



27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

Hosted and sponsored by

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH &
SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

PITTSBURGH OCT. 4-8, 2017

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

thanks SEJ 2017 attendees for your dedication to advancing public understanding of environmental issues through high-quality, independent journalism.



A nonpartisan, private charitable foundation advancing ideas and supporting institutions to promote a better world for more than 50 years

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RIVERS OF CHANGE

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Image (above) courtesy of Darrell Sapp, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Cover photo courtesy of Adam Taylor

Original graffiti art created for SEJ at Carrie Furnaces, site of our Friday night dinner party, by Pittsburgh artist Shane Pilster (www.rosarts.com).



On Behalf of the University of Pittsburgh: Welcome!

To start: We are honored to host the Society of Environmental Journalists' 27th Annual Conference, and I hope that you enjoy your stay in our city.

The last time that our city hosted SEJ members—in 2004—our region was still shaking off an economic upheaval and a steep loss of human talent. In the years that followed, we have grown into a top innovation market—and earned bragging rights as a top destination for everything from nurturing STEM careers and startup businesses to active lifestyles and discerning palates.

The conference committee selected this year's theme—"Rivers of Change"—to reflect Pittsburgh's rise as an innovation leader in the areas of sustainability and the environment as well as economic equity, social justice and cultural change.

The University of Pittsburgh has played—and continues to play—an important role in this comeback story. Our mission to leverage new knowledge for society's gain is a call to action that's seemingly endless in scope. Members of the Pitt community are working on seminal projects across a wide range of disciplines—everything from treating cancer to building an energy grid of the future.

Today, Pittsburgh isn't perfect. We have food deserts and economic inequity—the average American city's standard catalog of 21st century problems. But, as a University, we are dedicated to helping our community grow. Among our many projects on this front: We've spent the last year establishing new pathways to a Pitt education for local high school students. And we're invested in developing new models of community engagement to better leverage our research capacity, academic expertise and university resources to alleviate some of the steepest challenges facing Pittsburgh's urban neighborhoods.

In 1921, Pitt's 10th chancellor, John Gabbert Bowman, described our University's hallmark structure—the peerless Cathedral of Learning. He wrote:

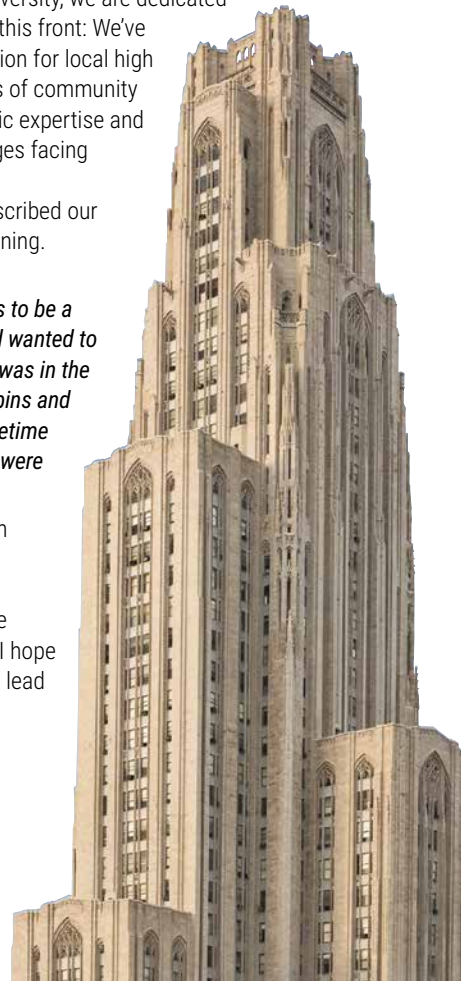
The building was to be more than a schoolhouse; it was to be a symbol of the life that Pittsburgh through the years had wanted to live. It was to make visible something of the spirit that was in the hearts of pioneers as, long ago, they sat in their log cabins and thought by candlelight of the great city that would sometime spread out beyond their three rivers and that even they were starting to build.

Today, buoyed by a steadfast commitment to excellence in education, research and community service, the University of Pittsburgh continues to serve as a powerful "visible spirit" for curious minds seeking to change the world. As this conference unfolds, I hope that you will join us in telling their stories. And I hope that you will come to marvel—as I do—in their potential to help lead us into a kinder, fairer and better world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Gallagher".

Patrick Gallagher
Chancellor





RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



On behalf of the residents of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, we are pleased to welcome the Society of Environmental Journalists here for its 27th Annual Conference. A great deal has happened in our region since the last time your conference was here in 2004. We're thrilled to have you here to experience our evolution first-hand.

In 2004, we were beginning to see changes, and had established the foundation for our shift to a new, diverse economy. You'll be surprised by today's Pittsburgh – a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community and one that was recently touted as the one city in Pennsylvania poised to crush the 21st century. We have a growing and diverse economy, an emerging food scene, a strong cultural presence, an appreciation for all types of art, a fan base that is rabid about its professional sports teams, outdoor adventures for thrill-seekers as well as the newly intrepid, a rich historical story, an appreciation for architectural genius, a commitment to living green and embracing sustainability, and a true recognition of all amenities that our region boasts. And yes, we still make steel here.

We've become a new Pittsburgh because of the people who call this region home. New industries and our colleges and universities are attracting the next generation of Pittsburghers to our region and helping to transform our socioeconomic environment. We are especially proud of your host sponsor – the University of Pittsburgh – for being a strong, regional partner in academic, medical, research and community programs throughout the region.

While we have many successes, we also know that there are portions of our region that have not enjoyed that same transformation. We work daily to try address and solve these inequalities. The solutions are not easy, but we are confident that with public-private partnerships, such as those with the University of Pittsburgh, we will lift our entire region to a better future.

We hope you will share our stories with the world, particularly those that would allow others to replicate what we've done here. We are thrilled to host you here and are looking forward to showing off our city, county and region. Once you see the Allegheny County and Pittsburgh that we know, we also hope to see you again and again.

Sincerely,

Rich Fitzgerald
Allegheny County Executive

William Peduto, Mayor
City of Pittsburgh

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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CONGRATULATIONS TO REUTERS

Winner of Columbia Journalism School's
2017 John B. Oakes Award
 for Distinguished Environmental Journalism



Photo: REUTERS/Whitney Curtis



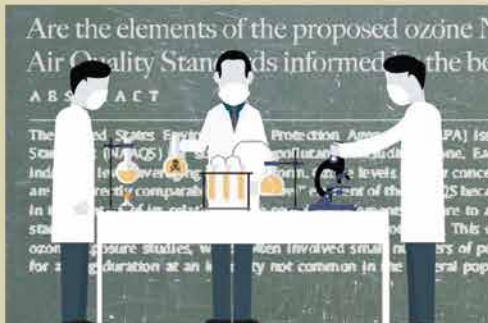
Photo: REUTERS/Aaron Josefczyk

“UNSAFE AT ANY LEVEL”

Exposing the hidden hazards of lead poisoning across America

2017 John B. Oakes Award Finalists

The Center for Public Integrity
 “SCIENCE FOR SALE”



Emilie Udell/The Center for Public Integrity

The Washington Post
 “MOBILE POWER - HUMAN TOLL”



Michael Robinson Chavez/The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Environmental Journalism 2017: The 27th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists officially begins Wednesday, October 4, at 5:30 p.m., with an opening reception followed by dinner and a program on environmental justice.

Before the official kick-off, we offer the all-day workshop below, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet with fun networking opportunities.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Pl, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (877) 999-3223, unless otherwise indicated.

Note: All information is subject to change. Please check sej.org often for updates and information on event times, speakers, etc.

ALL-DAY JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

Multimedia Training: Podcasts, Video and Social Media

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location:

Media Lab at Point Park University, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh

Point Park University is a small liberal arts school with a beautiful downtown campus. The university is a 10-minute walk from the Wyndham. Leaving the hotel you turn left out of the main door. Walk diagonally across Gateway Center Park to Third Avenue. Head up Third Avenue and walk three blocks to Wood Street. Point Park is on the corner at 305 Wood Street. It shares a lobby with the YWCA. There is a news ticker on the outside of the building, and seven TV monitors in the window. If you see that, you're in the right place. Go into the lobby. The entrance to the media center is on the left.

Back by popular demand, but with a twist!

We've touched on audio and video before, but this time we're taking them further and throwing in something new. In the morning you'll work on creating your own audio story. You can bring a recorder or use a phone app, but either way you'll get up close and personal with audio production. Or if you prefer, join us for a second production track — basic video. At lunch we'll discuss which stories are best told using which medium. In the afternoon we'll all come together to add new skills in social media, including how to process your cellphone photos for maximum reach. When the day's over, we guarantee you'll have much more confidence in your ability to capture a story from every angle. SEJ members only. Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included.

Audio Trainer: Dale Willman, Program Director, Resilience Fellowship Program, City University of New York

Video Trainer: Kevin Beaty, Multimedia Journalist, Denverite

Workshop Agenda:

- 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Video, Audio tracks
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch discussion – Which media to best tell what stories?
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Social Media – Storytelling with photos from your phone
- The camera in your phone can produce useful and beautiful pictures to include in your social media postings, but like with good writing, good pictures require editing. Dennis Dimick, SEJ member and three-decade photo editor at *National Geographic*, will explain what tools he uses to crop, tone and generally enhance images coming from mobile devices. He uses an iPhone but will discuss photo editing apps that are available for both iOS and Android, such as Google's SnapSeed.
- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Social and Digital Media – How to get your work noticed with Joseph Davis, Freelance Journalist and WatchDog Project Director/Editor/Writer, Society of Environmental Journalists

REGISTRATION

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor at the far end of the Ballroom foyer

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Friday evening party at Carrie Furnaces or Sunday breakfast at Phipps Conservatory, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor, Ballroom foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours and beat dinners. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

MEET-AND-GREET

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: King's Garden 5, near registration

We'll gather to celebrate community, and, in particular, to discuss diversity in environmental journalism and SEJ, one of our top priorities. SEJ leaders will discuss the rationale for how increasing diversity contributes to SEJ's mission of providing robust, quality environmental journalism to wider audiences. From there we'll head over to the August Wilson Center for African American Culture for dinner and a headliner program on environmental justice.

OPENING RECEPTION AND DINNER

Tipping the Scales of Environmental Justice

5:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Please see map online on Wednesday agenda or get directions at Registration. Cash bar.

We'll head down the street to the eye-opening August Wilson Center for African American Culture to browse exhibits, mingle with colleagues, network with sources and meet local community leaders. This year communities burdened with pollution have dominated headlines, but there are many stories that haven't made the news. So, following cocktails and dinner, we'll convene in the center's state-of-the-art theater for a discussion on environmental justice in urban and rural areas, covering national and local perspectives. We know that EJ is a concern for people of color as well as poor white communities. Across the country both have been saddled with disproportionate environmental impacts of all kinds. Our panel will examine a wide spectrum of environmental, economic and social impacts on these disenfranchised communities.

Emcees:

Jennifer Bogo, Deputy Editor, *Audubon*

Don Hopey, Environment Reporter, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Plenary moderator: **Tony Norman**, Columnist, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Speakers:

Mustafa Ali, Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization, Hip Hop Caucus and former Chief Environmental Justice Official, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mayor John Fetterman, Braddock, Pa.

