



Informal Science Education Association of Texas 2023 Annual Conference



Tell Your Science Story

Abilene, TX
February 15-17

Howdy! ISEA welcomes you to the Storybook Capital of America! This annual conference brings together attendees from all over the state to explore current informal education movements. We look forward to sharing science stories with friends old and new!

#ISEATX2023    @TexasInformalScience
texasinformalscience@gmail.com

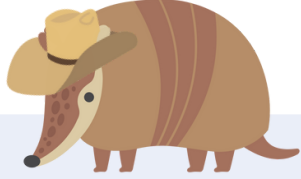


SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, FEB 15

12:00-4:30 p.m.	Registration at MCM Eleganté Suites
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Field Trips*
5:15-5:45 p.m.	ISEA 101 Happy Hour at MCM Eleganté Suites
6:30-9:30 p.m.	Opening Event at Abilene Zoo
10:00 p.m.	Informal Fun at MCM Eleganté Suites

THURSDAY, FEB 16



8:00 a.m.	Badge Pickup
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Keynote
9:30-9:50 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions & Panel
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Poster Social Hour
6:30-9:30 p.m.	Closing Event at National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL)

FRIDAY, FEB 17

Begins at 8:30 a.m.	Silent Auction Item Pickup
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:10-11:45 a.m.	Closing Keynote & ISEA Business Meeting
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Post-Conference Field Trips*

*Pre-registration required



KEYNOTES

STEPHANIE CORSO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16
8:30 A.M.



Stephanie Corso is the CEO and co-founder of Rogue Water, a public communications consulting group. She believes that water is the catalyst for community transformation and that stories are the medium for building trust and creating dialogue between the water industry and the people they serve.

ELDRENA DOUMA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10:10 A.M.



Eldrena Douma is a Native American Storyteller and former public school teacher with 30 years of storytelling experience. She grew up among the Pueblo tribes of the Laguna, Tewa, and Hopi and draws from her culture, family, and personal life to connect audiences to the transformative power of stories.



CONFERENCE SITES

ABILENE CONVENTION CENTER

1100 N 6th Street, Abilene, TX 79601

Parking: Large lot across the center, on 7th St.



MCM ELEGANTÉ SUITES

4250 Ridgemont Drive, Abilene, TX 79606

Parking: Hotel parking

ABILENE ZOO

2070 Zoo Lane, Abilene, TX 79602

Shuttles provided from conference hotel.

Parking available at Zoo.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE (NCCIL)

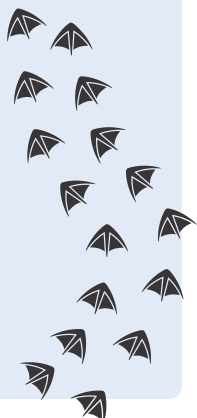
102 Cedar Street, Abilene, TX 79601

Shuttles provided from conference hotel.

Minimal parking downtown.



Join Rigor on a fun, interactive scavenger hunt throughout conference via the Goosechase app! Join for free by downloading the Goosechase app and plugging in the ISEA join code.



SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

Support the ISEA Conference Scholarship Fund! The silent auction and raffle are online this year. Download the PayBee app to get started. Preview items on Feb. 13. Silent auction opens for bidding on Feb. 14 at 5:00 p.m. and closes on Feb. 16 at 8:00 p.m. Close out your wins at pickup on Feb. 17. Raffle winners will be announced at the ISEA Business Meeting. This year's raffle items include

- Rigor • Mortimer
- Board Basket: Favorite Nature Storybooks
- Mural by Dan Terry (4'x8' aluminum piece, requires special transport)

Scan. Donate. Done.



WHO ARE RIGOR & MORTIMER?



In 2012, at the ISEA annual conference, two mysterious nameless strangers appeared. No one knows where they came from, or if they do they are not telling! ISEA'ers quickly adopted the pair as official mascots and held a naming contest. Alas, Mortimer (the frog) disappeared for some time while Rigor (the armadillo) was rescued from the Johnson City jail so that he could return to each ISEA annual conference. He returns each year to chronicle his adventures promoting informal science education around the state. During the conference, attendees vie for the privilege of hosting Rigor for the coming year. In a strange series of events, Mortimer has found his way back to ISEA and is available for hosting this year too!

Win the chance to host an ISEA mascot by entering the raffle!

\$25 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$100

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Registration

12:00-4:30 p.m.

MCM Eleganté Suites, Lobby

Come say *Howdy!* and receive your conference badge. In-person registration available. Note: hotel check-in begins at 3:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Field Trips

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Abilene Water Facility Tour

1594 Highway 83/84, Tuscola, TX 79562

The City of Abilene's Water Utilities Department is responsible for water and wastewater operations in the City of Abilene. Take a tour of Abilene's Hargesheimer Water Treatment Plant and learn how the City of Abilene provides clean drinking water for its citizens.



Prairie Dog Experience

3125 S 32nd St, Abilene, TX 79605

If you are looking for a relaxing and enjoyable experience outside, this is for you! During our expert-led exploration, learn fun facts about these prolific diggers and visit them in their natural habitat. Meet at the prairie dog enclosure inside Red Bud Park, directly across from the primary playground and restroom.



