

Northern Woodlands Writers & Readers Conference

October 16 – 18, 2015

Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

Presenter Biographies

Virginia Barlow

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.

Robin Brickman

Robin Brickman is a picture book artist, specializing in natural science. She grew up near Washington, DC, where the Smithsonian Institute and Virginia countryside were a regular inspiration. As a child, Robin dug clay from the creek in her backyard and attended art classes at the Corcoran Museum. In high school she started a mural painting club and began to appreciate the outdoors by spelunking, hiking, bicycling, and cross-country travel. At Bennington College, Robin majored in graphic art techniques, especially painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber arts, bookbinding, calligraphy, and papermaking. These explorations are a foundation for the sculpted watercolor technique Robin developed in the 1990's. This unique method of illustrating children's books is created by painting, cutting, and hand sculpting paper into 3-Dimensional art. Her books and paintings have won many awards, including a New York State Museum Purchase Prize, Outstanding Science Trade Book, National Science Teachers Association, Children's Book Council, John Burroughs List of Nature Books, and Reading Rainbow selections.

For over fifteen years, Robin has lead workshops based on the natural science and the artistry of the books she has illustrated. Through her hands-on workshops students experience the connection between art and science. In schools she explains how she plans a scientific picture book and demonstrates her distinctive artwork. At any grade level Robin can help students learn her technique and create a mural or small take home project of their own. In particular, her highly successful "Community Mural Project" has been praised across the country.

Ms. Brickman's picture books are: *Leaflets Three, Let It Be; Wings; One Night In The Coral Sea; A Log's Life, Beaks; I Am An Artist; Starfish; and Midnight in the Cemetery*. Find out more about Ms. Brickman at www.RobinBrickman.com

Jim Collins

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. Two of his pieces have been noted in the annual *Best American Sports Writing* anthologies, including a profile of former Boston Red Sox pitcher Bill Lee. His narrative account of a season in the élite 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 has been a frequent speaker at the Nieman Foundation's annual conference on narrative nonfiction, from which two of his talks were adapted for *Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers' Guide* (Plume, 2007). He lives in New Hampshire and Seattle with his wife, Kristen Laine, daughter Ursula, and son Virgil.

Dede Cummings

Dede Cummings is a writer, book designer, publisher, and commentator for Vermont Public Radio. She started her publishing career at Little, Brown after graduating from Middlebury College where she was the recipient of the Mary Dunning Thwing Award for poetry, and in 1991 studied with Hayden Carruth at the Bennington Writers' Workshop. She was a poetry contributor at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in 2013 and a Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference contributor. She is also a published author of six nonfiction health and organic lifestyle titles including the creative nonfiction, *Spin Cycle: Letters I Never Wrote You*. Dede is active in the environmental group 350-Vermont. She lives in West Brattleboro, Vermont with her family where she runs a home office for the startup Green Writers Press.

Green Writers Press is a Vermont-based, global publisher. Through the words and images they publish in books, eBooks, audiobooks, and now in their new literary magazine, GreenZine, the mission of GWP is to spread a message of hope and renewal as well as a message of environmental activism. Green Writers Press also publishes books that segue with their mission and which include other subjects that speak to the quality of life and the beauty of nature. Please visit www.greenwriterspress.com.

Nona Estrin

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

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.

Her ecological research has included beech bark disease impacts on forest structure, snowshoe hare browse behavior: the role of plant chemical defenses and habitat, and the response of invasive and native aquatic plants to water temperature in a changing climate. 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 four albums of original folk and is working on her fifth. 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.

Chip Fleischer

Chip Fleischer, a native of Kansas City, first came to the Upper Valley in 1982 to attend Dartmouth College. In 1993, he and three partners, Michael Moore, Thomas Powers and Alan Lelchuk, co-founded Steerforth Press, a general interest publisher of fiction and nonfiction books. Today Fleischer serves as publisher of Steerforth as well as president of Hanover Publisher Services, a sister company that provides sales and distribution to libraries and the bookselling trade through Penguin Random House. In addition to Steerforth, HPS clients include Archipelago Books, Pushkin Press, Campfire Graphic Novels and New Europe Books. Chip lives in Hanover with his wife Amy and their two sons.

