



2021-2022 Schedule

Cullowhee, Main Campus (Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm)

Asheville, Biltmore Park Site (Thursdays, 10am – 12pm)

January 19 & 20, 2022

John Lane – Attention as activism, activism as attention: Writing the Local

Biography:

John Lane is professor of English and Environmental Studies at Wofford College. His books include *Circling Home*, *My Paddle to the Sea*, and *Coyote Settles the South*. He also coedited, with Gerald Thurmond, *The Woods Stretched for Miles: New Nature Writing from the South*. He has published several volumes of poetry, essays, and a novel, as well as a selection of his online columns, *The Best of the Kudzu Telegraph*. *Whose Woods These Are* is his most recent work.

Presentation Outline:

An investigative procedure, in this case in environmental writing, for assessing literary activity over time.

How do we figure out what our personal project has been over time?

As I move through my 60's personal curation of my "eco-literary project" has become more and more important to me. I would like to present brief selections from my published books ranging from 1970s to the present—poetry, creative nonfiction, and even my two novels—and associate each a creative practice or theme through a single word or phrase.

There will be discussion and interaction about methods you might use to arrange your own creative life work and relationship to nature in such a way.

January 26 & 27, 2022

Mike Gillen – Hunting, conservation and the environment in the Anthropocene: personal observations and dialogue

Biography:

Mike is retired from a career in law and insurance. He is a year-round resident of Franklin. He has many outdoor interests: hiking, kayaking, photography and birding. He was a volunteer instructor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Advanced Hunter Education program from 1985 until 1991, and goes deer hunting with his son in northern Wisconsin.

February 2, 2022

(Cullowhee campus ONLY. Biltmore Park members are welcome to attend in Cullowhee or via Zoom.)

Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Richard Sneed – EBCI Governance and Sovereignty

Biography: <https://ebci.com/government/executive/principal-chief/>

February 9 & 10, 2022

Jonathan Marchal – Community Science Needs You!

Presentation Outline:

Native plant and animal populations in our state face a number of challenges, including habitat loss, climate change and invasive species. Conservation scientists are working to document the species across our state in an effort to understand how these organisms are impacted by these threats, however, there are not enough scientists to create a full picture. Community Scientists, also called citizen scientists, are everyday people who contribute observations of plants and animals to state, national and international conservation projects. Learn how you can use a smartphone as a powerful conservation tool as we explore mobile apps such as iNaturalist, eBird and Nature's Notebook.

February 16 & 17, 2022

Penny Smith – The role of North and South Carolina in the Revolutionary War

Biography:

Penny Smith holds a Ph.D. in American History from Rice University and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from UNC-Greensboro. Researching her Rice dissertation brought her to what became her adopted state, where she has been a middle school and high school teacher, a middle school principal, an associate superintendent, a Governor's School instructor, and a member of the faculty at UNC-G and WCU. In the 1980s she was the North Carolina State Teacher of the Year. That honor led to many state and national committee appointments during the ensuing decades, experiences which introduced her to the world of educational politics.

February 23 & 24, 2022

John Boyle – A discussion on the status of the newspaper business in 2022 and beyond

Biography:

John Boyle was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, in 1964, the youngest of seven children, and he grew up in Richmond, Virginia. After graduating from Lee-Davis High School, he graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, earning a degree in English, with an education certificate. He taught high school English and journalism for a year, and that was enough! Boyle worked as a freelance writer and pizza delivery specialist for several years in the Richmond area, before landing a job as a reporter at the Petersburg Progress-Index, where he worked from 1992-1995. Boyle joined the Asheville Citizen Times in 1995 as a Hendersonville bureau reporter, then came into the main office as a features writer in 1997. He started writing columns in 1999 and the Answer Man column in 2001. Boyle lives in Fletcher with his wife of 25 years, Grace, and their two sons, who are actually off at college at the moment. They have two basset hounds and a neurotic mutt terrier, and they all enjoy hiking, getting outdoors in general, and enjoying a craft beer here and there (not the dogs!).

March 3, 2022

(Biltmore Park campus ONLY. Cullowhee members are welcome to attend in Biltmore Park or via Zoom.)

