

Chesapeake Bay Program Environmental Literacy Forum



January 22-23, 2020
National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Day 1 Agenda

Goals:

- Demonstrate the value and characteristics of a learner-centered approach to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)
- Train new and existing MWEE Ambassadors on developing MWEEs at the classroom and school district levels

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Review of the MWEE (Auditorium)

This session will provide a brief overview of the status of environmental literacy efforts in the Chesapeake Bay region and provide an opportunity for you to reflect on the learning that you did in the MWEE 101 online training.

Facilitators: Shannon Sprague, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Dr. Bondy Gibson, Jefferson County Schools
Karen Mullin, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

10:40 a.m. Environmental Literacy Landscape (Auditorium)

Sarah Bodor from the North America Association of Environmental Education will highlight continuing and emerging approaches to systemic environmental literacy from around the country. She will also share new tools promoting effective policies and programs.

11:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: Why MWEEs? (Auditorium)

In this session, panelists will highlight how MWEEs are helping them to increase academic achievement and engagement in learning, and build environmental stewardship characteristics and 21st century skills in their students.

Facilitator: Grace Manubay, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Panelists: Michael Page, Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Jeff Heyck-Williams, Two Rivers Public Charter School
Emily Rudo, St. Mary's College (student)
Vince Meldrum, Earth Force

11:45 a.m. The Importance of a Learner-Centered Approach (Auditorium)

This session will help you better understand the significance and value of a learner-centered approach to environmental education and introduce you to levels of inquiry for appropriate scaffolding.

Facilitators: Anne Petersen, Virginia Department of Education
Tom Ackerman, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

12:30 p.m. Lunch (The Commons)

1:30 p.m. Developing Learner Centered MWEEs (Auditorium)

Facilitator: Bart Merrick, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

2:00 p.m. Cohorts: Developing Learner-Centered MWEEs

You have been assigned a cohort based on the characteristics of the school districts in which you work. These cohorts will explore how the Environmental Literacy Model (Curriculum Anchor, Issue Investigation, and Stewardship & Civic Action) and other tools and resources from the Facilitator's Guide to MWEE Training that can be used to plan and implement MWEEs.

Small Rural District Systemic MWEE Implementation (151 Instructional West): RED

Facilitators: Jemima Clark, Washington College
Elise Sheffield, Boxerwood
Michael Page, Queen Anne's County Public Schools

Large Urban District Systemic MWEE Implementation (141 Instructional East): BLUE

Facilitators: Bart Merrick, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Laurie Jenkins, Montgomery County Public Schools

Urban Classroom-Level MWEE Development (160 Instructional West): ORANGE

Facilitators: Eric Rhoades, Henrico County Public Schools
Symone Johnson, National Aquarium
Krysta Hougan, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Rural/Suburban Classroom-Level MWEE Development (161 Instructional West): YELLOW

Facilitators: Hemalatha Bhaskaran, James M Bennett High School
Ariel Trahan, Anacostia Watershed Society
Elise Trelegan, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (154 Instructional West): GREEN

Facilitator: Dan Daneker, Conestoga Valley Public Schools
Connor Roessler, Cacapon Institute
Karen Mullin, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

4:40 p.m. Day 1 Wrap Up (Auditorium)

We will reconvene to discuss key insights identified by cohorts for developing and implementing MWEEs at varying scales.

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

7:00 p.m. Networking Hour

Grab a drink at the bar and join us in the lounge to network with Forum participants.

Day 2 Agenda

Goals:

- Build a shared understanding of the role of MWEE Ambassadors
- Create strategies to address gaps and opportunities in state and local environmental literacy efforts

8:00 a.m. **Welcome to Day 2 (Auditorium)**

We will open Day 2 with a discussion about what MWEE Ambassadors are and the important role that you will play as a MWEE Ambassador by spreading the word and assisting in the development and implementation of programming.

Facilitators: Elise Trelegan, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Krysta Hougen, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

8:30 a.m. **Being a MWEE Ambassador (Auditorium)**

During this session, panelists will highlight the various roles that Ambassadors can play in planning, supporting, and advocating for MWEEs from the school building to the school district and beyond.

