

The Serious Role of Silly In Talking and Teaching About Climate**July 2, 2024****Link to the recording:** <https://youtu.be/0Eq6LAZvzgs?feature=shared>**eePRO post:**<https://eepro.naaee.org/learning/serious-role-silly-talking-and-teaching-about-climate>**Speakers:****Esteban Gast, Comedian, Writer, and Host****Highlights of the chat transcript:****Welcome!**

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Hi, everyone. Welcome to the webinar! We're happy you're here!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Welcome everyone! We're so excited for this new take on climate communication and can't wait for you to meet Esteban! Please share your name, organization, and where you're joining us from!

Heather Stapleton: Heather Stapleton, Vero Beach FL

Jacque Martinez Marquez: Jacque and from Northern California

Mary Di Leo: Mary, Chicago IL!

Heather Stapleton: oh - and my agency is the Indian River Lagoon Natl Estuary Program

Sarah Wolf: Sarah, Indiana

Deborah Steinberg: Debbie in Pittsburgh

Kellie Donajkowski: Kellie - San Marcos TX

Jordan Mays: Jordan Mays Mark Twain National Forest! :)

Laura Markham: Laura /michigan

Lucine Tashjian: Lucy, Plymouth MA

Roberta Hunter: Roberta, NJ

Senan Gardiner: Senan (pronounce sen-en (like "send" a letter), currently in Lüneburg Germany

Ashley Kale: Ashley/Ohio/Environmental Educator

Kristina Meek: Hi, all. Kristina in St. Petersburg Florida. (Also an Ohio native.)

Ashley Kale: When will registration open up for the conference in November?

Aaron: Aaron in Tacoma, Washington. Environmental Educator for Pierce County.

Karen First: Karen from the North Shore in MA

Kristy Ahmed: Kristy from Oklahoma

robin deems: Robin Deems - Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Rochelle Strauss: Rochelle - Toronto, Canada

Heidi Plumb: SF Bay Area, Northern California

Rosa Soriano: Rosa from Dominican Republic. Living in New Mexico.

Ashley Kale: Great!!

Timothy Sullivan: Timothy from Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL

Alexis Schultz: Alexis from Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois

Elizabeth Spike: Elizabeth, White Mountains in New Hampshire

Anayancy Estacio: Anayancy from Pittsboro, North Carolina

Sean Arthurs: Sean Arthurs from EarthRights International in DC

Alexandra Marstall: Alex Marstall, Fairfax County, VA

Marisol Echenique: Hi everyone, Marisol in Oregon (originally from Florida).

Heather Lauer: Heather, Ohio EPA

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: Greetings from Manafwa district in Eastern Uganda 🇰🇪 Michael Wanjuzi Makongo is my name and I am a Laudato Si Animator, solutionary educator, farmer, climate change activist and passionate about the environment 🌳

Mallory Wahlstrom: Hey all, I am Mallory from White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire

Cathy Holmes: Cathy Holmes Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Natalee Good: Hello everyone! I'm Natalee a recent grad of a master's in EE currently in Florida but looking to get out to the PNW!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): More about Climate Change Education:
<https://naaee.org/programs/climate-change-education>

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Great to have so many folks joining us! Please share your name, organization, and where you're joining from!

Carol Mullins: Hello from Indianapolis, IN Community Engagement and outreach at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Katy Kachmarik: Katy, Community Engagement Manager at the Environmental Science Center, King County, WA

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Hi all! I'm Carrie (Bloomington, IN) and I'm happy to help if you need any tech support during today's eeWEBINAR.

Sarah Wolf: Hi Carol, I'm just west of Indy with Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality

Fiana Shapiro: Fiana Shapiro, Albuquerque/Cedar Crest, NM, Environmental Education Instructional Coordinator

Adam Ratner: Adam Ratner, Director of Conservation Engagement, The Marine Mammal Center, San Francisco Bay Area

Carol Mullins: Hi Sarah Wolf, I think we met at an Indiana annual gathering, lets connect soon. I passed on some water quality training to one of our staff.

Mary Di Leo: I-L-L!!

First interactive exercise- Share you worst restaurant experience

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Esteban's question: What's your *worst* experience you've had in a restaurant?

Heather Lauer: Finding half a cock roach.

Roberta Hunter: We cut into our chicken and it was raw

Heather Stapleton: I was a server. Spilled red sauce on a teens BEAUTIFUL PROM DRESS!

Elizabeth Ozbun: Daughter having a fit

Kristina Meek: First day at a new job waiting tables, a kid puked on one of my tables

Sarah Bodor: The kitchen at burger king caught on fire and the staff locked us IN!!!

Anayancy Estacio: I was supposed to meet my friend but he forgot so I was stood up but the waiters gave me a free dessert to make up for it!

