

Northern Woodlands Conference:

Speaker Biographies

Friday, October 20 – Sunday, October 22, 2017
Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

Thank You to Our Sponsors: The Bailey Charitable Foundation and The Trust for Public Land

Ian Aldrich

Session: Editor Panel Discussion

Ian Aldrich is the Deputy Editor at Yankee Magazine, where he has worked for more than a decade. He is the magazine's staff feature writer, whose stories delve deep into issues facing small communities throughout New England. He also oversees the magazine's digital endeavors, including the publication of its bi-monthly digital magazine. His work has appeared in numerous other publications and has also been recognized by the Best American Sports Writing anthology. He lives with his family in Dublin, New Hampshire.



Virginia Barlow

Session: Woods Walk

Virginia Barlow worked for many years at Redstart Forestry, which she started in 1992. She is a co-founder of Northern Woodlands where she's worked since its beginning, mostly editing and doing a little writing. She's been on a number of boards and committees, both in Corinth, Vermont, and for Vermont statewide organizations.

Jim Collins

Workshops: Metaphors on Ice; Last Ride to Berlin

Jim Collins has been editing and writing for magazines for 30 years, many of those years for *Yankee* magazine in Dublin, New Hampshire. From January 2000 until September 2001, he was the magazine's editor, just the third in its 65-year history. Under his watch *Yankee* was nominated for a National Magazine Award in 2001 in the category of reporting. Before



becoming editor of *Yankee* Jim was the acting editor of the alumni magazine at Dartmouth, from where he graduated in 1984.

In addition to *Yankee* and *Northern Woodlands*, his articles have appeared in *Popular Mechanics*, *Backpacker*, *Outside*, *Glamour*, *Reader's Digest*, *Geo*, *The Sun*, *Boston* magazine, *Chicago* magazine, and *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, among other publications. His 2004 narrative nonfiction book about the Cape Cod Baseball League, *The Last Best League*, has sold 50,000 copies and remains in print. He lives in New Hampshire and Seattle with his wife, Kristen Laine, and their two children.

Dede Cummings

Session: *To Look Out From*, Poetry of Place & Environment

Dede Cummings is a writer, literary agent/publisher and commentator for Vermont Public Radio. At Middlebury College, she was the recipient of the Mary Dunning Thwing Award, attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference as an undergraduate writer, and studied with Hayden Carruth at the Bennington Writers' Workshop.



In 2013, she was a poetry contributor at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Her poetry has been published in *Mademoiselle*, *The Lake*, *Inquire*, *Vending Machine Press*, *Kentucky Review*, *Figroot Press*, *MomEgg Review*, *Connotation Press*, and *Bloodroot Literary Magazine*. She was a Discover/The Nation poetry semi-finalist and was awarded a writer's grant and a partial fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center in 2016. Dede lives in Vermont where she designs books and runs the startup [Green Writers Press](#). She was the winner of the 4th annual [Homebound Publications Poetry Prize](#) for her collection *To Look Out From*, published by Homebound Publications on April 2017.

Nona Estrin

Workshop: Nature Journaling

Nona Estrin is life-long self-taught artist and naturalist who teaches workshops promoting the enjoyment of the outdoors by keeping an illustrated journal. She has published the award winning *In Season: A Natural History of the New England Year*, Nona's daily illustrated nature journals with essays by her husband Charles Johnson. An outdoor enthusiast, Nona has also led walking tours in Vermont and the eastern Arctic as a guide for Country Walkers and founded the non-profit conservation group East Montpelier Trails, Inc. She has received awards for her work creating public and conservation easements to protect open land.

As Nona says "An entry in a nature journal is like an artifact of that time spent. There are so many ways to slow down, but this is a tried and true method, guaranteed to give you deep satisfaction. We all have a yearning nostalgia for contact with the natural world."

Celia Evans

Session: Music and Poetry Night

Celia Evans is a Professor of Ecology at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondack Park of New York State. She is an ecologist, educator, singer/songwriter who uses "place" to contextualize her science teaching and songwriting.



Celia's ecological research has included beech bark disease impacts on forest structure, snowshoe hare browse behavior: the role of plant chemical defenses and habitat, the response of invasive and native aquatic plants to water temperature in a changing climate, and the factors that structure peatland plant communities. Following a dissertation in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Dartmouth College she did post-doctorate in Science Education at the University of New Hampshire. Since then, she has stayed active in science education in her own classes and by working with K-12 teachers to allow them to develop standards-based inquiry and place-based curricula in a variety of workshop formats. She spent three months in 2012 on a teaching/research Fulbright scholarship in the Altai Republic in the Russian Federation. There she worked with students at Gorno-Altai State University and conducted research with a Russian colleague on rural elementary school students' cultural relationship to place by examining the relative strengths of formal (school) and informal (family, community, and media) factors that influence their attachment to place and ecological literacy in the Altai and in the Adirondacks. Lately, along with teaching and research she has been dabbling with journalistic style writing in magazines and local newspapers about her science and education research interests and passions.

