

# 2019 UPPER VALLEY TEACHING PLACE CONFERENCE

Friday, November 1, 2019  
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

## 7:30AM-8:30AM

Steamboat Lounge

REGISTRATION, COFFEE, AND TEA

## 8:30AM-9:15AM

Terrace Ballroom

WELCOME & KEYNOTE

### *Putting the Upper Valley Back into Upper Valley Students*

David Sobel, Author & Professor Emeritus, Antioch University New England



By grounding curriculum in local places, people, and culture, teachers increase students' motivation for learning, help raise test scores and develop students' commitment to serving as active citizens.

Vermont and New Hampshire schools have the potential to ground their students in the cultural heritage of Northern New England. Across both states, teachers are exploring ways to connect their pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to the uniqueness of this place they call home.

From Forest Days in Vermont early grades to turning school inside out in a New Hampshire K-8 school, David will share inspiring stories of how Vermont and New Hampshire schools are creating citizens of the future.

## 9:15AM-9:30AM

TRANSITION

Snacks, coffee, and tea in lobby

## 9:30AM- 11AM

BREAKOUT SESSION ONE

Real Tools, Real Benefits

Garden Gazebo

Jennifer Newberry & Ashley Morse, Marion Cross School

Target grade level: Pre-K - 2

Have you ever tried to cut an apple with a plastic fork? Real tools give real results. With intentional teaching about how to use real tools (hammers, hand drills, saws, files, peelers, etc.) children can improve their eye-hand coordination, increase confidence, improve safety awareness and risk assessment skills, and practice self-regulation. This workshop will explore the difference between hazards and risks, outline safety rules and routines, discuss all the possible applications, and get participants to work using the tools themselves.

Closing the Food Loop at Thetford Elementary School

Captain's Room

Cat Buxton, Grow More Waste Less & Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition

Target grade level: K-12

Thetford Elementary School has an extensive school garden and a student-run hot composting system. The gardens are connected to every classroom and the compost system is managed by 5th and 6th graders as a part of their science and math curriculum. This presentation covers the systems and structure that need to be in place to close the loop at school and perform hot composting with a focus on the best practices for planning for your systems, compost site, bin design, recipe development, and curriculum connections.

## Evaluation 102: Collecting & Using Story Data to Tell *Your* Story

### Gardenview

Michael Duffin, PEER Associates

Target grade level: K-12 and administrators

Join Michael to gain confidence in capacity to use data to advocate for your PBE work. We will talk in general about what makes qualitative data compelling for decisions and actions. The session will be hands-on practice with a couple of simple methods for collecting and analyzing non-number data from and about students. Activities will mostly be structured as small groups generating data, insights, and questions to be shared and discussed with the larger group.

## Nature Printing

### Card Room

Coleen O'Connell, Lesley University

Target grade level: K-12

*Pre-registration required. Cost is \$10. Limited to 12 participants.*

In this workshop, you will do two types of nature printing that can be done with students - watercolor foot press printing to reveal hidden treasures and a direct ink printing technique. Come prepared to relax, be creative, and have fun.

## Slow Birding for Educators

### Terrace Ballroom

Bridget Butler, the Bird Diva

Target grade level: K-12

Bird Diva Bridget Butler will share the practice of Slow Birding and how you can awaken your innate birding skills and reconnect with nature. She'll share a variety of techniques that will help you look at birds, listen to them and interpret their behavior that will not only build your skills as a naturalist, but will provide you with a practice that will allow you to slow down and reconnect with the natural world.

## Linking Lands Alliance Maps for Vermont Educators

### Morey Room

Karen Douville, Linking Lands Alliance

Target grade level: 4-12

In this interactive session Karen will introduce maps developed by the Linking Lands Alliance and have several activities to familiarize teachers with the maps. She will showcase LLA's website with many more resources for teachers, including an NGSS designed Teacher Workbook to help teachers utilize LLA's maps with their curricula. We will then have a brainstorming session to get teachers' ideas on using the maps in their classes.

## Teaching on the Trail: Group Management on the Go

### Lakeside West

Maggie Stoudnor & Page Radney, Rivendell Interstate School District

Target grade level: 5-8

This session will review best practices for keeping groups of students safe on adventures that take us hiking on trails and share and practice group management strategies that keep students motivated, having fun, and learning.

## BioBlitz 101

### Lakeside East

Zac Cota, North Branch Nature Center

Target grade level: 8-12

Schoolyard bioblitzes provide a unique opportunity to engage students in the scientific process and spark inquiry into the natural world. We'll cover the process of planning a bioblitz, showcase some of the resources available to educators, and share some early results from area high schools that have already held these events.