Heidi Plumb: Eating in the outdoor patio and watching rats run toward the kitchen.

Marisol Echenique: Seeing one of the servers cleaning underneath her fingernails with the silverware

Kristy Ahmed: Our waiter introduced himself with the news that his brother passed away the day before. My middle daughter, which was sweet, tried to relate to him by saying her other father died. Her father was sitting at the table. We don't know this other father.

Natalee Good: Waiter was taking our order and their nose was runny and it dripped onto the table.... they tried to casually wipe it off with their apron.

Aaron: In a bout of pubescent rage at my loving mother, I slammed my fist down on the table and flung my chopsticks across the restaurant.

Mary Di Leo: Once a restaurant put my family upstairs when no one else was placed upstairs and they clearly forgot about us and we felt too guilty to ask so we sat up there for 2 hours just waiting for them

Karen First: When my daughter was a baby she threw everything on the floor

Isabel Julian: We were at a Red lobster and asked for ketchup. We got a glass bottle, when my brother shook it and opened it, the ketchup exploded everywhere!!!

Elizabeth Spike: I almost tipped over the table reaching for my credit card that fell on the floor. Made loud noise and everyone stopped eating to look at me.

Cynthia Nazario-Leary: The waiter kept getting our order wrong. We were getting other people's orders but not ours

Alexis Schultz: As a server, accidentally spilled soda on a very small child on my first week

robin deems: Found a box stapel in my Shrimp Creole at a very pricey seafood restaurant. In my mouth!

Rochelle Strauss: Day one working at a lunch counter and I made the milkshake machine explode everywhere

Daniella Rodriguez: Found a caterpillar in my wonton soup and they told me it was because they use the freshest ingredients 😊

Seth Winkelhake: ketchup lid wasn't secured and I shook it across my body and the whole room

Tania Marien: My husband and I walked into a restaurant and the server said, "You want to eat here?" We said, 'yeah' because it wasn't busy.

Fiana Shapiro: being given meat in my dish as a vegetarian

Emma Scudder: Went in for an interview as a server and the chef was standing one of the dining tables gutting a rabbit

Alexandra Marstall: Any time I'm being seated next to crying children.

Michael Cox: friend threw up his sushi into his water and the table after trying to keep up at AYCE

Rosa Soriano: I fell in front of everyone and a pina colada fell on my head.

Sarah Sinclair: while I was restaurant staff, I served the owner of that restaurant rotten vegetables. I didn't know they had expired in the vat weeks ago.

Hillary Bhaskaran: Tried to rescue food from being thrown away, but it was actually not going to be thrown away, so I looked like I was trying to steal it.

Carol Mullins: As server, dropped maple syrup my landlord and it started dripping from his nose.

Big Idea #1: Recontextualing:

Sophie Shrand: I'm here!

Nicole Chang: The website for the restaurant had a different menu than the current website, and the old one had dietary options that the new one had. The server told me it was my fault for not doing my research when I asked about GF options and the menu changes 😞

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Hi Sophie! So glad you're here with us today!

Elizabeth Ozbun: Toddler cafe

Heather Stapleton: No spills, no frills, no problem

Nicole Chang: Food Fight: The restaurant

Sarah Johnson: yes - blue man group!

Heather Stapleton: Spill Zone

Anayancy Estacio: Anti-Gravity Restaurant

Seth Winkelhake: carwash cafe

Danielle Katz: Crash mats

Kristina Meek: A rollerskating themed cafe

Rochelle Strauss: Ball pit becomes food pit - jello, marshmallows, etc

Fiana Shapiro: Wear a shirt you want to tie dye

Heather Stapleton: All you can catch- as we spill food IN to and ON to you!

Nicole Chang: call it Keep it Saucy

Aaron: Baby bird simulator for weak jawed individuals.

Mallory Wahlstrom: Bumper car café!

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: By the way, more about Sophie: SCIENCE WITH SOPHIE is an award-winning science comedy series for girls and everyone. Created and hosted by science educator/actor/comedian Sophie Shrand, the characters - all played by Sophie - invite YOU to be a smart, curious, brave, funny scientist every day. Now in Season THREE, the show has reached over 2 million children worldwide.

Carol Mullins: Food Fight Fridays - eat all you want

Hillary Bhaskaran: washed with edible soap

Nicholas DeMart: Gallagher café ... if you know the comedian 😄

Heather Stapleton: Its like build a bear, build a meal

Heather Stapleton: (I love to THINK I am funny)

Hillary Bhaskaran: the accidental chef

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-wanjuzi-makongo-1sa-0b4516142>

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo:

<https://climateactionproject.org/profile/MichaelWanjuzimakongo28681>

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo:

<https://sdgacademy.org/michael-wanjuzi-makongo-protecting-the-environment-through-la-udato-si-teachings/>

Rants

Betty Olivolo: traffic

Heather Stapleton: smog

d f: Smog days

Kristina Meek: Literally everyone is writing a screenplay

Danielle Katz: Lack of public transportation

Carlee Reber: how long it takes to get ANYWHERE

Fiana Shapiro: people saying climate change isn't happening

Fiana Shapiro: the HEAT!

