



PLENARY Sessions



Plenary Session 1: Climate 101: What Do You Really Need to Know?

Curt Stager – Professor, [Paul Smith's College](#)

Dr. Stager is a Professor of Natural Sciences at Paul Smith's College, where he holds the Lussi-Draper Endowed Chair in Lake Ecology and Paleoecology. He was named the New York State Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation in 2013, and was an expert reviewer for the last IPCC report on global climate change. His research deals with climate change and environmental history as revealed by sediment cores from lakes in Africa and North America. In addition to publishing in scientific journals like *Science* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, he has written extensively for general audiences in periodicals like *National Geographic* and *the New York Times*, and is co-host of the *Natural Selections* program on North country Public Radio. His book, "*Deep Future*", published in 2011, has been called a definitive work on global warming.

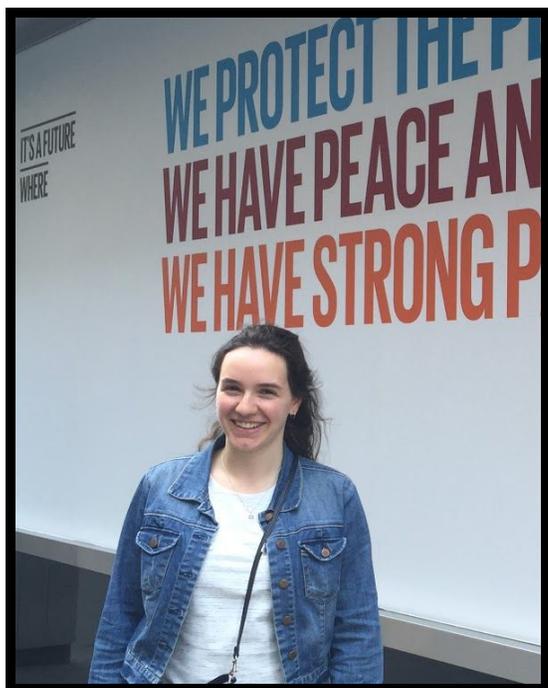


Plenary Session 2: Communicating Climate

Meadow Hackett & Gina Fiorile – Audit Senior Consultant, Deloitte & Touche, LLP

Meadow, is a former Summiteer and graduate of Saranac Lake High School, who now resides in Philadelphia, PA. Meadow studied at the Villanova School of Business, graduating with a degree in Finance & Accounting and a minor in International Business. Currently, she works for Deloitte, a "Big Four" accounting firm and the largest professional services network in the world by revenue and number of professionals. She divides her time working with clients between Sustainability Risk Advisory services and the Audit practice where she primarily serves clients in the Energy & Resources industry. Highlights of her career include, being named to "Who's Who" Among US University Graduates in 2015, working as a One Young World Ambassador, facilitating a session at the UNESCO World Youth Forum in Paris, and most recently, attending the UN Youth Assembly as a delegate focused on creating a more equitable and sustainable economic future society. In her free time, you are likely to find Meadow finding any excuse to get outside,

she is an avid sports woman and loves hiking, trapshooting and fly-fishing.



Gina Fiorile is a Senior Environmental Studies major, Aiken Scholar, and member of the Board of Directors at [The University of Vermont's](#) Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Her interest in climate change began while helping to plan the Wild Center's annual Adirondack Youth Climate Summit, which has spread internationally and was adopted as a model for environmental education within former President Obama's Climate Action Plan. She annually hosts the Vermont Youth Climate Summit held at the University of Vermont. Gina was a featured student in the PBS documentary- *The Resilient Ones: A Generation Takes on Climate Change*- that follows youth engagement in climate change mitigation efforts. She received an Environmental Merit award from the Environmental Protection Agency and was recently honored at The White House as a Champion of Change for Climate Education and Literacy. She was a Youth delegate at the UN's 21st Conference of Parties and was selected to attend the signing ceremony of the historic Paris Agreement at the UN Headquarters on Earth Day. She worked for The Wild Center, the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Upstate New York for two years and now interns for the Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network.

