



DR. MARGARET (MEG) DALZELL LOWMAN

Home: Osprey, FL 34229 | m: (941) 266-0817 | canopymeg@gmail.com |
Website: www.canopymeg.com | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/meglowman> |
Twitter: #canopymeg

MY PURPOSE

To explore, research, and conserve global forests; mentor the next generation (especially women and minorities) in sustainability and forest stewardship; educate diverse audiences through storytelling.

SUMMARY

Meg's passion for science and exploration began as a little girl and over the years has defined her life and her life's work. She pioneered the field of forest canopy science and is considered one of the world's first "arbournauts" or explorers of the canopies. Over a 40-year career, she achieved groundbreaking work in 46 countries and all seven continents. Her devotion to engaging young people in the wonder and importance of science led to a collaboration with Robert Ballard of Titanic fame. She became "CanopyMeg" to her young audiences while they spoke to millions of middle school students in virtual expeditions to the canopy and the ocean floor, respectively. Lowman champions inclusivity in science (especially young women) and proactive stewardship of canopy ecosystems. She trains diverse audiences about sustainability of natural resources and saves forests through her new Mission Green initiative to build canopy walkways in the world's highest biodiverse forests. This initiative provides income to indigenous people through ecotourism instead of logging. Lowman's personal mantra is "no child left indoors."

Global Tree Advocacy & Conservation

Global pioneer in forest canopy ecology, including exploration in 46 countries on all 7 continents, co-chair of 4 international canopy conferences, champion for inclusivity in field biology, author of over 150 scientific publications including all major forest canopy textbooks

- Amazon citizen science expeditions – 25th year of canopy research in upper Amazon.
- National Geographic Explorer – biodiversity research in Ethiopian church forests and successful conservation of the country's 40 most biodiverse remaining forest fragments
- Penang, Malaysia – funded and led 117 scientists/students for biodiversity survey of tropical lowland primary forest, now nominated as a UNESCO world heritage site
- Fulbright Senior specialist scholar, working on environmental justice and forest conservation in India and Ethiopia.

Sustainability Initiatives & Activities

Sustainability consultant for green business initiatives, including Tommy Hilfiger Foundation, Rolex Corporation, and The Habitat (Malaysia).

Multiple non-profit boards of organizations with education or sustainability missions: The Explorers Club, Earthwatch Institute, Plant with Purpose, Ecological Society of America, Pacific Forest Trust, New College of Florida, Leadership Florida, Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, Scientific American, National Science Foundation Advisory Committees, Environmental Change Institute (Oxford University), National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), Williams College.

Bottom-up Conservation, leading community initiatives for schools, corporations, and teams to manage local resources more sustainably: Florida cabinet climate change advisor, local tree planting, science book donations to African and Amazonian school kids, citizen science activities for teams

Author and Speaker

Author of 9 books on trees, science & sustainability – for kids, girls, families, students.

Inspirational speaker for 'K-thru-gray' (kindergarten - seniors), corporations, commencements, schools.

CAREER SUMMARY

TREE FOUNDATION, Sarasota FL (www.treefoundation.org) **2000 - present**
A non-profit to promote forest research, education, and exploration through sustainable practices.

Founding Director

- Constructed North America's first canopy walkways for ecotourism and education,
- Saved the last 5% of the forests of Ethiopia, partnering with church leaders
- Distributes science books to underserved children
- Presents "meet-the-scientist" talks to hundreds of school groups annually.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY of SCIENCES, San Francisco CA **2014 - 2019**
Recruited by the Board to "re-invent museum science," hire/retain diversity, & engage sustainability in local/global initiatives.

Director of Global Initiatives/Lindsay Chair of Botany, and Inaugural Chief of Science & Sustainability

- Transformed a 153-year-old science department with updated organizational structure, revised budget practices, prioritized diversity in hiring, promoted a culture of inclusivity, engaged sustainability outcomes in research and exhibits, and juggled an active portfolio of global field conservation.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, Raleigh NC **2010 - 2014**
Recruited to prioritize exemplary storytelling for diverse audiences including policy makers, expand citizen science and sustainability outcomes, fundraise, and direct a cutting-edge new wing.

Director, Nature Research Center, Raleigh North Carolina, and NCSU Professor of Science

- Oversaw construction, hiring, and programming of an innovative new science museum for the state of North Carolina, including the Daily Planet theater with connectivity to every school in North Carolina.

