

Thinking Outside: How Nature-based Education Can Help Schools Reopen Safely

Sheila Williams-Ridge, Shirley G. Moore Lab School

Serenella Linares, Audubon at Home

Keith Desrosiers, Thorne Nature Experience

Sarah Bodor, NAAEE

Link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/NIRZAc7DYGg>

Visit the webinar page to view the slides and continue the conversation:

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/learning/webinars/webinar-thinking-outside-how-nature>

eeGuidance for Reopening Schools:

<https://naaee.org/eeopro/resources/eeguidance-reopening-schools-affiliate>

Highlights of the chat transcript:

Let us know who you are and where you're from.

- Gustavo Requena Santos: Gustavo Requena - CT Outdoor & Environmental Education Association
- Amber Ebbrecht: Good afternoon! I'm Amber from Northwest Arkansas and I am representing Beaver Water District!
- Kelly White: good afternoon all, my name is Kelly, educator with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, in Albuquerque, NM
- Yasmeen Hossain: Oregon Natural Resources Education Program in Corvallis, OR
- Katie Pollock: Newark DE
- Lisa Ward: Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, Toronto, Canada
- Susan Linscott: Director of Outdoor and Environmental Programs, Lee Academy, Lee, Maine
- Kelsey Dehring: Washtenaw County Parks, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Hello! I'm Lisa Eadens with the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Kathryn Kurtz from Olympia WA
- Jen Rice: I am Jen from Kalamazoo, Michigan and I represent the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

- Kyran Searles: Hi! My name is Kyran and I am attending from New Hampshire. I am from Southern New Hampshire Montessorri Academy and I am an assistant Toddler and Infant teacher
- Julia with the Nisqually River Foundation in WA
- Tammi Remsburg: Tammi from Cabarrus Soil & Water Conservation District Concord NC
- Rachel Loomis: Education Coordinator with Living Lands & Waters located in East Moline, IL. Excited to be on this webinar!
- Hello. I'm Nicole Corbo from the occupied land of the Duwamish in Seattle, WA. I run Roots & Sky Nature-based Learning and direct the Washington Nature Preschool Association. Glad to be here!!
- Jeanine Silversmith, RIEEA, Wakefield, RI
- Laura Drath: Hi, this is Laura with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in the Sacramento region.
- Dave Becker, (he,his), Sr. Manager of Learning Experiences, from Brookfield Zoo/Chicago Zoological Society, in Brookfield, Illinois
- Rachel Holbert, RIEEA, Rhode Island
- Stacey Purslow NH Farm to School
- Meghan Martin, Essex Westford School District, Farm to School Program, Essex, VT
- Jenn Page, Rockland Maine, Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership
- Tracy Calla: greetings from an independent educator in the mountains of Western North Carolina!
- This is Tia Prostko, from SC, and I work for our statewide QRIS for early childhood education.

Share your most recent memorable outdoor experience.

- Watching my son become the biggest bird nerd in RI!
- Kayaking 30 miles on the Wisconsin River
- Picking blueberries
- Visiting a prairie in full bloom
- Sitting on the porch with my husband, watching a distant storm.
- Grasshopper on my finger this morning
- I went for a lovely hike today -it was cloudy and overcast and I was the only one out there! Lots of birds kept me company! :)
- Watching ants in my backyard about 15 minutes ago
- Mushroom hunting

- Backpacking with my 10-year-old
- Camping!
- Hiking with my 2 dogs
- Paddling on the Penobscot River
- Watching the comet from the beach at my camp in New Hampshire
- Discovering a waterfall on a forest hike
- Hiking in the rain last week!
- Spending time with two young children at their rural property in Ontario, Canada
- Watching monarchs lay eggs on milkweed in my backyard
- Creek walks
- I do a lot of walking and hiking in the woods, I am right next to a heavily wooded state park
- Watching a monarch laying eggs throughout the milkweed plants, right near the mailbox and HOPING that my Neighbors also notice the monarchs and establishing a nursery there. We all learn together!
- Hi! Jill Damato from Brookfield Zoo. I was digging through soil to find invertebrates just 2 days ago!
- Nature walks and watching the clouds pass by overhead
- Backpacking in the Sierra with my best friend!