Peter Forbes

Peter is a student of the relationship between people and place, the author and photographer of five books on that theme, and an edge walker between the professions of writing, community wellbeing and leadership development. He worked for many years in conservation and is one of the co-founders of Center for Whole Communities. You might find him teaching spoon-carving on a city street, or giving a keynote address on courage at a national conference, or helping to facilitate the healing a fracture within a community, or photographing a lost art. What Peter cares most about is strengthening peoples' connections to one another and to the land that sustains them. He practices what he preaches on their family farm. You can learn more at www.peterforbes.org.

Ruth Hare

Ruth Hare has filled a variety of newspaper editing roles over the past 27 years and has had a hand in developing and editing several nonfiction books. Since 1992 she has worked for the Rutland Herald and Times Argus in Vermont. As an editor for the Sunday magazine section, she fielded pitches from writers just starting out and some of Vermont's more familiar names, and has edited their work without fisticuffs or bloodshed. The best compliment she receives is when a writer says, "Your edits always sound like me."

As a writer, she has tried (and published) travel and feature stories, personal essays and book reviews.

Ruth is an avid hiker, skier and bicyclist and volunteers with the Green Mountain Club – the builder and primary protector of Vermont's Long Trail – as a member of its publications committee. In September 1998, she hiked the 272-mile trail from end to end.

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. Since 2004, he has published 22 mostly field-based scientific papers and three in press, and five books, with one in press.

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 and his wife Debra have accepted orphaned bear cubs into their home and enabled them to successfully return to the wild. Ben has been the focus of several news articles and documentaries, including National Geographic's *A Man Among Bears* and Animal Planet's *Papa Bear*. He is the author of *Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition* as well as co-author of the book *Among the Bears: Raising Orphaned Cubs in the Wild*.

Robert Kimber

Robert Kimber has published extensively in outdoor, environmental, and regional magazines, such as *Audubon*, *Country Journal*, *Down East*, *Field & Stream*, *Harrowsmith*, *Horticulture*, *New England Monthly*, and *Yankee*. Currently a columnist for *Northern Woodlands*, he has also been a columnist for *Country Journal* and *Down East*. His books include *Upcountry: Reflections from a Rural Life* and *A Canoeist's Sketchbook*. With his wife, Rita, he has collaborated on upward of forty translations from German. He has been active in conservation work in Maine over the past thirty years and received a 2003 Environmental Award from the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Jennifer Kramer

Jennifer Kramer is the middle school social studies teacher at the K-8 Guilford Central School in Guilford, VT. She previously taught 6th grade as well as a 5/6 combination. She is a graduate of Middlebury College and Antioch University New England. She was recently awarded the Vermont VFW Teacher of the Year Award for middle school civics education. She specializes in creating real world, place-based education projects that engage students in learning about and contributing to the history, economics, politics and cultural traditions of the community.

Ted Levin

Ted Levin is a veteran naturalist and award-winning writer, whose essays have appeared in *Audubon*, where he's a frequent contributor, *Sports Illustrated*, *National Wildlife*, *Sierra*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Yankee*, *OnEarth*, *Boston Globe Magazine*, *Newsday*, *Chicago Sun Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *Nature Conservancy*, *Attaché*, and numerous other print publications. Ted's writing has been included in numerous anthologies including *Harcourt Brace's The Best American Sports Writing 2003* and *The Curious Naturalist*, *National Geographic Books*. He is the author of three critically acclaimed books — *Backtracking: The Way of Naturalist*, *Blood Brook: A Naturalist's Home Ground*, and *Liquid Land: A Journey Through the Florida Everglades*, for which he was awarded the 2004 Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing. Ted co-authored five children's books, including the award-winning *Sawgrass Poems and Cactus Poems*, both with Harcourt Brace, and is a longtime Public Radio commentator. His photographs are widely published here and abroad and are represented by agents in New York, Paris, London, and Frankfurt.

