



**THE WILD CENTER**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES BIOGRAPHIES**  
Updated: January 8, 2026

**PAUL J. ALIOTO**



Paul Alioto was born in NYC. He attended college at SUNY Oneonta, where he earned his BA in secondary education. He completed his Master's Degree in School Guidance at Brooklyn College (1992). He worked as a social studies teacher and then as a guidance counselor in NYC before his appointment as the Tupper Lake Middle/High School Principal in 1995. Paul earned his Doctorate in Teaching and Curriculum from Syracuse University in 1999. He is a past Superintendent of the Clifton-Fine Central School District in Star Lake and currently serves as Superintendent of the Dansville Central School District in the Finger Lakes Region. He was recognized as the 2015 Outstanding New York State Superintendent by the New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE). Paul also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium and is a volunteer first responder for the Dansville Ambulance Company.

**LEE BAILEY**



Mr. Bailey is the Managing Director and Managing Partner of Mission Finance, a climate Venture Studio. In addition, Mr. Bailey is a Managing Director of US Renewables Group ("USRG"), a Los Angeles based private equity fund that invests in renewable energy and clean fuel companies. At USRG, Mr. Bailey is actively involved in the management of the firm, has led investments in companies in the geothermal, concentrated solar and wind areas, is a member of the Board of Directors for several USRG portfolio companies and has led USRG's efforts to invest in emerging markets.

Prior to joining USRG, Mr. Bailey was a partner with Rustic Canyon Partners where he focused on investing in energy-based companies. Mr. Bailey started his career as a lawyer and then held several senior management positions with Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. (NASDAQ: ENER), an energy technology development company. He has over 34 years of operating experience in technology-based companies, fund management and government service, primarily in the areas of energy and IT. Prior to joining Rustic Canyon, Mr. Bailey was the founding director of a \$60 million joint U.S.-Israeli government fund. Mr. Bailey also served as the White House Director for International Science and Technology Commercialization Programs from 1995 to 1997, where he represented the U.S. government in promoting its strategy of privatization and commercialization of technology developed in emerging markets such as Russia, Egypt, Israel and South Africa. In addition, Mr. Bailey has served as the CEO of several start-up companies, including the Rural Health Care Corporation and Quantum Medical Corporation.

Mr. Bailey received a law degree from Washington University School of Law, a MS from Northwestern University and a BA from St. Lawrence University.

## Lance Balk



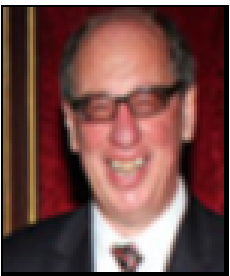
Lance Balk has spent his professional career practicing law in a law firm or as general counsel to public and private companies. Mr. Balk began his career at Kirkland & Ellis, a national law firm, in 1983, opened the Kirkland and Ellis New York office in 1990 with twelve other attorneys, and retired from the firm in 2006 as a partner in its corporate, securities and mergers and acquisitions practice. Mr. Balk then worked as General Counsel of Dade Behring, a public company supplying products, systems and services in the clinical diagnostics industry; he continued as General Counsel of that business following its acquisition by Siemens until 2010. Mr. Balk then joined Six Flags Entertainment Corporation where he served as General Counsel through 2020. In each of his General Counsel positions, he was also a member of the executive leadership team charged with working with the Chief Executive Officer to oversee the entire business operations as well as handling all board of directors' matters.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Balk has served as a member of the Belden, Inc. board of directors. Belden designs, manufactures and sells cables, connectivity products and networking solutions that serve as the foundation for modern data, audio and video systems as well as providing integrated solutions for specific needs such as those for smart buildings, industrial automation, and physical security applications. In addition to service on the Belden Board of Directors, Mr. Balk had served on various board committees including Finance, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance.

Mr. Balk received a B.A. degree in Philosophy from Northwestern University in 1980 and a J.D. and M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1984.

Mr. Balk's relationship with the Adirondacks began in the mid-1990s with a family stay in one of the old cabins at Ampersand Bay. There, his oldest son, Nate caught his first Northern Pike and Lance and his wife, Peg, carted Nate up Ampersand Mountain in a backpack several times. From there, the family discovered the Wawbeek Resort which they enjoyed for several summers with their three sons, Nate, Thomas and Henry. In 2012, after having moved to Lake Forest, Illinois, the Balk family missed its stays in the Adirondacks and purchased a camp on Upper Saranac Lake which has become the summer (and, lately, into the fall) home for Peg and Lance and such of the boys, family and friends that can make it each year. In fact, in summer 2025 we welcomed our first grandchild, Ben, who promptly became the youngest member of The Wild Center.

## JOSEPH G. BECK



Joe Beck is a Managing Director and Co-Head of Raymond James Healthcare Finance. Over his thirty year career on Wall Street, Mr. Beck has had a leadership role in many of the industry's most innovative and influential health care services transactions. His clients have included prominent hospitals and other healthcare and non-profit companies, including Hackensack Meridian Health, Howard University, Drexel University, Georgetown University, Visiting Nurse Service of New York, The Archdiocese of New York, West Virginia United Health System, University of Miami, the Association of American Medical Colleges, The Rand Corporation, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute and World Wildlife Fund. Prior to Raymond James, Mr. Beck was a Managing Director and Executive Committee Member of Morgan Keegan's Healthcare division. Mr. Beck was also a Founding Principal of Shattuck Hammond Partners LLC (a prominent, boutique healthcare investment banking firm) until

the firm was sold to Morgan Keegan in 2007.

