

Select Virtual Annual Gathering Events (Zoom)

The 82nd Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society
Thoreau & the Politics of Extinction
July 12-16, 2023
with Special Virtual Events
on June 14 and September 20, 2023

The Thoreau Society does not exclude anyone because of the inability to pay. Please contact mike.frederick@thoreausociety.org to request reduced rates.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR

REGISTRATION

AG Registration includes all events (virtual and in-person).

Virtual Registration (Zoom) includes the pre-conference and post-conference webinars (6/14 & 9/20), the Keynote Address (7/13), and three events on Saturday (7/15) with the Center for Biological Diversity, "Orion Magazine," and ASLE.

Wednesday, June 14, 7-8:15 pm EDT

Zoom Webinar

On Vanishing Then and Now: A Conversation on Thoreau & the Politics of Extinction

Rochelle L. Johnson, Moderator

- Beasts of Burden and the Thoreauvian Imagination, *Andrey Raden*
- An Ancient Race of Birds: Thoreau and the Passenger Pigeon, *Geoff Wisner*
- Extermination is not Extinction, *Robert Thorson*



See [Presenter Bios](#).

Join us as three Thoreau Society members offer their explorations of this year's Annual Gathering theme: Thoreau & the Politics of Extinction.

DANA S. BRIGHAM MEMORIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Thursday, 4:45-6:00 pm

Masonic Hall

Rochelle L. Johnson, Welcome

Bergur Thorgeirsson, Introduction

Obedience and the Sixth Mass Extinction

Andri Snær Magnason

Description: What do we call our times, and what will they be called in the future? We are currently in the midst of a total disruption of all elements of water on our planet, where nature has left geological speed and has started changing on a human scale. A single human being will witness unprecedented melting of glaciers, rising sea levels, thawing permafrost, the disruption of seasonal water and patterns of rain and snow. The pH level of world oceans is reaching a level not seen for 50 million years. As all of life is aligned with water, this means a total disruption of all life on the planet. We are in one of the greatest paradigm shifts of humanity, where we are finding out what happens when things go out of balance. In a paradigm shift, language changes, norms are questioned, laws and governments challenged. We are living in a system that generations born today might consider immoral when they live amid the consequences of our inactions. How do we read Thoreau in light of our civil obedience? How do we willingly follow our laws, continuing business as usual, knowing the harm we are inflicting upon future generations?

Brief bios of the Keynote Speaker:

Andri Snær Magnason is an Icelandic writer and documentary film director. He writes novels, children's books, essays, poetry, and nonfiction books. His book On Time and Water was an Icelandic national bestseller, translated into many languages. He has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands. His book Dreamland: A Self Help Manual for a Frightened Nation takes on these issues, and his text for the memorial of Ok glacier became widely read around the world. He ran for President of Iceland in 2016 with environmental issues on his agenda. He spent some of his early years in New England and now lives in Reykavik.

[\(https://www.andrimagnason.com/wp-en/\)](https://www.andrimagnason.com/wp-en/)

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSIONS

Livestream provided by the Thoreau Society

Saturday, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

First Parish

“Toward an Entire Earth:” The Politics of Extinction in Thoreau’s Time and Ours

Sponsored by the Center for Biological Diversity (CFBD)

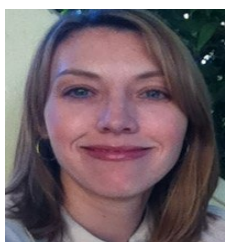
Rochelle L. Johnson, Welcome and Introductions

Featuring:

Tierra Curry, Saving Life on Earth Campaign Director and Senior Scientist, CFBD

Peter Galvin, Founder and Director of Programs, CFBD

Lydia Millet, Chief Editor, CFBD



See [Presenter Bios](#).

From the Center for Biological Diversity (CFBD) website:

At the Center for Biological Diversity, we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature — to the existence in our world of a vast diversity of wild animals and plants. Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive. We want those who come after us to inherit a world where the wild is still alive.

(<https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/about/>)

Saturday, 12:00-2:00 pm

Lunch on your own

Saturday, 2:00-3:15 pm

First Parish

The Future of Nature Writing

Sponsored by The Orion Society

Amy Brady, Executive Director of the Orion Society, Welcome and Introductions

Featuring:

J. Drew Lanham, Writer, Birder, Hunter, Wildlife Biologist, MacArthur Fellow
Sumanth Prabbaker, Editor in Chief, *Orion Magazine*, and Founder of Madras Press

What is the purpose of writing about nature in the Anthropocene, and whose are the voices that will carry us toward climate solutions? Join a conversation between J. Drew Lanham, award-winning author and contributing editor to *Orion Magazine*, and *Orion's* editor in chief, Sumanth Prabhaker, about the past, present, and future of environmental storytelling.



See [Presenter Bios](#).

Orion is a print, quarterly, nonprofit magazine that, for more than forty years, has sought to invite readers into a community of caring for the planet. Through writing and art that explore the connection between nature and culture, Orion inspires new thinking about how humanity might live on Earth justly, sustainably, and joyously.

(<https://orionmagazine.org/about/mission-and-history/>)

Saturday, 3:15-3:30 pm
Break

First Parish

Saturday, 3:30-5:00 pm
Thoreau and Human Extinction

First Parish

Sponsored by The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

Rochelle L. Johnson, Past President of ASLE, Moderator

- Paleofiction, Climate Change, and Human Extinction, *Timothy Sweet*
- Succession: *Wild Fruits*, *The Dispersion of Seeds*, and Thoreau's Indian Afterlife, *John Kucich*
- Thoreau's Domestic Ecology: Thinking Beyond Human Reproduction in *Walden*, *Rachael DeWitt*
- Respondent: *Cristie Ellis*, Vice President of ASLE



See [Presenter Bios](#).

From the ASLE website:

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) seeks to inspire and promote intellectual work in the environmental humanities and arts. Our vision is an inclusive community whose members are committed to environmental research, education, literature, art and service, environmental justice, and ecological sustainability.

ASLE was founded in 1992 by a group of scholars and writers interested in exploring the meanings of the natural environment and the complexities of human relationships with each other, and with the more-than-human world, and to deepening the impact of these explorations both within and beyond the classroom.

(<https://www.asle.org/discover-asle/vision-history/>)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

POST-CONFERENCE WEBINAR

REGISTRATION

AG Registration includes all events (virtual and in-person).

Virtual Registration (Zoom) includes the pre-conference and post-conference webinars (6/14 & 9/20), the Keynote Address (7/13), and three events on Saturday (7/15) with the Center for Biological Diversity, "Orion Magazine," and ASLE.

September 20, 7-8 pm EST

Zoom Webinar

Re-visiting Thoreau and the Politics of Extinction

Rochelle L. Johnson, Moderator

- *Linck Johnson*, Charles A. Dana Professor of English at Colgate University, contributor to the Princeton University Press edition of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, and author of *Thoreau's Complex Weave: The Writing of A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*
- *Robert Sattelmeyer*, Emeritus Regents' Professor at Georgia State University, contributor to the Princeton University Press edition of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, and author of *Thoreau's Reading: A Study in Intellectual History*



See [Presenter Bios](#).

Join these 2023 two recent recipients of the Thoreau Society Medal as they offer their own thoughts on this year's Annual Gathering theme: Thoreau & the Politics of Extinction.

This marks the conclusion of the conference program.