

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

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Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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July 23, 2015 – Quarterly Partnership Meeting
held at [Brookside Gardens](#) visitor center
1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

Today's Theme: Communities, Careers and Conservation

What is happening on a larger scale to connect diverse audiences with nature, and how can we use these initiatives to help the Partnership and its members to shape our own strategies here in Maryland? How can we:

- *engage more people in using parks and natural areas for both recreation and learning;*
- *guide those with a love of nature into stewardship efforts and leadership roles;*
- *ultimately steer interests toward environmental career options and provide opportunities?*

Main Meeting:

10:00 – 10:20 **Welcome – Britt Slattery, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

- Overview of today's meeting structure and activities.
- Introductions (all)

10:20 – 11:00 Learning Session / Guest Presentation – Carrie Samis

For 20 years, Carrie has been involved in developing a variety of conservation education programs designed to help children and adults foster a connection with nature. She is a founding partner and has directed the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's innovative [Coastal Stewards](#) program and the annual youth summit, "Get Out. Get Green. Get Paid." She has partnered with numerous agencies and organizations on national and regional efforts working to nurture a new generation of environmental stewards. Carrie has been involved in the National [Environmental Education \(EE\) Capacity Building](#) project, the Maryland and Delaware Climate Education Assessment and Research project ([MADE-CLEAR](#)), is on the team of Maryland contacts for Richard Louv's grassroots Children & Nature Network, serves as a member of the Advisory Board for [Outdoor Afro](#), and is assisting the [SESYN Civic Ecology and Resiliency](#) international project identifying best practices for community empowerment for leadership. She has worked extensively on developing strategies for working with communities of color on the rural Eastern Shore of Maryland, and finds every opportunity to get outdoors with local young people and her own daughter, to go birding, hiking, participate in conservation efforts, or snap photos of her wonderful natural surroundings.

11:00 – 11:40 **Interactive activity and discussion** (small groups, facilitated)

Begin "the conversation" – kick off what we anticipate should be an ongoing shared concern and proactive approach to increasing our work in relevant areas. Identify some needs, gaps, ideas for future Children In Nature action items.

11:40 – 11:50 **Whole group: Impressions/ share ideas generated;**
and brief description of optional afternoon brainstorming activity.

11:50 – 12:00 **Announcements – (all)**

12:00 **Adjourn quarterly meeting** – next meeting October 21 – *THANK YOU for your participation!*

Invitation: Free passes provided to all attendees for the [Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly Exhibit](#) in the Conservatory. You may choose to visit today, or come back any day with your family till the end of October.

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12:15 – 2:00 **Optional Session – Brainstorming: Planning a Green Communities Workshop (lunch provided)**

The Partnership sees an opportunity to advance its work and engage others by hosting a forum in 2016 for professionals in diverse fields and backgrounds to participate in in-depth conversations about children's access to nature; and ensuing collaboration on actions to support identified needs. Potential topics to be explored and addressed at the forum include access to nature, diversity and inclusion in connecting people to nature, workforce development and an environmental careers pipeline. Today's brainstorming activity will help us to explore desired outcomes, needs and opportunities; and eventually to focus the purpose and content of the 2016 event.

Small groups will rotate among facilitated discussions around the following topics, then convene as a whole group to identify priorities and next steps.

- "Play" – connecting people to nature (for recreation and informal learning);
- "Work" – regarding volunteering, stewardship, and careers in STEM / environmental fields;
- "Access" – infrastructure, planning, economy, policy, attitudes and approaches to overcome barriers.


2:00 **Adjourn**

Many THANKS to Montgomery Parks Nature Centers and Brookside Gardens for your generous hospitality!

Additional Resources:

- [The Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps](#) (CJC) – conservation service opportunities for youth in MD State Parks.
- Maryland Coastal Bays Program – [Coastal Stewards](#) program
- [Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition](#): Resilience, Biodiversity, Environmental Equity, and Environmental Education
- [Environmental Education \(EE\) Capacity Building](#)
- [SESYNC Civic Ecology and Resiliency](#)
- [Latino Outdoors](#)
- [Outdoor Afro](#)
- National Public Radio (NPR) [Code Switch](#) and [#RaceOnTech](#) series, two of many stories, July 2015 –
 - Dr. Mamie Parker, USFWS (retired): [From Fishing with Mom to Becoming a Top Fisheries Official](#)
 - Rue Mapp and Outdoor Afro: [Busting Stereotypes That Black People Don't Hike or Camp](#)
- [The Urban EE Collective](#)
- Department of Interior Efforts:
 - [50 Cities Initiative](#) and [Baltimore as one of the 50 participating cities](#)
 - [Youth in the Great Outdoors](#)
 - [21st Century Conservation Service Corps](#)
 - Secretary Jewell's "[Play, Learn, Serve, and Work](#)" youth initiative
 - [Let's Get Every Kid in a Park](#) (begins this fall)
- [The Aldo Leopold Foundation](#), the Leopold Education Project, and conference August 2015: [Building a Land Ethic: Teaching and Learning Across Boundaries](#)
- Noted author and educator Drew Lanham's blog, [Wild and In Color](#), "Coloring the Conservation Conversation – One Word at a Time."

Upcoming 2015 Partnership Meetings and related events – mark your calendar!

- July 27-31 – [Explore the Patuxent Teen Leadership Paddle](#), CBNERR – MD.
- Aug 3-7 – [Teachers on the Estuary - Data Edition](#), DNR, Chesapeake Bay NERR, at Karen Noonan Center, Bishops Head.
- Aug 5 – [NOAA Climate Education Workshop](#) – Silver Spring MD. [Register here](#).
- Sept 1 – COMAR and E-Lit Survey of LEAs due to MSDE.
- Sept 14 – [MAEOE conference proposals due](#) for 2016 conference, February 4-7, 2016.
- Oct 1 – [Chesapeake Bay Agreement](#) Management Strategies 2-year action plans due.
-  **Oct 21 – Partnership for Children In Nature** quarterly and Leadership Team meeting – at Maryland State Department of Education, 200 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore – time (tentative) 9:30 ~ 12:00.
- Oct (tba) – CIN Nature Play Spaces workshop.
- Nov 13 – Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council conference, [Turning a New Leaf](#), Towson, MD.
- Nov 9-10 – Chesapeake Bay Program Environmental Literacy Summit, Shepherdstown, WV.