A score of long-term ecological research and education sites are engaging arts and humanities in education and outreach programs as well as in basic scientific inquiry. The forms of these emerging collaborative programs are highly diverse, but many share critical attributes. They are place-based; take the long-view (even 200 years); involve diverse ways of knowing; and collect, archive, and actively disseminate the resulting works. Why are such collaborations coalescing in ecological research sites? What are their historic roots and current outcomes? What might the future hold for such endeavors? Dr. Swanson will draw upon his 40 years of experience in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, a premier site of the NSF-sponsored Long-term Ecological Research Program and the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word, Oregon State University.

Dr. Fred Swanson is a Research Geologist and ecosystem scientist with the USDA Forest Service. He has studied the interactions of physical processes, such as fire, flood, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and forestry operations. Much of this work has taken place at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in the Oregon Cascades, Mount St. Helens, and elsewhere. His interests are reflected in his books: “Sediment Budgets and Routing in Forested Catchments;” “Bioregional Assessments: Science at the Crossroads of Management and Policy;” “Road Ecology: Science and Solutions;” “Ecological Responses to the Eruption of Mount St. Helens;” and “In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens.” He co-created the “Reflections” program at the Andrews with other scientists, philosophers, and creative writers to enhance interdisciplinary ways of understanding and communicating about landscapes.