Mr. Beck's professional experience also includes positions in healthcare finance from both the public and private sectors. Before the formation of Shattuck Hammond Partners Inc. in 1993, Mr. Beck was a Principal at Cain Brothers, Shattuck & Company. From 1985 to 1987, he was a Vice President at Chemical Bank, where he directed investment banking services for hospitals and other healthcare companies. Prior to joining Chemical Bank, Mr. Beck was a Senior Credit Analyst at Moody's Investors Service, where he was responsible for hospital and structured finance ratings. He began his career working in New York State Government and the New York State Senate, holding senior staff positions in healthcare legislation, regulation and policy analysis.

Mr. Beck earned his B.A. (Summa Cum Laude) from LeMoyne College (Syracuse, NY) and his M.S. in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard University School of Public Health. Mr. Beck has served and does serve on the boards of a number of not-for-profit and for-profit companies including the Kapson Senior Quarters (NYSE: an assisted living company), Health Network Labs (a private clinical laboratory company), Anchor Health Properties (a private medical office building development and management company), The Lighthouse (a not-for-profit agency dedicated to providing low vision services), the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (a not-for-profit medical research and educational organization), and The Wild Center (The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake, NY).

Mr. Beck is married to Bonnie Robinson – his wife of over 25 years. He has two children – Patricia and Matthew Beck. Bonnie and Joe reside in Larchmont, New York and spend too few “free” days with family and friends either in an apartment in San Francisco or in an “Adirondack Camp” in Tupper Lake, New York.

## **MICHAEL A. BETTMANN**



Dr. Bettmann is *Emeritus* Professor of Radiology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and Co-Chair of the American College of Radiology Clinical Decision Support Committee. He received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, his MD from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and completed his post-graduate training at Harvard Medical School and its associated hospital. He has been active in academic medicine for many years, with over 150 peer-reviewed publications and more than 200 invited professorships and visiting lectureships around the country and in many other countries. Michael has done extensive research in many aspects of diagnostic radiology, and has served on and chaired many national committees for the American College of Radiology, the American Heart Association and the Society of Interventional Radiology.

He is also a member of the Board of the Adirondack Council and of the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT.

Michael is married to Ellen Hofheimer Bettmann, a nationally-recognized leader in the fields of anti-bias education and cultural diversity; he and Ellen both grew up in Westchester County. Ellen first came to the Adirondacks at four months of age, to the Sagamore Hotel on Long Lake that was owned and run by her great-grandparents and then her grandparents. Ellen and Michael have been in the

Adirondacks since their marriage in 1967, first at a cottage on Lake Colby owned by her mother and, since 2004, at their home on Upper Saranac Lake. Both have been actively involved with the Wild Center since it opened. The Adirondacks remain the emotional home for Ellen and Michael, their three grown children and their eight grandchildren.

### **ALLISON BIRDSONG**



Allison Birdsong is a long time independent school educator, coach, and administrator. Throughout her career she has taught across academic divisions and disciplines, which has enabled her to develop meaningful interdisciplinary learning opportunities for her students. In addition to her classroom and coaching responsibilities she has served as English Department Chair, grade level Dean, and member of the Diversity and Equity Cohort.

Following a year long sabbatical in Granada, Spain where she studied language and literature, Allison taught in Portugal before moving to London with her husband Nicolas. Allison earned her B.A. from Colby College and her M.A.L.S. from Wesleyan University. Allison and her family have gathered in the Adirondacks for the last forty years. This time spent on Upper Saranac Lake is where her deep love of the outdoors developed and has been nurtured annually. She was a founding member of Wings, the junior advisory council for the Wild Center. Allison and Nicolas currently divide their time between the U.S. and London.

### **TERRY BIRDSONG**



Terry Birdsong is the former President of the George Birdsong Company, a promotional products and corporate awards business she led for 32 years. Prior to this sales and management experience she was a fifth grade teacher in Westchester County, NY. She grew up on Long Island, NY, graduated from St. Lawrence University and received her Masters Degree in Education from Hofstra University.

As a life-long learner and educator Terry values her activities in nature, be it sailing, hiking, and/or just being outdoors. She and her husband Lynn, introduced their children to the Adirondacks while vacationing in the summer at the St. Lawrence camp on Upper Saranac Lake. As a result of their love for the area they bought their first seasonal home on Upper Saranac in 1984.

Terry's other involvements in the area have been as a Board Member and Past President of the Adirondack Health Foundation. She serves currently on the Board of the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation and as a weekly volunteer at The Wild Center.

After Terry's retirement, the Birdsongs moved from their home of many years in Connecticut to be with family outside Fort Collins, Colorado. Terry's involvement in volunteer work has continued there, serving on the Board of the Friends of Lory State Park and (when possible) helping lead learning hikes for elementary school groups. In addition, she mentors an Education for Ministry (EFM) seminar each week that is based on a four year curriculum of Sewanee Theological School.

