



AGENDA

Tuesday, April 28
Dinner in the Garden for Teachers

5:00-6:00 p.m. **Check-In/Registration**
Robins Visitors Center

Reception
Education and Library Complex, Luck Garden Terrace

6:00-7:15 **Dinner in the Garden for Teachers**
Massey Conference Center Auditorium

Keynote: **Jane Kirkland**
Naturalist, Story Teller, and Author
Chester, Pennsylvania



Title: **“I Saw a Bald Eagle Soaring Over My Grocery Store”**

Description: The true-life nature discoveries and adventures of a computer book author turned naturalist and story teller. Jane conveys what this transformation has meant to her through edge-of-your-seat stories that are funny, provocative, and educational.

Background: Jane Kirkland is the author of acclaimed *Take a Walk* series of nature books for readers aged eight and up. Originally a computer specialist, trainer, and author of books about technology, Jane spotted a bald eagle soaring over the parking lot of a neighborhood store one day, and in that instant her life was transformed. She began learning all she could about nature and started sharing her discoveries in books and stories for children. "I was as new to this world as a child." she says.

Jane has appeared frequently on television, lectured throughout the country, and won numerous awards, including the National Arbor Day Foundation’s Education Award and *Learning* magazine’s Teacher's Choice Award. All of her books have been recommended by the National Science Teachers Association.

7:15-8:30 **“Take a Closer Look” Guided Activities Followed by Dessert**
Children’s Garden

Wednesday, April 29 Symposium
No Child Left Inside

8:00 a.m. **Check-In/Registration**
Education and Library Complex

8:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
Massey Conference Center Auditorium

Greetings from First Lady of Virginia, Anne Holton

8:30-9:30 **Jane Kirkland**
Naturalist, Story Teller, and Author
Chester, Pennsylvania

Title: **“Fighting Nature Deficit Disorder with a Field Guide Project for Your Family, School, Homeschooler, or Youth Group”**

Description: Jane Kirkland likes to say that “nature is not a destination.” She will show you how ubiquitous nature is and how it is as interesting and

exciting in our backyards, schoolyards, and neighborhoods as it is in faraway places. Discover how you and your children or students can explore and observe nature locally and how her Field Guide Project can help fight nature deficit disorder.

Background: (see above)

9:30 **Stretch Break**

9:45-11:15 **Robin Moore**
Director, Natural Learning Initiative
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina



Title: **“Reviewing the Evidence: Getting Outdoors in Nature Can Combat Negative Health Trends”**

Description: A growing amount of scientific evidence supports the commonsense idea that being outdoors in nature is good for human health—of body, mind, social relations, and spirit. For maximum effect, the deep experience of engaging with nature should begin in the first year of life, “my first spring.” But this “natural life” of the child seems constrained by barriers such as parental fear, threats of liability, lack of time, poor quality space, and more. How can design thinking help overcome these barriers in the “daily places” of childhood: homes, neighborhoods, childcare centers, schools, parks, museums, zoos—and botanical gardens? Such places need to be compelling enough to “pull” children and their caregivers away from indoor “screen time.” Knowledgeable designers can help with this task.

Background: Robin Moore is an architect, urban designer, and design researcher specializing in child and family urban environments that support healthy human development, informal play, and nonformal education. He is also professor of Landscape Architecture, Adjunct Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Director of the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has written numerous articles in scholarly journals on the subject of child development in the urban landscape and has published several books, including *Natural Learning* and *Plants for Play*. He is also a principal in the design and planning firm Moore Iacofano Goltsman.

11:15-12:15 **Yusuf Burgess**
Chair, Environmental Awareness Network and Board Member, Children
and Nature Network
Albany, New York



Title: **“Using the Power of Nature to Transform Urban Youth”**

Description: The amount of time young people spend outdoors has decreased significantly, research shows. The human cost of this alienation affects not only youth, but also adults, families and communities. Never before have the losses been so profound, especially for youth living in poverty and in dense urban communities. Returning to nature has restorative power.

Background: Brother Yusuf, as he is generally known, is an environmental educator at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation where he coordinates the DEC Diversity Program and is responsible for urban outreach to increase the diversity of the Summer Youth Environmental Education Camps. He is member of the Albany School District’s Youth Safety Task Force and mentor to many youth from elementary school to college. As a concerned and dedicated youth professional, he exposes young people to the natural world with engaging outdoor recreation activities. Part of his approach is to take urban youth on camping, boating, hunting, fishing, hiking, and skiing excursions, getting them involved in pursuits that take them outside the often-constricting worlds in which they live.

Brother Yusuf serves on the board of the Children and Nature Network. He also chairs the Environmental Awareness Network for Diversity in Conservation (EANDC); he is a Champion of the Eagle Eye Institute of Massachusetts and their “Learn about Forest” programs; and he is a founding member of the Diversity Committee of the New York State Outdoor Education Association. He is a graduate of the Leadership Training Institute of Hofstra College and is currently pursuing a course of instruction in Environmental Education and Urban Planning at the New York State Empire College.

12:15 **Box Lunch Break**

1:00-1:45 **Children's Garden Walkabout with the Guest Speakers**

Description: See the Children's Garden in action with Brother Yusuf, Jane Kirkland, Robin Moore, and Chip and Ashley Donahue. This is a rare opportunity to interact with the guest speakers, enjoy daily family activities in the Children's Garden, and learn more about all that nature has to offer young children.

2:00-2:45 **Chip and Ashley Donahue**
Founders, Kids in the Valley Adventuring!

Title: **Family Nature Clubs as a Solution**

Description: This session will address the barriers parents face that keep families from getting outside together. A main focus will be the Family Nature Clubs toolkit, as well as the speakers' personal experiences from hosting meetings and outings with Kids In the Valley, Adventuring!.

Background: Ashley and Chip Donahue, parents to three wonderful children, read about the health benefits of time spent outside engaging in free play in the incredible book, *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv. That reading challenged them to develop a simple idea to get more families outside together and to introduce families to fantastic local parks. Kids in the Valley, Adventuring! (KIVA) was started in January 2008 and has since held monthly meetings around the Roanoke Valley. KIVA focuses on three goals: Play, Nature Education and Volunteerism. KIVA's website is www.kidsadventuring.org.

2:45-3:45 **Robin Moore**

Title: **Design as a Health Intervention: Creating Compelling Natural Places for Childhood**

Description: Learn about the emerging evidence supporting outdoor design for fun nature play, learning, and education. Share examples of model environments attractive to families and supporting healthy early and middle childhood. Consider participatory design processes to engage communities in greening their child and family spaces with nearby nature.

Background: (See above)

3:45-4:00 **Final Questions and Answers with All Speakers**

4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Wednesday, April 29
Homespun Fun for Families

5:30-7:30 **Family Event: Homespun Fun for Families**

This Children's Garden event introduces easy outdoor activities you can do at home. Meet our guest speakers, learn about nature clubs from Chip & Ashley Donahue, and play together as you watch the sunset. Plus, Tracy Kane, noted author and illustrator of The Fairy Houses Series™, will read from her books and help families build fairy houses in the Children's Garden. Free with Garden admission; food available for purchase.