



Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association

An Affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education



Maxine Dibert- Keynote

Representative Dibert is a Koyukon Athabascan born and raised in Fairbanks. She taught in Fairbanks at Denali Elementary for 21 years. She is a contributing member of Women in Science Alaska and continues to be involved in designing science curriculum that braids Indigenous Knowledge with western science and education. Representative Dibert has a great passion for learning and she is eager to instill the power and excitement of life-long learning in others.



Shelly Lawson- Art Integration

Shelly's relocation from California to Alaska first took root when she volunteered for Alaska State Parks as a Naturalist after graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She is currently an Education Specialist for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and enjoys having the opportunity to create and coordinate education programs for all ages. For example, in a recent week the age of different education program participants spanned nearly 100 years!



Lia Keller, Alaska Forest Schools

Lia Keller was born in Anchorage where she now is raising her two sons. When her boys entered school, she opened the Alaska Forest School where she takes children into the woods to explore during the year-round program. While she most loves playing outside, she also serves on the Friends of Campbell Creek Science Center and Gold Nugget Triathlon volunteer boards.



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Molly Gillespie, Alasa Project Learning Tree State Coordinator

Molly Gillespie (she/her) is a naturalist and certified environmental educator with a passion for teaching students in the woods and background in utilizing public lands as classrooms. She believes natural, outdoor spaces are the best learning environments by providing multiple physical and mental health benefits as well as making learning fun! She is honored to live and work in the beautiful lands of Ahtna people near Yedatene Na' (Native Village of Cantwell, Alaska)



Kari Eschenbacher Young, ANROE

Kari Eschenbacher Young came to Alaska for “just for an internship” nearly 13 years ago. After moving to Alaska, she worked for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge as a camp director for an outdoor science camp and for the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, based in Anchorage, working with Tribes on water quality, environmental education, and grant management. Kari is currently a full-time parent residing in Eagle River and has been a ANROE Board Member since 2018.



Diana Rhodes - Anchorage Park Foundation Director of Programs

Biking, hiking and advocating for parks and trails as a path to health and happiness has been a lifelong passion for Diana Rhoades. She has more than 30 years in public policy strategy and communications, serving 10 sessions in the Alaska Legislature, two years in Washington DC on Capitol Hill, seven years in Tucson City Hall. A certified yoga instructor, Diana has taken courses on Shinrin-Yoku, the Japanese art of forest bathing for health and wellness.



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Glenn Hart -National Park Service

Born in Anchorage in 1962 and grew up in the Mat-Su Valley. I entered college in 1987 and began my NPS career at Sitka National Historical Park (seasonal Interpretation Ranger 88-89) for two summer seasons. Worked part time at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage (during the winter of 94) and have done numerous other details for other various National Parks in Alaska. Worked seasonally Kenai Fjords National Park (Interpretation then first full time Education Specialist) from 1990-1999 then Gates of the Arctic NP/P (their first full time Education Specialist) from 1999-2001, Moved onto Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve 01-17 (and was their first permanent full time Education Specialist), currently I am the Education Specialist for the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.



Robin Mayo- Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE)

Robin Mayo is the Executive Director for Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) in the Copper River Basin. She grew up in Fairbanks and draws on a lifetime of experience in spending time in nature. Before joining the nonprofit sector she owned a fiber arts business, worked as a guide, as a sheep shearer, and in hospitality. WISE is a bridge-building organization that works with a wide variety of agencies, tribal organizations, and nonprofits to bring

quality science and environmental education programs to youth and adults in the Copper River Basin.



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Mayaq Irussaar Qip'arluk Kagganaq Maangyaar (Valerie Tony)

Valerie is the latest representation of her Yup'ik and Sup'ik ancestry of the Kuigpak Tradition, geographically the Lower Yukon Delta. She is an interpreter of the Kuigpak oral history and strives to help others interpret and understand Yup'ik/Sup'ik spirituality. She brings this interpretation to her work as a researcher at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and to her studies as a UAA Anthropology student. Using what she learned from her family in Alakanuk, she leads a traditional Yup'ik/Sup'ik dance group in Anchorage, the Yurapik Dancers. The past two years she has consulted for REAP to incorporate

Yup'ik/Sup'ik Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom into their curricula.



Colleen Fisk - Education Director Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Colleen Fisk is the Education Director for the non profit Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). She grew up outside Benteh (Wasilla) with teachings of honoring the land and environment. She lives in the area again now and since 2016 she has delivered K-12 lessons and teacher training around clean energy (renewable energy and energy efficiency). The past two years she has worked to decolonize and indigenize the AK EnergySmart curriculum and outreach.



Leila Pyle, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

Leila Pyle is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in Kodiak and now lives in Fairbanks. She has taught in a variety of environmental education programs across the state for over 10 years and has worked with students preK all the way to adult. She loves working with youth and is passionate about helping the next generation of Alaskans face the challenges of today by connecting to their communities, lands, and the places that they live. In her current role, Leila is the coordinator for Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA), a leadership program that trains youth from across the state to make an impact on environmental issues by giving them the skills and tools to take action in their communities.



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Meet Megan, a born and raised Alaskan with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UAA. Beyond her academic achievements, she has brought a wealth of experience in public relations, marketing, and media advertising to Stone Soup Group since 2018.

In her downtime, Megan finds joy in various activities, including yoga, hiking, dancing, and travel. She's not one to shy away from learning, evident in her newfound skills like playing the ukulele and guitar, mastering snowboarding, and even picking up Spanish.

Megan's connection to Stone Soup Group's mission is deeply rooted beyond her professional endeavors, as she is a mother to two boys, one of whom is on the autism spectrum. She has shown her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others, both in her professional journey and personal experiences.