Ted lives in Thetford, Vermont, where he has served on the conservation commission and both as justice of the peace and director of youth baseball. For many years he has led tours to the rattlesnake-rich landscapes of the Southwest and Southeast. In the summer of 2008, Ted organized and led a team of eleven- and twelve-year-old Little League all-stars on a goodwill baseball tour of Havana, Cuba, the first trip in more than fifty years to be sanctioned by both the United States and the Cuban governments.

The University of Chicago Press will publish Ted's most recent book *America's Snake: The Rise and Fall of the Timber Rattlesnake* in spring 2016.

Stephen Long

Stephen Long is a co-founder of Northern Woodlands. Since 2011, he has turned his attention from magazines to books. He was the lead author and editor of *More Than a Woodlot*, and the consulting

editor on *Hemlock*, written by David Foster and his colleagues at Harvard Forest. Steve's new book on New England's most devastating hurricane, called *Thirty-Eight*, will be published by Yale University Press in Spring 2016. *Thirty-Eight* is a book about forests and people, linking New England's land use history to the ecological setting and consequences of the storm. It tells the story of a remarkable hurricane and shows how a combination of natural disturbances and human actions has created the world we live in today.

David Macaulay

Born on December 2, 1946, David Macaulay was eleven when his family moved from England to the United States. Not surprisingly, he continued to grow up and in 1969 received his bachelor of architecture degree from Rhode Island School of Design after spending his fifth year in Rome on the European Honors Program.

In January 1973, after a couple of years of dabbling and a bit of luck, Macaulay was off to France to work on the first of his twenty five books, *Cathedral*. He then constructed a colonial Roman town (*City*, 1974), erected monuments to the Pharaohs (*Pyramid*, 1975), dissected the maze of subterranean systems below and essential to every major city (*Underground*, 1976), built a medieval fortress (*Castle*, 1977) and dismantled the Empire State Building (*Unbuilding*, 1980).

Macaulay is probably best known for a very thick book called *The Way Things Work* (1988). Co-authored by Neil Ardley, this exhaustively researched compendium presents the hows and whys of much of the technology we take for granted. It was followed by *Black and White* (1990), a considerably slimmer volume and winner of the 1991 Caldecott Medal. 1997 saw the publication of a pigeon lead tour of the Eternal City called *Rome Antics*, and in the fall of 1998, *The New Way Things Work*, a revised edition of the '88 book lumbered onto the stands. *Building Big*, the companion book to a five part PBS television series about major engineering feats around the world was published in 2000 and two years later Rome and pigeons once again took center stage for a book called *Angelo*.

In response to the events of September 11, *Mosque* was published in 2003 and that same year work began on a book about the workings of the human body. *The Way We Work* was published in 2008. For his most recent book, *Built to Last*, Macaulay slipped into reverse and re-illustrated both *Cathedral* and *Castle*, only this time in color. In 2009, David Macaulay Studio, an imprint of Roaring Brook Publishers, was founded to produce books that 'explain' things. Four short nonfiction books for reluctant readers are the first publications to emerge from this new enterprise.

In 2006, Macaulay was named a MacArthur fellow and turned sixty though the two are not related.

Kent McFarland

A co-founder of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Kent McFarland is a conservation biologist, photographer, writer and naturalist with over 20 years of experience across the Americas. Kent's writing and images have appeared widely in magazines, newspapers, and mobile field guides. He's co-host of Outdoor Radio, a monthly natural history series on Vermont Public Radio. He has coauthored many scientific journal articles and a field guide to the birds of Hispaniola. Kent received his M.S. degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England in Keene, NH, where he studied the effects of roads on the bird community in a Belize rainforest with Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. He completed his undergraduate degree in environmental studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. He was a Peace Corps volunteer working with rural farmers in Caazapa, Paraguay from 1989-1992. It was the bright birds of Paraguay that attracted Kent to conservation biology. After a few months in the country he bought a cheap pair of binoculars and a bird guide and became a fanatic. Kent has lived in Vermont since 1994 and has been a member of the Woodstock Fire Department since 2001.

