

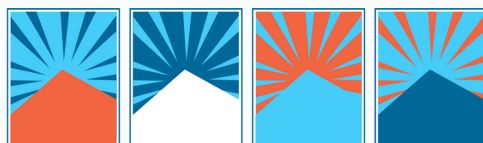
WORKSHOP SESSION 1 BIOS

Beyond Plastics

Location: Flammer Theater

Katie Alexanian

Katie Alexanian is no stranger to The Wild Center's Youth Climate Program, having participated in some way shape or form in all of the summits since 2012. This year she will be co-leading a workshop on ditching plastic products in all aspects of your life and beyond. While she will happily talk all day with you about reusable materials, her random assortment of Climate Action Project knowledge includes much more from her time as co-adviser for Saranac Lake High School's Environmental Club, past experience as The Wild Center Youth Climate Program Coordinator, and participation in both AP with WE's Service Learning Program and National Geographic's Educator's Summit.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 1 BIOS

Creatures on Climate Change

Location: Planet Adirondack

Nick Corcoran

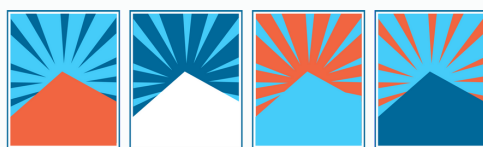


Nick is the Education Services Coordinator at The Wild Center where he helps manage the daily operations of our exhibit floor for our visitors. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill and his Associates in Conservation Law Enforcement and Environmental studies from Finger Lakes Community College. He started in 2013 as a summer intern at The Wild Center and has been evolving his role since helping departments across The Wild Center create the best visitor experience possible. He also helps manage the Science on a Sphere exhibit and has managed past exhibit installations. In his free time he enjoys paddling, fishing, and playing board games.

Nicole Baker



As the Wild Center's Biologist, Nicole is responsible for providing daily care to their wildlife ambassadors. She provides the husbandry, enrichment, and training that ensure a high quality of life for the animals, and leads public and private educational programs about Adirondack ecology. She earned her B.S. in Integrative Studies through combining Forest Management, Natural Resource Conservation Management, and Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences at Paul Smith's College. Nicole is also a practicing NYS licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and NYS licensed outdoor guide. She is co-owner of Adirondack TrOutfitters, a locally based fishing and recreational guide service. In her free time you'll find her either on the lake, in the forest, or walking the stage as a lifelong competitor in local and national pageants.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 1 BIOS

Talking Trash Together

Location: Naturalist Cabinet & Outside

Leanne Favreau



Leanne is the Interpretive Programs Manager at The Wild Center where she works collaboratively with the programming team to develop engaging experiences in nature for visitors of all ages. She earned a B.A. in Integrated Studies combining Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Sustainability, and Hospitality from Paul Smith's College. Later she taught biology labs and conducted research on the use of silvopastures to mitigate climate change. She enjoys crafting STEM experiences that allow youth and families to work together to explore innovative problem solving. During her free time she enjoys painting, yoga, paddling, and exploring the Adirondacks.

Shannon Surdyk



Shannon is the Education Programs Manager at The Wild Center where she manages several seasonal and community based projects during the year including the Community Maple Project, Community Composting, Guided Canoe Trips, and Wild Lights. She also Co-leads The Wild Center's Green Team where she planned and conducted our first waste audit this past spring. As a member of the education department, she also facilitates public programs and experiences throughout the year and oversees our AmeriCorps program where she gets to work with young people just beginning their careers in the environmental education field. In her free time, she spends a lot of time outside enjoying the beauty of the Adirondacks by trail running or hiking in the mountains with her three dogs.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 BIOS

Local Solutions, Global Impact: Climate Justice Starts Here

Location: Climate Solutions

Anjalee Wanduragala

Anjalee (she/her) is an international student from Sri Lanka. She is a junior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, double majoring in Economics and Environmental Studies with a minor in International Relations. Anjalee's interests lie in sustainability and policy making specifically with regard to Environmental Equity and Climate Justice. Over the summer, Anjalee supported the FLI's Climate Change Educator Retreat and Youth Climate Leadership Retreat with workshops on environmental justice, climate storytelling, and water & climate. During the Fall she worked on supporting the Finger Lakes Youth Climate Summit. She advocates for climate activism and awareness through her social media.



