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TREE Foundation / Mission Green Global Initiative "Hot Spots"

12 Canopy Walkways in the world's most critical highest biodiversity rainforests





1 Amazonian **PERU**



Mata Atlântica Forest BRAZIL



2 Myakka River State Park FLORIDA

8 The Great

Smoky Mountains

NORTH CAROLINA





3 The Habitat,

Penang Hill

Gorongosa National Park MOZAMBIQUE



4 Sequoia Park Zoo Eureka **CALIFORNIA**



10 Western Ghats INDIA



5 Vermont Institute of Natural Science VERMONT



11 Royal Manas National Park **BHUTAN**



6 Ranomafana National Park MADAGASCAR



12 Tanglewood Nature Preserve **NEW YORK**

- ✓ Amazonian Peru (1994)²
- Myakka River State Park, Florida (2000)²
- ▼ The Habitat Pinang Hill, Malaysia (2017)³
- 4. Sequoia Park Zoo, Eureka, California (2021)3
- 5. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (2019)³
- 6. Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar
- Mata Atlântica, Brazil
- 8. The Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina
- 9. Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique
- 10. Western Ghats, India
- 11. Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan
- 12. Tanglewood Nature Center, Elmira, New York

¹ World's highest bio diversity, most critical forests that would significantly benefit from a canopy walkway conservation program

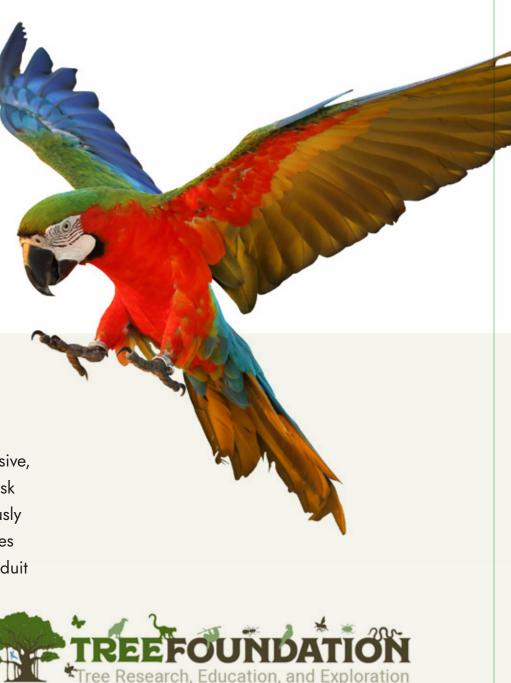
² Built and may need funds for updating

³ Built and funded

Our Mission

Trees, especially full-grown mature trees, are literally the lungs of the Earth. They are the superheroes of the world; in one year, a single tree removes about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, releasing oxygen in exchange. Without trees to do this hard and life-giving work, all creatures, as well as the human race, would ultimately wither and die.

TREE Foundation promotes global tree research, education, and exploration in myriad ways. Our Mission Green initiative is specifically focused on the support, vision, and creation of a worldwide network of treetop canopy walkways. This effort is nothing less than to make a massive, positive impact on the conservation of trees and forests in the most at-risk biodiversity "Hot Spots" around the globe. In doing so, we simultaneously support sustainable economic opportunities for local indigenous peoples through ecotourism. Canopy walkways offer enjoyment of nature, a conduit for research, and the ongoing opportunity to educate walkway visitors about the crucial necessity for protecting forests and the species of plants and animals that call them home.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Tree and Biodiversity Lovers,

TREE Foundation is working tirelessly in our 25th year to explore, educate, and study our global forests. We are so very grateful for your support! 2025 has been a wild roller-coaster year for the fate of global forests, but our TREE efforts have been amazingly successful.

We launched our guide-education program for indigenous women in the Peruvian Amazon canopy walkway, completed designs for a Mata Atlântica (Brazil) platform/walkway, ramped up the Cherokee Nation partnership for a walkway in the Great Smoky Mountains (postponed because hurricanes devastated that region), mentored amazing and talented students, spoken to thousands of K-12 youth, led multiple field expeditions to different forests including our annual Amazon

citizen science trip, submitted multiple grants to give a facelift to our keystone walkway in Myakka State Park, Florida, created new signage for all Mission Green walkways, hosted the Meg Lowman treetops camp for girls in rural New York, where a new Mission Green walkway is forthcoming, created conservation walls for over 100 church forests in Ethiopia, published 2 new books by staff about trees, launched a new project on plant communication in collaboration with the renowned Sonoscope Laboratory at Purdue University, and many other activities that you will read about in this annual report! Whew — it makes me tired!

