

Inventing for the Environment

The Lemelson Center at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History announces "Inventing for the Environment," a series of free lectures, tours, films — plus an exhibit and full-day symposium — exploring environmental history, public policy and technological innovation.

LECTURE SERIES

"Dialogues on Inventing for the Environment"

Co-sponsored by AT&T

Environmental experts bring their innovative ideas on energy, health, transportation, industrial ecology, history and urbanism to these evening discussions. All lectures begin at 6:30 p.m. at the National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

MONDAY, APRIL 20 - Amory Lovins, director of research and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, describes creative solutions to current energy problems in his talk on "Negawatts, Hypercars, and Natural Capitalism." Lovins is introduced by Braden Allenby, vice president, Environment, Health and Safety, AT&T.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 - Braden Allenby, vice president, Environment, Health and Safety, AT&T, discusses how industrial ecology can be used as a tool to further thinking on environmental policies and technologies.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 - Devra Lee Davis, director of the program in Health, Environment and Development at the World Resources Institute, addresses the discovery of environmental risk factors that can cause breast cancer.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - Stephen Pyne, historian at Arizona State University, chronicles the history of the environment. For the past 15 years, he has framed the ecohistory debate and written about the cultural history of fire.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 - Author and architect Paolo Soleri describes America's "new urbanism." Soleri is best known for creating Arcosanti, an avant garde, prototype community in the central Arizona desert.

SYMPOSIUM

"Inventing for the Environment"

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 -

A full-day symposium addressing key issues involved in inventing for the environment brings together scholars, inventors, and the public. Speakers include Braden Allenby and the Smithsonian's Tom Lovejoy, counselor to the Secretary for Biodiversity and Environmental Affairs.

TOURS

"Inventing Nature"

A series of walking, bus, and boating tours highlights the invention of nature in the city with visits to parks and natural reserves in the greater Washington area. Tour leaders discuss the history of creating recreational green spaces, including the National Zoo, the Mall, and the banks of the Potomac, and point out their technological roots. Tours will start at NMAH, from August–October.

EXHIBIT

"Who Invented the Environment?"

This exhibit explores the connection between society's romantic ideal of "Nature" as illustrated by the work of John James Audubon, Ansel Adams, and others, and the invention of scientific instruments that measure how reality compares with the ideal. Opening in mid-September.

FILMS

Friday Night Films

Hollywood features and sci-fi classics offer a different take on inventing for the environment. July 24 and 31 and August 7, 14, and 21 in Carmichael Auditorium at NMAH.

All events are free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register, fax your name, address, and phone number to (202)357-4517 or e-mail requests to lemcen@nmah.si.edu. For further information, call (202)357-2700.

TOWN MEETING

Earth Day National Town Meeting, "Global Warming: Local Solutions"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 - Participate in a National Town Meeting videoconference coordinated by Renew America, a national organization dedicated to promoting environmental initiatives, at the National Museum of American History from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. A regional sustainability forum follows, providing local citizens with an opportunity to discuss the region's most pressing environmental issues. *To register, call 1-800-922-RENEW or e-mail requests to renewamerica@igc.org.*