Celia has released five albums of original folk. Much of the music gets its inspiration from the environment, landscapes, and people of cold rocky northern places. Recently she was involved in a recording project and PBS documentary entitled '*Songs to Keep*' *Treasures of an Adirondack Folk Collector*. The music project was funded by a grant to TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate New York) and the video chronicles the life of Champlain Valley historian Marjorie Lansing Porter who collected Adirondack folk songs in the 1940s and 1950s. Several Adirondack-based musicians were asked to choose a song from the original recorded collection. On the album and in the video, Evans sings the

lumber camp song ‘Cutting Down the Pines.’ The video project was directed by Paul Larson and won an Emmy Award for the production.

Castle Freeman

Session: Selected Readings and Discussion

Castle was born in 1944 in San Antonio, Texas, and was raised and schooled in Chicago and New York. He moved with his wife, Alice, to southeastern Vermont in 1972 and has lived there ever since, mainly in Newfane. There, he has had many day jobs in one or another department of the publishing industry, mainly as a copy editor and editor for book and magazine publishers. All the while, however, he has also worked as a writer, mostly of fiction but also of personal essays, reporting, op-ed matter, history, and natural history, including as a contributor to *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*, *Country Journal*, *Harrowsmith*, *Vermont Life*, *Yankee*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Northern Woodlands*.



David George Haskell

Keynote Address: The Songs of Trees; Workshop: Contemplative Practices in Ecology and Creative Writing Education

David Haskell’s work integrates scientific, literary, and contemplative studies of the natural world. His book, *The Forest Unseen*, was the recipient of numerous honors including the National Academies’ Best Book Award for 2013 and finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction. Haskell’s next book, *The Songs of Trees*, examines biological networks through the lives of a dozen trees around the world. Haskell is Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, and he is a 2014-2015 Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He serves on the boards and advisory committees of local and national land conservation groups. Haskell’s classes have received national attention for the innovative ways they combine action in the community with contemplative practice. In 2009, the Carnegie and CASE Foundations named him Professor of the Year for Tennessee. In addition to his books, he has published scientific papers, essays, poems, and op-eds. (Photo credit: Katherine Lehman.)



Erik Hoffner

Session: Editor Panel Discussion

As an editor for global news service *Mongabay*, Erik works to keep 24 million readers informed on the latest developments in conservation news and science. He is also a freelancer for publications like *The Guardian*, *Grist*, *World Ark*, and *EcoWatch*, and his work has also appeared in *National Geographic News Watch*, *OnEarth*, *Yale Environment 360*, *The Sun*, and *Earth Island Journal*. Previously, he was a columnist, photographer, podcaster, and outreach coordinator for the award-winning literary journal of the environment, *Orion*, for 13 years.



Jennifer Hushaw

Session: Forests and Climate Change: What Do We Know?

Jennifer is an Applied Forest Scientist in the Climate Services Program at Manomet, a non-profit organization based in Plymouth, Massachusetts with a mission of applying science and engaging people to sustain our world. Her focus is building resilience in North American forests, by working with landowners and managers in the Climate Smart Land Network and providing science-based strategies for reducing climate-related risk to working forests. She synthesizes the latest research and helps integrate that information into forest management and planning.



Prior to Manomet, Jennifer was a Project Manager at Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC where she worked on projects related to wood energy and forest sustainability in the northeast, as well as landowner outreach and assistance with on-the-ground forestry operations.

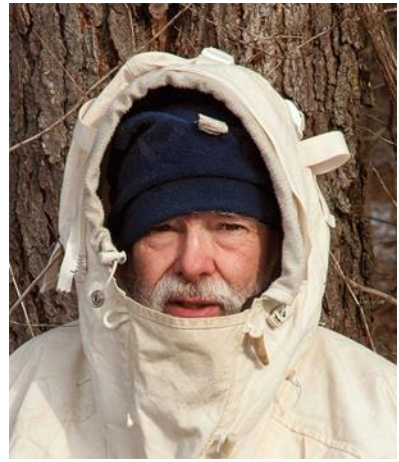
She holds a B.S. in Biology from St. Michael's College and dual master's degrees in Forestry and Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.