## **GEORGE CIGALE**



George Cigale currently serves as President of New Classrooms, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to redefine and improve math education.

Previously, George founded Tutor.com and served as its CEO until 2013. Under George's leadership, Tutor.com became the leading provider of on-demand instructional solutions for students and professionals, with a proprietary technology platform that connects students and professionals to experts for on-demand and personalized help. Students have turned to Tutor.com over 10 million times and counting. Tutor.com was acquired by IAC/InteractiveCorp (NASDAQ:IACI) in 2012.

Through Abenaki Ventures, George also advises leaders of education and software companies and organizations. George serves as a Trustee on the Board of Columbia University Teachers College, on the Board of The Wild Center, and as an Advisor to John Hopkins Medicine Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences. George received a BA in Political Science from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and currently lives in New York City and Long Lake, NY.

When not thinking about education technology, how we learn, and the future of work, George learns as much as he can about the intersection of fungi, microbiomes, nutrition, evolution, and health and wellness, and spends time in the Adirondack woods foraging for mushrooms and climbing the high peaks.

## **LARRY CLIFFORD**



Larry was born in Bronxville, NY and made his first trip to the Adirondacks in the summer of 1956. He has spent a portion of every year at his extended families camp on Big Wolf Lake. This connection to the region was a significant factor in his decision to attend and graduate from St. Lawrence University. He later received his MBA from Babson College. Larry and his wife Susan recently moved to Florida.

Larry's career has primarily been in the real estate business where he began in investment and development and eventually to leading several of the country's leading residential real estate brokerage operations. Larry has served as a director or officer for several real estate industry organizations and charitable organizations. He is a current member of the Big Wolf Lake Association Board of Directors.

He is Obie Clifford's, co-founder of the Wild Center, eldest son. "I am very honored to be asked to join the Trustees of the Wild Center. While I will never be able to fill his shoes, I am excited to maintain the close connection to this wonderful organization, and to be part of its continuing mission."

## DAVID KANIETAKERON FADDEN



David Fadden was born to John and Eva Fadden in Lake Placid, NY and grew up in the tiny Adirondack Mountain community of Onchiota. In his youth, he grew up surrounded by the wild beauty of the region, by his grandparents Ray and Christine Fadden's teachings and stories, and by his parents' creative example and encouragement. Eva Fadden expressed through wood sculpture and John, a retired art teacher, is a painter and prolific illustrator.

With strong ties to both Akwesasne and Onchiota, David has established a solid reputation as a painter, but he is also recognized as a storyteller, illustrator, writer, and sculptor. An admirer of the Dutch and Renaissance painters David finds inspiration in the old masters' eloquent and seemingly effortless use of light. His subjects range from traditional Haudenosaunee teachings to intimate and inspired portrayals of community members. Working primarily in acrylics, he often combines fine brushwork with palette knife applications to produce luminous interpretations of Haudenosaunee youth and elders.

David also developed a mosaic-like technique that captures the complexity and dynamic vitality of contemporary indigenous identity. This expressive technique remains a distinguishing feature in some of his most popular works. Another recent direction explores a sort of reverse appropriation, with iconic works by Rembrandt, Grant Wood, and others re-interpreted and given uniquely Haudenosaunee treatment such as *Girl with a Wampum Earring* and *Onkwehonwe Gothic*.

David has exhibited his work throughout the northeast and has received numerous commissions for illustration. Additionally, he is a sought-after storyteller, known for his gentle and captivating oration. He was recently invited to re-imagine a living wetland exhibit at the Wild Center (Tupper Lake, NY) from a Haudenosaunee perspective. The new interpretation features the Thanksgiving Address and features painting and audio story elements. He is currently involved in redesigning the exhibit space at the Native North American Travelling College (Cornwall Island). Future ventures include a partnership with the John Brown Farm Historic Site (Lake Placid, NY) and a project with Akwesasne Tourism in which he will serve as lead art consultant and designer of an outdoor community-college sculpture project. David was showcased in his first solo show at the Strand Center Gallery in Plattsburgh, NY in 2020.

Much of his work can be seen at the Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center in Onchiota, a family-run facility founded in 1954 by his grandparents. Today, David, his brother Donny, and their father John continue to maintain this very special museum welcoming visitors from around the world, breaking down stereotypes, and forwarding accurate understandings of Mohawk and Haudenosaunee culture.

## ED FORBES



Ed Forbes, a journalist who has spent his career covering New York, New Jersey and the northeast, is currently Senior Director for News and Engagement for the USA TODAY Network, with oversight of opinion journalism and community engagement strategy across the northeast.

His career began at the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, where he covered the Adirondack Park Agency, and has included stops at the Lake Placid News, [lohud.com](http://lohud.com) and The Journal News in White Plains and NorthJersey.com and The Record in northern New Jersey. His work has been recognized by the Deadline Club, the Society of the Silurians, the Associated Press, the New Jersey Press Association, the New York Press Association and the New York News Publishers Association.

