

About the Presenters and Breakout Leaders

Morning Presentations: Involving the Public in National Projects

Peter Crow: Observatree – Monitoring Tree Health

Peter is the Observatree Project Manager. He joined Forest Research in 1986. He is currently part of the Landscape and Ecosystem Services group, helping to develop methods and tools for the assessment, valuation, promotion and management of landscape and ecosystem assets and services. Observatree has a network of 200 volunteers helping monitor the health of the UK's trees.

Observatree: <https://www.observatree.org.uk/>

Judith Garforth: Nature's Calendar

Judith is the Woodland Trust's Citizen Science Officer overseeing the Nature's Calendar, a project that has been getting the public to track changing seasons and the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife since 2000. Judith has worked for the Woodland Trust for 7 years and has a PhD in Environmental Sciences.

The Nature's Calendar website: <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

Prof Seirian Sumner: Big wasp Survey - Investigating Social Wasps using Citizen Science

Seirian is Professor of Behavioural Ecology at the University College of London. She uses a combination of field ecology and genomic techniques to address questions about how and why animals live in societies and is especially interested in social wasps. She co-founded the Big Wasp Survey in 2017 – a citizen science project designed to engage the public with the diversity and importance of social wasps in their back yard.

The Big Wasp Survey: <https://www.bigwaspsurvey.org/>

Dr Lawrence Ball: Bugs Matter - the National Citizen Science survey of bug splats

Lawrence oversees data analytics within Kent Wildlife Trust's Monitoring and Evidence department and manages Bugs Matter. His interest in conservation has taken him all over the world but today he will be giving us an overview of Bugs Matter and the Splatometer, followed by the opportunities and challenges of running the project.

Bugs Matter: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/surveys/bugs-matter/>

Afternoon Presentations: LERCs' Community and Citizen Science Projects

Rachel Star: Ancient Woods - Modern Citizens: Updating the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Rachel works at the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC) North East on a project updating the Ancient Woodland Inventory for the area. She has a particular interest in how data can be used to help manage and conserve the natural world. Updating the Ancient Woodland Inventory has brought up challenges surrounding its evidence base, and has required community involvement. Here Rachel will discuss the wonderful volunteers, and some of the challenges they are facing.

ERIC NE AWI Update Project: <https://ericnortheast.org.uk/ancient-woodland/>

Stuart Colgate: Forgotten Lands

Stuart has been the Recording Officer at Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre since in 2017. His 17 years' experience as an ecologist helped the farmers involved in the Forgotten Lands ELMs test and trial find out more about their biodiversity as well as filling a few gaps in the CBDC's datasets.

Forgotten Lands: https://www.cbdc.org.uk/about-us/projects/elms_forgotten_land_mapping/

Iona Cowell: Chester's First City Nature Challenge

Iona is the Engagement and Volunteering Officer at RECORD which involves co-ordinating all RECORD's community engagement work. Her presentation will answer the question "What is the City Nature Challenge and is it worth doing?" Iona will share her experience of helping to co-ordinate Chester's first Challenge including a summary of what worked well and what didn't, as well as tips for other LERCs wanting to get involved in the future.

RECORD City Nature Challenge 2023: <https://record-lrc.co.uk/swift/cnc23/>

Laura Moss: The Big Meadow Search Project

Laura is the Biodiversity Information Assistant for West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre and is also the Project lead for the Big Meadow Search (BMS) on behalf of the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group Steering Group. The presentation will briefly outline project development, project aims, BMS activities and mention the challenges faced and the opportunities to get involved in your own LERC network.

WWBIC Big Meadow Search <https://www.bigmeadowsearch.co.uk/>

Jack Rivers: Working alongside communities to survey and monitor local wildlife sites.

Jack is a Projects Assistant predominantly focused on botanical surveys throughout Devon. His role combines both detailed surveys and community science. He will be describing the work that Devon Biodiversity Record Centre has been doing with local community groups around local wildlife Site surveys and monitoring.

DBRC Sites and habitats: <https://www.dbrc.org.uk/information/sites-and-habitats/>

Elaine Wright: A Fresh Spin on Bioblitzes

Elaine has worked at SEWBReC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre) for 15 years, and is Senior Recording and Communications Officer. She is on the executive committee of NFBR (National Forum for Biological Recording) and edits their newsletter. She likes looking at insects when she gets a spare moment! Today Elaine will be Looking at a couple of twists on the BioBlitz format at SEWBReC, aimed at engaging new recorders / reaching new datasets.

SEWBReC Recording: <http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/recording>

Breakouts: An In-Depth Look at Engaging the Public and the Data They Collect

1. Citizen Science the Nurturing Nature Way. Jon Isherwood, WSBRC

John is the Manager of the Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Record Centre. Prior to joining WSBRC he was Conservation Data Manager for Wales for the National Trust and had been a GIS and IT Consultant working in environment and wind energy since 2001. He will be sharing his experiences of running the Citizen Science Nurturing Nature Project in the Cranbourne Chase AONB.

2. Community Science and the Urban Nature Project. Becky Clover, Natural History Museum
Becky is Urban Biodiversity Officer for the Urban Nature Project at the Natural History Museum, London. Before working at the museum Becky was an ecological consultant for eight years. The Urban Nature project aims to create an 'urban nature movement' to connect people in towns and cities to the wildlife on their doorsteps across the UK. The project is collating a range of resources and information to support urban recording that will be useful for LERCs working with communities both rural and urban.

3. The NBN Atlas and iNaturalistUK - an update from the NBN Trust. Giselle Sterry & Sophia Ratcliffe, NBN Trust

Giselle is the lead for iNaturalist in the UK and has worked for the NBN Trust for over 8 years. She is actively involved with conservation activities in her home town including coordinating the City Nature Challenge in Nottingham. Sophia is the NBN Atlas Data Manager and takes the lead on liaising with the NBN's Data Partners and users to help them understand how to prepare and contribute their information to and how to use the data on the NBN Atlas. This session will provide an overview of the ongoing upgrade to the NBN Atlas and plans for the year as well as a summary of the work being undertaken to support iNaturalistUK.

4. The Challenges of Citizen Science Data & Conservation Technology Tools. Leon DeBell, ALERC
Leon is a Director of ALERC and until very recently was the Manager of Somerset LERC. He builds and flies drones as a CAA qualified pilot. Leon has a passion for the open-source movement, and can frequently be found soldering or making a new Raspberry Pi gadget. However, today he will be discussing his work with the Somerset Wildlife Trust to collect data using remote recording technologies. He will share with you how they are dealing with the significant datasets now being generated.