

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS AND TOUR GUIDES

Thursday, October 10, 2019



SPEAKERS

Jonas Hamberg

Jonas Hamberg is a PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo and a part of the Conservation and Restoration Ecology (CaRE) lab. Originally from Sweden, Jonas studied and worked in India, Brazil, South Africa and the United States before coming to Canada. He has an MA from Uppsala University in Sweden and a MSc in Environmental Science from SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, NY. His PhD at Waterloo is funded by an Ontario Trillium Scholarship and an NSERC-CRD project studentship. The main focus of his PhD is the thermodynamics of restoring ecosystems, comparing thermal camera measurements from satellites and drones with ground-sampling of vegetation. His research sites are in Simcoe and Norfolk counties.

Henry Hughes

Henry holds undergraduate degrees in forestry and horticulture and a master's degree in horticulture. As director of education at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, he initiated Centennial Trees, and still leads this program despite retiring in 2018.

Henry is particularly interested in the protection and restoration of Alabama's extensive floodplain forests, and serves on the executive committees of several river conservation organizations. He has spoken extensively and led educational field programs on watershed protection and restoration. At his home in Birmingham, he and his wife, Lois, have created a small forest sanctuary from the surrounding context of invasive species.

Alan Li

Alan Li is a visual artist focused on nature. He supports conservation efforts through the sale of his artwork and through volunteering. Alan believes that the act of drawing can open people's eyes to the planet's wondrous diversity, and show them that it matters. Alan currently pursues his own projects, teaches workshops, and collaborates with grassroots environmental groups. He founded the League of Urban Nature Artists (LUNA) in 2019.

Michael Mesure

Since co-founding Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada in 1993, Michael Mesure has spearheaded efforts across Canada to preserve migrating birds from injurious and fatal collisions with manmade structures. More than 25 years later, the issue of preventing window collisions is a global initiative, and raising public awareness is a major focus for FLAP. Michael has presented to numerous groups from architects, to nature groups, to kids of all ages, in an effort to make the migratory journey for millions of songbirds a little safer.

Melanie Sifton

Melanie Sifton (BA McGill, NPD Niagara Parks, MPS Cornell) is a horticulturist with a background in public garden and landscape management. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in the Faculty of Forestry at University of Toronto, investigating urban plant-soil interactions and landscape remediation strategies for city forest conservation. As the former director of Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology in Toronto, and the former Vice President of Horticulture & Facilities for Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City, Melanie seeks to explore and promote the intersection of science, education, landscape policy and art.

TOUR GUIDES**Alan Colley**

Alan Colley's spirit name is Whooping Crane and he is Wolf Clan. Alan is the creator of Toronto Aboriginal Eco Tours, a company which honours the traditional Indigenous way of life and also allows for mainstream concepts of tourism and experiential learning. His goal is to bring together – in a traditional way – elders, adults, youth and children to make a difference while applying the seven Grandfather Teachings, 13 Grandmother Moon Teachings and the Medicine Wheel Teachings. Alan is the father of three young active boys and an avid fisherman.

Nancy Dengler

Nancy is a botanist and a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto. Since her retirement in 2005, she has been an active volunteer with the Toronto Field Naturalists, Toronto Botanical Garden, ProtectNatureTO and Nature Conservancy of Canada (Ontario Region).

Peter Heinz

Peter is a keen life-time lover of Toronto ravines. Currently Lead Trainer for the TBG Ravine Team tour guides, he has volunteered with Hike Ontario, Toronto Heart Health Walking Initiative, City of Toronto Parks, Toronto Field Naturalists, the Don Watershed Regeneration Council and Toronto Botanical Garden. He is interested in how our local ravine systems continually change from the pressure of urban development.