

## 2016 Montana Environmental Education Association Conference Schedule



8:00 AM Registration Opens  
8:30 AM Keynote Kickoff Address  
9:00 AM Session 1 Begins

	Main Ballroom	Petite Ballroom	Big Sky Studio
Presenter	Sweeney Windchief	Wendy Weaver	Naomi Delaloye
Topic	Community Constructed Learning	Working Towards Healthy, High Performance Schools in Montana	Clean Air & Healthy Homes Program
	<p>Please join us as we co-develop a course entitled Environmental Education for Adult Learners. During this session we will examine principles relating to adult learners. We will then participate and contribute to learning activities through a consensus-building model to meet the following learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover environmental science as a systems science by exploring topics via physical, biological and social systems.</li> <li>Become familiar with human/environmental interactions.</li> <li>Gain critical thinking skills regarding environmental science and current issues.</li> </ul> <p>The goal of this session is to further the mission of MEEA as it "supports and inspires individuals to be stewards of the natural world."</p>	<p>Montana is the one of the last states in the United States that does not yet have a LEED certified public school. Research demonstrates a strong correlation between green schools and better academic performance, reduction in sick days, improves teacher retention, energy and water resource savings, and saving taxpayers money. There are numerous success stories in Montana highlighting what school districts are doing to save resources and improve the learning environments of their students, including the SMART Schools Challenge. This presentation will highlight these success stories from the SMART Schools Challenges, talk about the opportunities that exist with constrained school budgets, and discuss the barriers of the green school movement here in Montana.</p>	<p>"The Clean Air and Healthy Homes Program" (CAHHP) provides middle and high school students the opportunity to do authentic scientific research of their own design centered around air quality issues, as well as professional development opportunities for teachers. Each school year, hundreds of students throughout Montana, Idaho and Alaska participate in this science education outreach program and have the chance to present their research at a symposium at the University of Montana. This session will describe the program, its history, how it fits into modern curriculum, the benefits of student research, challenges we've faced, as well as our successes.</p>

9:45 AM Session 1 Ends

10:00 AM Session 2 Begins

	Main Ballroom	Petite Ballroom	Big Sky Studio
Presenter	Stephen Abatiell	Chris Leipheimer & Terri Daily	Rayelynn Connoles
Topic	Awakening Your Education	Are Flushables Really Flushable	CFWEP Model
	<p>Are you a "Sage on the Stage" or a "Guide on the Side?" Are you a master at crafting student questions or a master at providing answers? Through various BEETLES (an evidence-based, field-tested education philosophy) activities, learn to recognize your default teaching techniques and to challenge yourself to incorporate new strategies naturally. This session will be great for those that are actively teaching in the field but also for those coaching or mentoring these educators. Be ready to participate in exercises, discuss your organization's educational philosophy, and perhaps awaken your own.</p>	<p>With the hope of connecting educators and resource providers, MPRES trainers will present NGSS in action by modeling the "practices" that were used in classroom investigations. Participants will learn how teachers tie NGSS to the "practice" of modeling by targeting a community based problem. The focus of the session is to raise awareness about community, national, and global issues that have arisen in waste water treatment plants through the use of modern day conveniences such as "Flushables". Classroom teachers will share ideas about how to operationalize NGSS through classroom activities and investigations such as water quality, water treatment, and waste water treatment.</p>	<p>The Clark Fork Watershed Education Program has just celebrated 10 years in 2015. During this session, we will discuss the importance of stewardship and public education efforts, especially within environmentally damaged areas. We will share lessons learned and discuss future challenges, including a discussion of the challenges of evaluating long-term impacts of programming during this session.</p>

