



FSA National Conference and AGM 2015

“Forest School : Play and Principles”

6pm Friday 23rd October to 2.30pm Sunday 25th October 2015
Conover Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 7AU

WORKSHOPS

1. The Quest for the Child Led Session (led by Lily Horseman)

Workshop Description

An adventurous quest into giving up the role of leader to the children and young people you work with. This workshop is based on some work that Lily has been doing with groups that incorporates rites of passage and transitions, the hero's journey, group agreements, quests and missions, collective decision making, with a dollop of mucking about in the woods and organised chaos. Through this we will explore how to manage our role as a non leader both emotionally, practically and dynamically.

Presenter:

Lily has been a Playworker even longer than she has been involved in Forest School. She loves to play in nature and explore the nature of play. Lily has been delivering Forest School training since 2009 through her company Kindling; Play and Training. She loves to create experiences where theory comes to life. Lily also loves mucking about in the woods and organised chaos.

2. Earth Education- a 'head' 'heart' and 'hands' approach to living lightly (led by Mark Jefferys)

Workshop Description

Earth Education programs are magical learning adventures designed to help participants construct ecological understandings, build personal feelings for the natural world, and make decisions about their environmental actions. This session will explore the aims and methods of this programmatic approach, and will include an 'Earthwalk' - a light, refreshing touch of nature, focussing on the senses.

Presenter:

Mark is one of only three accredited Earth Education trainers in the UK. He has over 30 years experience in environmental and earth education, teaching adults and children of all ages in the UK, Australia and America, and was previously the UK Coordinator for The Institute for Earth Education. He is passionate about bringing the natural world to life and reconnecting people with nature in creative ways. A keen songwriter and guitarist, Mark often uses his music in environmental programmes.

3. Plant games, Hawthorn leather & Cordage (led by Marina Robb)

Workshop Description

This workshop will give you a chance to learn inspirational games that connect young people (and adults) with plants. We will play simple but effective games that teach about the plants, make some simple plant cordage and harvest and make some Hawthorn leather.

Presenter:

Marina is Director of Circle of Life Rediscovery CIC and author of inspirational book, 'Learning with Nature'. She has worked with young people for over 25 years and draws on best practice from around the world.

4. Natural Musicians (led by Chris Holland)

Workshop Description

How to use natural objects, patterns and sounds to facilitate playful music making sessions outdoors... that are also ways to awaken enthusiasm and interest for doing literacy, numeracy and science

Presenter:

Chris Holland, author of the "must have" nature connection guidebook, I love my world, is a storyteller, bushcraft teacher, artist, musicians and playful environmental educator who is exploring the fertile edges of music and nature for a niche in community building, team-building and training.

5. Parents and FS. Family Wild Club: resilience for nature connection; resilience for children; resilience for FS in schools? (led by Kate Griffiths and Rosie Linford)

Workshop Description

Do you work with parents and children together using FS approaches? Do parents get "in the way" at your sessions? Are you a parent yourself? Whatever your interest in parents and FS come and share stories, strategies and skills, while hearing about Family Wild Club. Can our vision deliver triple resilience?? Make your own mind up, and reflect on the role of parents in embedding or undermining FS. Wild Club was designed by Kate in 2014 with funding from South Downs National Park Authority. Partners included Sussex Wildlife Trust and Brighton University (to measure impact).

Presenters:

Kate- is Co-Director of Wildnature – Wild for Fun. Wild for Purpose. A social enterprise in Brighton. Kate is a Registered Social Worker and has 15 years experience working in child protection and with looked after children. She has an MA in Training and Education and was a senior manager in local government for 10 years. Latterly she has rediscovered nature – her first love – trained as a FS Leader – and now rides the waves of fear and joy as a freelance change person.

Rosie – her passion lies in combining love of working with young people and being in nature, fully utilising its therapeutic benefits. Rosie has a wealth of experience as a youth worker in leading groups of teenage girls on personal development and mentoring programs as well as camping and bushcraft skills and knowledge. As a qualified Social Worker Rosie also has much experience working with vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.

6. Incorporating yoga into your Forest school (led by Jane Downing)

Workshop Description

A completely hands on workshop, that can be directly replicated or simply take some of the techniques and integrate into your practise. Starting with a group Mandala that we will make from natural materials; moving on to a fun yoga session, incorporating story telling. Finishing with a beautiful guided relaxation. Don't worry you don't need to have any yoga experience or be able to tie yourself into a pretzel! There will be some time at the end for any questions and a handout will be provided with the structure of the session should you wish to replicate.

