

Understanding Nature

The evolution of biodiversity on earth

A workshop for wildlife educators



14th August 2019

9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Ipswich IP4 1QJ

Summary

An inspiring workshop for wildlife educators of primary-aged children giving an overview of how life on earth arose, how the natural world functions and how to explain these concepts to this age group. There will be plenty of ideas for activities.

Workshop outcomes

- A better understanding of nature and evolution, including the classification of species and relationships in ecosystems.
- Ideas on how to incorporate these concepts into learning activities for children.

Who is the workshop for?

Wildlife educators including teachers, wildlife group leaders and volunteers.

Speakers: these are all professionals in nature education.

Topics

- *The time scale of the evolution of the earth and introducing species classification to children* **Dr. Lucy Catto, Norwich Mini Professors**
- *Inheritance: mechanisms of evolution and DNA extraction* **Dr. Amanda Hartley, The Little Story Telling Company**
- *How fossils can be used to understand evolution* **Bob and Caroline Markham, Howard Mottram, GeoSuffolk**
- *Introducing plants, animals and fungi to children* **Dr. Jonathan Mitchley, University of Reading Botany Dept and online and in schools as Dr. M Goes Wild**
- *Species identification and food webs* **Ashley Parfitt, Green Light Trust**
- *Ecosystems, habitats and natural cycles* **Emma Keeble, Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

See overleaf for speaker details

Pen Portraits of Speakers

Judy Powell ex-Head of Education at Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Judy understands the importance of connecting children with nature – for themselves and for the environment.

Amanda Hartley, The Little Story Telling Company

Mandy has worked in different laboratories for 15 years, using DNA to study diverse subjects. She writes books, runs scientific workshops and performs stories that help children visualise different scientific concepts with the aim of inspiring children with a love of science.

Lucy Catto, Norwich Mini Professors

Lucy has a PhD in Biochemistry from Bristol University and started science writing and running science clubs in primary schools shortly after her children were born. She has been involved in science communication for over 14 years.

Bob and Caroline Markham, Howard Mottram, GeoSuffolk

Bob, Howard and Caroline are geologists and geographers who aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of the Suffolk landscape and geology.

Jonathan Mitchley, Associate Professor of Field Botany at the University of Reading

Online and in schools as *Dr M Goes Wild*, Jonathan promotes teaching plant identification to adults and children.

Ashley Parfitt, Green Light Trust

GLT is a charity based at Lawshall, Suffolk which provides education in the conservation and protection of the natural environment. GLT carries out training for teachers and group leaders, offering qualifications in Forest Schools teaching.

Emma Keeble, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

As experienced environmental educators with over 30 years active environmental education work in the county, SWT will showcase that work to the attendees.

Workshop Format

We will be using two well-equipped laboratories in the Wildlife and Conservation Department of the University of Suffolk in Ipswich.

There will be a short introduction on why nature education is important. Speakers will have 40 minute time slots to cover the basic principles of each topic and demonstrate activities.

A short Q&A session is included for each topic and there will be opportunities to exchange ideas on activities for children.

Cost: £50

Please bring your own lunch or there are food outlets nearby.

Refreshments will be offered at the morning break

To view the programme and book, visit www.sns.org.uk

**Please pay in advance online at www.sns.org/
For further information, contact: Joan Hardingham
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