

## 8:00 - 9:00 AM REGISTRATION

Continental Breakfast – Make sure to visit our Book Store, Message Tree, Poster Session and Fairy Houses!

## 9:00 – 9:30 AM WELCOME

**Dana E. Friedman**, Ed.D., Executive Director, The Early Years Institute

**Celeste M. Hernandez**, Director, Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids, The Early Years Institute

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**Lisa Ott**, President, North Shore Land Alliance

## 9:30 – 10:30 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Richard Louv**, Author, *Last Child In The Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*

## 10:30 – 11:00 AM BREAK

## 11:00 – 12:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS A: Where to Connect Children and Nature

### 1. Parks and Museums (1st Floor – Monet)

Learn about family outreach and nature opportunities at an environmental center in a Suffolk preserve and at a children's museum.

- Moderator: **Kathy Krause**, Chief of Interpretation, Gateway National Recreation Area, Jamaica Unit
- **Enrico Nardone, Esq.**, Executive Director, Seatuck Environmental Center
- **Hillary Olson**, Director of Education, Long Island Children's Museum

### 2. Libraries (2nd Floor – Salon "A")

Learn about two models of using libraries to connect children and nature. This session will be presented by the first public library on L.I. and in the U.S. to develop an outdoor classroom and from a university library that uses literature to interest children in nature.

- Moderator: **Renee McGrath**, Youth Services Manager, Nassau County Library System
- **Sharon Breen**, Assistant Director, Human Resources and Teen Services, Middle Country Public Library
- **Fred Stoss**, M.S., Associate Librarian, SUNY Buffalo

### 3. Schools (2nd Floor – Salon "C")

Learn about an environmental program that starts in elementary school and continues through high school along with a strategy for organizing after-school programs that connect the curriculum and community service.

- Moderator: **Carolann James**, Director of Outdoor Education, Nassau BOCES
- **Julia Johnson**, M.S., Gifted and Talented Teacher, Islip School District
- **Jennie Kuhn**, Kindergarten Teacher, North Bellmore School District
- **Christine South**, Fifth Grade Teacher, North Bellmore School District

### 4. Early Childhood Programs (1st Floor – Matisse)

Become inspired by a community-wide effort to create an outdoor classroom in a child care center in an underserved community and a year-round program in Connecticut where the children spend 80% of the day outdoors.

- Moderator: **Cindi Swernofsky**, M.A., Child Care Council of Nassau
- **Pepper Robinson**, M.A., Executive Director, Five Towns Child Care
- **Davnett Schaffer**, M.S., Pre-K Director, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

### 5. Youth Programs (2nd Floor – Salon “D”)

Find out about an innovative environmental club for high school students and a youth program that uses environmental education to provide outdoor opportunities for children in underserved communities.

- *Moderator:* **Lynette Batts**, Executive Director, Littig House
- **Rob Gelling**, Science Teacher, Kings Park High School
- **Yuseff Burgess**, Environmental Educator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

### 6. Self-Contained and Integrated Special Needs Programs (1st Floor – Renoir)

Understand the benefits of outdoor experiences for children with special needs and how several programs across LI are making a difference.

- *Moderator:* **Laura Lustbader**, Program Supervisor, Nassau BOCES
- **David Weingarten**, Executive Director, Let All the Children Play
- **Mary Watros**, Environmental Educator, Nassau BOCES

### 7. Neighborhoods and Backyards (2nd Floor – Salon “B”)

Learn from people who have restored and revitalized parks, sumps, brownfields, community gardens and open spaces, involving children, youth and families in the process.

- *Moderator:* **Sarah Landsdale**, AICP, Executive Director, Sustainable Long Island
- **Akiima Price**, Chief of Education and Programs, NY Restoration Project
- **Rick Magder**, M. P.A., Executive Director, Groundwork Yonkers

### 8. Tour of CA Outdoor Classroom (Sign Up at CA Tour Table)

A bus will bring a group to the CA campus where there is a unique outdoor classroom.

Representatives from CA will be there to explain how it was developed and how it is used by children and employees.

- **Jeff Schultz**, Project Manager, Engineer, CA
- **Maureen Liguori**, Lead Primary, Kindergarten Teacher, CA

## 12:30 - 2:00 PM LUNCH

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Nancy Rosenow**, Executive Director, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

**John Rosenow**, Founder & Chief Executive, Arbor Day Foundation

## 2:15 – 3:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS B: How to Link Nature and Children with Your Goals

### 1. Art and Music (1st Floor – Monet)

Learn multiple ways to integrate music and movement into an outdoor program.

- *Moderator:* **Heather Forest**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Story Arts
- **Sean Murphy**, Being Art, LLC, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
- **Anne Wike**, Being Art, LLC, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

### 2. Components of an Outdoor Classroom (2nd Floor – Salon “D”)

Learn about the various elements of outdoor classrooms and see examples from around the world, as well as one on L.I. Ideas will benefit those with generous to limited funding.

- *Moderator:* **Kathy Rau**, M.S., Former Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Nassau
- **Nancy Rosenow**, Executive Director, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
- **Gail Wickes**, M.A., President, Bailey Arboretum

### 3. Environmental Stewardship and Land Use (2nd Floor Salon "A")

See how nature activities and outdoor classrooms can help encourage children and their families to make better use of Long Island's outdoor spaces and make the case for preserving land.

- *Moderator:* **Nancy Youngfert**, President of the Board, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County
- **Jane Jackson**, M.S., Associate Director, North Shore Land Alliance
- **Tom Vitti**, West Islip High School, Environmental Stewardship Program

### 4. Family Participation (2nd Floor – Salon "B")

Learn about exciting ways to bring families and children together in a range of outdoor activities.

- *Moderator:* **Peter Walsh**, Education Director, Seatuck Environmental Center
- **Annie McIntyre**, Director, Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center, Jones Beach
- **Dan Kriesberg**, Environmental Education Consultant; Sixth Grade Teacher, Friends Academy

### 5. Health (1st Floor – Renoir)

Learn about the health benefits of outdoor experiences across the life cycle, as well as ideas for incorporating physical activities into outdoor spaces.

- *Moderator:* **Ron Marino**, D.O., M.P.H., Associate Chairman of Pediatrics, Winthrop Hospital
- **Dina Lieser**, M.D., Executive Director, Docs for Tots
- **Ted Coopwood**, National Youth and Intergenerational Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### 6. Gardening (1st Floor, Matisse)

Gardening can happen in schools, camps, child care programs and backyards. It is an effective way to connect children and grandparents and bring together community residents.

- *Moderator:* **Lawrence Foglia**, M.S., Natural Resources Consultant
- **Eve Kaplan-Walbrecht**, M.S., Owner, Garden of Eve
- **Jennifer Rothman**, M.A., Associate Vice President for Children's & Public Education, NY Botanical Gardens

### 7. Finding Local Partners (2nd Floor – Salon "C")

Learn about potential partners and resources that can help you design space, offer training, implement a nature program, or create gardens and outdoor classrooms in your site or local community.

- *Moderator:* **Diana O'Neill**, Executive Director, Long Island Volunteer Center
- **Celeste Hernandez**, Director, Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids, The Early Years Institute
- **John McNally**, Program Manager, Rauch Foundation
- **Sue Smith**, National Director of Education, Keep America Beautiful

### 3:45 – 4:30 PM CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND ACTION STEPS FOR TOMORROW

Announcement of Raffle Prize Winners

### 4:30 PM FAIRY HOUSE RECEPTION & NETWORKING