Plenary Session 3: Movie Night at The Wild Center

Time to Choose Academy Award®-Winning documentary filmmaker Charles Ferguson (*Inside Job, No End in Sight*) turns his lens to address worldwide climate change challenges and solutions in his new film **TIME TO CHOOSE**. Featuring narration by award-winning actor Oscar Isaac, **TIME TO CHOOSE** leaves audiences understanding not only what is wrong, but what can to be done to fix this global threat. Ferguson explores the comprehensive scope of the climate change crisis and examines the power of solutions already available. Through interviews with world-renowned entrepreneurs, innovators, thought leaders and brave individuals living on the front lines of climate change, Ferguson takes an In-depth look at the remarkable people working to save our planet.



Plenary Session 4: LIVE STREAM to UN COP 23 in Bonn, Germany - Young & Futures Generations Day

Miroslav Polzer is founder and CEO of International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges www.glocha.info, a United Nations accredited civil society organization based in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee (in Slovenian language: Celovec), the capital of the most southern province of Austria, Carinthia/Kärnten/Koroška. In addition to his NGO leadership function Miroslav Polzer works also as independent management consultant in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee advising companies and public authorities on implementation of sustainable development goals on local level through multi-stakeholder partnerships and social entrepreneurship business models for young people. Miroslav Polzer has a Masters degree in Business Economics and a PhD in Environmental economics earned at Karl Franzens University in Graz. Before joining IAAI full time, he was head of Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office

(ASO) Ljubljana on behalf of Austrian Federal ministry of science and research from 1996-2011.



**Plenary Session 4: How to Save the Planet – Lessons Learned
Growing Up in Ocean Conservation**

Sean Russell – Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Director, [Youth Ocean Conservation Summit](#)

Sean Russell is a youth engagement strategist dedicated to empowering young people with the tools and motivation they need to become involved in leadership initiatives. Sean is the founder and director of the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, an annual event held at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL which is also modeled in cities across the United States in partnership with conservation organizations. Through this program, Sean works to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to address ocean conservation issues in their local communities. The Summit event, grew out of Sean’s ongoing work on plastic pollution prevention and fishing line recycling through the Stow It-Don’t

Throw It Project, an initiative he launched as a highschool student. After graduating from the University of Florida in 2013 with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology, Sean has worked with a diverse set of organizations to elevate the roll of youth leadership in the fields of marine science, education, and conservation. Currently Sean serves as the Manager for the EarthEcho Water Challenge, a program designed to connect people around the world to their local waterways through water quality monitoring and equip them with the tools to take action to protect their water resources. Sean also works with SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment on initiatives designed to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders, including coordinating the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Youth Advisory Council. Sean is a member of the National Marine Educators Association Board of Directors, and a former member of the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors of Youth Service America and the Florida 4-H Foundation. He is a recipient of the Brower Youth Award, Peter Benchley Ocean Award, and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Blue Dolphin Award for his conservation work. In his spare time Sean enjoys hiking, kayaking, SCUBA diving, traveling, and photography. Learn more about his work at www.seandr.com and follow him @seandrussell.

WORKSHOP Sessions

Workshops – Session 1: 10:30 – 12:00 pm

Workshop 1: The World Needs You to be You

Lily Barraclough (Program Facilitator), Annemarie Manley (Welcome Coordinator), Megan Sheridan (Mentor), Lukas Wrede (Program Facilitator) – [iMatter](#)

We are part of the core, intergenerational team that leads iMatter. We are humans! Just like you. Weird, silly, complete and beautiful messes. And we’re called to support amazing youth leaders we collectively step into our authentic voices and power to disrupt the status quo and push local leaders to do what is necessary to end the climate crisis and transition to a just, sustainable society.

Workshop 2: Communicating Climate Change

Michael Trumbower – School Programs Coordinator, [The Wild Center](#)

As the School Programs Coordinator here at The Wild Center, it is my pleasure to work with students and teachers from all over the Northeast to ensure that they have the best experience possible and that they feel empowered as scientifically minded citizens. I have been working in the informal education for about 6 years, having TAed at the University of California, Riverside while getting my Masters in Climate and Environmental Change and most recently as an Outreach Educator at the New England Aquarium in Boston. Despite having moved around quite a bit during my career I have always sought to learn more about our waterways (both fresh and salt) and to have fun!



Workshop 3: Composting: turning what we waste into what we want!

