The Big Blowup: Fire's American Century

by

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A presentation co-sponsored by the Department of History’s Center for Science and Society and the Department of Geography’s Colloquium Series

October 7 3:30 – 4:45 1930 Buchanan

Abstract

This, the centennial year of the Great Fires - known as the Big Blowup of 1910 - offers a chance to survey the American fire scene and ask why it looks the way it does. Part of the reason lies in the general history of fire on Earth, part in the evolution of American land use, and part in national fire policies and practices. Paradoxically, there is much less fire, but a higher percentage of bad fire.

Bio

Stephen Pyne is a Regents’ Professor in the Human Dimensions Faculty of the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University. A former smoke jumper and the author of 20 books on environmental history, the history of science, and other topics, Dr. Pyne is considered world's foremost fire historian. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2001, was appointed as a Regents’ Professor at ASU in 2003, was made an Honorary Geographer by the Association of American Geographers in 2005, and was given the Distinguished Faculty Award by the ASU College of Arts and Sciences in 2007. Dr. Pyne is a highly sought after speaker at home and abroad; he was the Annual Furniss Lecture Series speaker at Colorado State University in 2009 and gave the William P. Thompson Memorial Lecture at the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University in February of this year.