The Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Association is pleased to partner with Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies to present our 2018 Annual Conference:

EE is Everywhere: Conversations on the Crucial Role of Environmental Education in our Changing World

Thursday, March 22, 2018
9:00 a.m-4:00 p.m
at Yale University’s Kroon Hall in New Haven, CT

Register Below:
https://tinyurl.com/COEEAconf2018

For more information, visit
www.coeea.org

Keynote Speaker: Anne Umali

Project Manager, ee360;
North American Environmental Education Association
General Information

About COEEA

Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Association is a network of classroom educators, naturalists, environmental educators, youth leaders, administrators, professors, and students who work toward a future where increasingly:

- An appreciation for and understanding of the environment is an integral part of all community education – including formal, non-formal, and informal education;
- Educators, environmental professionals, and the organizations and agencies they represent are well informed and are willing to work together to maximize resources; and
- People of all ages are environmentally literate and act as environmental stewards.

COEEA serves its members by supporting professional development, providing networking opportunities, and promoting environmental education in Connecticut.

COEEA Fund is a 501 (c) 3 organization. We are also the state affiliate of the New England Environmental Education Alliance and the North American Association for Environmental Education.

Directions to Kroon Hall
From I-91, North or South

Take Exit 3 (Trumbull Street). Stay in middle lane, and continue straight onto Trumbull Street to the fifth traffic light. Turn right onto Prospect Street, and continue straight through the first traffic light (Sachem Street). Kroon Hall (195 Prospect Street) is the second building on the right-hand side of the street, and Sage Hall (205 Prospect Street) sits directly to the left of it. Metered parking is available on the opposite side of the street. The Environmental Science Center is located around the corner, at 21 Sachem Street.

Two other buildings, 301 Prospect Street and 380 Edwards Street, are located just before the next traffic light, on the right-hand side of Prospect Street.

To reach Marsh Hall (360 Prospect Street), continue through the next two traffic lights (Edwards Street on right and Hillside Place on left) to the first building on the left-hand side of Prospect Street. Greeley Lab (370 Prospect Street) is located directly behind Marsh Hall.

Parking
Parking is available in the Pierson Sage Garage at 350 Edwards st. Please use parking code 131# and this will cover parking costs.

Breakfast and Lunch
Breakfast and lunch is provided by Koffee Katering, home of zero landfill catering. There will be vegetarian, vegan and limited gluten free option available. Coffee and water stations will be set up but please bring your own mug and water bottle.

Our Ecological Footprint
In order to reduce our environmental impact, we ask that you please bring your own paper, writing instruments, reusable water bottle and/or coffee mug. Plates and utensils for lunch will be provided.

Exhibiting Information
Exhibits of COEEA member organizations will be available throughout the day to view and visit for information.

Evaluations
Your thoughts about the conference is extremely important to us. We have created an online survey for you to complete after the conference.

Thank you for joining us!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks by Abby Peklo, COEEA President</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Session A 10:15-11:00 &amp; Session B 11:15-12:00</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Downstairs Lobby</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Creating Schoolyard Habitats</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Katie Blake, Audubon Connecticut, Cathy Roy, Conte West Hills School</em></td>
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<td>Tour of Marsh Botanical Gardens</td>
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<td>Is CT #RecyclingRight?</td>
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<td><em>Sherill Baldwin, Connecticut DEEP</em></td>
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<td><em>Abby Beissinger &amp; Laura Cisneros, University of Connecticut</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tackling the Metrics Problem in Environmental Education</td>
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<td><em>Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant (University of Connecticut)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Keynote Address Anne Umali, NAAEE- Project Manager for ee360</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Awards</td>
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<td>Breakout conversation w/ Emily Boushee, Outreach Assistant to U.S. Senator Chris Murphy</td>
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<td>Brock Adler, Advocacy Chair for NAAEE</td>
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<td><strong>Session C 1:15-2:00 &amp; Session D 2:15-3:00</strong></td>
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<td><strong>“The Knob”</strong></td>
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<td>Letting the Earth Shape Us: Growing Leaders with Wild Hearts and Minds</td>
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<td><em>Justin Pegnataro, Two Coyotes</em></td>
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<td>Student Led Learning in an Outdoor Setting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Alexa Fiser and Joel Tolman, Common Ground</em></td>
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<td>Phenomena Trips for Outdoors</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Sue Quincy, Connecticut DEEP</em></td>
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<td>Intro to the Next Generation Science Standards (For Beginners)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Christopher Shepard, Science Education Consultant</em></td>
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<td><em>Ken Elkins, Audubon Center at Bent of the River</em></td>
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<td>Moving People to Action</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Michelle Eckman, Connecticut Audubon Society and Anne Umali, NAAEE</em></td>
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<td>Tour of Yale Farm</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Kendra Dawsey, Common Ground</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Amy O’Neal, Jason Learning</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>Reception at Kroon Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conference Schedule at Glance