Presenter:

I trained as a primary teacher and in addition trained to use yoga as a tool in the mainstream class to compliment education. After completing the teacher training I went on to complete the Forest School Leader award. I worked in a couple of pupil referral units for a few years using forest school and yoga/meditation to promote wellbeing, focus and calm amongst the children.

7. Hammock Camping and Camp Craft (led by Clive Edwards)

Workshop Description

Learn about different types of hammock and how to set them up correctly so you stay warm and dry. I will also look at good camp craft and general skills.

Presenter:

I run "The European Bushcraft school" where we teach outdoor living skills and survival. Generally speaking we run weekend courses for up to about 50 people covering all aspects of camping, survival and bushcraft.

8. Playing with Story (led by Carol Graham)

Workshop Description

This workshop will explore how stories can support play and how play can give rise to stories in the Forest School environment. There will be opportunities to pool ideas and to try out different activities - along with tips on the telling of stories at Forest School.

Presenter:

Carol has been leading captivating story workshops for children and practitioners all over the West Midlands for many years and she is also a Forest School practitioner and is passionate about sharing the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Projects in education are delivered through Story Play CIC

9. Kindle a Spindle (led by Katie Rees)

Workshop Description

Learn the ancient art of the drop spindle - craft your own spindle, prepare and understand your wool fibre and learn how to spin it! The whole process encourages the magical flow of Forest School; the spindle lives in pockets and is brought out in quiet moments - in the den, round the fire or on the bus on the way home. Making a tool that works is something to be proud of; making your own wool - that seems like magic!

Presenter:

Katie Rees has been delivering Forest School programmes for three years in North Yorkshire through KindleWoods, her outdoor learning and wellbeing business. Wool spinning is a passion and the two have combined to create SpindleWoods, inspiring both children and adults to harness the creativity of the spindle!

10. Setting up a Nature Kindergarten (for Early Years) (led by Sam Victoria)

Workshop Description

There is a lot to think about if you love teaching outdoors and want to set up your own Forest School kindergarten. This is a workshop where we can talk about the highs and lows and how to make it possible. Guidance on registering with Ofsted and all the necessary requirements to turn your passion for Forest School into a rewarding and successful business.

Presenter:

Sam Victoria runs My Little Explorers which was set up 4 years ago with a passion for the Forest School ethos. Having always worked in early years, Sam decided to combine it with Forest School and started out from home as a childminder with just 3 children a day. Sam now has up to 12 children a day and runs a successful nature kindergarten which is based out of a converted container in the middle of 20 acres of woodland.

11. Forest School and Montessori - Just how compatible are they? (led by Nicky Kennedy)

Workshop Description

Montessori is an educational philosophy that is often linked to Forest School...but why? There are many reasons, both in the theory and from practical activities that I can share with you. For example what is "Education of the Senses"? (a major part of the Montessori curriculum) and how can we develop it through Forest School. What did Montessori write about education in nature? Do Montessori schools really teach children how to use knives and saws at 18 months? Montessori developed something called a Three Period Lesson and we are using it at Forest School all the time, but where? Is her work and theory of 100yrs ago still relevant to today? The marriage of Montessori and Forest School is a magnificent one. Come and find out, ask questions and learn some new Montessori based activities to use in your Forest School practice.

Presenter:

Nicky Kennedy has worked with children of all ages for more than 30yrs, specialising in Birth to 5yrs. She is a qualified Montessori Teacher, Nursery Teacher, Forest school leader, trainer and assessor working at Consultant level in EY for the last 10yrs. Nicky opened her own Central London Montessori school in 1998 and in the last 3yrs developed and embedded an Urban Forest School practice there. Nicky handed the reins to a new owner earlier this year to pursue a career in Coaching, Corporate Training and Resilience Management all based in Nature. Nicky has experienced the profound effect nature can have on the soul and wants to enable others to feel it too. Nicky continues to consult for EY and participate in Forest School on a regular basis because she says "there is nothing more satisfying than rolling around in the mud with the little guys".

12. The Stuff of Dreams? A place in the woods for all our Forest Schools (led by Jenny Archard and Deb Millar)

Workshop Description

This workshop is about sharing our visions of what we aspire to, and then grounding that in the reality of running settings in woodland for wider social benefits. We'll look at working with communities, involving volunteers, planning permission, legal structures and funding. Owning or leasing a site is a daunting prospect, but rewarding if that is your thing - and possible if you do it with others. We hope you come away with stronger dreams, practical hints and real steps to take to make them real! And a plan of action, if that is what will help you.

