

# Nature-Based Education Institute

May 18-20, 2018

[http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe\\_18/](http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe_18/)



## Friday Evening Public Lecture: "The Story of Green Chimneys"

Please join **Miyako Kinoshita**, Farm Education Program Manager as she introduces us to **Green Chimneys**, a non-profit organization located in Brewster, New York serving children with special needs. The Nature-Based Programs at Green Chimneys developed over 75 years, starting as a very small boarding school with preschool children, and now serving 250 children in the NYC and Hudson Valley Area who have psychosocial challenges. This presentation explores how Nature-Based Programming evolved over 75 years at Green Chimneys, and how it serves children with special needs today.

Low-cost on-campus accommodations are available for Friday and/or Saturday evenings. Participants will stay in a single dorm room with bedding provided.

As an alternative to on-campus accommodations, the **Poplar Hut Hike/Overnight Experience** is available on Saturday. It includes a hike to the Poplar Hut, where you will enjoy a local-food dinner, evening activities, overnight accommodations, breakfast, and morning activities on Sunday before the return hike to the parking area.

## Saturday Sessions (see below for session descriptions)

8:00	Registration and Light Breakfast - Olsen Student Center				
8:45	Welcome in Lincoln Auditorium				
9:00 - 10:15	Keynote Presentation: Anne Stires, Founder/Director of Juniper Hill School for Place-Based Education, Alna, Maine				
	<b>Landing</b>	<b>NDH A</b>	<b>NDH B</b>	<b>NDH C</b>	<b>CR 123</b>
10:30-11:45	A) Nature-Based Education Roundtable	B) Upcycle Explorers: Creative Journaling for Nature Field Studies	C) Making It Happen: Transitioning to an Outdoor Classroom	D) Teaching Science Through Art-Based Activities	E) How to Bring Nature Inside the 4 Walls
11:45	Grab your lunch and join us for a screening of the short documentary, "The Best Day Ever: Forest Days in Vermont Kindergartens"  Lunch and Colleague Circles South Dining Hall Olsen Student Center  Devaney, Doak, and Garrett Booksellers available				
12:30 - 1:45	F) Nature Inspired for the Public School: Journeys to the Woods	G) Using the Forest to Reach Kids	H) Educating Families about the Benefits of Risk-Taking in Nature-Based Play	I) Out the Door! Experiential Activities for All Ages with Project Learning Tree!	J) Logistics of Nature-Based Education in Public Elementary Schools
2:00 - 3:15	K) Curriculum and the Outdoors - It's Natural	L) Take a Walk on the Wild Side	M) Designing for Quality Play	N) Impressions in Nature	O) What Is a Book If Not a Sanctuary?
3:20	Concluding Circle - Mantor Green				

## Sunday Morning Post-Conference Activities

Please join us for one of two morning activities that will afford you an opportunity to interact with nature while enjoying the beauty of the Farmington area. Bring your hybrid bike and join us for an easy 16-mile bike ride to and along the Whistle Stop Rail Trail, which runs from Farmington to Jay (though we won't ride that entire distance), with scenic stops along the way. Or, bring your nature journal and binoculars and join us for a nature/journaling walk to and through Flint Woods, a beautiful green space just a mile from campus. Whichever you choose, we'll have you back on campus no later than noon.

## Saturday Session Descriptions

**A) Nature-Based Education Roundtable** In this session, UMF educators and their students, keynote speaker Anne Stires, and workshop participants will share their Nature-Based Education stories, including discussions and presentations about projects, research, classes, and more. (K-3, Any age/grade educator)

