

## **Lecture 1: A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia: A Conversation with the Editor**

Featured Speaker: Rose McLarney, Associate Professor of English, Auburn University

Bio:

Rose McLarney's collections of poems are *Forage* and *Its Day Being Gone*, both from Penguin Poets, as well as *The Always Broken Plates of Mountains*, published by Four Way Books. She is co-editor of *A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia*, from University of Georgia Press, and the journal *Southern Humanities Review*. Rose has been awarded fellowships by the MacDowell Colony and Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences; served as Dartmouth Poet in Residence at the Frost Place; and is winner of the National Poetry Series, the Chaffin Award for Achievement in Appalachian Writing, and the Fellowship of Southern Writers' New Writing Award for Poetry, among other prizes. Her work has appeared in publications including *The Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Missouri Review*, and *The Oxford American*. Rose earned her MFA from Warren Wilson's MFA Program for Writers. Currently, she is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Auburn University.

---

## **Lecture 2: Coupling Ecosystems and Agriculture in Florida Ranchlands**

Featured Speaker: Dr. Hilary Swain, Executive Director, Archbold Biological Station - Venus, Florida

Bio:

Dr. Hilary Swain has been Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station in central Florida since 1995. She oversees research, monitoring, student training, outreach, K-12 education, land management, and conservation on Archbold's 20,000-acre property, which includes a nationally significant nature preserve and a full-scale working cattle ranch.

Her research interests are in reserve design, land management, and conservation planning. She collaborates extensively with government agencies, global science networks, conservation groups, and private landowners.

Prior to coming to Archbold, Hilary was Associate Prof at Florida Institute of Technology, and worked for the national government conservation organization in the UK. She completed her PhD in Zoology at Newcastle University and a postdoctoral fellowship at Aberdeen University.

### **Lecture 3: Density, Distribution, and Diet: How Salamanders Connect Ecosystems**

Featured Speaker: Philip Gould, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University

Bio:

Philip is a Ph.D. candidate in the lab of Dr. Bill Peterman at Ohio State University, where he has investigated the ecological role of stream salamanders in the southern Appalachians. His research has focused on identifying patterns in stream salamander abundance; evaluating how black-bellied salamanders influence aquatic ecosystems through diet and nutrient recycling; and how wildfire affects salamander populations. Much of the work he has done for his dissertation was supported and based out of Highlands Biological Station between 2017 – 2020.

---

### **Lecture 4: Nurturing Life in Your Backyard; Choices Within Our Control**

Featured Speaker: Sonya Carpenter, Co-owner of Canty Worley and Company.

Bio:

Sonya is a passionate advocate for the natural world. She and her husband Canty Worley are the co-owners of a landscape company based in Highlands NC dedicated to creating and maintaining gardens in balance with the natural world. She studied ecology at the University of Florida and has applied her knowledge of ecology to the design of planned natural communities such as pollinator gardens. She served nine years as the Director of the Highlands Biological Foundation and is currently helping HBF manage their new north campus improvement project at the Highlands Biological Station. She is also the President of the Highlands Plateau Greenway and the Highlands Bee City coordinator; an initiative to increase knowledge of and create habitat for our native pollinator species.

---

### **Lecture 5: Ant Invasions in the southern Appalachian Mountains**

Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert Warren, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State

Bio:

Robert J. Warren II is Associate Professor of Global Change Ecology at SUNY Buffalo State. His lab's research focuses on how species interactions respond to habitat fragmentation, non-native species invasion and climate change. The current work focuses on how classic ecological theory explains the impacts of non-native ants on both vertebrate and invertebrate communities. The lab also does a lot of research in the realm of urban ecology, again examining how classic ecological theory explains novel ecosystems. Warren is author of more than 50 academic papers. He holds a PhD from the University of Georgia (Athens) and did postdoctoral research at Wright State and Yale Universities. He moved to SUNY Buffalo State in 2012.