But trees are worth every ounce of our energy. As one of the vital components of our planet, trees can't talk like dolphins or chimpanzees. So, we humans need to be tree ambassadors. Without trees, our children and grandchildren have no future.



Enjoy this amazing report! The board president, Vanessa, is tireless and visionary, our board members are dedicated, and we are totally committed to our mission of forest conservation. Thank you all, especially thanks to those donors who are dedicated to a healthy planet.

From the treetops, CanopyMeg

Sustainability Goals

Sustainable development, established by the United Nations, is an approach to growth and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The aim is to have a society where living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining planetary integrity. TREE Foundation is proud to be committed to these in everything we do.

















15 LIFE ON LAND



Message from Board President



Leadership and Partnership

We have attained leadership in the world of canopy science and conservation, but can only succeed because of our valued partnerships. This last year has elicited so many reactions — big and small, frightened and brave — to the world and news around us. Thankfully, the supporters of the TREE Foundation continue to strengthen our purpose and impact, locally and globally. Our Executive Director continues to amaze with her boundless energy, inability to say "no" to requests, and the size and extent of her Rolodex. (I know this dates me.)

The Canopy Walkway in Myakka River State Park is entering its 25th anniversary and we encourage you to visit and support its future. Our mission has always been to connect kids and adults to nature through Tree Research, Education, and Exploration. Our vision for the future is one that commits us to our sustainability goals and places the highest value on the (at least) 10 reasons to conserve our forests: fresh water, climate control, medicines, building materials, carbon storage, energy production, food, genetic library, soil conservation, and spiritual inspiration. When our partners in both science and philanthropy are moved by our words and deeds, they can be certain we remain true to our mission.

Vanessa Wassenar

President



Board of Directors



Meg Lowman



Vanessa Wassenar



Michael Brown



Michael Pender



Carmela French



Robert Beck



Michael Dexter



Elizabeth Moore



Laura Peters



DC Randle



Alemayehu Wassie



Alan Winston

New Directors

Amy C. Berquist

Amy's relationship with nature began on a Lindblad ship excursion in 2003 and at various points in her career, culminating with her current role as Vice President for conservation, education and sustainability, has provided strategies for conservation around the globe. And, as an experienced ropes course adventurer, a canopy walkway couldn't be far behind. (She just didn't know it at the time.) Amy has worked with National Geographic and Lindblad to

cement their relationship for philanthropy, adventure, research, citizen science, and many other parts of nonprofit administration and growth.



Dan Moriarty

Dan is an accomplished and resourceful leader with demonstrated success driving strategy and guiding teams in the design and launch of innovative social benefit programs. He is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (El Salvador, 2001-2003), and has worked for USAID, Chemonics International, and various other global initiatives which have benefitted from his multidimensional view of people and organizations, his multicultural background, and fluency in Spanish. Dan is currently founding

and launching an innovative eco-conscious beach wellness company that will aim for beneficial corporate status in service to stakeholders, such as our planet.