Presenters:

Jenny Archard and Deb Millar have very different set-ups in the South West, one a Charity the other a Social Enterprise, one privately owned the other on the public forest estate and both running different kinds of Forest School. Deb Millar is an accidental woodland owner. Having asked to borrow Hallr Wood to run sessions in, she ended up buying it.....She had a 2 year planning permission battle for joint forestry/educational use. She is part of a small forest educational charity set up in 2007 www.wilderwoods.org. She works mostly with secondary aged SEN, disaffected and marginalized pupils on long term programmes. Jenny Archard is part of Neroche Woodlanders, a small social enterprise with a share-holding membership structure, and has been doing Forest School for eight years. For the last few years they have been working on securing a lease on 100 acres of Forestry Commission woods, a rather unusual approach in England www.youngwood.org. She now leads on wellbeing work in the woods with disadvantaged adults, young people and troubled families using Forest School as the guiding ethos.

13. Playing with food (led by Jenny Doyle)**Workshop Description**

This workshop explores the connection between food, play and emotional well-being. It is said that smells and memories go hand in hand and this is especially so in childhood. At a time when children's food and diet is in the spotlight we will discuss issues facing practitioners when cooking with groups whilst cooking some simple tasty recipes.

Presenter:

Jenny Doyle has been a Forest School Leader for 15 years and although now retired still helps out with Forest School sessions at the local pre-school. She enjoys cooking and loves to share this with family, friends and the groups she works with.

14. Working with Wonderful Willow (led by Clair Hobson)**Workshop Description**

Willow is a wonderful medium to work with – so versatile and of course a sustainable learning resource. During this workshop we will talk about different types of willow and their soaking requirements. I can also introduce you to a choice of various suppliers. As we have 2 hours, we will aim to make a few simple willow items suitable for complete beginners and children! We will aim to make a willow star, willow ring which can be turned into a crown, woodland mobile, decoration or to play hoopla; a willow flower, platter and cornucopia type of shape. If you are allergic to aspirin, it is highly advisable you bring along some plastic gloves to wear please.

Presenter:

Clair Hobson is a Forest School Leader and trainer with EarthCraftuk CIC based near Canterbury in Kent. She loves working with natural resources to create some wonderful craft items. She loves the concept that there is no right or wrong (apart from safety of course) and you can really let your imagination and creativity run wild. It really is good to see participants proudly making things from natural resources – something so grounding and special.

15. Nature Nourishes Nurture (led by Dr Sara A Collins)**Workshop Description**

Nature Nourishes Nurture aims to provide practical ideas to promote nature in a Forest School setting. Observing and interacting with the natural world enables children to develop a positive relationship with their local environment. Interacting with and understanding the natural world builds empathy for the wider environment, and knowledge of a child's place in the world and future stewardship. The workshop will be 'hands-on', exploring our own reaction to a close encounter with a wild animal and how we might influence a child's reaction. Ideas for observing wildlife over a period of time will be accompanied with resource details and examples for the attendees to make and take away

Presenter:

Sara Collins is a biologist, Forest School Practitioner and expert den builder. She has a BSc in Applied Biology, an MBA and a PhD in forest entomology and has recently been elected as a director of the Forest School Association. When her son was born Sara wanted to introduce her son to nature as she had been introduced by her own father. She was shocked to realise that many of her son's friends were not learning about the natural world by playing outside. This inspired her to train as a Forest School Practitioner to work particularly with urban children. She is now self-employed and established as the Eco Urban Ranger in Portsmouth working with nursery and Primary School aged children in different schools including a special needs school.

16. myForest for Education: online mapping and woodland management planning for your Forest School site (led by Jen Hurst and Sarah Lawfull)

Workshop Description

myForest for Education is a new, free, easy to use, online tool specifically designed for Forest School Leaders, environmental educators and teachers. In this workshop you will map your own Forest School site, complete an ecological impact assessment and develop a management plan for your site. Trainers Jen and Sarah will be on hand to help you with any aspect of woodland management planning for education and will help you get the most out of myForest for Education. You will be sent a site survey form before the conference and you will be required to bring your own laptop with wifi/internet connection to use in the workshop.

