

# Northern Woodlands Conference

Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2, 2016  
The Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

## Presenter Biographies

### Rick Bass

Rick Bass is the author of 31 books of fiction and nonfiction, including, most recently, *For a Little While: New & Selected Stories*. His work has also been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Travel Writing*, *Best Spiritual Writing*, *Best American Sports Writing*, and *Best American Nature Writing*. He lives in northwest Montana's Yaak Valley, where he is a board member of the Yaak Valley Forest Council ([www.yaakvalley.org](http://www.yaakvalley.org)). He's at work on a nonfiction book, *Eating My Heroes*, which chronicles a series of meals prepared for his literary mentors. He is the writer in residence at Montana State University.

### 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.

### Michael J. Caduto

Michael J. Caduto—author, environmental educator, storyteller and ecologist—is well known as the co-author (with Joseph Bruchac) of the landmark Keepers of the Earth® series. Michael's environmental feature stories and perspectives have been published by Reuters International and in major newspapers and magazines worldwide. His published books (20 to date) include *Through a Naturalist's Eyes*, *Pond and Brook*, *Riparia's River*, *Earth Tales from Around the World* and *Catch the Wind, Harness the Sun: 22 Supercharged Science Projects for Kids*. Awards include the Teacher's Choice Award, Aesop Prize, NAPPA Gold Award, Storytelling World Award and the Brimstone Award (National Storytelling Network). Michael's programs and publications are described on his website: [www.p-e-a-c-e.net](http://www.p-e-a-c-e.net).

In 1984 Michael founded PEACE® — Programs for Environmental Awareness & Cultural Exchange — offering programs, performances, workshops, residencies, publications, literary consulting services, freelance writing and consulting services in science writing, natural history, ecology, outdoor classrooms, nature trails and world cultural traditions. Since 1984 Michael has traveled throughout

North America, Europe and the Middle East, making more than 2,500 presentations to 500,000 people.

Michael is also well known for developing the groundbreaking educational model for integrating the study of science and environmental stewardship during his graduate research at the University of Michigan — work that was subsequently published by UNESCO/UNEP as *A Guide on Environmental Values Education*. Translated into English, French and Spanish, this guide is used in the United Nations' international environmental educational training programs. Michael has consulted at the United Nations as a member of the Education Caucus of the Commission on Sustainable Development in preparation for the 2012 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

## **Cheryl Charles, Ph.D.**

Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., is an innovator, author, organizational executive and educator. In the fall of 2015, Cheryl was named Research Scholar and founding Executive Director of the Nature Based Leadership Institute at Antioch University New England (AUNE). The vision of the Institute is a world in which all humans live, learn, lead and serve in healthy balance with the natural world. AUNE's Nature Based Leadership Institute applies nature's lessons to achieve economic, environmental and social justice.

Cheryl is the Co-Founder, President and CEO Emerita of the Children & Nature Network ([www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)). Currently she coordinates the Network's international activities and participates as a member of the Science of Nature-Based Learning Collaborative Research Network, a major three-year project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Recipient of numerous awards for her leadership, she served as founding National Director of the pioneering K-12, interdisciplinary environment education programs, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD, both of which remain available and widely used. Author Mark Gerzon named Cheryl a "new patriot" for her pioneering work to bring ecological concepts into the mainstream of schooling.

## **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 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 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](http://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.

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 four albums of original folk and will release her 5<sup>th</sup> this summer 2016. 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.

## Eric Hanson

Since 1998, Eric Hanson has been the biologist for the Vermont Loon Conservation Project (VLCP), a program of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. He has conducted research on the Common Loon since 1992. His early work focused on banding loons to answer basic biological questions and assess toxicology concerns. Eric then received his M.S. degree at the University of Minnesota setting up a volunteer-based monitoring program for Minnesota's 12,000 loons. His loon work in Vermont has focused on management around loon nest sites and education of lake users. He also teaches various ecology courses at Sterling College and for the Road Scholar program. In the winter months, he takes care of the cross country ski trails at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

## Jay Heinrichs

Jay has served as deputy editor of *Outside* magazine and editorial director of the Sports & Fitness Group at Rodale, where he oversaw *Backpacker*, *Runner's World*, *Mountain Bike*, *Bicycling*, and *Scuba Diving* magazines. He currently works as a content and editorial consultant specializing in persuasive

engagement. Consulting editorial director for one of the world's leading content agencies, [Pace Communications](#), he oversees the inflight magazine for Southwest Airlines, with a monthly readership of 5.1 million. He is the author of the bestselling [Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion](#). The book has been published in six languages and released in a new edition.

Jay lives with his wife, Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, a principal gifts officer for the Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. They live on 150 acres at the base of Cardigan Mountain in New Hampshire.

## **Samuel Jaffe**

Samuel Jaffe is a New England based naturalist, photographer, and educator who has worked with native insects since a very early age. Sam grew up in eastern Massachusetts chasing birds, mucking through ponds, and turning over leaves. For the last 8 years, he has photographed caterpillars and organized programs to promote these special creatures to the public. In 2013 he founded The Caterpillar Lab in Keene, New Hampshire. He now travels across New England working with museums, nature centers, schools, and individual teachers, helping native insects find their place in our everyday lives.

