

GCNJ Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker
Margaret “Meg” Lowman

Margaret “Meg” Lowman, Ph.D., known affectionately throughout the world as “Canopy Meg,” is a global pioneer in forest canopy ecology. She is one of the world’s foremost “arbornauts” - someone who explores and studies the vast forest canopies that make up what Meg has termed the Earth’s “eighth continent.” A tireless educator, strong advocate for girls, women, and minorities in science, Meg has published numerous books, is a sustainability advisor, contributes to boards, and speaks widely and frequently to diverse groups, schools, and international symposiums and conferences. Over the past 40 years, her work in forest canopy science has involved groundbreaking results in 46 countries and all 7 continents.

Her latest project is Mission Green, a non-profit addressing the need to conserve global forests. Studies show that forest canopies are critical for the future of our planet, provide fresh water, pollinator habitat, soil conservation, spiritual heritage, timber, carbon storage, medicines, food, climate change control, and house 50% of Earth’s biodiversity. Through photosynthesis, canopies provide the most efficient energy production on Earth. Forests keep both ecosystems and humans alive.

Dr. Lowman’s most recent book, a memoir called “The Arbornaut: A Girl Who Climbed with Koalas,” aims to inspire young women to seek careers in field biology. Meg currently serves 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 working to save their last 4% forest fragments. Meg considers herself a storyteller as she shares a lifetime of adventure, the mysteries of life in the treetops and her mission to mentor future environmental stewards.

Sources: CanopyMeg.com and Mission Green