

# Nature Based Education

## Summer Institute June 23 and 24, 2017

[http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe\\_17/](http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe_17/)



**Friday Pre-Conference Sessions** Come a day early to connect with nature and network with other professionals. The following sessions are available

- 9:00-4:00 All Day Hike to Poplar Stream Hut
- 9:00-12:00 Artful Nature: Exploring How Nature Heals Us
- 1:00 - 4:00 Nature Journals: Making, Learning, and Using
- 1:00 - 4:00 Tour of Bonney and Flint Woods: Human and Natural History of Farmington

Low-cost accommodations are available for Friday evening. Participants will be in a single dorm room with bedding provided.

**Friday Evening Lecture** Please join Deborah Schein as she shares her vision for transforming STEM education to STREAMS. This new acronym is more inclusive of developing whole children and builds upon a definition of spiritual development useable for all children. Schein currently works as an educational consultant and teaches early childhood graduate courses at Champlain College. This lecture is sponsored by the Biosophical Institute, a Maine foundation that provides grants and scholarships furthering character and peace education.

## Saturday Sessions

8:00	<b>Registration in NDH</b>				
8:30	<b>Welcome in Lincoln Auditorium</b>				
	<b>Landing</b>	<b>NDH A</b>	<b>NDH B</b>	<b>NDH C</b>	<b>CR 123</b>
9:00 - 10:15	A) Outdoor Classroom: First Steps	B) Exploring Nature Through Agriculture	C) Engineering Design Inspired by Nature	D) Relationship Between Spiritual Development and Nature	E) Nature Based Middle School Education - Full STEAM Ahead
10:30	<b>Keynote Using Nature to Build Executive Functions and Support Academic Success Dr. Michelle Rupiper</b>				
11:45	Keynote Q&A	Lunch and Colleague Circles Devaney, Doak, and Garrett Booksellers available			
12:30 - 1:45	F) A Step Along the Journey: Our Beginning to a More Natural Education	G) Integrating Technology into a Nature-Inspired Curriculum - A Project Approach	H) Explore the Wonderful World of Watersheds!	I) Journaling with Adolescents: Build Connection to Nature and Achieve Learning Goals	J) Crowdsourcing Local Field Data with Geographic Information Systems
2:00 - 3:15	K) Night Tree: A Celebration of Nature & Family	L) The 'Natural' Playground? What Does This Mean and How Does It Work?	M) Nature Counts! Learning Math with Loose Parts and Nature	N) Demonstrating Proficiency through Nature Based Education	O) Making Place-Based Education a Real Education
3:20	<b>Concluding Circle - Mantor Green</b>				

**A) Outdoor Classroom: First Steps** Opening an outdoor classroom may seem daunting! There are so many things to consider. We will share our experiences in starting our outdoor classrooms; the missteps and the steps that landed on solid ground. (*ECH B-5, ECH Admin, ECH Pk-3*)

**B) Exploring Nature Through Agriculture – Resources and Hands-On Activities** We will explore free resources for educators from *Ag in the Classroom* including standards aligned materials. Participants will build 2x2 mini-gardens as a tool for integrating gardening into the classroom. (ECH Pk-3, ECH B-5, ECH Admin, Upper Ele, Middle Level, Out of School, Pre-Service Teachers)

**C) Engineering Design Inspired by Nature** What do water striders, whirligigs, and dragonflies have in common? Join us in exploring the marvelous engineering of nature as we research and apply the science and technology behind natural phenomenon to create innovative products. (Middle Level, Upper Ele, High School, Out of School, Any)

**D) Relationship Between Spiritual Development and Nature** Participants will learn how to use nature to support children's spiritual development. They will learn what spiritual development can look like and feel like in nature settings. (Any age/grade educator)

**E) Nature Based Middle School Education - Full STEAM Ahead** Come learn about inquiry activities and skills to strengthen science content knowledge by focusing on forest health and sustainability. This session will be led by a middle school science teacher teamed with Forest Bioproducts Research Institute at University of Maine. (Middle Level, Upper Ele, High School)

**F) A Step Along the Journey: Our Beginning to a More Natural Education:** Come hear about our experiences, reflections, and learnings as we transition to a more nature based educational experience for our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, both in the classroom and on the playground. (ECH Admin, ECH B-5)

**G) Integrating Technology into a Nature-Inspired Curriculum - A Project Approach** Participants will explore the various tools of technology we used in the study of birds in our preschool. Tools used to enhance learning included a tablet, iPad, digital microscope, and QR codes. (ECH B-5, ECH Pk-3, Upper Ele, Out of School Educators)

**H) Explore the Wonderful World of Watersheds!** This workshop will explore the significance of watersheds and their connection to the local natural environment. Join the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed as we engage in fun hands-on observation and inquiry based observations! (Upper Ele, Out of School Educators)

**I) Journaling with Adolescents: Build Connection to Nature and Achieve Learning Goals** Join us to learn strategies to integrate nature journaling with adolescents in a science classroom. Despite large class size and short class periods, students can develop observation skills, connect to the environment, all while reaching science and English Language Arts learning goals. (Middle Level, Any age/grade)

**J) Crowdsourcing Local Field Data with Geographic Information Systems** Would you like your students to crowdsource local field data into a single, collaborative map? Outside, attendees will use their smartphone to collect raw data; later in the computer lab, attendees will analyze the resulting map. (High School, Upper Ele, Middle Level, Out of School Educators, Admin, Tech Coordinators)

**K) Night Tree: A Celebration of Nature & Family** Participants will plan a celebration of nature for Pre-K and Primary children using the book, Night Tree. Cross-curricular activities and ideas for creating family gatherings featuring literature, music, and children's artwork will be shared. A mini celebration will be held outdoors. (ECH Pk-3, ECH B-5)

**L) The 'Natural' Playground? What Does This Mean and How Does It Work?** Well-designed outdoor spaces support the ways children play and learn. This workshop will discuss the importance of the outdoor environment in children's lives and introduce the design principles and developmental needs that shape effective outdoor learning and play spaces (Any age/grade, ECH Admin)

**M) Nature Counts! Learning Math with Loose Parts and Nature** Rocks and acorns and marbles, Oh my! Let's discover the many ways that nature and loose parts can be combined to teach a variety of math concepts to young children ages three to six. (ECH B-5, ECH Admin, ECH Pk-3)

**N) Demonstrating Proficiency through Nature Based Education** Learn how one teacher was able to get her students outside every day and how, by using content standards to frame outdoor learning, a nature trail became their science curriculum. (Middle Level, Upper Ele, High School, School Admin)

**O) Making Place-Based Education a Real Education** Place-based education grounds students in their immediate natural environment, empowering them to explore real world experiences. This presentation explores concepts behind place-based education through the Integrated Technology and GEAR UP programs at Oak Hill High School. (High School, Middle Level, School Admin)

## Nature Based Education Summer Institute Costs

Item	Cost
Friday Session (please note lunch is not included)	\$15.00
Friday Accommodations (single room with bedding)	\$45.00
Saturday (includes snacks and lunch) Please check rate	
Presenter (up to 2 per presentation)	Waived
Current Student rate/Retired Educator	\$35.00
UMF Alumni	\$60.00
Regular rate	\$85.00

**For more information and to download a registration form please visit [http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe\\_17/](http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe_17/)**

**Questions? Please email [johanna.prince@maine.edu](mailto:johanna.prince@maine.edu)**