10:45 AM Session 2 Ends

**11:00 AM Session 3 Begins**

Main Ballroom Jennifer Stadum		Petite Ballroom Ryder Delaloye	Big Sky Studio Luke Coccoli
Presenter			
Topic	What is the difference between a Raven and a Crow? Using Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Connecting Changes in Education	Trail Camera Research on the TRMR
	Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is a powerful tool for teaching tribally and geographically specific info. in K-12 science classes. Integration of traditional knowledge highlights the importance of teaching other ways of understanding our world that are as valid as empirical science, serving different yet equally as important purposes. We will illustrate how to engage students in both TEK and scientific inquiry resulting in empirical data. Culturally relevant pedagogy includes teaching paradigms other than that of the dominant culture throughout all K-12 content areas. TEK is an important and valid method of using knowledge to better understand a landscape.	This session provides a presentation on the connections between changes within mainstream education and environmental literacy. The presentation synthesizes data from the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative of the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) with approaches to environmental education. Through championing twenty-first century liberal education the AAC&U is working to reshape the focus of public education. This initiative calls for critical thinking, collaboration, experiential learning, etc. Through participation in this session teachers and service providers of environmental education will be better prepared to foster innovative and effective practices that foster environmental literacy in the K-12 setting.	The Boone and Crockett Club purchased the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in 1987 to commemorate the Club's centennial celebration, and to date is the oldest conservation organization in North America. Founded by Teddy Roosevelt, B&C's TRMR is located west of Dupuyer, MT along the Rocky Mountain Front and is home to the Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center (RWCC). For over 25 years the RWCC and TRMR have served in educating thousands of individuals from across the globe in place-based conservation education. See actual trail camera photos from the ranch and learn how to use technology to get kids into the outdoors!

**11:45 AM Session 3 Ends****12:00 PM Lunch in Main Ballroom****12:30 PM KEYNOTE PANEL BEGINS****1:15:00 PM Roundtable Discussions begin**

Table	Lead	Topic
1	MT Trout Unlimited, Colin Cooney	Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds
2	Subodh Atikari, Kate Henderson, & Frank Etzler	Montana State University Communicating Ecosystem Science
3	Kate Wright & Holli Langlieb, MEEA	Envisioning the Future of Environmental Education
4	UM, Ryder Delaloye	The Whole-School Approach to Sustainability Education
5	Helena National Forest, Liz Burke	Celebrating Wildflowers

**1:55 PM Roundtable Discussions Conclude****2:00 PM Session 4 Begins**

**When you take a break, please consider bidding on items for the silent auction, located at the Registration Table.**

All proceeds are tax deductible and go towards making the MEEA mini-grant program and the annual conference possible. Remember MEEA is an all-volunteer organization, 100% of the proceeds go towards advocating for and supporting educators in getting people outside in Montana. Please consider giving today!

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## 2:00 PM Session 4 Begins

	Main Ballroom	Petite Ballroom	Big Sky Studio
Presenter	Danica Hendrickson	Beth Covitt & Deb Fassnacht	Mike Coonan & Mashawn Butler
Topic	Fueling the Future	Water Education that Makes Sense	Yellowstone Science & Stewardship
	<p>Energy is an engaging, interdisciplinary topic applicable to STEM, the NGSS, and most disciplinary subjects. Being able to evaluate human energy use is a key step in creating healthy environments, economies, and communities. Join Facing the Future at this session to learn about a regional biofuels project - the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance - and the many educational resources related to energy and bioenergy that exist, including Facing the Future's Fueling Our Future curriculum. Participants will consider how real-world energy projects such as this one can be used as a teaching moment for their students.</p>	<p>Educators from the Watershed Education Network and University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area will lead participants in excerpts of watershed and groundwater activity sequences from several programs (Stream Team Monitoring and Montana Groundwater Academy). We'll discuss how these programs support 3-dimensional science learning required by the Next Generation Science Standards and needed for informed decision-making about pressing surface and groundwater issues in our state. These programs are designed to build environmental science knowledge and practice through carefully designed sequences integrating physical and conceptual modeling; field investigations involving data collection, analysis, and interpretation; and developing explanations and arguments from evidence.</p>	<p>Join a National Park Service education ranger to engage in hands-on Yellowstone science and stewardship activities you can conduct with students. Participate in a sampling of Yellowstone environmental education programs and discover opportunities for your students to be immersed in the wonders and wilds of Yellowstone National Park. Learn how we can help you connect students to Yellowstone with field trips, distance learning, or rangers visiting schools. Hear more about STEAM workshops, citizen science programs, and residential programs.</p>

## 3:00 PM Conference Concludes

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