



Our Forests: Vital & Vulnerable

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Charles D. Canham, Ph.D. A graduate of Cornell University with a doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Dr. Canham is Senior Scientist and Forest Ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. The Cary Institute is a research institute in Millbrook, N.Y., studying the effects of invasive pests and pathogens, biomass energy, pollution and forestry practices, to encourage sound forest management. In 2019, Dr. Canham received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Ecological Society of America. He is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and on the Boards of Directors of the Adirondack Council, the Great Mountain Forest Corporation, and the Northern Forest Atlas Foundation. He is also the author of *Forests Adrift* published in 2020 by the Yale University Press.

Christopher (Kim) Elliman. Mr. Elliman is president and CEO of the Open Space Institute (OSI), a New York City nonprofit devoted to land conservation. OSI has conserved more than 2.3 million acres of land in the eastern U.S., creating or enhancing more than 50 new parks and protected areas. After a business career working in investment management and diversified holding companies, Mr. Elliman joined OSI 28 years ago and has received numerous awards for his work in conservation. He serves on many non-profit and foundation boards, among them: The Wilderness Society, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy, and Grow NYC. A graduate of Yale University, he is a member of the Leadership Council Steering Committee of the university's School of the Environment.

Liam Kavanagh is the First Deputy Commissioner for New York City Parks and Recreation. A graduate of the City University's Herbert H. Lehman College, Mr. Kavanagh joined Parks in 1981. In his current role, he oversees all aspects of the daily maintenance and operation of parks throughout the five boroughs including forestry, horticulture and natural resources. He also oversees planning, policy and operations for the city's urban forest. NYC Parks actively manages over 822,000 street and park trees as well as an estimated three million trees in forested parkland. Having completed three decadal censuses of the street tree population since 1995, NYC Parks employs a digital and geospatially based information system to manage them. NYC Parks led the City's successful Million Trees NYC campaign, planting the final tree in 2015, two years ahead of schedule.

William Bryant Logan. The founder and president of Urban Arborists, a leading tree care firm in New York City, Mr. Logan is a certified arborist and is also on the faculty of the New York Botanical Garden. He has written four books, all published by W.W. Norton and one of which, *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, was made into an award-winning documentary that premiered at the 2009 Sundance Festival and is still shown around the world. In 2012, Mr. Logan was presented with both the Senior Scholar Award by New York State Arborists and the True Professional of Arboriculture award by the International Society of Arboriculture. He lectures around the world about the relationship between people and trees and his firm cares for all kinds of specimens from back garden trees to the plaza of pollards and hedges in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Margaret Dalzell Lowman, Ph.D. A graduate of the University of Sydney (Australia) with a doctorate in botany, Dr. Lowman is the executive director and founder of TREE Foundation, Inc., a non-profit that promotes forest research, education and exploration. She has pioneered the field of forest canopy science and the virtual expeditions to the canopy that she has created for middle schoolers resulted in their christening her “Canopy Meg.” At TREE Foundation, Dr. Lowman has overseen the construction of North America’s first canopy walkways promoting ecotourism and education and, partnering with church leaders, saved the last 5% of the forests of Ethiopia. In 2020 she launched TREE’s newest project, Mission Green with a goal of building ten skywalks in developing countries to create a revenue stream that replaces logging.

William D. Sunderlin, Ph.D. Currently Dr. Sunderlin, who earned his doctorate in Rural Development Sociology at Cornell University, wears three forestry related hats. He is a Rights and Resources Fellow at the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) in Washington, D.C., an organization that supports indigenous people’s rights to own, control and benefit from their lands and forests; a senior associate at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia; and a visiting professor at SUNY’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, N.Y. Among his areas of expertise are climate change and the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation and his many research papers are frequently cited in other publications.