

# Northern Woodlands Conference 2019

## Speaker Biographies

**Friday, October 18 – Sunday, October 20, 2019**  
**Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont**

*Thank You to our Sponsor: The Bailey Charitable Foundation*

### **Ian Aldrich**

Ian Aldrich is the Deputy Editor at *Yankee* magazine, where he has worked for more than a decade. As the magazine's staff feature writer, he writes stories that 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 and Travel Writing anthologies. He lives with his family in Dublin, New Hampshire.



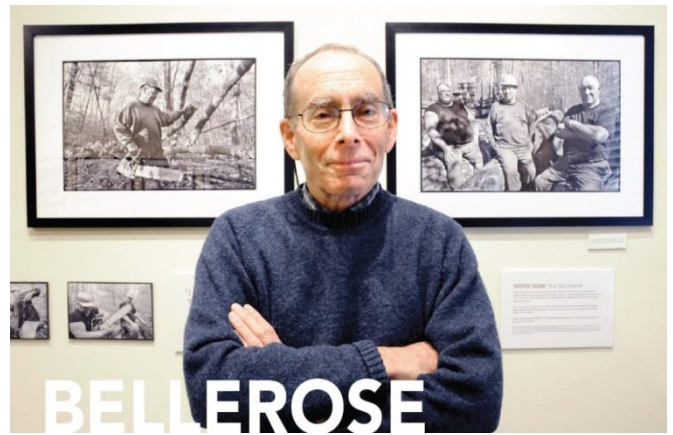
### **Sean Beckett**

Sean has spent the last decade guiding wildlife and nature photography safaris across North America, from the threshold of wolf dens in Yellowstone to the sparring grounds of polar bears in the Hudson Bay, to the colorful Canyonlands of the desert southwest. A native Vermonter, Sean has worked as a wildlife biologist across New England, and is North Branch Nature Center's Staff Naturalist. His business, Green Mountain Exposure, teaches nature lovers to use photography to deliver the essence of our planet's most powerful experiences. Sean received his M.S. from the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program.



## George Bellerose

George Bellerose, a Weybridge, Vermont photojournalist, has been a reporter at city newspapers and rural weeklies, an editor/writer/photographer at three colleges, and a freelance writer. His books have documented the lives of Nova Scotia commercial fishermen, health care workers, a Yellowstone backcountry park ranger, and a Vermont dairy farm family. His current project, *Portrait of a Forest: Men and Machine*, will be published by the Vermont Folklife Center in 2019.



## David Carroll

Naturalist-artist David M. Carroll, who in 2006 was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, is the author-illustrator of three acclaimed natural histories: *The Year of the Turtle*, *Trout Reflections*, and *Swampwalker's Journal*. The latter was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing. This “wet-sneaker trilogy” was expanded to a quartet with the publication of *Self-Portrait with Turtles*, a memoir centered on his lifelong connection with turtles and their habitats. His fifth book, *Following the Water, A Hydromancer's Notebook* was named a finalist in non-fiction for a National Book Award in 2009. That same year he received Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Hampshire Writers' Project. David is a graduate of the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University. He has received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of New Hampshire and an Honorary Masters in Environmental Science from New England College. His fieldwork has been published in scientific journals, including *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* and *Northeastern Naturalist*. David is an active turtle and wetlands preservation advocate. He and his artist wife Laurette Carroll have lived in Warner, NH, since 1969.

## Jim Collins

Jim Collins has been editing and writing for magazines for more than 30 years, many of those years for *Yankee* magazine in Dublin, New Hampshire. Under his watch *Yankee* was nominated for a National Magazine Award in 2001 in the category of reporting. Before *Yankee* Jim was the acting editor of the alumni magazine at Dartmouth, from where he graduated in 1984. He is the co-editor of *Dartmouth Undying*, an eclectic coffee-table book showcasing 250 years of Dartmouth history. In addition to *Northern Woodlands*, his articles have appeared in *Outside*, *Backpacker*, *Glamour*, *Reader's Digest*, *Geo*, *The Sun*, *Boston* magazine, *Chicago* magazine, and *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, among others. His narrative account of a season in the elite Cape Cod Baseball League, *The Last Best League* (Da Capo Press, 2004) won the New Hampshire





Literary Award for Outstanding Work of Nonfiction in 2005. He lives in New Hampshire and Seattle with his wife, writer Kristen Laine.