## **Todd Katzner, Ph.D.**

Todd Katzner is a Research Wildlife Biologist at the Snake River Field Station of the U.S. Geological Survey in Boise, Idaho. He has over 20 years of experience in the fields of ecology and conservation biology and his recent work focuses on understanding and mitigating threats to golden eagles from wind energy development, in Appalachia and California. Katzner also has an international research program focusing on eagles and vultures in central Asia and he is a co-editor and author of the book "The Eagle Watchers." Katzner received his B.A. from Oberlin College, his M.S. from the University of Wyoming for research on pygmy rabbits and Ph.D. from Arizona State University for work focused on ecology and conservation of eagles in the Republic of Kazakhstan. He was a co-founder of the wildlife telemetry company Cellular Tracking Technologies, LLC.

## **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 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.

## Jeffrey Lent

Jeffrey Lent was born in Vermont and grew up there and in western New York State. His first novel, *In the Fall*, was a national bestseller and a New York Times Book Review Notable Book for 2000. His other novels include *Lost Nation*, *A Peculiar Grace*, *After You've Gone* and most recently, *A Slant of Light*. Lent lives with his wife and two daughters in central Vermont.

## 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.

## **Lindsey Rustad, Ph. D.**

Dr. Lindsey Rustad is a Research Ecologist for the USDA Forest Service Center for Research on Ecosystem Change in Durham, NH, co-Director of the USDA Northeastern Hub for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change, Team Leader for the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in NH. She received a B.A. in Philosophy at Cornell University in 1980, a M.S. in Forest Science at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences in 1983, and a Ph.D in Plant Science in 1988 at the University of Maine. Her areas of expertise include biogeochemistry, climate change impacts, and advanced environmental sensor systems. She is one of the lead principal investigators for the Hubbard Brook Ice Storm Experiment. Dr. Rustad has published more than 75 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, has led several international climate change research coordination networks, and is the lead author of a recent publication on climate change impacts: “Changing Climate, Changing Forests: A Synthesis of Climate Change Impacts of Forests of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada.” Her current interests include implementation of cybertechnology in forests across the northeastern United States and integration of Arts and Science at long term ecological field stations.

## **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](http://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 42,000 acres of habitat in twelve states and Quebec.

## Richard Ober

Dick Ober's career is about strengthening the connections between people and the places they love. He has pursued that passion through senior positions at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Monadnock Conservancy, as a writer, and most recently as president of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, northern New England's largest grant making foundation. He has written and lectured widely, with works appearing in books, magazines, anthologies, essays, and opinion pieces. His book *The Northern Forest*, co-authored with David Dobbs, was named the 1995 book of the year in New Hampshire and Vermont and earned several national awards.

He lives, gardens, fishes, manages a woodlot, and tries to play the baritone ukulele at his home in Dublin, New Hampshire, which he shares with his wife and daughter.

## 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, 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

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.

## Lisa Purcell

Lisa Purcell, executive director of the Four Winds Nature Institute, has been leading community-based environmental education programs with adults and children for more than 20 years. She believes people of all ages need a connection both with nature and with each other, and she loves her work sharing the wonders of the natural world with others. In 2006, Lisa and a group of colleagues founded Four Winds, a nonprofit organization with 1,700 volunteers working in over 150 communities across New England.

Lisa has served as president of the New England Environmental Education Alliance and Vermont's Statewide Environmental Education Programs Association, focused on strengthening the EE network and improving environmental literacy region-wide. Over the years, Lisa has held a variety of education-related positions: managing editor of *Hands-On Nature*, 2nd ed., supporting programs for at-risk youth, coordinating prevention-focused adventure-based professional development, developing a college service learning program, and leading community-based science training workshops.

Lisa and her husband Van have lived in Vermont for thirty years and are firmly rooted in their community. Appreciating that small towns thrive when all are involved, Lisa has volunteered her time as supervisory union board president, school board chair, member of the town and regional planning commission and on the local arts council. She is happiest when hiking the Green Mountains with family, friends and a well-provisioned daypack.

## Bill Torrey

Bill Torrey is a sixth generation Vermonter who has spent forty years working in the woods. He began logging at the age of fifteen. His life experiences run the spectrum of the logging trade from large volume, high impact logging, to light on the land, ecologically sustainable timber harvesting. He has harvested green certified timber on construction projects for the University of Vermont, Middlebury College, The Vermont Maritime Museum, Shelburne Museum, and the Green Mountain Club.

As a writer, he wrote a monthly column for *Outdoor Magazine* for three years. He's been published by the North American Hunting Club and was a member of The Burlington Free Press Writer's Group. His first book, *The Ta Ta Weenie Club*, is a collection of short stories of a young boy growing up in Vermont during the 60's and will be released in September of 2016 by Green Writers Press.

In 2014, he ventured into oral story telling. He has won four N.P.R. Moth Story Slams, three Extempo Story Telling competitions, the Vermont Public Radio Listener's Appreciation Party Story Slam and the 2016 North Country Public Radio's Black Fly Story Slam. He has performed at Burlington's Flynn Theater and the Vermont State House. In April of 2016 he performed at The Latchis Theater with Tom Bodett's *The Hatch* ([hatchvt.org](http://hatchvt.org)) to raise funds to support Windham County Youth Services. In conjunction with Kathleen Kolb and Veranda Porche's art and poetry exhibit "Shedding Light on The Working Forest" Bill performed at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center and at Middlebury's Marquis Theater sponsored by the Vermont Folk Life Center. You can learn more about Bill and watch some of his stories at [www.billtorreyvt.com](http://www.billtorreyvt.com).

## **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'.

## **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.

**Register for the Northern Woodlands Conference today!**

<http://northernwoodlands.org/writersconference>