

**2023  
Unearthed  
Speakers  
Bureau**

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# Beyond Land Acknowledgements: Reframing Narratives and Creating Actual Inclusivity in Outdoor Education

*How do I include or teach about indigenous culture and people in environmental education?*

## Autumn Brunelle

Naturalist at Monroe County Parks and Recreation



### **Beyond Land Acknowledgements: Reframing Narratives and Creating Actual Inclusivity in Outdoor Education**

**Presenter:** Autumn Brunelle, Naturalist at Monroe County Parks and Recreation

**Contact:** autumnmbrunelle@gmail.com

**Format:** 45-minute interactive presentation with Q&A (1 hour total)

**Tags:** Indigenous, Education, Programming

#### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- INDIGENOUS
- EDUCATION
- PROGRAMMING

“Long ago, Native Americans used this land for hunting and gathering.” This seemingly harmless sentence can be found in almost every park, environmental class, and outdoor program. Contrary to this common teaching, Native Americans are very much present and involved with the natural world in more ways than “hunting and gathering.” In this talk, we will address Native American representation in the outdoors, learn how to re-frame the narratives surrounding Native peoples, and discuss why “Land Acknowledgments” may fail Indigenous audiences.

Autumn Brunelle is Anishinaabe, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and grew up on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Cass Lake, Minnesota. Autumn graduated in 2015 from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Native American Studies with a desire for integrating indigenous knowledge into environmental education and outreach. She has continued to develop this passion through her diverse work experiences with international and local non-profits, the National Park Service, local governments, and in creating community-based environmental programming. She currently works as a full-time Naturalist for the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department.



# White Supremacy and Environmental Inequalities

*How does racism affect relationships to the environment?*

## Benjamin Clark

Graduate Research Assistant, IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## White Supremacy and Environmental Inequalities

**Presenter:** Benjamin Clark, Graduate Research Assistant, IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute

**Contact:** bejclark@iu.edu | 317.694.5111

**Format:** 30-minute presentation and 30 minutes of breakout groups and discussion

**Tags:** White supremacy, environmental racism/justice, settler colonialism, state power, environmental policy representations of nature, encounters with the natural world

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM/ JUSTICE
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
- ENCOUNTERS WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

In this talk Benjamin will begin with a brief history of white supremacy and its origins on the North American continent, beginning from the period of colonization and enslavement. Benjamin then demonstrates how these legacies shape many of the social issues facing our country today, including relationships to the environment. Looking at how the power of the state shapes and enforces environmental policy, Benjamin helps audiences see how, due to systemic racism, Black and Brown communities have been disproportionately negatively impacted by pollution, climate change and natural disasters. After this presentation, Benjamin will open up space for participants to discuss environmental racism and its effects on their lives and communities.

Benjamin Clark has been working as a public historian for more than a decade. He holds a master's degree in public history and is pursuing a PhD in American Studies, both at IUPUI. He is currently a graduate research assistant at the IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute where he is working on a project called the Anthropocene Household.

# Rachel Carson and the Wonder of Nature

*Why is the wonder of nature especially important in the time of COVID-19?*

## Frederick “Fritz” Rowe Davis

Professor and Head / R. Mark Lubbers Chair in History of Science

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



### Rachel Carson and the Wonder of Nature

**Presenter:** Frederick “Fritz” Rowe Davis, Professor and Head / R. Mark Lubbers Chair in History of Science

**Contact:** frdavis@purdue.edu

**Format:** 45minute presentation with Q+A

**Tags:** nature, wonder, Rachel Carson

#### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- NATURE
- WONDER
- RACHEL CARSON

Wonder, that feeling of surprise and curiosity in response to the natural world, was a subject of study for environmentalist and writer Rachel Carson. Carson was one of the greatest nature writers of the Twentieth Century. *Silent Spring*, Carson’s best-known book, alerted Americans to the risks of chemical insecticides. In all of her writings, Rachel Carson inspired and fostered emotions in her readers. Her books about the sea introduced readers to remarkable animals found just beneath the waters of seascapes. Carson also explored the significance of wonder. Wonder enabled people to connect with nature and the environment. Even in *Silent Spring*, Carson managed to inspire wonder with the natural world. Carson drew on the scientific literature and incorporated references to poetry and prose to animate the topic of pesticides and the risks they posed to wildlife and humans. Her writing motivated political action and the environmental movement in America. This talk invites participants to learn more about Carson’s legacy, her ideas about wonder, and the role wonder plays in our own interactions with the natural world.

Frederick “Fritz” Davis is Professor and Head of the Department of History at Purdue University. He also holds the R. Mark Lubbers Chair in the History of Science. He studied at Harvard, the University of Florida, and Yale (Ph.D.) His research connects the history of environmental science, environmental health, and environmental history. He recently published *Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of Toxicology* (Yale). He also wrote *The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles: Archie Carr and the Origins of Conservation Biology* (Oxford). He relishes the opportunity to share the inspirational story of Rachel Carson and the wonder of nature.

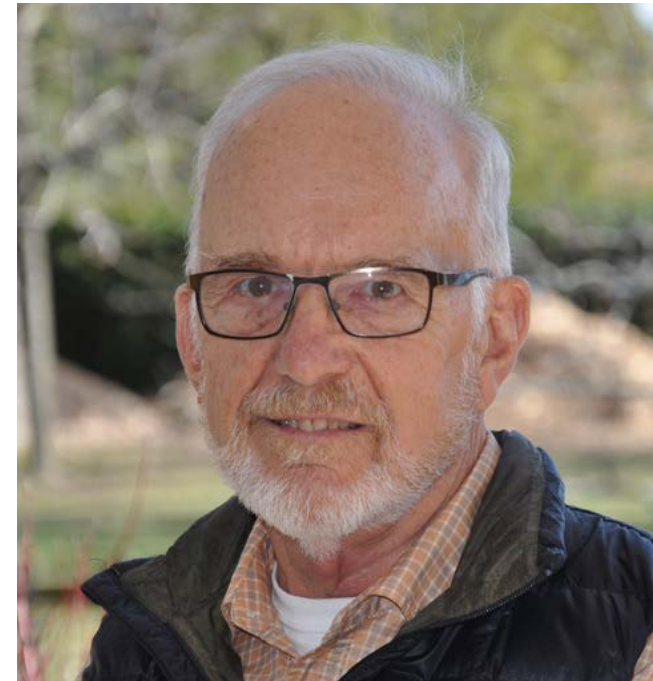
# Living on Indigenous Landscapes: Potawatomi and Settler Histories in Northern Indiana

