Adirondack Youth Climate Summit
November 6 & 7, 2019
Presenter Bios

Find the online schedule at bit.ly/aycs2019

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 1: Climate 101: What Do You Really Need to Know?
**Curt Stager** – Professor, [Paul Smith’s College](https://www.paulsmiths.edu)

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: Why Art?: The Role of the Arts in the Climate Movement
**Rachel Lit** – Youth Arts Coordinator, [Climate Museum](https://www.climatemuseum.org)

Rachel Lit is the Youth Arts Coordinator for the Climate Museum. The museum, based in New York City, is the first of its kind in the US. Its mission is to inspire action on the climate crisis with programming across the arts and sciences that deepens understanding, builds connections, and advances just solutions. Rachel is the point of contact for the museum’s Youth Advisory Council and works on the Museum’s youth climate arts program Climate Speaks. She is passionate about education and believes that museums can be a force for justice. Rachel is interested in the intersections of disability, accessibility, and museum education, areas in which she has conducted research that she plans to continue. Rachel earned her undergraduate degree at Sarah Lawrence College, studying Linguistics, Classics, and Writing.
**Workshop Sessions**

**Session 1: 10:30 – 12:00 pm**

**Workshop 1: One for the Park! Filmmaking inspired by Climate**

*Cameron Audia– Professional Film Maker, ADK Action*

Cameron studied Communications at Castleton University in Vermont where she began producing short films and documentaries. It was from there she was accepted to Chapman University's Film Conservatory in Orange, California where she acquired her Masters in Film and Television Producing. In California, she produced many short films, worked as a production assistant, interned for management firm Mosaic and worked as an executive assistant for Impression Entertainment. Cameron now lives back in her home state, Connecticut where she found her passion for education and now produces Skills21’s annual Connecticut Film Festival for students among other student events.

**Workshop 2: Building Climate Resilience**

*Michael Trumbower– School Programs Coordinator, The Wild Center*

*Erin Griffin– Climate & Communities, 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 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!

Erin Griffin is the Climate & Communities Coordinator at The Wild Center. She works to empower students throughout New York State to take climate action and supports Youth Climate Summits in many locations. Erin has worked in the environmental education field for over 10 years throughout the United States, and is thrilled to be living and working back in the Adirondacks.
Workshop 3: Getting Things Done! Project Planning and Development

Kate Glenn – Master’s of Science, Paul Smith’s College
Hannah Rion – Student, Paul Smith’s College

Katharine Glenn M.S. is an Instructor in the Department of Environment and Society and Part-Time Sustainability Coordinator, at Paul Smith’s College. Kate has a MS in Environmental Education from Antioch New England and a BA from Green Mountain College. She been teaching at Paul Smith’s College for six years. In her role as Sustainability Coordinator she founded manages the Colleges Sustainability Grant Program and overseen the implementation several g2g reduction projects, including the installation of a district wood pellet heating system and the college’s first on campus solar installation.

Workshop 4: How to Tell Your Climate Story
Nathalie Thill–Executive Director, Adirondack Center for Writing

Nathalie Thill has been the Executive Director of the Adirondack Center for Writing, the literary organization serving the entire six-million-acre Adirondack Park, pretty much since its inception in 1999. ACW offers a variety of literary programs, from workshops, conferences, and readings to retreats for high school students, prison writing programs, and writing contests. Nathalie sits on the board of LiTTAP, a state-wide group whose mission is to share challenges and best practices of literary organizations and presses and to raise the level of awareness of the literary arts throughout New York. She also sits on the review panel for the New York State Council on the Arts and has been asked to speak on behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts about her exceptional prison writing program.

Before moving to the Adirondacks, Nathalie received her Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University at Buffalo and then traveled the world as an archaeologist, with a concentration in Anatolia (Modern day Turkey).

