

## Ethics in Practice: Exploring Standards for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environmental Education Centers

Spring 2020 Meeting of the Membership

Friday, March 6, 2020, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Fort Caswell Coastal Retreat & Conference Center-Oak Island, North Carolina



**8:00 Check-in, coffee, networking – Hobbs 101**

**8:30 NCAEEC Business Session – Hobbs 101**

**9:00 – 9:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**HOBBS 101 Using Leave No Trace Principles to Balance Visitors and Fragile Ecosystems**

Carolina Beach State Park Superintendent Chris Helms will share how the park worked with Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers to develop practical solutions that balance visitor access with the delicate park ecosystems, which include populations of Venus flytraps. Find out if some of these same techniques would help at your facility and if the Leave No Trace Hot Spot program is the right fit for you.

**HOBBS 110 Interpretation for Diverse Audiences**

There is no such thing as a “typical” museum visitor. Visitors are a diverse group and included among them are people with and without disabilities. Developing educational experiences that meet the needs of this diverse population can be a challenge. Led by Assistant Park Manager for Walnut Creek Wetland Park, Liani Yirka, this session will provide guidance and increase understanding for universal design of educational and interpretive programs. Participants will have an opportunity to delve into the thought process behind and work through the how-to’s of designing and presenting an activity for all audiences.

**HOBBS 201 Using the EE Guidelines for Excellence**

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) promotes The Guidelines for Excellence as a series of standards for high-quality environmental education. This introductory session led by Corey Sperling will acquaint you with the Guidelines series, and how using the Guidelines will help improve your EE practice, your programs, your materials, and build credibility across the field of EE.

**10:00 – 10:45 Concurrent Sessions**

**HOBBS 101 Pisgah’s River Rangers: Integrating Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Education**

Pisgah National Forest is one of the top 5 most visited Forests in the nation. With roughly 5 million people visiting annually for various recreation opportunities, we are seeing some tension between the two things the Forest Service prides itself in- providing spaces for recreation and conserving the land for future generations. In this session, led by Ericka Hincke, Lead River Ranger of The Pisgah Conservancy, we will look at the efforts to release the tension that Pisgah National Forest is taking through a new education and outreach program called River Rangers. We will share what has worked, what didn’t, and what we are hopeful for in the coming seasons.

**HOBBS 110 Inclusion & Disability Awareness In Programming**

The Town of Cary, NC is committed to an inclusive approach to recreation and encourages individuals with and without disabilities to participate together. We are fortunate to have Judy Newsome, the operations and program supervisor for specialized recreation and inclusion for the Town of Cary, here with us today to give her perspectives and to learn how you can have a more inclusive approach with your center’s programs and facilities. Judy’s session will explain what inclusion is and how to achieve it, as well as disability awareness and etiquette and how to adopt a new way of thinking.

**OUTSIDE History Hayride with Fort Tour – Meets Outside Hobbs Building**

Explore the grounds of Fort Caswell by wagon with Fort Caswell staff while learning about early settlements in the Cape Fear region and historical uses of the fort throughout the last century and a half. You will have an opportunity to go inside the Fort, so please wear closed-toed shoes. Meet outside of the Hobbs building.

**10:45 – 11:00 Break and Silent Auction – Hobbs Classroom 101**

- 11:00 – 11:45** **Concurrent Sessions**  
**HOBBS 101** **Nautical Meets Natural**  
 No longer are cultural institutions only cultural, and no longer is maritime history only boats. Join Katy Menne, NC Maritime Museum at Southport, in a discussion of our ethical and moral obligation to teach learners of all ages and abilities about the impacts our cultural and man-made entities have had on our natural world. Learn ways to link cultural institutions and environmentally friendly programs and exhibits to give patrons the most complete picture of North Carolina without straying from the organizational mission statement.
- HOBBS 110** **Creature Teachers: Ethical Use and Care of Program Animals**  
 Are you looking to start incorporating live animals into your programs? Do you already use animals for education and you're looking to improve or expand your collection? Join Tori Duval from the WNC Nature Center, an AZA-accredited facility, to discuss how to select, train, and teach with live animal ambassadors. We'll look at the pro's and con's of using mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in EE programming.
- OUTSIDE** **History Hayride with Fort Tour – Meets Outside Hobbs Building**  
 See previous session.
- 12:00 – 1:00** **Lunch – Cafeteria**  
*After lunch, head back to the Hobbs building to look over silent auction items and to chat with the students that are joining us today*
- 1:15 – 2:00** **Concurrent Sessions**  
**HOBBS 101** **Ethics in Citizen Science**  
 There are many ethical issues surrounding citizen science projects, how they are implemented, and who participates and how. Come learn about some of these issues and how different groups and project leaders have worked to solve them. We'll finish up with a small group discussion to assess the potential ethical issues we encounter in our own citizen science work and work together to brainstorm solutions.
- HOBBS 110** **Make Your Facility Even Greener! Increasing Sustainability and Promoting Your Site with the NC GreenTravel Program**  
 NC GreenTravel is an initiative of the NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service, aimed at creating a more environmentally sustainable tourism industry in North Carolina. In this session, Tom Rhodes will discuss the importance of sustainability, give a step-by-step roadmap for tourism-oriented businesses that wish to achieve sustainability, and explain how those businesses can become certified by the NC GreenTravel Initiative.
- HOBBS 201** **Activating the Moveable Middle**  
 The time is now. We need to build community and authentically reach people from various backgrounds, and with different perspectives and beliefs to come together around shared values of the natural world. Staff of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences Eileen Miller and Charles Yelton to discuss community building and the value of validating our assumptions about our offerings and the needs of those we want to reach. During this session let's learn best practices from each other and consider how we can translate our conversation into outcomes.
- 2:00** **Silent Auction Closes – ALL ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN TO HOBBS 110 FOR PAYMENT AND PICKUP**
- 2:15 – 3:15** **Keynote Speaker – Liani Yirka**  
**CHAPEL**  
 Liani Yirka currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Walnut Creek Wetland Park, an urban park in Raleigh that is home of the Norman and Betty Camp Education Center. This facility has a very interesting history and owes its existence to a local grass-roots environmental justice effort. Liani formerly served as the Diversity Outreach Specialist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and as the head of Accessibility and Inclusion at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences. She has a Bachelors and Master of Science in Zoology from N.C. State University, where her thesis focused on the painted bunting population on Bald Head Island. In 2016, she won the Lockhart Follin-Mace Advocacy Award presented by the Raleigh Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities and was also presented with the North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Efficiency and Innovation for her work in inclusion and accessibility at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.
- 3:15 – 4:00** **NCAEEC Board Election and Closing**  
*After the closing, you are invited to visit the newly renovated Education Classroom at Fort Caswell!*