## Ben Cosgrove

Ben Cosgrove is a traveling composer-performer whose instrumental music is inspired by landscape, place, and ecology. He has performed in every US state except for Delaware and Hawaii, and held artist residencies and fellowships with institutions including Acadia National Park, Isle Royale National Park, Harvard University, the Schmidt Ocean Institute, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, and White Mountain National Forest. His nonfiction writing about place, art, and ecology has appeared in *Orion*, *Appalachia*, *Northern Woodlands*, *Taproot*, and other publications, and he is a former Middlebury Fellow in Environmental Journalism. Most recently, Ben worked as the artist-in-residence with the New England Trail - a National Scenic Trail connecting New Hampshire to Long Island Sound - in which capacity he spent the year giving a series of performances along the trail corridor and composing new music based on the landscapes through which the trail passes. Ben also serves on the Northern Woodlands Board of Directors.



## Dawn Dextraze

Dawn is the education and outreach specialist for the Sullivan County Conservation District. She has been teaching outdoor environmental education since 2002 and has worked in New England, Washington, North Carolina, and Tennessee. She has a B.S. in Biology from Mars Hill College and a M.A. in Environmental Education from the University of New Hampshire. Her specialties include aquatic natural history, butterflies, astronomy, citizen science, and student-centered education techniques. In her free time, she enjoys sewing, gardening, reading, hiking and spending time with her nephews.



## David Dobbs

David Dobbs, co-author with Richard Ober of the regional must-read *The Northern Forest* and other books, has written national prize-winning features, essays, and book reviews about nature, science, sports, the environment, and other things for publications including *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, and, for over 20 years, *Northern Woodlands*, where he once wrote an essay about juncos, dog doo, and divorce. His memoir about his mother's secret WWII affair with a flight surgeon, *My Mother's Lover*, was a #1 best-selling Kindle Single. He lives in Montpelier, Vermont.



## Celia Evans

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. 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. 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. Celia also serves on the Northern Woodlands Board of Directors.



## Erica Heilman

Erica Heilman is the producer of *Rumble Strip*, which airs monthly on VPR. Her independent radio work has aired on NPR's *Day to Day*, *Hearing Voices*, *SOUNDPRINT*, KCRW's *UnFictional*, KCRW's *Lost Notes*, and on major public radio affiliates across the country. She lives in Calais, Vermont with her son, Henry.





## Bernd Heinrich

Bernd Heinrich moved to Maine from Poland and Germany at age 11, unable to speak a word of English. He was immediately immersed in rural Maine life and fell in love with the Maine woods. He studied forestry at the University of Maine, Orono and remained there to receive a Master's Degree in Cell Biology. He then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles where he received a PhD in Physiological Ecology. He then spent ten years as a professor of Entomology at the University of California, Berkeley before returning back home to be near the family farm in Maine and teach biology at the University of Vermont from 1980 till his retirement in 2004. Bernd is the author of a number of bestselling and award-winning books about nature and biology.

