



Princeton's First Environmental Film Festival Documents Global Warming, Renewable Energy

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The director of the Princeton Environmental Institute, Professor Stephen W. Pacala, will be the keynote speaker at the first Princeton Environmental Film Festival next Wednesday, January 31, at 7 p.m., in the Princeton Public Library.

The Frederick D. Petrie Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, Mr. Pacala will present a slide show about climate change and global warming.

Mr. Pacala is among a group of scientists working to understand the global carbon cycle. He co-directs the Carbon Mitigation Initiative, investigating issues ranging from the effects of global vegetation on climate to the large-scale measurement of natural and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

Last August, the journal *Science* published an article he co-authored, which identified 15 existing technologies that could each prevent 1 billion tons worth of carbon emissions per year by 2054.

According to Mr. Pacala's website, he is currently working on a new model of the terrestrial biosphere and his future research will focus on questions such as: How and to what extent does the terrestrial biosphere affect climate? Does the feedback between climate and vegetation lead to multiple stable states of climate? If so, could human land use cause a flip to an alternative state (we are most concerned currently by the possibility of a dry tropics caused by deforestation)? How does biodiversity affect global ecosystem function?

Student Initiative

It was concern for environmental issues that prompted Kai Marshall-Otto, president of the environmental club at Princeton High School (PHS), to approach Teen Services Librarian Susan Conlon last summer with the idea for a Princeton Environmental Film

Festival. The PHS senior, who worked with Ms. Conlon to research films and contact speakers for the event, intends to study environmental science at college.

Co-sponsored by the library and the PHS environmental club, the festival will run through February 4 in the first floor Community Room, with 15 films and 10 speakers covering topics such as renewable energy and wilderness protection.

“The films spotlight individuals whose actions have made a difference for the environment,” commented Ms. Conlon.

Inconvenient Truth

The festival’s first screenings will take place on Wednesday prior to Mr. Pacala’s evening presentation. At 1 p.m., *The End of Suburbia* by Gregory Greene warns of the effects of increased fuel costs. At 3:30 p.m., *Power Shift* is a short film about renewable energy by Kurt Bergstrom. At 4 p.m., *An Inconvenient Truth*, Davis Guggenheim’s film about global warming features former vice president Al Gore. Environmental activist Tina Weishaus will be on hand following the screening to discuss the film and related topics.

On Thursday, February 1, student groups are invited to the 11 a.m. program featuring Janardhan Manickam, head of the theory department at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, who will talk on “Fusion: Responsible Energy for the Future of Mankind.” For reservations to this event, call (609) 924-9529, ext. 247.

The festival will continue on Thursday with a 4 p.m. showing of *Oil on Ice*, Bo Boudart and Dale Djereassi’s documentary about the effects of U.S. energy policies on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. At 7 p.m., Robert J. Goldston, director of Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, will talk on “Fusion: Fueling the Future

Friday’s offerings which begin at 2 p.m. with *Fed Up*, about genetically modified food, include *Buyer Be Fair: The Promise of Product Certification*; and *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*.

Saturday will feature a full day of screenings and speakers beginning at 10:30 a.m. with *French Fries to Go*, a humorous look at the driver of a veggie-fueled truck, followed by three short films about the preservation of waterways: *The Anacosta: Restoring the People’s River*, about restoring communities alongside the river in Washington, D.C., at 11 a.m; *Turning the Tide*, a film about New Jersey’s wetlands, at noon; and *Texas Gold*, at 1:30 p.m., after which, the director, Carolyn Scott, will speak about the film, which relates a Texas fisherwoman’s battles to prevent the petrochemical pollution of her local gulf, named the most toxic place in America.

At 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, environmentalist Mike Strizki, founder of the Hopewell project, a New Jersey non-profit dedicated to raising awareness of sustainability issues, will talk and show slides about the creation of a solar-and hydro-powered house. Mr. Strizki will also be the speaker following a 3:30 p.m. showing of Chris Paine’s film *Who*

Killed the Electric Car, the story of the rise and fall of the General Motors EV1 electric vehicle.

Local Wetlands

Saturday's noon screening of *Turning the Tide*, a film about the state's wetlands made by New Jersey Network (NJN) and premiered last May, is of particular interest locally since it concerns the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh. Shot in high definition video, the half-hour documentary showcases the hidden beauty of the tidal area. The screening will be followed by a session featuring NJN writer and producer Bob Szuter, retired Rider University biology professor Mary Alessio Leck, who has been studying plant ecology at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh since 1975, and retired professor of ecological science at Rutgers University Charles Leck, who has been studying the state's bird life for more than forty years and has served as NJ State Ornithologist.

Narrated by Avery Brooks, the film tells the story of how two urban New Jersey wetlands — the Hackensack Meadowlands and the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh — are coming back to life as natural ecosystems. It received two national awards last December, including a Cine Golden Eagle Award. For more information, visit www.njn.net/community/specialinterest/turningthetide/.

Last Screenings

Sunday's events begin with a 1:30 p.m. showing of *The Chances of the World Changing*, director Eric Daniel Metzgar's documentary about his efforts to save hundreds of species of endangered sea turtles and tortoises from extinction. Mr. Metzgar will speak following the screening.

The festival wraps up at 4 p.m. with *Grizzly Man*, director Werner Herzog's examination of the life and death of an amateur grizzly bear expert and wildlife conservationist.

The five-day festival was made possible by funds raised at last summer's special benefit preview screening of *Superman Returns* hosted by Barbara Johnson, the mother of Christopher Reeve and a Princeton Borough writer and library advocate, and Grace Sinden, mother of the film's director Bryan Singer and a local environmental activist. Princeton Day School EnAct Environmental Club, Bobbie Parmet, The Whole Earth Center, and Julia Osellame, Princeton University Water Watch, provided additional support.

All of the film screenings and related talks are free and open to all ages. For more information about the Princeton Environmental Film Festival, visit www.princetonlibrary.org/peff. For more on library programs and services, call (609) 924-9529, or visit www.princetonlibrary.org.

