

## UWCNY APRIL 2026 SPEAKER, PATRICIA SEATON HOMONYLO

### ***PHOTOGRAPHY IN SERVICE OF NATURE***

Patricia's vocation and avocation have in common the importance of "continuity." She is script supervisor, continuity for filmed commercials – "I make sure that the water level in a glass is the same as three weeks ago" – and an award-winning conservation photojournalist advocating for the protection of nature, wildlife, and the environment through her photographs.

"Most people take pictures of snowy white owls because of their beauty; I do it to make a statement. Never underestimate the power of a single image to tell a story."

She ventured into photography "10 to 12 years ago," First, she took photos of RUSH on their concert tours. Then, she received an invitation from California evolutionary anthropologist Dr. Stephanie Fox, who focuses on wild primate monkeys, to accompany her to Ghana, Africa and take pictures of the country's endangered black and white colobus monkeys. She observed the clash for survival between humans and animals. "Poor natives' livelihood there is from selling bananas to tourists, but this deprives the monkeys. Forests, the monkeys' habitat, are being depleted of wood for charcoal." The experience convinced her she wanted "to use my camera as a tool of conservation advocacy."

She works closely with Hope for Wildlife, a charitable wildlife rehabilitation and education organization in Seaforth, Nova Scotia.

She showed us some of her photos. "Francis the Fox" showed the hands mostly of five people caring for an ailing fox. "I wanted to show all the people trying to save it. It gave me chills and hope." Another picture showed that the cause of death of a raccoon was a bottle cap ring that had lodged around a leg, preventing circulation in it. People should realize this can happen."

She travels widely, on a volunteer basis, with conservation organizations and stays up to a month to get to know the people and creatures and vice versa. She went to Madagascar, the only place in the world with lemurs, a tree-dwelling primate with fox-like faces and long tails. "They're in danger of extinction because logging, charcoal sourcing, and mining have severely reduced the forests, their habitat." Following her talk member Ava Henye provided this link to reforestation in Madagascar to help lemurs. <https://news.mongabay.com/2026/04/a-reforestation-corridor-in-madagascar-offers-a-future-for-lemurs-and-locals/>

Patricia concluded by showing the picture that won her the 2024 Bird Photographer of the Year award out of 23,000 entries –concentric circles of dead birds, totaling 4,000, that had all unwittingly slammed into glass windows in Toronto. She named it "When Worlds Collide," meaning the human and non-human. "Birds fly into glass windows because they don't realize the trees and sky they see are reflections and that lights aren't stars. It's said that as many as one *billion* birds in just one year in North America die this way. Most collisions occur at homes and low-rise buildings, the level at which most birds fly. A preventive is placing close-together dots across the outside of windows."

*Susan Goldenberg*