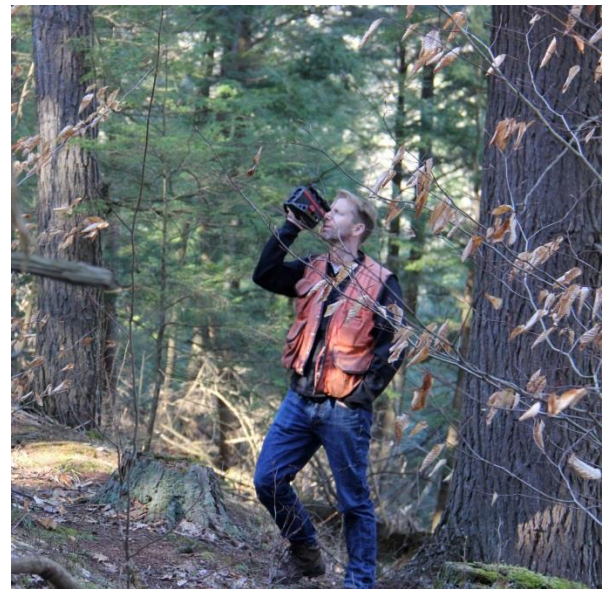
## Jerry Jenkins

Jerry Jenkins trained as physicist and mathematician, and spent fifty years working as naturalist, ecologist, botanist, artist, and mapmaker. He is also an occasional teacher and lapsed musician. He has done field surveys of half a million acres, identifying lands that needed protection. He's the author and illustrator of three Adirondack books (*The Adirondack Atlas*, *Acid Rain in the Adirondacks*, *Climate Change in the Adirondacks*) and is now in the midst of a series of field guides to the Northern Forest Region. He's the recipient of prizes for biography, book design, writing, conservation work, educational work. He has an abiding interest in ecological and geographical patterns and how to illustrate them, which is at the core of his current work.



## William (Bill) Keeton

William (Bill) Keeton is a Professor of Forest Ecology and Forestry at the University of Vermont. There he directs the Carbon Dynamics Laboratory and is a Fellow in the Gund Institute for Environment. He currently chairs the IUFRO Working Group on Old-growth Forests and serves on the boards for Science for the Carpathians and the Vermont Land Trust. He recently co-edited "*Ecology and Recovery of Eastern Old-Growth Forests*," published by Island Press. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University ('90), a Masters in Conservation Biology and Policy from Yale University ('94), and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington (2000).



## Ben Kilham

Ben Kilham is a wildlife biologist based in Lyme, New Hampshire. His love of and devotion to black bears has enabled him to study their habits and interact with them for more than two decades. He, his wife Debra and sister Pheobe have accepted orphaned bear cubs into their home and enabled them to successfully return to the wild. Ben has been the focus of many news articles and several documentaries, including National Geographic's *A Man Among Bears*, Animal Planet's *Papa Bear* and the 2018 IMAX film *Pandas*, which features his work with Chinese scientists to release captive-born pandas. Ben is also the author of the following books: *Among the Bears: Raising Orphaned Cubs in the Wild* and *Out on a Limb: Origins of Intuition and Intelligence*.

## Steve Langdon

Stephen Langdon is a field ecologist with deep roots in Northern New York State. He is the Director of Shingle Shanty Preserve and Research Station, a 15,000-acre biological field research station near Long Lake, New York as well as a consulting ecologist with research focusing on lowland boreal habitat and boreal bird species. Steve played music extensively in his 20's and early 30's performing solo in northern New York, and throughout northern Germany in the late 1990's with the Professor Washboard Band. He lives in Saranac Lake, NY with his wife and two young sons.



## Clare Walker Leslie

Clare Walker Leslie grew up outdoors playing in the woods and fields near Philadelphia. She went on to get a B.A., in Art History from Carleton College and has evolved a career combining the study of Nature and Drawing / Writing / Painting / Teaching as a means of connecting both herself and her students with the natural world. Clare has taught at Williams College, Harvard's Landscape Design Program, College of the Atlantic, Antioch New England, and many Audubon Centers and is a member of the National Guild of Scientific Illustrators and the international Artists For Nature Foundation. She teaches Nature Drawing, Field Nature Study, and the Nature Journal helping all ages to better connect with their local places. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Granville, Vermont with her husband, children/grandchildren, and various pets.





## Chris Maynard

Chris Maynard carves feathers into intricate art. His work enchants art collectors, birders, and a wide and interesting variety of people around the world. For him, feathers represent flight, transformation, and bridges between our present lives and our dreams. Maynard also combines his strong background in biology and ecology with his art into a tabletop book *Feathers, Form & Function*. He hails from Washington State but lived as a young adult in New England, near Hanover, New Hampshire for four years.



## Wyatt Oswald

Wyatt Oswald is a Professor of Science at Emerson College in Boston. He teaches courses on climate change, earth science, and ecology. In his research, Oswald analyzes lake-sediment records to reconstruct past changes in climate, vegetation, and fire. He has worked in Alaska, the western US, and New England. Oswald is a Research Fellow at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University's center for research and education in forest ecology and conservation, and serves as an Associate Editor for the journal *Quaternary Research*.