WORKSHOP SESSION 1 BIOS

How to Create and Maintain a Stellar Green Team

Location: Main Conference Room

Tupper Lake Green Team

The Tupper Lake Green Team is a student focused environmental advocacy group. We learn and educate others about local and global environmental issues. The Tupper Lake Green Team has worked on many different projects throughout Tupper Lake High School and the broader Tupper Lake community. Some of these projects include implementing school environmental initiatives, community clean-ups, and seasonal hikes.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 2 BIOS

Using OurStoryBridge to Confront and Combat Climate Change

Location: Flammer Theater

Jery Huntley

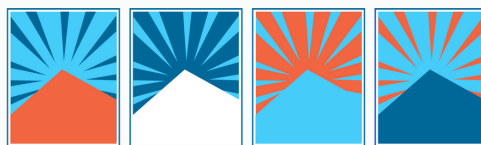


Jery received her Master of Library Science from the University at Albany, but her career took a turn after her early start as a school and public librarian. She worked for the NYS Assembly, then headed to Washington, DC, for a staff position in the US House of Representatives. This led to opportunities in environmental lobbying, issues management, 20 years as a trade association CEO, 30+ years working as a meeting facilitator and trainer and public speaker, and decades of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity International. In 2020, she founded OurStoryBridge (incorporated in 2022), for which she continues to serve as full-time, volunteer President and Director. Jery was among the leaders of the early recycling movement in the 1980's, work with great parallels to our current climate change challenges.

Janelle Schwartz



Janelle A. Schwartz brings 25 years of experience as an interdisciplinary educator, program developer, and creative consultant to her work as a freelance project strategist, writer, and editor for JAS Creatives LLC. She holds a PhD in literature and the history of science and taught literature and environmental studies at Loyola University New Orleans and Hamilton College. She founded and directed the Hamilton College Adirondack Program, a place-based, experiential semester focused on intentional living and professional development. She has published widely on literature and ecology, social justice, the Adirondacks, pedagogy, natural philosophy, and more. And she helps 8th and 12th graders at Keene Central School, in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, tell their stories.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 2 BIOS

Sustainable Agriculture in the North Country

Location: Planet Adirondack

Kim Smart



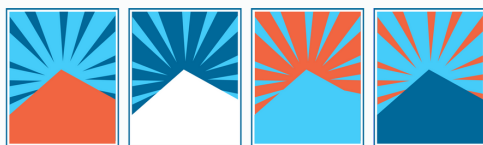
Kim has spent the last nine years working in education and is currently the Garden Manager for North Country School (NCS). Kim has a Master of Science in Agricultural Education, and degrees in Communications and Anthropology from Tulane University. Prior to NCS, she spent three years working at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on the Big Island of Hawai'i but is thrilled to be back in the Adirondacks year round. She is hoping to introduce more diverse and native plants to NCS and expand their edible landscape. When she is not working, Kim enjoys spending time outdoors or cooking with her partner, Jay, and their dog, Kea.

North Country School & Camp Tree

Tops Staff



North Country School and Camp Treetops (NCT) is a year round junior boarding school and summer camp for children ages 8-15. Founded in the summer of 1921, both programs continue to incorporate the farm and garden as center pieces of experiential education and hands-on learning. The farm and garden "foster connections to build and nurture a strong, inclusive community, teach collective responsibility for our planet, and provide a community that works to respect, protect, and restore the natural world."



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WORKSHOP SESSION 2 BIOS

Climate, Water, & Craftivism

Location: Naturalist Cabinet & Outside

Tom Collins



Tom is the Education and Outreach Program Manager for the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. Originally from a small town in the Tug Hill region of New York, he now resides in Saranac Lake. Tom has worked as an educator for various organizations in Colorado, Vermont, and here in the Adirondacks. He is invested in connecting visitors, residents, and students to the issues that impact this region. Tom enjoys spending time outdoors with friends, family, and his dog and taking advantage of all that living in the Adirondacks has to offer.

Dr. Michale Glennon

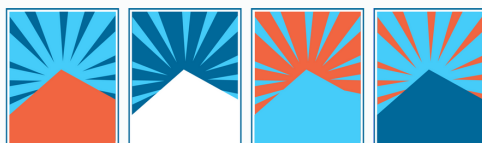


Michale Glennon serves as the Science Director of the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. She is an ecologist and conducts research on a variety of issues ranging from residential development to recreation to climate change and their impacts on wildlife. At AWI, Michale works to support and help shape the scientific research program, provide high quality research opportunities for students, and distribute AWI's work in order to enhance the use of science in the stewardship of the natural resources of the Adirondack Park. Michale obtained her B.S. in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology from Dartmouth College, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental and Forest Biology from SUNY-ESF.