Abilene State Park

150 Park Road 32, Tuscola, TX 79562

Join us for an afternoon at Abilene State Park, a wooded West Texas oasis filled with rich Texas history and native flora and fauna. Come explore some of the trails, wander through the grove of towering oak, pecan and elm trees and relax by the lake!



WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

ISEA 101

5:15-5:45 p.m.

MCM ELEGANTÉ SUITES, HAPPY HOUR BAR

Join Josh Sendejar, ISEA Board Member, for an introduction to ISEA and what to expect at this year's conference. Don't forget your complimentary drink card (included with hotel stay)!

Opening Event

6:30-9:30 p.m.

ABILENE ZOO

Shuttles provided from conference hotel and back

Kick off the conference with a wild event! Enjoy local eateries Tacolote and Life of Pie, visit the zoo, feed giraffes, and network with attendees. Buy a raffle ticket at check-in for a chance to win a live armadillo encounter during the event! Badge pickup will be available.

Informal Fun: Game Night!

10:00 p.m.

MCM ELEGANTÉ SUITES - ACAPULCO ROOM

Join the ISEA Board for some informal fun at the conference hotel. Let the West Texan in you out with a little friendly competition. Whatever you do, don't bet against Rigor!



THURSDAY SCHEDULE

Badge Pickup

8:00 a.m.

ABILENE CONVENTION CENTER, UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

Welcome & Opening Keynote

8:30-9:30 a.m.

UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

This opening session features a welcome by *Anna SoRelle*, ISEA President and a presentation by keynote *Stephanie Corso*, Rogue Water, entitled "Those Who Tell the Stories Rule the World - The Confluence of Art and Science."

Coffee Break

9:30-9:50 a.m.

ROOM 203/4

Get a boost of caffeine and share your science story with others before the concurrent sessions. A craft station is available for attendees to decorate a journal in honor of being in the Storybook Capital of America.

Silent auction items will be on display for viewing in the Upstairs Conference Room.



Concurrent Sessions

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

ROOM #205/6

Tell Your Watershed Story

Everyone lives in a watershed. How well do you know the watershed where you live? Could you tell its story? We will use both science and art as we explore our watersheds and practice telling their stories to each other. Bring your own device and your curiosity!

Presenter: Melissa Mullins, Environmental Educator, Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University

PRESENTATION & HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

ROOM #207/8

Telling Your Science Story...at a History Museum?!

For many informal (and formal) educators, history and science are on opposite sides of the content spectrum. But the reality is that many museums tackle both concepts! In this session, you'll hear a case study of one museum, and then work together on blending these two foundational content areas.

Presenter: Erin Shields, Executive Director, Bosque Museum

followed by

Celebrate Texas Eclipses—Totally!

Eclipses are coming to Texas! Many of us will be in the path of totality for the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse. The Annular Eclipse of October 14, 2023 is another great eclipse opportunity for the public. Join McDonald Observatory to learn about solar eclipses, eclipse viewing tools and activities!

Presenter: Keely Finkelstein, Associate Professor of Instruction, UT Austin/McDonald Observatory

Lunch Break

12:00-1:00 p.m.

UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

Take a break with a boxed lunch from Jason's Deli. Small patios are available for eating if weather is good. Then, relax and decorate your journal cover at the craft station or peruse the silent auction.

Please note: Vegetarian and gluten-free boxes are available only for attendees who indicated dietary needs on their registration form.



Panel, Sci-Tech Discovery Center 1:15-2:15 p.m.

UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

Did You Hear the RUMRS About Engaging Programs?

Increase your engagement of diverse audiences by addressing barriers to participation in the program planning process. By using the acronym RUMRS, participants will learn integrated strategies that increase engagement and impact to all learners, especially those of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Panelists: Natalia Gutierrez-Borja, Jacie Hood, Alyssa Fox, and Austin Ng



Concurrent Sessions

2:30-3:30 p.m.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

ROOM #205/6

People and Patterns -- Stories in the Stars

At McDonald Observatory, a popular part of the Star Party is the Constellation Tour. We help visitors connect with the night sky by pointing out constellations and telling stories connected with the stars. In this workshop, we'll create our own stories as we learn a few things about stars.

Presenter: Judy Meyer, K12 Education Program Coordinator, McDonald Observatory

PRESENTATION

ROOM #207/8

Watershed Program E&O: Educational Trailers and the TRWD Rainscapes

The Tarrant Regional Water District's (TRWD) Watershed Program covers 20 counties in the Upper Trinity Basin that drain into the District's reservoirs. Our education and outreach effort includes two stream trailers and a walk-through watershed experience trailer. The stream trailers simulate real world physics and water science, with an emphasis on application and stewardship that takes the landscape level systems processes and connects people back to nature. For the Watershed Experience Trailer we have created lessons for its four exhibits, but it was designed to be a walk-through passive learning experience used for partner events along the Trinity River and the watersheds we support. This talk will feature our watershed programs' education and outreach on and off campus, and our lessons learned.