## 11AM-11:15AM

TRANSITION

Snacks, coffee, and tea in lobby

### 11:15AM-12PM

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

Terrace Ballroom

#### Student Voice in Place-based Ecology Education

We think PBEE is great, but what do students think? How has it changed their experience of school? What do they like about it? What would they change and what do they want their teachers and administrators to know about it?

Students from Thetford Academy and The Lyme School will reflect on these questions and share some of their favorite PBEE work over the years.

### 12PM-1PM

#### LOCAL FOODS LUNCH

Dining Room

### 1PM-4PM

#### ADMINISTRATOR SYMPOSIUM

GardenView

### 1PM-2:30PM

#### BREAKOUT SESSION TWO

#### Growing Outdoor Classrooms

Terrace Ballroom

April Zajko, April's Teaching Tree

Target grade level: Pre-k-8

Are you ready to transform your current outdoor space but are not sure where to begin? Join us to explore effective ways to organize your outdoor learning area to foster growth and development for all ages from toddler to tween. We will examine how the planning and designing phase can help programs foster a full range of children's play including dramatic play, gross motor, small world play, art, loose part exploration, music & movement, construction, and science & nature. Be inspired through photographs from a wide range of programs with practical and cost-effective ways that you will be able to implement right away! Participants will create an over-sized vision board that illustrates what currently exists and what they would like to add in the future. This tool will be brought back to their programs to get buy in from other staff and community members. Participants will learn a five-step plan for gathering support from their community in growing their outdoor classrooms.

#### Students Teaching Students

Morey Room

Scott Ellis, Thetford Academy & Trisha Gautreau, The Lyme School

Target grade level: K-12

There is deep value in the experience of students sharing their work and teaching other students. In this session, Scott, Trish, and their students will show models of how students are working with other Upper Valley schools to share what they have learned through their place-based ecology education efforts. Examples of opportunities to bring students together like a PBEE celebration, the VINS science symposium, and guided Valley Quests will be discussed. Students will also talk about their experience teaching and presenting lessons. The session will end with participants collaborating to find opportunities to bring students together.

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## Transferring Lessons from 50 Years of Nature Instruction at Camp Pemigewassett to the Classroom

### Lakeside East

Larry Davis, PhD., Camp Pemigewassett

Target Grade Level: 3-12

Camp Pemi has taught about nature for 92 years! And Larry has just completed his 50<sup>th</sup> year as head of the program. He has developed techniques and lesson plans that are science-based, holistic, informal, and curiosity-driven, emphasizing hands-on experiences. In this session, participants will discuss his approach, learn about two lesson plans: non-flowering plants; and, an introduction to rocks. They will then consider how some of these techniques might be applied in the more formal school setting.

## Using Valley Quests as a Tool for Discovery & Learning

### Lakeside West

Beth Roy, Upper Valley Farm to School

Target grade level: 3-12

Valley Quests are community-based treasure hunts used as a teaching tool to connect students to their own community while engaging in hands-on learning. During this workshop we will introduce participants to the Valley Quest Program and review its use as a learning tool. We will then go on a short Quest in the area exploring first-hand the way Quests can teach as well as lead us to new discoveries. We will also have time to break into small groups and discuss how this type of learning model could be used in our classroom or community.

## Using Community Problems to Drive Curriculum

### Theatre

Michelle Amato, VINS & Vanessa Stern, Nature Museum at Grafton

Target grade level: 4-12

This workshop will take teachers through a guided process of a Project and Place-based Learning unit in their classroom. Using an exemplar model from a local classroom, we will: discover how to identify a local issue in the community and develop a Driving Question; explore various data collection techniques; and learn new ways to organize, display and communicate information to an audience. The workshop will include large and small group discussions, and activities to practice tools and techniques from the perspectives of both the student and the teacher. Teachers will walk away with tools they can use immediately in their classroom and will have access to handouts after the conference via Google Drive.

## Keeping Secondary Level PBEE Primary

### Captain's Room

Kat Robbins, Woodstock Union High School and National Park Service & Sam DeCuollo, Woodstock Union High School

Target grade level: 7-12

This workshop will give educators working at the 7-12 grade levels a chance to come together and share challenges, successes, and solutions to working with older students, community partners, and in the construct of our schools to effectively do place-based education.

## 2:30PM-3PM

TRANSITION

Snacks, coffee, and tea in lobby

## 3PM-4PM

Terrace Ballroom

UPPER VALLEY TEACHING PLACE COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Join us to learn more about the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative, its five dynamic Working Groups, and how you can get more involved in creating an Upper Valley where all students are deeply engaged in education that fosters ecological understanding and connection to place.

## Working Groups

Peer-to-Peer Connections- [Morey Room](#)

Evaluation- [Gardenview](#)

Communications- [Terrace Ballroom](#)

Professional Development- [Lakeside East](#)

Gatherings- [Card Room](#)