

3:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon breakout sessions II

Ballroom

Urban Agriculture and Landscape Design

Panel on urban green spaces, ag, and permaculture (45 minutes total)

Gus Von Roenn, founder and Executive Director of Omaha Permaculture

Tim Rinne, Lincoln Hawley Hamlet

Urban agriculture education (15 minutes to present, 5 minutes for audience questions)

John Porter is the University of Nebraska extension program leader for the statewide Horticulture, Landscape, and Environmental Systems program area as well as the urban agriculture extension educator in the Omaha metro area. Porter's work and passion as an educator revolve around connecting people and communities to knowledge and resources to build resilience, capacity, and equity around urban and peri-urban food production, food access, and sustainable agriculture. His work includes engaging learners through various methods to learn about fruit and vegetable production, farm business development and management for aspiring and beginning farmers, produce food safety practices, hydroponics production, food systems, and more. He received his MS in Horticulture from WVU and my BS in Biology/Botany from Marshall University.

Water Dogs – landscape irrigation (15 minutes to present, 5 minutes for audience questions)

Kelly Feehan, Nebraska Extension Educator for sustainable green space with a focus on community trees, water and pollinator-wise landscapes, residential rain gardens and weather-ready landscapes.

Ballroom West

Tools for Water Management II (15 minutes to present, 5 minutes for audience questions)

GeoCloud

Jesse Korus is a Groundwater Geologist and Associate Professor in the Conservation and Survey Division of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. His research focuses on the understanding the influence of subsurface differences on hydrologic system function and water sustainability. He received his PhD and BS in Geology from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and MS from Virginia Tech.

Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment

The Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) project was formed in 2006. The sponsors consist of six NRDs (Lewis and Clark, Lower Elkhorn, Papio-Missouri River, Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Nemaha) formally organized by an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. Other cooperating agencies include the: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural

Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and U.S. Geological Survey. The long-term goal of the project is to develop a geologic framework and water budget for the previously glaciated portion of eastern Nebraska. The initial funding source was a three year Interrelated Water Management Plan/Program (IWMPP) grant.

Kathleen Cameron, PG is a Survey Hydrogeologist and ENWRA Coordinator for the Conservation and Survey Division of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. She received her BS in Geology from Binghamton University.

Using the Internet of Things for observation well monitoring

Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) has monitored static water levels across their district for over 50 years. This session discusses the technology used in partnership with SmallData Tech (SDT) to transition from manual readings twice a year to an automated format for daily data retrieval.

Matt Bergmeyer and Rusty Bartlett, SmallData Tech

Transformational leadership

Environmental leaders are tasked with finding innovative solutions to dynamic environmental challenges. Leaders must have the desire for new information, knowledge, and experiences that motivate resolving gaps in one's knowledge (i.e. curiosity) which will enable leaders to find forward-thinking solutions. The field of environmental management has seen recent change including shifts from transactional to more transformational leadership styles, as well as greater gender diversity. It's essential to understand how curiosity influences this new wave of transformational leadership and future environmental decision making. This explanatory mixed-methods study investigated the role of curiosity and champion of innovation as predictors of transformational leadership in environmental leaders, and the way curiosity influences transformational leadership in female environmental leaders. We assessed trait curiosity, champion of innovations, and transformational leadership scores of participants in the year-long Nebraska Water Leaders Academy. Regression analysis revealed that curiosity and being a champion of innovation were a strong predictors of transformational leadership from both the participants' and their raters' perspectives. Interestingly, age was inversely correlated with curiosity and champion of innovation from both the participants' and raters' perspective. Further, thematic analysis of interviews with women participants who scored high in both curiosity and transformational leadership produced seven themes that reveal insights into the influence of curiosity on women's environmental leadership.

Brooke Mott, Environmental Specialist, Water Planning Division, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Aksarben Room

National Drought Mitigation Center Workshop

The *Ready for Drought?* game is an in-person role-playing game based on the Extreme Event game developed by the National Academy of Sciences. Players work together to solve problems that can arise in their communities during a drought - building community resilience. They learn to prioritize resources, build coalitions, respond to, and assess the impacts of a drought, while practicing critical thinking and improving civic literacy related to drought resilience.

Grace Campbell joined the NDMC in August 2021 as a Graduate Research Assistant after graduating from Western Kentucky University with a B.S. in Meteorology and a certificate in GIS. She is pursuing a M.S. in Natural Resource Science, specializing in Bio-Atmospheric Interactions. One of her interests includes mitigating the effects of changing weather and climate on agriculture.

Lindsay Johnson joined the National Drought Mitigation Center staff as a climatologist in January 2023. She is originally from Aurora, Colorado, and grew up skiing, rafting, hiking and playing soccer. She worked as an Operational Meteorologist at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica, after completing her meteorology degree at UNL.

Tonya Bernadt, education and outreach specialist, joined the National Drought Mitigation Center in 2009. She is the project coordinator for Climate Masters of Nebraska, which educates community members about reducing their carbon footprint and effectively communicating climate change information to others. She has been involved in a variety of projects while at the NDMC. Within these projects she communicates with and educates stakeholders; develops educational activities and outreach components; writes grants to help secure NDMC funding; facilitates workshops and events and collaborates with the School of Natural Resources, Public Policy Center and other partners on projects. She is a team member on UNL's Extension Resiliency, EDEN drought, and NIDIS Engaging Preparedness Communities working groups.