*Who were the Indigenous peoples who lived on the land where we live today and how can we respond to the injustices that caused them to lose this land?*

## Dr. Luke Gascho

Executive Director, Emeritus - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Living on Indigenous Landscapes: Potawatomi and Settler Histories in Northern Indiana

**Presenter:** Dr. Luke Gascho, Executive Director, Emeritus - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

**Contact:** [lukeag@goshen.edu](mailto:lukeag@goshen.edu) | 574.238.0466

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A, can be flexible

**Tags:** Indigenous people, ecological landscapes, settler history

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES
- SETTLER HISTORY

The history of land in North America is most commonly viewed only through the eyes of people who colonized the continent. Learning more about the culture and actions of Indigenous people toward the land aids in restorative actions toward the land and people. During this talk, insights will be shared regarding the framework that gave governments moral and legal justifications to invade Indigenous lands and dominate and force removal of Indigenous peoples. Topics will also include what the continent was like before 1492, insights into the interactions between Indigenous peoples and settlers in Elkhart County, IN, and current actions that can lead to right relationships between people and the land.

Dr. Luke Gascho served as executive director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, IN for twenty-two years until his retirement in 2019. During his tenure, he led the implementation of field-based undergraduate and graduate programs in sustainability and environmental education. Luke's graduate degrees are in educational leadership and administration. Luke has provided leadership for the establishment of several creation care and social justice organizations. He is involved locally and nationally with organizations addressing injustices toward Indigenous people. Luke regularly speaks on topics of creation care, leadership, ecological food systems and repairing relationships with Indigenous peoples.



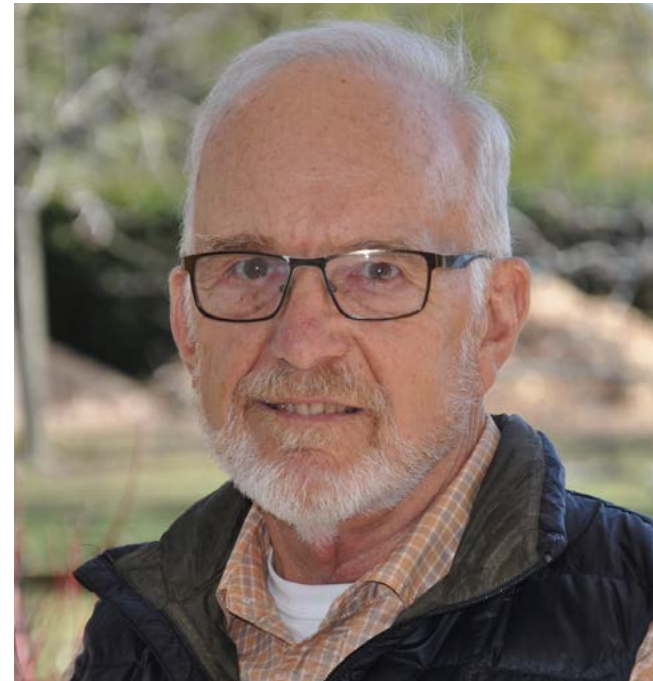
# Creating an Edible Forest: Regenerative Agriculture on a Small Urban Farm

*How can food be grown in ways that protect Earth's ecosystems, are regenerative for landscapes, contribute to local resilience, and provide nourishing produce?*

## Dr. Luke Gascho

Executive Director, Emeritus - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Creating an Edible Forest: Regenerative Agriculture on a Small Urban Farm

**Presenter:** Dr. Luke Gascho, Executive Director, Emeritus - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

**Contact:** [lukeag@goshen.edu](mailto:lukeag@goshen.edu) | 574.238.0466

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A, can be flexible

**Tags:** regenerative agriculture, urban farming

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- URBAN FARMING
- REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Land is an amazing gift! Choosing ways to care for the land well is critical for today, as well as ensuring its vitality for future generations. This presentation tells the story of a 2.5-acre urban farm in Goshen, Indiana that is designed and managed with the principles of regenerative agriculture. The design is based on concepts from a healthy forest ecosystem with the goal of creating an edible forest of fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, brambles and vines. The biodiversity of this system enhances the soil health, establishes a tree canopy, conserves water and nutrients, and sequesters carbon. The result is a generative contribution to the local food system. The talk will include photos of the orchard from the last ten years, details on design principles, pest management approaches, learnings and resources.

Dr. Luke Gascho served as executive director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, IN for twenty-two years until his retirement in 2019. During his tenure, he led the implementation of field-based undergraduate and graduate programs in sustainability and environmental education. Luke's graduate degrees are in educational leadership and administration. Luke has provided leadership for the establishment of several creation care and social justice organizations. He is involved locally and nationally with organizations addressing injustices toward Indigenous people. Luke regularly speaks on topics of creation care, leadership, ecological food systems and repairing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

# Gas and Oil, Dirt and Ghosts: Landscape and Histories of Extraction in Indiana

*No landscape is ever just insensate rocks and silent dirt. How do social histories of race, migration, and labor become embedded in the very ground we work on? How is the environment as much a social place as it is a geologic one?*

**Ava Tomasula y Garcia**  
PhD candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University



## Gas and Oil, Dirt and Ghosts: Landscape and Histories of Extraction in Indiana

**Presenter:** Ava Tomasula y Garcia, PhD candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

**Contact:** [aat2185@columbia.edu](mailto:aat2185@columbia.edu)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** extraction, industrialization, deindustrialization, environmental history, toxicity, migration

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- EXTRACTION
- INDUSTRIALIZATION
- ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

This talk travels through points of time in Indiana’s environmental history to illustrate how narratives about landscape are never just about landscape. We visit the gas boom of the 1880s; the Calumet region’s steel industry up through the 1980s; “deindustrialization” and toxic vulture industries; and fossil fuel “reindustrialization” today. We trace geological upheavals that remake landscape and social reality, from the 1830s genocide of Native Americans that cleared land, to the Great Migration of Black Americans, to Central American immigration for work in “sacrifice zones” in Indiana today. Logics of resource extraction show ideas about what is “natural,” what belongs where, and to whom.

