

EAU CLAIRE GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

Session 1 (10:30 - 11:30)

Room # see map

330 All Day A Transportable Museum Exhibition of Arts, Literature & Film: Dawn & Art Shegonee

Call For Peace, Honoring the Threads of Ancient Wisdom / Featuring: UW Eau Claire Historic Council Oak Tree
In 2017 Call For Peace Drum & Dance Company's Museum Exhibition, was presented in Belfast Ireland for the International Network of Peace Museums Conference. It honors the tapestry of humanity, taking you on an historical timeless journey of hope, that begins in 1492 and leads us towards a positive future. It weaves the stories, of the drums, the trees, the people, places, events, and sustainable solutions grounded in indigenous wisdom for our future generations to come, It is through the cultural threads of our diversity, that enriches our lives, cultivates our creativity, and fosters our democracy!

311 Signs for Political Campaigns and Community Action: Adam Grabski

Various sign making techniques, their use and placement strategies.

320 A What Is Happening to Our Precious Lands & Waters in Frac Sand Country: Dr. Ted Auch, Timothy Zeglin

Dr. Ted Auch has photographed Wisconsin frac sand mines, offered challenges to the industry, gathered data, analyzed and charted, graphed, and studied information about frac sand mines and most of all made many of us aware of what it does to the hills, ridges, and bluffs and waterways of our state. He has visited sites in several Midwest states, is aware of the impact the great northern white has on the hydraulic fracturing industry and the people impacted by the industry. Ted will share his research and collective stories, scenes, and other information with attendees at this session.

320 B Democracy, Free Markets, and Crony Capitalism: George Penn

This breakout will discuss the natural connection between Democracy and Free Market Economics. And we will discuss how what exists in America is not Free Market Economics, but Crony Capitalism – and how this has displaced Democracy with the current Oligarchy.

320 E Monetary Reform: What we can do about it: Howard Switzer

In this breakout we will explore how the current system has operated to create poverty and dependency world around, how it concentrates wealth, demands continual growth, why it breaks down and what must be done to reverse that trend. We will look at Monetary Reform proposals that would make the money system operate democratically, under a sovereign monetary system that

would issue money not as debt but as a public asset for the common good while banning privately issued money for personal gain, which is the real definition of usury. This is about how to put the making of public policy back under public control.

320 F Courage and Coalition: Citizen Power in Action: Kim Dupre, Jim Swanson, Criste Sullivan-Greening

In a time when state and federal government is largely captured by special interests, citizens have taken on the costs and burdens of protecting public health and environmental integrity. People from every background are working together in community to solve problems and strengthen our democracy.

330 At the Crossroads of Truth is the Great Turning, From Empire to Earth Community: Dawn & Art Shegonee, Mary Kay Baum, Vic Akemann, James Morgan

It said, in a Ojibwe tradition that when the water turns to poison, and you can no longer eat the fish, a new people will emerge. The Panel will present on historic native truths, toxic roots of incarceration, ecological literacy, and its interconnections of knowledge. All matter, every object, atomic theory, our brain, the body, and oceans are connected. How Unlikely Alliances, sustainable solutions, are part of a new people emerging and working towards Earth Community, and the common good of ALL!

340 Fighting for our Public Schools: Joe Luginbill

In a time when PreK-12 public education is facing unprecedented attacks from Madison and Washington, D.C., learn what communities are doing to stand up for high quality public schools for EVERY child. Gain some background knowledge about current laws that are harming public education, and learn about policies and programs that you can implement in your community.

340 A Student Engagement With Sustainability Endeavors:

Sustainability: Polycarbonate Solar Water Heater: Dr. Crispin Pierce, Ph.D., Sawyer Buck, Dr. Kim Pierson

A new low-cost high efficiency solar water heater panel has been developed and initially tested. The panel will be connected to a ground-source heat pump to provide a very efficient and clean-energy system to heat buildings. Ground-source heat pumps extract thermal energy (heat) from the ground and transfer it into a building. They work by pumping cold water through piping buried in the ground. The ground heats the water which then returns to the heat pump. The heat pump takes a large volume of warm water and transforms it into a smaller volume of hot water. The hot water is then pumped through a radiator inside to heat a building. Our design uses a high efficiency solar water heater panel to heat the cold water instead of the ground piping loop. This makes it a far less expensive system that can also be retrofitted to an existing building. Our panel design is more efficient at a lower cost than existing commercial solar water heater panel designs. We are currently in a testing phase to determine the long-term durability of our panel design.

