

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 21, 2008

MEDIA ALERT

MOTHER EARTH, FATHER SKY BENEFIT LECTURE SERIES BEGINS TONIGHT

SANTA FE, NM — The 7th annual lecture series, presented by Southwest Seminars, will offer unique perspectives on the environment of the American West every week at 6 pm at the Hotel Santa Fe. *Mother Earth, Father Sky* is offered as a benefit event for the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) and will have something for everyone: from a geologist's look at the ancient landscapes of the Colorado Plateau, to an ethnobotanist's answer to the age old question "What's for dinner?" -- 300 years ago in Colonial New Mexico.

Tonight's kickoff event will feature Dr. Kirt Kempter, a volcanologist and geologist who has worked with the Santa Fe Community College and U.S. Geological Survey. He will present, *Georgia's Geology: Shaping the Abiquiu Landscape Through Time*, where he will explain how the Abiquiu, NM slickrock landscape, the inspiration to many works of artist Georgia O'Keefe, emerged over millions of years.



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"For seven years, Southwest Seminars has generously partnered with us to bring something really special to Santa Fe," comments Shelbie Knox, Development Officer for the NMELC. "Most of our lecturers are scientists who provide perspectives on our unique Southwestern environment that most of us don't get to hear very often. And they're wonderful at making their topics entertaining and accessible for everyone – even those of us who didn't ace science in school."

"The lectures give people the opportunity to not only learn more about the environment here in the West—the landscape, its people, its history – but they will also get to learn more about the incredible work the New Mexico Environmental Law Center is doing to protect that environment," states Alan Osborn, co-founder of Southwest Seminars.

The lecture series will last nine weeks and each lecture will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe on Monday evenings (with the exception of tonight's lecture) at 6 p.m. beginning on October 26th, 2009 and running through December 14th, 2009. Admission for each lecture is \$10 and is paid at the door, or \$70 for the whole series of nine lectures. 10% of proceeds benefit the New Mexico Environmental Law Center.

WHAT: Mother Earth, Father Sky: Perspectives on the Environment of the American West Lecture Series
WHERE: Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501
WHEN: Launch on Wednesday, October 21st at 6pm, then continuing every Monday evening at 6pm, beginning October 26th until December 14th
ADMISSION: \$10 at the door or \$70 for the entire series.

For more information please visit the NMELC's Events Page on their website: www.nmelc.org.

Complete Lecture Series Lineup:

October 21st

Dr. Kirt Kempter – *Georgia's Geology: Shaping the Abiquiu Landscape Through Time*
Volcanologist; Geologist; former Fulbright Scholar; Instructor at Santa Fe Community College Services Division, RENESAN, New Mexico topographical mapping, & U.S. Geological Survey

October 26th

Wayne Ranney – *Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau*
Geology Educator, Grand Canyon Field Institute; Author, *Carving the Grand Canyon & Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau*

November 2nd

Stephen Fox – *Aldo Leopold and the Southwest: One Hundred Years Later*
Independent Historian & Author, [John Muir and His Legacy](#)

November 9th

Dr. Molly S. Toll – *New Mexican Cuisine: Exploring the Biological & Cultural Roots of a Regional Tradition*
Archaeobotanist, Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico

November 16th

Dr. Ted Goebel – *The Paleo-Indian Environment in the Great Basin: Bonneville Estates Rock Shelter, Nevada*
Paleoarchaeologist, Center for the Study of First Americans, Texas A&M University

November 23rd

Mike Landis – *Salt Cedars, Willow Flycatchers and Strange Bedfellows: Riparian Restoration Below Elephant Butte*
Hydrologist, El Paso, Texas

November 30th

Dr. Paul Minnis – *Political Ecology of Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico*
Professor of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma

December 7th

Jeff Boyer – *Small Pueblo Social Organization in the Northern Rio Grande*
Archaeologist, Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico

December 14th

Connie Eichstaedt – *Connie's Casa: An Owner-Built Passive Solar Adobe Home*

Director, Southwest Seminars; Instructor, Elderhostel-Santa Fe; Co-Director, Recursos de Santa Fe; Manager, Simply Santa Fe; Director, Ceramics Department, Colorado Mountain College; Ceramic artist and founder, Apache Canyon Pottery

The mission of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center is to protect New Mexico's natural environment and communities through legal and policy advocacy, and public education. The New Mexico Environmental Law Center's attorneys have handled over 100 critical cases in low-income and minority communities fighting pollution and environmental degradation. The Law Center charges few, if any, fees to its clients, most of who are from Hispanic and Native American communities. The NMELC celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008. Membership and gifts help New Mexico communities protect their natural environment and their health from toxic pollution, the degrading effects of growth and liabilities created by irresponsible mining.

www.nmelc.org

INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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