Scientific Advisory Board







Meg LowmanExecutive Director,
TREE Foundation



Sylvia Earle

President,
MISSION BLUE



Patricia Chapple Wright



Peter Raven
President Emeritus,
MO Botanical Garden



Pat RavenAdvocate,
Women in Science



Alemayehu Wassie
CEO, ORDA

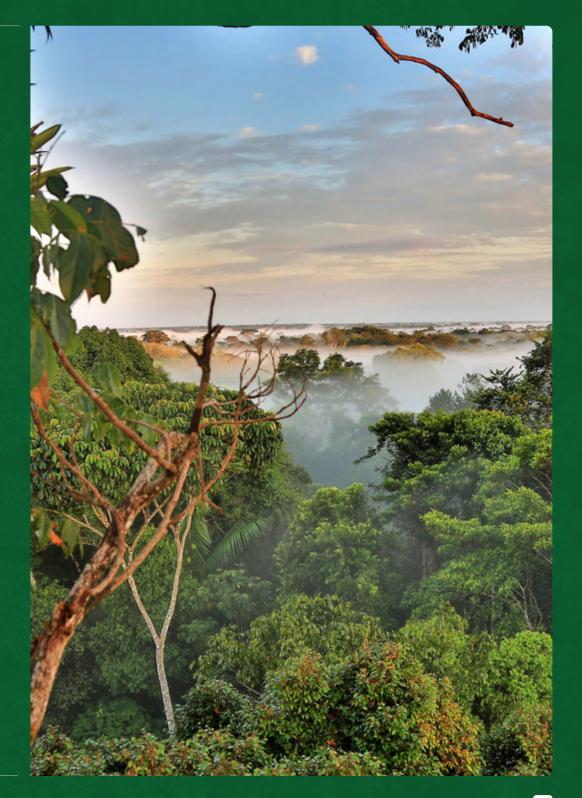


Wade DavisAmazon Explorer,
Writer, Professor



Harry Cockrell
Chairman,
The Habitat Foundation
& Pacific Tiger Group

Interns & Research Associate





Climate Control

Medicines

Building Materials

Carbon Storage
Produce Energy

Food

Genetic Library

Soil Conservation

Spiritual Place



Keira Harder

WILLIAMS COLLEGE SUMMER INTERN

Keira was a Williams summer intern for TREE, and plans to graduate in 2027 with majors in Art History/Art Studio and Environmental Studies.



She is a peer leader working with first year students, plays field and ice hockey, and lived in Spain as a child. Her participation in our TREE citizen science trip to the Amazon this summer was aided by her fluency in Spanish and her unbridled enthusiasm for adventure. Keira's internship was focused on education outreach for the Amazon canopy: 10

examples of fauna and flora biodiversity; 10 Indigenous people of the Amazon and their stories; 10 threats to tropical forests; 10 ways the rainforest contributes to our wellbeing; 10 books to read about the wonders of the Amazon; 10 ways you can help slow the degradation of the Amazon; 10 trees of the Amazon.









Yaroslava Yashchuk

SECOND YEAR WILLIAMS SUMMER INTERN

Yaroslava returns to TREE as

a Williams summer intern

continuing her work

on: a social media

series of postings on

the unique trees and

their ecology in New

Zealand and Australia;

creating web material about

the forest natural history of these 2 countries, for use by educators and students and ecotourists; providing illustrations and a guide to the important trees of these 2 islands, which can be distributed to the tourism industry and/or turned into a book. The goal is for her to learn how to take forest ecology into a public science communication arena to promote forest conservation.

Braxton Fuller

INTERN FROM THE JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Braxton Fuller participated

in the trip to the
Amazon this summer
and prepared a
report on the vitality
of the Indigenous
communities, their
history, and current



threats. Braxton's parents

traveled with Meg to Borneo and were thrilled to have her nominate Braxton as a student member of the Explorers Club. Being able to travel with Meg and work with her Peruvian team, including Dr. Pamela Montero – TREE's Director of Education – was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Snousha Glaude

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



IN SNOUSHA'S OWN WORDS:

The Path to Becoming an Arborist - What? How? And Why?

In practice an arborist is a person who is committed to stewarding trees, pedestrian safety, and evolving landscapes. Arborists work in all types of environments. We clear brush in view of right-of-ways; we test soil pH and diagnose mineral deficiencies causing tree decline; we support mature trees, we encourage right-tree right-place for seasonal planting; we monitor state park tree populations; we build retention ponds in cities; we account for visitation by birds, butterflies, mammals who pollinate even more trees!

The most common question people want to know is how to gain experience to become an arborist? Experience can begin at an early age. Learning tree anatomy, identifying neighborhood trees with a tree ID guide, learning local ecology and pests, visiting botanical gardens and shadowing tree stewards is how I began my path to arboriculture long before I even knew what an arborist was. Like many, at an early age, I held a fascination with trees.

Becoming accredited as an arborist requires a minimum of 3 years first-hand professional experience, technical education, and examination. The role of arborist is needed today and becoming an arborist is more than a job or career, it is a duty to provide the best standard of care, guidance, and application of knowledge in every consultation, prune, education, and tree planting.



