# RACHEL E. SZCZYTKO

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# EDUCATION

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Michigan State University | Ph.D. Community Sustainability | May 2028 (anticipated) |
| North Carolina State University | M.S. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management | December 2017 |
| University of Michigan | B.S. EnvironmentConcentration: Terrestrial Ecology | August 2014 |
| Certificates and Trainings |  |  |
| We All Count | Foundations of Data Equity | June 2021 |
| Antioch University New England | Conservation Psychology Institute | June 2016 |
| National Association for Interpretation | Certified Interpretive Guide | June 2015 |

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Research Assistant | Michigan State University | 05/2023 - |
| Research Associate | Penn State University | 01/2023 - |
| Research Assistant | North Carolina State University | 02/2023 – 09/2023 |
| Environmental Education Program Associate | Pisces Foundation | 05/2019 –01/2023 |
| Science Education Specialist | Asombro Institute for Science Education | 05/2018 – 04/2019 |
| Research Technician | North Carolina State University | 12/2017 – 07/2018 |
| Research Assistant | North Carolina State University | 2016 - 2017 |
| Educator and Interpretive Ranger | Student Conservation Association | 2015 |
| Program Instructor | Thousand Pines Outdoor Science School | 09/2014 – 12/2014 |
| Field Researcher | EcoQuest Education Foundation | 01/2014 – 06/2014 |
| Research Assistant | University of Michigan | 2013 - 2014 |

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

1. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R**., Carrier, S., & Peterson, M. (2021). How outdoor science education can help girls stay engaged with science. *International Journal of Science Education,* 43(7), 1090-1111.
2. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., & **Szczytko, R.** (2021). A phenomenological exploration of the craft beer movement. *Journal of Foodservice Business Research*, 1–22. https://doi.org/10.1080/15378020.2021.1964932
3. **Szczytko, R.,** Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., & Bondell, H. (2020). How combinations of recreational activities predict connection to nature among youth. *The Journal of Environmental Education,* 51(6), 462-476.
4. Clark, K., Pender, D., Peterson, M., Stevenson, K., Lawson, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2020). Reaching Underserved Populations through a Fisheries Education Program. *Fisheries*, 45(3), 131–137. https://doi.org/10.1002/FSH.10390
5. Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., Olson, R., & **Szczytko, R.** (2019). Making the Case for a Null Effects Framework in Environmental Education and K-12 Academic Outcomes: When “Just as Good” Is a Great Thing. *Frontiers in Communication*, 3. https://doi.org/10.3389/FCOMM.2018.00059
6. **Szczytko, R.,** Stevenson, K., Peterson, M. N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. L. (2018). Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. *Environmental Education Research,* 1-18.
7. **Szczytko, R.,** Carrier, S., & Stevenson, K. T. (2018). Impacts of outdoor environmental education on teacher reports of attention, behavior, and learning outcomes for students with emotional, cognitive, and behavioral disabilities. *Frontiers in Education* (Vol. 3, p. 46).
8. Larson, L. R., **Szczytko, R.,** Bowers, E. P., Stephens, L. E., Stevenson, K. T., & Floyd, M. F. (2018). Outdoor Time, Screen Time, and Connection to Nature: Troubling Trends Among Rural Youth?. *Environment and Behavior,* 0013916518806686.

**POPULAR PUBLICATIONS**

**Articles**

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Stevenson, K. (2017, May) How Kids Learn in Nature. Parks & Recreation, 36-37.

**Blogs**

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2021) Many ways to be outside. Retrieved from: https://piscesfoundation.org/many-ways-to-be-outside/
2. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R.,** & Oleniacz, L. (2020) To bond with nature, kids need solitary activities outdoors. Retrieved from: https://news.ncsu.edu/2020/08/to-bond-with-nature-kids-need-solitary-activities-outdoors/
3. **Szczytko, R.** (2019) Storytelling for connection and change. Retrieved from: https://piscesfoundation.org/storytelling-for-connection-change/
4. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Campsites 101. Retrieved from: http://blog.nhstateparks.org/campsites-101/
5. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Alternatives to summiting. Retrieved from: http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-alternatives-to-summiting/
6. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Tired of being bitten by bugs? Hire a bat. Retrieved from: http://blog.nhstateparks.org/tired-of-being-bitten-by-bugs-hire-a-bat/
7. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Another alternative to summiting. Retrieved from: http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-another-alternative-to-summiting/

# Video Blog

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Klene, G. (2015) Family-Friendly Hikes: Monadnock’s Harling & Hinkley Trails. Retrieved from: https[://w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU_5oNh5bp4)ww[.youtube.com/w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU_5oNh5bp4)a[tch?v=hU\_5oNh5bp4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU_5oNh5bp4)

# POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

# Invited Presentations

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Morris, J. (2021, May) The Power of Movement Building. NOAA Environmental Literacy Program PI Workshop. Virtual.
2. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., **Szczytko, R.,** & Chesonis, T. (2019, May) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Outside Voices Seminar Series.  Raleigh, NC.
3. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Dunn, R., **Szczytko, R.,** & Strnad, R. (2018, October) Conservation Biology and Kids. 16th Annual Natural Learning Design Institute. Raleigh, NC.
4. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Strnad, R.L., Carrier, S.J., Busch, K.C., Demattia, E.A., Bondell, H.D., Martin, K.L., Yao, Y., Zhang, Z., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.**, Jackson, S.B., & Hartley, J.M. (2018, September) Connecting Children to Nature in an Urbanizing World.  R.L. Rabb Science and Society Symposium for Urban Sustainability.  Raleigh, NC.
5. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, April) How Children can be a Solution to Our Conservation Challenges. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Seminar Series.  Raleigh, NC.
6. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, March) How Children can Help Solve Our Conservation Challenges. University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology Seminar Series.  Orono, ME.
7. Peterson, M.N., **Szczytko**, R., Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., & Chesonis, T. (2018, April) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. Bioscience Symposium. Aarhus University, Aarhus Denmark.
8. Stevenson, K.T., **Szczytko, R.E.,** & Olson, R.A. (2017, December) How do you know if your program is working?  Program Evaluation 101. 7th Annual North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Nonformal Educator’s Meeting.  Raleigh, NC.

# Presentations

1. **Szczytko, R.**, Savage, A., & Knollenberg, W. (accepted 2023). Assessing the Role of Travel on Retirement Decisions in North Carolina. National Extension Tourism Annual Conference. Milwaukee, WI.
2. Zwickle, A., Hamm, J. A., **Szczytko, R.,** & Salangi, L. (accepted 2023). Leveraging a Systems Approach to Environmental Health. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
3. Savage, A., Knollenberg, W, & **Szczytko, R.** (2023, May). Understanding the Relationship between Travel and Retirement Decisions. National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference. Coeur D’Alene, ID.
4. ​Lawson, D., **Szczytko, R.,** Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Carrier, S.J., & Strnad, R. (2018, March). Overcoming Barriers to Evaluation: Putting Lessons from Research to Practice. 6th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance. St. Petersburg, FL.
5. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Program evaluation partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. NAAEE Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Leveraging EE’s Catch-up Effect. Round table. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
7. **Szczytko, R.**, Kuras, E., Hauk, M., Evenstone, A., & Lawson, D., (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Strategies for success: Graduate student and early-career guidance. Workshop. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
8. **Szczytko, R.** (2017, September) Lessons from Research to Practice. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2017, September) Evaluation Partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
10. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, October) Pathways to Connection to Nature Among Youth. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
11. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June) Relationships between children’s outdoor activities and environmental attitudes by gender and race: Alone time outside predicts positive environmental attitudes. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.
12. Stevenson, K. and **Szczytko, R.** (2017, March) How kids learn in nature. Growing IN Place Symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
13. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., **Szczytko, R.**, & Seekamp, E. (2017, March) Exploring the meaning within the movement: craft beer from the members' perspectives. 39th Southeastern Recreation Research Symposium. Asheville, N.C.
14. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., and Strnad, R. (2017, March) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference. Buford, GA.
15. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Research Symposium. Buford, GA.
16. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2016, October) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education: Lessons learned. NAAEE Annual Conference. Madison, WI.
17. **Szczytko, R**., Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., Carrier, S., & Olson, R. (2016, September) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Mountain, NC.
18. Strnad, R. & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, May). Bridging EE and Agricultural Education through Project Learning Tree. Project Learning Tree Annual Coordinator Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

