

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



43RD ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM AWARDS DINNER

HONORARY CHAIR
AMY MORRISON HEINRICH

CHAIR
ELIZABETH PRUETT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

5:30 - 9:00 PM

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
1000 LAKE COOK ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS

FROM THE GROUND UP

**A CALL TO
REIMAGINE
OUR PLACE IN
NATURE**



2026 ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

KARENNA GORE

AUTHOR, CLIMATE ACTIVIST, AND
FOUNDER OF THE CENTER FOR EARTH ETHICS

BRUSHWOOD IMPACT



2,500+

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



20,000+

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

REIMAGINE TOGETHER!

Join our movement for change, and
sponsor the Smith Nature Symposium
Awards Dinner

43RD ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP



2026 ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP AWARD
RECIPIENT

**KARENNA
GORE**

AUTHOR, CLIMATE ACTIVIST,
AND FOUNDER OF THE CENTER
FOR EARTH ETHICS

Kareenna Gore is the founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics and teaching professor of practice of earth ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Kareenna formed CEE in 2015 to address the moral and spiritual dimensions of the climate crisis. Working at the intersection of faith, ethics, and ecology, she guides the Center's public programs, educational initiatives, and movement-building. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Columbia Climate School.

Her previous experience includes serving as director of Union Forum at Union Theological Seminary, a platform for theological scholarship to engage with civic discourse and social change. She also worked at the legal center of Sanctuary for Families, which serves victims of domestic violence and trafficking, was director of community affairs for the Association to Benefit Children, which provides early childhood education and other services for New York City families living in poverty, and was an associate with the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett.

Kareenna is the author of *"Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America"* (2006), and has written for numerous publications, including Slate, El Pais (Spain) and the New York Times. She serves on the boards of the Association to Benefit Children and Riverkeeper, an organization that protects and restores the Hudson River and safeguards drinking water. She is also an expert in the United Nations' Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, an online platform of practitioners, academics, and researchers.

"It is not the earth that
needs fixing, it is us."

- Kareenna Gore

SPONSORSHIP 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 acknowledgement opportunities via Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner outreach, marketing, and storytelling.
- Celebrate at the in-person Awards Dinner honoring author, climate activist, and founder of the Center for Earth Ethics, Kareenna Gore.
- Join a community of supporters committed to a thriving and equitable world for people and nature.



A VIP EVENT FOR SPONSORS:

BRUSHWOOD BRUNCH WITH KAREENNA GORE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
THE GLEN ROWAN HOUSE
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join Kareenna Gore and your fellow sponsors for an intimate gathering celebrating this year's Smith Nature Symposium.

43RD ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Premier - \$25,000

- Two VIP Tables (24 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 10
- 10 guests to Brunch with Karena Gore on October 11
- 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 magazine, *Thrive*, as a 2026 Sponsor
- Invitations to Brushwood Center public programs in 2027
- Complimentary private event for up to 60 guests at Brushwood Center to be held on a mutually agreed upon date between January-December 2027 (catering not included)

Changemaker - \$15,000

- One VIP Table (12 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 10
- 10 guests to Brunch with Karena Gore on October 11
- 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 magazine, *Thrive*, as 2026 Sponsor
- Invitations to Brushwood Center public programs in 2027
- Complimentary private event for up to 25 guests at Brushwood Center to be held on a mutually agreed upon date between January-December 2027 (catering not included)

Collaborator - \$10,000

- One VIP Table (12 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 10
- 6 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Karena Gore on October 11
- 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 magazine, *Thrive*, as 2026 Sponsor
- Invitations to Brushwood Center public programs in 2027

Ambassador - \$5,000

- One Table (10 seats) at Awards Dinner on October 10
- 4 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Karena Gore on October 11
- 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
- Invitations to Brushwood Center public programs in 2027

Star - \$1,500

- 4 seats at Awards Dinner on October 10
- 2 guests to Brushwood Brunch with Karena Gore on October 11
- Acknowledgement on Brushwood website and social media
- Invitations to Brushwood Center public programs in 2027

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

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

43RD ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

To be acknowledged in the printed invitation, please respond by Friday, July 31st.

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

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/smithnaturesymposium/event/smithsponsorship2026>

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIER \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> COLLABORATOR \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> STAR \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGEMAKER \$15,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADOR \$5,000 | |

PAYMENT METHOD

Name:

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check (payable to Brushwood Center) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me an invoice for submission of payment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card |

Number:

Expiration:

CVV:

Billing Address:

Authorizing Signature:

Date:

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I plan to attend the Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 10. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 [mspoonerhaffner@brushwoodcenter.org](mailto:m Spoonerhaffner@brushwoodcenter.org)

AD AND LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

Please send ads as black and white pdf by Monday, September 15
to Jackie Borchew, jborchew@brushwoodcenter.org

Ad specifications: 300 DPI, black and white. Full page: 4.5" W x 7.5" H. Half page: 4.5" W x 3.75" H

Quarter page: 2.125" W x 3.625" H

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

43RD ANNUAL SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM

SMITH NATURE SYMPOSIUM



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 Harty | 2010 – Stephen Bartram | 2025 – Robin Wall Kimmerer |
| 1997 – Dr. Melvin Traylor | 2011 – William D. Sturm | |
| | 2012 – Steven Apfelbaum | |

BRUSHWOOD CENTER

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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