

## Press Clippings 02/01/2019

---Daily Herald---02/01/2019

### Elgin High hosts webinars with environmental experts for students, public

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



- Elgin High School's National Biodiversity Teach-In was honored by Chicago Wilderness with a 2017 Force of Nature award. Here Elgin Area School District U-46 educators, from left, Brittney Mallen, Deborah McMullen-Perryman and Brigid Trimble accepted the award on behalf of students.

Elgin High School environmental science students will bring environmental experts worldwide virtually into the classroom as part of the annual [National Biodiversity Teach-In](#) beginning Friday.

The event involves a series of 36 free webinars featuring scientists discussing a variety of topics including, snow leopards, butterflies, elephants, sharks, soil biodiversity, coral reefs, water conservation and climate change. Six award-winning children's authors who write about nature, science and the planet also are part of the program.

"I am so proud of the amazing lineup the students and teachers of Elgin High School have put together," said Deb McMullen-Perryman, Elgin Area School District U-46 coordinator of K-12 science and planetarium. "Students from across U-46 and beyond will have the opportunity to interact with scientists, authors, filmmakers, environmental educators and heroes."

McMullen-Perryman and her students began the webinars at Elgin High in 2014 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity. It stemmed from students learning about the 100th anniversary of the extinction of [Martha](#) -- the last known living passenger pigeon -- piquing their interest in biodiversity and desire to connect with experts in the field.

Since its inception, the Teach-In has drawn nearly 145,000 environmental science enthusiasts from 36 states and 19 other countries.

Three dozen experts are scheduled to present webinars running between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. every Friday in February. There will be time for discussion after each presentation.

Webinars are free and open to the public. Advance online registration is required on the Teach-In website where they will be broadcast, [nationalbiodiversityteachin.com](http://nationalbiodiversityteachin.com).

Sessions scheduled Friday are:

- 8 a.m. -- Koustubh Sharma, "Working with the Mountain's Ambassador: The Snow Leopards"
- 9 a.m. -- Jeffrey Glassberg, "The Butterfly Effect"
- 10 a.m. -- Lola Schaefer, children's author, "The Surprise and Beauty of Nature"
- 11 a.m. -- Dr. Deborah Giles, "Southern Resident Killer Whale Research Topics and Techniques"
- 12 p.m. -- Patricia Newman, "Elephants! How Their Conversation Sparks Conversation"
- 1 p.m. -- Joseph Milanovich, "Amphibians & Global Change: What Do We Have to Lose?"
- 2 p.m. -- Naomi Rose, "Beneath the Surface: The Impact of Captivity on the Welfare of Orcas"
- 3 p.m. -- Kevin Kurtz, "Biodiversity in the Ocean: From Salt Marshes to Under the Seafloor"
- 4 p.m. -- Tess Krasne, "Ocean Conservancy"

For a complete schedule of presenters, visit [nationalbiodiversityteachin.com/2019-registration/](http://nationalbiodiversityteachin.com/2019-registration/).

## **---The Courier-News---02/01/2019 High school's free webinars return**

**By: Rafael Guerrero**

More than 16,000 people have registered to participate in three dozen webinars on environmental science topics hosted by Elgin High School.

The National Biodiversity Teach-In, which begins Friday, is in its fourth year at School District U46. About 50 Elgin High students organize the online programs, keep an eye on the network connections and help coordinate the interactions between the guest speakers and their audiences.

The webinars have a national and international audience. Since it started in 2016, people from 36 states and 19 countries have taken part, organizers say.

Deb McMullen, U46's K-12 science and planetarium coordinator, said the first set of webinars scheduled for Friday will run as scheduled, despite school being canceled Monday, Wednesday and Thursday because of the snow and cold.

"Students from across U46 and beyond will have the opportunity to interact with scientists, authors, filmmakers, environmental educators and heroes," McMullen said.

Nine webinar presentations will be conducted every Friday in February, a total of 36 presentations. Twenty-seven of the 36 guest speakers — scientists, authors and others — are making a return appearance, McMullen said. Among the 36 speakers are six award-winning children's authors.

The programs are free, open to the public and broadcast on [nationalbiodiversityteachin.com](http://nationalbiodiversityteachin.com). Registration in advance is required on the website.

## Webinar lineup

8 a.m. Friday: Koustubh Sharma, Working with the Mountain's Ambassador: The Snow Leopards.

9 a.m. Friday: Jeffrey Glassberg, The Butterfly Effect.

10 a.m. Friday: Lola Schaefer, The Surprise and Beauty of Nature.

11 a.m. Friday: Dr. Deborah Giles, Southern Resident Killer Whale Research Topics and Techniques.

Noon Friday: Patricia Newman, Elephants! How Their Conversation Sparks Conversation.

1 p.m. Friday: Joseph Milanovich, Amphibians & Global Change: What Do We Have to Lose?

2 p.m. Friday: Naomi Rose, Beneath the Surface: The Impact of Captivity on the Welfare of Orcas.

