

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
42nd Annual Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner



FLOURISH

EMBRACING INDIGENOUS AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

2025 CO-CHAIRS

Janea Harris and Lois Morrison



42ND ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



2,000+

youth and families connected to art and nature through partnership programs



350+

artists and musicians creating with us throughout the year

90%
of At Ease participants report an improved sense of wellbeing



1,500
Nature Explorer Backpacks distributed throughout Lake County



10,000+

participants connected to nature and wellbeing through the arts



3,000+

people engaged with health equity data through our programs



900+
Veterans and military community members served through arts and nature programs

A Flourishing World

Join our movement for change, and sponsor the 42nd annual Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner!

SUPPORT BRUSHWOOD'S IMPACT

42nd Annual Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner

with Emcees Bill Kurtis & Donna LaPietra

FLOURISH

EMBRACING INDIGENOUS AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Saturday, October 11, 2025

5:30 - 9:00 PM

Chicago Botanic Garden

1000 LAKE COOK ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS



Robin Wall Kimmerer

2025 Environmental Leadership Award Recipient

Mother, Scientist, Decorated Professor, Author, and
Member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation

42ND ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDEE



Robin Wall Kimmerer

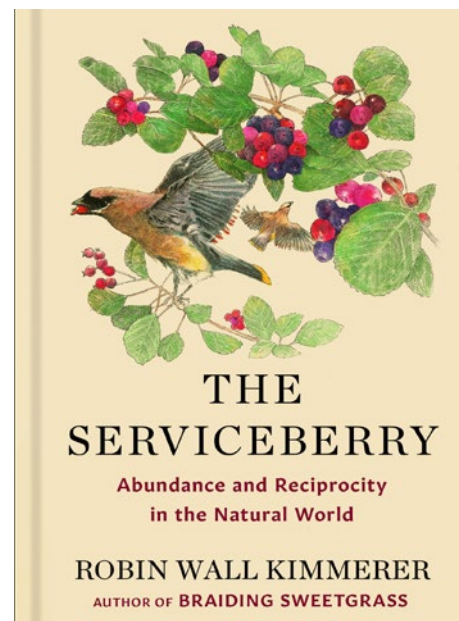
2025 Environmental Leadership Award Recipient

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* and *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, which has earned Kimmerer wide acclaim. Her first book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing, and her other work has appeared in *Orion*, *Whole Terrain*, and numerous scientific journals.

Robin tours widely and has been featured on NPR's *On Being with Krista Tippett* and in 2015 addressed the general assembly of the United Nations on the topic of "Healing Our Relationship with Nature." Kimmerer is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, whose mission is to create programs which draw on the wisdom of both indigenous and scientific knowledge for our shared goals of sustainability. In 2022 she was named a MacArthur Fellow.

"Gratitude and reciprocity are the currency of a gift economy, and they have the remarkable property of multiplying with every exchange, their energy concentrating as they pass from hand to hand, a truly renewable source."

As a writer and a scientist, her interests in restoration include not only restoration of ecological communities, but restoration of our relationships to land. She holds a BS in Botany from SUNY ESF, an MS and PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin and is the author of numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte ecology, traditional knowledge and restoration ecology. She lives on an old farm in upstate New York, tending gardens both cultivated and wild.



SPONSOR BENEFITS

Support Brushwood's work to improve health equity through community, nature, and the arts!



SPECIAL SPONSOR BENEFITS

Directly support programs in our community for youth, families, seniors, and Veterans.

- Name recognition opportunities throughout the Smith Series, with programming running from July to October 2025, including Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 exhibitions.
- Celebrate at the in-person Awards Dinner honoring author, scientist, and professor Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- Join a community of supporters committed to a thriving and equitable world for people and nature.

A VIP Event for Sponsors: Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join Robin Wall Kimmerer and your fellow sponsors for an intimate gathering at Brushwood Center highlighting this year's Smith Nature Symposium exhibition by Osage artist Lydia Cheshewalla.

SMITH OVER THE YEARS



On May 6, 1984, more than 350 people gathered for the first Smith Nature Symposium featuring Roger Tory Peterson. Organized under the leadership of Barbi Donnelley, Symposium Co-Chair, this jam-packed convening of nature-lovers became the first of four decades of annual Symposia memorializing the significant civic legacy of Hermon Dunlap and Ellen Thorne Smith, who donated their land and cabin to help form Ryerson Woods. Hermon, or Dutch, was chair and CEO of Marsh & McLennan, and led The Chicago Community Trust, Newberry Library, and many other Chicago Institutions. Ellen was a philanthropic leader and champion of nature with organizations such as The Field Museum and Chicago Zoological Society. She authored the book *Chicagoland Birds: Where and When to Find Them*.