9:30   Arrival and Registration

10:00  Welcoming remarks
       *Abby Peklo, COEEA President

10:15 - 11:00  Workshop Session A
       *Creating Schoolyard Habitats
       Is CT #RecyclingRight?
       Engaging & Mentoring the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders
       Tackling the Metrics Problem in Environmental Education
       Tour of Marsh Botanical Gardens

11:15 - 12:00  Workshop Session B
       Using Your School as a Laboratory: Relevant Student Engagement
       Interdisciplinary Activities for the Anthropocene
       The Mud Puddle: Taking Advantage of Nature in the City
       Tour of Kroon Hall

12:00   Keynote Address in auditorium
       Anne Umali, NAAEE - NAAEE Project Manager ee360

12:30 Lunch & Awards
       Environmental Educator of the Year, Outstanding Organization of the Year, Excellence in Environmental Stewardship
       Breakout conversation w/ Emily Boushee, Outreach Assistant to U.S. Senator Chris Murphy
       Brock Adler, Advocacy Chair for NAAEE

1:15-2:00  Workshop Session C
       *Student Led Learning in an Outdoor Setting
       *Letting the Earth Shape Us: Growing Leaders with Wild Hearts and Minds
       Phenomena Trips for Outdoors
       Intro to the Next Generation Science Standards
       Counting the Things That Make Your Program Count

2:15-3:00  Workshop Session D
       Tour of Yale Farm
       Moving People to Action
       Authentic Learning Through Design Thinking and STEM

3:15-4:00  Reception

*denotes a double session
Anne Umali

Project Manager, ee360; North American Environmental Education Association

Anne has over 17 years of experience working in conservation education, extension, and training. She was the national coordinator for the EECapacity Project from 2010-2016. Anne builds collaborative relationships with project partners and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with respect to policy, program planning and implementation, evaluation, outreach, and finances. Previously she worked at the National Audubon Society developing and managing the Conservation Leadership Fellows Program of TogetherGreen, Audubon’s 5-year $20 million innovative conservation program in alliance with Toyota. Before Audubon she worked at the Department of Environmental and Conservation Programs at the Field Museum of Chicago as the International Programs Manager for education. She organized EE training and natural resources use workshops for forest communities within a newly established 3.4 million acre protected area in Bolivia’s super diverse Amazon region. Her first experiences with EE began in Ecuador where she was a Natural Resources Peace Corps Volunteer.
Creating Schoolyard Habitats
*Katie Blake, Audubon Connecticut, Cathy Roy, Conte West Hills School*

Conte West Hills Schoolyard Habitat team members will talk about and showcase their Schoolyard Habitat—a safe place for wildlife and place-based education for students. Partners from Audubon Connecticut and Common Ground will talk about how to get involved in the program and share relevant program resources. Attendees will be provided with resources they can use to begin a schoolyard habitat program of their own as well as ways to connect/stay connected with a wider community of schoolyard habitat practitioners.

This workshop is a double session/field trip.