In Memoriam -

Dame Jane Goodall and Randy Miller

Jane Goodall

CanopyMeg and Earth Sister Dame Valerie Jane Morris Goodall collaborated on numerous efforts to persuade us that To Avert A Climate Catastrophe, We Have To Save The World's Big Trees, the title of an op-ed piece they co-authored for the Miami Herald. "We collectively have dedicated more than 11 decades to studying global forests and biodiversity. As two field biologists who have spent thousands of hours under forest canopies, we have seen how trees keep the planet healthy. And although we both advocate for planting trees, first and foremost, we

want to make a clarion call to save big trees and mature forests." lane Goodall was an avid reader and supporter of Meg's work and provided extensive and glowing reviews of many of Meg's books and articles.



To read the Op-Ed click here



Randy Miller – also known as Dr. Waterbear

Randy was a pioneering tardigrade (eight-legged segmented micro-animal) expert with more than 50 years of experience collecting water bears all over the world. He discovered and named 19 new species and several genera. He partnered with Meg for an REU (National Science



Foundation: Research Experience for Undergraduates) grant to introduce students to discovery science finding tardigrades in the upper reaches of North American forests. They prioritized students who were ambulatory disabled, and developed methods to engage them in tree-climbing to discover new species. Their undergraduate student teams collected over 50,000 canopy samples around the country, including tall redwood trees. Randy taught at Baker University in Kansas and although "retired," he continued his research, including to bring tardigrade research into the 21st century by deploying a drone to sample in the canopy, table top robots to label and box slides, and automated imaging for AI species identification. Randy was also part of TREE's BioBlitz in our Mission Green canopy walkway located in Penang, Malaysia.

Education

No Child Left Indoors

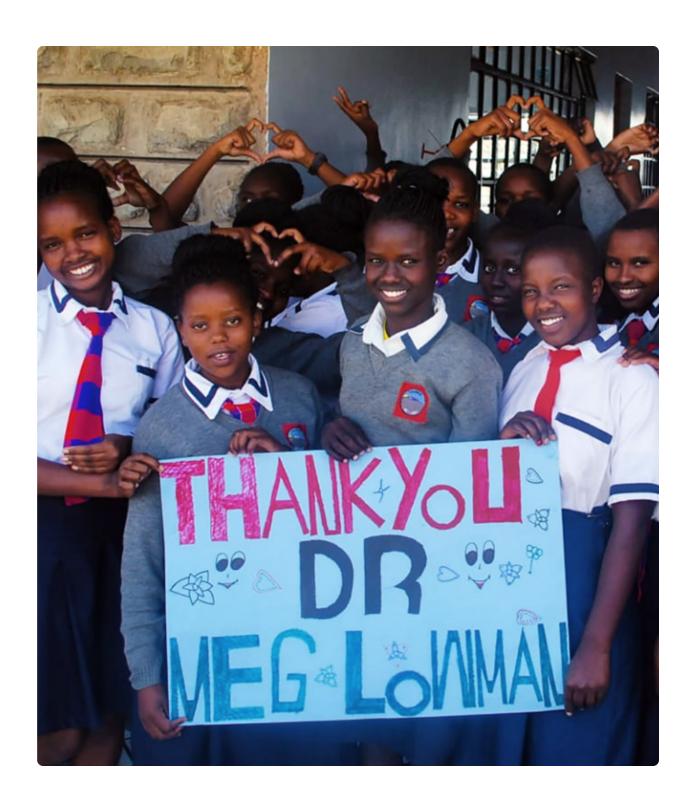


Meg in the Classroom

CanopyMeg continued her tireless schedule of presenting talks to school children around the country, and also around the world.

She made over 30 presentations to K-12 and reached an audience of over 45,000 treetop enthusiasts. Because two children's books have been written about Meg's career climbing trees and saving forests, many teachers use these resources in K-12 science curricula. This has led to an increased number of school talks, and a huge volume of wonderful letters asking questions to our CanopyMeg. (To note: She answers every one!).





TREE's Commitment to the Amazon, the Maijuna, and Citizen Scientists

TREE hosted our 33rd citizen science trip to the Amazon rain forests, where families and students all had a hand in collecting data from the tropical forest canopy.