- B) Upcycle Explorers: Creative Journaling for Nature Field Studies** This session will cover field guides and related literature for children and making an upcycled journal that can be used in a variety of ways for nature field studies. *(Upper ELE, Middle Level, Pk-3, 9-12, Out of School)*
- C) Making it Happen: Transitioning to an Outdoor Classroom** This workshop offers suggestions and ideas to transition your program or classroom into a more nature-based one. We will talk about our transition process, including challenges and successes. As a small, private childcare, we had to work around lack of funding, and do all of the work ourselves. *(B-5, ECH Admin, Any age/grade educator)*
- D) Teaching Science through Art-Based Activities** Integrating science and visual art provides students with the ability to think critically, discover their local ecological system, and make meaningful connections, all while developing their scientific understanding. *(Any age/grade educator)*
- E) How to Bring Nature Inside the 4 Walls** At Green Chimneys, we are fortunate to utilize the farm and natural environment every day in teaching with 150 animals and 2.5 acres of garden space. In this session, we'll explore how to bring hands-on experiential, and sensory oriented learning experiences into the classrooms where we are segregated from the nature by four walls and windows. *(Any age/grade educator)*
- F) Nature Inspired for the Public School: Journeys to the Woods** This presentation depicts a nature-inspired integrated progressive curriculum. The purpose is to highlight how trips into nature can provide the foundation for deeper academic and social learning within traditionally structured classroom settings. *(Pk-3, B-5, ECH Admin, Upper Ele, Any age/grade educator)*
- G) Using the Forest to Reach Kids** Participants will see how Waterville Junior High started an outdoor-based STEM course. Participants will engineer clinometers and establish a study plot in the forest to collect data on a variety of tree species. *(Middle level, Upper ELE, Out of School)*
- H) Educating Families About the Benefits of Risk-taking in Nature-Based Play** Staff from UMF's campus lab school will share their experiences with communicating with families about incorporating natural elements into nature-inspired playgrounds. *(B-5, ECH Admin)*
- I) Out the Door! Experiential Activities for All Ages with Project Learning Tree!** This Project Learning Tree (PLT) session seeks to expand the repertoire of educators by exploring experiential learning in a natural setting. Participants will engage in a nature walk with activities presented by PLT facilitators. *(Any age/grade educator, Any age/grade admin, Out of School)*
- J) Logistics of Nature-Based Education in Public Elementary Schools** This session will help participants see the possibilities available to implement Nature-Based Education in a public elementary school setting. *(Pk-3, Upper Ele, School Admin)*
- K) Curriculum and the Outdoors: It's Natural!** This presentation will explore ways to stay in line with curriculum requirements while also getting students outside! *(Pk-3, B-5, ECH Admin)*
- L) Take a Walk on the Wild Side** A journey through nature and time in Abbott Park will engage participants in various curricular areas. Participants will discover how to integrate areas of curriculum centering on the exploration of archaeology. *(Upper ELE, Middle Level)*
- M) Designing for Quality Play** Children learn through play! The design of the play environment is directly related to the quality of play and learning opportunities. This session will review research on child development and show how to accommodate for full child development needs within the play environment. *(B-5, ECH Admin, Pk-3, Upper ELE, Any age/grade educator)*
- N) Impressions in Nature** Participants will use a variety of materials (clay, nature journals, objects found in nature, etc.) and incorporate hand building techniques to make pinch pots, which are bowls embellished with objects collected from nature. *(Any age/grade educator)*
- O) What is a Book if Not a Sanctuary?** Books fill so many needs for readers of all sorts; they are friends, guides, and teachers. They inspire, inform, and challenge us. Come explore the power of literature to meet the varied social/emotional needs of children, with a particular focus on gifted learners. *(Pk-3, B-5, Upper ELE, Out of School)*

### Nature Based Education Summer Institute Costs

Item	Cost
Friday Evening Public Lecture: <i>The Story of Green Chimneys</i>	N/C
Friday On-Campus Accommodations ( <i>single room with bedding</i> )	\$45.00
Saturday ( <i>includes snacks and lunch</i> )	
Presenter	Waived for up to 2 presenters per workshop; others over 2 pay applicable rate
Current Student/Retired Educator	\$35.00
UMF Alumni	\$60.00
Regular rate	\$85.00
Saturday On-Campus Accommodations ( <i>single room with bedding</i> ), OR	\$45.00
Saturday Poplar Hut Hike Overnight Experience ( <i>includes dinner, evening activities, overnight accommodations, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday half-day activity at Poplar Hut</i> ) - <b>Limited to 30 paid participants</b>	\$60.00
Sunday Local Half-Day Activity ( <i>includes light breakfast</i> ) <i>Select one activity</i> Bike Ride: The Whistle Stop Trail (approximately 16 miles) Nature and Journaling Walk: UMF Campus and Flint Woods	N/C

**For more information and to download a registration form please visit**  
<http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/nbe/nbe> **18/**  
**Questions? Please email [susan.farris@maine.edu](mailto:susan.farris@maine.edu)**