Katy Kachmarik: Just so many people everywhere

Alexis Schultz: everything is so expensive

Danielle Katz: Take your life into your hands if you try to bike commute

Fiana Shapiro: losing things, like my wallet yesterday

Senan Gardiner: Germans love to complain about their trains

Danielle Katz: Sprinklers and green lawns

Cynthia Nazario-Leary: driving anywhere there

Hillary Bhaskaran: ditto on green lawns and no sidewalks

Appreciations

Heather Lauer: <https://ronfinley.com/>

Danielle Katz: More tree hugging spots! YES!

Alexis Schultz: gas is expensive, a peaceful walk is free

Megan Fink: Redirect your neurons! Love that

Carlee Reber: Nature time is x10 more effective

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Love this! Check out Science with Sophie!

<https://www.sciencewithsophie.com/>

d f: So creative reframing? Like when Ford(?) said if you asked people what they wanted, they'd say faster horses?

Big idea #2: Juxtaposition

Bradley Einstein: here!

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: <https://www.bradeinstein.com/>

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Welcome, Brad! Glad you're here!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Check out waytogoEinstein.com for more of Brad's creative work!

Carlee Reber: Ahhhh Pando!! 🥰

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Yay, Forest Service! Thanks, Brad!

Random words means ANYTHING can be an source of inspiration

Seth Winkelhake: an embarrassment of riches

Carlee Reber: Embarrassed to be human in the face of nature's awesomeness..?

Alexis Schultz: So embarrassed by my size next to these redwoods

Elizabeth Ozbun: Taking a leak in the trees and being seen is embarrassing

Danielle Katz: An embarrassment of how we've mistreated nature

Carlee Reber: Embarrassed to have never been here before even though I live so nearby

Heidi Plumb: Recognizing our connection to the bigger system

Sarah Bodor: When you catch yourself needing to go outside and touch some grass...

Fiana Shapiro: The embarrassment of the parks having a mission to preserve the areas and having them be for the public leading to detrimental effects

Elizabeth Ozbun: Recognizing our smallness in the context of nature

Alexis Schultz: paparazzi recording and recognizing the famous plants

Danielle Katz: Don't feed the wildlife OR ELSE

Marisol Echenique: Record evidence of the beauty and resilience of nature

Hillary Bhaskaran: Mass-Scott

d f: Get past embarrassment to allow fuller brainstorm, allow for silly, impossible stuff, like Cristo wrapping Rushmore in orange gauze?

Michelle Malalang: A group of pandas is an embarrassment which means I'd love to be a witness to that embarrassment on the daily.

Marisol Echenique: Get students outdoors and set a new precedent for how we interact with/ learn about the natural world around us

Marisol Echenique: Expand access to outdoor spaces and environmental education opportunities for students

Danielle Katz: Rivers for Change connects people to rivers through source to sea adventures, conservation, and education

Elizabeth Ozbun: Public schools

Trisha Herrera: TreePeople - Tree Planting!

Mary Di Leo: Aquarium

Michelle Malalang: Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

Marisol Echenique: Wastewater/ stormwater utility agency in Oregon

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-sustainable-futures-progress-through-partnerships-network/>

Ashley Kale: Green Team

Senan Gardiner: Citizen Science

Carol Mullins: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Helping Nature and Neighbors Thrive

Carlee Reber: Rack up your tree count!

Fiana Shapiro: that tree has a big rack!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): So many great ideas! Don't worry—we will share Esteban's slides, the Zoom chat, and this recording with everyone who registered for today's webinar.

Alexis Schultz: planting MOUNTAINS worth of trees

Kristina Meek: You can't falsify trees (there's no digital substitute)

Elizabeth Ozbun: Horizontal tree grafting

Hillary Bhaskaran: There are those wall planters, so horizontal could happen there too

Heidi Plumb: How many trees is the right portion?

Marisol Echenique: What portion of this area can we cover with trees?

d f: Plant (Falsely) "invasive" bamboo trees on stripped Mountains...love everyone else's posts

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo:

<https://sdgacademy.org/michael-wanjuzi-makongo-protecting-the-environment-through-laudato-si-teachings/>

Fiana Shapiro: plant trees on a healthy portion of the mountain, based on their natural growth patterns

Cynthia Nazario-Leary: Portion your trees correctly -- give them proper spacing for the spread and growth they'll need

Roberta Hunter: What portion of your heart is taken up by these mountains

Alexis Schultz: planting trees in a set portion of every town

Heidi Plumb: What portion of the trees around you are native species?

