

Keynote Speakers for the XIVth International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology

William Ginn is a businessman-turned-conservation practitioner who has helped The Nature Conservancy protect over 1.5 million acres of forestland through dozens of innovative deals. He is currently director of the Global Forest Partnership. Ginn has spent nearly 25 years working for conservation organizations or environmental business. A human ecologist by training, he has served as the executive director of the Maine Audubon Society, founder and president of Resource Conservation Services Inc., worked as a business consultant, done mergers and acquisitions for major public companies, and now, for the last 8 years worked for the Nature Conservancy in the South Pacific and the Northeast on forest conservation projects. He has received many awards over the years for his work on the green line between business and conservation including an honorary doctorate from Unity College, the Governors Award for Business Excellence and several EPA citations. He and his family divide their time between an island home in Penobscot Bay and a small farm along the coast of Maine where his passion for traditional wooden boats keeps him well occupied when he is not working on forest issues.



Richard Levins is John Rock Professor of Population Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health. An internationally recognized ecologist and bio-mathematician, Levins is considered one of the most prominent authors of mathematical patterns in biological processes. His mathematical research has had the goal of making the obscure obvious by finding the appropriate ways to visualize complex phenomena. A major goal is the integration of evolutionary ecology and critical social theory into a broad epidemiology that can prepare for surprises. Levins has worked for 33 years as an advisor to the Cuban government on scientific projects in ecology, agriculture, and public health. He has collaborated extensively with several scientific institutions in Cuba, particularly with research laboratories at the University of Havana. Most recently, he has started a collaborative relationship between the Human Ecology group at the Harvard School of Public Health and Cuban institutions. With Tamara Awerbuch, he is currently studying patterns of new infectious disease, the resurgence of diseases thought to be in decline in humans, plants and animals, and the patterns of vulnerability in populations.



June LaCombe is an active scholar, educator, arts advocate and artist. Her research is focused on the practice of environmental art making and perception of place. This includes the theory and practice of environmental education and research on the power of environmental art to: increase perceptual awareness, provide insight to our understanding of natural systems, help heal the nature/culture divide, inspire participatory action, explore spiritual elements, and celebrate beauty. June has worked with both natural history and cultural history in Environmental Education and is presently an Environmental Studies Doctoral Student at Antioch New England exploring the insights from environmental art for environmental education. She was the Director of Environmental Education for the Maine Audubon Society from 1976-1982 overseeing nature centers, field trips, wildlife research, and teachers' resources. She worked as the Education Coordinator, then Acting Director of Greater Portland Landmarks in 1984-1986 overseeing education, development and preservation practices. From 1987 she has worked as an Arts Curator exploring environmental themes through sculpture exhibitions, including shows in conjunction with an academic symposium, "Teaching for the Environment: The Promise of the Earth Charter". Recent sculpture installations have been titled: *Sculpture for this Animate Earth*, *Touchstones - Sculpture Participating with Place*, and *Coming to our Senses*. June LaCombe continues to blur the boundaries of art and life as she weaves together nature, culture and art.



William McDonough is a world-renowned architect and designer and winner of three U.S. presidential awards: the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development (1996), the National Design Award (2004); and the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award (2003). Time magazine recognized him as a "Hero for the Planet" in 1999, stating that "his utopianism is grounded in a unified philosophy that – in demonstrable and practical ways – is changing the design of the world." Mr. McDonough has been a leader in the sustainable development movement since its inception. He designed and built the first solar-heated house in Ireland in 1977 while still a student at Yale University and designed the first "green office" in the U.S. for the Environmental Defense Fund in 1985. Mr. McDonough was commissioned in 1991 by the City of Hannover to write *The Hannover Principles: Design for Sustainability*, the official design guidelines for the 2000 World's Fair, which the City presented to the 1992 U.N. Earth Summit in Brazil. He and German chemist Dr. Michael Braungart co-authored *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* (North Point Press, 2002), which has now been published in German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean translations. The two were also the subject of a 2001 documentary video, *The Next Industrial Revolution*, from Earthome Productions.



Robert Kates trained as a geographer and taught geography for many years at Clark University in Worcester, MA, USA. He also participated in interdisciplinary programs addressing both environment and development at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Clark University, and at the World Hunger Program at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. Kates now serves as a Research Associate at Harvard, Faculty Associate at COA, and Distinguished Scientist at Clark University. He is executive editor of *Environment* magazine, on the editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and advisory board of *Ecology and Society*. Currently, he is co-convenor of the Steering Group for the Initiative on Science and Technology for Sustainability. Kates served as chair of the Coordinating Committee on a Transition toward Sustainability following the National Academy of Sciences' report, *Our Common Journey: A Transition Toward Sustainability*. His current research is on long-term trends and values, attitudes and beliefs affecting a sustainability transition - e.g., see "What is Sustainable Development? Goals, Indicators, Values, and Practice" (Kates et al., 2005) and "Do Global Attitudes and Behaviors Support Sustainable Development?" (Leiserowitz, Kates and Parris, 2005). His most recent books include the co-authorship of *Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead* (2002), and with the AAG Global Change in Local Places Research Group, *Global Change in Local Places: Estimating, Understanding, and Reducing Greenhouse Gases* (2003).



Elizabeth Grossman is the author of *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health*; *Watershed: The Undamming of America*, and *Adventuring Along the Lewis and Clark Trail*, and co-editor of *Shadow Cat: Encountering the American Mountain Lion*. Her work has appeared in *Salon*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Orion*, *Grist*, *The Seattle Times*, *High Country News*, and other publications. She has received support for her work from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Nation Institute, and the Fund for Investigative Journalism. A native of New York City and graduate of Yale University, she lives in Portland, Oregon and when not at her desk writing, is out exploring, hiking, camping, paddling, sketching, and watching birds. In a recent review of her new book, the *Chicago Tribune* said following: " We depend on writers like Heather Rogers, Giles Slade and Elizabeth Grossman--writers working in the great tradition of bold and rigorous American thinkers, observers, critics and muckrakers from Henry David Thoreau to Upton Sinclair, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and Bill McKibben - to shake us awake, dispel the fever dream of consumerism and reveal the true cost of our love for technology and our obsession with machines and disposable goods. And as precise as Rogers, Slade and Grossman are in their coverage of the garbage crisis, they are equally meticulous in their explications of solutions."