Highlights from the Panel:

- Mary Harris-Wisneski: My school won't consider this at this time :(
- Sarah Bodor: Hi Mary, don't give up! Schools may change their approach over time as they adjust to their circumstances and learn more about what their students and teachers need!
- Katie Pollock: YAY LAB SCHOOLS!! 95 Years!! Here at the University of Delaware Lab School. We are opening with children in person outdoors - small portion of day indoors (bathrooms) - we will have student teachers from the University of Delaware - and are planning to have other ECE undergraduates Zoom in to do observations. We would love any ideas for technology outdoors to do just that.
- Jane Hurley: I can't help but wonder about weather!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: I am so surprised that families wanted their students to wear masks out of doors! My daughter does NOT want my grandchildren to do so unless they can't maintain distancing

- Erica Tappan: Weather.....ugh so hot and humid. My small program is only part time and finished at 1. The heat is so exhausting, also don't require a mask outdoors.
- Sheila Williams Ridge she/her:
 - MNECO- <https://forms.gle/mURMybkureXjQ5Pg6>
 - Natural Start Alliance Map- <https://naturalstart.org/>
- Katie Pollock: Amazing Sheila! So much deep thought!
- Alanna Doughty: Wow! Thanks so much for sharing Sheila, good luck with your program this year!
- Kelsey Dehring: Thank you, Sheila!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Thanks Sheila!
- Nicole Corbo: YES!! Nature is everywhere.
- Kelsey Dehring: I love that! Nature in the cracks of pavement!! Genius!!
- Katie Pollock: Would you be willing to share any online games that were successful with younger learners?
- Audrey Thompson: Did you have a schedule of "tasks" or "adventures" they could see ahead of time, or was it assigned online in the morning, to be shared in the afternoon?
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: That's amazing! The kids love learning about the "Golden Hour" and watching for it!
- Sarah Jennings: Can you speak more about naturally Latinos?
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Thank you Serenella!
- Serenella Linares (she, her, hers): We played hangman, Scattegories,
- tanya victoria: Gracias Serenella
- Katie Pollock: Your organizations ROCKS!
- Kelsey Dehring: Thank you, Serenella!
- Serenella Linares (she, her, hers): my pleasure
 - anshome.org/naturally-latinos-2020
 - Make your own Jeopardy game here - <https://jeopardylabs.com/>
 - Make your own hangman game here - <https://www.hangmanwords.com/create>
- Sarah Jennings: What was the family nature mentorships?
- Kelly White: Can you tell us about your funding stream?
- Alanna Doughty: Right? This sounds amazing.
- Katie Pollock: We want your funding!!! Absolutely amazing!
- Nicole Corbo: This is incredible! So comprehensive!!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: LOVE this!!!!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Beautiful work!!!!

- Amber Ebbrecht: YES! Everyone!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Sounds like a lot of my students <3
- Erica Tappan: This is wonderful and so well put together!!
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: How can you keep your staff available? Are staff paid when they must be available?
- Kelsey Dehring: Thanks, Keith!
- Julia Fregonara: Our largest barrier is getting students physically to our site. We want to be sure it's not just students with parents that can take the time to drop them off! Has anyone come across a solution to this?
- Alanna Doughty: Thanks for sharing Keith!
- Sarah Jennings: And, yes, Julia we are dealing with this as well... and outreach when we can't go into the school for back to school night etc.
- Katie Pollock: I'm working with some public schools in DE and the bussing is a BIG hang up. Any suggestions??
- Leah Brooks: Katie I'm in New Castle County too, what schools are you working with?
- Sarah Jennings: What are some colder weather activities that you all are planning?
- Sheila Williams Ridge she/her: Soon, we will be sharing guidelines and documentation of the year (throughout the seasons) on our school webpage: <http://lab-school.umn.edu/>
- Amber Ebbrecht: I am a certified teacher and that has helped me tremendously with the public school district. Also, I am testing to obtain two Praxis II science endorsements (G4-12). I feel this will help our water science department be more relevant.
- Tammi Remsburg: How do you suggest we communicate with those parents who need our support?
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Yes!!! Do a part 2!
- Judy Braus: I loved this panel--so many great ideas about how to work with families, address barriers, and think creatively! Thank you all!
- Sarah Bodor: Great advice!
- Sarah Jennings: Please email me to collaborate on nonformal environmental/outdoor education ideas and covid safety together: jennings@savebuzzardsbay.org
- Sarah Bodor: Lots of great info in this webinar! Thanks everyone for joining!
- Keith Desrosiers: If anyone wants samples of COVID Health Policy, Learning Pod student handbooks, translated COVID updated waivers, etc. Please e-mail me, I am happy to share - keith@thornenature.org

- Sarah Jennings: Thanks Keith - I will reach out! Although, CO might be diff than MA
- Joni Daly: Thank you to all the panelists!
- Pam Howd: Nature is everywhere, even in the road
- Mary Harris-Wisneski: Thank you to everyone!!!!
- Katie Pollock: Thank you all! I just adore the willingness to share!!
- Lisa Maloney: Thanks for this great information and inspiration! :)
- Leah Brooks: Thank you so much! very informative!
- Pam Howd: But stay out of the road, just a thought that it is everywhere
- Kelsey Dehring: Thank you everyone!!!! This was wonderful!!
- Ebbrecht: This was great! Thank you so much!!!
- Gustavo Requena Santos: Amazing! Thank you so much!
- Sarah Bodor: <https://naaee.org/eepro/learning/monthly-webinar-series>
- Jenn Page: YAY!
- Sheila Williams Ridge she/her: Thank you!
- Kerri McAllister: Thank you!