Winona LaDuke, Executive Director, Honor the Earth

Deidre Sanders, Industry Environmental Justice & Policy Expert, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

BOOKSTORE

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Location: August Wilson Center for African American Culture

The UPitt bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

COCKTAILS WITH KENIA

9:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: August Wilson Center for African American Culture

After our plenary, Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering will sponsor drinks (beer and wine only; cocktails available for purchase) with Kenia, one of the most popular and successful U.S.-based Brazilian musicians. Enjoy post-plenary discussion, debate and even dancing as this Pittsburgh favorite of the smooth jazz movement entertains you with her subtle yet soulful vocals of Brazilian and American favorites.

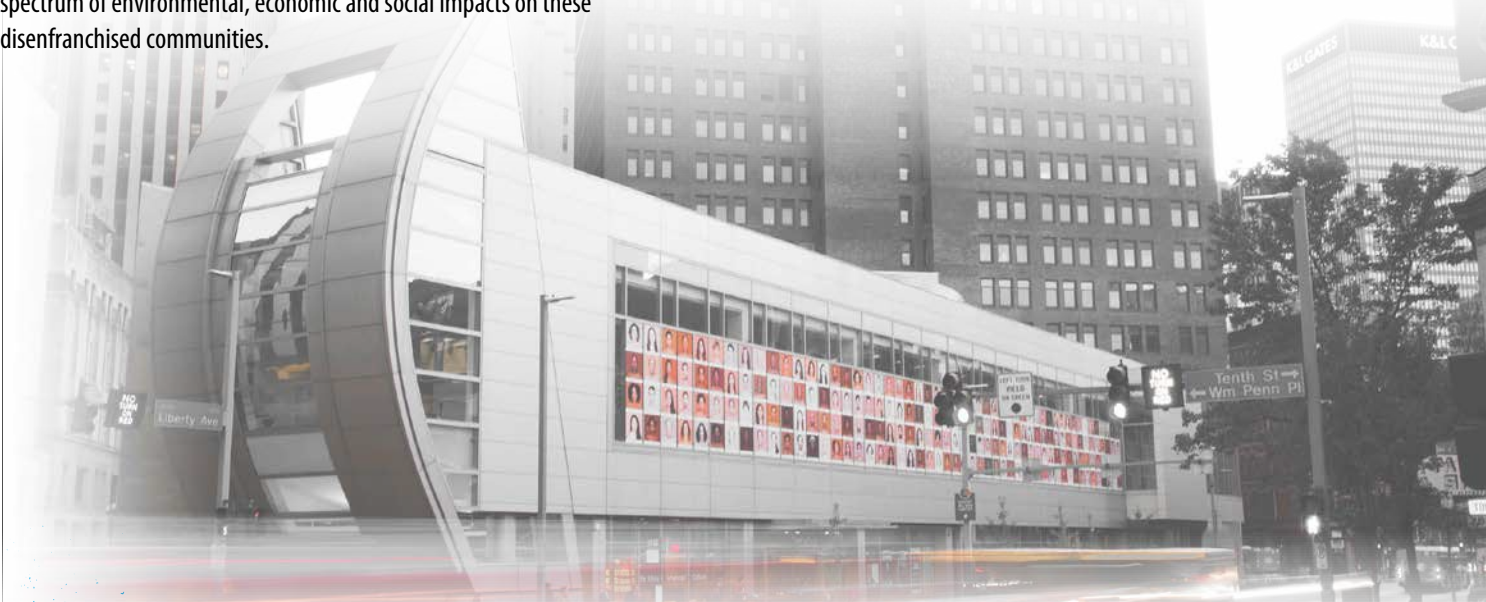


Image courtesy of The August Wilson Center



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

REGISTRATION

5:30 - 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor at the far end of the Ballroom foyer

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Friday evening party at Carrie Furnaces or Sunday breakfast at Phipps Conservatory, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor, Ballroom foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours and beat dinners. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

TOURS IN THE FIELD

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary. For those looking for some exercise, tours 1, 2 and 6 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 4 and 5 are best suited for those with limited mobility.

Buses will stage and depart from just outside the Benedum Room on the first floor of the Wyndham Grand Hotel Downtown. Watch for directional signs and pointers to get you there. A cash-and-carry breakfast kiosk will be available in the Benedum Room.

Some tours might be able to take standby passengers. To go standby, report to registration 20 minutes before the scheduled tour departure time and have your tour fee available. Standby passengers will be admitted on a first-come first-served basis after those already on a wait list.

Buses will return to the Wyndham Grand around 5:00 p.m. for a night of wining and dining by hosts of independent receptions. You'll find hors d'oeuvres, drinks, press kits, chats with environmental experts, good cheer and great networking.



Image courtesy of StateImpact Pennsylvania

1. **The Allegheny National Forest: Where Timber, Oil, Gas and Wild Rivers Meet**

(6:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Pennsylvania's only national forest is also one of the nation's most industrial and threatened. It was established in 1923 on 513,000 acres of mostly clear-cut land, and grew, along with its black cherry, oak, maple and beech, into one of the few national forests that makes money on its timber sales. The mineral rights under more than 90 percent of the forest are privately owned (the legal term is "split estate") and oil and gas drilling sites are almost as plentiful as the white-tailed deer. Wilderness designated acreage is among the lowest in any of the nation's forests, and its trees are beset by a host of invasive bugs and blights. Despite all that, the forest is bounded by two federal Wild & Scenic rivers, has a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail and more old-growth acreage than anyplace in the state. We'll hike about a mile through an old-growth section called Hearts Content and discuss the forest's many issues. **Total drive time – 6 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Christopher Rolinson, Associate Professor of Photojournalism and Director of Environmental Journalism, Point Park University
Christine Woodside, Writer, Editor and Author

Speakers:

Sean Brady, Executive Director, Hollow Oak Land Trust
Rob Fallon, District Ranger, Allegheny National Forest
Joan Maloof, Scientist; Executive Director, Old-Growth Forest Network; Professor Emeritus, Salisbury University; and Author, "Nature's Temples: The Complex World of Old-Growth Forests"
Michelle Spicer, Graduate Student, Carson Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2017

Image courtesy of Bugdog



2. Lake Erie: Water, Walking, Wind and Wine

(6:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

What happens on the land impacts the water, even drinking water resources as vast as Lake Erie. We'll explore those impacts on a tour of the eastern Ohio Lake Erie coastline, stopping first at the historic Lake Erie harbor of Ashtabula, Ohio, where a \$75 million project to remove toxic PCBs from the river is nearing completion. Next we'll head to the lakeside 1919 Ashtabula Pavilion for an early lunch and a discussion with Ohio Sea Grant about Lake Erie's toxic algae and fisheries challenges. Then it's off to the North Kingsville Sand Barrens for a short hike with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where we'll spot fall migratory birds and learn about land and lake conservation efforts. Finally, we'll stop at a winery near Conneaut for a discussion of a unique freshwater wind turbine project in Lake Erie, and sample bread, cheese and wine at this 50-year-old sustainable vineyard (please bring \$5 cash for wine tasting). **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Kathi Kowalski, Freelance Journalist

Karen Schaefer, Freelance Journalist and Independent Radio Producer

Speakers:

Jim Bissell, Curator of Botany and Director of Natural Areas, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Arnulf Esterer, Winemaker and Owner, Markko Vineyard

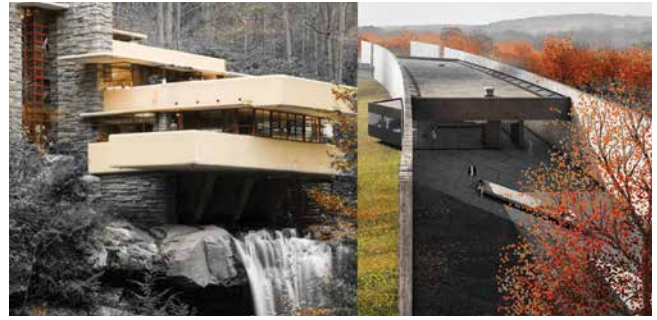
Fred Leitert, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, Ashtabula Port Authority

Frank Lichtkoppler, former Extension Specialist and Professor, Sea Grant College Program, The Ohio State University; and Member, Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan Council

Beth Nagusky, Director of Sustainable Development, Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation

Lorry Wagner, President, Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation

Christopher Winslow, Director, Ohio Sea Grant College Program and Stone Laboratory, The Ohio State University



Images courtesy of Walter Bibikow and Paul Murdoch Architects

3. Laurel Highlands: One Beautiful Mountain Landscape, Two Very Different Environmental Stories

(6:45 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Out of the tragedies of 9/11, a fallow coalfield in western Pennsylvania became the site of the Flight 93 National Memorial. The built structures of the memorial echo aspects of the natural surroundings, while native trees and wildflowers and a renewal of wildlife at the site create a space for remembrance and healing. We'll explore themes of reclamation and restoration, as legacy acid mine drainage is still being treated on the grounds. A county away, we'll visit Frank Lloyd Wright's 1937 masterpiece, Fallingwater, for another perspective on the integration of the built environment and nature. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Julie Grant, Reporter/Editor, The Allegheny Front

Kara Holsopple, Host, The Allegheny Front

Speakers:

Christopher Armstrong, Director of Architectural Studies and Associate Professor, Department of History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh

Beverly Braverman, Executive Director, Mountain Watershed Association

Stephen Clark, Superintendent, National Parks of Western Pennsylvania, National Parks Service

Malcolm Crittenden, Watershed Manager, Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Scott Eggerud, Forester, Appalachian Region, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior

Mike Kuzemchak, Laurel Highlands Program Director, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



4. “Cracker” Plants and Fracking and All That Gas

(7:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Of all 50 states in the U.S., Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas behind Texas. On this tour, we'll visit drilled wells from the historic past, a fracking site of the present and one of the biggest shale gas industrial sites of the future — a 340-acre polyethylene “cracker” plant. We'll also meet with local elected officials and residents living in the communities where these operations occur. From Pittsburgh, our bus travels north through the Ohio River Valley to Beaver County, Butler County and beyond. During the trip we'll view the documentary “Triple Divide [Redacted],” which highlights the impacts of fracking on people and places across Pennsylvania. **Total drive time – 5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Bobby Magill, Freelance Journalist

Melissa Troutman, Editor, Public Herald

Speakers:

Robert Howarth, David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology and Environmental Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
Anthony Ingraffea, Dwight C. Baum Professorship in Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

Robert Schmetzer, President, South Heights Borough Council

John Stolz, Director, Center for Environmental Research and Education; and Professor, Environmental Microbiology, Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, Duquesne University

Sharon Wilson, Certified Optical Gas Imaging Thermographer and Gulf Regional Organizer, Earthworks



5. From Steeltown to Green City

(7:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Part of Pittsburgh's evolution from a city choked by smog and coal dust to one of the nation's most livable places has been the embrace of green buildings. From non-profit nature centers to for-profit bank buildings, Pittsburgh is lighting the urban sustainability pathway with LEED-certified structures that help clean the air, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and brighten the skyline. But the city and The University of Pittsburgh are also working to make sure that green buildings don't just go to those with the most “green” to pay. On this tour, local experts will take you through some of the highlights, visiting innovative projects in a low-income neighborhood as well as a city park, Pitt's campus and the blooming (and green) Phipps Conservatory. **Total drive time – 1 hour.**

Tour Leaders:

Rona Kobell, Staff Reporter, *Chesapeake Bay Journal*

Jennifer Weeks, Editor, *The Conversation*

Speakers:

Robert Aumer Jr., Design Partner, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Kristy Bronder, Program Director, The Business of Humanity®

Project, Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh

John Camillus, Donald R. Beall Professor of Strategic Management,

Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh

Angelica Ciranni, Pittsburgh 2030 District Director, Green Building Alliance

Casey Clauser, Farm Manager, Oasis Farm and Fishery

Patricia Culley, Design Partner, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Adam Haas, Interpretive Specialist, Environmental

Communications, Phipps Conservatory

Leslie Montgomery, Education Director, Green Building Alliance

Richard Piacentini, Executive Director, Phipps Conservatory

Gregory Reed, Director, Pitt Center for Energy and the GRID

Institute; Director, Electric Power Systems Laboratory; Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

Camila Rivera-Tinsley, Director of Education, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Director, Frick Environmental Center

Noah Shaltes, Construction Partner/Project Manager, PJ Dick Inc.