Jennifer is an aspiring birder and a lover of botany. In her spare time, she enjoys getting outdoors to run, hike, and photograph nature.

Jerry Jenkins

Workshops: New Tools for Plant Identification; Ecological Graphics

Jerry Jenkins is a researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society Adirondack Program and the director of the Northern Forest Atlas project for the Northern Forest Atlas Foundation. He was trained in theoretical physics, classics, and philosophy, has 50 years of field experience and has done over a quarter million acres of biological survey work in the Northern Forest. He wrote, illustrated, and designed the Adirondack Atlas for Syracuse and Acid Rain in the Adirondacks and Climate Change in the Adirondacks. He designed the website northernforestatlas.org and supplied imagery and articles. He has just completed a digital atlas of northern forest mosses and a photographic atlas of northern forest trees and shrubs, which will be available within the year. He is currently at work on a field guide and digital atlas to woody plants and photographic atlases of mosses and sedges.



Kathleen Kolb

Plenary Session: Shedding Light on the Working Forest; Roundtable: Art, Science, and The Outside Story

Kathleen Kolb graduated with a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been represented by David Findlay Galleries (2003-2010) and Sherry French Gallery (1996-2003) in New York City, and by Clarke Galleries (1992-2009) in Stowe, Vermont. She is currently represented by two galleries in Vermont: West Branch in Stowe and Furchgott Sourdiffé in Shelburne; as well as by MA Doran Gallery in Tulsa, OK. She has participated in roughly 40 solo shows and 80 group shows in New York and New England.



In the fall of 2015 Kathleen was an invited fellow at the Ballinglen Arts Foundation in Ballycastle, Ireland. From 2014 to 2017, with poet Verandah Porche, she created and managed an ambitious collaborative touring exhibition project called [*Shedding Light on the Working Forest*](#).

In 2009 Kolb was one of ten artists selected from over 300 applicants to be part of the ART OF ACTION, a unique public/private project to create and exhibit work addressing issues facing the future of Vermont. Her work has appeared in *American Artist*, *Vermont Life*, *Art New England*, *Northern Woodlands* and many other publications.

Kristen Laine

Workshops: Metaphors on Ice; Last Ride to Berlin

Kristen Laine is a magazine writer, book author, and reluctant blogger. She has written articles and essays on various species of outdoor adventure, wild nature, education, family, and environmental and women's issues. She initiated the "Great Kids, Great Outdoors" blog for the Appalachian Mountain Club and was content queen for Gear Goddess, an outdoor adventure site for women. Her radio commentaries have appeared on Vermont Public Radio. Her narrative chronicle of an Indiana state-champion marching band, *American Band*, won the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award for nonfiction in 2008. She's working on a novel, or two, set in the Pacific Northwest and is learning what transfers between nonfiction and fiction — and what doesn't. She lives in Seattle and New Hampshire with the writer Jim Collins and their two children.



Dan Lambert

Session: Woods Walk

As assistant director of the Center for Northern Woodlands Education, Dan provides grant writing, project development, and strategic planning support for our publications and programs. Before joining Northern Woodlands, he worked as a conservation biologist on regional efforts to enhance habitat for vulnerable wildlife populations. Dan is an Elective Member of the American Ornithological Society and a volunteer science educator at the Hartland Elementary School in Vermont. He lives in Hartland with his wife, Kathy, and their sons Remy and Nate. They enjoy being outside together, especially in streams, lakes, and swamps.



Dave Mance III

Sessions: Woods Walk, Editor's Panel Discussion

Dave Mance III is the editor of *Northern Woodlands* magazine and a contributing editor to "The Outside Story" column; he has been writing and editing professionally for almost 20 years now. He's currently writing this blurb — you can picture him checking his math



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on the almost-20-years figure, an incredulous look on his face, wondering how time could fly by like that. When not behind a computer, he's outside. He grew up in Vermont with family traditions that include sugarmaking, deer hunting, trapping, foraging, and logging; he's doing his part to pass these traditions along. Dave lives in Shaftsbury with his daughter Luella Mae, his partner Giöm, and her son Noa.

Declan McCabe

Macroinvertebrate Sample Workshop: Aquatic Insects - Far More Than Fish Food

Declan McCabe teaches in the Biology Department of Saint Michael's College. His work with students

ranges from ecology to evolution and typically includes a healthy dose of hands-on, minds-on field biology. His major research focus is on aquatic invertebrates in streams and lakes. In addition his academic responsibilities, Declan has devoted time to Vermont EPSCoR's outreach program bringing up to 50 high school participants to campus for a week each summer to monitor Vermont's streams. Declan and his wife, Margaret Vizzard, live with their three wonderful children in South Burlington, Vermont.



