

**Dr. Margaret "Canopymeg" Lowman**  
**Enjoy Nature, especially trees! [www.canopymeg.com](http://www.canopymeg.com)**



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

My personal goals are all "tens:" mentor 10m kids, sell 10m books, speak in front of 10k corporate leaders, conserve 10m acres of forest, and establish 10 walkways in 10 high biodiverse forests, where women and indigenous families can earn a sustainable income from ecotourism and not logging. (Over halfway finished!)

I welcome opportunities to educate students, corporate directors, CEOs, politicians, and decision-makers/disruptors about the importance of healthy forests.

My passion for science and exploration began as a shy, little girl in a small town, where outdoor play defined my life's work. I became a pioneer in the field of forest canopy science as one of the world's first "arbornauts" or explorers of the treetops, where ~80% of our land's biodiversity resides. Founding a new science, I designed the toolkit for forest exploration, including slingshots, hot-air balloons, and canopy walkways to solve mysteries in the world's forests, especially insect pests and ecosystem health. I leverage my international network that includes 45+ countries of treetop exploration, seeking best practices to solve environmental challenges.

My 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 from the canopy and ocean floor, respectively. Thank you, Bob! Other nicknames include "The Real-life Lorax" (from Dr. Seuss) by National Geographic, and "Einstein of the Treetops" 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 recently launched [Mission Green](#), to build 10 canopy walkways in the world's highest biodiverse forests over the next 5 years. This project partners with renowned oceanographer, Sylvia Earle, who founded [Mission Blue](#) to save ocean "Hope Spots," but I am focused on conserving rain forest biodiversity "Hot Spots." My recent book, a memoir called "The Arbornaut: Exploring the 8th Continent in the Trees Above Us," aims to inspire girls to seek careers in field biology (2021, Farrar, Straus & Giroux). National Geographic has funded my treetop exploration in Colombia, French Guinea, Peru, Panama, Belize, and Ethiopia.

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. After completing a Ph.D. at Sydney

University as their first botany student to study rain forests, I remained in Australia to demystify eucalypt dieback epidemics and as the co-manager of a fifth-generation family-owned Merino sheep and cattle business. Later returning to the U.S., I became CEO of Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL, growing its operation from red to black to rank as one of America's Top Ten Botanical Gardens. I was then recruited into three 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 State Science Museum's 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 conservation with TREE Foundation.

My tree-climbing prowess led to groundbreaking work in 45+ countries on all seven continents; co-chair of 5 international canopy conferences; and author over 200 scientific publications and 11 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 the links between forest and human health also led me to serve as a sustainability consultant for green business initiatives including Tommy Hilfiger Foundation, Rolex Corporation, Biosphere 2, The Habitat (Malaysia), and most recently, the government of Kuwait. I have served on boards of 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, Environmental Change Institute (Oxford University), National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), and others. I have humbly accepted many awards on behalf of the trees: Margaret Douglas Medal from the Garden Club of America, Mendel Medal for Science and Spirit from Villanova University, The Explorers Medal from the Explorers Club, and the Tällberg Global Leadership Prize, to name but a few.

I actively pursue bottom-up conservation including community initiatives for schools, corporations, and teams to manage local resources more sustainably. I love speaking to all ages - which I refer to as "K-thru-gray," and kids have become my best advocates to save trees. Recently, I served as visiting professor for the National University of Singapore, research professor for the University of Sains Malaysia, and adjunct professor at Arizona State University;

My outside interests are diverse. I am the proud mother of two wonderful boys who grew up climbing trees around the world with their single-parent scientist-mom. Carolyn Shoemaker named an asteroid after me, comprising 16 acres encircling Jupiter (16304 Lowman). My exploration across 45+ countries has exposed me to amazing insects, including a love of "entomophagy" (yes, cooking bugs!). I love birding, beaches, reading, and "enjoying nature." My personal motto is "no child left indoors."