Forbes holds degrees from St. Lawrence University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In 2019, he was awarded an Alumni Citation by St. Lawrence for his service as president of the University's Alumni Association and Alumni Delegate to the Board of Trustees, a charge he held from 2014 to 2018. A native of Morris County, New Jersey, he is a graduate of Morristown-Beard School.

Forbes is currently treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg and serves as a director of Volunteer New York!, a non-profit that drives volunteerism in the Hudson Valley and is based in Tarrytown. In January, he began a term as a member of the North Country Public Radio Executive Council. In addition, he chairs the Town of Pound Ridge's Landmarks and Historic District Commission. Forbes is also a long-time member and former board member of the Westchester County Association. He was also a founding member and co-chair of Wings, the junior advisory council for the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks.

Forbes and his wife, Emily Hunt Forbes, live in Pound Ridge with their daughters, Caroline and Julia. They thoroughly enjoy their home in Lake Placid in every season.

## LYNN FOX



Lynn Smith Fox has a professional background in public policy and strategic leadership communications, serving as a senior official of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors until her retirement. She also has more than twenty years of volunteer experience in the non-profit sector and in higher education, including most recently as Presidential Spouse at St Lawrence University. Lynn and her husband Bill retired to Charlotte, VT in 2021 where she is an active volunteer and happy grandmother. She has been involved with The Wild Center in various roles since 2010.

## **CHARLES FRENETTE**



Charlie Frenette grew up in Tupper Lake and graduated from the Tupper Lake Central School System. He earned a B.S. from North West Missouri State University. Charlie's father, Bill Frenette, was a Tupper Lake businessman, a founding board member of The Wild Center and a local historian. Charlie and his late wife Helen Frenette, have one son, Zachary.

Charlie began his career at Coca-Cola in 1974, and quickly rose to positions of increasing responsibility. Some of those positions include: Senior Vice President and General Manager, Coca-Cola Foodservice; Executive Vice President and General Manager, Coca-Cola USA Operations; President of the Southern African Division in Johannesburg, South Africa; Chief Marketing Officer – World – Wide; and President and Chief Operating Officer, Greater Europe, Africa, and Middle East in London, England. At the end of 2001 Charlie retired from Coca-Cola and founded First Step Group— a senior executive advisory and management consulting service company. He actively manages this company with clients on three continents.

Charlie lives in Atlanta, Georgia and has a holiday home on Big Tupper.

## **RICHARD F. GODIN, JR.**



A Tupper Lake native, Rick Godin attended North Country Community College and the State University of New York at Albany before beginning his professional career in photography and video production in Colorado. For over 25 years his company, Rick Godin Productions, has created visual communications for magazines, television, industry, the Internet, and corporate entertainment and education for a variety of clients worldwide. Rick's goal is for the Museum to be ahead of its time in the methods of information distribution by providing an interactive and sensually immersive experience for the visitors via the latest in presentation technologies blended with classic museum exhibits.

## **ROBIN GOSNELL**



Georgia B (Robin) Gosnell graduated from Dartmouth College and Columbia University School of Law. She practiced tax law for five years in New York City and then retired from full-time employment to have her four children. During their childhoods, she worked part-time at Chase Field LLC, a boutique investment firm based in Princeton, New Jersey. She became active with the International Rescue Committee, joining its board of directors and executive committee. After an extended term, she joined its board of advisors.

Now fully retired, Ms. Gosnell sits on the boards of Princeton Day School, where she is chairman of the committee on trustees, and Trinity Counseling Service, where she is Vice President. She also serves on the advisory council for Womanspace and the board of C Change Conversations. She is a past president of the Garden Club of Princeton.

Ms. Gosnell has a second home on Upper Saranac Lake. She has spent almost every summer on the lake since she was an infant.

## **Doug J. Grierson, CPA**



From 2019 to the present, Doug has been the Chief Financial Officer of the ACR Group. The ACR Group is a satellite communications and services company providing tracking, communications and emergency location products and services for aerospace, government and outdoor and marine markets.

Previously, Doug was the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Drew Marine. Drew Marine is a leading global provider of performance products and safety solutions to the international maritime industry. He was responsible for the accounting, treasury and information technology functions. Doug joined Drew Marine in 2014.

Doug was previously the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of General Chemical, a market leading chemical manufacturing company, wholly owned by a private equity firm, American Securities. Doug led the treasury, tax, financial reporting, operational accounting, and information technology teams. Previously he had been the Vice President and Corporate Controller of GenTek, Inc., a publicly held chemical, automotive, and wire harness manufacturing company.

Prior to joining GenTek, Doug had been the Director of Internal Audit at Quest Diagnostics Incorporated. He started his career in public accounting at Deloitte & Touche. Additionally, Doug has previously served on the Board of Directors for North American Filtration, which provides custom engineered solutions to test, treat and dispose of wastewater for municipal and industrial applications.

A graduate of Lehigh University, Doug is Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Doug lives in Basking Ridge, NJ with his three children. He volunteers with the Greater Somerset County YMCA, serving on the Board of Directors since 2016, and as its Treasurer since 2021. In his free time, he enjoys boating, skiing, biking and swimming.

