



State of the Science:
Ecological Restoration and the Northeast Seed Network

June 9th, 2023 @1pm (ET)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/41rYidF>



JAMES ARONSON

Presentation Title: Biological invaders and holistic ecological restoration: What's what and the way forward

Presentation Summary: The theory and practice of restoration ecology and related restorative actions are meeting places – like invasion science, and biological invasions – where ecology, social sciences, resource, and environmental management, public perception, and ethics all meet. Removing or reducing an invader often does not suffice to reestablish native communities and ecosystems and so active restoration can be crucial. But is that what people want? It depends. An emerging holistic ecological restoration approach emphasizes the inextricable linkages among ecological, cultural, sustainability, and conservation objectives, across the full range of restorative actions in the SER-promoted “restorative continuum”. This talk will provide an overview of where holistic ecological restoration intersects with global efforts to remove and reduce biological invaders with a special focus on the Northeast U.S. and adjacent bioregions south and north, in conjunction with a talk by Eve Allen. The global or biospheric scale is relevant too, of course, but to come to grips with the problems and create real-life examples of progress, and thereby inspire the hopes and energy of human communities, the bioregional scale may be particularly strategic.

Speaker Biography: James Aronson serves as an emeritus senior scientist at Missouri Botanical Garden's Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development and is co-trustee of the Ecological Health Network launched in 2019. From 1979-1986, he worked at the Applied Research Institute in Beer Sheva, Israel, and from 1992 – 2016, in the restoration ecology group at the Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CNRS), in Montpellier, France. He has participated in ecological restoration and rehabilitation projects in many parts of the world, written or co-authored many widely-used papers and books including Ecological Restoration: Principles, Values and Structure of an Emerging Profession; Restoration Ecology: The New Frontier; Restoring Natural Capital – Science, Business, Practice; and Biology and Wildlife of the Mediterranean Region. He served for many years as a Board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration, and as editor-in-chief of SER's book series on the Science and Practice of Ecological Restoration published with Island Press. His current research and activist energies are concentrated in the [Ecological Health Network](#) and the growing network of networks of which it is part.



EVE ALLEN

Presentation Title: Launching the [Northeast Seed Network](#): Leveraging social connections to enhance bioregional regeneration

Presentation Summary: Commercial shortages of quality native seeds and containerized plant material of known provenance are compromising efforts to create biodiverse, self-sustaining plant communities that would bolster ecosystem services, support pollinators and other wildlife, and ensure resilience to withstand the impacts of climate change. Learn about an integrative network approach that is generating solutions.

Speaker Biography: Eve Allen is a program director at the [Ecological Health Network](#), where she is helping to build and reinforce regional connections among government agencies, tribal groups, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, farmers, and others to strengthen seed and plant material supply chains in the northeastern United States. She is a recipient of a Fulbright grant, the Oak Spring Garden Foundation's inaugural 2021 Plant Conservation Biology Fellowship, and has a Master in City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.