Facilitator: Britt Slattery, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Panelists: Coreen Weilminster, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rebecca Davis, Environmental Education Consultant
Dr. Nanette Marcum-Dietrich, Millersville University
Hemalatha Bhaskaran, James M Bennett High School

9:15 a.m. **Cohorts: Being a MWEE Ambassador**

Providing Effective Educator Professional Development (Auditorium)

Impactful educator professional development is essential to our goal of teacher-supported MWEEs. This session will include conversations about effective approaches to professional development, components of this work that are unique to MWEEs, and opportunities as well as challenges associated with professional development programming.

Facilitator: Bart Merrick, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Speakers: Coreen Weilminster, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
David Yarmchuk, DBY STEM Education Services

Designing Systemic Environmental Literacy Plans (114 Instructional East)

Environmental Literacy Plans are a useful tool to both embed systemic MWEEs into curriculum and advance environmental literacy goals. This session will outline the value, components, and process for developing and implementing environmental literacy plans at the school district level.

Facilitator: Tara Drennan, Chesapeake Bay Trust
Speakers: Jemima Clark, Washington College
Mel Parker, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Grace Manubay, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Candace Lutzow-Felling, University of Virginia Blandy Experimental Farm

Bringing MWEEs to Pre-Service Teachers (161 Instructional West)

Pre-service teacher education is key to advancing MWEEs. In this session we will discuss what opportunities exist to integrate the MWEE into coursework and whether opportunities beyond coursework are more impactful and/or more easily implemented. We will also highlight opportunities for you to partner on this work in your state.

Facilitators: Tom Ackerman, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Nanette Marcum-Dietrich, Millersville University

Scaling MWEEs from the Classroom to Larger-Scale Efforts (151 Instructional West)

This session will focus on how teachers, administrators, and non-formal educators can advance classroom-level MWEEs to school-wide and/or system-wide experiences. Focus will be on the importance of lead teachers, the role of non-formal educators, and how to kick start the initial conversation with administrators.

Facilitator: Emily Stransky, Chesapeake Bay Trust
Speakers: Kerrie Snavelly, Conestoga Valley School District
Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute
Suzanne Sullivan, ShoreRivers

11:30 a.m. Roundtable Discussions

These sessions will give you an opportunity to discuss important issues to consider as you plan and implement MWEEs and resources to help you achieve your vision.

Environmental Justice (Auditorium)

Facilitators: Curtis Bennett, National Aquarium
Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Workforce Development (154 Instructional West)

Facilitator: Judd Pittman, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Sustainable Schools (161 Instructional West)

Facilitator: Laura Collard, MAEOE

Project Evaluation (114 Instructional East)

Facilitator: Bronwen Rice, NOAA Office of Education

BayBackpack Online Resource (160 Instructional West)

Facilitator: Olivia Wisner, Chesapeake Bay Program

MWEE Funding (151 Instructional West)

Facilitators: Elise Trelegan, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Tara Baker, Chesapeake Bay Trust

12:15 p.m. Lunch (The Commons)

1:00 p.m.

State Breakouts: Targeting and Supporting MWEE Implementation

During the state breakout discussions, you will have the opportunity to provide input on targeting MWEE implementation and bringing the Facilitators Guide to Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences to your state.

Maryland (151 Instructional West)

Facilitators: Tara Drennan, Chesapeake Bay Trust
Emily Stranksy, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Pennsylvania (114 Instructional East)

Facilitators: Tamara Pepper, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Shannon Sprague, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Washington, D.C. (160 Instructional West)

Facilitators: Grace Manubay, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Bart Merrick, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

West Virginia (154 Instructional West)

Facilitators: Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute
Krysta Hougen, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Delaware (Auditorium)

Facilitators: Tonyea Mead, Delaware Department of Education
Olivia Wisner, Chesapeake Research Consortium

Virginia (161 Instructional West)

Facilitators: Anne Petersen, Virginia Department of Education
Elise Trelegan, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

2:45 p.m.

Forum Wrap Up (Auditorium)

This session will summarize participant insights and learning from our two days together, including identifying key next steps for moving forward. Please plan to stick around for this conversation.

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn