

Keynote

Dr. Christine Carmichael

Dr. Christine Carmichael holds a Ph.D. in Forestry with a Specialization in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change and a Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement from Michigan State University. Dr. Carmichael has published high-impact research and consulted with numerous non-profit environmental groups and government agencies on ways to enhance multicultural partnerships, particularly in urban forestry, parks, and greenspace management. Her past work has included evaluation of community engagement programs for environmental organizations as well as workshops and presentations on how to measure success of urban greening and restoration programs with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Carmichael is also a skilled facilitator with expertise in strategic planning and ensuring productive dialogue among diverse groups who have a stake in environmental programs.



Narratives of environmental change: Integrating community histories into natural resource Extension programs

How people respond to natural resource issues has a lot to do with their experiences in various geographic and social communities. This is particularly relevant for historically oppressed and disenfranchised communities, including communities of color and lower income communities. To effectively collaborate with local groups and residents to improve natural resource management and access to the benefits of nature, it is vital that Extension professionals understand the local histories that are relevant to the people served, and how these local histories shape the "solutions" or management options people are open to. This presentation will describe examples of how local "heritage narratives"

shape residents' views of natural resource management issues--from urban forestry to climate resilience--as well as techniques Extension professionals can use to explore and incorporate local histories into natural resource decision-making processes. By doing so, the opportunity for more equitable, inclusive, and just outcomes becomes possible