Today, the Smith Nature Symposium continues to inspire action for our common ground through collaboration, community, and the enormous impact of honorees spanning the decades.

PHOTO: ELLEN AND DUTCH SMITH

PAST HONOREES

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1984 – Roger Tory Peterson | 1998 – Dr. William Beecher | 2013 – Dr. Douglas F. Stotz |
| 1985 – Dr. George Archibald | 1999 – Andrea S. Moore | 2014 – Joel Greenberg |
| 1986 – Walter T. Fisher | 2000 – Adele Simmons | 2015 – Victoria and George A. Ranney, Jr. |
| 1987 – Nancy Ryerson Ranney | 2001 – John McCarter | 2016 – Judith Stockdale |
| 1988 – Dr. John Fitzpatrick | 2002 – George A. Ranney, Sr. | 2017 – Deborah Lahey |
| 1989 – Maxine Hunter | 2003 – Dr. George Rabb | 2018 – Robert Redford
& Sibylle Szaggars Redford |
| 1990 – E. Leland Webber | 2004 – John Rogner | 2019 – Amory Lovins and Judy Hill Lovins |
| 1991 – Barbara C. Donnelley | 2005 – Dr. Debra K. Moskovits | 2020 – Bill McKibben and Sue Halpern |
| 1992 – Susan Spears | 2006 – Chicago Wilderness | 2021 – Winona LaDuke |
| 1993 – Abbott Laboratories | 2007 – Gerald W. Adelman | 2022 – Cristina Mittermeier & Paul Nicklen |
| 1994 – Roy O. Gromme | 2008 – Cameron Davis | 2023 – Baratunde Thurston |
| 1995 – Bill Kurtis | 2009 – Barbara Whitney Carr | 2024 – Dr. Mona Hanna |
| 1996 – Fran Hartly | 2010 – Stephen Bartram | 2025 – Robin Wall Kimmerer |
| 1997 – Dr. Melvin Traylor | 2011 – William D. Sturm | |
| | 2012 – Steven Apfelbaum | |

BECOME A SPONSOR

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Premier - \$25,000

- Two VIP Tables (24 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 10 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Full page ad in digital and print event program booklet
- Verbal recognition at Awards Dinner
- Name recognition on all event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website; social media; and in Brushwood newsletter, *Thrive*, as 2025 Sponsor
- Invitation for up to 20 guests to exhibition walkthrough event for Fall 2025 Smith Exhibition (date to be determined)
- Invitations to all public programs for one year
- Complimentary private event for up to 60 guests at Brushwood Center to be held by May 2026 (catering not included)

Changemaker - \$15,000

- One VIP Table (12 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 10 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Full page ad in digital and print event program booklet
- Verbal recognition at event
- Name recognition on all event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website; social media; and in Brushwood newsletter, *Thrive*, as 2025 Sponsor
- Invitation for up to 10 guests to exhibition walkthrough event for Fall 2025 Smith Exhibition (date to be determined)
- Invitations to all public programs for one year
- Complimentary private event for up to 25 guests at Brushwood Center to be held by May 2026 (catering not included)

Collaborator - \$10,000

- One VIP Table (12 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 6 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Half page ad in digital and print event program booklet
- Name recognition on all event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website; social media; and in Brushwood newsletter, *Thrive*, as 2025 Sponsor
- Invitation for up to 8 guests to exhibition walkthrough event for Fall 2025 Smith Exhibition (date to be determined)
- Invitations to all public programs for one year

Ambassador - \$5,000

- One Table (10 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 4 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Quarter page ad in digital and print event program booklet
- Name recognition on all event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website and social media
- Invitation for 4 guests to exhibition walkthrough event for Fall 2025 Smith Exhibition (date to be determined)
- Invitations to all public programs for one year

Friend - \$3,000

- One Table (8 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 2 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Name recognition on all event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website and social media
- Invitations to all public programs for one year

Star - \$1,500 **New This Year!**

- 4 seats at Awards Dinner on October 11
- 2 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Robin Wall Kimmerer on October 12
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website and social media
- Invitations to all public programs for one year

AD AND LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

Please send ads as black and white pdf, and logos as full color vector art by Monday, September 15 to Jackie Borchew, jborchew@brushwoodcenter.org
Ad specifications: 300 DPI, black and white. Full page is 4.5" W x 7.5" H. Half page is 4.5" W x 3.75" H

YOUR SPONSORSHIP IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE LESS THE VALUE OF EACH AWARDS DINNER TICKET.
BRUSHWOOD CENTER IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.

