Review Conference Proposals

The commitment: review a small number of proposals (in the past, about 3 to 5) over about a two week period in mid-April.

The reward: Help develop the strongest environmental program evaluation roster of sessions and papers yet.

Everyone is invited to review, regardless if you are new to the TIG or have submitted several proposals yourself.

Blog for AEA 365–Earth Week

EPE TIG will host the AEA365 blog on Earth Day, April 22nd. This very helpful blog provides a wealth of topical information and useful resources for evaluation. We post tips and information particularly relevant to environmental evaluation -but with broader AEA appeal. Posts should be written in first person and be concise - approximately 250-400 words.

If you are interested in helping develop the post, please let us know, no later than March 25th.

Show Your Smiling Face

Every newsletter, we’ll feature one or more member profiles. We would love to tell your story, so please let us know if you are willing to be featured. If so, we’ll arrange an interview and tell your story.

To be involved in any of the above, or communicate with the TIG, email Christina.Kakoyannis@NFWF.ORG

Evaluators Gone Wild!

One of the great traditions of our TIG is the annual field trip at the National Conference. For 2014, that meant a visit to the Denver Zoo. It was a chance to witness their conservation programs up close and discuss with staff how they discover and use knowledge about their impact.

Marley Steele-Inama, the Zoo’s Audience Research and Evaluation Manager, divided the 20+ participants into two groups. The Sustainability Tour learned about the zoo’s effort to become a zero waste facility by 2025. One element of this is its waste-to-energy biomass gasification system which requires visitors to sort trash in new ways. But the highlight of the tour was a raven trained to sort recycling. The Guest Experience Tour saw the zoo as guests would, interacting with docents and considering how to measure knowledge gained from exhibits and demonstrations. The groups came back together for lunch with zoo educators, discussing evaluation challenges and brainstorming solutions.

It was an exciting break in the conference program for attendees, and hopefully helpful for zoo staff as well. We’re hard at work on planning this year’s field trip in Chicago. More information to come in a future newsletter.

You Have Spoken

Thanks to all those who completed the TIG survey. The leadership team is excited to take your suggestions, utilize your talents, and make this the EPE TIG’s best year ever. A couple specific changes: we’re adding to the website to make it even more useful, we’ll be profiling one or more TIG members in each newsletter to help us get to know each other, and we’ll look to build in opportunities outside the conference to engage with each other.

Three Most Useful Activities
- Website
- Network with outside groups
- Connect TIG members

Three Least Useful Activities
- Network with other TIGs
- Share our work/ideas through conference calls
- AEA 365 Earth Week blog
2014-2015 TIG Leaders

**Christina Kakoyannis, Chair**  
Director, Strategic Planning & Evaluation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Over the past seven years, Christina has worked to institutionalize evaluation into the Foundation’s conservation grantmaking for learning and continuous improvement. She spends much of her spare time outdoors, hiking with her dog and horseback riding in SW Utah, where she recently moved.

**Heather Dantzker, Program Co-Chair**  
Director, Dantzker Consulting  
Heather works to protect and improve environmental and human health and well-being through customized partnerships focused around research, planning, evaluation, and communication. Off-hours, she and husband Marc civilize, er, raise, two kids aiming to produce productive members of society, which can be measured many ways (!)

**Rupu Gupta, Program Co-Chair**  
Analyst, New Knowledge Organization Ltd.  
As a conservation psychologist, Rupu’s research focuses on developing new theories about contrasting social goals for environmental education and the influence of mentors on urban youth’s transformation into environmental stewards. In her spare time, she enjoys photographing urban landscapes and designed spaces.

**Catherine Moore, Program Co-Chair**  
Program Performance Analyst, Metro  
Catherine works as an analyst and internal evaluator with parks and natural areas at Metro, a regional government organization for the greater Portland metropolitan region. She is currently trying to become a better cook, really loves her pressure cooker and just learned how to make croissants.

**Allison Van, Communication**  
Program Officer, Winrock International  
Allison works as the program manager and VERY internal evaluator of The Pasture Project, which helps farmers in the Midwest embrace pasture-based agriculture for water quality and carbon sequestration. She considers yoga and meditation daily and dancing at least weekly essential to her sanity.

**Yvonne M. Watson, Webmaster**  
Program Analyst, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Yvonne works in the Evaluation Support Division at EPA as a program evaluator and Lean Government practitioner. She enjoys cooking, eating and participating in the liturgical dance ministry at her church. And as you can see, she has the best smile in town.