

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stephen J. Pyne to Keynote Symposium on Language of Wildland Fire

Stephen J. Pyne, environmental historian renowned for his works on wildland fire, will speak at OSU, Thursday, November 1, 7 pm, in Gilfillan Auditorium. His talk will be the keynote address for a symposium, “Words on Fire: Toward a New Language of Wildland Fire,” which will explore the contributions that insights from the humanities might make to the ways we think about and act in relation to wildland fire.

The words we use to describe our terms of engagement with fire shape the stories we tell about it. And the stories we tell shape the way we act. As the future for many places promises to be hotter, drier, and more fire-prone, “Words on Fire” will consider the range of language we currently use to grapple with wildland fire, and look toward new metaphors and revitalized language that might help us forge ever more thoughtful, realistic, flexible, and creative relationships with wildland fire.

The symposium continues on Friday, November 2 with a series of presentations in Richardson Hall 107. Colleen Morton Busch, author of *Fire Monks: Zen Mind Meets Wildfire*, will speak on fire as ‘teacher’ and the story of the 2008 Tassajara Zen Center fire. Bill Anthony, US Forest Service (retired), will offer insights on the changing terms of engagement with wildland fire in a complex social / natural environment. Tim Ingalsbee will discuss the changing terms of engagement from fire-fighters perspective, and Mary Beth Leigh and Sarah Trainor will describe an Alaska initiative that weaves fire science and performing arts. See the Spring Creek website for the full schedule and more information about the speakers: <http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu/>

The program is sponsored by the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word; School of History, Philosophy, and Religion; College of Forestry; Joint Fire Sciences Program; and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium.

All the events are free and open to the public. Space for the Friday workshop is limited. The organizers request an RSVP to Charles.Goodrich@oregonstate.edu