

CV

Tom Wessels
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GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS: As a terrestrial ecologist interested in alpine, desert, and forest ecosystems, I see myself as a generalist with a strong avocation for teaching and writing. I have over 30 years of teaching experience, from secondary to graduate level. My highly successful book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, strongly incorporates my constructivist educational philosophy.

EMPLOYMENT

- 9/92 - **Professor of Ecology, Antioch University New England.** I currently teach and advise in the Department of Environmental Studies and previously served as associate chair of the Department overseeing six Masters degree programs serving 200 students. I founded the Conservation Biology program shortly after taking a full-time position at Antioch. This program trains field ecologists with strong organizational skills to conduct research for not-for-profit, environmental organizations. The program accepts 24 students a year.
- 6/10 - **Chair of the Center for Whole Communities (CWC).** The CWC is a land-based leadership development organization that fosters inclusive communities that are strongly rooted in place and where all people—regardless of income, race, or background—have access to and a healthy relationship with land.
- 7/00-6/06 **Chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation.** This family foundation fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and leadership grants that link Switzer Fellows with environmental not-for-profits following graduation. The foundation grants approximately \$1,000,000 annually. As chair, I helped transition the board from one composed solely of family members to a mixed board including non-family members, developed governance and employee policies, and developed a board evaluation system.
- 10/95 - **Ecological Consultant, The Rain Forest Alliance's SmartWood Program, Northeast United States.** I helped develop "green certification" assessment guidelines for timber operations in the Northeast and most recently served on a four-member team to assess the forest operations of the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park. My primary role is to help educate foresters about management activities that enhance diversity at the landscape level.
- 9/82 - 6/92 **Chairman of the Science Department, The Putney School, Putney, VT.** My two most important contributions to Putney were the development of the country's first year-long molecular genetics course, that incorporated recombinant genetic technology at the secondary level, and I also developed the junior year Core Curriculum in Environmental Studies that integrated American History, American Literature, Landscape Painting, and Ecology. The main focus of the core curriculum examined historical changes in New England's landscape and the relationship of humans to those changes.
- 7/82-8/82 **Expedition Co-leader in Iceland, The School for Field Studies.** I worked with Haraldur Sigurdson to organize a five-week research expedition on the Torphajokull region's magma chamber. My role involved teaching undergraduates majoring in geology how to correlate arctic plant community composition to substrate composition.

- 6/78 - 8/92 **Adjunct Professor, Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH.** I started teaching during the Environmental Studies Department's sixth year and had the opportunity to develop a number of the department's science and natural history courses. One of these courses, Plant Communities, was the foundation for my well-received book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*.
- 9/76 - 1/79 **Assistant Professor of Biology, Windham College, Putney, VT.** I was hired just after the college had a financial crisis. For two and a half years, until Windham's closing, I ran a biology program that had 40 majors and developed a field study trip program.

EDUCATION

- 1976 MA in Ecology, University of Colorado
- 1973 BS in Wildlife Biology, University of New Hampshire

BOOKS

- Wessels, Tom. 1997. *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*. The Countryman Press. Woodstock, VT
- Wessels, Tom. 2001. *The Granite Landscape: A Natural History of America's Mountain Domes from Acadia to Yosemite*. The Countryman Press. Woodstock, VT
- Gardner, Blake and Tom Wessels. 2003. *Untamed Vermont*. Thistle Hill Publications. North Pomfret, VT
- Wessels, Tom. 2006. *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*. University Press of New England. Lebanon, NH
- Wessels, Tom. 2010. *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*. The Countryman Press. Woodstock, VT

SELECTED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Wessels, Tom. 1993. Bonding with Nature: the Critical Years. *Whole Terrain*. Keene, NH
- Wessels, Tom. 1997. A Landscape-level Library for the New England Naturalist, *Stonecrop*. Denver, CO
- Wessels, Tom. 1999. Reading the Landscape. *Orion Afield*. Great Barrington, MA
- Tallmadge, John, Clare Walker Leslie, and Tom Wessels. 1999 *Into the Field*. Third volume of the Orion Society's Nature Literacy Series. Great Barrington, MA
- Wessels, Tom. 2000. Reading the Forested Landscape. *Natural New England*. South Portland, ME
- Wessels, Tom. 2001. Abandonment: On Beaver Ecology and Recovery. *Wild Earth*. Richmond, VT
- Wessels, Tom. 2002. Mast. *Whole Terrain*. Keene, NH
- Wessels, Tom. 2002. Fire and Granite. *Northern Woodlands*. Corinth, VT
- Wessels, Tom. 2002. The Venerable Black Gum. *Sanctuary*. Lincoln, MA
- Wessels, Tom. 2005. Ocotillo Awakening. *Whole Terrain*. Keene, NH
- Mansfield, Howard ed. 2006. Parables of Place. *Where the Mountain Stands Alone*. University Press of New England. Lebanon, NH
- Wessels, Tom. 2009. Forest Forensics. *The Ecologist*. London, England

Wessels, Tom. 2009. A Weaving of Walls. *Wild Apples*. Harvard, MA.