Dave Mance III

Dave Mance III is the editor of *Northern Woodlands* magazine and a contributing editor of "The Outside Story" newspaper column. Dave splits his time between Corinth and Shaftsbury, Vermont, where he's part of a four-generations-old family sugaring operation.

Susan C. Morse

Throughout North America, Susan Morse is highly regarded as an expert in natural history and tracking. Ms. Morse has more than forty years' experience monitoring wildlife and interpreting wildlife habitat use. Her research has focused on cougar, bobcat, black bear, and Canada lynx. She has given workshops on wild felids and other carnivores to a wide range of audiences, including the general public, conservation leaders and professional biologists.

In 2001 Ms. Morse received the Franklin Fairbanks Award for her lifelong creative and dedicated service to enriching the awareness and understanding of the natural world among the residents of New England. She and Keeping Track were recently recognized by the Adirondack Council for decades of conservation work in the Champlain basin bioregion. Ms. Morse has authored numerous articles and authors a regular column on wildlife in *Northern Woodlands* magazine. Her work has been featured in many other publications, including *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, *Amicus Journal*, *Forest Magazine*, *Wild Earth*, *Vermont Life*, *Adirondack Life*, *The Nature Conservancy*, and *Ranger Rick*, as well as on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition."

Twenty years ago, Ms. Morse founded Keeping Track (www.keepingtrack.org), an organization devoted to training professional biologists and citizen scientists alike in wildlife monitoring skills. Keeping Track's mission is to empower multiple stakeholders to use their knowledge to detect, record and monitor the status of wildlife and wildlife habitat in their communities. Data collected by Keeping Track teams has influenced the conservation of over 40,000 acres of habitat in twelve states and Quebec.

Terry Osborne

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 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*.

Jack Rodolico

Jack Rodolico is the Health and Science Reporter for New Hampshire Public Radio, where he covers everything from the Affordable Care Act to the latest science coming out of UNH and Dartmouth. Jack’s reporting for NHPR includes a long, hard look at a facility for people with disabilities that has been plagued by abuse and neglect.

Prior to joining NHPR, Jack was a freelance writer and radio producer working for Northern Woodlands, National Public Radio, and other outlets. He studied radio at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, got his master’s degree at College of the Atlantic with a focus in environmental journalism, and studied ecology at Prescott College as an undergraduate.

Jack is a 2015 Blue Cross Foundation Health Reporting Fellow, and a 2014 PRX STEM Storytelling Project grantee.

Anita Sanchez

A summer job at a nature center turned into a thirty-year career as an environmental educator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Anita Sanchez designed and taught environmental science programs and outdoor classes, emphasizing hands-on activities and firsthand experiences. She now works as a free-lance educator, providing programs for schools, libraries, and museums as well as botanical gardens and arboreta.

Botany is her specialty, especially the study of plants that are unloved and underappreciated. Her first book was *The Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion*, a non-fiction book about dandelions and the environmental damage caused by the overuse of lawn pesticides.

Now she has managed to discover something good about poison ivy—it's an important food for wildlife, especially beloved birds like robins, bluebirds and cardinals. Her latest book *Leaflets Three, Let it Be! The Story of Poison Ivy* is a children's picture book, designed to help the youngest outdoor explorers both appreciate and avoid poison ivy. She is currently working on an adult version—a nonfiction book called *In Praise of Poison Ivy: The Secret Virtues, Amazing History, and Dangerous Lore of the World's Most Hated Plant*, under contract with Taylor Trade Publications. She has also written a children's book on scientific nomenclature, titled *Carolus Linnaeus and the Naming of Everything*, coming out next year. Her blog on unloved and unnoticed plants is at www.Unmowed.com and you can check out her website at: www.Anitasanchez.com.

