

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Wendy Weiger

Current Work: Writer. Author of *Heaven Beneath Our Feet: Finding God and Healing in the Wild* (expected publication 2017). Through the lens of my outdoor experiences—from the Maine Woods to Arctic Alaska—my book shows how intimate connection with wild nature can deepen our relationship with God. I share my journey of inner transformation and make the case for conservation as a sacred imperative. An excerpt from my book was published in the September 2014 issue of *Down East* magazine.

Education and Academic Research Experience

I began my research career as an undergraduate chemistry major, studying the fundamental nature of matter through theoretical quantum mechanics. For my doctoral research, I moved on to the electrical and chemical workings of the brain and how these basic physical processes translate into the complex phenomena of emotion and behavior. My post-doctoral research focused on ways in which we seek healing and well-being when confronted with the challenges of serious illness.

- Harvard College, AB in Chemistry *summa cum laude*, 1984
- Harvard University Sheldon Traveling Fellow (medical anthropology in India and Nepal), 1986-1987
- Harvard Medical School MD-PhD Program:
 - Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, MD 1997
 - Program in Neuroscience, Division of Medical Sciences, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, PhD 1997
- Internship in Internal Medicine, Boston Medical Center, 1997-1998
- Research Fellow, Division for Research and Education in Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies, Osher Institute, Harvard Medical School, 1999-2002
- Research Associate, Division for Research and Education in Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies, Osher Institute, Harvard Medical School, 2002-2005

Areas of Expertise

- **Research and teaching:**
 - **Clinical medicine:** At Harvard Medical School's Division for Research and Education in Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies (1999-2005), I led a team of researchers in a systematic review of complementary and alternative therapies commonly used by patients with cancer. We distilled available evidence into guidelines to assist conventional physicians in providing compassionate, science-based advice to patients. This work was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in December 2002, along with a companion piece for lay readers that appeared in *Newsweek*. Extensive national press coverage included a front-page article in *The Boston Globe* and an article in *The Washington Post*, as well as an interview on National Public Radio's *Here and Now*. I subsequently served as a lecturer, breakout session leader, and panel discussant in undergraduate and graduate medical courses at Harvard Medical School on this topic.
 - **Basic science:** At Harvard Medical School's Department of Neurobiology (1987-1995), I conducted laboratory research on the biological basis of aggressive behavior, using lobsters as a model system. I published this work in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*. I also published reviews synthesizing other scholars' work in this field in *Biological Reviews* and the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*.
- **Nature-based skills:** I have been licensed since 2005 as a Registered Maine Guide by the state's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. My skill areas include four-season survival, canoeing (flatwater and whitewater), backpacking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, birding, mammal tracking, and identification of edible and poisonous plants. I specialize in solo backcountry travel, both summer and winter. My longest solo trip to date was a three-week canoe traverse of the Maine Woods, covering three major watersheds and traveling from Moosehead Lake to the Canadian border. In winter 2011, I led two Harvard College undergraduates on a three-day backcountry snowshoeing excursion as part of Harvard's "January Experience" program. I currently lead birding excursions for the Natural Resource Education Center in Greenville, Maine (2015-2016). I have also served as workshop coordinator for the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization Annual Rendezvous (2007-2008) and as a canoe trip leader for the Sierra Club (2007).
- **Environmental advocacy:** The Maine Woods are the largest undeveloped area east of the Mississippi, populated with wildlife ranging from lynx and moose to boreal birds and wild native brook trout. In 2005, Plum Creek Timber, the nation's largest private landowner, submitted a massive rezoning application for Moosehead Lake, Maine's largest lake

and the southern gateway to the Maine Woods. In response, I joined a small band of citizens who formed the Moosehead Region Futures Committee (mooseheadregionfutures.com): the only independent, locally-based organization to achieve status as a full legal intervener in the state's evaluation of Plum Creek's proposal. I served on the Moosehead Futures Steering Committee (2005-2015), as Coordinator (2006-2008), and as Executive Director (2008-2009). I continue to serve as the group's volunteer archivist. I published opinion pieces about this issue in the *Portland Press Herald*, *Lewiston Sun Journal*, *Kennebec Journal*, and *Bangor Daily News*, and was interviewed for articles in *The Boston Globe* and *Down East Magazine*. During four weeks of technical hearings in December 2007 and January 2008, I coordinated the testimony of eight volunteer witnesses and conducted cross-examination of witnesses supportive of Plum Creek. After the hearings, I represented our group at state deliberative sessions. Moosehead Futures' intervention contributed to significant improvements to conservation components of Plum Creek's plan. Moosehead Futures continues to monitor potential development in areas rezoned to allow residential or commercial construction.

Selected Publications

- Weiger, W. Vision quest: The Maine Woods at summer's end. *Down East*, September 2014.
- Weiger, W. Balancing the public and private rights of landowners. *Sun Journal* (Lewiston, Maine), July 23, 2006.
- Weiger, W. All Mainers have stake in Plum Creek as public caretakers. *Portland Press Herald / Maine Sunday Telegram*, May 7, 2006.
- Weiger, WA and Eisenberg, DM. Cancer: Easing the treatment. *Newsweek*, December 2, 2002.
- Weiger, WA, Smith, M, Boon, H, Richardson, MA, Kaptchuk, TJ, and Eisenberg, DM. Advising patients who seek complementary and alternative medical therapies for cancer. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 137:889-903; 2002.
- Weiger, WA. Serotonergic modulation of behaviour: A phylogenetic overview. *Biological Reviews* 72:61-95; 1997.
- Weiger, WA and Ma, PM. Serotonin-containing neurons in lobsters: Origins and characterization of inhibitory post-synaptic potentials. *Journal of Neurophysiology* 69:2003-2014; 1993.
- Weiger, WA and Bear, DM. An approach to the neurology of aggression. *Journal of Psychiatric Research* 22:85-98; 1988.

Selected Awards and Honors

- Outstanding Volunteer Award, Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club, 2007
- Sackler Scholarship in Psychobiology (Harvard University), 1991-92
- John Parker Scholarship (Harvard University), 1989-90
- Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellow, 1989-90
- Albert J. Ryan Fellow (Harvard University), 1988-95
- Harvard University Sheldon Traveling Fellow, 1986-87
- National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Exceptional Summer Employee Award, 1984
- Sophia Freund Prize (awarded to the highest ranking graduate(s) each year at Harvard College), 1984
- Palfrey Exhibition Prize (awarded to the most distinguished scholar in the senior class at Harvard who has received financial aid), 1984
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1982
- John Harvard Scholar, 1979-84

Volunteer Community Service

- Lay minister, Chesuncook Village Church (Chesuncook Township, Maine), 2009-2015, and Charles A. Dean Nursing Home (Greenville, Maine), 2008-2016
- Soprano soloist, Union Church Choir (Greenville, Maine), 2005-2016, and Moosehead Community Chorus (Greenville, Maine), 2014-2015; member, Arlington Street Church Choir (Boston, Massachusetts), 1999-2002
- Photographer, Natural Resources Council of Maine (statewide environmental advocacy organization; I provide nature photographs for the annual calendar, website, and advertising), 2011-2016
- Board of Directors, Project Only A Child (organization to aid Guatemalan street children), 2000-2010
- Prudential Committee (Board of Directors), Arlington Street Church (Boston, Massachusetts), 2002-2003
- Arlington Street Church Capital Campaign Cabinet, 1999-2002