



September 2017 Update



Above: 2017 YLCC students meet for their annual symposium in Fort Collins, CO

Next Month! Climate Change in America's National Parks Webinar Series

Thursday, September 14, 2pm EDT

George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change (YLCC)

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1984584788065975043>

The George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change (YLCC) builds a pathway for exemplary students in higher education to apply cutting-edge skills and knowledge to various park management issues while gaining valuable work experience, exploring career options, and developing leadership skills. The program enables parks to meet the complex real-world challenges of climate change. Learn more about some of this year's student experiences and learn how parks can apply to host a YLCC intern for next summer.

Identification, Inventory, and Characterization of Vernal Pools to Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change
Némesis Ortiz-Declat, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Vernal pools are small, isolated, ephemeral ponds that change in volume in response to varying weather patterns. These wetlands are important for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems by providing a critical breeding ground for amphibians and other species. With expected changes in precipitation frequency and temperature trends due to climate change, vernal pools are at risk of either becoming more established permanent wetlands or drying up. Identification, inventory, and characterization were the first steps conducted to assess the vulnerability of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's vernal pools to climate change.

Climate Change and Historic Preservation: Monitoring Derby Wharf at Salem Maritime NHS
Shanasia Sylman, Harvard University



Derby Wharf, one of four historic wharfs in the park, has been identified as increasingly vulnerable to current environmental conditions as well as projected future conditions from climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, increased storm surge and more frequent tidal flooding. To better address questions on maintenance and adaptation, monitoring strategies were developed utilizing citizens science methods for documenting the vulnerability of Derby Wharf over time.

Vanishing Ice: The Rate and Extent of Glacier Loss in the Olympic Mountains
Justin Pflug, University of Washington



The Olympic glaciers of Northwest Washington provide crucial late-summer water resources to a variety of unique ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula. However, research has found that these glaciers are retreating at an accelerating pace due to their small size, temperate climate, and frequent warm precipitation. Using water year 2015 as a future climate change scenario, this work analyzes the extent of Olympic glacier recession with impacts on downstream water contribution.

Save the Date: Interpreting Climate Change

2-Day Earth to Sky Workshop at the NAI National Conference

When: November 13-14, 2017

Where: Spokane, Washington and the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

This two-day, highly interactive workshop will join interpreters and NASA science and education specialists to learn from each other about climate science and communication. This workshop is a pre-conference session at the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) National Conference. A registration fee will apply. The first day of

the workshop will be held at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, and the second will be at the conference hotel. Transportation from the conference hotel to the refuge will be provided, as well as lunch on both days.

Target Audience

Employees from the NPS, USFS, USFWS, and other federal, state, and municipal agencies, as well as non-profit and private organizations with science communicators, interpreters, environmental educators and education specialists.

Registration and Lodging

Reserve through NAI: <http://www.interpnet.com/conference> . Registration deadline is October 10th. It is recommended that participants reserve lodging ASAP.

For more Info (and to add your name to the mailing list for updates) contact: Anita Davis, Lead, Earth to Sky Partnership: anita.l.davis@nasa.gov

Climate Fundamental Academies

The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) offers a series of 2-day training workshops to help participants discover how to better incorporate climate change strategies into planning and operations.

Through a standing agreement between the Climate Change Response Program and the ACCO, NPS employees are invited to attend Climate Fundamentals Academy Workshops **free of charge**. (Any travel costs must be paid by the benefiting account, and participants must make their own travel arrangements.)

See the schedule of upcoming workshops below. Please contact Larry Perez at larry_perez@nps.gov for more information.



Rocky Mountain Workshop #3

The final in a series of three Colorado workshops is coming up soon!

September 12-13, 2017
Golden, CO

[More info in the Common Learning Portal](#)

FREE for NPS Employees: One Year of Unlimited ACCO Online Training

The Climate Change Response Program invites interested NPS employees, partners, and volunteers to enjoy unlimited access to the Association of Climate Change Officers

(ACCO) [library of on-demand and live online training](#) FREE for one full year. This opportunity affords participants unparalleled flexibility to customize training according to their needs and work around busy schedules.

Availability is limited and will be awarded strictly on a first-come, first serve basis. For instructions on how to register for this opportunity, please contact Larry Perez at larry_perez@nps.gov.



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Want to submit an article? Contact matt_holly@nps.gov to learn more.