Mission Green's Amazon canopy walkway (located downriver from Iquitos, Peru) provides unique access to the tropical rainforest treetops, as well as a life-changing





opportunity to sleep in the jungle, meet a shaman, and fish for piranha. This summer's group of 25 enthusiastic travelers was no exception! During this trip, the group celebrated the launch of TREE's indigenous training program for local women to become canopy guides. And merely by visiting the Amazon, our group provides sustainable income to dozens of families by staying in local lodges and hiring local boat drivers.

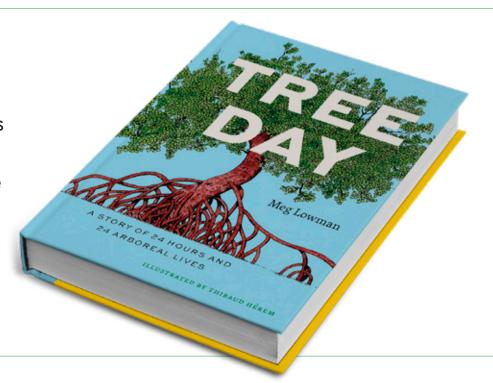


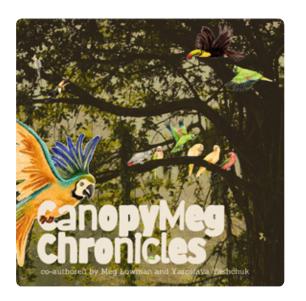
TREE Day Book

"Written in Lowman's engaging style, Tree Day reveals her love (which I share) of trees as living beings. It will help all who read it understand the important role trees play in our lives and the life of our planet."

- Jane Goodall

The University of Chicago Press





CanopyMeg Chronicles –Book 1

BOOK 2 COMING SOON!

What a pleasure to continue our long history of summer interns with TREE! It was especially rewarding to have the same intern, Yaroslava Yaschuk from Williams College, for two summers, allowing us to finish not one — but two — youth books! These CanopyMeg Chronicles utilize Yaroslava's amazing environmental art and graphic talents, telling my story in pictures that every kid will enjoy. And adults will too!

Exploration

Walkways, Scientists, Biodiversity, and The 8th Continent





Exploration

Canopy exploration continues to make discoveries in the "8th continent," as Dr. Meg describes it. In other words, when Columbus discovered the Americas, no one knew about this new landscape.

And when CanopyMeg first climbed a tree and developed the toolkit for "whole tree" research, field biologists discovered that over 50% of species (on land) live in the treetops, not the forest floor or fields or swamps. TREE is proud to have two new books depicting "exploration of the 8th continent." Our intern, Yaroslava Yashchuk, used her creativity with environmental art to co-author a youth book called CanopyMeg Chronicles, and next yearthe sequel will be published — CanopyMeg Chronicles 2: From Australia to the Amazon. And Meg's newest book, Tree Day (University of Chicago Press 2025) includes 24 short stories about Meg's 24 favorite trees, all described around a 24-hour clock when each tree has some incredible activities within its canopy. Check out the chocolate tree which is pollinated at 10 PM by nocturnal critters!

TREE exploration continues with our Amazon citizen science trips, numerous National Geographic trips with CanopyMeg serving as naturalist, continued partnership with the Ethiopian Coptic church to conserve the entire country's biodiversity, future conservation partnerships in northern Scotland and western North Carolina, and dozens more school groups becoming "leaf detectives" to learn about trees in local communities.

Mata Atlântica

BRAZIL

Mata Atlântica is supported by a global team of fundraisers, scientists, and researchers. TREE Foundation is working with the Antonelli Foundations (in Brazil and Sweden) to save and study a 150-year old fig tree in the forest in eastern Brazil, and develop a walkway system to support the research and visitors.