Ava Tomasula y Garcia grew up in northern Indiana, where much of her family has been for four generations. She spent two years as an immigration and labor organizer at Centro de Trabajadores Unidos, a worker’s center in the industrial region spanning Southeast Chicago and spilling over into the Calumet region of Indiana. She previously worked at an environmental human rights organization in Mexico City, and recently returned to school in the Anthropology PhD program at Columbia University in NYC, where she learns about illness related to industrial toxicity. She also writes nonfiction and fiction.

# Foraging for Connection with Place, Self and Other

*How can the practice of foraging for food be a pathway into deeper relationship, reciprocity, and intimacy with the places we inhabit?*

## Joel Pontius

Director of the Graduate Program, Teton Science Schools

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Foraging for Connection with Place, Self and Other

**Presenter:** Joel Pontius, Director of the Graduate Program, Teton Science Schools

**Contact:** joelbpontius@gmail.com

**Format:** 30-minute presentation & 30-minute discussion or foraging walk depending on location and season

**Tags:** foraging, environmental identity

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- FORAGING
- ENVIRONMENTAL IDENTITY

In modern times, we have all but forgotten that in our everyday landscapes, we are surrounded by healthy, biodiverse foods in the forms of wild, seasonally edible plants, seeds, mushrooms, and animals. In the wider context of the local foods movement, some communities are rediscovering and relearning how to forage. How do seasonal practices of foraging contribute to connection with place, self, and other? This interactive talk features a mix of storytelling, poetry, discussion, and a guided foraging walk (location and season permitting) to create space for participants to consider their own relationships with land and water in Indiana through their diets.

Joel Pontius lives in the Brown County Hills of Bloomington. Former Goshen College Sustainability Professor and Greater Yellowstone guide, and current father to two daughters, he's inspired by many forms of wildness. His recent edited book, *Place-based Learning for the Plate: Hunting, Foraging, and Fishing for Food*, explores diverse narratives on environmental ethics connecting food, place, self, and other. He co-edits the *Environmental Discourses in Education* book series for Springer Nature.



# Making Our Food Choices Matter: Historical Lessons

*How can we make environmentally and socially conscious food choices? Should we feel pressure to do so?*

**Joshua Specht**

Assistant Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Making Our Food Choices Matter: Historical Lessons

**Presenter:** Joshua Specht, Assistant Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

**Contact:** Jspecht@nd.edu

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A, format flexible

**Tags:** food, consumer, Anthropocene, environment

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- FOOD
- CONSUMER
- ANTHROPOCENE

In a talk as friendly to meat-eaters as vegetarians, Joshua explores how our food choices connect to the environmental impact of our food. Participants will discuss the history of industrial food as well as research on food and identity. Joshua will demonstrate how our choices are never independent of our social and cultural contexts, and how this poses challenges in a world in which food production is having profound ecological consequences. Joshua ends the talk with specific ideas for reorienting relationships to food, not by pushing one agenda or diet, but in a way that makes all people more thoughtful about what food choices work for them.

Joshua Specht is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. He is an environmental and business historian of the United States. His first book, *Red Meat Republic: A Hoof-to-Table History of How Beef Changed America*, explores how Americans rich and poor came to expect affordable high-quality fresh beef. Before coming to Indiana, he spent three years at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2014.

# Places or Spaces? Relationships Matter

*How would our relationship with people and the environment change if we removed all the boundary lines for cities, towns, and counties?*

**Phillip Anderson**  
ReThink Consulting and IUPUI



## Places or Spaces? Relationships Matter

**Presenter:** Phillip Anderson, ReThink Consulting and IUPUI

**Contact:** rethinkphil@gmail.com | 317.294.2775

**Format:** 35-minute presentation with 25-minute facilitation discussions

**Tags:** Places, natural spaces, valuing landscapes, people and places

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- NATURAL SPACES
- VALUING LANDSCAPES
- PEOPLE AND PLACES

So much of our understanding of home is caught up in lines—city limits, county line roads, numbered regions, and state and national boundaries. How would our relationship with the environment change if we removed all the geo-political boundary lines for cities, towns, and counties? How might we organize ourselves differently? How would we define our place? Would we establish new identities based on our natural systems, our environment? In this talk, Phillip invites exploration into what makes a place more than a space, particularly in relation to the natural world.

Phillip Anderson is a Teacher, Teller, Traveler, and Connector. As the Chief ReThinker at ReThink! Consulting, he specializes in four areas: Cultural Heritage Tourism, Servant Leadership, Strategic Planning/Facilitation, and Community Development. Phil has an extensive background in non-profit leadership serving agriculture, community development, and youth. For 40+ years, he's wandered the highways and backroads of Indiana, successfully visiting every city, town, and village in Indiana, all 2,230 of them. It's a story he calls *Life Off The Highway*. Living in Carmel, while co-owning a family farm near Frankfort, he'll want to know where you're from and talk about it.



# A Roadkill Emu Comes Back from the Dead to Speak

*The world, is it finite? wrote Pliny the Elder, that Roman natural historian in 79 C.E. Ask the strangest, most ancient creatures in the world--the kangaroos, wallabies, platypus of Australia--then think how this question haunts us here in Indiana, glued to our televisions and handhelds or while walking in the woods. Our sense of climate change, real and so surreal, feels mythic—its floods, fires, wildlife going extinct, horrific winds—but is hopelessness inevitable?*

## Marianne Boruch

Professor of English, Purdue University

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## A Roadkill Emu Comes Back from the Dead to Speak

**Presenter:** Marianne Boruch, Professor of English, Purdue University

**Contact:** mboruch@purdue.edu

**Format:** 40-minute presentation with 20-minute Q&A

**Tags:** poetry, wildlife

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- POETRY
- WILDLIFE

Friends! Please believe this: poetry is for everyone and it invites time travel, surprise and alarm, despair and wonder, music and silence, humor and hope. And mystery, of course, of course.

