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**2014 Conference & AGM**

**TOWIFS**

**(The only way is Forest School). Hosted by FSA Essex**

**“Fostering & Exploring Sustainability”**

**6pm Friday 26th September to 3pm Sunday 28th September 2014**

**Danbury Centre for Outdoor Learning, Well Lane, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4AB**

**SATURDAY WORKSHOPS**

1. **“Forest School and Early Childhood Education for Sustainability**

**(ECEfS) in England”:**

**Facilitators:**

**Paulette Luff** *is a writer and researcher in early childhood education and works as a senior lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University. She is currently investigating understandings of education for sustainability and uses of reclaimed resources in early childhood settings.*

**Sara Knight** *is well known as a writer about Forest School. She has recently retired from Anglia Ruskin University, but is still researching and writing about Forest School. She will join the conference hot-foot (literally) from the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.*

**Workshop Description**

What is Early Childhood Education for Sustainability? What is the place of Forest School in ECEfS in England? Is Forest School being given enough recognition in Sustainability and Environmental Education? Find out more about ECEfS, and help answer these questions.

**2. Foraging**

**Facilitator**: **Clive Edwards**, *owner of "The European Bushcraft School" We teach survival and outdoor living skills predominantly but also specialise in teaching people about edible wild plants and foraging.*

**Workshop Description**

Grasp the basic skills of foraging and processing wild plants as food and drink. A short walk and practical demonstration looking at common plants that are easy to learn and identify. Get hands on with picking, processing and tasting. This session will enable you to add flavour to your outdoor experience.  

**3. Yoga Movement and Meditation with Trees**

**Facilitator: Geraldine Davies**, *therapist and yoga tutor, has been teaching Yoga since the late 1980's and is also a trained therapist. Combining her love for nature and the great outdoors she now only teaches yoga outside.*

**Workshop Description**

The focus of the workshops will be connecting with trees through yoga. This will take the form of connecting with our senses, breathing, meditation and movement. Come and deepen your relationship with trees, exploring their softness or strength. This is taking meet a tree to another level. We will at times be using a mat, so please bring one with you (1 will have a few to give out) wear loose comfortable clothing and many layers (as not sure of the weather in September) plus bring some water.

The workshops will take place in the ground of Essex outdoors; there is a plantation of oak trees and grassy area.

**4. Living Landscapes in Forest School -**

**Facilitator: Laura Harvey**, *Forest School and Outdoor Classroom Manager for Essex Wildlife Trust. Laura has been working for Essex Wildlife Trust delivering environmental education for 20 years and manages a team of five Outdoor Classroom and Forest Schools officers operating throughout Essex. We are well established, working with children of all ages from EYFS to teenagers and run adult education courses in Outdoor Learning and Forest School.*  
  
**Workshop Description**

Providing children with a sense of place at Forest School;Wildlife rich places cannot exist in isolation like a fenced zoo but must be part of a greater whole to allow wildlife to move freely and safely and flourish. A Living Landscape enables wildlife to be restored, reconnected and to recreate.  This workshop explores activities to help children connect to their Forest School as part of a living landscape. Suitable for KS1 and above.

**5. Megatastic Movement!**

**Facilitator: Elizabeth Appleton.** *Elizabeth grew up on the beaches and mud flats of Suffolk – with broad open skies and grey seas. She is a Forest School leader and early years consultant and divides her working time between training and leading in Forest School and lecturing on early years degree courses. She tries to use urban woodland to show people that nature is always on our doorsteps and to build respect for local eco-systems. She co-founded Huathe in 2011 to help reconnect adults and children to nature, to each other and to themselves and through Huathe she supports children to manage in the mainstream education system. She draws on beaches, heathland, marshland and trees for inspiration. The ethos of Reggio Emilia and Art of Mentoring; and the research and writing of Penny Greenland, Tim Gill and Jay Griffith underpin her playing and her work. Her MA explored traditional and alternative views of childhood and children’s instinctive play.*

**Workshop Description**

Ever tried to play without moving?! Of course not, unless you’re playing Sleeping Lions! Movement is an integral part of play and learning! Woodlands are full of movement opportunities, unlike classrooms. This workshop explores movement’s importance, coming up with some sneaky ideas to make the most of your trees.

**6. An Introduction to Identifying Tree Hazards**

**Facilitator: Simon Smith**. *Simon works as an arboricultural consultant for Essex Ecology Services, a trading arm of Essex Wildlife Trust. He was previously a tree officer with Essex County Council and has a wealth of experience in tree assessment and risk management. Simon takes a holistic approach to tree management and has particular interests in veteran trees and bats.*

**Workshop Description**

This is an overview on what to look for when assessing trees for public safety. A handout will provide an introduction to relevant legislation, tree physiology, tree defects and risk management. Most of the time will be spent outside discussing some of the centre’s trees and potential hazards.

