



Family Summits

E-Mail Newsletter

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*I trust in Nature for
the stable laws
Of beauty and
utility. Spring shall
plant
And Autumn garner
to the end of time.
I trust in God,—the
right shall be the
right
And other than the
wrong, while he
endures.
I trust in my own
soul, that can
perceive
The outward and
the inward,—
Nature's good
And God's"*

*Robert Browning - A
Soul's Tragedy. Act.
i*

New Program at This Summer's Summit

We are finalizing the program book for this summer's Summit. At the Summit you will find an excellent mix of both familiar and new programs. Two of the new programs we will conduct this year are Pachamama: Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium and Paleoclimatology – More than an Eight Syllable Word! These are two of the many programs you can attend during our action packed week. The complete program book is being prepared and will be sent to everyone shortly. Following is a sneak preview:

Pachamama: Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium

www.pachamama.org

Faced with overwhelming evidence that modern society's dream of endless growth and limitless consumption for all is threatening the web of life that sustains us, it has become clear that our political and economic institutions are unable to effectively address this crisis. Changing this collective dream of ours will be a do-it-yourself-together project accomplished by committed individuals working in concert with one another, each willing to think and act in a whole new way.

The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium explores the link between three of humanity's most critical concerns: environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. Using video clips from some of the world's most respected thinkers, along with inspiring short films, leading edge information and dynamic group interactions, the Symposium reveals connections between our unexamined assumptions and their unintended consequences, allowing participants to gain new insight into the very nature of our time, to imagine new possibilities, and to discover what each of us can do—through our everyday choices and actions—to move modern civilization in a new, life-sustaining direction.

If you are ready to be disturbed, inspired and moved to action, if you are ready to awaken from the dream of our modern industrial culture, we invite you to come to the Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium.

Paleoclimatology – More than an Eight Syllable Word!

www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/paleo.html

Discussions of global warming are everywhere, and no doubt discussions will continue as public policy debates and critical decision-making come to the fore in the coming years. But what data is actually available for use in evaluating global warming? This class is intended to provide a broad-based understanding of the types of historic climate data that are being collected and investigated.

Paleoclimatology is the study of past climate, for times prior to instrumental weather measurements. Paleoclimatologists use clues from natural "proxy" sources such as tree rings, ice cores, corals, and ocean and lake sediments to understand natural climate variability. Specific examples include the following:

- Speleothems annually banded and contain compounds in mineral deposits

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formed from groundwater within underground caverns.

- Pollen grains which are washed or blown into lakes can accumulate in sediments and provide a record of past vegetation.
- Coral data at the WDC consist of stable isotope and trace metal analyses from corals located around the globe.

This class will illustrate the types of data being collected, the methods of data collection, the time periods for which the data are useful, the relative accuracy of the different types of data, and select findings to date. The goal of the class will be to improve everyone's ability to participate knowledgeably in the global warming debates.

Other Classes You Will See This Year Include

- A Wide Variety of Hikes
- Backyard Wildlife Habitat
- Bird Watching Changes with Climate Change
- Birding in Chimney Rock Park
- Birding the Highs and Lows of Linville Gorge
- Black Bears: Exploring their World
- Crazy About Salamanders
- Field Journals: Five Easy Steps to Record the Natural World
- Mandala Designed from Nature Images
- Mushrooms in Your Future
- Orienteering
- Pisgah Nat'l Forest: Basic Interpretive Methods & Design Field Trip
- Rafting Trip
- Trees of Appalachia
- And many more

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