

Workshops for the March 28th conference

Registrants, please enter your choices on your registration form. (If you want to change on the conference day, this can be done at the registration table.

Morning Workshops, 11:15 am -12:45pm

1 Conversations with David Sobel followed by Classroom Applications with Jennifer Kramer.

David Sobel will meet with conference participants who wish to continue a discussion of themes and ideas that emerge from his keynote address. Please bring your questions and comments. Jennifer Kramer will conclude the session with classroom applications.

Jennifer Kramer is the 6th grade teacher at the Guilford Central School in Guilford, VT. She is a graduate of Middlebury Collage and Antioch University New England. She was recently awarded the Vermont VFW Teacher of the Year Award for middle school civics education. She specializes in creating real world, place-based education projects that engage students in learning about and contributing to the ecological preservation, history, economics, politics and cultural traditions of the community.

2. Building Fairy Houses and Confidence In Forest School with Charles Foster and Joylynn Holder

According to a preponderance of scientific evidence, playing outside in nature is ideal for the healthy development of each child. Why is it that so many American school children, apart from those attending Waldorf schools, spend so little time outdoors?

This workshop will engage in both the literal and the metaphorical work of forest school. We will construct playthings and structures from branches, stones and dirt. And we will discuss how we might build a closer relationship to the natural world as individuals, as families, and as a society. One of those pursuits is very simple, the other quite lofty. But somehow they're connected - perhaps, it's by working with our hands that we can change our minds and our hearts.

Join the founders of Brooklyn Forest School, Joylynn Holder and Charles Foster, for a hands-on presentation of what it takes to start a

thriving forest school movement in the U.S.

Joylynn Holder studied Theology and Fine Arts at Georgetown University and Women's Studies in George Washington University's graduate program. After graduation, Joylynn launched a storytelling campaign with hundreds of women and girls across South Africa and directed a film for the Nobel-nominated Treatment Action Campaign. Joylynn has won awards for her work as a community organizer and filmmaker, including GW's Service to the Community of Women, Georgetown's Outstanding Community Service, the U.S. President's Student Service and Senator Kemp Hannon's Citizen Advancement awards.

Charles Foster studied Ecology and Music at Gettysburg College and Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley. He has reported for the New York Times Magazine, Forbes and NPR and is a founder of the Youth Radio Innovation Lab. As a radio producer, Charles has won the Peabody, Edward R. Murrow and Investigative Reporters and Editors awards and the R.F. Kennedy award for reporting.

The Brooklyn Forest School began in 2011 as a parent-child class inspired in Prospect Park. Today it is the country's largest forest school with over 300 families attending classes each week in Brooklyn, Manhattan and San Francisco.

Brooklyn Forest's founders, Joylynn Holder and Charles Foster, met at the Waldorf School of Garden City, which they attended from preschool through 12th grade. Joylynn and Charles are married and live in Brooklyn with their daughter, Sylvia.

3. Living with the Seasons: Learning to Breathe, with Leonore Russell for students, writers and artists. By paying attention to the change of the seasons we can find ways to observe and participate in the gifts they each bring. We will take a walk, write and design a journal, make up a nature story and discuss other ways for families, teachers and children to participate in Nature's Round.

Leonore Russell, an Waldorf high school teacher and teacher trainer, is a graduate of High Mowing (Waldorf) School and Sarah Lawrence College with a Masters in Art from Adelphi University. She is an Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University, Executive Director of the Winkler Center for Adult Learning, Director Of Education at Crossroads Farm in Malverne, NY, a eurythmist, and artist.

Afternoon Workshops: 1:45 – 3:15 pm.

4. Working with the Bees and Field Trip to Crossroads Farm with Bruce Travins and MaryJean McCarthy

Bruce will take the group to the farm where he will show a hive, inside and out before walking to the hives where the bees are active on the farm (weather permitting).

There will be a discussion as to why bees are so important of the natural environment, colony collapse, ways to help bees everywhere and information on groups working with the bees.

The bus leaves for the farm at 1:30 pm. from the Waldorf parking lot. Twenty seats. (If more wish to join they will have to drive.)

Bruce Travins has kept bees in Queens on his rooftop as well as for the last 5 years at Crossroads Farm. He gives talks on the lives of the bees to youngsters, school groups and adults. He is the former librarian at the Waldorf School of Garden City.

Mary Jean McCarthy is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor of Childhood Education at Adelphi University. She taught science in elementary school for 13 years and served as her school's science coordinator. She works closely with Operation S.P.L.A.S.H (Stop Polluting and Save our Harbors) to support the understanding of storm drain runoff and its effects on marine ecology. She is a member of the Board of Nassau Land Trust.

5. Bringing Nature In: Creating Nature Tables in School and Home with Natalie Simpson

Learn how to bring the world of nature into your home. Children can enter these miniature spaces with wonder and creativity, building/deepening their connection to nature through the imagination.

Natalie Simpson is a Waldorf alumna from kindergarten in Hawaii to grades at the Shining Mountain Waldorf School and high school at Tara Performing Arts Waldorf High School, Boulder Co. Natalie is a graduate of Adelphi University in Music. She has been an assistant for elementary grades at Shining Mountain and is presently a preschool assistant at the Waldorf School of Garden City.

6. Creating Your Green Thumb: Gardening for Families, School Groups and Just for You with Leonore Russell

*Is this the year to make your garden? What do you need to make a garden?
Are vegetables difficult to grow? How do you engage youngsters in gardening?
We will address all these questions and go outside to see examples of gardens
and wild places.*

Leonore draws from her many years of gardening both organically and biodynamically. She is Director of Education at Crossroads Farm in Malverne, NY, where she designs farm based education programs and works with students of all ages. She spent many years advising the Waldorf High School Environmental Club and gardening with youngsters.