42ND ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

42ND ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

To be acknowledged in the printed invitation, please respond by Friday, August 1.

Complete your sponsorship form online [HERE](#).

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/smithnaturesymposium/event/smithsponsorship2025/>

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PREMIER \$25,000

COLLABORATOR \$10,000

FRIEND \$3,000

CHANGEMAKER \$15,000

AMBASSADOR \$5,000

STAR \$1,500

PAYMENT METHOD

Name:

Check (payable to Brushwood Center)

Please send me an invoice for submission of payment.

Credit Card

Number:

Expiration:

CVV:

Billing Address:

Authorizing Signature:

Date:

Yes, I plan to attend the Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 11.

I cannot attend and would like to make my sponsorship gift a donation.

Email:

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Brushwood Center, 21850 N. Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015

To return this form electronically or for additional questions, please contact:

Mirja Spooner Haffner, Director of Development, at m Spoonerhaffner@brushwoodcenter.org

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BRUSHWOOD CENTER IS A TAX EXEMPT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.

42ND ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

IN THE GALLERY



42nd Smith Nature Symposium Exhibitions

SUMMER EXHIBITION

Rooted in the Shadow of Coal: Botanical Treasures of the Waukegan Dunes

Sunday, July 13 to Sunday, August 31

Located in the northeastern corner of Illinois, the Waukegan Dunes is an area of great environmental and historical significance that is home to hundreds of species of native plants worth celebrating. The fact that this scrap of nature has survived and thrived thanks to community engagement is significant not just for its biodiversity, but also because of its location next to a recently closed coal plant, where remaining coal ash ponds continue to leach toxic pollutants. What has proximity to pollution done to the site? What are the plants that survive, and why are they important? In this exhibition, Brushwood Center will celebrate the plants of the dunes that remain, and also address the Dune's environmental importance and the dangers that it and the community that live around it face.

Rooted in the Shadow of Coal will be presented at Brushwood Center in partnership with The Richard H. Driehaus Museum and their summer 2025 exhibition, *A New Perspective on Nature*, by Rory McEwen.

FALL EXHIBITION

Lydia Cheshewalla

Sunday, September 7 to Sunday, October 23

Lydia Cheshewalla (she/we) is an Osage ephemeral artist from Oklahoma, living and working in motion throughout the Great Plains ecoregion. Through the creation of site-specific land art and ephemeral installations grounded in Indigenous land stewardship practices and kinship pedagogies, Lydia engages in multivocal conversations about place and relationship. Her work has been shown at Generator Space, the Union for Contemporary Art (Omaha, NE), Comfort Station, Harold Washington Library, and the Center for Native Futures (Chicago, IL) among others. She is currently filling the bucket with water to see if it leaks and is often found standing in fields.

Center for Humans and Nature Residency, August 2025

The Center for Humans & Nature is the 2025 Smith Nature Symposium Residency Partner. Lydia Cheshewalla will be artist in residence for August 2025 residency at the Humans & Nature Farm in Libertyville, Illinois. Humans & Nature Farm is where ideas take root. The farm is a place to activate examples of reciprocal relationships among humans and nature. Lydia will create new place-based ephemeral works during the residency.

PHOTO: *A Collaboration Between Time, Place, and Kin*
Lydia Cheshewalla
2020 Tallgrass Artist Residency in Matfield Green, KS

SUPPORT BRUSHWOOD

OUR VISION

We work toward a future of resilient and connected communities, both human and ecological, where all lead healthy and thriving lives.

OUR MISSION

Brushwood Center works collaboratively with community partners, artists, health care providers, and scientists to improve health equity and access to nature in Lake County, Illinois, and the Chicago region. We engage people with the outdoors through the arts, environmental education, and community action. Brushwood Center's programs focus on youth, families, Military Veterans, and those facing racial and economic injustices.

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BRUSHWOOD