Rochelle Strauss: Making mountains out of saplings

Heidi Plumb: Imagine a mountain without any trees?

Cynthia Nazario-Leary: Take care of the trees on the mountain and they will take care of you

Fiana Shapiro: If you falsify a forest, the live species will know the difference

Michelle Malalang: To falsify your rare tree count on the portion of the mountain you're responsible means you deserve to be put on the rack!

Hillary Bhaskaran: The "Borgen" series has a funny episode where they do a quick about-to-plant-a-tree press event but toss the tree after the press conference

Elizabeth Ozbun: Racks can be used for tools

Hillary Bhaskaran: And we need that excitement to be generated for our students, letting them come up with most ideas

Alicia Thompson: Slippers and Flippers

Rochelle Strauss: Bring your slippers and pjs for an aquarium sleep over

Marisol Echenique: Pajama day at the aquarium!

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: slipper lobsters :-)

Fiana Shapiro: There's a sea star living in the slipper

Elizabeth Ozbun: Pajama day at the aquarium or night time PJ tours

d f: Slipper shells; what do fish wear?

Roberta Hunter: Put on your slipper shells and join us for an early morning coffee and donuts tour

Alexis Schultz: slippers at the aquarium! wear your slippers and learn about how different animals get around the aquarium!

Natalee Good: Slip into another world.

Seth Winkelhake: come get comfy with our local crustaceans

Hillary Bhaskaran: when the shoe fits ???

Kristina Meek: Working from home and sitting around in your slippers all day? Put on some damn shoes and get down to the aquarium

Alexis Schultz: slippers that look like the feet (and fins) of animals living at the aquarium. proceeds go towards animal conservation/feeding the animals at the aquarium

Hillary Bhaskaran: separating yourself from the earth

Rochelle Strauss: Slippers are soft, quiet - being quiet and gentle around nature as it reveals it's stories

Madeline Halvey: Local aquarium hosts a princess ball (think: Cinderella's glass slipper)

Kristina Meek: Something with otters, e.g. they slip and slide, they're the cutest slippers

Carlee Reber: Put on your slipper feet as we go towards this exhibit!

Fiana Shapiro: tracks found at the bottom of the ocean

Hillary Bhaskaran: Slip out of your comfort zone

Hillary Bhaskaran: thanks

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks, Brad!!!

NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): 💡 Do you have questions for Esteban? Please share your questions in the chat, too!

Closing remarks

Elizabeth Ozbun: Thank you.

Hillary Bhaskaran: That was fun!

Heidi Plumb: Thank you11

Nicole Funk: Thank you!!!

Marisol Echenique: Thank you!

Fiana Shapiro: Yup I just typed out pretty much the same question: Do you have certain strategies you use when dealing with the tough feelings related to climate change- fear, worry, overwhelm, hopelessness, especially when working with children

Seth Winkelhake: This was amazing! I love the random word generator!

Elizabeth Spike: I thought of two hopefully funny lines--1) LA traffic is so bad that you need HOV lanes for city (fill in name of a popular non Hway) streets, and 2) No, we cannot replant the forest with used Xmas trees.

d f: Saved chat; so many fun ideas generated...

Fiana Shapiro: thank you

Sheila Williams Ridge: Thank you!

d f: Do you have a tv show for kids? This was great...

Danielle Katz: <https://www.forceofnature.xyz/> has lots of resources for young people on climate anxiety

Roberta Hunter: This was the best webinar I have seen in quite some time. Thanks!

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: coming from rural Manafwa district can you collaboration and connect the global north and the global South?

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: compare notes and ideas!

Kristina Meek: Thank you!

Hillary Bhaskaran: Awesome, thank you!

Ilse Esparza: Thank you!

Danielle Katz: Thank you so much! Really fun!

Natalee Good: Thank you so much!

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: with Love from Manafwa district in Eastern Uganda 🇺🇬

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks, Esteban, Sophie, and Brad. And thanks to all of you for the creative and wonderful chatter!

d f: 🍌

Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: conference.naaee.org It's coming soon! It's going to be an amazing conference! Thank you all!

Timothy Sullivan: Thank you!

Bradley Einstein: Thank you!

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: 🥰

Mary Di Leo: And thank you!

Madeline Halvey: Thank you, Esteban!!! Loved this!

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: 🌳

Hillary Bhaskaran: quantity, experimentation, participation

Michael Wanjuzi Makongo: Nice one guys! I enjoyed every bit of the session 🥰 Looking forward to the next event 🌳🇺🇬