Nadia Harvieux



Nadia Harvieux is the Associate Director for Educational Programs at the Finger Lakes Institute of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. Nadia has over 20 years experience in hands-on environmental education, both as a teacher and program designer. She holds a B.A. in geology and a Masters in Science Education. Nadia coordinates and teaches the K-12 environmental education program at the FLI which engages students in learning about issues affecting our land, water and climate, and hosted the Finger Lakes Youth Climate Summit last week.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 2 BIOS

Getting Started on an Energy Efficient Action Plan: A Key to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Location: Climate Solutions

Dr. Sue Powers



Dr. Sue Powers is the Spence Professor of Sustainable Environmental Systems and the Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at Clarkson University. She has two years of experience as a project engineer with Engineering Science (now Parsons) in Syracuse, New York. Dr. Powers have served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, the EPA Science Advisory Board - Environmental Engineering committee (2003-2009, 2015-2019), and on the board of the Engineering Research Council of the American Society of Engineering Education. The technical research that Dr. Powers and my students complete includes lifecycle assessment to provide perspectives on energy systems and their overall environmental impact.

Dr. Jan DeWaters



Jan DeWaters is an associate professor in the Institute for Stem Education at Clarkson University. She teaches in the School of Engineering and works with education programs in middle school, high school, and university. She is interested in helping to improve environmental, energy, and climate literacy among people of all ages.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2 BIOS

A Climate Report Card for YOUR School

Location: Main Conference Room

Mariah Keagy



In her role as Energy Action Project Manager and Energy Project Advisor, Mariah is the founder and core organizer of Youth Climate Leaders Academy, and serves as an Adult Advisor to Vermont's Youth Lobby, the Climate Council's Youth Advisory, and supports youth and adults in Vermont and New Hampshire working on making change on energy and climate in their schools, community and state. Mariah coordinates and supports VEEP/NHEEP's energy action programs and the other VEEP/NHEEP Energy Project Advisors. When Mariah is not supporting youth and their energy/climate projects, she is often busy in her role as a professional trail designer and planner for, Sinuosity, which she owns with her partner. In addition to her work, Mariah also loves sunshine, any sort of knobby-tire bike adventures, surfing, growing food and flowers, mushroom foraging, and dorking out on nature things.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 3 BIOS

Climate Smart Communities & LEED Certification

Location: Flammer Theater

Carlie Leary

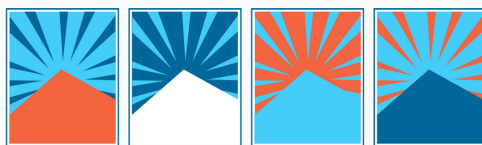


Carlie grew up in Massena, N.Y. where she spent most of her childhood exploring the outdoors. Her mother often brought her to the Nature Center, which fostered a love for nature and all living things. Carlie has worked in education in both formal and informal settings. She has served as a STEM teacher, the assistant director at 4-H Camp Overlook, and a zip-line guide in the Adirondacks. Having joined ANCA as our Climate Smart Communities Coordinator in December 2022, Carlie also serves on the Next Generation Council for the Adirondack Land Trust. She believes in the power of education and building community to better our world and is devoted to fostering connections between humans and the natural world.

Dazzle Ekblad



Dazzle Ekblad has served as a Climate Policy Analyst for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) since 2014. Originally from Minnesota, she works out of DEC's central office in Albany. Dazzle currently leads the community engagement team within the DEC Office of Climate Change. Dazzle and her colleagues manage the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program and its affiliated initiatives, including the zero-emission vehicle rebates, the CSC grants, the regional CSC Coordinators, and the CSC certification program. Dazzle holds a Master of Science in Natural Resources Policy from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, as well as a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. In 2022, Dazzle received a Climate Champion Award from the NY Upstate Board of the USGBC. Outside of work, you'll find Dazzle digging in her garden, cruising the streets on her electric bike, or scanning the sky for raptors.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 3 BIOS

What If It All Goes Right? Driving Change as a Visionary Leader

Location: Planet Adirondack

Mindy Hart



Mindy Audlin is the founder and Executive Director of The What·If·UP Club, a global Movement of forward-thinking optimists working together in small groups to spread hope, build connection, and inspire positive change. Mindy is also the author of “What If It All Goes RIGHT? Creating a New World of Peace, Prosperity & Possibility.” She has spoken to audiences around the world about the power of positive thinking and works with individuals, organizations and youth groups to “bring good ideas to life.” With over 20 years of experience as a keynote presenter, workshop leader, and mastermind facilitator, Mindy is known for her fun, energizing programs that leave participants feeling uplifted, empowered, and eager to leap into action.