Darin Waters – Racial equality/Black Lives Matter

Biography:

Dr. Darin Waters is Deputy Secretary for Office of Archives and History. He oversees the operations of the divisions of State History and Maritime Museums, State Historic Sites and Properties, Archives and Records, Historical Resources (including the State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Historical Research, and the Office of State Archaeology), and commissions (including Roanoke Island Festival Park and Tryon Palace), and Education and Outreach. He is also the secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Originally from Asheville, Waters was most recently an Associate Professor of History at UNC Asheville, and the Executive Director of UNCA's Office of Community Engagement. He previously held other teaching, research, and community engagement positions at UNCA, UNC-Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University. Early in his career he was an Adult Probation Parole Officer with the Department of Public Safety.

Waters received a B.S. in Political Science and Government from Liberty University, a master's in History from North Carolina State University, and a PhD in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has served on numerous non-profit and state boards, including the North Carolina Historical Commission and African American Heritage Commission.

March 9 & 10, 2022

Dr. YiQing Yang – Aging and Health

Biography:

Dr. Yiqing Yang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Western Carolina University. She received her PhD from the University of Utah. As a sociologist studying health and aging, Dr. Yang has been interested in how the cultural, political, psychosocial, familial, and community factors affect the health and aging experiences of different cohorts in China and in the United States. In her spare time, she loves cooking and travelling abroad.

Presentation Outline:

The U.S. population is aging. The number of Americans aged 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060, with its share in the total population rising from 16 percent to 23 percent. All Americans hope to experience productive and healthy aging. The presenter will briefly discuss several topics that are related to older Americans' health and well-being, such as ageism, subjective age, attitudes toward aging, and purpose and meaning in later life.

March 16 & 17, 2022

Rachel Lubitz (Bounty & Soul) – From Food Security to Food Sovereignty: Why It Matters

Biography:

Ray Lubitz has been equal parts grateful & thrilled to have been in the food justice & environmental education fields for over 10 years. Rachel holds a B.A. in International Affairs and Cultural Anthropology, and an M.A. in Sustainable Development. Prior to Bounty & Soul, Rachel was an Education Manager for a Yuba River conservation organization based out of California, and served as the Garden & Cooking Program Coordinator for Hall Fletcher Elementary in West Asheville for over four years. She feels deeply honored to have the opportunity to connect with community members over the joys of nourishing food, gardening and creating a more sustainable and equitable Western North Carolina community.

Presentation Outline:

How do we move from a food system that addresses the downstream impacts of food insecurity, to one that gives community agency, autonomy, and more embodied relationships with the story of their food? Join Ray Lubitz, Program Manager of Bounty & Soul, as we discuss how to make local food justice movements more representative of our communities, and how food sovereignty can lead us to a more just and sustainable world.

March 23 & 24, 2022

Barbie White (John C. Campbell School) – Folk school history and culture

Biography:

Barbie is the Outreach Coordinator for the John C. Campbell Folk School. She joined the Folk School staff in 2020 and enjoys connecting with the local community, engaging prospective students, and building relationships with makers. In her spare time, you can find her hiking, painting, or cooking a new recipe.

March 30 & 31, 2022

Rob Young – Retreat from the coast is the only way to stay: the challenge of managing coastal communities with ongoing sea level rise

Biography:

Robert S. Young is the Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, a joint Duke University/Western Carolina University venture. He is also a Professor of Geology at Western Carolina University and a licensed professional geologist in three states (FL, NC, SC). The Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS) is a research and policy outreach center serving the global coastal community. The primary mission of PSDS is to conduct scientific research into coastal processes and to translate that science into management and policy recommendations through a variety of professional and public outreach mechanisms.

Dr. Young is a frequent contributor to the popular media. He has written numerous articles for outlets like the New York Times, USA Today, Architectural Record, the Houston Chronicle, and the Raleigh News and Observer, among others. He is co-author of *The Rising Sea* and co-editor of *Geologic Monitoring*, both released in 2009. Finally, Dr. Young has testified before congress and numerous state legislatures on coastal issues. He currently serves the State of North Carolina as a member of the Coastal Resources Commission Science Panel and the State of South Carolina as a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Shoreline Management.

April 6, 2022

Luncheon at Lake Junaluska

Note to the membership:

The above are the topics and speakers selected by the Curriculum Committee. This may change based on speaker availability.