Aurora Sharrard, Executive Director, Green Building Alliance

Image courtesy of Ann Froschauer



6. To the Bat Cave!

(8:00 a.m. departure, \$50 fee, includes lunch and cave entry)

Fifty miles southeast of Pittsburgh lies Laurel Caverns, the largest cave system and bat habitat in Pennsylvania. In 2008, white-nose syndrome made its way from New York to Pennsylvania, and by the following year, thousands of bats had died from the fungal disease. On this tour, you'll travel deep into Laurel Caverns, off the public cave paths and through narrow crawl spaces to hibernacula used by bats during the winter months. You'll learn about bat physiology, behavior and the effects of white-nose syndrome, as well as the caverns' dazzling geology. Participation in this field trip requires a high degree of mobility. **Total drive time – 3 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Gloria Dickie, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist
John Hayes, Outdoors Editor, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Speakers:

Catherine Hibbard, White-Nose Syndrome National Communications Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Robyn Niver, Endangered Species Biologist, New York Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carl Pierce, President, Pittsburgh Grotto, National Speleological Society
Greg Turner, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Division, Pennsylvania Game Commission
 Caving guides, Laurel Caverns Park, TBA

Image courtesy of Chris Martin



7. One City, Three Rivers: Pittsburgh's Water Challenge

(8:15 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, includes lunch and boat fee)

Pittsburgh faces challenges typical of many urban water systems, with its efforts to stem combined sewer overflows, manage its stormwater, prop up its aging infrastructure and address lead in its drinking water. Amid community outcry, regulators have ordered the water authority to replace lead service lines across the city. Meanwhile, a new "Green First" plan will utilize green infrastructure to address flooding and CSOs. This tour will start with drinking water treatment and make stops at green infrastructure sites and a reclaimed island that boasts, "George Washington landed here." We'll tour a sewage treatment plant and end the day on a research boat at the confluence of Pittsburgh's three rivers, where we'll learn about emerging pollutants in urban waterways as we take in a stunning view of downtown. **Total drive time – less than 2 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

James Bruggers, Environmental Reporter, *The (Louisville) Courier-Journal*
Kathy Knauer, Executive Producer, The Allegheny Front

Speakers:

Michael Blackhurst, Co-Director, Urban and Regional Analysis, Center for Social and Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh
Suzi Bloom, Rivers of Steel
Terrence Collins, Teresa Heinz Professor of Green Chemistry and Director of the Institute for Green Science, Carnegie Mellon University
Jordan Fischbach, Codirector, Water and Climate Resilience Center and Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation
Bernard Goldstein, Environmental Toxicologist and former Dean, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh
Douglas Jackson, Director of Operations and Maintenance, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority
Kyle Siler-Evans, Associate Engineer, RAND Corporation
Rob Walters, Waterkeeper/Executive Director, Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Robert Weimar, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Karen Yacos, Director, Water Infrastructure, CERES
Megan Zeigler, Associate Project Manager, Green Infrastructure, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority



8. Coal, Steel and Smog

(8:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

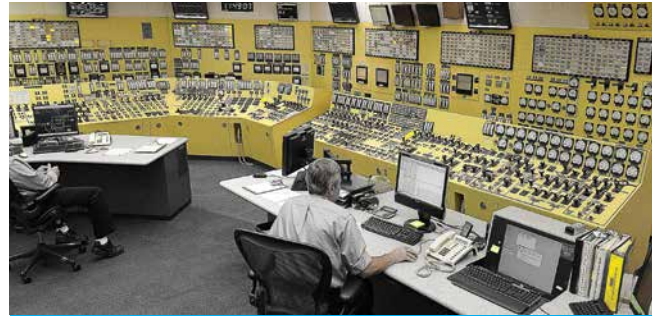
Once known as “Hell with the Lid Off,” the Pittsburgh region is still coping with the environmental legacy of heavy industry. We will hike up “bone piles” (early 20th century coal wastelands) and discuss reclamation efforts, and visit the Smog Museum (motto: “Clean Air Started Here”) in Donora, the site of a 1948 air pollution disaster that killed 22. We’ll be joined by historians, industry experts and a survivor of the deadly Donora smog, and conclude with a discussion at Brew Gentlemen, a microbrewery located in the historic steel town of Braddock. **Total drive time – 2.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Reid Frazier, Energy Reporter/Producer, The Allegheny Front
Bill Kovarik, Professor of Communication, Radford University

Speakers:

Ron Baraff, Director of Historic Resources and Facilities, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
Eric Cavazza, Director, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Richard Charlton, Archivist and Curator, Donora Smog Museum and Historical Society
Veronica Coptis, Executive Director, Center for Coalfield Justice
Virgil Fragello, retired Steel Mill Office Worker
David Lonich, Historian; Educator, California University of Pennsylvania; and Author, “Steel Town Showdown”
Mark Pawelec, Volunteer Committee Chair, Web Design and Fundraising, Donora Smog Museum
Chris Pistorius, POSCO Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Co-Director, Center for Iron and Steelmaking Research, Carnegie Mellon University
Charles Stacey, Historian, retired School Teacher and Administrator
Art Sullivan, Consultant, Art Sullivan Mine Services and former Coal Miner



9. Fission and Our Energy Future: The View from Inside an Operating Nuclear Plant

(9:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Join us as we tour FirstEnergy Corp’s twin-reactor Beaver Valley nuclear complex, 34 miles northwest of downtown Pittsburgh, and get a firsthand look at how nuclear technology works. Beaver Valley 1 and Beaver Valley 2 are pressurized water reactors licensed to operate until 2036 and 2047, respectively. But Pennsylvania is one of many states with deregulated electricity markets where nuclear plants now struggle to compete against lower-priced forms of energy. Learn about the pros and cons of nuclear, and why industry executives view it as a powerful tool for combatting climate change. **Total drive time – 1.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:

Tom Henry, Environmental-Energy Writer, *The (Toledo) Blade*
Roger Witherspoon, Journalist, Author, Educator

Speakers:

Paulina Jaramillo, Associate Professor, Engineering and Public Policy, College of Engineering and Co-Director, Green Design Institute, Carnegie Mellon University
Jim Krafty, Senior Resident Inspector, Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Neil Sheehan, Public Affairs Officer, Field Office Region I, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Jake Smeltz, Chief of Staff, Pennsylvania State Senate and former President, Electric Power Generation Association
Tim Steed, Director, Beaver Valley Performance Improvement, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.
Jennifer Young, Lead, Generation and Environmental Communications, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.
 Beaver Valley Young Generation in Nuclear representatives TBA
 Citizens Against Nuclear Bailouts representative (invited)
 Other FirstEnergy/Beaver Valley management representatives TBA

BOOKSTORE

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The UPitt bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

INDEPENDENT HOSPITALITY RECEPTIONS AND EXHIBITS

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Now a popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference's best networking opportunity. After spending the day in the field, meet with hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand as well as displays, materials and, of course, great food and drink. And don't miss the sneak peek at 2017 exhibitors. After the receptions, we'll have live music by the Blues Orphans from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.



Connecting researchers, educators, and the public to facilitate innovative research experiences and collaborative projects that foster awareness of the connection between Ohio's inland water system and the Earth's oceans and how human health depends on the sustainability of both, as all water systems around the world are inextricably linked.

www.oceansohio.org

Image courtesy of Craig Toochek



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2017



When it hits... it'll be quick!

News travels fast, whether by 24-hour cable, cell phones or YouTube. Our Policy Resolution Group is ahead of the story, advocating for our clients to ensure that their message is heard. Our team of media specialists, government relations professionals and attorneys is a distinctive combination that sets us apart from other world-class public affairs firms, providing our clients with an unbeatable blend of legal acuity and media savvy.

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Ted Scripps Fellowships in Environmental Journalism

Enhance your journalism skills and deepen your understanding of environmental science and policy at the University of Colorado Boulder through courses, weekly seminars, and field trips.

Full-time print, broadcast and online journalists with a minimum of five years of professional experience are eligible. Applicants may include reporters, editors, photojournalists, producers and full-time freelancers. Prior experience covering the environment is not necessary.

The program covers tuition and fees and provides a \$56,000 stipend.

Apply by March 1st

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.

Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.

As our guest, you should respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by thanking all participants in sessions you attend and not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.

Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Pl, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (877) 999-3223, unless otherwise indicated

REGISTRATION

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor at the far end of the Ballroom foyer

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Friday evening party at Carrie Furnaces or Sunday breakfast at Phipps Conservatory, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor, Ballroom foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours and beat dinners. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

SEJ EXHIBITS

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom and Grand Ballroom Foyer

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2017 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

BOOKSTORE

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The UPitt bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

BREAKFAST

7:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Browse the exhibits or choose a discussion table on a wide range of timely topics and reporting tips or pick up your breakfast in the ballroom and join the academic session below.

PANEL SESSION

How to Go from Prof(essional) to Prof(essor)

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: King's Garden 5

Journalism programs usually reflect a mix of traditional academics with doctorates — and little, if any, professional experience — and former professionals who move to the classroom for a variety of reasons, including downsizing by their news organizations, desire for a career change and hopes for more stability and more regular working hours. Challenges include designing new courses and adapting other instructors' courses, balancing teaching and research responsibilities, remaining current with changes in the media world and evaluating student work. This transition and the change in workplace cultures can be difficult, however, and there's often little guidance or mentoring for new faculty arriving from the profession. Our panelists will share advice and best practices based on their own successful transitions, as well as guidance on continuing professional work as a freelancer while teaching full-time.

Moderator:

Eric Freedman, Knight Chair & Professor, Director of the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, School of Journalism and Director of Capital News Service, Michigan State University

Speakers:

Randy Loftis, Lecturer, Mayborn School of Journalism, University of North Texas

David Poulson, Associate Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, School of Journalism, Michigan State University

Kate Sheppard, Enterprise Editor, The Huffington Post and Senior Lecturer, School of Media and Journalism, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sara Shipley Hiles, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism, University of Missouri



OPENING PLENARY

Environmental Journalism in the Trump Era

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Covering the administration has never been easy, but now we're dealing with a president who calls mainstream media the enemy; increasingly opaque and off-the-record federal agencies; a polarized, distrustful audience; and a rising tide of fake news. How are journalists navigating this new landscape? How do we better equip ourselves for the current reporting era?

