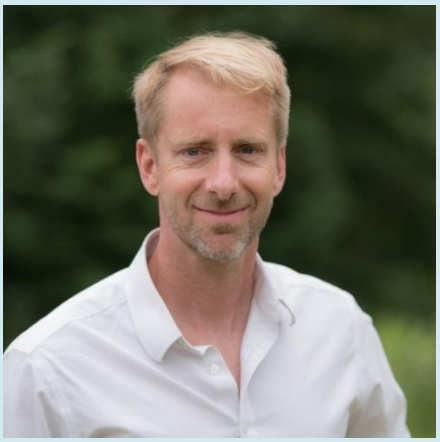
How to get published and influence the policy dialogue: effective writing, publishing, and communication in the environmental sciences



Speaker: Dr. William S. KEETON

Dr. Keeton is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Vermont, USA. There he directs the UVM Carbon Dynamics Laboratory and is a fellow in the Gund Institute for Environment an Mercator fellow of Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany, etc. Dr. Keeton also chairs the IUFRO Working Group on Old-growth Forests and is a board member for Science for the Carpathian, Carpathian Convention, of the World Commission on Protected Areas, Mountain Protected Area Network and World Conservation Union. Dr. Keeton holds a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University ('90), a Masters in Conservation Biology and Policy from Yale University ('94), and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington (2000). His citation and publishing record are available on Google Scholar and ResearchGate.

Date: 17 November 2022, stating with 16.00

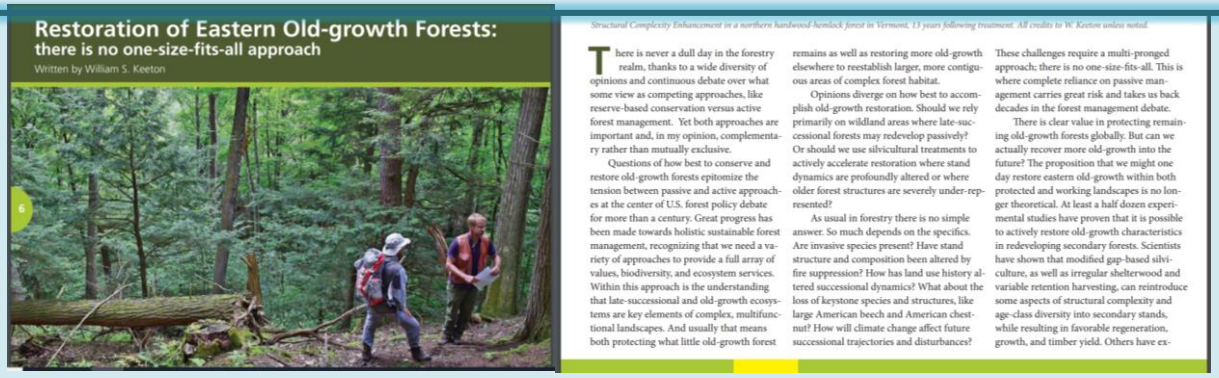
G. Vâlsan Hall, Faculty of Geography, No1. N. Bălcescu Avenue, Bucharest, Romania

Presentation and discussions: English

This meeting is targeted at early career scientists and doctoral students interested in building their credentials through rigorous publication and communication. Dr. Keeton will offer advice and tips based on his experience having authored or co-authored more than 130 peer-reviewed publications.The dicussions will cover best practices for publishing in English language, international scientific journals.

Dr. Keeton has spent many years working at the interface of science and policy, both in the U.S. and in Europe. He is most interested in applying science to solving real-world problems. During this meeting, he will discuss the differing views of the role of scientists in the policy process, and present ideas for communicating science effectively to journalists, through popular media, through collaboration with NGOs, and to policy makers.

This is planned as an interactive seminar-workshop. Those attending will be asked to participate actively and come prepared having read background materials (to be determined). Critical thinking, dialogue, and discussion are welcomed.


Restoration of Eastern Old-growth Forests:
there is no one-size-fits-all approach
Written by William S. Keeton

Structural Complexity Enhancement in a northern hardwood-hemlock forest in Vermont, 13 years following treatment. All credits to W. Keeton unless noted.

There is never a dull day in the forestry realm, thanks to a wide diversity of opinions and continuous debate over what some view as competing approaches, like reserve-based conservation versus active forest management. Yet both approaches are important and, in my opinion, complementary rather than mutually exclusive.

Questions of how best to conserve and restore old-growth forests epitomize the tension between passive and active approaches at the center of U.S. forest policy debate for more than a century. Great progress has been made towards holistic sustainable forest management, recognizing that we need a variety of approaches to provide a full array of values, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Within this approach is the understanding that late-successional and old-growth ecosystems are key elements of complex, multifunctional landscapes. And usually that means both protecting what little old-growth forest remains as well as restoring more old-growth elsewhere to reestablish larger, more contiguous areas of complex forest habitat.

Opinions diverge on how best to accomplish old-growth restoration. Should we rely primarily on wildland areas where late-successional forests may redevelop passively? Or should we use silvicultural treatments to actively accelerate restoration where stand dynamics are profoundly altered or where older forest structures are severely under-represented?

As usual in forestry there is no simple answer. So much depends on the specifics. Are invasive species present? Have stand structure and composition been altered by fire suppression? How has land use history altered successional dynamics? What about the loss of keystone species and structures, like large American beech and American chestnut? How will climate change affect future successional trajectories and disturbances? These challenges require a multi-pronged approach; there is no one-size-fits-all. This is where complete reliance on passive management carries great risk and takes us back decades in the forest management debate.

There is clear value in protecting remaining old-growth forests globally. But can we actually recover more old-growth into the future? The proposition that we might one day restore eastern old-growth within both protected and working landscapes is no longer theoretical. At least a half dozen experimental studies have proven that it is possible to actively restore old-growth characteristics in redeveloping secondary forests. Scientists have shown that modified gap-based silviculture, as well as irregular shelterwood and variable retention harvesting, can reintroduce some aspects of structural complexity and age-class diversity into secondary stands, while resulting in favorable regeneration, growth, and timber yield. Others have ex-