Jim Schley

Jim Schley has been co-editor of the literary quarterly *New England Review*, production editor at University Press of New England, and editor-in-chief of Chelsea Green Publishing Company. He is presently managing editor for Tupelo Press, and has been the *Northern Woodlands* poetry editor for many years. Editor of more than three hundred books in a great variety of subject areas, he has also written essays and reviews for magazines and newspapers, and is author of two books of poems (most recently *As When, In Season*, 2008) as well as a double-memoir, with another author (forthcoming).

David Sobel

David Sobel is Senior Faculty in the Education Department at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH and he consults and speaks widely on child development and place-based education. He has authored seven books and more than 60 articles focused on children and nature for educators, parents, environmentalists and school administrators in the last 25 years. His most recent book is *Wild Play: Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors*, soon to be republished by Green Writer's Press.

He has served on the editorial boards of *Encounter*, *Community Works Journal* and *Orion Afield* and writes a regular column for *Community Works Journal*. His articles and essays have appeared in *Orion*, *Encounter*, *Sierra*, *Sanctuary*, *Wondertime*, *Green Teacher*, *Play Rights*, *Harvard Education Letter*, *Yes!* and other publications. He has contributed chapters to *Father Nature, Education, Information and Transformation*, *Stories from Where We Live-The North Atlantic Coast; Place-based Education in a Global Age*; and *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion* published by The University of Chicago.

George Steele

For more than 20 years, George Steele has been an environmental science education consultant working with a wide range of programs including children's summer camps, museums, nature centers, outdoor education centers, state agencies, libraries, and schools throughout the northeast. Steele earned his Bachelors of Science in Forest Biology with a major in Wildlife Biology from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He completed graduate work in environmental education at the Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH. Steele's professional experience includes working for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for 13 years. There he started as a Wildlife Technician in the Endangered Species Unit, primarily with birds of prey—bald eagles, ospreys, and peregrine falcons—and then moved to the Environmental Education Unit as an Environmental Educator III where he administered the Summer Environmental Education Camp Program.

"My interest in the environment and ecology began with my experiences growing up in the southern Adirondacks of New York State. Much of this was with my participation in Boy Scouts. I enjoyed nine seasons working in summer camps, starting with Camp Wakpominee (Mohican Council Boy Scout Camp) for five summers, a private co-ed camp in the Catskills for two summers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Camp DeBruce in the Catskills for two summers."

Steele is the recipient of numerous awards including the New York State Outdoor Education Association's "2007 Harlan 'Gold' Metcalf Award" for outstanding leadership, distinctive service and professional commitment to outdoor education, the NYSOEA's "2003 Outdoor Educator Award" and

the “2002 Conservation Educator of the Year” from the New York State Conservation Council. In addition, he received a “Leadership Award” from the New York State Outdoor Education Association and in 2005 he was honored with the “Sam Madison Award” from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club in recognition of his work in encouraging young people to appreciate and understand birds.

Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

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’.

John Warren – *bio pending*

Patrick White

Patrick White is assistant editor of *Northern Woodlands* magazine and has worked as an editor at several other regional and national publications over the years. He has also been a freelance writer for the past 20 years.

Michael Wojtech

Freelance writer, educator, photographer, and Illustrator.

After honing my communication skills over a fifteen-year business career, I moved from the pine barrens of New Jersey to western Massachusetts and enrolled in the Conservation Biology program at Antioch University New England. I arrived as a committed generalist, determined to learn and write about natural history. But I was quickly smitten by the trees. As I became familiar with the local species list and befriended individual trees, I quickly forged a connection with the landscape that had eluded me my whole life. I felt at home.

I channeled a desire to share this experience with others into my Masters thesis at Antioch, which became the basis for my book, *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast*. I continue to learn and write about the identification, physiology, and ecology of trees, and teach workshops throughout the

northeast. I am especially interested in the process of studying natural history—the keen observation, the discovery of nuance in infinite layers, the evocation of multiple senses—and the creative expression that flow from these experiences. Learn more: <http://www.knowyourtrees.com/>

Chuck Wooster – *bio pending*

Register for the Northern Woodlands Writers & Readers Conference today!

<http://www.alohafoundation.org/hulbert-outdoor-center/NWWC/>