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA, Sarasota FL **2003 – 2010**
Recruited as first professor of environmental studies at Florida's honors undergraduate liberal arts college and created a partnership with regional government on sustainability initiatives.

Inaugural Director of Environmental Initiatives/Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies

- Accomplishments included teaching ecology and sustainability, capacity building of students to interface with regional government on environmental policy; sustainability practices on campus and for local businesses; advising local/state actions for invasive species management and climate change adaptation; writing local newspaper columns to educate the public about critical environmental issues; fostering women and minorities in science; and forest ecosystem research.

SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS, Sarasota FL **1992 - 2003**
Promoted to CEO by Board of Directors, managed \$3.5 mil budget, 55 staff, and 900 volunteers.

Chief Executive Officer**Director of Research**

- Results achieved: moved the business to profitability while increasing membership by 46% and budget by 25%. In 2003, Selby was named one of the top 10 gardens in the country.
- Key activities to achieve results: instituted professional staff development; completed property acquisitions; successful capital campaign; improved collections; completed renovations and deferred maintenance; and hosted 3 international conferences.

RUBY HILLS PASTORAL COMPANY, Walcha NSW Australia **1983 – 1991**
Co-manager fifth generation, family owned business: 1,000 cattle, 15,000 Merino sheep on 5,000 acres

EDUCATION

2006 - Aldo Leopold Leadership Program, Stanford University
 2002 - Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, Executive Management
 1983 - University of Sydney, Australia. Ph.D. Botany
 1978 - University of Aberdeen, Scotland. M.Sc. Ecology
 1976 - Williams College, MA. B.A. in Biology cum laude, minor in Environmental Studies

OUTSIDE INTERESTS

Science storyteller, speaking to audiences from pre-school to corporate workshops
Virtual education for K-12 school groups, civic organizations, colleges, and business leadership groups. Includes use of new technologies as a communication tool: distance learning to > 10 million middle school children (www.jason.org) with colleague Robert Ballard (of Titanic fame); National Geographic television; use of PDAs for natural history teaching.
Natural history trip leader for National Geographic, college alumni groups, Earthwatch, and museums.
Champion for girls and other minorities in science, leading diversity initiatives including a two TEDx talks about girls in science; chaired Women in Science Summit in San Francisco.
Hot air ballooning to explore forest canopies

CURRENT 2020 ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

Executive Director/Founder, TREE Foundation Inc., a non-profit dedicated to environmental education for local underserved children, and local/global forest conservation) and building canopy walkways to achieve sustainable conservation of global forests. TREE's newest project, **Mission Green**, was launched in 2020 with a goal of building 10 skywalks in developing countries to create a revenue stream for local indigenous people through ecotourism instead of logging. Project funding goal is \$10 million, already half completed.
Invited visiting professor – National University of Singapore, 2020
Book contract with Farrer, Straus, & Giroux (Macmillan) entitled **The Arbornaut: a Girl Who Climbed With Koalas**. Book release 2021
Malaysian Rain Forests - appointed research professor for University Sains Malaysia and consultant to The Habitat, Penang to create a UNESCO World Heritage nomination for local rain forests.
Ethiopian forest conservation – continued partnership with Orthodox priests to save local church forests, workshop presented for clergy, and gave a keynote talk in Addis Ababa.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HONORS

2018: Invited Rachel Carson Fellow, Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Germany
 2016: Elected Fellow of Ecological Society of America; San Francisco Biz Woman Award
 2013: Andrew Chapman Distinguished Explorer Award
 2009: Selected as Florida Trend Business Magazine "Icon," February 2009
 2007: Appointed Science Advisor for Climate Change to Florida Cabinet CFO, Alex Sink
 2003: Asteroid (10739) Lowman named by Carolyn Shoemaker, US Dept. of the Interior
 2002: Kilby Laureate Medalist honoring work as a rainforest canopy expert
 Ecological Society of America's Eugene Odum Award, Excellence in Ecology Education
 2000: Girls, Incorporated Visionary Award for public science & education outreach
 Williams College Bicentennial Medal for achievements in tropical botany
 1999: Margaret Douglas Medal for conservation education, National Garden Club of America

FOREST RESEARCH & FIELD WORK COUNTRY LOCATIONS (46 and counting)

North America: Belize, Canada, Caribbean, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Mustique, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico

South America: Argentina, Brazil, French Guinea, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela

Europe: England, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland, Spain

Asia: Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam

Africa: Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique

Australia & Oceania: Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Western Samoa

Antarctica: Antarctica (moss canopies)