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 - Associate Professor, Coulter School of Engineering at Clarkson University

Professors 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.
Session 2: 1:50 – 3:15 pm

Workshop 1: Raising Your Voice: Climate Poetry
Rachel Lit – Youth Arts Coordinator, Climate Museum

Rachel Lit- Rachel Lit is the Youth Arts Coordinator for the Climate Museum. The museum, based in New York City, is the first of its kind in the US. Its mission is to inspire action on the climate crisis with programming across the arts and sciences that deepens understanding, builds connections, and advances just solutions. Rachel is the point of contact for the museum’s Youth Advisory Council and works on the Museum’s youth climate arts program Climate Speaks. She is passionate about education and believes that museums can be a force for justice. Rachel is interested in the intersections of disability, accessibility, and museum education, areas in which she has conducted research that she plans to continue. Rachel earned her undergraduate degree at Sarah Lawrence College, studying Linguistics, Classics, and Writing.

Workshop 2: Climate Change and the Emergence of Tick-Borne Diseases
Dr. Lee Ann Sporne - Professor, Paul Smiths College
Jonathan Joaquin, Randy Martinez, Taylor McGuire, Timothy Sweeney, Rex Scweighofer- Students, Paul Smiths College

This workshop is presented by members of Paul Smith’s College Natural Science Senior Capstone Class under the mentorship of Dr. Lee Ann Sporn. Students represent various academic programs, including Biology, Environmental Science and Human Health and the Environment. This group in one of three working this fall on a collaborative project entitled “Protecting Human Health in Emergent Areas of Tick-Borne Disease”. The class is partnering with the Essex County, NY Department of Health and with the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control in Albany. The group’s instructor, Dr. Lee Ann Sporn, is Professor of Biology and Coordinator of Human Health and the Environment at Paul Smith’s College and has been involved in local tick borne disease monitoring, surveillance and outreach for the past six years.
Workshop 3: Bring Solar To Your Community!
Sarah Pidgeon - Co-Director of Programs, Solar One
Karen Alsen - Director of K-12 Educator, Solar One

Sarah Pidgeon - Sarah joined Solar One in 2009 and saw the growth of Green Design Lab from a small scale pilot to its current reach of over 800 schools. Sarah is passionate about inspiring NYC students to bring sustainability into their schools and communities. Prior to joining Solar One, Sarah worked as an educator at the Center for the Urban Environment in Brooklyn, where she taught classes in Urban Design and Ecology. However, her real passion for environmental education began during her childhood spent as a camper and staff member at Frost Valley YMCA in the Catskill Mountains, where she was first exposed to sustainable practices like composting food waste. Sarah holds an MBA in Management for Mission Driven Organizations from Marlboro College in Vermont.

Karen Alsen - Karen Alsen has worked with Solar One since 2014. Karen oversees all Green Design Lab programs and is particularly excited about bringing Environmental STEM, climate and solar education to schools. After working in academic publishing for years, Karen took a job teaching at an afterschool program in the Bronx. It was there that she discovered the power of environmental education when she brought her students on a kayaking trip to the Bronx River. Since then, she has obtained an MS in Environmental Education from Antioch University in Keene, NH and has taught and designed curricula for Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, City Science, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, Bronx River Alliance, Sustainable Learning, and LeapNYC. In her free time she loves plant foraging and wildcrafting, playing music, traveling and spending time with her Amazonian jungle dog- Mancha.

Workshop 4: Be a Catalyst for Community Climate Action
Dazzle Ekblad – Climate Policy Analyst, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Andrew Fagerheim – Student, Homer Senior High School
Patrick Murphy – Executive Director, Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

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 an MS in Natural Resources Policy from SUNY ESF and an MPA from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. In her current role at the DEC, Dazzle focuses on the management of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. Outside of work, you'll find Dazzle digging in the garden, cruising the streets on her electric bike, or scanning the sky for raptors.
**Patrick Murphy**, the former Community Engagement Coordinator at The Wild Center, recently started a new position as the Executive Director of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. In Saranac Lake, he works to improve the business community by focusing on promoting local businesses, serving the needs of the membership of the chamber, and convening people to create a constructive community dialog. His experience at The Wild Center, and as a Village Trustee for Saranac Lake, helps him to work towards a more sustainable and climate friendly community on the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Community Task Force.