This particular talk grew from the astonishing experience I had while observing the wildlife of Australia as a Fulbright Research Scholar in 2019 in order to write poems about it. For five months, I met up with forest rangers, birders, natural history museum taxidermists, artists, other poets, marine biologists, wild animal vets, and those kangaroo carers who raised orphaned joeys. My husband and I, first on the east coast, circled the vast western outback the final month in a completely inappropriate rental car. (Our Australian friends feared for our lives and warned of UFOs!) Then came the raging fires, the dire threat to so many creatures--koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, and emus already endangered from climate change at that very bottom of the world. With its droughts, floods, vanishing species, Australia really is the whole planet's "canary in the coal mine," an unnerving flash point and predictor of doom, even here.

I'll tell stories of that amazing experience, and read poems from my most recent collection, *Bestiary Dark*--also older and newer pieces closer to home about Indiana wildlife. We'll discuss poetry (does it matter?—that perennial question) and our beloved and imperiled creatures and whatever hopeful turns we might live to see (and see to live!)....

Marianne Boruch (MFA, University of Massachusetts) has taught writing workshops and craft courses in poetry at Purdue University where she established the MFA Program in Creative Writing before going rogue and emeritus 32 years later in 2018. In addition to eleven collections of poems, she's written prose that includes three books of essays about poetry, and a memoir about hitchhiking in the early 70s, *The Glimpse Traveler* (Indiana University Press, 2011). She's received the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Writers Award (national division) and the Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award, Pushcart Prizes, and inclusions in *Best American Poetry*. She is especially interested in giving readings at universities, colleges, writers' groups and public libraries around the state.

# “Nothing alive but us and the plant”: Eco-Horror and Scott Smith’s *The Ruins*

*What happens when we begin to take seriously the idea that the environment and plant life rarely act in expected and predictable ways?*

**James Coby**

Assistant Professor of English, Indiana University Kokomo

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



**“Nothing alive but us and the plant”:  
Eco-Horror and Scott Smith’s  
*The Ruins***

**Presenter:** James Coby, Assistant Professor of English, Indiana University Kokomo

**Contact:** [jcoby@iu.edu](mailto:jcoby@iu.edu) | 256.572.2368

**Format:** 30-40 minute presentation, followed by discussion

**Tags:** Anthropocene, horror, postcolonialism

## IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ANTHROPOCENE
- HORROR
- POSTCOLONIALISM

Plants and vegetal life have long been positioned as antagonistic to humans in popular literature and film. We find examples of this in *Macbeth*, *The Happening*, *Swamp Thing*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and countless others. But why is it that we find plant life to be a useful contrast to human “progress”? Using Scott Smith’s horror novel *The Ruins* as an example, Jim’s lecture addresses the ways in which authors have constructed confrontations between humankind and the environment as a means of grappling with climate change, the Anthropocene (a new geological epoch dominated by humans), and legacies of colonialism. All are welcome; prior familiarity with Scott Smith’s work is suggested, but not required.

A native of Guntersville, AL, Jim Coby moved to Indiana in the spring of 2020 to begin teaching at Indiana University Kokomo. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and his research primarily revolves around literature of the American South, environmental literature, comics and graphic novels, and American realism. His scholarship and reviews have been published in numerous popular and academic forums, and he is currently coediting a collection of essays entitled *BOOM! SPLAT!: Comics and Violence!* for the University Press of Mississippi. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, running, baking, and exploring the state.



# Writing Environmental Poems in the Symbiocene

How can creative writing help us to develop new modes of perception and connection, find new creative collaborators, and imagine new possibilities for our environment?

**Katy Didden**

Assistant Professor, Ball State University



## Writing Environmental Poems in the Symbiocene

**Presenter:** Katy Didden, Assistant Professor, Ball State University

**Contact:** kedidden@bsu.edu

**Format:** 60 to 120-minute interactive workshop; can be adapted for different age groups

**Tags:** poetry, symbiocene, collaboration

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- POETRY
- SYMBIOCENE
- COLLABORATION

What does it mean to be a poet in the age of human-accelerated climate change? In a recent essay, philosopher Glenn Albrecht suggests a new name for the next period of earth history: the Symbiocene: “The word “symbiosis” implies living together for mutual benefit [...] symbiosis affirms the inter-connectedness of life and all living things.” Inspired by these ideas, how can creative writing help us to develop modes of perception and connection, find creative collaborators, and imagine new possibilities for our environment?

In this interactive workshop, we will start by practicing a series of writing strategies for observing and describing the environment. Then, by reading and discussing the work of contemporary writers, we will learn techniques for incorporating research, writing with maps, and working with collaborators. Throughout the workshop, we will discuss how adapting models of scientific inquiry can lead to innovative literary forms. Participants will come away from the workshop with several poem drafts and techniques for creating a sustained writing practice.

Katy Didden is the author of *The Glacier’s Wake* (Pleiades Press, 2013) and *Ore Choir: The Lava on Iceland* (Tupelo Press, 2022). She is one of the co-creators of the *Almanac for the Beyond* (Tropic Editions, 2019), and is an Assistant Professor at Ball State University where she teaches Poetry Writing and Creative Writing and the Environment.