## **Lecture 6: Salamander Ecology in the Salamander Capital of the World**

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Maerz, Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Bio:

Dr. Maerz is a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Vertebrate Ecology in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. He is affiliated faculty with the Center for Integrative Conservation's ICON Ph.D. Program. His research focuses on the effects of terrestrial and aquatic environmental change, particularly the effects of nonnative species invasions, land use, and climate on the ecology of amphibians and reptiles and other wildlife; how variation in the abundances of animals affects terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem processes; and applying ecological and evolutionary principles to develop knowledge and tools to effectively manage herpetofauna and other wildlife. He is a Co-PI and member of the Science Advisory Committee for the Coweeta LTER in Otto, NC and an Associate Editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management. He is also chair the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Pre-College Scholarship Committee and faculty advisor to the University of Georgia Herpetological Society.

---

## **Lecture 7: Supremacy or Stewardship? An Exploration of Modern-Day Anthropocentrism**

Featured Speaker: Owen Carson, Botanist, Equinox Environmental

Bio:

For the past decade, Owen has been working with Equinox to provide ecological and botanical expertise in support of environmental planning, design, and restoration projects in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. He loves to share his passion for and knowledge of plants and the ecosystems that contain them – montane rock outcroppings and bogs are two of his favorites! For the past four years Owen has also devoted his time and knowledge in support of the NC Invasive Plant Council, where he is the current sitting President. Overall, he relishes in the enjoyment of collaborating with individuals and organizations to develop unique solutions for complex problems. In his free time, when applicable, Owen enjoys gardening, climbing, and exploring the outdoors with his wife, Sarah, and twin second-graders Hazel and Liam.

---

## **Lecture 8: Did COVID-19 Lockdown Alter Urban Bat Activity Patterns? A Case Study in North Carolina**

Featured Speaker: Dr. Rada Petric, Postdoctoral Researcher

Bio:

Dr. Petric is a field biologist with broad interests in animal behavior, neuroendocrinology, and conservation. Specifically, her research interests focus on how external and internal stimuli alter individual behaviors and the potential consequences of those changes. During Petric's graduate studies, she examined how the androgen hormone testosterone influenced spatial preference and communication using free-living and monogamous California mice as the study model. She also worked on a second project examining the effects of human-made noise on the behaviors of native deer mice. As a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Schug's lab, Dr. Petric is assessing the effects of natural and restored wetland on biodiversity and how urbanization pressures with concomitants pollution may alter bat species presence and activity. Using non-invasive methods, such as acoustics and video imaging, she can address interdisciplinary questions related to conservation and animal behavior. When we gain a better understanding of animal behaviors, we enhance our ability to address pressing conservation issues, especially those related to the preservation of threatened or endangered species and their environment.

---

## **Lecture 9: Conservation and Culture - The Necessary Convergence**

Featured Speaker: Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife and Master Teacher, Poet Laureate of Edgefield, SC

Bio:

J. Drew Lanham (B.A. Zoology 1988; M.S. Zoology 1990; PhD Forest Resources 1997) is a native of Edgefield and Aiken, South Carolina. In his twenty-five years as Clemson University faculty he's worked to understand how forest management impacts wildlife and how human beings think about nature. In particular, he's interested in how ethnic prisms bend conservation practice and perception. Dr. Lanham holds an endowed chair as an Alumni Distinguished Professor and was named an Alumni Master Teacher in 2012. In his teaching, research, and outreach roles, Drew seeks to translate conservation science to make it relevant to others in ways that are evocative and understandable. He is an award winning and widely published author and poet, garnering the Southern Environmental Law Center's Reed Award for Outstanding Environmental Writing in 2018, a Southern Book Prize for his book, "The Home Place – Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature (Milkweed Editions 2018; Tantor Audio 2019) and named an author of One of America's Best Essays in 2019. He was named Poet Laureate of his home place county, Edgefield SC, in 2018. He lives in Seneca, SC with his wife, Janice Garrison Lanham.