Collaboration with Lindblad

2026 EXPEDITIONS AMAZON TRIP

















Project Highlights & Progress

Urban Green Equity Project



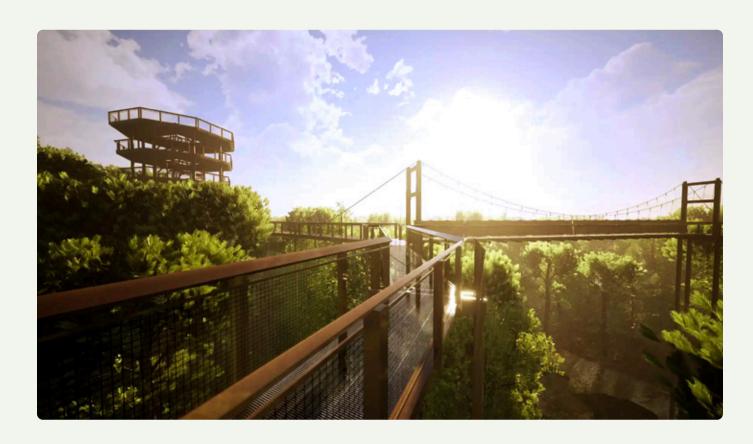
Cornell Cooperative Extension

Tanglewood Nature Center

The Tree Foundation Advocacy
Committee, chaired by Alan Winston,
has been directly involved with two
important and exciting initiatives in
Chemung County in upstate New York,
namely the Tanglewood Nature Center
Canopy Walkway and Elmira Urban
Green Equity projects.

Knowing that children, particularly, living and playing in green neighborhoods have better mental health outcomes than those who are in tree deserts is an important driver of these two community-based projects.

The Tanglewood Canopy Walkway will be only the second in New York State and is designed to provide an amazing educational experience for all ages in discovering the wonders of the Tree Canopy environment. Worldwide, scientists estimate that fully 50% of global biodiversity makes the forest canopy their home and this



walkway will encourage visitors to get better acquainted with the local fauna and flora.

Notably the Walkway will be handicapped accessible!

The Elmira Urban Green Equity initiative is designed to provide green infrastructure in

four specific census tracts in the City of Elmira, New York, that have been historically neglected and underserved! The main focus will be to educate the impacted neighborhoods about the importance of supporting tree planting and maintenance as we implement a tree planting program.

The Church Forests of Ethiopia

Our long-term partnership with Ethiopia has exceeded all expectations, thanks to so many donors who have made restricted gifts to this priority project.

With over 95% deforestation in this beautiful country, Ethiopia is one of TREE's most important and urgent programs. With our Board Member and local partner, Dr. Alemayehu Wassie Eshete, we continue an active program of building conservation walls around churches. Our original goal was 50, but now we have 125 church forests which now have walls or they are under construction!!! Amazing and a huge thanks to our donors for this amazing success. These beautiful (local constructed and locally blessed) walls utilize the stones from local fields (for which the farmers are so grateful







to remove them!), and the boundaries exclude sheep and cattle from eating the trees, and also remind the local villagers that this sanctuary houses all of their local biodiversity (called "all of God's creatures" by the priests). We are beyond thrilled at the success of this partnership, which has been filmed and documented globally as an amazing conservation success. (Take home message: never underestimate the power of creating local trust.)

To learn more...

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation





Great Smoky Mountains

PLANNING STAGE

Great Smoky Mountains

Great Smoky Mountains, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Homelands

Height: TBD | Length: TBD Built: TBD | Engineer: TBD

Threat/Opportunity:

The Great Smoky Mountains are at the epicenter of the Cherokee homeland, where the Cherokee people have stewarded the diverse floral and faunal assemblages inhabiting today's landscape for millennia. This region is home to the highest biodiversity in the US. Today, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) works to conserve natural resources in the region that continue to be tied to cultural identity and livelihood. Maintaining the health of the region's forests is an extreme challenge considering threats such as forest conversion and fragmentation, non-native invasive species, and climate change. EBCI lands also receive millions of visitors a year, providing a tremendous educational opportunity to share the Tribe's vision for conserving the region's forests and Tribal relationships to biodiversity. In addition, approximately 65–75% of native species in the region have yet to be identified and/or researched by the scientific community.



- · Protecting and restoring terrestrial and aquatic communities
- Conducting research and management founded in both western science and traditional ecological knowledge,
 and
- Educating Tribal members and the visiting public.



Goals:

- Design, construct, and fund canopy walkway(s) to share the forests' treasures with the Cherokee community and visiting public
- Enrich local knowledge of forest ecosystems, create an associated curriculum for local schools, and maintain traditional Tribal member relationships with forest relatives
- Complement ongoing ecotourism efforts that sustain economic development without compromising environmental integrity.

Myakka River State Park

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this extraordinary and first public canopy walkway in North America, TREE has been seeking to recreate the original funding collaboration that made it a reality. We have submitted proposals to 4 local foundations and have received approval from 2 of them and expect to learn more later in November.