**Andrew Fagerheim**, is a senior at Homer High School and the president of the Homer Environmental Club. He has led projects to install a solar charging station and build an outdoor classroom on the school campus. Andrew helped found and organize the Central New York Youth Climate Summit and he serves as the Assistant Coordinator for the Village of Homer’s Climate Smart Communities Task Force. Looking to the future, Andrew will be pursuing an electrical engineering degree with a focus on energy technologies.

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**Workshop 5: The Edible Landscape**

**Wynde Kate Reese** – Holistic Nutritionist and Owner of [Green Goddess Foods](https://www.green-goddessfoods.com)

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 1: Climate Justice: Local to Global
Hakim Evans Aryaana Kahn – Fellows, Alliance for Climate Education

Hakim Evans resides in Queens, NY and has played an integral role in ACE as an action fellow since 2016. His passion for the environment stems from his previous advocacy for equitable public health infrastructure and the intersections between climate change and public health. Since joining ACE, Hakim has played a role in various activities that call attention to the climate crisis such as facilitating workshops and trainings, attending marches, and high level events such as the UN Paris Climate Change Agreement Ratification Ceremony and the Global Climate Action Summit. Hakim is currently a sophomore studying Economics at York College-City University of New York.

Aryaana Khan currently resides in Queens, NY and has served as an Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) Fellow since 2016. She was born and raised in Bangladesh, a country submerged underwater every year as a result of climate change. Four years after moving to New York, she began doing climate advocacy work with various non-profit organizations, and eventually became involved with ACE by serving as the New York City Communications Fellow. Aryaana has been active in pressuring her state and local governments to take bold climate action. Recently, Aryaana traveled with ACE to San Francisco to participate in the Rise for Climate Jobs and Justice mobilization and to serve as a youth reporter at the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS). She is also a member of ACE’s Youth Fundraising Advisory Board. She hopes to pursue a medical career someday in which she can mitigate the health impacts caused by larger issues such as environmental inequity and climate change.

Workshop 2: Beyond Plastics
Tammy Morgan – Teacher & Green Team Leader, Lake Placid High School
Katie O’Reily Morgan – Teacher & Green Team Leader, Saranac Lake High School

Tammy Morgan- is AP Environmental Science, biology and life science teacher at Lake Placid High School. Tammy has been involved with the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit and Steering Committee for many years. In 2011 Tammy was apart of BBEP Fellowship through Pace University’s Energy and Climate Center. Tammy also is a North Elba Anaerobic Digester Project Leader.

Katie O’Reilly Morgan- is no stranger to the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit having attended as a student, Wild Center Intern, Organizer, Teacher, and now presenter! While
she will be co-leading a workshop on plastic pollution and what you can do about it at this year's summit, her random assortment of Climate Action Project knowledge includes much more from her time as The Wild Center's Youth Climate Program Coordinator. She currently teaches AP Biology, Living Environment, and Health at Saranac Lake High School.

**Workshop 3: Modern Problems Require Innovative Solutions**

Louisa Ulrich-Verderber – CEO of Beehive Community Sustainability Consulting, Beehive CSC

Megan Flory – Chief Financial Officer of Beehive Community Sustainability Consulting, Beehive CSC

Paul Barber – Co-founder of Beehive Community Sustainability Consulting, Beehive CSC

Ben Buck – Co-founder and President of Beehive Community Sustainability Consulting, Beehive CSC

**Louisa Ulrich-Verderber** - Co-founder and CEO of Beehive Community Sustainability Consultants, Louisa studies Engineering and Management at Clarkson University. She is also working on developing new methods of renewable energy as the CEO and founder of Undula Tech. She also enjoys art, nature, and finding unique ways to combine them to create sustainable solutions to global problems.