3 p.m. Friday: Kevin Kurtz, Biodiversity in the Ocean: From Salt Marshes to Under the Seafloor.

4 p.m. Friday: Tess Krasne, Ocean Conservancy.

8 a.m. Feb. 8: CeCe Sieffert, Rhino Conservation in Africa & Asia.

9 a.m. Feb. 8 Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Change.

10 a.m. Feb. 8 David Shiffman, Shark Biology and Conservation.

11 a.m. Feb. 8: Dawn Bazely, Amazing Arctic Plants Above the Treeline.

Noon Feb. 8: Leslie Bulion, Superlative Birds! Leaf Litter Critters! Science is Pure Poetry!

1 p.m. Feb. 8: Sandra Postel, How We Can Fix Our Broken Water Cycle.

2 p.m. Feb. 8: Elizabeth Bach, Soil Biodiversity.

3 p.m. Feb. 8: Cory Suski, Developing New Barriers to Stop the Movement of Invasive Asian.

4 p.m. Feb. 8: Eva Hildago, Sea Shepherd- Vaquita Campaign.

8 a.m. Feb. 15: Jon Armbruster, Evolution of Fish.

9 a.m. Feb. 15: Jillian Morris, Shark Science & Media.

10 a.m. Feb. 15: Melissa Stewart, No Monkeys, No Chocolate Q & A with the Author.

11 a.m. Feb. 15: Dr. Kelly Jaakola, Studying Dolphins Up Close and Why It Matters.

noon Feb. 15: , Zack Rago, Coral.

1 p.m. Feb. 15: Dave Vaughan, Coral Restoration.

2 p.m. Feb. 15: Ann Froschauer, Batty for Bats.

3 p.m. Feb. 15: Jennifer Hopwood, Pollinator Conservation.

8 a.m. Feb. 22: Joy Owens, The Elephant Sanctuary: Home, Herd, Rest and Refuge.

9 a.m. Feb. 22: Pam Otto & Lisa O'Brien, Our "Wild" Pets- Canines.

10 a.m. Feb. 22: Dr. Timothy Mousseau, Radiation, Mutations and the Chernobyl Zone.

11 a.m. Feb. 22: Nancy Castaldo, Back from the Brink: Saving Animals from Extinction.

noon Feb. 22: David Bain, Killer Whales: Why Endangered Killer Whales Need Help and What We Can Do.

1 p.m. Feb. 22: Dorie Stolley, Egrets to Eagles: Introduction to Wild Bird Identification.

2 p.m. Feb. 22: Donna Nuger, Animal Science.

3 p.m. Feb. 22 Tricia Bethke, Trees, Bees & Biodiversity.

4 p.m. Feb. 22: Jordan Gray, Transforming Passion for Turtles Into Effective Conservation Action.

## **New association led by U46 official aims to simplify school safety procedures**

**By: Rafael Guerrero**

A network of northern Illinois school safety and security administrators has been formed to simplify common school safety language and practices.

Administrators from districts in northern Illinois counties officially formed the Northern Illinois School Safety Administrators Association in December. The group of administrators will meet to network and move toward a uniform approach to keeping students and staff safe in schools.

The association attracted school safety directors from School District U46 in [Elgin](#), West and East Aurora school districts, Naperville and Indian Prairie districts, and the DuPage Regional Office of Education, among others. The group is targeting mostly large school districts.

John Heiderscheidt, U46's school safety and culture director, briefly detailed the formation of the group at a U46 school board meeting in January. He announced at the Jan. 14 meeting that he was selected as the association's president.

In a separate interview, Heiderscheidt said too often terms used in school safety and security vary by schools. The definition of what a lockdown is and why one school calls for a lockdown, for example, may be entirely different in schools or communities, he said.

This confusion can complicate matters over how law enforcement and emergency responders address an emergency, Heiderscheidt said. In the U46 region, some police and fire departments serve communities with multiple school districts.

"Our goal for any type of immediate response for police or emergency response is clarity," he said. "We see the need to have the same language all fire and police can agree upon."

The association will also address other key areas. Having school safety administrators meeting consistently allows for greater collaboration and communication, Heiderscheidt said. These directors can learn from one another, and can discuss what works and what doesn't in school safety practices, he added.

The association also will develop common school emergency plans and safety training programs. Heiderscheidt said the safety directors want to look at options to expand safety training to teachers, support staff, and other staff.

"For parents, it's important to know that their kids are safe at school," said Tom Ross, an administrator of the College of DuPage Homeland Security Training Institute and Law Enforcement Academy. The institute is partnering with the new group, and Ross is one of the members of the association. Ross said the group of directors is meeting monthly at its homeland security center.

The Glen Ellyn facility provides in-person and online training to law enforcement, emergency responders, corporate security, and other interested parties.

"School safety and security is a huge part of our (security institute) mission," Ross said. "The safety of our children is paramount."



- The School District U46 central offices in Elgin.