



# *Spring into Nature*

*April 27, 2019*

BUCKS COUNTY CHAPTER

**pennaeyc**

Pennsylvania Association for the  
Education of Young Children



Join us for a special day on connecting young children with nature. Register early since space is limited to 100 people. We hope you can be a part of this wonderful opportunity.

St. Mary Hospital Child Development Center  
1209 Langhorne-Newtown Road  
Langhorne, PA 19047



## Overview

### Cost:

\$40 per person – lunch included

### Additional Offerings:

Keynote Speaker: Peg Szczurek

Outstanding Educator Awards

5.5 Hours of PQAS Training for Staff

Act 48 Credits



## Session Presenters



**Peg Szczurek, M. Ed.**, Founder and Lead Consultant, **Pegazus Consulting**, Former Associate ED at DVAEYC (now First Up).

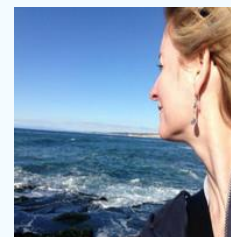


**Eileen Kupersmith, M. Ed.**, Consultant, **Space for Childhood**, creates nature-inspired learning environments and experiences for young children.



**Pandora Lorenzi**, from Great Britain: NNEB, ADCCE, PTUK. Founder, **Pandora's Garden**, offers nature classes for toddlers to stimulate and expand young inquisitive minds and that draws on the research of Richard Louv, author, Last Child in the Woods:

Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.



**Ann Lau Ward, M. Ed.**, Consultant, **Blue Skies Early Learning**, Founder, **Winged Wonders Education**, Nature Kindergarten Teacher, **Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education**





## Conference Itinerary

<b>8:00 – 8:30AM</b>	Registration and Networking
<b>8:30 – 9:00AM</b>	Welcome from Bucks County Chapter of PennAEYC President <b>Kathe Bryner</b>  Outstanding Educator Awards
<b>9:00 – 10:00AM</b>	Keynote: <i>Why Nature? Why Now? Advocating for Nature Play in the Lives of Young Children</i>  <b>Peg Szczurek</b>
<b>10:00 – 11:30AM</b>	Session 1
<b>11:30AM – 12:15PM</b>	Lunch
<b>12:15 – 1:45PM</b>	Session 2
<b>2:00 – 3:15PM</b>	Session 3



### Session 1 (10 – 11:30AM)

#### **A - Forming A Lifelong Bond With Nature** - Pandora Lorenzi

Passion, or responsibility: which is the more powerful motivator for our natural environment's future stewards? Research has linked lasting benefits to early child development from playing in nature. Curiosity, imagination and creativity, language development, physical strength, gross and fine motor skills, developing empathy and a sense of the interconnectedness of our natural ecosystems. Explore practical ways to encourage toddlers and young children to venture outside and begin to form a lasting connection with nature. Enjoy easy-to-use methods that guide adults to explore and learn with their child, so that together they experience the awe and beauty of nature and have fun at the same time. It doesn't require a journey to the wilderness – nature is all around us.

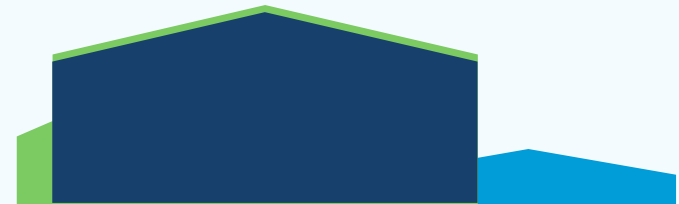
#### **B - Nature N.O.W.: Notice. Observe. Wonder.** - Eileen

Kupersmith

How does play with mud, sand and loose parts contribute to intellectual growth, good health and positive social development? Contact with nature relieves stress, while helping children focus, collaborate and think critically. Explore ways to enhance your environment and provide ways that combat nature deficit disorder. Examples will be provided of environmental components that will be easy to recreate at your own site.