Moderator:

Kate Sheppard, Enterprise Editor, The Huffington Post and Senior Lecturer, School of Media and Journalism, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Speakers:

Stephen Curwood, Host and Executive Producer, PRI Living on Earth

Brady Dennis, National Reporter, *The Washington Post*

Lisa Friedman, Reporter, Climate Desk, *The New York Times*

Emily Holden, Energy Reporter, Politico

Peter Sterne, Managing Editor, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

BEVERAGE BREAK

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

SEJ AND CLIMATE MATTERS PRESS CONFERENCE

10:40-10:55 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The Climate Matters program that has successfully helped hundreds of TV meteorologists become key sources of local climate information is expanding further into the newsroom, providing a wider range of journalists with localized climate reporting resources and training. Supported by the National Science Foundation, the project aims to increase the quality and quantity of reporting on climate change science, impacts and solutions. Climate Matters partners include SEJ, NASA, NOAA, AMS, RTDNA, NAHJ, NABJ and the Kneeland Project. This press conference will introduce the Climate Matters program to SEJ members and seek their input on the resources they need to enhance their climate reporting.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



Image courtesy of ArveS

THE CRAFT 1

Freelance Pitch Slam

Location: King's Garden 5

Skip the email black box and send your finely tuned story pitch directly to editors' ears at SEJ's annual pitch slam. Present your 90-second proposal for a story — never a topic! — to a panel of editors who work with both news and features. You'll receive instant gratification (and maybe even an assignment) when they give you immediate feedback tailored to your pitch. Freelancers of all stripes will gain insight into what it takes to get these editors' attention (including their email addresses), the do's and don'ts of pitching their publications and, of course, how much they pay. Reserve your spot on a sign-up sheet at the start of this session. Note: this session will not be recorded and attendees are expected to keep others' pitches confidential.

Moderator:

Ashley Braun, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist

Speakers:

Marla Cone, Senior Editor/Science, Reveal/Center for Investigative Reporting

Breanna Draxler, Associate Editor, bioGraphic

Colin Schultz, News Editor, Hakai Magazine

Peter Thomson, Livable Planet Editor, PRI's The World

Image courtesy of Alan Smithhee



THE CRAFT 2 Working Around PIOs Who Don't Live Up to Their Titles

Location: King's Garden 4

Getting interviews and answers to questions from federal, state and local government has been getting tougher and tougher for some time now. But the advent of the Trump administration may be taking that lack of openness to a new level. This session brings together a former EPA public affairs officer, an enterprising investigative journalist and the chair of SEJ's Freedom of Information Task Force to explore the use of the Freedom of Information Act and other methods for ferreting out stories when PIOs seem more intent than ever in spinning the news and blocking reporters' access to meaningful information.

Moderator:

Tim Wheeler, Managing Editor and Project Writer, *Bay Journal* and Chair, Freedom of Information Task Force, Society of Environmental Journalists

Speakers:

Patrick Boyle, former Chief, Public Affairs, Mid-Atlantic Region, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Joseph Davis, Freelance Journalist and WatchDog Project Director/ Editor/Writer, Society of Environmental Journalists

Jamie Smith Hopkins, Reporter, Center for Public Integrity

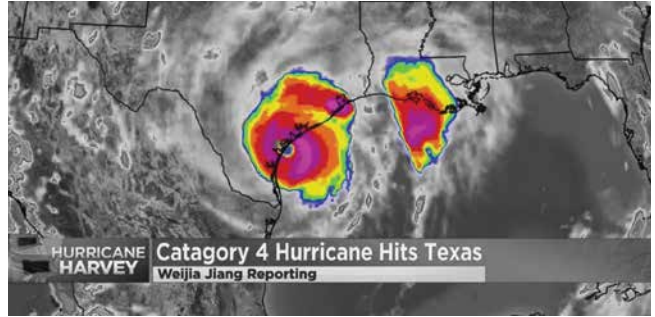


Image courtesy of CBS WCCO

THE CRAFT 3 "We're So Screwed": The Ethics and Efficacy of Doomsday Reporting

Location: Brigade Room

This summer, one powerful example of "doomsday" reporting captivated the public, while another proved eerily prescient. David Wallace-Wells' *New York* magazine story on the worst-case scenarios posed by climate change nabbed more than 3 million readers in just two weeks, making it the most-read article in the publication's history. A couple months later, Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, resulting in some of the exact scenarios predicted a year before in a prescient ProPublica/ Texas Tribune investigation. We'll look at these and other examples of journalists trying to sound the alarm, and examine how gloom-and-doom narratives affect public consciousness and preparedness, especially when it comes to existential threats like climate change. And we'll ask: How can we tell these important stories ethically and effectively?

Moderator:

Scott Dodd, Editor in Chief, *Grist*

Speakers:

Jennifer Jacquet, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, New York University and Author, "Is Shame Necessary?"

Renee Lertzman, Psychologist and Author, "Environmental Melancholia: Psychoanalytic Dimensions of Engagement"

Neena Satija, Investigative Reporter and Radio Producer, Texas Tribune and Reveal

David Wallace-Wells, Deputy Editor, *New York*

Image courtesy of Thinkstick



WATER

Growing Awareness of America's Lead Problem: Next Steps, New Stories

Location: River Room

The 2016 water crisis in Flint, Michigan focused international attention on the issue of lead poisoning. In response, many cities, schools and homeowners rushed to test for lead in various things, from drinking water to soil to children's blood. Sadly, many of these tests revealed unhealthy levels of lead similar to those found in Flint — and even higher. This freshly exposed lead problem provoked increasingly urgent calls for change in the way the nation tries to protect people from exposure to this potent neurotoxin. We explore the latest developments in the lead story, from the perspectives of academic experts and journalists doing exemplary work on this compelling story that touches nearly every older city in the world. Some historians attribute the fall of the Roman Empire to lead drinking water pipes similar to the ones that leached lead into the stuff flowing from Flint's faucets.

Moderator:

Emilia Askari, Journalist and Educator, University of Michigan

Speakers:

Talia Buford, Reporter, ProPublica

Bernard Goldstein, Environmental Toxicologist and former Dean, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Derrick Jackson, Climate and Energy Writer, Union of Concerned Scientists and Essayist, *The Boston Globe* and ESPN's *The Undefeated*

Michael Pell, Data Journalist, Reuters



Image courtesy of Gage Skidmore

CLIMATE

Rethinking Climate Change Denial

Location: King's Garden 3

"It's a hoax!" "It's not as bad as you think!" "We don't know how much is human-caused!" "Fixing it would destroy the economy!" Over the years, those opposed to taking action have danced a careful dance between climate change denial talking points. The Trump administration has spawned new shifts in rhetoric to match its assault on climate action and on science in general, and understanding that "denial" isn't just one stance is an important step toward countering it. With perspectives from reporters as well as the advocacy and academic worlds, this panel will discuss the changing face of climate denial and how journalists should approach surrounding stories — debunk or ignore? Establish "belief" or focus exclusively on policy? How should reporting and writing change to better inform people how these various forms of denial — especially versions that don't sound like outright head-in-the-sand contradiction — are just branches on a tree of misinformation?

Moderator:

Dave Levitan, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

Andrew Dessler, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Earl F. Cook Professor of Geosciences, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, College of Geosciences, Texas A&M University

Rebecca Leber, Reporter, *Mother Jones*

David Masur, Executive Director, PennEnvironment

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2017

Image courtesy of Emma Cassidy



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Tribal Nations Take a Stand

Location: King's Garden 2

How is the effort to promote access to healthy habitat evolving in Native American communities? The indigenous-led resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline has attracted clean energy and climate justice advocates, pointing the way to construction of environmentally-friendly, community-based alternatives to some of the most pressing socio-economic stumbling blocks of our times. The DAPL conflict at Standing Rock is only the most visible front of many battles in defense of clean air, water and land that have been ongoing in Indian country throughout this generation. Leaders of the struggle to protect Mother Nature and on-the-scene journalists will discuss the movement's peculiarities and their implications for change.

Moderator:

Talli Nauman, Health & Environment Contributing Editor, *Native Sun News Today* and Codirectora, *Periodismo para Elevar la Conciencia Ecologica*

Speakers:

Winona LaDuke, Executive Director, Honor the Earth
Jenni Monet, Freelance Journalist
3rd speaker TBA

Image courtesy of National Geographic



WILDLIFE Criminal Elements: Organized Crime and Natural Resources

Location: King's Garden 1

Environmental crime is now the world's fourth largest crime sector, estimated by UNEP and Interpol to be worth more than \$250 billion each year. Criminal networks — drug cartels, money launderers and terrorist groups — are trafficking natural resources, including timber, fish, minerals and wildlife, in dramatically increasing numbers. Panelists will discuss how to report on and prosecute illegal trade in natural resources, which not only degrades the environment, but also endangers vulnerable communities around the world and threatens our national security.

Moderator:

Meaghan Parker, Senior Writer/Editor, Environmental Change and Security Program & Global Sustainability and Resilience Program, Woodrow Wilson Center

Speakers:

Barbara Fraser, Freelance Journalist
Karla Mendes, Freelance Investigative Journalist
Mary Rowen, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development
John Webb, Attorney at Law and retired Prosecutor, Environmental Crimes Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Image courtesy of Maureen Amerune



ENERGY The Next Fracking Fight: Pipelines

Location: Chartiers

Controversy over fracking has spilled onto a new battleground: natural gas pipelines. Pipeline companies are proposing to build many thousands of miles of new lines around the country to transport fracked gas. Climate activists, emboldened by protest over the Dakota Access Pipeline, are fighting these projects, arguing that we should keep fossil fuels in the ground and not build infrastructure that would lock in their use for decades to come. Landowners and other locals along pipeline routes, including conservatives who oppose use of eminent domain, are also opposing many of the projects. How are these fights playing out on the ground? What light can science shed on pipeline controversies? What do journalists need to know to report the whole story?

Moderator:

Lisa Hymas, Climate and Energy Program Director, Media Matters for America

Speakers:

Marie Cusick, Reporter, StateImpact Pennsylvania

Brooke Harper, Maryland/DC Policy Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Kenneth Klemow, Professor of Biology and GeoEnvironmental Science, and Associate Director, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Wilkes University

Image courtesy of Thomas Bush

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM LUNCHEON

12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

We slog through workdays, late nights and weekends to not only get stories, but to get them right. Watch all that effort pay off at SEJ's Annual Awards for Reporting on the Environment. After the ceremony, a panel of winners will take the stage to discuss the future of environmental journalism. What does it look like? Who will tell the stories of our time — and through what perspective? We'll have a provocative conversation about the next 20 years through the lens of diversity, freelancing and resources.