Myakka River State Park (continued)





Meg's Travels Around the World

Embark on a Journey of a Lifetime:

Wildlife of the World by Private Jet

March 16 – April 7, 2026

TREE Foundation is proud to share a special opportunity in partnership with National Geographic Expeditions. Join renowned conservationist Dr. Meg Lowman on an extraordinary 23-day journey to explore some of the planet's most iconic ecosystems and wildlife!

From the African savanna to the rainforests of Borneo, Meg has worked in nearly every destination on this itinerary throughout her remarkable career. Traveling alongside her offers a rare chance to experience these regions



through the eyes of a scientist and explorer dedicated to protecting our planet's biodiversity.

This is more than an adventure; it's an invitation to deepen your connection to conservation!

More information about the Trip





The Daily Planet in North Carolina

(NOT THE NEWSPAPER WHERE SUPERMAN/CLARK KENT WORKED)

In September, Meg returned to her old haunts of Raleigh, North Carolina, and presented 2 talks to diverse audiences.

She was the inaugural director of the NC State Science Museum's Nature Research Center, arguably the most sophisticated public science communication hub built to date and the most fun communication for kids. Lowman oversaw the fundraising and constructing of this beloved Daily Planet, where Jane Goodall (and others, including EO Wilson) spoke at the 24-hour opening celebrations in 2011. As a result of this amazing science education hub, Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina is planning a future canopy walkway and education center out in the western forests of the state.







A Global Symphony for the Earth & Collaborative Citizen Music – Science Festival for Earth Day 2026

Symphony for the Earth is a collaboration of The TREE Foundation, DesignWorlds for Learning, and The Center for Global Soundscapes at Purdue University. TREE is proud to partner with PlantWave, a device that detects the sonoscape of the plant world. Student volunteers are listening to plants, asking questions about plant-communication, and we will be co-hosting an Earth Day event for getting citizens into their gardens to "hear" plants. This project is Crowd-sourced and includes Al-augmented music composed by students, teachers, scientists and musicians and learning/exploration resources via a web-based Learning & Discovery Collaboratory. The use of mobile apps such as MERLIN Bird ID, PlantWave (music from trees and plants), and Voiijer bring this music to life.

Symphony for the Earth Project











Other News

The collaboration of local donors who originally funded the Myakka Canopy Walkway was a stunning success. In reaching out to them as part of the 25th anniversary of the walkway, we've received considerable support, particularly from The Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. We have other requests in the pipeline with the goal of enhancing the longevity of the walkway itself and to ensure that the visitors' experience is breath-taking.

We plan to bring the TREE Foundation website into ADA compliance in order to share our work with those who may not be able to visit the Park or ascend into the towers. New interpretive panels are being designed and produced in order to explain what visitors are seeing and educating them about the flora and fauna in the Park. We also received funding for 10 students and faculty to attend our November 3rd fundraiser.













66 Please be generous.

We can't do it without YOU!

We have to save the 8th continent if we are to save ourselves 99

EATHE DEEP: THANK A TREE

"This oak tree and me, we're made of the same stuff." - Carl Sagan

ake a deep breath. Oxygen comes from the forest. Trees convert the sun's power to energy. In the process, they pull carbon dioxide and water from the air and release oxygen. Now exhale. You are breathing out carbon dioxide. Trees also store carbon, and the biggest trees store the most. That's a huge service for us. Our emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are overloading the atmosphere with carbon, causing global climate change. Forests are as important to our lives as breathing. Like us, trees are individuals with personalities. Take time to meet and thank the trees today.



and save trees.

- · Pounds of carbon dioxide entering atmosphere from driving a car 650 mites: 700
- · Pounds of carbon dioxide stored in one Sugar Maple each year: 700

Prevent plastic, toxins, and other wastes from entering streams, and help tree

- · Gallons of stormwater runoff filtered through one Sugar Maple's roots each year: 2,772
- Bathtubs full of water cleaned by one Sugar Maple's roots per year: 34

TAKE ACTION

Native trees host hundreds of species of caterpillars and lots of them. Non-native tree support very few. The Red Oak bustles with the most diversity of all. Chickadee parents feed 6,000 to 10,000 caterpillars to their growing chicks. PLANT NATIVE TREES.









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