Is CT #RecyclingRight?
*Sherill Baldwin, Connecticut DEEP*

Participants will conduct a "mixed recycling" characterization study, learn about CT’s new "universal list" of acceptable recyclables, What’s IN, What’s OUT campaign tools and resources and RecycleCT Foundation’s school grant program. They will also learn more about existing resources, including a small grant program for schools to develop programs that educate and engage the school community in actions to support sustainable materials management.

Engaging & Mentoring the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders
*Abby Beissinger & Laura Cisneros, University of Connecticut*

Organizations often seek to engage youth, but may not know where to start. We’ll provide interactive training on effective mentoring while accomplishing conservation goals. Participants in this workshop will leave with: training on best practices for effectively mentoring youth while accomplishing conservation goals; examples of effective mentoring that has led to the success of many projects within UConn’s Natural Resources Conservation Academy; sample worksheets that aid in developing youth-led conservation projects; and a preliminary outline for a youth-led conservation project specific to their own organization.

Moving People to Action
*Michele Eckman, Connecticut Audubon Society*

Conservation is an action term; it is what people do with what they know and the skills they have. The goal of environmental educators is to ultimately motivate people to take actions in their daily lives to reduce their impact on our natural resources. However, motivating people to action is a challenging task, but is absolutely necessary in our current society where facts matter less and less to the general public and people are more and more disconnected from the natural world. In this interactive roundtable discussion, we will discuss the challenges of moving people to action and how we can borrow principles of conservation psychology, marketing and communication to our work.

Tackling the Metrics Problem in Environmental Education
*Bill Flynn, New Canaan Nature Center and Francesca Williams, Audubon Greenwich*

Providing metrics to evaluate environmental education programs and measure outcomes can be hard. Our roundtable will tackle this problem. We will provide an overview of best practices in measuring impact simply but effectively, offer a case study with Audubon CT’s Schoolyard Habitat Program, and initiate valuable discussion and brainstorming for you to apply in your work.
Using Your School as a Laboratory: Relevant Student Engagement
*Jeff Dyreson, Alec McCandless, Gratia Lee, Julie Hinchman, The Loomis Chaffee School*

Join a discussion with the staff of the Alvord Center for Global & Environmental Studies in how schools can use their campus as a laboratory eliciting meaningful change (case study: ground mount solar array development and utilization).

Interdisciplinary Activities for the Anthropocene
*Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant (University of Connecticut)*

Discover how to build interdisciplinary lessons that bring human ecology concepts – population, resource use and impacts – into social studies, math, science, and non-formal instruction. The hands-on activities presented in this session are designed to motivate youth on critical human ecology issues that will impact their generation in many ways. As we focus on environmental literacy, these activities will become a valuable part of educators’ tool kits.

The Mud Puddle: Taking Advantage of Nature in the City
*El Charco: Aprovechando de la naturaleza en la ciudad*
*Monica Edgerton, All Our Kin  & Hansi Ortiz, Shalom Family Daycare*

In our fast-paced world full of technology, this presentation will explore the importance of nature education in the city.

Spanish: En nuestro mundo apresurado lleno de tecnología, esta presentación explorará la importancia de la educación de la naturaleza en la ciudad.
Workshops

Session C

Student Led Learning in an Outdoor Setting
Alexa Fiszer and Joel Tolman, Common Ground

At Common Ground, learning and student leadership take many forms. Explore our campus and discover how students from kindergarten through high school use our site and outdoor spaces as a launching point for student led learning, interdisciplinary curriculum, and self-designed senior projects. Participants will be exposed to a model of education that breaks the mold of teachers as leaders and students in desks. Our next generation of environmental leaders and champions can be formed by students who have the opportunity to think and lead and learn outside a traditional classroom!

