

# EcoLinks 2016

EcoLinks Conference 2016: May 13 – Terra Cotta, Ontario

## CONTACT ♦ CONNECT ♦ CARE



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## Learn new strategies, skills, and activities for integrating environmental education into your teaching practice

### Join us at Ecolinks 2016 for a chance to:

- Participate in hands-on workshops by educators, for educators
- Learn new skills to engage youth in learning for, about, and in the environment
- Try classroom-ready activities and resources to teach literacy, numeracy, geography, science, math and the arts through an environmental sustainability lens
- Network and brainstorm with other educators

### Ecolinks welcomes:

- All classroom teachers (K-12) interested in integrating more environmental education into their teaching practice
- Outdoor and environmental educators
- Early childhood educators, administrators, and homeschoolers

### Space is limited – Reserve now to secure your spot!

Conference fee of \$80 includes workshops, refreshments, lunch, and OSEE membership for 2016-2017. Online registration is open at [www.osee.ca](http://www.osee.ca).

### Ecolinks 2016 takes place...

Friday May 13, 2016 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at Jack Smythe Field Centre & Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The site is located at 14592 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Terra Cotta, Ontario.

Ecolinks is organised by the Ontario Society for Environmental Education (OSEE). OSEE is the OTF-recognised subject association for all educators interested in the integration of environmental topics into curriculum.

Ecolinks 2016 is being offered in partnership with the **Peel District School Board Field Centres** and **Credit Valley Conservation**. Thank you to both organisations for generously providing a venue for this conference.

Photos courtesy of Dalila Seckar, Anita Payne, and OSEE members



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9:45 AM – 10:35 AM

## Accessibility in the Garden - Adapting Outdoor Play to Meet the Needs of Every Learner

Primary

Indoors and Outdoors / ORANGE Workshop Room

In recognition of our diverse community of learners, Ecosource is working to adapt garden learning to ensure it is accessible for all participants. This workshop, aimed at educators at the early childhood and primary levels, will offer examples of how to provide multiple entry points for all learners, how to adapt activities for individuals with different needs, and will provide hands-on experiences that can be replicated in your own classroom. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to move through a number of stations at their own pace that cater to free play, sensory needs, and provide opportunities for self-selection and regulation. If you're interested in learning and sharing your knowledge about accessible spaces for outdoor play and learning then this workshop is for you!

Catherine Hobbis & Holly Marsh  
*Ecosource*

## Music, Art and Creativity in Outdoor Education

Primary - Junior - Intermediate - Senior

Indoors and Outdoors / BLUE Workshop Room

A hands-on session exploring ways to use music and art to immerse students in, and connect them to an outdoor environment.

Rachel Stewart & Aldo Missio  
*Toronto Region Conservation Authority*

10:55 AM – 11:45 AM

## Why the Campfire is the Perfect 21st Century Learning Tool

Primary - Junior - Intermediate – General Interest

Indoors and Outdoors / ORANGE Workshop Room

For millennia the campfire has been the gathering place for almost every culture on Earth. It is the place to come to listen, to share, to discuss and question. It is a place for stories of laughter and for more serious dialogue using restorative justice techniques. The campfire is indeed the perfect 21st Century Learning tool and should be a part of every classroom teacher's portfolio. Each participant will create a simple yet effective campfire for their classroom space as part of this interactive workshop.

Rob Ridley  
*Peel District School Board*

## Tree ID and Measurement

Primary - Junior - Intermediate - Senior

Outdoors / GREEN Workshop Room

Share your favourite mnemonic devices for remembering tree species. Then learn to monitor the annual growth of trees using Smithsonian protocols.

Mike McMillan  
*ACER*

## Schoolyard Bird Blitz

Primary - Junior - Intermediate - Senior

Indoors and Outdoors / BLUE Workshop Room

What birds live in your schoolyard? Find out by joining Bird Studies Canada's Schoolyard Bird Blitz with your students to learn about your local bird life, and contribute to valuable Citizen Science! The Schoolyard Bird Blitz is the first national bird-focused Citizen Science program designed specifically for the learning environment, engaging elementary and secondary students from across the country in bird-focused monitoring and conservation. This workshop will introduce the program, share resources to use with your students and activities to facilitate this fun, annual spring bird count in your schoolyard!

Liza Barney  
*Bird Studies Canada*

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1:50 PM – 2:40 PM

## School Gardens and Seed Libraries: Nourishing Minds and Student Bodies

Primary - Junior - Intermediate - Senior

Outdoors / ORANGE workshop room

Imagine a Garden in Every School. Imagine a free, public access collection of seeds in every library. It's not hard! Lettuce grow to it! Join seed librarian and community gardener Jacob Kearey-Moreland in an exploration of the rapidly growing school food and gardening movement; the unique challenges and opportunities of starting or sustaining a school garden, seed library, or other community growing initiative. Learn from an experienced "teacher's – teacher" about real life programs and examples from around Ontario, while tapping into local, regional, provincial and broader networks of support. Bring your questions and answers to share with fellow participants as we sow the seeds of SOILdarity in our classrooms and community.

Jacob Kearey-Moreland  
*Toronto Seed Library*

## Hands-on Curriculum for a Crowded Planet

Intermediate - Senior

Indoors / GREEN Workshop Room

In this hands-on session, participants will engage in interdisciplinary activities that help students learn and think critically about many of the environmental challenges of our growing human population including threats to biodiversity, changes in land use, natural resource use, pollution and climate change. The presenter will demonstrate a number of activity formats that build knowledge and skills in science, math, social studies and communication including modeling, concept-mapping, role-playing, cooperative group problem-solving and balanced debate. These activities are especially relevant to Ontario's Curriculum for Geography (Grades 7-8) and Science and Technology (with an emphasis on "Relating Science and Technology to Society and the Environment" STSE). Participants will receive CD-ROMs of activities matched to provincial standards with guidance on using the resources with students of different learning styles in the classroom or environmental education center.