**7. The Carving Clinic**

**Facilitator: Richard Irvine**

**Workshop Description**

Everyone can always improve their carving technique - This workshop aims to help you do just that. Choose from a range of small projects to extend your whittling repertoire. Experiment with different grips and cuts; try a variety of tools; discuss sharpening and extend your skills for your own and your groups benefit.

**8. Learning with Nature**

**Facilitator**: **Marina Robb** *(Msc; MA; PGCE; FS Trainer; Director Circle of Life Rediscovery)   
Author of new book: Learning with Nature: A how-to-guide to inspiring children through outdoor games and activities.*

**Workshop Description**

Experience a variety of nature-based games ideal for Forest School;  gathered and developed over years of experience of working with young people of all ages.

**9. Paint and Paper Making from Natural Materials**

**Facilitator: James Wood.** *James is an artist, materials maker, forager and director at Schola Foris, taking inspiration from the natural world he strives to create sustainable art through the use of traditional and experimental techniques to extract various materials from wild and foraged origins.*  
**Workshop Description**

- Paint making from fungi, plants, roots and lichen - learn how to extract colour from various sources, turning them in to dyes, inks and even paints which we will use to make experimental pieces of art.  
- Paper making from plants, seaweed and fungi - learn how to extract fibres from various sources and process them to eventually be turned in to lovely handmade sheets of natural papers.

**10. Good from Woods Research Toolkit**

**Facilitator: Vickie Norris.** *Vickie Norris is a Project Officer at the Silvanus Trust.  She works on a variety of woodland related projects including Good from Woods, a project that supports woodland activity practitioners to research the well-being outcomes of their activities.*

**Workshop Description**

This workshop will introduce the Good from Woods Research Toolkit, and provide the opportunity to try out some research methods that have been used by practitioner-researchers in the GfW project.  We will also be able to suggest some approaches to evaluation and survey types.

**11. In Search of the Giant's Underpants! Story landscapes for**

**family nature-based play experiences.**

**Facilitator: Philip Waters.** *Throughout his career Phil has worked with children in many different contexts using play as a vehicle for change while also valuing and celebrating its intrinsic quality. Having written and delivered various training programmes in the UK and the USA, developed participatory video projects with agencies like Save the Children, and with a particular interest in children’s fiction and in the nature of how stories can be used as cultural and social tools for transformation, collectively all these elements conspire to make the content of his PhD - the use of narrative as a means of supporting children’s ecological literacy and altruism for the natural world.*

**Workshop Description**

This fun and practical workshop explores how stories can be used to engage communities of players, young or old, in connecting with the natural world. It looks at how narrative can be placed in the landscape as a way of enticing children and adults to explore their surroundings, to connect to place, to go off track and get lost a bit. It looks at the practical and theoretical aspects of what it means to go on a 'quest', and how families can create their own journey, epic or mini, days or hours, miles or metres... You may not find the giant's underpants, but you'll have fun looking for them!

**12. Enriching Storytelling Practice; making tales juicier, tastier and**

**generally more delicious.**

**Faciltator: Janina Vigurs.** *Janina is a big fibber (Professional Storyteller) and has been murmuring ridiculousnesses for a looooong time. Some time ago, amidst the damp leaf litter of an Essex wood, a small group of children began to listen to her. Before long, Janina had filled the space in her brain previously used for remembering to pay the water bill with tales of hat-wearing monkeys. A proud Forest School Leader since 2006, she has trained with various people that know what they're talking about. She still can't quite believe she gets paid to tell tales in nurseries, primary schools, at festivals, libraries, pubs and woods.*

**Workshop Description** A practical selection of tips and tricks I've discovered (stolen) to pass on. This is mainly aimed at those already using Story within their sessions, but even if you've never told a tale before, you are exceptionally welcome to join in.

**13. The Rubbish Workshop**

**Facilitators: Helen Moore and Alex Hart**. *Forest School practitioners keen to ensure that local people have the opportunity to develop a close relationship with the natural world.****Helen Moore*** *is also a professional eco-poet, children's author and community artist. In 2009 she won a Millennium Award to undertake Forest School Levels 2 & 3 training and to set up Wood Dragons, which became a successful weekly group on a site near Bath.  She loves working with children, young people and adults outdoors, and learns lots from watching and listening to them in action.*

***Alex Hart*** *has been working with young people in and out of schools since 1999. She qualified as a teacher in 2002 but found that most children and young people are more relaxed outside than in, and struggling to get them outside in mainstream schools, began Forest school training with Archimedes and gained her leadership qualification in Spring 2011. She now happily works as a forest school leader in a variety of diverse settings and forms.*

**Workshop Description**

A practical session exploring the wonderful world of worms and other soil organisms and how nature deals with waste, composting and the landfill challenge.  This will be an interactive session, including games, activities and exploration for use in any outdoor classroom or Forest School setting.