Presenters:

Jen Hurst is the Education Manager at the Sylva Foundation, a national charity based in Oxfordshire <http://sylva.org.uk>. She is also a Forest School Leader at West Kidlington Primary School and has a background in Geography teaching at secondary level.

Sarah Lawfull is a Forest School Trainer at Oxfordshire Forest School Service based at the Hill End Centre. She has been a Forest School Leader for many years and has a background in Primary teaching.

17. Forest School in Higher Education: Sharing experiences and exploring potential (led by Bob Pilbeam)

Workshop Description

Universities are increasingly engaging with Forest School by delivering experiences, facilitating work based learning and research by students, offering higher awards and publishing academic research. This workshop will seek to share and compare experiences and explore the potential for further development both within Universities and with those who might wish to work with Universities. For example this might be by conducting research, developing research agendas, offering placements, or continuous professional development.

Presenter:

Bob Pilbeam is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Education and Social Sciences (FESS) University of St Mark and St John. He has been integrating Forest School theory and practice into University modules for the last 4 years. He works with undergraduate and postgraduate students, and visiting children, in Early Years, Education Studies, Teacher Training and Outdoor Adventure programmes. He was a youth worker in London for 4 years, spent 12 years working as a trainer and manager in an outdoor centre in Cumbria and has been Lecturing in HE for the last 22 years. The focus of his work is to enthuse future generations of teachers and practitioners in the potential of outdoor learning across the curriculum.

18. Progression using the fixed blade knife (led by Sarah Robertshaw)

Workshop Description

In this session we will take knife use 'back to basics'. We will look at different methods of cutting, which woods to choose, how to split wood and whittle and we will make an elder whistle and a feather stick or flower

Presenter:

Sarah Robertshaw is a Forest School Practitioner and Trainer and the Director of Step-Out Outdoor Learning, Training & Therapy. Sarah loves using the Forest School ethos to reach all sectors of the community especially the 'hard to reach' teenager, those with mental health diagnoses, the homeless and adults with learning difficulties.

19. Using Forest School ethos in Corporate Leadership (led by Vicki Stewart)

Workshop Description

This workshop will showcase how the Forest School ethos can be utilised for adult leadership corporate groups. Participants have the opportunity to cast a pewter object as part of an example activity. An analysis of the project - to create an innovative leadership culture with corporate groups - will be presented, together with the benefits and disadvantages of using Forest School for work with adults. Participants will run through the pewter activity. Their reflections, and insights and experience will inform a workpiece of ideas for using Forest School with adults in a wider context.

Presenter:

Vicki Stewart MA is the Director of Brightwood Training, she has worked in development training for 18 years with a background in the RAF, university lecturing, her own Forest School company and corporate leadership development. She runs Forest School Level 3 Training with Cambium Sustainable. In reality she maintains a life of barely organised chaos involving work, 3 children and as much time outdoors as is possible.

20. Playing with Fire (led by Chris Salisbury)

Workshop Description

Taking your fire further at Forest School - being more inventive and creative - how to play with fire safely and encourage deeper thinking and learning.

Presenter:

Chris founded WildWise in 1999 after many years working as an education officer for Devon Wildlife Trust. With a background in the theatre, training in therapy and a career in environmental education he uses every creative means at his disposal to encourage people to enjoy and value the natural world. He has worked with Ray Mears and John Rhyder, Joseph Cornell and Steve van Metre, amongst many others. He is a course facilitator at Schumacher College, where he also directs the Call of the Wild Foundation programme. He is also a professional storyteller aka 'Spindle Wayfarer'.

21. Autumn Land Art - Celebration of Colour (led by Richard Shilling)

Workshop Description

Autumn brings to us the richest natural palette of the year and is a very productive time for land artists who work with leaves and colour. In this workshop we will search out the colours present in the environment around us and create sculptures with what we find.

My style of ephemeral land art sculpture is all about the process of immersing yourself into the environment and as your senses open to what is there creating a sculpture that reveals those things

to the viewer. We will go through this process and practitioners will then be able to apply that to any place at any time of year and help children create land art sculptures.

Presenter:

Richard Shilling is a land artist and sculptor who works with natural materials to create colourful earth art sculptures. His speciality is small scale, bold, bright and vibrant creations often made with leaves and backlit by natural sunlight to reveal Mother Nature's rich beauty and wonderful palette of colours. My work can be seen at <http://RichardShilling.co.uk>