Wessels, Tom. 2010. Notes on a Lost Flute book review. *Orion*. Great Barrington, MA

Wessels, Tom. 2011. Resilient Communities: An Ecological Perspective. *Whole Thinking Journal*. Fayeston, VT

Harris, et al. ed. 2011. Among the Notches. *Beyond the Notches: Stories of Place in New Hampshire's North Country*. Bondcliff Books, Littleton, NH

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 3/91 *The Greening of Independent Schools: Integrated Environmental Curricula*, National Association of Independent Schools, New York, NY
- 11/92 *Reading the Landscape, Problem Solving Science for Middle and Secondary Schools*, The Rhode Island Teachers JASON PROJECT, Narranganset, RI
- 6/94 *Shaping an Education of Place*, The Orion Society's Stories of the American Land, Summer Colloquium, Goshen, VT
- 6/94 *Mt. Welch's Alpine Recovery Project*, The Northeast Alpine Managers Conference, Warren, NH
- 10/94 *Biodiversity, Ecosystem Fragmentation, Introduced Exotics: Field Studies For Secondary Students*, New England Association for Environmental Education, West Greenwich, RI
- 6/95 *Ecoindicators and Forest Lands Management*, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Newbury, NH
- 9/95 *Time Frames, Magnitudes, Perceptions: How to Conceptualize Global Environmental Change*, North American Association for Environmental Education, Portland, ME
- 5/98 *Cultural Transformation and the Experience of Life*, Commencement address, Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH
- 5/99 *The Nature of Change in Complex Systems*, Keynote address, The Adirondack Research Consortium, Saranac Lake, NY
- 7/99 *New England's Ever Changing Landscape*, The Amos Fortune Forum, Jaffrey, NH
- 8/99 *Orion Society's Sense of Place Teacher-training Institute*, Lone Pine, CA
- 11/99 *Nieman Speaker*, The Mountain School, Vershire, VT
- 2/00 *Diagnostics for Ecosystem Health*, keynote address, Ecological Landscaping Association annual meeting, Boxboro, MA
- 3/00 *Reading the Forested Landscape*, keynote address, The Convocation of Connecticut Land Trusts, Berlin, CT
- 6/00 *Nature, Culture, and Change*, Commencement address, The Conway School of Landscape Design, Conway, MA
- 7/00 Guest Speaker, The Unitarian Universalist Family Conference, Star Island, NH
- 7/01 *Forest Forensics*, keynote address, The Cullowee Native Plant Conference, Cullowee, NC

- 3/02 *Reading the Forested Landscape*, keynote address, The Lahr Symposium, The National Arboretum, Washington, DC
- 8/02 *Stories in the Land: Orion Society Institute*, Sheffield, MA
- 6/03 *Reading the Forested Landscape*, keynote address, The Millersville Native Plant Conference, Millersville, PA
- 2/05 *Reading the Forested Landscape*, keynote address, The Chicago Botanical Garden's annual symposium on Woody Plants
- 5/05 *The Mythology of Progress*, keynote address, Garden Club of America's Annual Meeting, Boylston, MA
- 8/05 *The Mythology of Progress*, David H. Smith Annual Lecture, Polly Hill Arboretum, Martha's Vineyard, MA
- 10/05 *Principles that Foster Integration*, keynote address, Annual Integrated Design Integrated Development Conference, The Highland Center, Crawford Notch, NH
- 6/06 *Foundational Principles of Sustainable Design. New Directions in the American Landscape*. Waldoboro, ME
- 4/07 *To Restory America*, Inaugural Address, Unity College, Unity, ME
- 4/07 *The Myth of Progress*, The Rachel Carson Annual Lecture, Saint Josephs College, Standish, ME
- 11/07 *To Restory America*, keynote address, Two Countries, One Forest Symposium, Montreal, Canada
- 5/08 *To Restory America*, Commencement address, Antioch University New England, Keene, NH
- 7/08 *The Myth of Progress*, keynote address, The Cullowee Native Plant Conference, Cullowee, NC
- 3/09 *Reading the Forested Landscape*, keynote address, The New Hampshire Science Teachers Association, Exeter, NH
- 6/09 *The Granite Landscape*, keynote address, The Mount Washington Observatory Annual Meeting, Brownfield, ME
- 7/09 *The Lessons of Self-organization*, plenary, Joint Annual Meeting of the Soil Ecology Society and The Society of Nematology, Burlington, VT
- 2/10 *The Scientific Underpinnings of Sustainability*. Keynote address, New England Grows Annual Conference. Boston, Ma.
- 6/10 *Place-based Education and Trans-disciplinary Studies*. Keynote address, Progressive Education Conference. Putney, VT
- 1/11 *The Scientific Underpinnings of Sustainability*. Keynote address, Vermont Grass Farmers Association Annual Meeting, Fairlee, VT
- 3/11 *From Consumption to Connection: Why Well-Being Is Grounded in Vibrant Connections to Nature, Community, and Self*. Keynote address, North American Montessori Teachers

Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA

7/11

The Scientific Foundation of Sustainability. The Amos Fortune Forum. Jaffrey, NH

12/11

The Scientific Foundation of Sustainability, keynote address, NOFA Annual Conference, Storrs, CT

1/12

The Self-organized Economy, keynote address, The Rhode Island Farm, Landscape, and Nursery Association's Annual Meeting, Cranston, RI