

Data Communication

Organization: UMCES Integration & Application Network

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Abstract Title: Conceptualization- A tool for effective science communication

If you want to influence decisions and policymaking, you need to learn the art of storytelling; to capture the key messages from scientific research and make the data compelling. The most successful scientists are skilled at communicating their ideas. This session will teach the principles and practice of effective science communication, with emphasis on visual science communication tools. These skills are readily applied to communicating at various levels, from the general public to resource managers to local and state politicians. The ability to capture main messages and concepts is the basis of effective communication. A tool that helps clarify messages is the production of conceptual diagrams. These diagrams can be used on scales of the ecosystem down to detailed processes of nutrient dynamics. Workshop participants will learn how to design and produce a conceptual diagram using our freely available online tools and symbol libraries. At the end of the workshop, participants will have been introduced to the principles of effective science communication and the elements of conceptual diagrams, and have used a hands-on activity, Conceptionary, to further enforce their understanding of how to use conceptual diagrams to express scientific ideas.

Organization: The Mountain Institute

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Abstract Title: Watershed Monitoring With Youth During School Time and Free Time

For the past nine years The Mountain Institute has partnered with the WV DEP to provide Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM). This program has engaged thousands of students in critical thought and active stewardship related to streams and land use in their watershed. An overview of the AWSM program will be presented with a focus on communicating with teachers and schools to get students engaged. Through its services for youth The Mountain Institute has also been an active supporter of Friends of Deckers Creek's Youth Advisory Board (YAB), facilitating YAB leadership programs for the past four years. The Mountain Institute and Friends of Deckers Creek are currently looking at ways to provide youth across WV a greater voice through online interactive mapping. This conversation style presentation will appeal to anyone interested in expanding their youth based volunteer monitoring efforts. Plenty of time will be provided to answer your questions about youth engagement practices.