# Birdwatcher or Journalist?: Audubon Magazine and the Connections between Environmentalism and Journalism

*How did the National Audubon Society revamp its magazine, Audubon, to adopt the practices of journalism to draw attention to, and legitimacy for, its campaign to protect birds and habitats in the 1960s, and what does that tell us about journalism and the environment today?*

## Suzannah Evans Comfort

Assistant Professor, Indiana University

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



### **Birdwatcher or Journalist?: Audubon Magazine and the Connections between Environmentalism and Journalism**

**Presenter:** Suzannah Evans Comfort, Assistant professor, Indiana University

**Contact:** [comfort@indiana.edu](mailto:comfort@indiana.edu) | 812.219.7097

**Format:** 30-40 min presentation plus Q&A

**Tags:** environmentalism, journalism, birdwatching

#### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ENVIRONMENTALISM
- JOURNALISM
- BIRDWATCHING

We think of the ideal journalist as a neutral observer of our social world, but this idea has been threatened by the growth of partisan news organizations in recent years. Yet advocacy journalism has existed on the margins for generations. In this talk, I'll reveal how the National Audubon Society redeveloped its magazine into a national, award-winning outlet for environmental journalism in the 1960s. Along the way, it challenged conventional rules about journalism and objectivity - and furthered the bird conservation cause. This history lends perspective to current debates about how journalism should function in our society.

Suzannah Evans Comfort, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Media School at Indiana University. Her research considers how environmental activists use journalism and other media formats to advance their cause. In addition, she also examines how journalists have covered climate change and how audiences respond to messages about climate change. Prior to joining Indiana University, Comfort worked in ocean conservation and was the co-author of *The Perfect Protein: The Fish Lover's Guide to Saving the Oceans and Feeding the World*.



# The Medieval Art of Living Well in a Changing Climate

*What can the premodern past teach us about inhabiting an ecologically precarious planet?*

**Shannon Gayk**

Associate Professor of English, Indiana University, Bloomington

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## The Medieval Art of Living Well in a Changing Climate

**Presenter:** Shannon Gayk, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University, Bloomington

**Contact:** [sgayk@indiana.edu](mailto:sgayk@indiana.edu)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** apocalypse, ethics of care, medieval art and spirituality

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- APOCALYPSE
- ETHICS OF CARE
- MEDIEVAL ART AND SPIRITUALITY

It may come as a surprise that medieval thinkers, writers, and artists reflected on climate change. This talk explores a few of the ways that medieval Europeans thought about living in an ecologically precarious world and suggests how their insights might help us navigate living in our own changing environment. It begins by discussing how medieval Christianity shaped ideas about the relationship between human beings and nature. It then turns to how medieval thinkers interpreted environmental disasters - floods, earthquakes, storms. And it concludes by reflecting on the surprising ways that medieval thinking about nature might help us approach the challenges of our ecologically precarious times with compassion and care.

Shannon Gayk is associate professor of English at Indiana University and author of many articles and books on medieval religious art and literature. She is currently completing a book called *Apocalyptic Ecologies: Medieval Literature and the Environmental Imagination*. She also holds appointments in the Integrated Program in the Environment and the Department of Religion.

# Falling Blossoms: Exploring Environment Through Haiku

*How can we use the humanities to reconnect with our place in nature and the environment?*

**Adam Henze, Ph.D**

Research Associate, Indiana University

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Falling Blossoms: Exploring Environment Through Haiku

**Presenter:** Adam Henze, Ph.D., Research Associate, Indiana University

**Contact:** [ahenze@flannerhouse.org](mailto:ahenze@flannerhouse.org) | 812.499.6863

**Format:** 1 hour (20-minute presentation, 20-minute interactive workshop, 20-minute discussion)

**Tags:** poetry, haiku, writing

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- POETRY
- HAIKU
- WRITING

This hour-long presentation is a hybrid lecture, poetry performance, and writing workshop appropriate for all ages. Participants will consider environment and space through the study of haiku. Dr. Adam Henze will begin the session by performing haiku by traditional Japanese poets, contemporary American writers, and notable Hoosiers. In between flurries of little poems, Dr. Henze will share theories and strategies for using writing to consider our relationship to mother earth. Participants will then write their own haiku in an interactive workshop, and if they are brave--the session will end with a fun and exciting competitive activity called the haiku deathmatch!

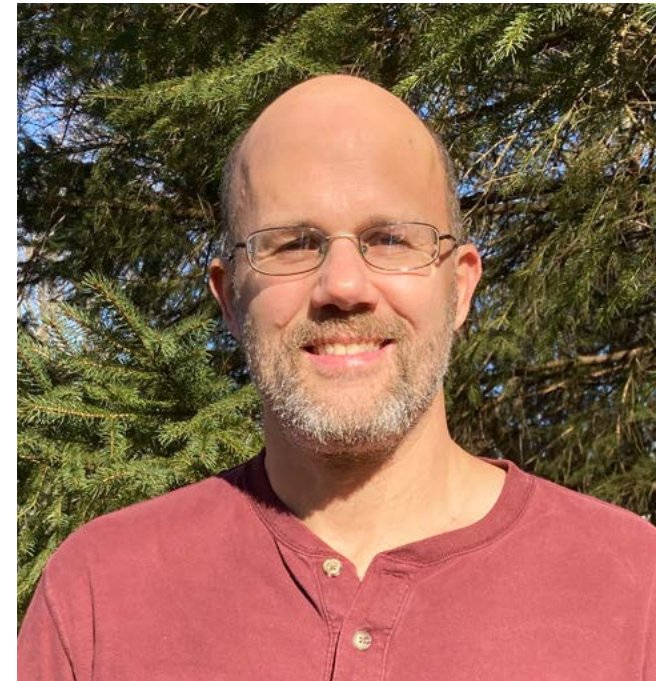
Adam Henze is a researcher, educator, and spoken word artist, and has shared his work in over 30 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Ireland, and the United Arab Emirates. He received a PhD in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education from Indiana University. Adam currently serves as Director of Literacy Programming at Flanner House in Indianapolis and regularly facilitates reading and creative writing courses at Ujamaa Community Bookstore and the Indiana Women's Prison. Adam was named the Official Poet of the 100th Running of the Indianapolis 500.

