

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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Session Title: Nature-Based Education Roundtable

Session A 10:30-11:45

Location: The Landing

Presenter

- UMF Faculty Dr. Patti Bailie, Dr. Leigh Ann Fish, and Dr. Clare Thomas-Pino and their students
- Anne Stires, Founder and Director, Juniper Hill School

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Any age/grade educator

Session Description: Join UMF faculty members and their students, as well as our keynote presenter Anne Stires, to hear about how students in higher ed are responding to nature-based education opportunities, and to share your own ideas and questions.

Presenter Biographies:

- Anne Stires has a bachelor's degree in Biology and English from Hamilton College in New York and a master's degree in Education from Antioch University New England. An affinity for nature and environmental education always brought her back to Maine. While pursuing her education, she worked at local marine and environmental stewardship programs: the Darling Marine Center, Chewonki Foundation and Tanglewood Learning Center. Anne also directed a Place-Based Education program for 25 schools on the midcoast region of Maine for the Quebec-Laborador Foundation Marine Program. As a classroom teacher, she taught at Sheepscot Valley Children's House in Wiscasset and Boothbay Region Elementary School before starting her ideal, hands-on learning "place": Juniper Hill. Anne is a prolific speaker and advocate on the topic of nature-based education. In addition to being the school founder and director, Anne teaches the Roots class, as well as graduate level courses at Antioch University.
- Dr. Patti Bailie arrived at UMF in 2014 with significant experience in nature-based early childhood education. She was the founding director of the Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool in Milwaukee, WI and co-director of the Early Childhood Outdoors Institute in Omaha, NE. She teaches several methods and field based courses in the undergraduate early childhood department including; ECH 150 Introduction to ECE, ECH 232 Social Science for Young Children, ECH 192 Practicum, and ECH 420 Planning Environments for Young Children. Dr. Bailie is active in the field of early childhood environmental education serving on the advisory board of the Natural Start Alliance and as consulting editor of the International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education. Her research interests include identifying high quality practices of nature-based preschools and their impact on school readiness.
- Dr. Leigh Ann Fish is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration/Curriculum and Cultural Studies from Miami University. Prior to working at UMF, Dr. Fish served as a K-12 Gifted & Talented Coordinator and as a National Board Certified elementary teacher in Ohio. Her professional interests include girlhood studies, gendered school practices, treatment of intellect in schools, importance of play in early and elementary settings, Reggio-inspired practices, and young children with gifts and talent. She is an active member of NAEYC, MEGAT, and NAGC and is a seasoned advocate for young children and young gifted children.
- Dr. Clare Thomas-Pino has a background in Psychology & Animal Behavior, and is currently teaching at UMaine and UMF (in Animal and Veterinary Science and Rehabilitation Services) and from Fall 2018 will be

teaching at USM in Counselor Education a new CAS in Animal Assisted Activities and Therapies and Green Care. A UMaine Clare has been researching and mentoring students in animal behavior, eco-therapies, EFP & the human-equine bond for the past decade. Clare's a former board member for EFMHA (the former Mental Health and Learning wing of Path International), and an HHRF scientific advisor. Clare lives with her family and animals on a 40 acre diversified farm, where she strongly supports organic farming and gardening, and grass-fed humane livestock production.