Awards Emcees:

Beth Daley, Director of Strategic Development, InsideClimate News

Gloria Dickie, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist

Speakers:

Ellen Gilmer, Legal Reporter, E&E News

Rachel Nuwer, Freelance Journalist

Naveena Sadasivam, Staff Writer, *Texas Observer*

OCTOBER 6, 2017

FRIDAY



CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Image courtesy of MS



THE CRAFT 1 Book Author Pitch Slam

Location: King's Garden 5

For SEJers thinking of writing a book — or already at work on a proposal — the popular Book Author Pitch Slam is back with three editors who have keen interest and experience in our genre. We'll open with tips on what subjects and stories publishing houses are looking for these days. Then, SEJers with a book idea will have two minutes each to pitch the panel. Editors will critique the idea as well as the pitch, sharing helpful suggestions — and maybe their business cards. This is a popular session and a rare opportunity for a direct audience with book editors, so advance sign-up is required for a pitch (which you are strongly encouraged to craft in advance; two minutes is about 200 words). Email the moderator, cynthiabarnett@gmail.com, with a working title to secure your spot. Those not pitching are welcome to attend with the caveat that this is a confidential session. It will not be recorded.

Moderator:

Cynthia Barnett, Journalist and Author, "Mirage," "Blue Revolution" and "Rain: A Natural and Cultural History"

Speakers:

Will Myers, Editor, Beacon Press

Emily Turner, Editor, Island Press

Matt Weiland, Vice President and Senior Editor, W.W. Norton



Image courtesy of Google

THE CRAFT 2 Google Tools Training with SPJ

Location: King's Garden 4

This session will give an overview of how Google's tools can help you research stories, fact-check, find what's trending and locate useful datasets. The workshop will highlight: advanced Google Search techniques, Google Trends, Google Public Data Explorer and more to ensure you're covered on how to fully uncover things.

Presenter: **Abigail Edge**, Freelance Journalist

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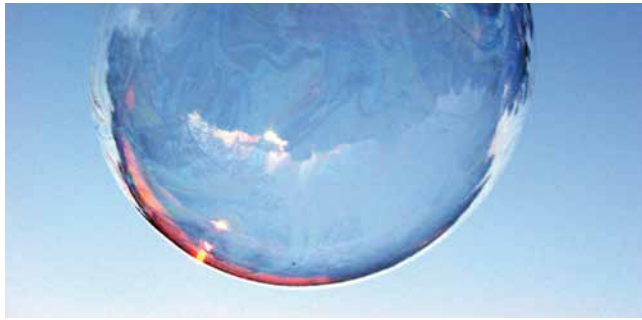
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SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 6, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Image courtesy of Phil Landowsky



THE CRAFT 3 Beyond the Bubble: How to Communicate Environmental Issues Outside of the Echo Chamber

Location: Brigade Room

A majority of US adults — 59 percent — say that journalists should stick to simply reporting the facts. But, as this session will make clear, there's nothing simple about fact-based reporting. How you report the facts can lead people to draw wildly inaccurate conclusions. By drawing on expertise from journalism, academia and activism this session will focus on how to best craft environmental stories in ways that resonate with people who aren't necessarily the traditional audience for environmental journalism stories.

Moderator:

Kendra Pierre-Louis, Independent Journalist and Author

Speakers:

Jamin Bogi, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, Group Against Smog and Pollution

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Associate Professor, Environment/Energy/Development Economics, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh and Editor, "The Shale Dilemma: A Global Perspective on Fracking and Shale Development"

Todd Reubold, Publisher, Director and Co-founder, *Ensis* Magazine



Image courtesy of CNN

WATER Crystal Clear? Water Policy in the Trump Administration

Location: River Room

President Trump, as a candidate and in office, promised to decimate the federal regulatory apparatus. He has promptly set about the task of doing just that. His Cabinet appointees talk of a new era of federal-state relations and a refocusing on "core principles." What, one might ask, does this mean in practice? Can such a de-regulatory agenda, against the bulwark of law, even stand? This session will address topics such as the proposed repeal of the Waters of the U.S. rule, the meaning of cooperative federalism, the fallout from budget cuts and more. It will help reporters understand the local consequences, for water resources, of the tumult in Washington.

Moderator:

Brett Walton, Reporter, Circle of Blue

Speakers:

William Andreen, Edgar L. Clarkson Professor of Law, School of Law, The University of Alabama

Brent Fewell, Founder and Chair, Earth & Water Group

Ramez Ziadeh, Acting Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2017

Image courtesy of David Lat



CLIMATE Climate Action in the Hands of the Courts

Location: King's Garden 3

As the Trump administration works to undo Obama-era regulations, what role will federal and state courts play in addressing climate and energy policies? Many states and environmental organizations are already turning to the courts to slow or block the reversal of regulations. More actions will follow. And then there's the existing docket of cases seeking to clarify the government's authority and duty to regulate climate change, including industry lawsuits and even the novel public trust action filed by a coalition of children and their guardians. This session will examine prospects for pending lawsuits, what types of suits to expect and what options are available to the courts.

Moderator:

Carolyn Whetzel, Staff Correspondent, Bloomberg BNA

Speakers:

Megan Ceronsky, former Special Assistant & Counsel to President Obama and Senior Policy Advisor, White House Office of Energy and Climate Change

Michael Gerrard, Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice and Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School; Chair of Faculty, Earth Institute, Columbia University; and Senior Counsel, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Jeffrey Holmstead, Partner, Bracewell LLP and former Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Image courtesy of CNN



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Environmental Justice in the Age of Trump

Location: King's Garden 2

As environmental protections come under attack nationwide, how are low-income and minority communities most vulnerable to environmental degradation affected? What are frontline communities doing to protect themselves in an era of decreased enforcement and rollbacks of environmental safeguards, and how are reporters shining a spotlight on cases of environmental injustice as they occur?

Moderator:

Phil McKenna, Reporter, InsideClimate News

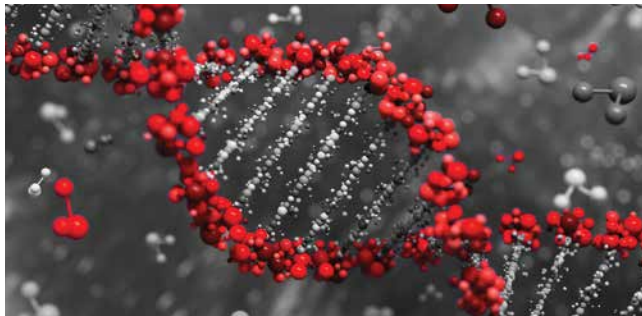
Speakers:

Yessenia Funes, Freelance Environment and Race Reporter

Jenni Monet, Freelance Journalist

Neena Satija, Investigative Reporter and Radio Producer, Texas Tribune and Reveal

Image courtesy of Business Insider



WILDLIFE

Can DNA Editing Save Species?

Location: King's Garden 1

Before CRISPR came along, scientists couldn't force specific genetic changes throughout an entire population. This set of biological editing tools can change or delete any stretch of DNA, and every altered individual passes the new gene on to its offspring, and so on. We'll discuss how scientists are considering using gene-drive technology to aid conservation, including wiping out invasive rodents on islands, eradicating malaria-carrying mosquitoes that are devastating Hawaiian birds and more. We'll go beyond the possible conservation challenges that the technology might help address and explore the regulatory and ethical issues surrounding its use.

Moderator:

Alisa Opar, Articles Editor, *Audubon Magazine*

Speakers:

Brooke Borel, Freelance Journalist and Author

Kevin Esvelt, Leader, Sculpting Evolution Group, and Assistant Professor, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Todd Kuiken, Senior Research Scholar, Genetic Engineering & Society Center, North Carolina State University

Image courtesy of Nathaniel Dodson



ENERGY

Can We Afford Nuclear Power?

Location: Chartiers

It's been a tough few years for nuclear power in the U.S. with the failure of Westinghouse, cancellation of the construction of a South Carolina nuclear plant and announcements of plant closures. Still, two states recently enacted legislation to provide financial support for atomic plants, which are under pressure from cheaper natural gas, because of their near-zero carbon emissions, and nearly another two-dozen states are considering similar measures. Panelists will discuss the carbon and financial costs of nuclear and competing electricity sources to give journalists a better understanding of the debate gaining traction in states across the U.S.

Moderator:

James Simms II, Freelance Journalist and Commentator

Speakers:

Paulina Jaramillo, Associate Professor, Engineering and Public Policy, College of Engineering and Co-Director, Green Design Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

Doug Koplow, Founder, Earth Track, Inc.

3rd speaker TBA

BEVERAGE BREAK

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

All are welcome for the Annual Membership Meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists. SEJ members, please attend to hear from candidates and cast your vote to fill open seats on SEJ's 2018 Board of Directors. Reports, Q&A and lively discussion of hot topics and future plans for SEJ membership, finance and programs will round out the hour.

Image courtesy of Adam Taylor

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2017



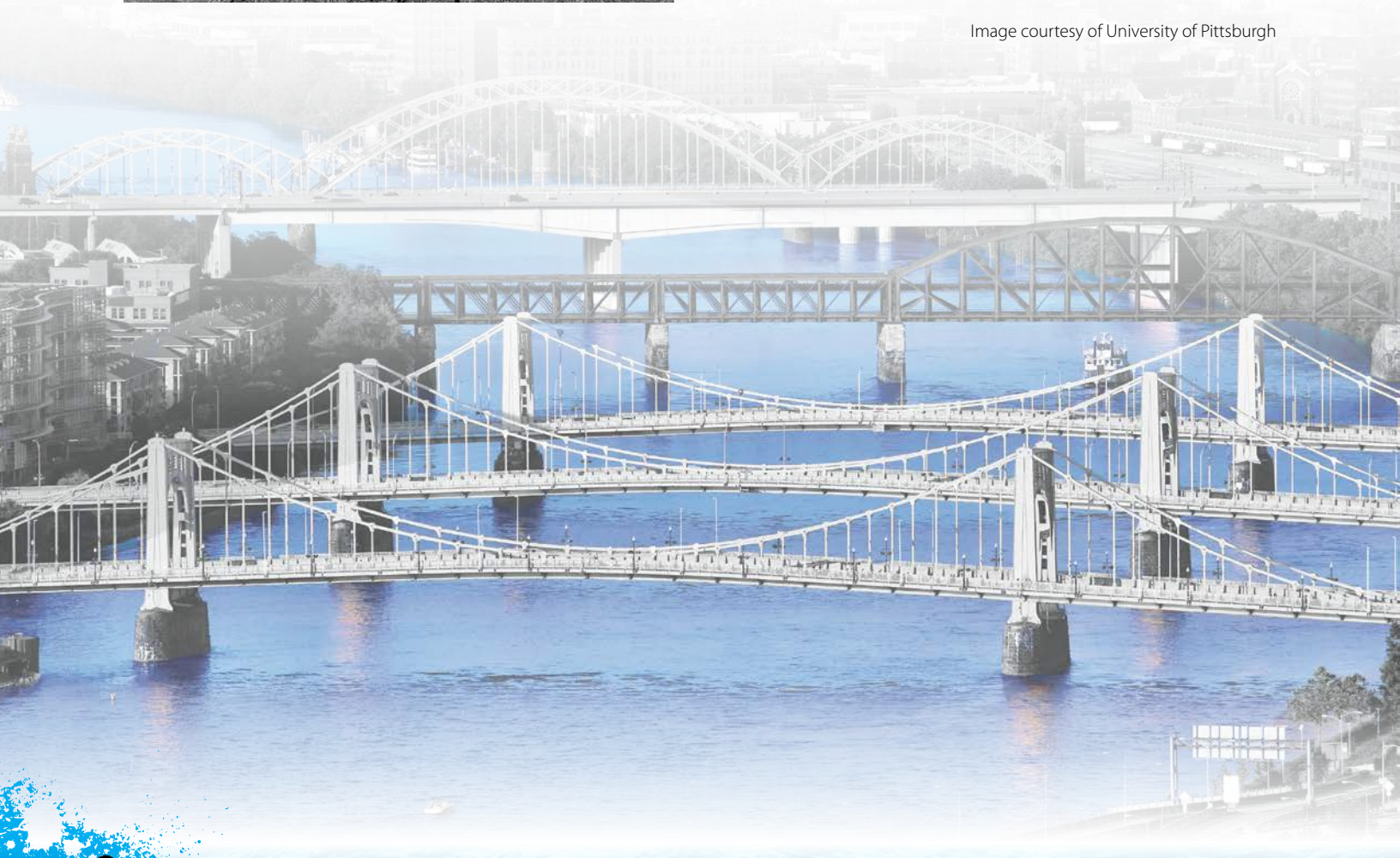
DINNER AND DANCING FURNACE BLAST

5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Buses depart the Wyndham Grand promptly at 5:00 p.m. from just outside the Benedum Room. Buses will make regular loops between Carrie Furnaces and the Wyndham Grand until final buses depart at 11:00 p.m.