# How We Imagine Climate Change and Why It Matters

*How do the ways we imagine climate change—in terms of our cultural identities and values, the kinds of stories we engage, and the images we view—influence how we understand and respond to the issue?*

## Scott Hess

Professor of English and Environmental Sustainability, Earlham College



## How We Imagine Climate Change and Why It Matters

**Presenter:** Scott Hess, Professor of English and Environmental Sustainability, Earlham College

**Contact:** [hesssc@earlham.edu](mailto:hesssc@earlham.edu) | 765.983.1504

**Format:** 45-minute interactive presentation followed by 15-minute Q&A discussion period

**Tags:** climate change, public discourse, climate fiction, climate film, climate art, environmental imagination

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- CLIMATE CHANGE AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE
- CLIMATE FICTION
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGINATION

We already have the technological and economic solutions we need to address climate change; what we lack is the cultural unity, will, and imagination. This talk will engage with how we imagine (and represent) climate change and why it matters, including various forms of public discourse as well as literature, film, and the visual arts. It will explore how people with different cultural identities—including different political affiliations, educational backgrounds, races, and socioeconomic situations—tend to respond to climate change differently; how those differences have polarized us; and what we can do to envision and address the problem more effectively together.

Scott Hess is Professor of English and Environmental Sustainability at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He has published extensively in the Environmental Humanities and currently serves on the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) in the role of Conference Chair. He regularly teaches interdisciplinary environmental courses at Earlham on topics such as “American Literature and Ecology” (a survey of American environmental writing in relation to various ecology movements), “Imagining Climate Change,” “Climate Change Fiction,” “Posthumanism,” and “Race, Ethnicity, and Nature in American Literature,” among others.



# Get Back (To Where You Once Belonged): Back-to-Nature in American Life

What can the history of “back” to nature movements tell us about the changing ways that Americans have encountered nature?

**Andrew Case**

Grant Writer and Independent Scholar



## Get Back (To Where You Once Belonged): Back-to-Nature in American Life

**Presenter:** Andrew Case, Grant Writer and Independent Scholar

**Contact:** [acase1965@gmail.com](mailto:acase1965@gmail.com)

**Format:** 40-minute talk with 20-minute Q&A

**Tags:** environmental history, social movements, environmentalism, representations of nature, encounters with the natural world

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
- SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
- REPRESENTATIONS OF NATURE

If humans are a part of the natural world, what does it mean to go “back to nature”? From 19th century utopians, to Depression-era homesteaders, to 60’s counterculturalists, to contemporary advocates of green lifestyles—Americans have long shared a faith that a return to nature might provide an answer to the challenges of their times. This talk describes the history of “back-to-the-land” movements in the U.S. to encourage audiences to examine what it has meant to go “back” to nature, while also exploring the people and places that have been shaped by – and excluded from – visions of a return to nature.

Andrew N. Case, Ph.D. is an independent scholar of history and environmental studies whose work has explored the history of environmentalism, consumer culture, and changing ideas about ecology, science, health, and the environment. His book, *The Organic Profit: Rodale and the Making of Marketplace Environmentalism* (Washington, 2018), is an environmental and cultural history of the company that helped make “organic” into a household word in postwar America. He has held teaching appointments at UW-Madison, Michigan State, and Washington College. He currently lives and works in West Lafayette, IN.

# The Fall of the Wild? Taming Nature in American Painting

*What is American about American landscape paintings?*

**Elizabeth Kuebler-Wolf**

Associate Professor, University of Saint Francis

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## The Fall of the Wild? Taming Nature in American Painting

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Kuebler-Wolf, Associate Professor, University of Saint Francis

**Contact:** ekueblerwolf@sf.edu | 260.433.1829

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** art, landscape, development

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ART
- LANDSCAPE
- DEVELOPMENT

The meaning of America itself is embedded in the long tradition of landscape painting in our country, ideas that have been contested within our nation from the very beginning of the colonies. Our ideas of landscape have shaped human settlement and disruption; our idea of what is valuable in nature dictates decisions about preservation and exploitation of various lands. The act of taming the landscape is at the center of the American experiment, and the metaphorical meanings of American landscape are nowhere more evident than in art. In this talk, Beth will explore representations of American landscapes to demonstrate what they reveal about American ideals and values.

Beth is associate professor of art history at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, where she teaches classes in modern and contemporary art. Her research focuses on the history of American art and visual culture with a special interest in antebellum culture. Her most recent publication is "Gilbert Hunt, the City Blacksmith: slavery, freedom, and fame in antebellum Richmond, Virginia," as a chapter in *The Many Faces of Slavery New Perspectives on Slave Ownership and Experiences in the Americas* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2020)

# Indiana Wilderness

*How can we find more wilderness in Indiana and in our everyday lives? What is wilderness? How do we think about it and experience it in the 21st century?*

**Kevin McKelvey**  
Professor, University of Indianapolis



## Indiana Wilderness

**Presenter:** Kevin McKelvey, Professor,  
University of Indianapolis

**Contact:** mckelveyk@uindy.edu | 317.788.2018

**Format:** 45-minute workshop

**Tags:** wilderness

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- WILDERNESS
- PHILOSOPHY
- HISTORY

During this talk, attendees will use storytelling, maps, and imagination to engage with wilderness ideas, the history of wilderness in Indiana, and the future of wild areas. The talk will focus on wilderness philosophies from pre-settlement to today and offer an in-depth look at the creation of the Deam Wilderness near Bloomington, Indiana, in 1982. Discussion and workshop prompts will generate new perspectives on wilderness and new ways to experience, preserve, or create it in the future.

Kevin McKelvey is a place-based poet, writer, designer, and social practice artist. He teaches at University of Indianapolis and directs the MA in Social Practice Art program. His book, *Dream Wilderness Poems*, is a poetic trail guide for the Deam Wilderness Area and was nominated for the Indiana Author's Award. He is currently at work on a prose book about Midwestern wilderness, a novel, and a book of essays. Other poems are collected in *Indiana Nocturnes*, a collaboration with another native Hoosier, Curtis L. Crisler. McKelvey's social practice and placemaking work continues to explore the intersections of art, writing, ecology, gardening, food, and farming.