Raizell Slobodsky  
*Population Education*

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## Seeing the world with an environmental eye: Using the outdoors as a laboratory to promote 21st Century learning skills

Primary - Junior - Intermediate - Senior

Indoors & Outdoors / ORANGE Workshop Rm

In this workshop, participants will explore 21st Century learning skills that are instrumental in helping students become lifelong learners of the environment. Participants will explore ways to immerse learners in the environment as they learn about the processes occurring in natural environments. The goal is to help learners see the world with an environmental eye: instead of viewing the natural environment as something out there, we want students to see the natural environment as a living entity that is an essential component of the circle of life. The workshop will begin with a nature walk in the woods followed by an indoor session focused on exploring how the outdoors can be used as a laboratory for teaching virtually any topic in the science curriculum. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to bring their electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, and cameras for data collection during the nature walk, as well as laptops for use during the indoor session. Participants will work in groups.

Yovita Gwekwerere  
*Laurentian University*

## Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Inquiry

Primary - Junior - Intermediate

Indoors & Outdoors / GREEN Workshop Rm

Learning through inquiry is an effective instructional strategy and an important skill for students. Using real-world settings for inquiry allows students to construct their own knowledge through experiences – but how can educators design and implement effective inquiry outdoors where it is difficult and sometimes inappropriate to manipulate variables and control conditions? In this session, teachers will be introduced to outdoor inquiry methodologies that reflect the contemporary inquiry processes used by practicing field biologists. By using these methodologies, students can engage in meaningful inquiry that helps them become informed citizen scientists. Whether your students are in Kindergarten or grade 8, these methodologies will help them gain skills necessary to conduct field investigations, such as posing an investigation question; collecting, organizing and analyzing data; and drawing conclusions. With these skills, students will be empowered to find answers to solve problems, understand nature's systems, and work toward making the world a better place to live.

Pam Miller & Bonnie Anderson

## Revisiting sustainable communities using eco-arts design and animation tools

Intermediate – Senior – General Interest

Indoors / BLUE Workshop Room

Workshop participants will learn how to use effective visual art tools, such as eco-arts models and animation, to inspire youth to critically examine the ways in which they interact with the urban and natural environment. This interactive hands-on workshop is taught by experienced and award-winning visual artist and animator Les Luxemburger. Come make a short animated film and learn the tools and methods needed to help your students design their own.

Les Luxemburger

**An additional \$5 materials fee is required for this workshop.**

# Jack Smythe Field Centre

MAIN ENTRANCE



**ORANGE**  
workshop room

washrooms

washrooms

washrooms

**GREEN**  
workshop room

REGISTER & CHECK IN  
HERE

**Refreshments &  
Exhibitors**  
**RED** classroom

**BLUE**  
workshop room

PARKING LOT AND ROAD

# EcoLinks 2016

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

	Program	ORANGE Workshop Room	GREEN Workshop Room	BLUE Workshop Room
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Arrival &amp; Registration - - - Refreshments &amp; Exhibitors in RED Classroom</i>			
9:30 - 9:40	<i>Conference Welcome in the RED Classroom</i>			
9:45 – 10:35	Session 1	<b>Accessibility in the Garden: Adapting Outdoor Play to meet the Needs of Every Learner</b> <i>Ecosource</i> Primary                      Indoors & Outdoors	/	<b>Music, Art &amp; Creativity in Outdoor Education</b> <i>Toronto &amp; Region Conservation Authority</i> P-J-I-S                      Indoors & Outdoors
10:35 – 10:55	<i>Coffee Break: Refreshments &amp; Exhibitors in RED Classroom</i>			
10:55 – 11:45	Session 2	<b>Why the Campfire is the Perfect 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Tool</b> <i>Peel District School Board</i> P-J-I                                  Indoors & General Interest                  Outdoors	<b>Tree ID &amp; Measurement</b> <i>ACER</i> P-J-I-S                                  Outdoors	<b>Schoolyard Bird Blitz</b> <i>Bird Studies Canada</i> P-J-I-S                                  Indoors & Outdoors
11:45 – 11:55	<i>Travel to Terra Cotta Conservation Area</i>			
11:55 – 12:55	<i>Lunch &amp; Sharing Session at Terra Cotta Conservation Area</i>			
12:55 – 1:40	<i>OSEE AGM at Terra Cotta Conservation Area</i>			
1:40 – 1:50	<i>Travel back to Jack Smythe Field Centre</i>			
1:50 – 2:40	Session 3	<b>School Gardens &amp; Seed Libraries: Nourishing Minds and Student Bodies</b> <i>Toronto Seed Library</i> P-J-I-S                                  Outdoors	<b>Hands-on Curriculum for a Crowded Planet</b> <i>Population Education</i> I-S    Indoors	/
2:40 – 3:00	<i>Coffee Break &amp; Exhibitors in RED Classroom</i>			
3:00 – 5:00	Session 4	<b>Seeing the World with an Environmental Eye: Using the Outdoors as a Laboratory to Promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills</b> <i>Laurentian University</i> P-J-I-S                                  Indoors & Outdoors	<b>Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Inquiry</b> <i>Pam Miller &amp; Bonnie Anderson</i> P-J-I    Indoors & Outdoors	<b>Revisoning Sustainable Communities using Eco-Arts Design and Animation Tools</b> <i>Les Luxemburger</i> I-S-General Interest                  Indoors <b>**Additional \$5 materials fee**</b>