We'll head out early for cocktails at the surreal Carrie Furnaces, an ironworks that is one of the last remaining parts of the massive, historic Homestead Steel Works, which produced the steel that built the Empire State Building, Gateway Arch in St. Louis and railways that spanned the nation. Before dinner, you'll be able to tour the industrial site, part of the National Park Service's Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. Do not miss seeing the graffiti wall and "The Stag," a 40-foot-tall deer head fashioned out of scavenged rebar, wire and cracked rubber hoses by a community of artists who sneaked onto the site after the furnaces shut down. Then get ready to rock the building, like it's not been rocked since the iron furnaces roared. **Dancing shoes required. Steel-toes optional. Pre-registration and \$35 fee required.**

Image courtesy of University of Pittsburgh

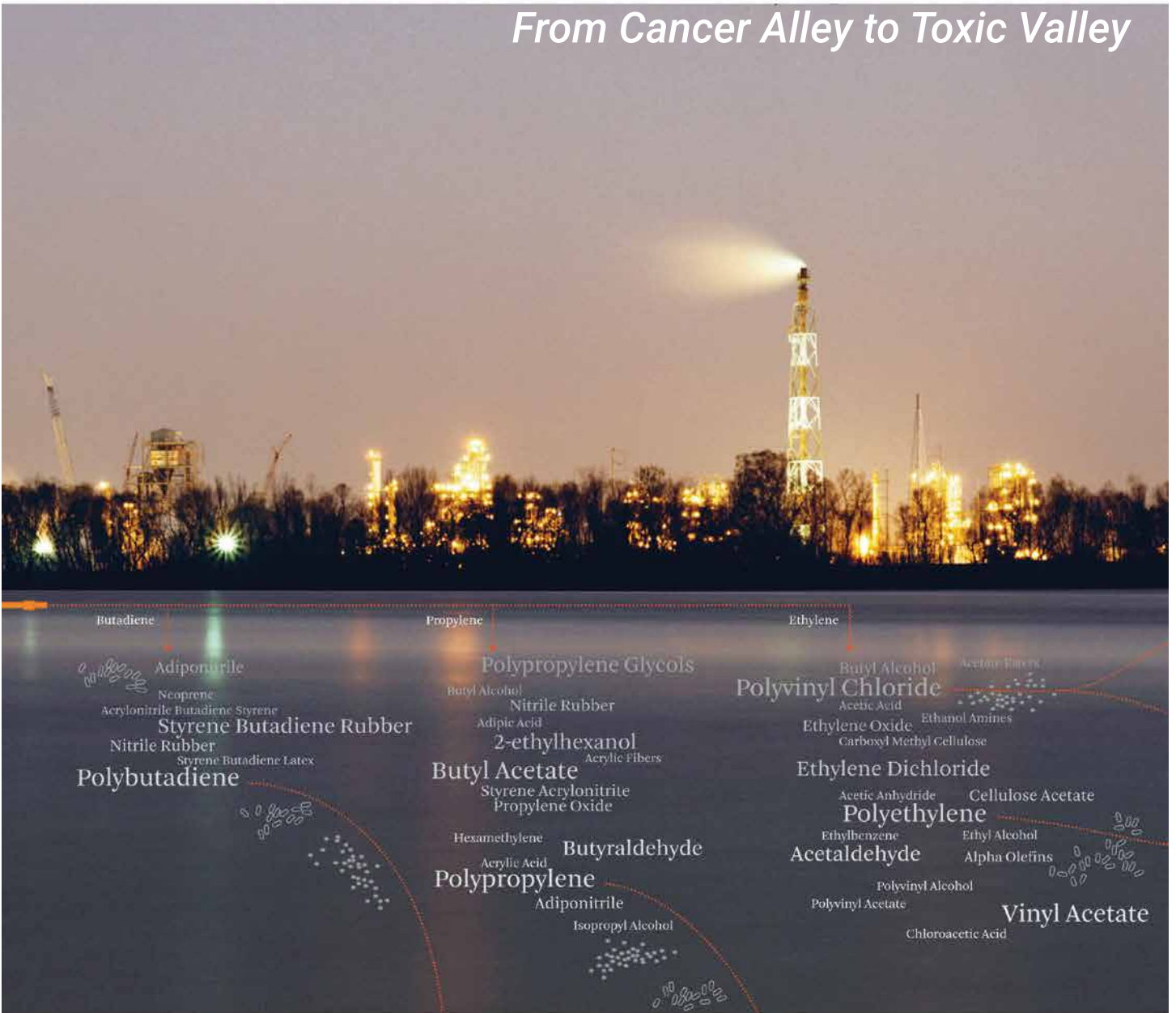


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SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

PETROCHEMICAL AMERICA

From Cancer Alley to Toxic Valley



SPACE Gallery
812 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh
September 27 - October 7

Opening Reception
Wed., 5:00 pm, September 27

Closing Reception
Sat., 5:30 pm, October 7

2nd Showing
Beaver Station
Cultural & Event Center
250 East End Ave., Beaver
October 15 - 20

Join us for a multimedia exhibition on Louisiana's "Cancer Alley" and the degradation of its environment and public health as the petrochemical industry sets its sights on Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Facebook
@PetrochemicalAmerica
"From Pipe to Plastic Bag," Petrochemical America by Richard Misrach and Kate Orff

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017

As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.

Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.

As our guest, you should respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by thanking all participants in sessions you attend and not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.

Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.

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REGISTRATION

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor at the far end of the Ballroom foyer

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Sunday breakfast at Phipps Conservatory, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor, Ballroom foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours and beat dinners. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

SEJ EXHIBITS

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom and Grand Ballroom Foyer

Haven't stopped by yet? It's your last day to see what the 2017 exhibitors have to offer. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

BOOKSTORE

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The UPitt bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

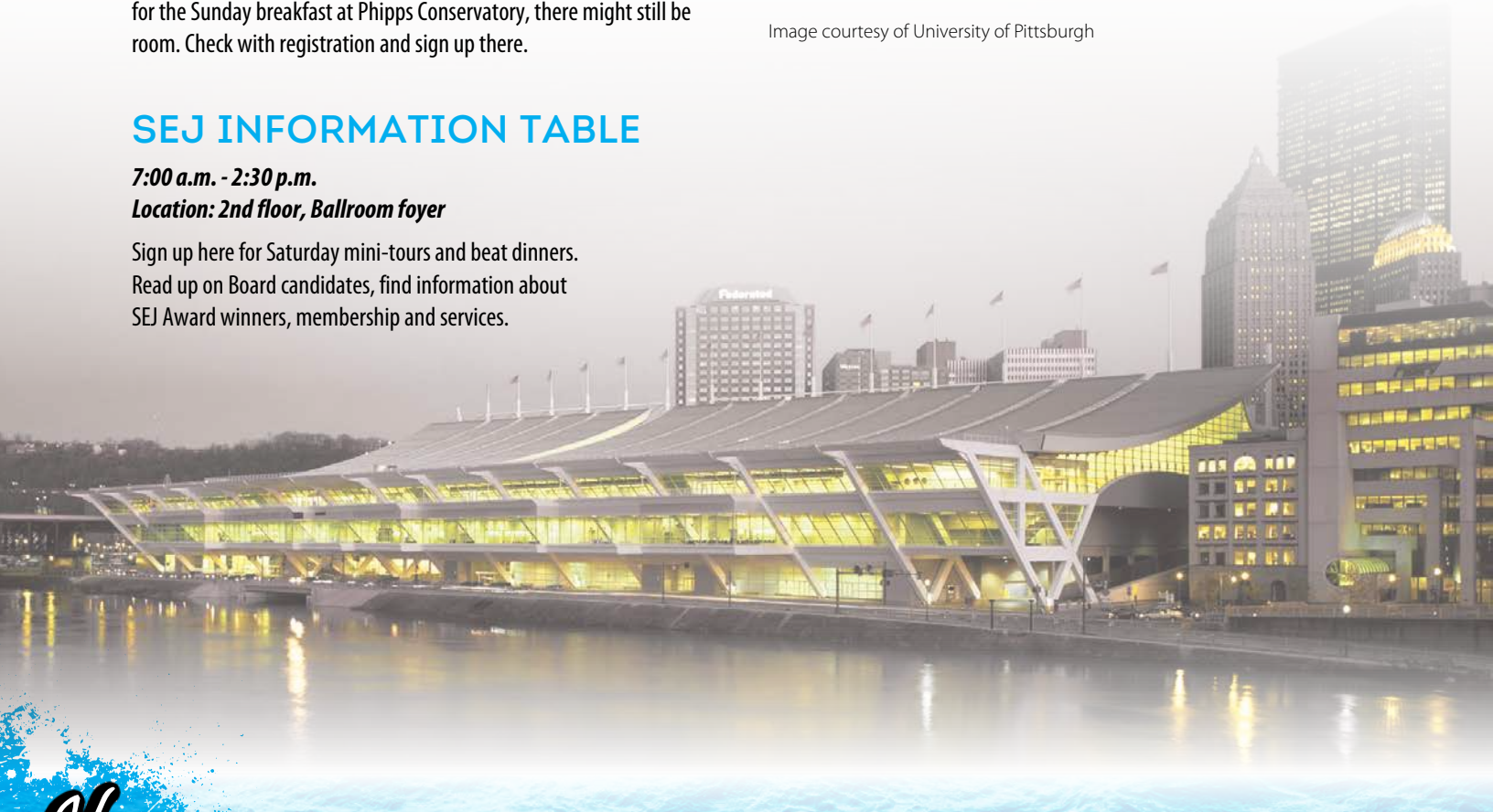
BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS

7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Grab breakfast, browse the exhibits, network with colleagues and watch technology demos.