This workshop is a double session/field trip

Letting the Earth Shape Us: Growing Leaders with Wild Hearts and Minds
Justin Pegnataro, Two Coyotes Wilderness School

Wilderness mentoring traces its roots to when our ancestors lived close to the earth. It awakens an ecological consciousness and connection with all of life and nourishes the natural gifts in a person. Join us at the village hearth for fire, song, stories and exploring how to raise a generation filled with vision, purpose and character

Join us for an experiential outdoor workshop that gives educators a taste of what wilderness mentoring is, helps participants to understand a framework of how to create nature connection culture in their programs and shared techniques of how to create personal growth of students

This workshop is a double session.

Phenomena Trips for Outdoors
Sue Quincy, Connecticut DEEP

Engagement of students with natural phenomena, is the power of the field trip. Come build field trips into lesson plans to maximize 3D teaching. In this workshop we will illustrate the application of phenomena investigation in the environment and highlight the resources available to help cement outdoor learning and spaces into the curriculum. This focus helps elevate the use of the spaces along with resource providers by addressing the 3D learning process. Share examples of Best Practices as applied to lesson/unit planning and development.

Intro to the Next Generation Science Standards (For Beginners)
Christopher Shepard, Science Education Consultant

When partnering with schools we need to demonstrate how our EE programs help implement the new Next Generation Science Standards. Participants who are new to the NGSS will explore the key conceptual shifts in science education called for by the Framework underlying the NGSS, understand the 3D structure of the standards, walk away with tips and tools for further learning, and contemplate the potential impacts on the design and marketing of EE programs in Connecticut.
Workshops

Session D

Counting the Things That Make Your Program Count
Ken Elkins, Audubon Center at Bent of the River

What do we count if we’re not using tests or surveys to measure impact? In this workshop we will brainstorm how and what to capture during a program as well as how to measure impact without any tests or surveys.

Authentic Learning through Design Thinking and STEM
Amy O’Neal, Jason Learning

Design thinking is a powerful way to develop solutions to complex problems in innovative, even sometimes radical ways. JASON Learning has partnered with STEM Connector to create a series of Design Thinking Challenges for youth that involve students in real-world problems and encourage community engagement – from administrators, teachers, and students to families and community members. JASON is a free resource for public schools in CT. Join us for this overview of the resources available, from curricula focused on recycling to ecosystems, to a deeper exploration of Design Thinking community challenges which include better solutions for green spaces and energy & space efficient homes. Resources address and support NGSS.

Yale Farm Tour
Kendra Dawsey and Yale Farm Staff
**Workshop Presenters**

**Katie Blake** is the Bird-Friendly Communities Manager for Audubon Connecticut. She manages activities and communications among partners and groups implementing urban oases demonstration sites and schoolyard habitats. She coordinates collaborative projects in New Haven as a partner lead for the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. Working together with Audubon staff naturalists, she also conducts habitat assessments for landowners and educates people on the benefits of bird-friendly landscaping.

**Cathy Roy** is a Special Education Teacher at Conte West Hills School in New Haven, CT

**Sherill Baldwin** CT DEEP

**Abby Beissinger** is a Visiting Assistant Extension Educator in the Department of Natural Resources & the Environment at UConn and a coordinator for UConn’s Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA). She has worked in both national and international capacities to develop and implement hands-on programming for youth to engage in community-based environmental stewardship.

**Laura Cisneros** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources & the Environment at UConn and a coordinator for UConn’s Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA). She joined the NRCA team in 2014 after receiving her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn. She has collaborated with land trusts, conservation organizations, and government agencies to mentor/advise 84 intergenerational conservation projects that incorporate innovative mapping and web technology and result in real conservation benefits for communities and ecosystems statewide.

**Michelle Eckman** is the Education Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Michelle collaborates with CAS staff, local schools and school systems to develop and promote our new, innovative, outdoor science education program for K-12 students called Science in Nature. Her goal is for our Science in Nature program to reach the majority of K-12 students, particularly from Title I schools, in each of our center’s geographical areas.

**Bill Flynn** currently serves as the Executive Director of the New Canaan Nature Center. He attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, and in 2007 he graduated with a B.S. in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology and Pre-medicine. He then worked as a Naturalist in middle Ohio and Southern California before heading out to Connecticut to work at the New Canaan Nature Center.

