

Inclusive Practices for Tumultuous Times: Environmental Educators' Role in Supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community

May 30, 2024

Link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/qiO0pm49C4Y>

eePRO post: <https://eepr.naaee.org/learning/inclusive-practices-tumultuous-times-environmental-educators-role-supporting-lgbtqia>

Speakers:

Libby VanWyhe libby.vanwyhe@oregonstate.edu

Regional Coordinator, Oregon State University Extension Outdoor School

Yarrow Koning dearyarrow@gmail.com

Co-Director & Impact Campaign Coordinator, *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*

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Outreach & Inclusion Coordinator, Oregon State University Extension Outdoor School

Shared Resources:

LGBTQIA+ Resources: <https://bit.ly/LGBTQinEE>

Data shared from: The Trevor Project 2024 Survey, Center for American Progress, Discrimination and Barriers to Well-Being: The State of the LGBTQI+ Community in 2022, and UCLA, Williams Institute Study on Workplace Discrimination 2021

Clip from *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9arA9Zvep8w>

Example Guidance from Oregon DOEd: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/civilrights/pages/gender-identity-guidance.aspx>

Chat transcript:

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Welcome to the webinar! :-)

Emily Cantor: Emily Cantor :) Logging in from work in Lebanon County, PA.

Pamela Lyons Gromen: Pam Lyons Gromen, Education Coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio

Kelley Phillips: Kelley V Phillips, Red-tail Land Conservancy, Muncie, IN

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: I'm Judy Braus calling in from Washington, DC!
Happy to see you!

Emily Cantor: Oops! Working with Yellow Breeches Education Center

Anna-Lee Vienneau: Anna-Lee Vienneau with The Gaia Project, New Brunswick
Canada (East Coast)

Elizabeth Hinckley: Elizabeth Hinckley, Environmental Educator at The Watershed
Institute, Pennington NJ

Ashley Kale: My name is Ashley Kale and I work in Youngstown, Ohio. I am an
environmental educator for Mahoning County

Ericka Leigh: Ericka joining from Tampa, Florida 🌴

Alexandra Golden: Alex Golden, Great Parks of Hamilton County, OH :)

Dan Auer: Dan Auer (he/him), ANCA Membership & Programs Coord. Detroit MI

Grace Charabati: Grace with NAAEE and currently based in Virginia. Welcome,
everyone!

Ericka Leigh: I'm a researcher around circular economy and textile sustainability.

Andrew Broccolo: Andrew Broccolo (he/they) - Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association and Providence Energy Manager

Anayancy Estacio: Anayancy Estacio, Environmental Educator with Chatham
County Solid Waste and Recycling

Rochelle Gandour-Rood: Utilities educator from Tacoma Washington!

Katy Kachmarik: Katy Kachmarik, Environmental Science Center, Burien/Renton
Washington. Community Engagement Manager

Jenny Hanlon: Jenny Hanlon, Minnesota. Educator for a school district program
called Early Childhood Family Education where try to bring nature into my classes
as much as possible.

Natalee Good: Natalee (she/her) and just graduated with my master's in EE. I
worked with Yarrow, one of the presenters and am so excited to be here and
continue learning!

Leila Pyle: Leila (she/her), Fairbanks, Alaska. I work for a teen environmental leadership program called Alaska Youth for Environmental Action that serves youth from across AK

Sarah Conley: Sarah Conley Environmental Educator NYSDEC Albany NY

Emily Cobar: Emily Cobar, she/hers, Nature Nexus Institute and West LA College, from Kizh Nation and Tongva lands, Los Angeles

Marisol Echenique: Marisol Echenique, she/ her, Education & Outreach specialist for a water utility in Oregon

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Please let us know who you are and where you're calling in from! Thanks, everyone!

Debora Davidson: Debora Davidson (she/her), Executive Director of Tenafly Nature Center, Tenafly, NJ


Hannah Power: Hello! Hannah Power (She/Her), program educator at the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY!

Brady Karg: Brady Karg, he/him, Education Coordinator for Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center in Denton, NE

Stacie Pierpoint: Stacie Pierpoint (she/her), Director of Communications & Technology at NAAEE, joining from St. Paul, MN

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: I couldn't do it without an amazing team! Thanks, Carrie! :-)


Madison Fragnito: Madison Fragnito (she/her) Partnerships Manager at CleanAIRE NC joining from Raleigh, NC

Yarrow (they/them): 

Andie Errico: Andie (they/them) 

Elizabeth Hinckley: 

Dan Auer: 

Charissa/Charzy (she/her): 

Jenny Hanlon: she/her 

Rochelle Gandour-Rood: 

Rachel Shanker: Hi everyone! Rachel Shanker (she/her) Conservation & Education Manager at Manatee Lagoon in West Palm Beach, FL here with my education team Danielle and Natalie!