## Verandah Porche

Verandah Porche works as a poet-in-residence, performer, and writing partner. Based in rural Vermont on the notable commune Total Loss Farm, since 1968, she has published *Sudden Eden*, *The Body's Symmetry*, and *Glancing Off*. She initiated—and for almost 30 years taught—the poetry program at Vermont's Governor's Institute on the Arts. She writes and performs songs with Patty Carpenter, and the Dysfunctional Family Jazz band. She has read her work on NPR stations, in the Vermont State House and at the John Simon Guggenheim Museum. The Vermont Arts Council presented her with its Award of Merit, and its first Ellen McCollough-Lovell Award. Marlboro College gave her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2012. Verandah was featured in “Freedom and Unity: The Vermont Movie.” A collaboration with visual artist Kathleen Kolb “Shedding Light on the Working Forest,” exploring the lives of people



who work in the woods, has toured New England. She currently serves on the Guilford Selectboard, learning the poetics of civic life. Her new collaborative project, “Voices of Great River Terrace,” explores the experiences of people living without a home, now forming a new community.

## Thomas Seeley

Tom Seeley is the Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University. His research focuses on the behavior, social life, and ecology of honey bees. He has been an avid beekeeper since he was 16, hence for nearly 50 years. He is the author of several books on bees, including *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), and *Following the Wild Bees* (2016), and *The Lives of Bees: The Untold Story of the Honey Bee in the Wild* (2019). He lives in Ithaca, New York.



## Julia Shipley

Julia Shipley is a freelance journalist, editor, and poet. She serves as the mentor editor for *Mud Season Review*; she is a contributing editor and sometime columnist for *Yankee Magazine*, and a contributing writer to *Seven Days: Vermont's Independent Weekly*; she showcases exceptional journalists and journalism on Harvard's Nieman Storyboard, and is the [first ever female] calendar essayist for the *Old Farmer's Almanac*. She has written about the death and rebirth of a 2,500 year old tree, North America's largest boulder, devout Emily Dickinson fans, walking the coast of New Hampshire and life in rural New England. She is the author of a handful of chapbooks and two collections of poems, “The Academy of Hay” and forthcoming “An Animal Inside an Animal.” “Adam's Mark” her slender book about the congruencies between farming and writing was named a Best Book About New England by the Boston Globe in 2014. *Photo credit: David Witchell.*





## Ben Silberfarb

Ben Silberfarb is the Principal of SILBERFARB – FILMS an award-winning video production company that produces creative content for television, internet and independent clients. Prior to his work in film, Ben worked for The Lyme Timber Company, The Nature Conservancy, The Student Conservation Association and Green Mountain Club. He holds a Master's from the Yale School of Forestry. In 2018 Ben's short film, "The Hike" won Best Screenplay at the Vermont International Film Festival and Best NH Narrative Short at the New Hampshire Film Festival.

## Laurel Symes

Laurel Symes is the incoming Assistant Director of the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She conducts research on how and why sound is produced by a variety of animals including insects, birds, bats, and frogs. She uses recording devices and computerized analysis to study animal populations and helps to develop and share technology so that others can do the same. She completed her PhD at Dartmouth College and post-doctoral work at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.



## Eileen Townsend

Eileen Townsend is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Northern Logger Magazine*, a trade magazine for the forest products industry based in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. She has written about culture and business for *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *New York Magazine*, *The Village Voice*, *Atlas Obscura*, and other publications, and graduated with her MA from Columbia University in the City of New York's Journalism School in 2017. Originally from Tennessee, she loves running a trade magazine, traveling around the north woods, thinking about ways to improve and change the forest products industry, and her giant Newfoundland puppy, Preacher.



## Jennifer Wehunt

Since 2015, Jennifer Wehunt has served as the editorial director of the Appalachian Mountain Club, where she oversees a quarterly magazine, monthly digital content, a robust book-publishing catalog, and a semiannual journal. Before relocating to the Boston area, she worked as a senior editor at *Chicago* magazine and adjunct faculty at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, her grad-school alma mater. A paddler, printmaker, hack tenkara fisher, and native Texan, Jennifer is thrilled to have landed in New England and spends as much time outside as possible.

## Patrick White

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.