# Upstream, Downstream: Sharing the Watershed

*How do my actions positively or negatively affect the ways other people interact with the watershed?*

**Phillip Anderson**

ReThink Consulting and IUPUI

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Upstream, Downstream: Sharing the Watershed

**Presenter:** Phillip Anderson, ReThink Consulting and IUPUI

**Contact:** rethinkphil@gmail.com | 317.294.2775

**Format:** 35-minute presentation with 25-minute facilitation discussions

**Tags:** watersheds, agriculture, recreation, connections

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- WATERSHEDS
- AGRICULTURE
- CONNECTIONS

A watershed is a stage on which people and nature gather to play multiple roles. Within any watershed there is farming, recreation, housing, industry, wildlife and natural spaces. We ask a lot of our watersheds. We expect them to provide drinking water and remove wastewater, support industry, store groundwater, and drain farm fields, paved streets and parking lots. Do we consider how, in our daily living, we contribute to the health or destruction of these living systems? In this talk, Phillip encourages attendees to consider this question in their own life and locality: “How do my actions affect the ways other people interact with the watershed?” Phillip will introduce new ways of thinking that “flow,” just like our river systems.

Phillip Anderson is a Teacher, Teller, Traveler, and Connector. As the Chief ReThinker at ReThink! Consulting, he specializes in four areas: Cultural Heritage Tourism, Servant Leadership, Strategic Planning/Facilitation, and Community Development. Phil has an extensive background in non-profit leadership serving agriculture, community development, and youth. For 40+ years, he’s wandered the highways and backroads of Indiana, successfully visiting every city, town, and village in Indiana, all 2,230 of them. It’s a story he calls Life Off The Highway. Living in Carmel, while co-owning a family farm near Frankfort, he’ll want to know where you’re from and talk about it.

# Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers

*How do humans impact rivers and streams in Indiana?*

## Cassie Hauswald

Director of Freshwater Programs, Sam Shine Foundation



## Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers

**Presenter:** Cassie Hauswald, Director of Freshwater Programs, Sam Shine Foundation

**Contact:** [cassie@samshinefoundation.org](mailto:cassie@samshinefoundation.org)

**Format:** 30-minute presentation, 30-minute discussion

**Tags:** water, rivers, mussels

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- WATER
- RIVERS
- MUSSELS

The past, present and future of Indiana's water can be told through our 75-plus species of freshwater mussels, which places Indiana in the top ten of U.S. states for mussel diversity. From Native American use to Indiana's thriving pearl button industry to the cultured pearl trade, Indiana's freshwater mussels and bountiful rivers have sustained life and livelihoods. As filter feeders, freshwater mussels can only survive in clean rivers, and inversely, their filter feeding also cleans water. The history of people and mussels has left a mark on the health of our rivers; learn about positive choices for water that can keep the story of mussels in Indiana alive and well.

Cassie Hauswald is the Director of Freshwater Programs for the Sam Shine Foundation and previously has worked on conservation issues for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana for over twenty years. As a freshwater ecologist, focusing on aquatic habitats leads Cassie to think about the intersection of rural land use and water quality impacts to Indiana's rivers and streams. Cassie is particularly concerned about freshwater mussel populations and their response to improved water quality.

# The Theory and Practice of Rivers

*How can our local waterways help us think more creatively and expansively about our relationships to the natural world (and to each other)?*

## Ryan Schnurr

Writer and Editor, Trine University

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## The Theory and Practice of Rivers

**Presenter:** Ryan Schnurr, Writer and Editor, Trine University

**Contact:** ryanschnu@gmail.com

**Format:** 30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion/workshop

**Tags:** water, rivers, stories, community, environment, history

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- RIVERS
- STORIES
- ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

“The Theory and Practice of Rivers” is a talk and workshop exploring the relationship between stream and story in Indiana and beyond. The talk is rooted in Ryan’s book on Fort Wayne’s Maumee River and makes the argument that rivers and streams are a repository of—and participant in—community memory. This talk is followed by a workshop session in which attendees will start creating their own “river stories.” Attendees will leave with a new set of lenses and tools for thinking about their relationships to the natural world, using water (and encounters with bodies of water) as an entry point.

Ryan Schnurr is a writer, editor, and teacher from northeast Indiana, and an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities at Communication at Trine University. His first book, *In the Watershed*, traces the history, culture, and environment of the largest watershed in the Great Lakes region through the lens of a week-long trip from the headwaters of the Maumee River, in Fort Wayne, to its mouth in Toledo, Ohio.



# Shifting Baselines - Indiana's Natural Landscape of 1816 and Today

*What can Indiana Department of Natural Resources' former Botanist teach us about the degree of change that our natural environment has gone through since becoming a state? How can we come to see that what we today think of as "normal," is actually skewed?*

## Michael Homoya

Indiana DNR State Botanist, Emeritus; adjunct faculty

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Shifting Baselines - Indiana's Natural Landscape of 1816 and Today

**Presenter:** Michael Homoya, Indiana DNR State Botanist, Emeritus; adjunct faculty

**Contact:** michaelhomoya@gmail.com

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A, can be flexible

**Tags:** "Original" Indiana, extirpated wildlife, land protection

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- "ORIGINAL" INDIANA
- EXTIRPATED WILDLIFE
- LAND PROTECTION

Indiana's natural landscape has changed dramatically over the past 200 years, and yet many people are totally unaware just how much change has occurred. With regard to the environment, we forget what used to be, and our "normal", our baseline, has shifted from what was normal of our predecessors. Bison, elk, wolves, and even parakeets (now extinct) once occupied our land, as did vast prairies, forests and wetlands. This presentation will focus on "original" Indiana and how it was different from today. The talk aims to help people become aware of how dramatically Indiana's natural environment has changed since statehood. The ultimate goal is to inspire action to protect the remaining remnants of "original" Indiana.