Keeping Our Food Safe: An Internship with Team Diarrhea: Alexandra Kurutz, Zachary Zirnhelt

Providing a safe and sustainable food supply is essential to protecting human health. UW-Eau Claire students interning with the Minnesota Department of Health will share their “food detective” work in tracking down and eliminating cases of Salmonella and other food borne illnesses. Alexandra Kurutz and Zachary Zirnhelt.

Sustainable Tourism and Support for Marine Protected Areas in Tofo, Mozambique: Salek, Kyle Christopher

In July of 2017, I traveled to Tofo, Mozambique to engage in research in collaboration with the All Out Africa Marine Research Centre. I assisted them in their ecological/behavioral data collection on the region's marine Megafauna while also collecting data via my own tourism survey. I have since completed the analysis stage for my survey data, have presented in poster and oral format, and am working on expanding this work into a larger project that will include geospatial data to delineate a potential marine protected area and its economic value.

Session 2 (2:25 - 3:25)

Room # see map

311 Why Wisconsin ranks poorly for election security, and how easily you could help fix that.: Karen Mckim

In the past year, two definitive studies of election security in the 50 states have ranked Wisconsin in the bottom half. We have paper ballots. The problem is that our local election officials do not use them. They seal the ballots on Election Night and certify the computer-calculated election results without making any effort to detect and correct electronic miscounts. Sealed ballots don't deter hackers; they protect them. But the tide is finally turning, and developments at both the state and national level are making Wisconsin county clerks take a fresh look at their options for reviewing election results before they certify them. This breakout will describe the threats that could keep our votes from being counted accurately; the (relatively) easy and cheap steps county clerks could take to protect our election results effectively; and what you can do in your own county to promote election security.

320 A Get Your Granny On: Old, Bold & Active: A dozen or so Raging Grannies

We'll describe Gaggles of Raging Grannies, invite attendees to sing a few songs with us (not mandatory), hear from each Granny what being part of this means to her, talk about starting a new gaggle, and begin writing a song about whatever issue the attendees decide needs a song.

320 B Reclaiming Our Republic and Economy Through Movement Building: George Penn

This breakout will discuss why a nothing short of a movement, the likes of Suffrage and Civil Rights, driven by committed and accepting citizens, will allow us to Reclaim our Republic from the oligarchy.

320 E The Money Story: How we got here: Howard Switzer

It has been said that there is nothing new in the world except the history we do not know. Discussions of democratic Monetary Reform seem new because we've never learned its history in school, or through the media. As the great economist J.K. Galbraith pointed out "The problem of the modern economy is not a failure of a knowledge of economics; it's a failure of a knowledge of history. Do not be alarmed by simplification, complexity is often a device for claiming sophistication, or for evading simple truths." In this breakout we briefly cover the history of money and monetary systems which you will discover is really the history of power.

320 F Progressive Values and Framing (Track 1) - Introduction to Effective Campaign Messaging: George Greene & Scott Wittkopf

George Greene and Scott Wittkopf lead a new presentation and discussion designed to show you the Why, What, and How of cognitive framing - a necessity for any organization or campaign to effectively communicate progressive values. Join two of the nation's leading experts in applying cognitive science research to political communications for a vital discussion of why 21st Century progressive campaigns require a new approach to communications.