**14. 'Storytelling and Making for a Greener World'**

***Facilitator: Jon Cree****. Jon has used story in environmental education work since entering the profession (and probably before!) 30 years ago.  This has informed both the training work he now does as training co-ordinator for Bishops Wood Centre, including Forest School training, and his practise with young people, of all ages.  Story has a power to make meaning through metaphor and stimulate a deeper empathy and concern and hopefully action, for the planet's ecological future.  Recently Jon helped co-edit 'Storytelling for a Greener World' with four others and contributed a chapter, along with 21 other storytellers, from around the UK.*

**Workshop Description**

This workshop will look at the storytelling and making, process and technique.  We will look at how story can enable learners create a deeper connection and concern to and for the natural world.  Participants will be involved in looking at how the language of certain story genres, be they myth, wander tales, creation stories conveys sustainability messages.  The workshop will then use a number of techniques, in the woods, for bringing alive the language and messages contained within the stories and making our own 'green stories'.   We will finish by looking at how to take to heart these meanings and apply them to sustaining the natural world, in particular woodland.

**15. Natural Fibres and Cordage Workshop**

**Facilitator: *Joanne Atkins.*** *Joanne is the Woodland Education Ranger for Suffolk Wildlife Trust, a Forest School practitioner and a lover of nature and the outdoors.*

**Workshop Description**

Discover the highly addictive art of cordage making, learn how to get useful fibres from willow and lime bark, nettle and other plants, and look at some fun cooperative methods of making cordage.

**16. Houses, Dens and Stories**.

**Facilitator: *Chris Holland*** *- Creative outdoor learning & nature connection Consultant/*

*Pedagogue, speaker, storyteller, author of “I love my world”, who loves swimming, tree climbing and kayaking too!*

**Workshop Description**

Using stories and creative activities to raise practical awareness about sustainable building, climate change and ecological footprints. This workshop is a short version of a day long workshop laid out in the new book “Storytelling for a Greener World” to which Chris has contributed a chapter.

**17. Whittling, Bead Making and Sawing "Tree Cookies".**

**Facilitator: *Tim Evans*** *- full time teacher and level 3 FS leader in a large Junior school in Clacton on Sea, Essex.*

**Workshop Description**

Practical demonstration and hands on workshop of basic wood-working activities- whittling, bead making and sawing "tree cookies". Information and discussion about how sessions run with a whole class at once. Ideal for those with little or no experience of Forest Schools.

**18. 'MyForestSchool' - how to map and manage your forest school**

**site using the myForest woodland management tool.**

**Facilitators:**

***Jen Hurst****, Education Manager, Sylva Foundation (also Forest School Leader West Kidlington Nursery and Primary School, Oxfordshire)*

***Sarah Lawfull****, Forest School Leader/Trainer, Oxfordshire Forest School Service, Oxfordshire County Council, Hill End Centre*

**Workshop Description**

The Sylva Foundation is a national forestry charity. It supports woodland owners with a free, online woodland management tool called  'myForest'. Sylva wants to involve Forest School Leaders in developing myForest into 'myForestSchool', a version that supports Forest School Leaders to manage their sites sustainably.

The aims of the workshop are:

1. To train Forest School Leaders to use myForest to map their own forest school site and start a sustainable woodland management plan including ecological impact assessment.
2. to evaluate myForest to inform the development of 'myForestSchool'

Before the conference you will be sent a simple survey form to do a sketch a map of your site and record the trees, habitats, features etc on it. You will also need to bring your own laptop to the workshop to access myForest online and create your own Forest School map and management plan. The workshop room has plugs and internet access.

**19. Creative and Playful Approaches.**

**Facilitator: *Lily Rowe Horseman*** *is a Forest School trainer and practitioner based in the North of England. Known for her creative and playful approaches to exploring ideas and concepts, Lily loves being in the woods making things.*

**Workshop Description**

Lily's workshop will be a combination of thinking about playing and playing about with thinking. We will explore nature from different perspectives, looking at the connections and associations we have with it, the different ways in which those express themselves and using that to help us learn about the woods and about ourselves. Through this, we will explore many and varied things. This might include species ID, practical and creative ways to use different plants, reflecting on ourselves and the emotional development of the children and young people we work with.  Of course we will take this opportunity to be playful in the woods together!

**20. Fire Carving**

**Facilitator: John Jackson** *(Bsc (Hons) P.G.C.E. L.R.P.S. Forest school level 3). John has been a school teacher for over 25 years. He has been a bushcraft enthusiast from long before the term became common, travelling from the jungles of the Philippines to the Arctic to learn from Native peoples. He currently teaches part time, works for Basildon council in the outdoor education department, works in schools as an outdoor advisor and runs his own bushcraft business ‘Billericay Bushcraft’. He has also led training sessions to improve the outdoor skills of those beyond level 3 FS.*

**Workshop Description**

Fire is not only a method of keeping us warm, cooking our food and purifying our water; it can also be used as a tool to make things. Learn how to use fire to make cups, pots and bowls.