**Francesca Williams** is the Curriculum and Evaluation Consultant at Audubon Greenwich, and responsible for standards-aligned outdoor curriculum and professional development for Audubon Connecticut’s Schoolyard Habitat Program, which transforms schoolyards into native wildlife habitat and outdoor classrooms. She has previously worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) at the Bronx Zoo, and holds a Master’s Degree from Columbia University in Conservation Biology with a concentration in Conservation Education.

**Diana Payne** is the Education Coordinator with Connecticut Sea Grant, based at UConn-Avery Point in Groton. Her background is in both science and education. She enjoys providing professional learning opportunities for educators on ocean, coastal and environmental topics and is an international expert in ocean literacy.
Workshop Presenters

Jeff Dyreson, Director of Environmental/Sustainability Initiatives and Associate Director of the Alvord Center, has been a Loomis Chaffee science faculty member since 2002 teaching biology, chemistry, AP environmental science and various environmental science electives. Jeff has developed the Environmental Proctor program, led in the establishment of the Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship, launched the newly developed agriculture program and coordinates sustainable best practices on campus including, energy monitoring, energy audits and conservation in faculty residences along with water conservation initiatives such as hydration stations and low flow showerheads in dormitories.

Alexander (Alec) McCandless, Director of the Alvord Center for Global & Environmental Studies, is a long time history and social science teacher. An innovative designer of curriculum, Alec has created and taught a student-led course on ethics, U.S. History backwards, a course on the Industrial Revolution and the Model T (including dis- and re- assembly of a genuine Model T engine block, along with Model T driving lessons!), and several other history, as well as interdisciplinary, courses.

Monica Edgerton is the Early Childhood Garden Educator at All Our Kin. She has a BA in Biology & Environmental Studies.

Hansi Ortiz is the Owner and Childcare Provider of Shalom Family Day Care, Child Development Associate

Justin Pegnataro is Executive Director of Two Coyotes in Newtown, CT

Sue Quincy is an Environmental Education Specialist, Coordinator Project Food, Land & People and Project WET for Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, CT

Christopher Shepard is a science education consultant helping educators implement the NGSS. He serves on steering committees for Project Learning Tree, Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve, and Wintonbury Land Trust. Previously he taught middle school science, directed the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, and served on COEEA’s board.

Ken Elkins is Education Program Manager Audubon Connecticut Bent of the River Southbury, CT

Alexa Fiszer Alexa is an Environmental Educator at Common Ground. She teaches in the field trip and home school program during the day, and is the Program Manager for Kids Unplugged in the afternoons, helping out in any other programs in-between. Alexa is also one of the Assistant Directors for Summer Camp. Alexa holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut, where she became involved with the environmental Ecohouse Learning Community, sparking her interest in all things outdoors.

Joel Tolman joined the staff at Common Ground as a classroom teacher in 2003. Through classes including Architecture, Documenting New Haven, El Caribe, and Power, Joel’s students explored and documented New Haven’s neighborhoods, monitored urban air quality, created bilingual oral histories of community elders, secured start-up funding for small social ventures, and presented policy proposals to state legislators. Starting in 2008, he moved out of the classroom and into work focused on engaging the community, raising the support that Common Ground needs to operate, developing collaborations with like-minded schools and organizations, and building Common Ground’s impact.

Amy O’Neal is the Director of Education & Professional Development at JASON Learning. Her work at JASON Learning focuses primarily on professional development, program design and implementation, and Next Generation Science Standards pedagogy. As a member of the CT Leadership Development Academy, leading NGSX experiences, Amy works and collaborates with many educators throughout the state to support the transition to NGSS. She serves on the Board of the CT Science Teacher’s Association (CSTA), the Southeastern New England Marine Educators Association (SENEME) as Past-President, and the CT Green Leaf Schools Steering Committee.
Thank you to all who made this possible!

Our conference host site and partner

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

For providing food and beverages

Koffee Katering

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
In addition to the board, this conference was made possible by:

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