**Megan Flory** - Megan studies Psychology and Political Science at Clarkson University and is CFO of Beehive Community Sustainability Consultants. She is president of Sustainable Synergy, an environmental club on campus, and puts her passion for sustainability into the rallies, talks, and events she organizes.

**Paul Barber** - An Environmental Engineering major, Paul is a co-founder of Beehive Community Sustainability Consultants. He is an avid hiker, becoming a 46er in 2018, and has a deep appreciation for the Adirondacks and the natural world. He believes that by creating more sustainable systems at a local level, we can create a more sustainable world.

**Ben Buck** - Co-founder and President of Beehive Community Sustainability Consultants, Ben studies Civil Engineering at Clarkson University. Currently, Ben is captain of the Clarkson Nordic Ski Team and he believes that fostering a feeling of ownership at the community level is the key to global sustainability.
Workshop 4: Getting The Word Out: Talking To Your Community About Local Climate Action
Hannah Katz – Student, Hamilton College

Hannah is a junior at Hamilton College, where she is pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies with a focus on communication. Hannah’s passion for climate action and education is rooted in her hope that we can make the world a better place for the generations to come, and that they will be able to enjoy nature instead of fearing it. In addition to being involved with the Wild Center’s Youth Climate Program, Hannah is also helping to start a Sunrise Movement hub in the Adirondacks to demand political action on a local and national level. Currently Hannah is living in Keene where she is continuing to explore the Adirondacks and promote sustainable living.

Workshop 5: Envisioning Our Future
Nathan Scott – Co-founder & Director, Global Climate Corps

Nathan Scott is the Co-founder and Director of the Global Climate Corps, an organization dedicated to training and empowering youth and adults to become leaders in addressing the root causes of climate change around the world. Nathan has also recently become the Director of LEARN@EcoVillage, an organization based in Ithaca, NY, supporting climate and sustainability education in New York and beyond. Nathan believes that the arts are a powerful medium of learning, expression, and activism, and a necessary part of climate work. Prior to his work in the climate field, Nathan was a professional performing artist and educator, leading workshops in creative expression around the world. Nathan has travelled the world, but he now is trying to reduce his carbon footprint, drives an EV everywhere he goes, and has bought a tiny house in the EcoVillage at Ithaca.

Day 2: Climate Leader Panel

Aryaana Khan
Hakim Evans
Scout Pronto-Breslin
Caroline Dodd

Isabel “Scout” Pronto Breslin, a high school student in Rhinebeck NY, co-created Hudson Valley Wild, a youth organization focused on promoting biodiversity, conservation, and nature-based solutions for the climate crisis. Under this, she is developing biodiversity tracks for several regional climate summits and was selected by the United Nations to attend the recent UN Youth Climate Summit as a youth delegate. Breslin is the vice president of her school’s environmental club, co-organized its climate strike, and was an active participant in the Rhinebeck Drawdown Eco-Challenge team, which took second place nationally. She is a founding member of the newly launched Student Climate Coalition for NY state and her town’s
Caroline Dodd is from Saranac Lake, NY, and graduated from Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in May 2019, where she studied Environmental and Sustainability Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Policy and Governance and a minor in Music. She has worked with the Youth Climate Program since 2011, and considers her experiences with the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit the most formative part of her high school experience. Caroline has attended several conferences and negotiations at the United Nations, where she most recently represented Plan International at the UN Youth Climate Action Summit and spoke on a ministerial panel during a side event to the UN Climate Action Summit called “Changing the Forecast for Girls.” She also represented Cornell University and The Kingdom of Tonga at COP24 in Poland last December. She has worked as a Naturalist Intern at The Wild Center, in marine chemistry research on Cape Cod, and in science communications at Cornell’s Atkinson Center for Sustainability. She currently serves as a Youth Climate Advisory Board member, and is studying to apply for law school for environmental law.