## **SALLY HART**



Sally Hart lives in Saratoga Springs, but considers the Adirondacks her emotional home. Sally, a graduate of Syracuse University, works as a Marketing Consultant and Project Manager and has organized the last two BAGA conferences for the Wild Center. She is on the board of The Adirondack Landowners Association and co-chairs the Annual Fund for Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson and teaches adaptive skiing at HH Hole in the Wall during the winter.

## NANCY S. HOWARD



Nancy and her husband Norman Howard moved to the Adirondacks in 1994 from Wilton, CT to grow the business of The Wawbeek on Upper Saranac Lake Resort and Restaurant as managing partners. She is a founding trustee of The Wild Center, and has served as president of the Tupper Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Upper Saranac Lake Association.

She has been President of the Adirondack Garden Club, a Garden Club of America since 2016, and was awarded their Conservation Certificate in 2005. Garden Club of America's NY State Conservation

Award in 2006 and in 2013 NYS Director's Award. She also served as vice-chairman of GCA's National Affairs and Legislation/Conservation Committee 2008-2010.

Nancy previously served on the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation Board, the Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties Library Board, the NY State Hospitality and Tourism Association's Communications Committee, NY State DEC's Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Development of the Upper Saranac Lake's Watershed Management Plan, and the Advisory Committee of AdkAction.

After graduating with a B.A. from the University of Mary Washington Nancy's full-time career ended its way from teaching third grade to children's book publishing and journalism with freelance writing and public relations jaunts all along the way including with the Wilton (CT) Library.

Since 1966, Nancy has held various positions with the Corlear Bay Club Association on Lake Champlain where the Norman's family has had a camp since the 1930's. The Howard's have three children and five grandchildren.

## BEN IRELAND



Ben Ireland is the CFO of ABCO Systems, a material handling company based in Belleville, NJ. Previously, Ben held several leadership positions across finance & strategy for Nielsen in the digital & marketing effectiveness space and started his career at GE in their leadership development programs. Ben graduated from St. Lawrence with a degree in Economics.

Ben lives in New York City with his wife, Phuong, and two children, Lucy & James. They try to visit their family camp in Lake Placid as often as possible.

Ben loves watching his kids develop a life-long passion for nature by exploring and enjoying all the Adirondacks have to offer. Helping the Wild Center fulfill its mission is a personal highlight.

## ELIZABETH M. LOWE



Elizabeth Lowe has had an overall career in environmental conservation, community development and visionary planning, including founding The Wild Center in Tupper Lake and working for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for close to 25 years, most recently as the Region 5 Director.

DEC Region 5 encompasses most of the Adirondacks and outlying counties. As Regional Director she oversaw the activities of approximately 200 full time and 500 seasonal employees and served as the DEC representative on the Adirondack Park Agency, Olympic Regional Development Authority and Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee. She created and led a number of special policy initiatives and action plans for the benefit of the region which continued following her years of service.

Prior to becoming Regional Director, Ms. Lowe conceived of and served as Managing Director and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, “The Wild Center”, in Tupper Lake, an entity she launched in 1998, including the overall size, scope and concept. Ms. Lowe chose Tupper Lake for the location of the Museum and engaged local leadership and the community for initial support while reaching out region wide to a wide variety of groups, organizations and politicians for their support and input as well as routinely updating the regional press on the Museum’s development. She prepared and filed the legal documents to form the not-for-profit entity and initial Board of Trustees which she recruited consisting of active local community leaders, politicians and others from around the Park, and laid the groundwork for the site selection, master planning process, public engagement, fundraising, budgeting process, program planning, design development, and the recruitment of contractors and staff through to execution and completion of first year of operations in 2007. This process also included providing an immense number of public presentations upon request to groups and organizations throughout the state on an annual basis, including 30 presentations in 60 days during the height of the development effort. The design team selected for the Master Planning process, and ultimately through the construction phase, was one of 13 nationwide teams competing for the project which she recruited through public outreach and by attending the Association of Science Technology Centers Conference in the Fall of 1998 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Prior to starting The Wild Center, Ms. Lowe served for nearly 20 years with DEC, building an extensive background in environmental management, public participation, consensus building, community development, public relations, and administrative policy working with a wide variety of public constituents and programs in both DEC Central and Regional offices over time.

Ms. Lowe obtained her undergraduate degree from Skidmore College where she received a B.A. with a double major in Biology and Music and received her Master’s degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University. She has resided for most of her professional life in the Adirondacks, currently in Lake Placid and Long Lake, and has family ties to the region going back more than 100 years. She has served on a wide variety of community, regional and state not for-profit boards and advisory boards, and routinely advises, upon request, a wide variety of other not-for-profits around the state with start-up support, special projects, mentoring, administration and/or development assistance.