Alexandra Golden:  she/her

Meghan Orman: Meghan Orman, she/her, 🏃

Ian Ries: Ian Ries (he/him)- Environmental Educator at Kentucky State University

Jenna Mendenhall: 🌹 Jenna (she/her) in Oregon

Zee Zetino: Zee Zetino, they/them, LA Black Worker Center and Rootin 4 Us, from Kizh Nation and Tonga lands, LA

Emily Cantor: she/hers 😴 (end of school year sleepies)

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: If you have any questions as you listen, please add to the chat and we'll respond at the end of the presentation.

Yarrow (they/them): Link to more info about the film will be in our resources list we share at the end.

Anna-Lee Vienneau: 👍

Elly Oyugi: Hello, am Elly Oyugi from Africa, Kenya. Glad to be part of this helpful conversation. We're looking forward for more environmental education and strategic partnerships to to break the barriers.

Emily Cantor: I'm so sorry you had to experience that, Libby. It's unacceptable.

Elly Oyugi: Yes, 1. Is there any kind of Strategic Partnerships beyond the webinar, with grassroot Organizations or Individuals who are ambitious in identifying the rural LGBTQ pressing issues, offering environmental education & skills transfers?

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): If you have questions for our speakers, please share them in the chat. (Thank you for your question, Elly!)

Myriam Ullah: Q - have you encountered co-rooming guidance or best practices for multiday EE programming?

Leila Pyle: Question: I work with teens in overnight programs, but in facilities I rent from other camps, etc. Often there are "girls/boys" cabins and bathrooms. But I also know my program serves queer and non binary youth. Do you have any specific examples you can share about helping make the way you approach overnight facilities more inclusive?

Libby VanWyhe: <https://bit.ly/LGBTQinEE>

Charissa/Charzy (she/her): <https://bit.ly/LGBTQinEE>

Zee Zetino: Thank you for sharing 🌱

Zee Zetino: Queers animal? I'd love to hear more about that activity

Yarrow (they/them): Read "Queer Ducks (And Other Animals) by Eliot Schrefer for a great Queer animals intro text!

Libby VanWyhe: Hi Leila, here is some Oregon Department of Education Information that may be helpful: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/civilrights/pages/gender-identity-guidance.aspx>

Hannah Power: Love that book! Great resource!

Emily Cantor: I just bought it, thank you Yarrow!

Ericka Leigh: Community has been KEY for resilient for me. Finding your family, given or chosen.

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Elly's question: "Is there any kind of Strategic Partnerships beyond the webinar, with grassroot Organizations or Individuals who are ambitious in identifying the rural LGBTQ pressing issues, offering environmental education & skills transfers?"

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Question: "How do Queer inclusion efforts/initiatives support overall inclusion?"

Elizabeth Hinckley: This PRIDE month, we are hosting a PRIDE trivia hike, in which we are asking entertaining and educational questions about LGBTQ+ and environmental topics. This sends a signal that our organization actively invites LGBTQ+ into our activities and organization, and offers a celebratory and joyful space in nature.

Yarrow (they/them): Love that Elizabeth! :D

Rochelle Gandour-Rood: I just got pronoun pins, which I wear in front of students (and co-workers) all the time. Small visibility that makes a difference.

Zee Zetino: As someone who is Trans-Queer and leads outdoor programs, I've found that sharing my pronouns prior and during the program is helpful for youth to share their pronouns, as well as adults in the space.

Yarrow (they/them): Being out as queer and trans is so helpful for youth, Zee!

Brooke Milligan: Thank you for your time and all these great resources!

Jenny Hanlon: Thank you for everything!

Natalee Good: Thank you so much for such a great and timely presentation!!

Sarah Bodor: Thank you for this presentation!!!

Emily Cantor: Thank you so much for this webinar, and everything you do throughout your days!

Marisol Echenique: Thank you all!

Jenny Hanlon: I'm so excited for the nature-preschool conference!!!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Global E-STEM Awards:

<http://naaee.org/programs/e-stem/e-stem-awards>

Pamela Lyons Gromen: Thank you! Great resources and thanks to those who shared ideas for public programs and program materials!

Leila Pyle: Thank you for the presentation and resources!

Dan Auer: Thank you!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Youth Innovation Challenge:

<https://thegeep.org/youth-innovation-challenge>

Zee Zetino: What's the Oregon event ?

Elizabeth Wetterstroem: Thank you!

Libby VanWyhe: I'm sorry to hear that Emily! Quick solutions are hard to suggest. But thank you for continuing to fight for inclusion and visibility.

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): The Natural Start Alliance conference is happening in Portland! <https://conference.naturalstart.org>

Yarrow (they/them): If folks want to follow up on anything, I am happy to be contacted at dearyarrow@gmail.com . Thanks all.

Libby VanWyhe: libby.vanwyhe@oregonstate.edu

Charissa/Charzy (she/her): Emily, I'm happy to jump on a zoom call and brainstorm this with you

Rachel Shanker: THANK YOU! for an amazing presentation!

Hannah Power: Thank you!!

Rochelle Gandour-Rood: thank you!!!!

Zee Zetino: THANK YOU!

Charissa/Charzy (she/her): Charissa.Jones@oregonstate.edu , email when you can