

## **NHEE Wild Open Spaces: Connecting to Nature Where You Are Conference Keynote Speakers Bios**

### ***Moderator:***

#### **Dr. R. Laurence Davis (Larry), NHEE Board Vice President and Professor Emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences**

Larry received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Earth Sciences from Washington University in St. Louis and his PhD in Geological Sciences from the University of Rochester. Growing up, his family was active in the outdoors. But it was the experience, at age 5, of finding a beryl crystal at an old mine in Maine that led him, eventually, to geology. In 1970, he became the Head of Nature Programs at Camp Pemigewassett ("Pemi") in Wentworth, NH, stepping into the huge shoes of his predecessor who retired after his 42nd year. Last summer (2019) he completed his 50th year in that position. While he has stepped down from running the program at Pemi, he will remain active as a teacher. He is also Professor Emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Haven where he was part of an interdisciplinary program offering B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Sciences. In 2018, the New England Environmental Alliance presented him with their Non-formal Educator Award. He is retired from university teaching and lives in Concord and Wentworth. He enjoys traveling, photography, "collecting" waterfalls, and making music (he is a flautist). He also continues his academic research in Karst Hydrology (groundwater in cavernous areas) at the Gerace Research Centre on San Salvador Island, Bahamas.

### ***Panelists:***

#### **Georgia Murray, Staff Scientist, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)**

Georgia Murray is a Staff Scientist with the Appalachian Mountain Club since 2000. Previously she has conducted biogeochemical research for the Marine Biological Laboratory's Ecosystem Center at Toolik, Alaska a Long-term Ecological Research site and worked at the University of Washington maintaining a long-term small watershed monitoring site within Olympic National Park. Georgia currently oversees Appalachian Mountain Club's ambient air pollution program in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service including mountain-based monitoring of cloud, rain, and stream water chemistry in Wilderness areas in the White Mountain National Forest. She also leads AMC's plant phenology monitoring work using Nature's Notebook, which incorporates community science, and conducts mountain climate research.

## **Donna J. Kuethe, Retired Recreation Director, Town of Moultonborough**

Donna J. Kuethe, CPRP, served as the Recreation Director for the Town of Moultonborough, NH for 41 years, retiring in 2020. In that role she was the first full time director, taking the department from a part time seasonal program with limited staff and resources, to a well-respected year-round agency reaching residents and visitors of all ages. She spearheaded growth in programming, capital facilities and community initiatives. She currently is the Project Manager for Operation Resiliency Response (formerly Operation Recreation Response) for the national non-profit, ActivEnviro. She is the initiator of ORR – an ActivEnviro Initiative that proposes a multi-tiered approach for Parks and Recreation Agencies to be prepared for, respond to and create resilient re-building from disasters. She was the lead author for comprehensive ORR Manual, Preparedness for Natural Disasters in Your Community: A Guide for Parks and Recreation Agencies. Donna served as the Executive Director for GP RED (now ActivEnviro) from 2019-2023, leading, organizing and implementing a variety of initiatives, and convenings. As a Recreation Professional Donna has been very involved in the profession through the New Hampshire and National Recreation and Park Associations as well as other professional organizations. She has been recognized as a tireless advocate, educator, leader and organizer for public recreation at the local, state, regional and national level. She has served in many leadership positions at the state, regional and national level and continues to do so after retirement. She served on the committees that created the statewide HEAL Initiative (Healthy Eating Active Living) as well as the Children in Nature Initiative, serving on that committee from 2007 until 2020. She represented NHRPA on the Open Project Selection Process Committee (Land and Water Conservation Fund) for over 20 years and was involved in updates to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Management Plan (SCORP) during that time. Donna was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administrators in 2019, which limits its membership to 125 members nationally. Donna has a wide variety of experience and a fierce passion for the power and impact of parks and recreation. Participating in international study tours, and volunteer work on international and national humanitarian projects with the non-profit, Every Child is Ours, has fostered a global vision of the importance of parks and recreation. In addition, Donna has written articles and presented at many regional, state and national conferences including NRPA, NIRSA, and the ActivEnviro National Think Tank, on a wide variety of topics including but not limited to - Emergency Preparedness, Professionalism in Parks and Recreation, Personal and Professional Resiliency, Social Equity and Revenue Projections, Adapting to Climate Change, Aquatics Risk Management, the Power of Parks and Recreation and many other topics.

## **Tanya O'Dee, Library Director, Somersworth Public Library**

Tanya O'Dee is the director and children's librarian at the Somersworth Public Library. Tanya earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Wildlife Management, and a Master's in Education with an environmental science focus. She has spent the past two decades working as an educator in various settings. As a public-school teacher, she prioritized connecting the school curriculum with the local environment, as well as instilling an appreciation for nature in her students. In her transition to a public library in an urban environment, Tanya's goal is to create engaging programs that encourage the community to get outside and find nature where they are.