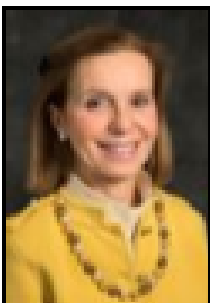
Ms. Lowe received a Certificate of Recognition for “Outstanding Achievement and Unselfish Dedication to all DEC Region 5 Programs in January 1998,” the “Adirondack Communicator of the Year Award” from the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board in 2001, a NYS Senate Proclamation and Franklin County Resolution in 2007 for her “Leadership and skills in founding the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks/The Wild Center” in 2007, the “Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation Education” in Norfolk, VA from the Garden Club of America in 2008, a Certificate of Recognition from New York Governor David Paterson and First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson for leadership efforts in creating & organizing the signature celebration at Crown Point Historic Site & Campground for the 400th anniversary of the exploration of Lake Champlain in December 2009, was inducted into the “Lake Placid Hall of Fame” in 2010, received the Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership Award from the Adirondack Park Institute in 2013, and received the “Creative Thought Matters Award” from Skidmore College in 2016, among others.

### **PAUL A. MAROUN**



Paul Maroun has over 40 years of professional experience at the local, state and federal levels of government in a variety of challenging elective, appointive and legislative positions. Paul is well acquainted with the people of the entire region and their unique needs and problems. He is a lifetime resident of the North Country and graduated from Tupper Lake Central High School. He obtained a B.A. from Siena College in Political Science and a Juris Doctor Degree from Potomac School of Law in Washington D.C. He currently serves on the Franklin County Legislature and as the North Country Regional Coordinator for State Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little. He was the former Coordinator and Counsel for the State Senator Ron Stafford, prior to Stafford’s retirement. He has also served as the Executive Assistant to the Administrator for the James L. Emery, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation under the U. S. Department of Transportation. He has served as a former Executive Director of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. He was a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve Intelligence with 12 years experience. He is currently a Commander with 22 years in the Navy Intelligence Community. He is also a member of the Sunmount Developmental Center Board of Visitors (Gubernatorial Appointment). He currently serves as Counsel to Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little. He has received awards from the County Association of Retarded Children Legislator of the Year; Outstanding Young Man of America, 1977 and 1979; most Outstanding Student Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, 1977. He also received a National Defense Ribbon, U.S. Naval Reserve Sharpshooter Pistol. He has also been involved in numerous community activities. He has been Mayor of the Village of Tupper Lake since 2011.

### **PAMELA G. MATT**



Pam joined Young Scholars LPP, Utica College in June, 2015 as the Program’s Executive Director. In this position she oversees the Young Scholars Program as well as the Program’s funding, activities, staffing, public relations, and collaborative efforts with other organizations. Her previous experience includes three years as the Executive Director of the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce, as well as Advancement positions held at Colgate University and SUNY Polytechnic Institute. Pam has been an active member of the Utica Rotary Club since 2008 with roles as President, Membership Chair Board member and

Youth Exchange officer for the club. She is presently on the Board of Directors for the Mohawk Valley YWCA and the Stanley Theater and she has served for numerous years on the board of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees.

Pam is a 2014 YWCA Salute to Outstanding Women honoree in the category of Professions. Pam holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Trinity College and a JD from Duquesne University. She is married to F.X. Matt, III and they have 5 adult children and two grandchildren.

## **BROOKS H. REYNOLDS**



Brooks Reynolds has called Lake Placid home for more than 15 years and spent much of her real estate career with Merrill L. Thomas, a leading Adirondack real estate firm. In the Spring of 2019 she and her husband Steve started their own Real Estate Brokerage, *The Reynolds Group of Lake Placid*, with an office on Saranac Ave. A native of North Carolina, Brooks earned her degree in management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before embarking on her successful real estate career, she was a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain and a notable fishing guide who worked with clients up and down the east coast. Devoted to her Adirondack community, she serves on the Board for the Lake Placid Olympic Museum and has been an active volunteer for the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and the New York Ski Education Foundation. She enjoys skiing, cycling, boating and raising her son, Thomas, and daughter, Ava.

## **JUAN RODRIGUEZ**



Juan Rodriguez is a zoo professional with over 24 years of Animal Care Management experience and over 18 years of public engagement and visitor education experience. Currently the Nature Facility and Program Manager at Clearwater Nature Center under Maryland Capital Park and Planning. Juan previously held the position of Carnivore Curator, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, he has been the National Zoo's panda keeper and has overseen multiple collaborations between the Smithsonian and international animal care organizations. Juan has fostered partnerships with community organizations and high schools in the DC region, including creating the Youth Engagement through Science (YES!) Program at the National Zoo.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he moved to the mainland and relocated to Washington, DC with his two older siblings and mother. He has a BS in Biology from George Mason University and an MS in Leadership in Museum Education from Bank Street College of Education. Juan lives in Maryland with his wife Tracy, a veterinarian, and their young son Alexander. To learn more about Juan see: <https://torch.si.edu/2018/04/a-few-of-my-favorite-things-juan-rodriguez>.

## LINDA ROSENSTOCK



Dr. Linda Rosenstock was Dean of the UCLA School of Public Health (2000-2012), one of the nation's top ranked schools with 700 graduate students and more than 200 faculty. She holds

appointments as Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Health Policy & Management, and Environmental Health Sciences. She is a recognized authority in occupational and environmental health as well as global public health and science policy.