Katie Culpepper – Farm Manager, [North Country School](#) and Camp Treetops

Katie is the Farm Manager at North Country School and Camp Treetops, a boarding school outside of Lake Placid. With the help of students, campers and other adults, she grows 5-acres of a variety of vegetables and raises pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and more. All of the food grown and raised there goes to the dining room for the community to enjoy. The food waste from the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit will go home with Katie where it will be broken down in their large rotating compost drum and will then be spread on the gardens to grow next year's vegetables. Katie believes that growing vegetables, eating good



food and composting waste play an important role in working towards climate resilience!

Workshop 4: The Edible Landscape

Wynde Kate Reese – Holistic Nutritionist and Owner of [Green Goddess Foods](#)

Wynde Kate grew up in Tupper Lake and left after high school to travel the world. Her adventures took her to places where the Standard American Diet was interrupting the Indigenous Diet in harmful ways. She was motivated to get a BS in Holistic Nutrition to help people to live healthier lives. Simultaneously, she was trained as a Permaculture Landscape Designer and ran Earth Roots Landscaping for 15 years. In that time, she merged her knowledge of healthy eating with intentional landscape design to create sustainable landscapes that feed people spiritually, emotionally and physically. She is the co-owner of Green Goddess Foods in Lake Placid, a Natural Food Store, Deli, Cafe and Catering business where she also has a private practice as a Holistic Nutrition Counselor. When not helping people improve their health you can find her barefoot hiking in the high peaks, paddling



her SUP, practicing yoga, skiing the Adirondack backcountry or rock climbing with her teenage son.

Workshop 5: Getting Started on an Energy Efficiency Action Plan

Susan E. Powers - Director, [Institute for a Stable Environment at Clarkson University](#)

Jan E. DeWaters - Asst. Professor, [Coulter School of Engineering at Clarkson University](#)

Profs. Powers and DeWaters work with students of all ages through classes and research to instill an understanding of the impacts that humans have on the environment and what we need to do to reduce those impacts. Their work focuses especially on energy systems.

Workshops - Session 2: 1:50 – 3:15 pm

Workshop 1: How To Get Stuff: Got an idea? Need resources to make it happen?

Katharine Glenn – Faculty and Sustainability Coordinator – [Paul Smith's College](#)

Katharine Glenn is Sustainability Coordinator and faculty member in the Environment and Society program at Paul Smith's College, where she has taught for 5 years. She's currently director of the Center for Campus Sustainability and oversees a staff of 5-6 student workers who further the colleges sustainability goals in the areas of Farm to Table, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Community Agriculture, and Campus Sustainability Fund Grants. She has a BA in Liberal Studies from Green Mountain College and a MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, hiking, cooking and relaxing with her dog Finn!

Chris Morris – Communications Officer, [Adirondack Foundation](#)

Chris is the communications officer at Adirondack Foundation, where he oversees marketing, advertising, and public relations, as well as management of Adirondack Gives, a crowdfunding website for community organizations, nonprofits, classrooms, and charities. He also coordinates the Youth Exchange program for the Adirondack Diversity Initiative and helps administer the Adirondack Nonprofit Network. Before joining the nonprofit sector, he worked as a journalist, covering community news in the North Country for North Country Public Radio, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, and several other media outlets. As a volunteer, he serves on the boards of Dewey Mountain Recreation Center in Saranac Lake, and Albany's Youth Ed-Venture & Nature Network. He lives in Saranac Lake with his wife, Sarah, and four furry children.



Workshop 2: What's your Climate Story?

Jason Davis – Director, [Climate Stories Project](#)

Jason Davis is the director of Climate Stories Project, an educational and artistic forum for sharing stories about personal and community responses to climate change. Jason is an accomplished environmental educator and musician, and is currently a doctoral student in music at McGill University in Montreal. With his jazz group Earthsound, Jason combines the power of spoken personal narratives with improvised music and natural soundscapes. Jason has a Master's degree in Music from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida.

Workshop 3: Think Globally, Eat Locally: Farm to School & Sustainability
Zohar Gitlis – Adirondack Farm to School Coordinator, [ADK Farm to School Initiative](#)

Zohar Gitlis spends her days helping schools across the North Country increase their local food purchasing and farm-related curriculum. Sometimes that means talking to farmers about broccoli prices, shucking corn with 8th graders, or planting pumpkins with kindergarten classes. Zohar also works at a sustainable farm in the eastern Adirondacks and is passionate about increasing everyone's access to the rich and diverse flavors of our regional food system.