Image courtesy of University of Pittsburgh

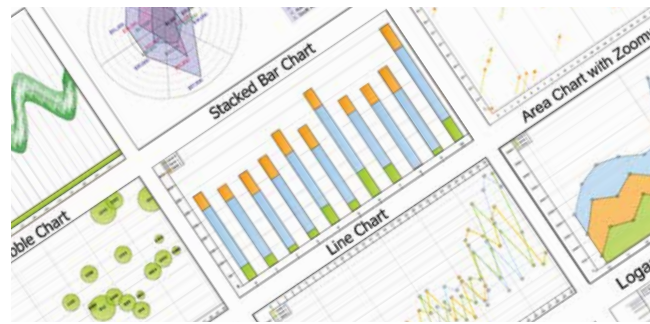


CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

(with exception of CRAFT 1 and CRAFT 2; 9:00 a.m. - Noon)

Image courtesy of TMS Software



THE CRAFT 1 Data Journalism: How to Find It, Mine It, Animate It

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: King's Garden 5

Attendees: Bring your laptop to this session.

This session will teach the basics of data journalism for beginners and problem-solving skills for the more experienced, focusing on practical tips for freelancers and small newsrooms. The first hour offers two options. Choose a hands-on tutorial for beginners in Google Sheets 101 to analyze spreadsheets (we'll use Google Sheets instead of Excel to avoid Mac/PC conflicts): sorting, filtering, simple calculations and possibly pivot tables if there's time. Or, for those who don't need the introductory workshop, join a discussion around ideas, skills and projects. In the next hour, we will walk you through specific examples of environmental stories that relied heavily on data, focusing on how they were done — and how you can translate that into your own projects. In the last part of the session, we'll present a few free and simple digital tools to help freelancers and small newsrooms to tell professional-quality stories without investing too much time or money. All three parts of the session will be followed by their own Q&A.

Presenters:

Bernardo Motta, Neighborhood News Bureau Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Theory and Community Journalism, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Jamie Smith Hopkins, Reporter, The Center for Public Integrity

Lisa Song, Reporter, ProPublica



Image courtesy of The Pioneer

THE CRAFT 2 Safety, Digital Security and Legal Rights for Journalists

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: King's Garden 4

Attendees: Bring your laptop to this session.

These are challenging times for journalists and their sources. Reporters are being arrested more frequently, increasing the potential for police searches of phones and computers. The Obama administration prosecuted nine whistleblowers over eight years, and President Trump has called journalists "enemies of the people." Laws protecting journalists and sources haven't kept up with the powerful digital surveillance and data collection tools now available to governments and companies. This workshop will offer guidance on how to analyze digital vulnerabilities; assess the pros and cons of tools for controlling the storage, use and access of digital information; and provide basic information on working with whistleblowers.

Presenters:

Emily Gertz, Environment, Science, Technology Journalist and Editor
Harlo Holmes, Director, Newsroom Digital Security, Freedom of the Press Foundation

Josh Levy, Campaign Strategist, Digital Rights Advocate, Coalition Builder and Fellow, Digital Civil Society Laboratory, Stanford University

Peter Sterne, Managing Editor, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017

Image courtesy of Bob Smith



THE CRAFT 3 New Media Business Models (in a Post-Truth Era)

Location: Brigade Room

Can entrepreneurial drive and creativity pay for reporting? As ad sales wane, should publishers seek grants, earned income or both? Is crowdfunding worth the effort? Peek inside playbooks of national journalism outlets and a local media leader. Freelancers wanting to monetize a project, editors looking for creative inspiration and publishers (both for-profit and nonprofit) seeking different revenue sources — this panel has your name on it. Expect strategies on business plans, partnerships, sponsored podcasts and events, digital products such as e-books, and more.

Moderator:

Tina Casagrand, Publisher/Editor, *The New Territory Magazine*

Speakers:

Kahmeela Adams, Producer, Pittsburgh 48 Hour Film Project, Podcast Host/Producer and Photographer

Beth Daley, Director of Strategic Development, InsideClimate News

Steve Katz, Publisher, *Mother Jones*



Image courtesy of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

WATER Working the Disaster Beat

Location: River Room

Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, the epic flooding of Houston, exploding chemical plants, raging wildfires in the West — and whatever else happens after we go to press — made headlines this year, along with the Trump administration’s plan to “deconstruct” government. We’ll hear from reporters who’ve been covering breaking environment news: From how to cover a small piece of a huge story to how to stay safe.

Moderator:

Mark Schleifstein, Environment Reporter, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

Speakers:

Jes Burns, Southern Oregon Environment reporter, Earthfix

Ryan Maye Handy, Texas oil, gas and utilities reporter, *Houston Chronicle* (invited)

Bruce Ritchie, Florida energy and environment reporter, POLITICO (invited)

Image courtesy of Rodi Said



CLIMATE

Climate Change, Conflicts and Displaced People

Location: King's Garden 3

Around the world, in places from West Africa to the Middle East, climate change is contributing to conflicts and spurring migration. How can we find and tell stories of people who are displaced by climate change or whose climate-related struggles are spilling over into violence? This session will explore how journalists can reveal the links between the effects of global warming — from strained water supplies to wild weather to rising seas — and the hardships that are fueling conflicts and prompting increasing numbers of desperate people to pick up and move.

Moderator:

Ian James, Reporter, Water and Environment, *The Desert Sun*

Speakers:

Geoffrey Dabelko, Professor and Director, Environmental Studies, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University

Hannah Fairfield, Climate Editor, *The New York Times*

Beth Murphy, Producer and Filmmaker, The GroundTruth Project



Image courtesy of Jon Wisbey

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Building Sources and Trust in the Environmental Justice World

Location: King's Garden 2

Environmental justice stories are hard to tell. Whether a polluted inner city neighborhood, a remote Native American reservation dealing with drought or a neglected, poor farm town, people in these communities have an understandable suspicion of reporters poking around. Top EJ reporters and community organizers will discuss how to build trust and find the voices to tell some of the most important stories of our time.

Moderator:

Brian Bienkowski, Editor, Environmental Health News and The Daily Climate

Speakers:

Talia Buford, Reporter, ProPublica

Yessenia Funes, Freelance Environment and Race Reporter

Sarah Martik, Community Organizer, Center for Coalfield Justice

Nikhil Swaminathan, Senior Editor, Grist

Image courtesy of National Geographic



WILDLIFE Species on the Move: Climate Change and Shifting Ecosystems

Location: King's Garden 1

Roughly half of the world's species are on the move in response to rising global temperatures. Flora and fauna on land are shifting their ranges northward and upward in elevation at an average 10 miles per decade — and the rate is even faster in marine species. We'll examine how our ecosystems and species are changing in a matter of decades, and the far-reaching ramifications of these shifts on everything from public health to agriculture.

Moderator:

Kat Bagley Maher, Web Editor, Yale 360

Speakers:

Robert Colwell, Distinguished Research Professor, University of Connecticut; Adjoint Curator in Entomology, Museum of Natural History, University of Colorado

Alisa Opar, Articles Editor, *Audubon*

John (Jack) Williams, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Image courtesy of Andrew Purtell



ENERGY The Fate of Renewable Energy Under Trump

Location: Chartiers

The market for renewable generation is facing headwinds as the Trump administration pulls back from the U.N. Paris climate agreement and aims to issue policies friendly to fossil fuels. Cost improvements for solar and wind and federal tax incentives have helped grow renewable power in the U.S., but how will Trump's energy policies impact the market?

Moderator:

Stephanie Tsao, Reporter, S&P Global

Speakers:

Peter Kelley, Vice President, Public Affairs, American Wind Energy Association

Lauren Randall, Director of Public Policy, Sunrun

Matthew Wagner, Manager, Renewable Energy Development, DTE Energy

Dan Whitten, Vice President of Communications, Solar Energy Industries Association

BEVERAGE BREAK

10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4

10:45 a.m. – Noon

(with exception of CRAFT 1 and CRAFT 2; 9:00 a.m. – Noon)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017

Image courtesy of Yui Mok



THE CRAFT 3 Investigative Reporting: How to Dig Deeper

Location: Brigade Room

Walk out of this session armed with investigative tools you can apply to your own work, regardless if you are a freelancer, staff beat reporter or seasoned journalist. Hear from winners of the recently announced Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting from SEJ. You'll get tips and takeaways from document mining to coming up with a sharp, focused question to propel impact-driven work.

Moderator:

Beth Daley, Director of Strategic Development, InsideClimate News

Speakers:

Kyle Bagenstose, Staff Writer, The Intelligencer and Co-Author of SEJ-Award-Winning Series "Unwell Water"

Sharon Lerner, Health/Environment Reporter, The Intercept and Author of SEJ-Award-Winning Series "The Teflon Toxin"

Jenny Wagner, Staff Writer, The Intelligencer and Co-Author of SEJ-Award-Winning Series "Unwell Water"

Lance Williams, Senior Reporter, Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting and Co-Author of SEJ-Award-Winning Series "The Wet Princes of Bel Air"



Image courtesy of Archbob

WATER Making the Great Lakes Great Again

Location: River Room

The Great Lakes have long relied on binational cooperation to address everything from water levels and invasive species to pollution control and water quality. Under President Donald Trump, however, climate data has been scrubbed from government websites, the Administration has dumped international cooperation for a tough nationalist stand and positions are announced haphazardly over Twitter. What kind of impact can be expected for this binational body of fresh water in a sea of chaos? This panel will offer insider perspectives on Great Lakes policy and explore opportunities and strategies for further reporting in a constrained environment.

Moderator:

Lynette Wilson, Ted Scripps Fellow 2017-2018, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder

Speakers:

Jon Allan, Chair, Board of Directors, Great Lakes Commission and Director, Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Dave Dempsey, Senior Advisor, FLOW and former Policy Advisor, International Joint Commission

John Dickert, President and CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Image courtesy of Earth 4K



CLIMATE

Will the Next Global Climate Leader Please Step Up?

Location: King's Garden 3

The Trump Administration has essentially retreated from international action on climate, withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate pact and zeroing out international climate funding touted by both the Obama and Bush administrations as recognition of U.S. responsibility as one of the top global emitters. We'll talk about how countries are likely to respond at the next round of UN climate talks in November in Germany; whether the Trump administration will sit on the sidelines in the negotiations or forcefully push what it is touting as a pro-fossil fuel agenda onto the agenda. Panel members will address how state and U.S. companies are stepping into the breach to either voluntarily cut their carbon emissions or strengthen state mandates. They'll also take a look into the future and weigh in on whether those state, local and corporate actions can ever fully compensate for a gap in federal action, and whether other nations now have reason to be wary of any future U.S. effort to return to the table in the global effort to combat climate change.

Moderator:

Dean Scott, Senior Reporter for Climate Change, Bloomberg BNA

Speakers:

Vicki Arroyo, Executive Director, Georgetown Climate Center, Georgetown Law

Bob Perciasepe, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and former Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ana Unruh Cohen, Government Affairs Director, Natural Resources Defense Council and former Director of Energy, Climate and Natural Resources for Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)



Image courtesy of Charles Ray Arbogast

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Expanding the Environmental Justice Tent

Location: King's Garden 2

Recent high-profile stories in Flint and Standing Rock brought the environmental justice movement into the mainstream — and revealed that stories about people, pollution and health are in nearly every town and city in the U.S. and throughout the world. How, as reporters, do we identify these stories? How do we get them to resonate with audiences outside the movement? And what role does race play in environmental justice coverage — and what is the difference, if any, between environmental justice and environmental racism?