Prior to coming to UCLA in 2000, Rosenstock served for nearly seven years as the director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), where she led a staff of 1,500 at the only federal agency mandated to undertake research and prevention activities in occupational safety and health. During her tenure, Rosenstock was instrumental in creating the National Occupational Research Agenda, a framework for guiding occupational safety and health research. She expanded the agency's responsibilities, staff size, and budget – doubling the Institute's annual appropriations. In recognition of her efforts, Rosenstock received the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award, the highest executive service award in the government.

Dr. Rosenstock received her M.D. and M.P.H. from The Johns Hopkins University. She received advanced training at the University of Washington, where she was Chief Resident in Primary Care Internal Medicine and a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. At the University of Washington, Dr. Rosenstock was active in clinical practice of both general internal medicine and occupational and environmental medicine.

Internationally, Rosenstock has been active in teaching and research in many developing countries and has served as an advisor to the World Health Organization. Dr. Rosenstock also chaired the United Auto Workers/General Motors Occupational Health Advisory Board. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM). In 2003, she co-chaired the IOM committee addressing public health workforce needs that authored the report "Who Will Keep the Public Healthy? Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century" and in 2011 she chaired the IOM committee that authored the report "Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gaps".

Dr. Rosenstock is immediate past Chair of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and immediate past President of the Society of Medical Administrators (SOMA). In January, 2011, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health.

Linda and her husband Lee Bailey have a summer home on Upper Saranac Lake.

## MEADOW RUTENBAR



Meadow Rutenbar is a Senior Consultant at Deloitte in the Sustainability and KPI Services practice. She has cross-sector experience delivering both financial statement audits and performing work in the sustainability field. She leverages her knowledge of auditing controls and processes when working on sustainability projects.

Meadow has experience assisting clients across industries to establish robust environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting programs. She helps public and private organizations identify, measure, value, monitor, and report the environmental and social impacts of projects, programs, and policies. She is knowledgeable of best practices and implementation of processes and controls for non-financial data collection and management by translating analytical insights into actionable cost savings, risk mitigation opportunities, and economic value. She helps clients report in accordance with sustainability reporting initiatives and standard setters such as the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD), among others. Beyond ESG strategy and reporting, Meadow has experience performing transitional climate risk assessments aiding companies to navigate the risks and opportunities that may arise from the transition to a low carbon economy. She is also well versed in responsible and sustainable investing and has assisted in development of a global private equity firm's impact fund.

Meadow has been recognized for championing youth education in climate change, including; named a One Young World Ambassador in 2016, facilitating a workshop at the UNESCO World Youth Forum in Paris, and working as a 2017 UN Youth Assembly Delegate where she focused on creating a more equitable and sustainable economic future society. In 2009, she was one of the first Summiteers of the Adirondack Youth Climate Program (AYCP) at The Wild Center. In 2011, she collaborated with students in Helsinki, Finland to help start the first Finnish Youth Climate Summit. In 2015, Meadow presented alongside leaders of The Wild Center team at the Department of Energy in front of representatives from the White House Office of Science Technology Policy, among others.

Meadow is a graduate of the Villanova School of Business and is currently a Master's Candidate at Johns Hopkins University studying Energy Policy and Climate.

## CHARLES O. SVENSON



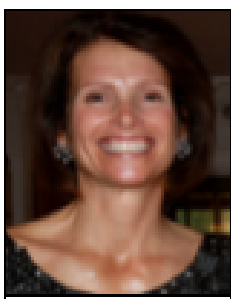
Charles Svenson is the Senior Managing Director of Brock Capital Group; he is an investment banker with expertise in energy, alternative energy, project finance and transportation. He began his career as a corporate and securities lawyer at Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where he specialized in lease and project financing. Charles subsequently served as Vice President at Goldman Sachs & Co., specializing in Lease Financing, Energy and Maritime Transportation. He was also Managing Director and head of project finance and maritime finance at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.

Charles earned his B.A. from Hamilton (1961), his LL.B from Harvard University (1964)

and his LL.M from Brooklyn Law School (1965). Besides The Wild Center, Mr. Svenson also serves on the board of Hamilton College, The Adirondack Nature Conservancy, The Adirondack Land Trust, and formerly the South Street Seaport Museum, and as former President of the Harvard Law School Association of New York.

Mr. Svenson is married to the former Sara “Sally” Simpson, an author, researcher and historian. They have two children, Alicia and Tate. The Svenson’s are avid birders, and enjoy traveling. They have a seasonal residence on Upper Saranac Lake.

### **KAREN K. THOMAS**



Karen K. Thomas is a lifelong nature advocate and enthusiast. She is chair of the Board of Trustees of The Wild Center, a natural history museum in the heart of New York State’s Adirondack Park, which melds three passions of hers: environment, education, and the Adirondacks. The Wild Center was named a 2015 finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor for museums in service to their communities, and is the first LEED certified museum in New York. Its Center’s Youth Climate Summit program has educated and inspired high school and college students for ten years to become leaders in the climate movement, with participants invited to the White House and COP21, Paris.

Karen is an avid personal and community gardener focusing on native plants and ecological design. She lectures and gives workshops on pollination and bird friendly gardens. She is a board member and former chair of Audubon New York. Her non profit work is inspired by the vital connection between healthy habitats, healthy wildlife and healthy communities and the need for climate education to empower youth. Additionally, Karen served on the Board of Trustees and Board of Fellows for her alma mater, Trinity College in Hartford, CT from 2003-2015.