Gary Lee Miller

Workshop: Short and Sweet: The Power of the Seven-Minute Writing Prompt

Gary Lee Miller is a Vermont-based writer, editor, and filmmaker. His work has appeared in a number of literary magazines, including *Missouri Review*, *Green Mountains*

Review, *Hunger Mountain*, and *Chicago Quarterly Review*. Gary's music writing can be found in *Seven Days*, Vermont's weekly source for the arts, culture, and politics. His short story collection *Museum of the Americas* was a fiction finalist for the 2015 Vermont Book Award. Gary sings and plays guitar in the TrailerBlazers, a strictly hillbilly outfit, and serves as creative director of Writers for Recovery, a program using writing to help people overcome addiction. You can find out more about him at garyleemiller.com.



Terry Osborne

Workshop: A Place in Mind

Terry Osborne is a Senior Lecturer in the Environmental Studies Program and the Institute for Writing and Rhetoric at Dartmouth College. He has always been interested in the role of “place” in humans’ (particularly Americans’) lives, and he has explored this through a genre he calls the “Ecological Memoir”—a kind of memoir that deliberately uses a place or an environment as an active component of the story. More recently, inspired by writers like Terry Tempest Williams, Paul Shepard, Joanna Macy and Derrick Jensen, he has focused on Americans’ psychological, spiritual, and cultural relationships with the environment, believing that the way we think and feel about the natural world, and the way we’re taught to perceive it, determines the way we treat it.

He is the author of the memoir *Sightlines: The View of a Valley through the Voice of Depression* (2001, University Press of New England), and he also selected the essays and wrote the introduction for *Best Person Rural* (2006, David R. Godine), a collection of Noel Perrin’s rural essays. His own essays, articles and reviews have appeared in publications such as *Orion*, *Vermont Life*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The North American Review*.

Verandah Porche

Plenary Session: Shedding Light on the Working Forest; Roundtable: Art, Science, and The Outside Story

Poet and writing partner Verandah Porche developed a process, “told poetry,” helping those who need a scribe to create personal literature. A “poet in the schools” since 1970, Verandah branched out into collaborative writing projects in literacy and crisis centers, hospitals, factories, nursing homes, senior centers, a 200 year-old Vermont tavern, and an urban working class neighborhood. Verandah's own books are *Sudden Eden*, *The Body's Symmetry*, and *Glancing Off*. Marlboro College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters. The Vermont Arts Council has honored her service to the cultural life of the state. Her current project is a traveling exhibition, *Shedding Light on the Working Forest*, with painter Kathleen Kolb and people who earn their livelihoods in the woods.



Sean Prentiss

Workshop: Living Maps: Writing Setting as a Character

[Sean Prentiss](#) is the award winning author of [*Finding Abbey: a Search for Edward Abbey and His Hidden Desert Grave*](#), a memoir about Edward Abbey and the search for home. *Finding Abbey* won the 2015 National Outdoor Book Award for History/Biography, the Utah Book Award for Nonfiction, and the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for Biography. It was also a Vermont Book Award and Colorado Book Award finalist. Prentiss is the co-author of the environmental writing textbook, [*Environmental and Nature Writing: A Craft Guide and Anthology*](#), and the co-editor of [*The Far Edges of the Fourth Genre: Explorations in Creative Nonfiction*](#), a creative nonfiction craft anthology. He and his family lives on a small lake in northern Vermont and he teaches at Norwich University and in the M.F.A. program at Vermont College of Fine Arts.



Tim Weed

Session: Reading and Discussion of New Fiction Collection, *A Field Guide to Murder and Fly Fishing*

Tim Weed lives in southeastern Vermont, where his writing space looks out over a trout stream and a small expanse of the northern hardwood forest. He teaches at Grub Street in Boston and in the MFA



Writing program at Western Connecticut State University, is the co-founder of the Cuba Writers' Program, and works occasionally as a featured expert for National Geographic Expeditions in Spain and Patagonia. His fiction and essays have appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Millions*, *Middlebury Magazine*, *Backcountry*, *Northern Woodlands*, *Writer's Chronicle*, and elsewhere. Tim's first novel, *Will Poole's Island* (Namelos, 2014), was named one of Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of the Year, and his new short fiction collection, *A Field Guide to Murder & Fly Fishing* (Green Writers Press), is out in 2017. (Photo credit: Rachel Portesi.)