WORKSHOP SESSION 3 BIOS

Micro-Mystery: Citizen Science Action Lab

Location: Naturalist Cabinet

Heather DeLagran



Heather Delagran is an Education Producer for the National Film Board of Canada on a project called Ocean School - a free online environmental education resource that empowers students to create positive change. Heather's work sits at the intersection of storytelling, education and science. She has helped produce over 118 pieces of media - short documentaries, 360 immersive experiences, AR/VR simulations and web-based interactives - that tell ocean stories from Canada's Pacific and Atlantic coasts, the Saint Lawrence River, Costa Rica and Raja Ampat Indonesia. Heather is a former Geography teacher, human rights educator and author of the Burgundy Jazz educator guide. She brings experience and skills in environmental and outdoor education, curriculum design, educational technology, participatory action research and human rights education.

Lexy Harquail



Lexy Harquail is a biologist and environmental educator at the River Institute, sharing her passion for science with youth from across Canada. She holds a BSc in Marine Biology and Geology.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 3 BIOS

Fighting Fast Fashion Through Upcycling

Location: Climate Solutions

Sam Baker

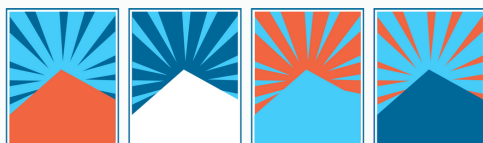


Sam Baker grew up in Canandaigua, NY. After graduating from SUNY Oswego in 2019, he moved up north to teach Environmental and Earth Science at Lake Placid Middle/High School. A few years ago, he issued himself the challenge of creating holiday gifts entirely out of waste materials. What started out as a simple challenge has led him down a road of new skills and unlimited potential. Apart from Sam's many projects, he has constructed canoe paddles from housing debris and wood pallets, and sewed clothing from scrap fabrics and dog food bags. With the skills and information he has learned, Sam aims to teach others about the many issues regarding our throw-away culture, ways to reduce our waste streams, and how to create treasure from trash.

Aurora Gallagher



Aurora Gallagher, is a Junior majoring in Biology at Paul Smith's College. Aurora has been involved with the Youth Climate Summit and Wild Center since she was in middle school at Lake Placid. Alongside her studies, she works as a personal trainer and nutrition coach. Much of her free time is spent thrifting and upcycling clothes, which will be showcased in the Fighting Fast Fashion workshop.



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WORKSHOP SESSION 3 BIOS

Art and Climate Change, Rights of Nature & Climate Justice

Location: Main Conference Room

Blake Lavia

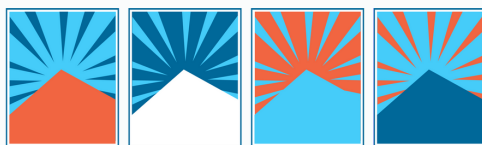


Blake (they/them or all pronouns) is a multimedia artist and community organizer, currently living in the Kaniatarowanéhne / St. Lawrence River Valley, at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, Haudenosaunee Territory. Through their work with the environmental storytelling group Talking Wings, Blake Lavia has organized numerous conferences, curated in person and virtual art exhibitions, and produced visual storytelling pieces that spotlight Water and Earth Guardians. Their art practice dances between filmmaking, writing, photography, animation, and mixed media illustration, and spotlights structural violence, cultural memory, and our current climate crises. Blake Lavia is also the President of Talking Rivers, INC., an organization that is using art and education to unite communities and bring about an ecocentric reality for the region and the world.

Tzintzun Aguilar-Izzo



Tzintzun Aguilar-Izzo (they, elle) is an environmental artist and movement weaver, who is currently working to spotlight stories of regenerative solutions to the climate crises in the North Country, Haudenosaunee Territory. As part of Talking Wings, they have collaborated with Blake Lavia on several art and community centered environmental projects, such as the “North Country Art, Land and Environment Summit” and “Confluence: A Tapestry of Rivers and their Guardians.” Also, Tzintzun is one of the Directors of Talking Rivers, INC., where they are working on promoting “Rights of Nature” for the North Country rivers.



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