



The 7th Annual Tree Climbers Rendezvous September 25-29, 2008 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tree Climbers International®, Inc. (TCI) invites you to join us for the following talks at the 7th Annual [Tree Climbers Rendezvous](#). Each of these speakers is highly respected and known throughout the world for their enormous talents and contributions. We are thrilled to be able to host them!

All sessions will be held in the Rollins Building at the [Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center](#) in Norcross. Children are welcome. \$5 per person each night.

An Evening with Robert Fulghum

[Robert Fulghum](#) is a storyteller extraordinaire. Among his other vast accomplishments, he also narrated “Tickle the Sky,” the very first film about recreational tree climbing. Fulghum is sure to rock the house with laughter recounting tales of people, places and things.

[Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.]

Life in the Treetops – Exploration of the World’s Forests ([Margaret Lowman, PhD](#))

What have we learned from the treetops? And why are forest canopies important to every citizen in the world? Globally, forests are one of the most mysterious, complex and exciting areas of exploration and research.

Like SCUBA gear was to coral reef research in the 1950s, single rope techniques facilitated the first studies of the treetops in the 1970s. Since then, canopy biologists have creatively expanded their tool kit to include walkways, hot air balloons, cherry pickers, scaffolds, towers, and even construction cranes. With these innovative methods to access tall trees, scientists have discovered that the canopy is home to almost half of the world’s biodiversity, and that the treetops is an important global machine affecting our climate, health, and atmosphere. In short, the canopy “rocks”!

As a veteran with thirty years’ investigation of forest canopies, I will share some of my favorite forests, methods, and adventures and also discuss future challenges for forest conservation. My family has lived and worked in the trees, and hopefully our stories will inspire conservation and education outreach for scientists and citizens alike. The talk will be followed by a book-signing of my new book, [It’s a Jungle Up There](#) [and Dr. Lowman’s other books/psj], co-authored with my children, that aims to inspire a family conservation ethic for any readers who love trees.

[Saturday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., followed by book-signing and TCI 25th anniversary celebration]

Science and Passion, Laughter and Tears: an Adventure and Exploration of the Psychological, Physiological and Societal Benefits of Tree Climbing Programs in Japan ([John Gathright, PhD](#))

Tree Climbing Japan was founded in April of 2000. Since then, we have been able to help over 150,000 people climb trees, and have witnessed in some truly inspiring and remarkable physical and emotional rehabilitation.

Tree Climbing Japan was initially founded to help physically challenged persons climb huge trees. It has since grown to include “Tree Assisted Therapy” programs and recreational tree climbing. Studying the results of these programs scientifically, we have learned that tree climbing participants benefit from enhanced physical and emotional well-being. In our tree-climbing program with specific therapeutic, educational, and motivational aims, participants experienced reductions in tension, anxiety, depression, and anger, as well as increased vitality. They also gained environmentally conscious attitudes.

As a community we have great power for good. I truly believe that our tree climbing activities can change lives and help the earth. I am proud to be part of the tree climbing community and look forward to sharing heart rendering stories, photos, scientific data, and program designs, as we explore the new and exciting field of Tree Assisted and Tree Climbing Therapy.

[Sunday, Sept. 28, 4 p.m.]