Moderator:

Nikhil Swaminathan, Senior Editor, Grist

Speakers:

Sarah Martik, Community Organizer, Center for Coalfield Justice

Brentin Mock, Staff Writer, CityLab

Naveena Sadasivam, Staff Writer, The Texas Observer

Image courtesy of Billy W



WILDLIFE Beyond Megafauna: Small Species, Big Loss

Location: King's Garden 1

Many species evolve to use particularly narrow habitats. When the specific conditions required by those species disappear, so do the species. This is the extinction crisis that no one is talking about. What's happening to the reptiles, snails, insects and other species that don't command the public's attention? What's being done to save them? How many are we losing before we even know that they existed? What are we losing as they vanish into extinction?

Moderator:

John Platt, Editor, *The Revelator*, Center for Biological Diversity

Speakers:

Jason Bittel, Freelance Wildlife Journalist

Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Director, Center for Biological Diversity

Justin Wheeler, Web and Communications Specialist, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Image courtesy of Patagonia



ENERGY Resources vs. Recreation in the Fight for Public Lands

Location: Chartiers

Since January, there's been what amounts to a modern-day land grab in the West. On one side are those who want to use the land's natural resources — precious metals, oil and gas especially. On the other, the hunters, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts see a right to recreation. There have been victories for both: The joint resolution to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's "public input happy" Planning 2.0 rule for one. The withdrawal of HR 621, a bill that called for the disposal of 3.3 million acres of public land, for another. Then there's the unprecedented Department of Interior review of 27 national monuments, designated under the Antiquities Act, for possible reversal or downsizing. Luminaries in the outdoor-retail industry are fighting alongside hikers, hunters and, yes, trail runners, to keep the land public.

Moderator:

Ryan Krogh, Deputy Editor, *Men's Journal*

Speakers:

Caty Enders, Contributing Editor, *The Guardian* and Knight Science Journalism Fellow

Whit Fosburgh, President/CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Land Tawney, President/CEO, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Patagonia representative TBA

Image courtesy of Angel M. Chivite



LUNCH PLENARY The Sixth Extinction... Live and Personal!

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Why are conservation efforts failing so many iconic species? What will it take to embrace specific or geopolitical solutions radical enough to save tigers and other big cats, great apes, rhinos, elephants and other endangered species? This provocative plenary will ask tough questions of leading experts. Via live video links, we will also connect with those fighting what amounts to a war to protect wildlife and hear stories from the front lines of the planet's sixth major extinction event.

Moderator:

Jeff Burnside, Ted Scripps Journalism Fellow, 2017-18, and SEJ Board Member

Speakers:

Randall Arauz, Founder, Sea Turtle Restoration Program Association

James Deutsch, Director of Biodiversity Conservation, Paul G. Allen Philanthropies

Ofir Drori, Founding Director, EAGLE Network

Jane Goodall, Jane Goodall Institute (invited)

Sharon Guynup, Journalist; Global Fellow, Wilson Center; and National Geographic Explorer

Andrea Heydlauff, Director, African Parks Foundation

Peter Knights, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, WildAid

A RIVER OF MINI-TOURS

2:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on-site at the SEJ Information Table beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Consult your mini-tour flyer in your conference packet for details. Additional flyers are available at the SEJ Information Table.

Departure: Following the lunch and plenary session, go downstairs to the Benedum room. Buses will be waiting outside and SEJ staff will be there to help you find your bus.

BEAT DINNERS IN THE 'BURGH

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Consult your beat dinner flyer in your conference packet, or the web agenda, for details. Sign up at the SEJ Information Table for the beat dinner of your choice. You'll spend Saturday evening out on the town enjoying dinner and robust discussion at some of Pittsburgh's finest eateries, featuring a mix of ethnic cuisines, locally sourced menus and special diets.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

Buses depart from outside the Benedum room beginning at 7:45 a.m. Last bus departs at 8:00 a.m. Be sure to check out in time and have your luggage with you if you're going directly to the airport from the morning program at Phipps.

Pre-registration and \$20 fee required. Breakfast and airport transportation included.

BOOKSTORE

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Phipps Conservatory

The UPitt bookstore is at Phipps Conservatory to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

Image courtesy of Paul G. Weigman



Image courtesy of Paul Frankenstein

BREAKFAST AT PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Under the glass, amidst the blooms, we'll have a full breakfast, and a full plate of Roosevelts, while we ponder deregulation and privatization issues and ask, "What Would TR Do Today?" We'll examine the conservation records and legacies of Teddy Roosevelt and his environmentally underrated fifth cousin Franklin, and consider the ironies of a Republican president dismantling decades of conservation efforts as his Interior Secretary aspires to follow in TR's footsteps. Afterwards, we'll take a behind-the-scenes tour of Phipps Conservatory's Center for Sustainable Landscapes — billed as "the greenest building in the world" for being the first and only to meet four of the highest "green" certifications: the Living Building Challenge, LEED Platinum, WELL Building Platinum and Four-Stars Sustainable SITES.

Moderator:

Cynthia Barnett, Journalist and Author, "Mirage," "Blue Revolution" and "Rain: A Natural and Cultural History"

Speakers:

Douglas Brinkley, Author, Professor of History and Fellow, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University

Land Tawney, President/CEO, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

3rd speaker TBA

Noon: Conference ends and shuttles take attendees back to hotels or to airport, with airport arrival no later than 1:00 p.m.

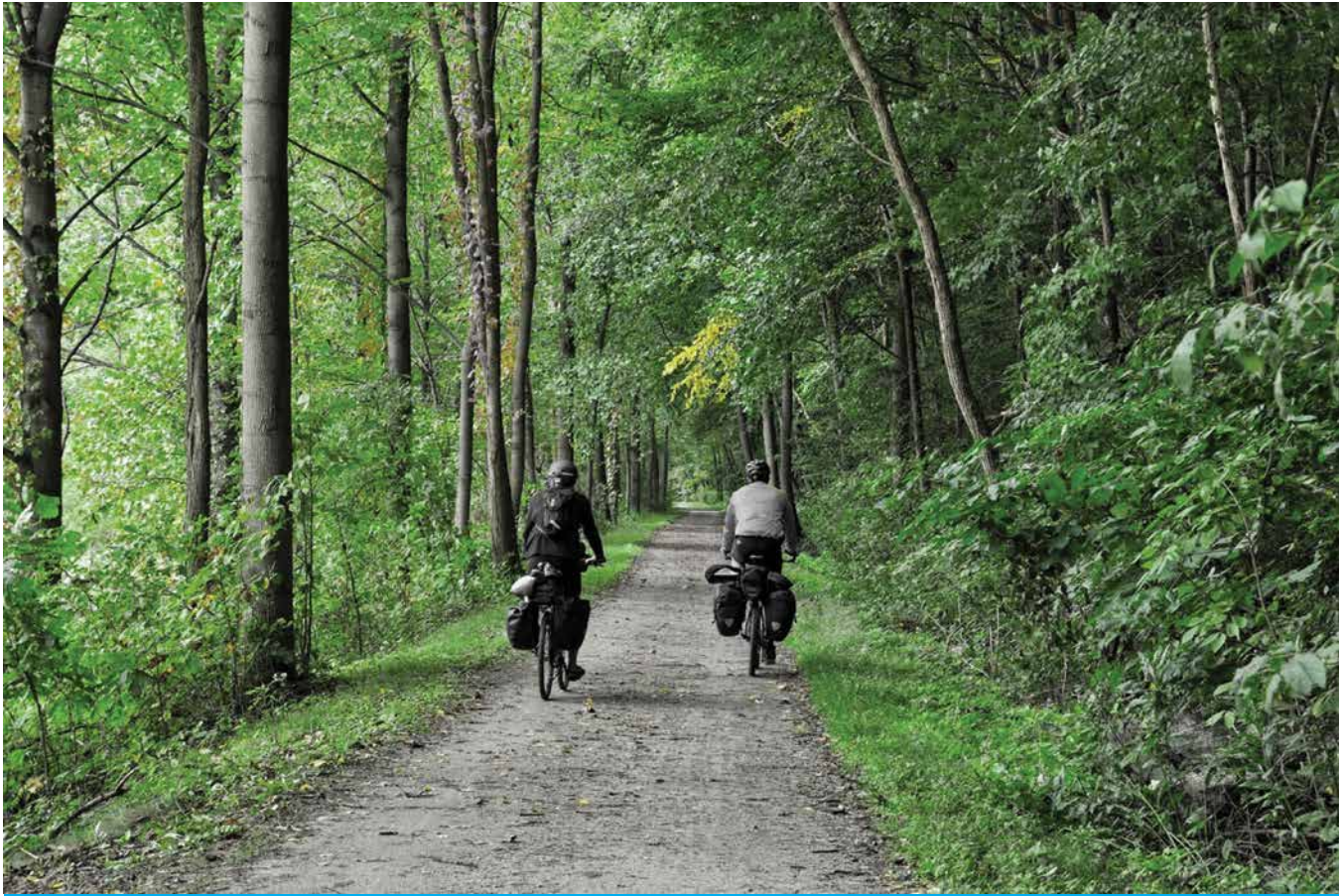


Image courtesy of WildType

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8, 2017

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR Biking (and a Little Surfin') on the Great Allegheny Passage

Sunday, October 8 – Wednesday, October 11, \$350 fee required

The Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) is one of the nation's top biking trails. We'll start at Mile 0, in Cumberland, MD, and take three leisurely days to ride 72 miles northwest, as far as Ohiopyle, PA. Along the way, we'll make plenty of stops to discuss environmental issues, such as river reclamation, climate change-induced flooding, mountains and mining, and, of course, recreational trails — where are they headed (politically) during the next three years? Then, if you're game, we'll cap things off by kayaking a stretch of the Youghiogheny River.

Tour departs Pittsburgh following the Sunday morning program and returns to Pittsburgh no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct 11, when you are on your own for lodging. The \$350 fee covers bike rentals, transportation, bunk-bed-style lodging at trailside inns and hostels, and some meals and fees.

Tour Leaders:

Rebecca Lessner, Graduate Assistant, Environmental Journalism, Point Park University

Charles Quirnbach, Environment Reporter, Wisconsin Public Radio

Speakers:

Eric Harder, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, on behalf of Mountain Watershed Association

Linda McKenna-Boxx, former President, Allegheny Trail Alliance

Bill Metzger, Author, "Great Allegheny Passage Companion"

Doug Riegner, Director of Community Relations, Allegheny Trail Alliance

The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose personal efforts and financial support made our 27th Annual Conference possible

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And, an extra special thanks to Paul Kovach, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, for his visionary leadership and tireless energy without which we wouldn't be having this conference.

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SEJ conferences are organized and powered by member-volunteers who serve as session organizers and moderators, tour leaders, network meal hosts and on-site volunteers.

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to: Cynthia Barnett, Tina Casagrand, Chris Clayton, Emily Gertz, Kathy Knauer, Rebecca Lessner, Doug Oster, Chuck Quirmbach and Christopher Rolinson.

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