

2020 Agenda

Nature Explore | The Outdoor
Classroom Project



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Embracing the Gifts of Nature for Ourselves,
Our Children and Our World

July 19–22, 2020

Lied Lodge and Conference Center | Arbor Day Farm | Nebraska City, NE

Sunday, July 19, 2020

7–9PM

Evening Reception – Lied Lodge

Enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages while meeting Institute participants and facilitators.

Monday, July 20, 2020

6:30–8:30AM

Breakfast Buffet – Timber Dining Room

7:30–9AM

Registration

9AM–12PM

Morning Session: The Gifts of Nature for Ourselves

(with break and complimentary refreshments part way through)

Welcome Address by John Rosenow, Dimensions Foundation

Presenting journals and heart-centered resources:

- Eric Nelson, *Outdoor Classroom Project*
- Elyssa Nelson, *Child Educational Center*
- Nancy Rosenow, *Nature Explore*

Opening Address: Inspirations from Claire Warden, *Founder of Mindstretchers UK and the International Association of Nature Pedagogy*

Introductions and intention setting in Interest Groups

12–1:30PM

Lunch buffet provided as part of the Institute registration fee

Monday, July 20, 2020 Continued

1:30–4:30PM

Afternoon Session: The Gifts of Nature for Our Work

Short presentations at Lied Lodge about the hands-on activities to follow. Then there will be a short walk to the two natural outdoor classrooms. Participants will work in groups and rotate through all of these inspiring, hands-on activities:

1. Innovative use of loose parts

Presented by educators Ellen Veselack and Erinn Levin, *Child Educational Center*

2. Using and supporting permaculture in natural outdoor classrooms

Presented by landscape architect Jill Primak, and educator Heather Fox, *Dimensions Foundation/Nature Explore*

3. Using Claire Warden's Floorbooks ideas in natural outdoor classrooms

Presented by Claire Warden, *author, speaker and founder of Mindstretchers and International Association of Nature Pedagogy*, visiting from the United Kingdom

4. Appropriate use of photography with children in natural outdoor classrooms

Presented by educators Kirsten Haugen and Abby Anderson, *Dimensions Foundation/Nature Explore*

5. Explorations of design principles for natural outdoor classrooms

Presented by landscape architect Jim Wike and educator Julie Rose, *Dimensions Foundation/Nature Explore*

4PM

Break with refreshments back at Lied Lodge

4–4:30PM

Discussion in Interest Groups – related to the hands-on experiences

4:30–6:30PM

Tree Adventure Exhibits and the Apple House will be open just for Leadership Institute participants

5–7PM

Dinner on your own

EVENING SOCIAL TIME

7–8PM

Wine tasting and Claire Warden's Exhibit Opening

Claire Warden is bringing her popular hands-on exhibit about children and nature, which debuted at the World Forum on Early Care and Education in Macao, China in 2019. Join us in the Rosenow Room for complimentary wine tasting and a chance to hear Claire describe the opportunities waiting for you at the exhibit (opening in the Marcotte Room following Claire's talk)!

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

6:30–8:30AM *Breakfast Buffet – Timber Dining Room*

OPTIONAL MORNING WELLNESS ACTIVITY

7:30–8AM **Morning Walk Gathering** *(for people who would like to take a morning stroll together)*

9AM–12PM **Morning Session: The Gifts of Nature for Ourselves and Our Work**
(with break and complimentary refreshments part way through)

Morning Welcome

Morning Address: Inspirations from Holly Elissa Bruno, speaker and author

Holly Elissa will speak about ways nature can help children cope with childhood trauma, and will describe some of her own early experiences, as outlined in her new book, *Happiness is Running Through the Streets to Find You; Translating Trauma's Harsh Legacy into Healing*.

First Sharing Our Work Session

Enjoy short presentations from Outdoor Classroom Project Demonstration Sites and Certified Nature Explore Classrooms as they share ideas that come from their own work. Learn how some have successfully helped children deal with severe weather events.

Address by author Sandra Duncan: The Honeybee Hypothesis

Sandra will present an intriguing new concept that will have great implications for people supporting children's work in natural outdoor classrooms.

Sharing reflections and ideas in Interest Groups

12–1:15PM *Lunch buffet provided as part of the Institute registration fee*

1:15–4:30PM **Meet in Rosenow Room to prepare for walk**

Afternoon Session: The Gifts of Nature for Ourselves and Our Work

Discovering Nature's Gifts in Personal Connections: An afternoon walk filled with multiple opportunities for connecting with the beauty of nature and with fellow participants.

Discussion in Interest Groups

4:30–6:30PM **Tree Adventure Exhibits and the Apple House will be open just for Leadership Institute participants**

5–7:30PM *Dinner on your own*

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 Continued

EVENING SOCIAL TIME

7:30–8:30PM

Michael Fitsimmons of Dancing Man Music will present a gift to all of us: A lively outdoor musical experience to help us connect with the joys of nature and of music

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

6:30–8:30AM

Breakfast Buffet – Timber Dining Room

OPTIONAL MORNING WELLNESS ACTIVITY

7:30–8AM

Morning Walk Gathering *(for people who would like to take a morning stroll together)*

9AM–12:15PM

Morning Session: The Gifts of Nature for Our Work and Our World
(with break and complimentary refreshments part way through)

Morning Welcome

Ideas and Inspirations from Samuel Dennis, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Christine Kiewra, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Rod Diercks, Doane University, Crete, Nebraska

Discussing the gifts that research shows natural outdoor classrooms bring children's social-emotional well-being and for staff job satisfaction

Ideas and Inspirations from Dean Tagawa, Los Angeles Unified School District:
Putting the gifts of nature to work for our staffs' and our children's well-being

Ideas and Inspirations from Tinelle Bustam, US Forest Service

Sharing resources and new connections with friends from the conservation field and sharing gratitude for what our natural outdoor classroom network does for our world

The following two sessions are presented concurrently. Half the group will be in each session, then participants will rotate to the other.

The Gifts of Music in Nature: A Hands-on Natural Art Experience

Presented by Sandra Duncan and Julie Rose

Learning Naturally: Finding Gifts in Our Work

Presented by Eric Nelson and Tina Reeble

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 Continued

12:20–1:30PM

Lunch buffet provided as part of the Institute registration fee

1:30–4:30PM

Afternoon Session: Embracing All Our Gifts

(with a complimentary closing reception at the end)

Second Sharing Our Work Session

Enjoy short presentations from Outdoor Classroom Project Demonstration Sites and Certified Nature Explore Classrooms as they share ideas that come from their own work

Conscious Tree Planting – World Forum Foundation’s *One Million Trees for Children Project*

Heart-Centered conversations in Interest Groups

Sharing Intentions for after the Institute

Sharing of intentions with large group

Celebrate ten-year programs in the Outdoor Classroom Project and Nature Explore Certified Network

Final thoughts and Closing Reception