



Yuba College in partnership with The Yuba Water Agency Present:

Watershed Healing

Directed by: James Thebaut

October 11, 2023
5 p.m.

Yuba College Theatre
2088 North Beale Road
Marysville CA 95901



Program

Welcome

5:00 pm-5:10 pm



Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Michael Bagley



Land Acknowledgement

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Dr. Jeremy Brown

Presentation of Film

5:10 pm-6:05 pm

Watershed Down

Expert Panel Discussion

6:05 pm-6:30 pm

Special Thanks

Dr. Michael Bagley would like to thank and acknowledge all the effort and support from Dr. Tawny Dotson, Dr. Jeremy Brown, Dean Anabel Toche, JP Stottmann, Tony McDaniel, Juana Enriquez, Carlos Gamez and Chrystal Gillming. Thanks also to the Yuba Water Agency for their unwavering support for science education in the community especially DeDe Cordell and Willie Whittlesey.

Panelist



Amanda Godon

Business Management, Transportation and Forests

Amanda Godon is one of the owners of Volcano Creek Enterprises Inc, Volcano Creek Logging Inc and Volcano Creek Trucking Inc. These are all different entities that help to manage our forests, from the harvesting of trees, hauling logs to maintaining our forests to inhibit forest fires to the suppression of the fires. They are stewards of the land and passionate about servicing and maintaining the forests. Her background and education is in business management starting at Columbia Jr College in Sonora Ca and continuing onto Sacramento State. They have been in business for 23 years and plan to continue with a succession plan involving their children and their employees.

My friend Kalia Schuster is an Senior Environmental Scientist at the Department of Water Resources and is available to serve as a panelist for our screening of the California Watershed: Healing documentary.

Panelist



Madison Thomson

Forestry and Archeology

Madison Thomson is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF#2947) with over 15 years of experience managing timberlands throughout Northern California. Madison is responsible for managing the CHY Company's ~13,000 acres of timberland spread throughout Northern California and also provides consulting forestry services to select clients in the region through an affiliated forestry consulting business called Applied Forest Management. Madison has extensive experience designing and managing implementation of fuels reduction and forest health treatments with an emphasis on projects in the central Sierra Nevada region. Madison is acting as the project coordinator for the Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project and New Bullards Bar 2023 Forest Health Project, multi-landowner collaborative forest health and fuels reduction projects spanning approximately 8,000 acres in the Yuba County foothills. Other experience includes timber inventories/appraisals, forest carbon projects, biological surveys including spotted owl, foothill yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog, floristic botanical surveys, archaeological surveys, timber sale administration, reforestation, and vegetation management (herbicide applications). In addition to his RPF license, Madison also possesses a Qualified Applicator's License for forestry herbicide applications and is a Cal Fire certified archaeological surveyor. Madison has a BS in Forestry from UC Berkeley.

Panelist



Dr. Kelly Thomasson

Ecology & Biology Background

Dr. Kelly Thomasson received a master's degree in conservation ecology from California State University at Sacramento and her doctorate in eco-evolutionary dynamics from University of California at Santa Barbara.

She has 8 years of experience teaching Biology, Statistics and Data Science at the University level. She has collaborated on several local and national conservation projects including assessment of water purification systems, point-source pollution mitigation on the California coast, Abalone fisheries management, and the effect of ecotourism on biodiversity. She grew up in the Sierra Foothills of Northern California and spent much of her childhood on the American and Sacramento Rivers. She currently teaches Physiology, General Biology and Ecology for the Yuba Community Colleges and is happy to have returned home to Sacramento Valley.

Panelist



Zach Knight

Business & Finance Background

Zach Knight is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Blue Forest Conservation. With a background in financial engineering, Zach became passionate about expanding the opportunity set for private and institutional investors seeking market rate returns in the climate finance space. Zach co-founded Blue Forest Conservation to do just that – develop sustainable solutions to pressing environmental challenges with an initial focus on watershed health.

Blue Forest Conservation financing, the Forest Resilience Bond, taps institutional capital to finance proactive forest restoration, returning forest land to its natural ecological state, in an effort to alleviate two of the most pressing environmental challenges in California and the Western United States – severe wildfire and water security. Before working as a high-yield bond trader, Zach began his career at Merrill Lynch working in structured finance, derivative structuring and correlation trading. Zach is a seasoned financial engineer who left the Wall Street trading floors behind to pursue his passion for environmental investing. At Berkeley-Haas, Zach focused on sustainable investing and impact evaluation.

Panelist



Kalia Schuster

Senior Environmental Scientist
DWR | Division of Flood Management

Kalia Schuster is currently a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Department of Water Resources. She works in the environmental support section of the Flood Projects Branch of the Division of Flood Management, primarily assessing CEQA compliance for levee and dam safety projects. She previously worked for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, protecting habitat in the California Delta. Her background is in applied marine and watershed science.

Panelist



JAMES THEBAUT

President/Founder, Executive Producer, Director

James (Jim) Thebaut is a Regional Environmental Planner / Journalist who has focused his expertise by creating a spectrum of educational documentaries and occasional 20 minutes or less videos.

The overall focus of his documentary productions created by his companies has occurred during the latter 20th and into the 21st Century..

In 2000 Thebaut launched the Chronicles Group, Inc a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation and has relied on grants and tax deductible contributions to create its educational productions and videos.

The Chronicles Group's overall primary focus is the fragile global ecological system in conjunction with international security. Thebaut has created non-commercial productions (videos) for various institutions such as the World Bank, local television stations, Water utilities, and Educational Institutions.

James is a frequent speaker at conferences but also before the United Nations and the US Congress where his educational speeches continue to shape holistic global sustainability policy like "Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act." He continues his drive to inform the world and initiate positive movement.

Resources

Yuba Water Agency's trailblazing Watershed Resilience Program is reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Yuba River watershed, protecting residents, communities, critical infrastructure and water supply. Yuba College is honored to partner with the Yuba Water Agency to develop curriculum and workforce training to help meet the workforce demand that will be needed to create and maintain a healthy watershed.

For more information, please email Dr. Michael Bagley at mbagley@yccd.edu

Land Acknowledgment

Yuba College is located within the unceded territory of the Nisenan Peoples, and the original Tribal families have yet to recover from the near genocide of their people.

We acknowledge the Nisenan people are still here among us today, though they are nearly invisible, and their story continues to be excluded from history. We understand that the Nisenan land is not federally recognized, and Yuba College seeks to amplify the voice of the Nisenan as they pursue this recognition.

As residents and visitors in Nisenan land, we stand beside the Nisenan people and their right to sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination through the stabilization of their people, homelands, and culture. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism and the lasting impact of the California gold rush.

We therefore commit to move beyond words into programs and actions that fully embody a dedication to Indigenous rights and cultural equity. We have an obligation to care for and respect the land we occupy, and a responsibility to support the native peoples in our community and those engaging with our institution as students, staff, faculty, and visitors. It is our hope that this acknowledgement will be the first step of many toward intentionally fulfilling our obligations to these communities and treaties.

For more information and ways to support visit [Nisenan.org](https://www.nisenan.org)