

A New Guide to Help You Assess Connection to Nature**Martha Monroe, University of Florida****Louise Chawla, University of Colorado Boulder****Gabby Salazar, University of Florida****September 22, 2020****[The Practitioner Guide to Assessing Connection to Nature](#)****Link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/k9Zveh5c8g8>****Highlights of the chat transcript:****Welcome!**

- Judy Braus: Welcome, everyone! I'm calling in from Vienna, VA!
- My name is Cassandra Meyer-Ogren, with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic, Connecticut
- Sheri Goodlet: Sheri Goodlet, Murphy NC Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation
- Anne Umali, NAAEE (she/her): Hi Everyone! Anne from NAAEE here. Arlington, VA.
- Tarin Hill: Hello! Tarin Hill with Guidestone Colorado in Salida
- Jocelyn Hubbell: Jocelyn Hubbell, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Kat Riley: Kat Riley, Colorado, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education!
- Ruth Alexander: Greetings from Evanston, IL. Ruth Alexander - Marketing Consultant for Ta'am Teva Nature Based Jewish Preschool in Northbrook, IL.
- Grace Lawrence: Grace Lawrence, NC Commerce Rural Planning
- Gabrielle De Meillon: Hi All, Gabby De Meillon from the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Tarin Hill: Hello! Tarin Hill with Guidestone Colorado in Salida
- Brian Correll: Brian Correll, environmental studies student at Skidmore College, Saratoga Spring NY
- Mariah Waters: Mariah Waters with The Galveston Bay Foundation in Texas
- Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck: Greetings, all! My name is Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck with the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE).
- Ashley Bozman: Ashley Bozman, she/her/hers, and I am the Fellowship Coordinator at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone, MN

- Amy Powers: Hi, I'm Amy Powers with PEER Associates, based in VT
- Kevin Floyd: Kevin Floyd from the University of Texas at El Paso
- Melanie Templeton: Hello! Melanie with Huron-Clinton Metroparks in southeast Michigan!
- Whitney Welch: Hi! Whitney Welch with the UT Gardens, Knoxville in Knoxville, TN
- Marguerite Bishop: Hi everyone! I'm from Nashville, NC working with the local elementary school here
- Sarah Pursel: I'm Sarah Pursel from the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust in North Carolina.
- Polly Burns: Hello! From Polly Burns, ReNEW Schools New Orleans!
- Linda Tugurian: Linda Tugurian, Durham Public Schools
- Audrey Dunn: Audrey with Cape Fear River Watch in Wilmington, NC!
- Pam Zornick: Pam Zornick, Chapel Hill, NC
- Deborah Staber: Hello from Deborah Staber at L.C.Bates Museum in Hinckley, ME
- Subash Chandra Kharel: Hello I am Subash Chandra Kharel, From Nepal working in Wildlife Conservation Nepal. We have an education program called Nepal Nature School
- Patricia Brown: Patricia Brown Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network Tallahassee, FL.
- Brianna Lites: Brianna Lites from Clayton County Water Authority in Hampton, GA
- Catherine Sanders: Catherine Sanders, Maine, Camp Forest in Brooks, ME... Namaskar Subash ji, glad you are here!
- Sarah Munroe: Sarah Munroe Friends of Green Spring Gardens Alexandria, VA
- Maggie Woosley: Hi! Maggie Woosley with Naples Zoo, FL
- Sarah Johnson: Sarah Johnson, Wild Rose Education, Carbondale, Colorado
- Sarah Kempfer: Sarah Kempfer with Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Lothian, MD.
- Jake FitzRoy: Hello I'm Jake FitzRoy from Florida. I work for the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network.
- Chris Parsons: Hi everyone. Chris Parsons with Word Craft in foggy Monterey, CA
- Vera Harsh: Vera Harsh from Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic

Share a recent memorable experience in nature

- Chris Parsons: This morning watched a Coopers Hawk while walking my dog in our local park
- Sarah Johnson: visiting my home river on Sunday - beautiful fall colors are starting to pop here at 6,000 feet
- Melanie Templeton: Taking more time to watch the day to day and seasonal changes
- Ashley Bozman: I really enjoyed some of the DEEP snow out here in MN! It was amazing taking kids, and myself, out on cross country skis
- Jake FitzRoy: Paddling and camping along the Peace River in Florida.
- Sarah Kempfer: Had our first field trip since COVID! Exploring through the forest and along the marsh with kids!
- From Gabby Salazar: I saw synchronous fireflies in the Smoky Mountains!
- Michele Benoit: Visited Pine Hill on Deer Isle to see rock from the Earth's mantle.
- Patricia Brown: Observed a Black Bear sow and cub
- Michelle Youngquist to: Not in the last 6 months, but a top nature experience was watching a great blue heron stalk and then consume a ground squirrel - in the sagebrush steppe!
- Alexandra Stefancich: Discovering the joy of hiking in trail-less areas and exploring the middle yuba canyon
- Polly Burns: I went on a research safari in Botswana, right when this pandemic started!
- Tanya Zastrow: Kayaking in Northern Wisconsin and was able to watch an eagle and a loon.
- Pam Zornick: A great hike in North Carolina Blue Ridge Parkway
- Judy Braus: I love all the nature experiences. Thank you for sharing!!!

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- Martha Monroe: <https://naaee.org/eeepro/publication/practitioner-guide-assessing-connection>
- Sarah Johnson: it will be interesting to hear this team discuss how their work compliments the ee21 evaluation work
- Martha Monroe: OK, I'll take a stab at ee21! That is a tool that educators can use to evaluate their program that Bob Powell and Marc Stern developed. It has 21 items which cover a variety of outcomes, including self-efficacy, problem solving skills, etc. Several of the items should either measure connection to nature (Humans are a part of nature) or correlate to it (I want to visit this place again), but I think there are only at most 3-4 items that are

related to relationship with nature. So ee21 assesses more outcomes of EE, and the C2N Guide assesses connection to nature more deeply.

- Sarah Johnson: That's helpful Martha - thank you! :-)
- Martha Monroe: And this author is here today! Thanks for your good work!
- Joy Finnigan: Looking forward to read the resource. Thank you for sharing all of this valuable information.
- Amy Powers: What would you recommend in a case where connection to nature is one of many constructs on a survey and you only have space for 1 or 2 questions?
- Gabby Salazar: Paper on C2N and conservation behavior:
<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/cobi.13381>
The article may be behind a paywall - if it is, we can try to find a way to share later.
- Tania Marien: It isn't behind a paywall. I was able to download it.
- Sarah Jennings: Is there data out there that supports engaging more students/school aged kids (unique participants) is a better model than the same school aged kids over a period of time? Wondering also, what is the magic amount of time, that research says - gets students enough exposure to start to care and perhaps start to be stewards?
- Chris Parsons: Chawla's 2020n article link:
<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/pan3.10128>
- Amy Powers: Thanks so much to all for this guide and presentation! Best wishes to all.
- Martha Monroe: Thanks for joining us!
- Sarah Jennings: YES! Thank you SO much =)
- Chris Parsons: Well done everyone. Thanks.
- Jocelyn Hubbell: This has been terrific. Thank you to all the presenters, coordinators, and funders!
- Amy Fredricks: Lots of great resources. Thank you.
- Sarah Jennings: How do you feel about the book last child in the woods? Richard Louv? Is this still a best practice book to read?
- Elizabeth Lee: Thank you all. Very interesting and lots of places to go next. Really appreciate the resources.
- Janet Ady: Such useful work! Thanks so much for undertaking it and for sharing it.
- Martha Monroe: And when the portal gets started, we can explore ways to collect our data together and learn more about what matters to connect folks to nature!



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