Patrick White

Workshop: A Place in Mind

Patrick White is the assistant editor of *Northern Woodlands* magazine. He has written about trees and woodlots for a number of different publications over the years and enjoys asking questions of the

experts. Patrick's first memories of the woods are from going to work with his father, a (now retired) county forester in Vermont. He lives with his wife, Tamara, and son, Aidan, on a 60-acre woodlot and Christmas tree farm in Middlesex, Vermont. When not writing, editing, or shearing trees, Patrick is likely to be found at some sort of youth sports event. Or at home repairing something.

Robin Hadlock Seeley

Workshop: Protecting Maine's Underwater Seaweed Forest

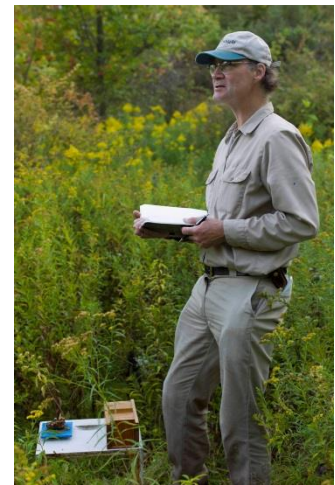
Robin Hadlock Seeley is an 8th generation Mainer with degrees from Bowdoin College and Yale University (Ph.D., Biology). She divides her time between Cobscook Bay, Maine, where she is a resident, and Ithaca, NY, where she is a senior research associate at Cornell University. Her work has appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, NY Academy of Sciences, Biological Bulletin, and Journal of Crustacean Biology. She works internationally to advocate for the conservation of coastal habitat-forming seaweeds and has been quoted in Scientific American, Maine Public Radio, and numerous newspapers. She has also produced short films to educate the public about the role of seaweeds in marine ecosystems and the impacts of commercial seaweed harvests; and has spoken to audiences across New England. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, Maine Sea Grant, Eastern Maine Conservation Initiative, and she was a Conservation Leadership Fellow supported by National Audubon and Toyota.



Thomas Seeley

Workshop: The Craft of Bee Hunting; Plenary Session: How Bees Choose a Forest Home

Thomas D. Seeley, biologist and writer, is the Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University. He teaches courses on animal behavior and does research on the behavior, social life, and ecology of honey bees. Tom is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees while a high school student, when he shook a swarm into a box and brought it home. His scientific work is summarized in four books: *Honeybee Ecology* (1985), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1995), *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), and *Following the Wild Bees* (2016). In recognition of his scientific contributions, he has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He writes: "These are nice awards, but for me the most



important prizes by far are the discoveries that I have made about the inner workings of honey bee colonies."

Adelaide Tyrol

Workshop: Nature Journaling

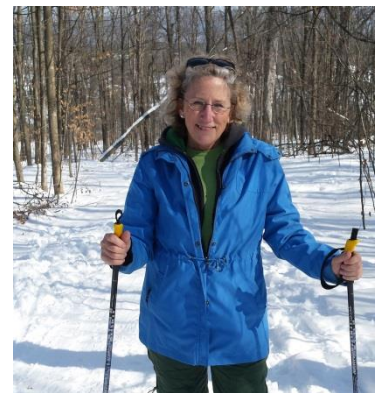
Adelaide Murphy Tyrol works out of her studios in Plainfield, Vermont and New York City. She has studied at the Art Student's League. The Parson's School of Design and received her MFA from the Art Institute of Boston. Along with her gallery work, Adelaide is a natural history illustrator and has worked with Northern Woodlands and the Wellborn Ecology Fund for 12 years. She is also co-owner of a large scenic painting studio in NYC which serves the photography and film industries. Her natural history pieces are often 4" x 6" and her large-format work is typically 14'x40'.



Nancy Wollum

Roundtable: Art, Science, and The Outside Story

Nancy Wollum teaches 6th grade in Shoreham, a small Vermont town on Lake Champlain. Her favorite activity is her daily predawn walk when she has the world to herself to think, imagine, and create. Nancy really enjoys learning about nature and our world, and spending time with people who know more than she does, so she is really looking forward to this weekend!



Julie Zickefoose

Plenary Session: *Baby Birds – an Artist Looks Into the Nest*

Julie Zickefoose of Whipple, Ohio, author of the heavily illustrated *Letters from Eden* and *The Bluebird Effect*, is a Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Her new book is *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest* (2016), with more than 500 watercolor studies of the development of nestling birds. She loves to encourage people to watch wildlife more closely and carefully, speaking and leading trips at a number of festivals around the country.