330 Rights of Nature for Wisconsin Watersheds: Dace Zeps, Juliee de la Terre

There is a deep flaw in a system of law that treats living beings as objects or property, while treating corporations (which are a form of property) as subjects of the law with legal personality and rights. This promotes an economic paradigm based on endless growth fueled principally upon the destruction of nature. Under this system, nature is valued solely for its utility to human beings; as resource, as property, as natural capital. A new system of thinking is desperately needed, one that establishes nature as the foundation of all other systems built upon it. A global movement to acknowledge the rights of nature in courts of law is gaining momentum. In the US, numerous communities are incorporating rights of nature language into local ordinances, enacting new community bills of rights, and amending current articles of governance to protect their lifegiving ecosystems and wrest power from corporations by acknowledging that nature, in all its lifeforms, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles. Join us to learn about how you can become a part of this movement to recognize fundamental rights of nature for Wisconsin's Rivers and the greater Great Lakes Watershed!

340 Climate Change in America: Attitudes, Threats, Challenges and Actions: Dr. Jim Boulter

Climate change is accepted as real and human-caused by a growing number of Americans – it is no longer a distant worry for future generations. As demonstrated in news stories of extreme weather events from around the world, across the country and within our own state, it is becoming a real and present threat to our lives, livelihoods and lifestyles. Despite this – and many other reasons for concern – Americans still give climate and the environment low priority in their voting decisions. Consequently, this issue remains largely absent in our news coverage (including weather forecasts), our political discourse and consequently in our legislation. In this workshop, attendees will see the latest data on their neighbor's attitudes toward climate change. They will learn about and discuss recent studies of threats to human health and social welfare. We all recognize the maddening political challenges to legislative

policies to mitigate climate change and to enable our communities to become more resilient. However, this is reason to believe that we are nearing a tipping point in climate partisanship and there are many, simple things that we all can do to shift this balance toward action. Please join us to learn how!

340 A Air Quality Research on Frac Sand Mining & Respirable Crystalline Silica

Joined by student colleagues, Dr. Pierce will present results from year-long “pre-mining” air quality measurements in Albertville, WI; health risk findings from sites in Bloomer and New Auburn WI now being published, and initial results from a citizen monitor (“Purple Air”) in Hixton WI.

Session 3 (3:40 - 4:40)

Room # see map

311 Medicare For All. The Doctor Is In: Dr. Vicki Mayer, Dr. James Mayer, Sean Downing

An interactive discussion led by Dr. Vicki Mayer, between audience and panelists about the many reasons why we need Medicare for All Now, with a look at the Medicare Bill before Congress and how it works.

320 B Tuning Up Your Toolbox: Austin Northagen, Lindsey Brandrup, Bruce Neeb

Are your tools a little rusty or needing some spiffing up for a more effective outcome? Attending this breakout will give you some fresh resources for new ideas and strategies that will allow your workgroup to have more effective outcomes as you work on challenging health and environmental projects.

320 E Living With The Impacts Of Extreme Energy Extraction: Stories From The Frontline: Sarah Zarling, Rob Danielson, Dwight Swenson, Patricia Popple

The fossil fuel industry has created a footprint of concern not only locally but regionally, statewide, nationally and internationally. From trucks and rail cars to oil trains and pipelines as well as the ever increasing development of transmission lines to transmit power, stories abound about the impacts on people and their communities. Frac sand mining, processing and trans-load produce examples affecting many right at home. Panelists will share what they have done to empower people to become active and to make a difference in the final outcome.

320 F Progressive Values and Framing (Track 2) - Applications from Local Grassroots Campaigns: Scott Wittkopf & George Greene

Join Scott Wittkopf and George Greene in a new presentation showing examples of how local grassroots campaigns fighting the expansion of frac sand mines have used cognitive framing of progressive values to change the public debate, and put mining corporations on the defensive. This session will also discuss how the same strategy applies to other progressive issues.

340 Public education funding and the growing threat of privatization: Jeff Leverich

This breakout will look at rationales for school vouchers, examine the evidence, and then look at the history of state funding for private education in Wisconsin. Too few Wisconsinites are aware that the state is set to take more and more money away from public schools annually and use those resources to fund private education.

340 A Cannabis Legalization Policy Choices: Ben Plunkett

This presentation and discussion on the impact of choices in legalization policy. Market regulation and consumer protection in an emerging Wisconsin business sector.