**Posters**

1. **Szczytko, R.**, Salangi, L., Zwickle, A., & Hamm, J.A. (accepted 2023). Effects of social determinants of health on perception of environmental health risk. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
2. Salangi, L., **Szczytko, R**., Zwickle, A., & Hamm, J. A. (accepted 2023). Advancing health equity by addressing dioxin risks. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
3. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Shaping life-long environmental engagement: Pathways to connection to nature. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
4. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, September) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
5. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.
6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, April) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual Northeastern Environmental Recreation Research. Annapolis, M.D.
7. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual NC State graduate research symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
8. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. NAAEE Research Symposium, Madison, WI.
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Creating New Measures of Environmental Literacy. NAAEE Research Symposium. Madison, WI.
10. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J. & Strnad, R. (2016, September) Development and validation of the Adolescent Environmental Literacy Instrument. 25thAnnual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
11. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, September). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
12. Curry, K., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson K., Warner, W., & Park, T (2016, June). Environmental literacy and student performance: Lessons learned from a professional development intervention. North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. Honolulu, HI.
13. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 2016 NC State Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. Raleigh, NC.
14. **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). Learning to save the earth. North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC.

# UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Guest lecture (January 11, 2017). Tangibles and Intangibles. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
2. Guest lecture (February 1, 2017). Interpretive Themes. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
3. Guest lecture (October 12, 2017). Discussion. Environmentors. North Carolina State University.

# MENTORING

**Undergraduate Mentor for Amy Bradshaw** (2016)

Focus: How teacher beliefs of climate change relates to those of their students

**AWARDS & HONORS**

Annual 2023 NET Conference Travel Scholarship, Annual NET Conference, August 2023

Environmental Science and Policy Program Graduate Recruiting Fellowship, Michigan State

University, $7,000, March 2023

Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship, Michigan State University, $106,000,

February 2023

William B. Stapp Student Scholarship, NAAEE Annual Conference, $350, August 2017

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference Scholarship, $100, February

2017

William B. Stapp Student Scholarship, NAAEE Annual Conference, $350, August 2016 Environmental Educators of North Carolina Annual Conference Scholarship, $60, May 2016

University Honors, University of Michigan, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan, 2013

**SERVICE**

Junior Earth & Environmental Science Judge at NC Science and Engineering Fair, March 2017.

Lake Raleigh Clean-up organizer, February 18, 2017.

Panel Member at AmeriCorps Job and Higher Ed Talk. February 17, 2017.

Environmentor visiting speaker. North Carolina State University, September 2016.

Panel Member at Graduate School Session in FW 333: Conservation Biology in Practice,

September 2016.

High school citizen science education. North Carolina State University, July 2016.

**Leadership**

Finance chair. Environmental Education Funders Collaborative, January 2020-23.

President. IASNR at NC State, 2017-18.

Education chair. Environmental Educators of North Carolina, December 2016-17.

Community outreach chair. IASNR at NC State, 2016-17.

**Membership**

Environmental Education Funders Collaborative. Member, May 2019-January 2023.

North American Association of Environmental Education. Member, 2016-present.

International Association of Society and Natural Resources. Member, 2017-18.

Environmental Educators of North Carolina. Member, 2016-18.

**REFERENCES**

*Advisor at NC State University*

**Dr. Kathryn Stevenson**

Associate Professor

Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management

North Carolina State University Biltmore 4008, Campus Box 8004

Raleigh, NC 27695 [kathryn\_stevenson@ncsu.edu](mailto:kathryn_stevenson@ncsu.edu) 919.515.2739 (office)

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*Committee member at NC State University*

**Dr. M. Nils Peterson**

Professor

Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology

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*Committee member at NC State University*

**Dr. Sarah Carrier**

Associate Professor

Elementary Education

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