Michael Homoya served as Botanist/Plant Ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves for 37 years before retiring in 2019. He has written over 75 scientific papers, popular articles, and books about Indiana's natural features, including *Orchids of Indiana*, *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana* *Forests: A Field Guide, Wake Up, Woods, and Wildflowers of the Midwest* (with co-author Scott Namestnik). Homoya is a Fellow and former president of the Indiana Academy of Science as well as board member and immediate past president of the Indiana Native Plant Society. He is currently an adjunct faculty member in biology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Marian University. In 2019 Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb awarded him the Sagamore of the Wabash for his contributions to preserve Indiana's natural heritage. Other honors include the Indiana Academy of Science Distinguished Scholar Award, the Distinguished Career Public Service Award from Conservation Law Center, and the Barbara J. Restle Lifetime Conservation Award from Sycamore Land Trust.

# Reading Indiana Landscapes

*What story might a line of stones between old growth and second growth forest tell? Or a deep drainage ditch beside a field? Or an empty city lot?*

**Michelle Niemann, PhD**

Academic Writing Coach

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Reading Indiana Landscapes

**Presenter:** Michelle Niemann, PhD, Academic Writing Coach

**Contact:** michelle.niemann4@gmail.com

**Format:** 30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion/workshop

**Tags:** midwestern literature, environmental history, everyday attention

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- MIDWESTERN LITERATURE
- ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
- EVERYDAY ATTENTION

As Hoosiers, we tend to assume that Indiana's landscapes are unremarkable. This talk will teach us how to see ordinary places anew. Reading a landscape involves paying attention to the traces of history on it—to colonization as well as the celandine poppy, to the steel plant beside the sand dune. Writing by Etheridge Knight, Mari Evans, Gene Stratton Porter, and others will guide us as we explore intertwined beauty and heartbreak. Following the poet Lorine Niedecker's instruction to pay "particular attention" to natural and cultural details, this interactive talk and discussion invites audience members to connect their own knowledge of specific Indiana landscapes with environmental and social histories. Through historical and contemporary images of specific places as well as poetry and prose by Indiana writers, I defamiliarize landscapes that are often overlooked. Small details can tell big stories, not only about violent and painful histories of settler colonialism, racist oppression, and toxic industries, but also about human and more-than-human persistence. This talk will prompt participants to recall, reflect on, share, and go out looking for those details.

Michelle Niemann is an academic writing coach who works with faculty in a wide variety of disciplines. As a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA, she co-edited *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities* (2017) with Ursula K. Heise and Jon Christensen. She earned her PhD in literary studies at the University of Wisconsin, where William Cronon's seminar on US environmental history shaped her understanding of how to read a landscape. She grew up in Fort Wayne and now lives in Indianapolis. Over the past seven years, she has spent time hiking slowly in state parks, nature preserves, rural areas, and the city, paying attention to both the neglected loveliness and the often wrenching devastation of Indiana landscapes.



# The Sweetest Generation: The History and Future of Maple Syrup Using Data Science

*What is the fascinating history and science behind maple syrup production, and why is it important to preserve this cherished tradition for future generations? How can we use its history and science to explore broader questions about sustainability, environmentalism, and the intersection of culture and nature?*

## Aaron Ellis

Independent Scholar and Data Analyst

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## The Sweetest Generation: The History and Future of Maple Syrup Using Data Science

**Presenter:** Aaron Ellis, Independent Scholar and Data Analyst

**Contact:** aaronellis31@gmail.com

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A, can be flexible

**Tags:** maple syrup, food studies, data science, environment, sustainable jobs

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- MAPLE SYRUP
- FOOD STUDIES AND DATA SCIENCE
- SUSTAINABLE JOBS

Are you ready to become a guardian of one of North America's sweetest traditions? Join us on a journey to uncover the secrets behind maple syrup. Through scientific examination and poetic storytelling, we'll explore the fascinating history of maple syrup and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Discover how climate change is threatening the production of real maple syrup, leaving this generation potentially the last to savor this delicacy, and how data science can revolutionize the way we communicate with the trees that produce it. But beyond the syrup itself, we'll delve into broader questions about sustainability and environmentalism, exploring the intersection of culture and nature. Learn about the cultural importance of maple syrup, its production methods, and uses, and how climate change is threatening the cultural heritage associated with it. Don't miss out on this journey into the heart of one of North America's most beloved traditions. Whether you're a foodie, a history buff, or an environmentalist, there's something for everyone in this exploration of maple syrup and its place in our world.

Aaron Ellis, Ph.D. is an independent researcher and data analyst with a background in anthropology and food studies. He has a diverse range of professional experience, including working as a data analyst for a digital marketing company, instructing courses in Anthropology of Food, lecturing on craft beer, and starting a maple syrup company. Dr. Ellis has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work, including the Kovener Teaching Fellowship at Indiana University, the Brantlinger-Naremore Essay Prize conferred by the Cultural Studies Program at Indiana University for his writing, the William H. Neukom Institute for Computational Science Research Grant from Dartmouth College and having his brewing recipes published in *Zymurgy*.



# Cooperative Supported Agriculture: The Essential Work of Food Cooperatives, Politics and Accountability of Food System Actors

Coming soon.

**Lauren McCalister**

Land Steward, Three Flock Farm

Unearthed Speakers Bureau | Indiana Humanities



## Cooperative Supported Agriculture: The Essential Work of Food Cooperatives, Politics and Accountability of Food System Actors

**Presenter:** Lauren McCalister, Land Steward,  
Three Flock Farm

**Contact:** [threeflockfarm@gmail.com](mailto:threeflockfarm@gmail.com)

**Format:**

**Tags:** restorative justice, food sovereignty, advocacy

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
- ADVOCACY

Our relationship with growing and consuming food is a cornerstone of the human experience. Our disconnection from growing food or the inability to be investing early and often in local growers, farmers and ranchers compels us to redesign the food system by centering indigenous wisdom and Black liberation. Cooperative Supported Agriculture exists to transform food systems for both human and planetary health with the liberatory practices of equity, restorative justice and interdependence. Relating to the local food system will require some re-imagining of governance of the agri-food system. It remains critical to understand and implement effective pathways for food system reparations by influencing stakeholders as well as investing in grassroots voices, collectives and organizations. This talk will allow participants to learn about how to foster a new food system, take concerted action and how to participate in intersectional anti-racist practices.