Presenter: Michelle Wood-Ramirez, Urban Programs Coordinator, Tarrant Regional Water District

PRESENTATION

ROOM #209/10

Storytelling on the Go

Using roving interpretation, we can connect more visitors to our sites than ever. This session breaks down roving interpretation to help you tell the story of your site. Join us to discuss the basics of roving interpretation, how it's done, and how we can prepare for it by presenting a list of roving interpretation principles I created, called Bradley's Seven Principles of Roving Interpretation. Hear some examples of real-life roving interpretation done in the field and brainstorm ideas to incorporate roving interpretation into your every-day practice.

Presenter: Danielle Okay, Regional Interpretive Specialist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Thank You Sponsors!



FOYER

This session features posters and networking! Explore current research on the informal field and enjoy light refreshments.

"Connecting Interest In and Awareness of the Environment With an Informal Experience"

Presenter: Miranda Wait

**The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
Texas State University**

"Outdoor Science Can Facilitate STEM Enjoyment, Learning, and Scientific Identity"

Presenters: Carolyn Jess, Raylee Schobel, and Kristy L. Daniel

Texas State University

"Urban Wildlife Information Network: Understanding Wildlife in Cities Around the World"

Presenter: Danielle Gay

Texas State University

"Story of a Bangladeshi River and Its Interaction With the Local Community"

Presenter: Mallika Saha

Texas State University

"Frameworks for Out-of-School STEM Activity Designs"

**Presenters: Alisha Bailey Richard Duschl, Alain Mota
Caruth Institute Engineering Education - Lyle School of
Engineering - Southern Methodist University**

Closing Event

6:30-9:30 p.m.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE

Shuttles provided from conference hotel and back

Toast to informal science with good food and friends! Dinner includes tapas, tamales, and rice bowls from Market Street. Design your own bookmark to commemorate the conference!

Beer and wine available for purchase (cash only).

Don't forget to bid for your favorite auction items!

Thursday night is the last chance to enter the raffle or bid on silent auction to support the scholarship fund. Enter or bid by 8:00 p.m.

\$25 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$100

Scan. Donate. Done.



paybee.io/@isea@2



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Auction Item Pickup

Begins at 8:30 a.m.

UPPSTAIRS CONFERNECE ROOM

Thank you for supporting the ISEA Annual Conference Scholarship Fund! Close out your win with the committee from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

9:00-10:00 a.m.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

ROOM #205/6

Equitable Access to Outdoor Learning Experiences

As evidence of the mental, physical, and academic benefits of nature grows, calls for more natural spaces are becoming widespread. This presentation describes how one center provides urban students with opportunities to have meaningful encounters with nature while exploring science concepts.

Presenter: Mark Broughton, Director, Dallas ISD STEM Environmental Education Center

PRESENTATION

ROOM #207/8

Two Texas Wildlife Camps Creating Youth Leaders

Learn how The Texas Brigades program started and now reaches over 300 youth leaders annually. This will be compared with a similar program, Wildlife Conservation Camp, that started the same year and has led many Texas youth to careers in the Natural Resource fields.

Presenter: Annaliese Scoggin, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Concurrent Sessions

9:00-10:00 a.m.

PRESENTATION

ROOM #209/10

Creating Environmental Engagement through D.U.E. Diligence
Environmental education has long been considered an essential part of learning; however, in the past few years, many of us have learned that environmental education was not as “essential” as we originally thought. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center has created a new programming framework for increasing public engagement with the natural world. The D.U.E framework allows our staff to incorporate education across our facility as well as establish new ways of engaging with the public regardless of where they might be in their environmental journey.

**Presenter: Andrew Bullard, Environmental Learning Manager,
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center**

Closing Keynote

10:10 a.m.

UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

Close out the conference with a special presentation entitled "Weaving Our Science Story with Threads of Knowledge" by keynote *Eldrena Douma*, a Native American Storyteller.

ISEA Business Meeting

11:15-11:45 a.m.

UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees are invited to this session, as registering for conference makes you an official ISEA Member! Learn about membership, running for the ISEA Board, and the 2024 annual conference. Plus, raffle winners will be announced! Who will host Rigor and Mortimer for the year?!

Post-Conference Field Trips

1:00-3:00 p.m.



Candle Making

806 S 2nd St Unit C, Abilene, TX 79602

Explore the world of candle making with Abilene Candle Company! This workshop will shed a light on the art and science of creating candles and allow you to pour and design your very own eco-friendly candle to take home.

REGISTER FOR CANDLEMAKING AT THURSDAY REGISTRATION AT 8 AM!



Frontier Texas!

625 N 1st St, Abilene, TX 79601

Frontier Texas! is a world class interactive museum and visitor center located in downtown Abilene. With historic downtown Abilene as the backdrop, explore the western heritage of the region and relive the Old West through innovative exhibits. Using state-of-the-art technology, Frontier Texas! brings to the frontier to life through the stories of people of a variety of backgrounds and allows visitors to interact with the voices of the past.



1100 NORTH 6TH STREET • ABILENE, TX 79601
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