

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Clarisse Hart, Harvard Forest Outreach Manager  
978-756-6157 (9a-5p); [hart3@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hart3@fas.harvard.edu)

### **Authors of Forest Art Book to Speak at Fisher Museum**

PETERSHAM, Mass.—Browsing the pages of Sallie and Frank Lowenstein’s new art book, *Clothed in Bark*, you might expect to scrape your fingers against three-dimensional crags of birch, oak, and pine. The hand-bound book’s 48 realistic “photo-drawings,” as artist Sallie Lowenstein calls them, are true down to the millimeter for trees’ physical characteristics, and they are also true to the subtle light and mood reflected by a tree’s branches.

On Thursday, May 1, at 7:00pm, the authors will co-present a discussion about the book and its trees, followed by a book sale and signing, at the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum at 324 North Main Street in Petersham, Mass. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The book includes an essay by Frank Lowenstein, who is Deputy Director of the New England Forestry Foundation, a Senior Fellow in the U.S. Department of State’s Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, and an alumnus of Harvard University and the University of Vermont. In 2009, he was the executive producer on an award-winning documentary about the Asian long-horned beetle outbreak in Worcester, Mass., *Lurking in the Trees*.

Lowenstein’s text in *Clothed in Bark* touches on the importance of trees and forests in our culture and environment, but also their precarious position in a time of rapid environmental change. Early in the essay, Lowenstein notes, “We accept [trees’] gifts as a birthright that we can always count on, a mantle that our country will always wear, and their age and solidity fosters that mistaken certainty.”

Carter Roberts, President and CEO of the World Wildlife Fund, notes that the book’s “unconventional words and images connect the reader with the issues of forests, globalization and climate that haunt our world today.”

The book’s original art was created by author, illustrator, and educator Sallie Lowenstein, who in addition to exhibiting her paintings and sculptures, teaches art and writing to children and adults across the country. She says, “Writing, making books and art, is a way of life, not a profession. And I believe that any book, for any age, should leave the reader with an aftertaste of wonder.”

Lowenstein is the founder of Lion Stone Books ([www.lionstonebooks.com](http://www.lionstonebooks.com)), an independent publishing company of award-winning children’s and young adult books located in Washington, DC. Her books have been honored by New York Public Library, the Bank Street College Children’s Book Committee, the Society of School Librarians International, Washington Book Publishers, and others.

The recently published *Clothed in Bark* is Lowenstein's thirteenth book and has been placed in the Peabody Essex Museum's fine book collection and in the Mazza Museum's collection of illustrated books. In Fall 2014, her work will be included in the Peabody Essex Museum's *Trees as Art* exhibit.

###

The Harvard Forest, founded in 1907 and located in Petersham, Mass., is Harvard University's outdoor laboratory and classroom for ecology and conservation, and a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site funded by the National Science Foundation. Its 3,700 acre property is one of the oldest and most intensively studied research forests in the U.S. Open to the public year-round, the site includes educational and research facilities, the Fisher Museum, and recreational trails. Photos and additional information are available at: <http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/fisher-museum> and <http://www.lionstonebooks.com/Clothed%20In%20Bark.html>.

For more information or an interview with the book authors, contact Clarisse Hart at the Harvard Forest (978-756-6157).