you beyond the rocks to unearth the billion-year history of the Empire State of the South. For a full description, visit georgiarocks.us

Special Thanks to Our Supporters, Partners, and Sponsors



Schedule at a Glance

8:00am - 9:00am	Open Registration, Networking, Book Signing In the Exhibition Hall		
9:00am - 9:35am	Opening Remarks OLS Committee, Dr. Gilles LaMarche, In Room 127 Keynote Presentation: Brendon Barclay		
9:45am - 12:00pm Morning Long Sessions	Teaching the Social Justice Standards in the School Garden Room 125	12 Ways to Get Outside/ 12 Components For Your Outdoor Learning Areas Room 115	Rottenwood, Great Rocks! Room 108
9:45am - 10:50am Morning Short Sessions 1	Connecting the Dots - How to Be an Outside Interpreter with Kids Room 117	Let's Regenerate Our Food! Room 127	
11:05am - 12:10pm Morning Short Sessions 2	Finding Resources for Outdoor Learning Room 127	Fun Friday Field Forays Room 117	Rain Barrel Make-&-Take Workshop Meets in Foyer just outside of Room 127
12:10pm - 12:50pm	Lunch Break Boxed lunch pick-up in exhibition hall outside of Room 127		
1:00pm - 3:15pm Afternoon Long Sessions	Studying Pond Plankton in the Classroom Room 125	Getting Students Outdoors to Enhance Learning Room 108	Outdoor Learning Collaboratory – An Interactive Session About Best Practices Room 127
1:00pm - 2:00pm Afternoon Short Sessions 1	Bugs, Birds, Bees, Bats, Butterflies, & Books in the School Yard Room 117	Gardens as Human Ecology and Resiliency Learning Labs Room 115	
2:15pm - 3:20pm Afternoon Short Sessions 2	Pollinator Community Science Room 117	The Early Connection-Nature Engagement During Early Childhood Room 115	
3:30pm - 3:45pm	Closing Session, Prizes and Giveaways In Room 127		