#### **C - Nature's Loose Parts** – Ann Lau Ward

We will engage with nature's loose parts to reconnect with our own sense of well-being in nature and what this means for us in creating spaces for children to do the same. Review action research that supports the use of loose parts/elements of nature in early childhood education, explore the topic in small group discussions, and discover ways in which we can foster open-ended, loose parts/elements of nature play for the young ones in our care. Garner both inspiration and ideas to build on in the months ahead- and a few playful pieces of your own to take home!





## Session 2 (12:15 – 1:45PM)

### **A - Nature Potpourri** - Peg Szczurek

Explore a variety of easy, hands-on nature activities for young children. Learn how to bring nature into your classroom and daily experiences.

### **B - Nature N.O.W.: Notice. Observe. Wonder.** - Eileen Kupersmith

How does play with mud, sand and loose parts contribute to intellectual growth, good health and positive social development? Contact with nature relieves stress, while helping children focus, collaborate and think critically. Explore ways to enhance your environment and provide ways that combat nature deficit disorder. Examples will be provided of environmental components that will be easy to recreate at your own site.

### **C - Shifting Perspectives in ECE: Mindfulness and a Child's Sense of Place** - Ann Lau Ward

Research highlights the benefits of fort-building and large-motor imaginative play; this research is undeniably useful in light of supporting early childhood development. Yet have you ever noticed how children seek the periphery of play spaces for nature play that has an even "tinier world" perspective? Explore the links between imaginative play, mindfulness, and a child's sense of place specific to Tiny World Play in natural spaces. Build your own tiny world as you reflect on the possibilities for shifting your perspective as an adult caregiver, creating spaces for children in the periphery of play spaces. Learn how providing loose parts/elements of nature, quieter, sheltered play areas, and miniatures will foster Tiny World Play. Try on the Tiny World for yourself; what will you discover?



## Session 3 (2 – 3:15PM)

### **A - Nature Potpourri** - Peg Szczurek

Explore a variety of easy, hands-on nature activities for young children. Learn how to bring nature into your classroom and daily experiences.

### **B - Forming A Lifelong Bond With Nature** - Pandora Lorenzi

Passion, or responsibility: which is the more powerful motivator for our natural environment's future stewards? Research has linked lasting benefits to early child development from playing in nature. Curiosity, imagination and creativity, language development, physical strength, gross and fine motor skills, developing empathy and a sense of the interconnectedness of our natural ecosystems. Explore practical ways to encourage toddlers and young children to venture outside and begin to form a lasting connection with nature. Enjoy easy-to-use methods that guide adults to explore and learn with their child, so that together they experience the awe and beauty of nature and have fun at the same time. It doesn't require a journey to the wilderness – nature is all around us.

### **C - Teaching with Nature; Finding Your Wings as a Compassionate Educator** - Ann Lau Ward

Join Teacher Ann in learning how "things with wings" have inspired the nature-compassion connection in her work as an early childhood educator. From butterflies to doves, Ann has found her own wings as a lifelong learner, nurturing compassion one small step at a time. Come hear her tell the tale about nurturing compassion through the nature-compassion connection, explore the framework of Teaching with Compassion, An Educator's Oath to Teach from the Heart (Kaufman/ Schipper, 2018), and engage in small group activities **that will support you reflecting on the possibilities for nurturing the nature-compassion connection in your program.** Create a piece of visual art to inspire further thinking and several resources to support further work.



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Your name will appear on your name tag exactly as it is printed below. In order to serve you better, please check here if this is new contact information ( ).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

First Name

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone: Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodations Needed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PPID for Act 48 Credits:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PA Registry ID Required for PQAS Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Session 1: (ex: 1A; 1B; 1C)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**

**Session 2: (ex: 2A; 2B; 2C)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**

**Please make Checks Payable to:**

**BC Chapter of PennAEYC**

**Attn: Laura Hudson**

**285 Old Limekiln Rd.**

**Chalfont, PA 18914**

**Session 3: (ex: 3A; 3B; 3C)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**