

Margaret “Meg” Lowman Ph.D.

“Conserve trees and everything that lives in them” | www.canopymeg.com



What causes me to leap out of bed each morning is the opportunity to explore, research, and conserve global forests; mentor the next generation (especially women and minorities) in sustainability and forest stewardship; and educate diverse audiences through storytelling.

My personal goals are to mentor 10m kids, sell 10m books, speak in front of 10k corporate leaders, conserve 10m acres of forest, and establish ten walkways in ten high biodiverse forests, where women and indigenous families can earn a sustainable income from ecotourism and not logging.

I am driven to educate leaders about the value of trees, so welcome opportunities to address corporate directors, CEOs, politicians, and decision-makers/disruptors to communicate the importance of healthy

forests.

My passion for science and exploration began as a little girl and subsequently defined my life's work. I became a pioneer in the field of forest canopy science and am now considered one of the world's first "arbornauts" or explorers of the canopies. Founding a new science, I designed hot-air balloons and walkways for treetop exploration to solve mysteries in the world's forests, especially insect pests and ecosystem health. I now leverage my international network and exploration, seeking best practices to solve environmental challenges.

The nickname, Canopymeg, was bestowed by Bob Ballard of Titanic fame, when we were chief scientists for the Jason Project, and spoke to millions of middle school students during our virtual expeditions to the canopy and ocean floor, respectively. Thank you, Bob! I recently formed Canopymeg Inc. as a platform which spawns science communication activities (e.g. speaking, board roles, books, etc.) as well as non-profit activities (e.g. TREE Foundation and Mission Green). Other nicknames over the years have included "the real-life Lorax" (from Dr. Seuss) by National Geographic, and as one of the "Einsteins" of forest canopies by the Wall Street Journal.

Currently, I serve as Executive Director/Founder of TREE Foundation in Sarasota, FL, established in 2000 as a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to link local underserved children to nature, and promote tree research, education, and exploration. I am also launching [Mission Green](#), to build 10 canopy walkways in the world's highest bio-diverse forests over the next 5 years. This project partners with renowned oceanographer, Sylvia Earle, who founded [Mission Blue](#) to save ocean "Hope Spots," whereas I am focused on conserving rain forest biodiversity "Hot Spots." My next book, a memoir called "THE ARBORNAUT. A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us" aims to inspire girls to seek careers in field biology, and is due out in 2021 with Farrar, Straus & Giroux Publishers. I currently serve as a visiting professor for the National University of Singapore; research

professor for the University of Sains Malaysia; adjunct professor at Arizona State University; and National Geographic Explorer in Ethiopia to save their last 4% forest fragments.

After completing a Ph.D. program in Sydney in 1983, I remained in Australia for eight years demystifying rural eucalypt dieback epidemics and serving as the co-manager of a fifth-generation family-owned Merino sheep and cattle business. Returning to the U.S. in 1991, I became CEO of Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL, growing its operation to profitability and then ranked as one of America's Top Ten Botanical Gardens. Following this, I was recruited into three academic/leadership positions: New College of Florida as their inaugural director of environmental initiatives; North Carolina State University to direct the construction and launch of the Nature Research Center; and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco as Inaugural Chief of Science and Sustainability to “reinvent museum science.” I returned to Florida in 2019 to launch Mission Green and focus on global forest conservation with TREE Foundation.

Over the past 40 years, my work in forest canopy science involved groundbreaking work in 46 countries and all seven continents; co-chaired 5 international canopy conferences; and authored over 150 scientific publications and 9 books on forest science and sustainability. My first book, “Life in the Treetops,” received a cover review in the NY Times Sunday Book Review. Championing an awareness about how forest conservation is critical to the survival of humankind also led me to serve as a sustainability consultant for green business initiatives including Tommy Hilfiger Foundation, Rolex Corporation, and The Habitat (Malaysia). I have served on multiple non-profit boards with education or sustainability missions: The Explorers Club, Earthwatch Institute, San Francisco Urban Tree Council, 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), and Williams College.

I actively pursue bottom-up conservation activities including community initiatives for schools, corporations, and teams to manage local resources more sustainably: climate change advisor to the Florida cabinet, local tree planting programs in multiple countries, science book distribution to African and Amazonian school kids, and citizen science activities for communities. I love speaking to all ages - which I refer to as “K-thru-gray” – ranging from webinars, commencement addresses, to “meet-a-scientist” for youth. My academic training includes Williams College (BA, Biology); Aberdeen University (MSc, Ecology); Sydney University (Ph.D., Botany); Tuck School of Business (Executive Management Program), and Stanford University (Aldo Leopold Leadership Program). I was selected as a Fulbright Senior Specialist Scholar to both India and Ethiopia.

My outside interests are diverse. I am the proud mother of two wonderful boys who grew up climbing trees around the world with their scientist-mom. Carolyn Shoemaker named an asteroid after me, comprising 16 acres circling Jupiter (16304 Lowman). My exploration across 46 countries has exposed me to amazing insects, including a love of “entomophagy” (yes, cooking bugs!). I enjoy birding, beaches, reading non-fiction books, and “all things nature,” with a personal motto of “no child left indoors.”