Workshop 4: How to Outsmart Waste: The Business of Garbage

Gina Herrera - US Director, Brand Partnerships, [TerraCycle](#)

Gina Herrera here, currently US Director of Brand Partnerships at TerraCycle HQ located in Trenton, NJ. The primary role of my position is to work with our corporate brand partners (clients) on marketing and program initiatives for TerraCycle's national recycling programs. I am extremely passionate about my work and love that no two days are the same! Prior to my current role, I spent the first six years of my career in NYC in the fashion industry, so I understand the impact of textile production on the environment, something I hope to have positive influence on in the future. Outside of work, I am in the final stages of my MBA at Syracuse University, coach a girls soccer team and teach yoga.



Workshop 5: Eco-Schools USA: Exploring the Climate Classroom and Challenge

Elizabeth Soper – NWF Director of K-12 Education, [National Wildlife Federation](#)

Liz has been with NWF for over 20 years helping to develop and implement environmental education programs such as Eco-Schools USA and Schoolyard Habitats. She was trained as a Gore Climate presenter and is working with staff at NWF to produce new educational materials for An Inconvenient Sequel. She has also worked with her own community in regard to climate issues and co-founded the Stowe Climate Action Network. She has two daughters and a dog Izzy and loves to be in the woods with all of them!

Workshops - Session 3: 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Workshop 1: Our Time to Rise: Building Power, Making Change & Winning Elections

Brian Stilwell – National Youth Organizer, [Sunrise Movement](#)

Brian Stilwell is a National Youth Organizer at Sunrise, a movement young people working to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. With more than 10 years of experience working in the youth climate movement at organizations like the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) and 350 Massachusetts, Brian is thrilled to bring his experience and enthusiasm to the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit this year! When not working for climate justice, Brian can be found biking around the streets of Boston, playing his drums and eating a ridiculous amount of ice cream!



Workshop 2: Home Heating and Climate Change- What can YOU do about it?

Mariah Keagy – Educator, [Vermont Energy Education Program](#)

Mariah Keagy is an energy educator and small business owner in northern Vermont. She gets really excited about working with young people and teachers on projects that make change positive change in the area of energy and climate, which she gets to do often through VEEP's Green School Energy Program. When she's not doing this she is in the woods designing trails, riding bikes, making tracks of some variety in the snow, or at the beach continuing to try to learn how to surf.



Workshop 3: North Country Food Justice Working Group: *What do food access, farm labor, and social equity have to do with Climate Change?*

Zohar Gitlis – Adirondack Farm to School Coordinator, [ADK Farm to School Initiative](#)

Zohar Gitlis spends her days helping schools across the North Country increase their local food purchasing and farm-related curriculum. Sometimes that means talking to farmers about broccoli prices, shucking corn with 8th graders, or planting pumpkins with kindergarten classes. Zohar also works at a sustainable farm in the eastern Adirondacks and is passionate about increasing everyone's access to the rich and diverse flavors of our regional food system.

Workshop 4: Where Does Gasoline Go?

Don Duggan-Haas – PhD, Director of Teacher Programs, [The Paleontological Research Institution](#)

Don is Director of Teacher Programs at PRI; co-author of [The Teacher-Friendly Guide to Climate Change](#); and; The Science Beneath the Surface: A Very Short Guide to the Marcellus Shale. He served on the Earth & Space Science Design Team for the NRC's A Framework for K-12 Science Education and currently serves as the President of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. Don's taught at Colgate, Cornell, and Michigan State Universities, Kalamazoo College, and Tapestry and Norwich High Schools.

Workshop 5: Working with Your Community to Achieve Climate Goals

Dazzle Ekblad – Climate Policy Analyst, [NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)

Dazzle Ekblad is a Climate Policy Analyst for the [Office of Climate Change at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) (DEC). Originally from Minnesota, Dazzle works out of DEC's central office in Albany. She holds a Master of Science in Natural Resources Policy from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. In her current role at the DEC, Dazzle focuses on management of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, including administering the CSC Grant Program and acting as the program lead for the CSC Certification Program.