

# Breakout Sessions and Extended Breakout Sessions

## 45-Minute Breakout Sessions

**Merging ESTEAM with Branch** Explore the important contributions of vernal pools using Environmental Education, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math along with language arts, team building, music and more with Jen Judson

**Make Every Step Out - of - Doors a Field Trip!** “Field-trip” your way outside with several experiential learning strategies of observational science to heighten learning that also can extend beyond science with Dorothy McLeer

**The Lake Michigan Ecosystem Today** Beaver Island is surrounded by Lake Michigan which has new challenges as a freshwater ecosystem. Learn about its aquatic invasive species, predator-prey relationships, the aquatic populations present, and how climate change may be impacting this massive body of water with Jay Wesley

**MiSTEM and ImPACTS on Environmental Education** Learn how the State of Michigan is supporting this transformative approach to STEM education across multiple state agencies through the From Students to Stewards initiative and the MiSTEM Playbooks and how your organization/school can participate. with Megan Schrauben, Emily Finnell and more.

**Powerful Partnerships for PBL2: Informal Institutions + Classroom Educators = Project and Place-Based Learning Success!** Discover how informal institutions can be active, responsive partners with classroom teachers to enrich and enliven learning, identify and harness community resources, and foster student voice and choice with June Teisan and Team.

**The Freshwater Mussel Outreach Program** Developed primarily for k-12 students, this program provides participants with valuable knowledge about Michigan’s native freshwater mussels, how they became one of the most imperiled species in the United States, and why they are an essential component in our freshwater ecosystems with MaKayla Plekes and Brittany Tillman

**Using Observational Evidence for Bird Identification** Learn how to use observational cues to lead your students to basic bird identification and lessons with Terry and Andrea Grabill

**Outdoor Programming Through the Elements** Learn how to provide programming outdoors in a variety of weather and great activities to keep your students engaged with Annabelle Raines

## Extended Breakout Sessions (105 Minutes)

**Pollinators and the Effects of Climate Change** Climate change not only involves rising temperatures but is also a significant factor contributing to the decline in pollinator populations with Brian Petersen

**Invasive Species Forest Weaving: Custodial Creativity** Participants will learn how to lead others through a unique artistic experience intended to remove invasive bittersweet and inform community members about invasive plants with Lea Sevigny

**The Art of Connecting to Place** Learn how to using painting and poetry to contemplate how to protect our planet from impending threats like climate change with Emily Schaller and Team

**Exploring Beaches with Authentic Inquiry** Explore the properties of sand, the relationship between the geosphere and the hydrosphere, and practice building models using student-driven inquiry with Trisha Smrecak



# Environmental Educator Capstone Sessions

**Wildlife Weekends: Educating the Adults of our State** Learn how MAEOE's "Wildlife Weekends" were developed to incorporate adult learning strategies with Michigan flora and fauna and to get adult Michiganders active in environmental stewardship with Bill Hodges

**Bird Relatives and Community Science** This program demonstrates connecting local fourth-grade students and the community to the land through birding programs with Cass Arsenault

**Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors: Representation in Nature Spaces** Explore some practical ways to incorporate new perspectives into nature spaces and teaching materials so that everyone feels at home in nature with Erin Parker

**Think Big, Act Local** Hear about several place-based citizen science projects and ecology based activities where students can take action in a project to promote positive human impact on the environment with Jennifer Gabrys

