

## NHEE Expanding Expertise Conference Keynote Speakers Bios

### ***Moderator:***

#### **Amy Villamagna, Associate Professor, Program Coordinator, Environmental Science and Policy, [Plymouth State University](#)**

Dr. Villamagna uses a combination of field and GIS methods to explore how changes in land use and climate affect ecosystems. By incorporating principles of landscape, ecosystem, and community ecology, she identifies key patterns and processes in natural and semi-natural environments. She teaches in the undergraduate and graduate Environmental Science & Policy programs, Geography, and Sustainability (minor).

### ***Panelists:***

#### **Willa Coroka, Urban Wildlife Education Specialist, [NH Audubon](#)**

Willa Coroka (C as in “cinnamon”) is a wild child, her heart at its fullest while flitting through the New England forests amidst the hemlocks, birches, and pines. A New Hampshire native, Willa graduated with her MS in Environmental Studies in 2015 after several years of seasonal jobs that took her from the coast of Chile to the mountains of Spain and myriad locations in between. Willa comes to NH Audubon with a deep commitment to preserving wild spaces and a knack for evoking excitement in people’s perception of the natural world. Willa splits her spare time between meandering woodlands and meadows on horseback, spying on birds, traveling, reading, and playing in the garden.

Willa has been NH Audubon’s Education Specialist since the fall of 2020 and has taken the lead in so many ways: modifying and facilitating the third-grade **Urban Wildlife Education curriculum** for remote learning during the height of the pandemic; adapting and delivering the Beech Street second grade curriculum; and, most notably, designing and piloting an engaging 5-month long **Peregrine Falcon Education program** for fifth-grade students in and around Manchester. Willa brings professionalism and excitement to all of her programs both in-person and virtual.

#### **Kimberly O’Donnell, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, [Roots Therapeutic](#)**

Kimberly O'Donnell is a passionate early childhood professional and pediatric occupational therapist. She started her career and education in Early Childhood Education and Family Studies before getting her master's in Occupational Therapy. She has experience working in preschool and afterschool programs, early intervention, and outpatient clinics. Kimberly started her own practice in 2019 because she knew there would be a therapeutic benefit to get children outdoors and work in a quiet welcoming setting. Starting this practice simply felt right and the outcome has been rewarding!

**Aubrey Nelson, Energy Educator, [New Hampshire Energy Education Project \(NHEEP\)](#)**

Aubrey loves to explore and share the endless curiosities the world has to offer with those around her, so she was naturally drawn into teaching. She began with outdoor, experiential education programs, served for six years on the board of directors for NH Environmental Educators (NHEE), earned her MEd and spent 7 years teaching middle school science before joining VEEP/NHEEP in 2019. Some of her favorite work is helping teachers tackle climate action projects with their students and advising students who are prompting action in their communities. Aubrey is a mom of 2, wife, gardener, aspiring children's book author, founder of Inquir-Ed (education consulting), outdoor sports and games enthusiast, and is the designer, co-builder and co-operator of her net-zero home in Concord, NH.

**Angie Krysiak, Energy Educator, [New Hampshire Energy Education Project](#)**

Angie comes to NHEEP after 11 years as the Program Director and primary educator for NH Audubon's Massabesic Center. Originally from Wisconsin, she has lived in NH since 2003. She has a passion for science and nature and loves sharing those passions with students of all ages. In her free time, you can find her playing outside, hiking, camping, teaching yoga, reading a good book, or spending time with her husband and cats.

**Eileen Murphy, Outdoor Learning Specialist, [Rye Elementary School](#)**

Eileen Murphy grew up in Andover, Massachusetts, the second of eleven children. Outside was where you could always find her...building forts, helping in her mom's garden, exploring the woods, the ponds and the many state reservations near her. Nature has always been a part of her life. Eileen has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Bridgewater State College, MA; a Master's Degree in Special Education from Salem State College, MA; and has also done post graduate work at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She has primarily worked in public schools with grades preschool - fourth. Getting children outdoors has always been an important part of her curriculum. "When children are outside in nature, they are more grounded, and it opens their eyes to the wonders of this world." She has written numerous grants in order to bring the gift of outside to students in the schools she has worked in. There is a vegetable garden (expanded in 2021) at RES that has been in place since 2013. A new pollinator garden and an alphabet garden will be created on the campus of Rye Elementary School this year. She has held this teaching position since the 2022 - 2023 school year, as the then principal needed someone to take charge of the newly created outdoor education program. Eileen was the perfect fit. Aside from teaching the outdoor curriculum (incorporating science and social studies standards), Eileen runs an afterschool Cooking and Gardening class, is the advisor to the Environmental Club, and has her certification in SEL and Yoga. In her spare time, Eileen enjoys spending time with her 17 year old daughter, gardening, cooking, and sitting by fires in her backyard.