Karen has her BA from Trinity College and her Certificate in Sustainable Garden Design from the New York Botanical Garden. Karen divides her time between Rye and the Adirondacks, enjoying gardening, hiking and spending time with her family.

### **JOEL H. TREISMAN**



Joel Treisman’s mother (Dorothy Treisman) and grandfather (Joseph Cullman, 3rd) were among the Wild Center’s earliest and most passionate supporters. Today, Joel carries this torch for his family and is gratified to see how much his three daughters love to visit the Wild Center. Joel is a certified individual and organizational systems coach and a wealth psychologist. He is a Group Chair with TIGER 21 in New York, where he leads “personal board of directors” meetings of TIGER 21 members, high net worth entrepreneurs and investors who are learning to better navigate the opportunities and challenges of newly-created personal wealth. Joel also facilitates one-on-one and multi-generational family conversations within ultra high net worth families.

Joel has a broad background in philanthropy and a long track record of service in the nonprofit sector. He serves as President of the Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation and the Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts. He has held advisory and/or board roles with the World Wildlife Fund, the Adirondack Council, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Foundation for Gomez Mill House (Marlboro, NY), Earthplace (Westport, CT), UJA/Federation (Westport, CT), and the Stepping Stones Children's Museum (Norwalk, CT).

Joel holds a BA from Stanford and a Masters in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management. He is a graduate of the prestigious Coro Foundation Fellowship and completed the rigorous Hudson Institute of Coaching (Santa Barbara, CA) training and certification program. He received training in private wealth management at the Wharton School and at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. In order to better advise his TIGER 21 members and family clients on their philanthropic efforts, Joel is currently pursuing training and certification to become a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy.

### **VIRGINIA H. VALKENBURGH**



Ginny Valkenburgh is a Senior Vice President and adjunct Consultant at Kantar. She joined the consultancy in 1997. She has a wide range of Fortune 500 Consumer Goods clients across Food and Beverage, Home Care, Household Cleaning, Health and Beauty Care and General Merchandise in both the United States and Canada.

Ginny specializes in Marketing and Management consulting, Market Research, Consumer and Shopper insights, Category Leadership and Benchmarking. Her marketing and management experience includes Procter & Gamble and Cadbury Schweppes. Ginny holds an MBA and MHSa from Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University as well as a BA from Skidmore College.

Ginny and her family have been focused on the Adirondacks throughout life, including support and engagement with The Wild Center, Paul Smith's College, the VIC and the Adirondack Council. Ginny and her husband Roger, have enjoyed their seasonal home at Lake Clear for the past 40 years, and her family has been at Lake Clear for over 85 years. She is also an avid racquet player, skier and landscaper.

## **TRUSTEE EMERITUS**

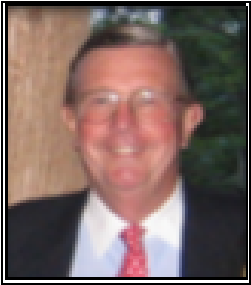
### **LYNN BIRDSONG**



Lynn Birdsong's professional activities include: Private Investor; Director, The Hartford Mutual Funds 2003 to present-Chairman of Investment Committee; Director, Nomura Partners Funds-Chairman of Audit Committee; Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth-member of Investment Committee; Trustee, The First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston Pension and Benefits Trust and Gift and Endowment Trust; Partner, George Birdsong Company (advertising specialty) 1981 to present; Managing Director Scudder, Stevens and Clark/Zurich Scudder

Investments 1979 to 2002. Mr. Birdsong graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY with a B.A. in Economics. He received an M.B.A. in Finance from Pace University in New York City. Mr. Birdsong is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). Lynn and his wife Terry have been seasonal residents of the Adirondacks since 1984 after spending family vacations at the St. Lawrence Alumni camp on Upper Saranac. They currently reside in Colorado and Upper Saranac Lake.

**PETER A. KINDLER**



Peter was a partner of CT Partners Board Consultants and a founder of Boardroom Consultants, a firm specializing in Director selection, succession planning and governance consulting. His earlier career was in banking and investments. He has been a Trustee of the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and continues to serve on the Board of its foundation. He has also been a Director of the White Plains Public Library Foundation. Peter is a graduate of Brown University and University of Pennsylvania - The Wharton School.

**NANCY K. SIMPKINS**



Nancy Simpkins graduated from Miss Porter's School in 1973 and Smith College in 1977. She has a strong interest in the Adirondacks and education. She is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Klingenstein Center at Teachers College, Columbia University - a center for developing leaders among independent school educators; The Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation, which focuses on child and adolescent depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); The Harry and Sadie Davis Foundation, which promotes pediatric health care in Maine; The Esther A and Joseph Klingenstein Fund which supports neuroscience research and leadership in Independent schools and The Habe Foundation where she is developing a program area around improving the quality of public school teachers and is also a Trustee at Miss Porter's School. She bought property in Tupper Lake in 1994 and she has two sons, Hank and Ben.