

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

No Planet B: Nature, Environment, & Science Programming

Saturday, May 4

11:45 - 1:00

Horizon: An Interview with Barry Lopez (Freight & Salvage)

Barry Lopez interviewed by John Freeman

Taking us nearly from pole to pole—from modern megacities to some of the most remote regions on earth—and across decades, "Horizon," the latest by celebrated humanitarian and environmental writer Barry Lopez, glimmers with insights on our place in this world and on writing as a way of living and seeing. Lopez will be in conversation with John Freeman, writer, editor, and prominent literary critic, who said of the book: "Lopez has managed to fashion his own kind of travel literature, one which doesn't merely report from distant places, but enlarges by refusing to place a center to the world."

11:45 - 1:00

What Does It Mean to Be Human? Rethinking Belonging at the Frontier of Genetic Engineering (Magnes Museum)

George Estreich and Jamie Metzl, moderated by Lance Knobel

New biomedical technologies—from prenatal testing to gene-editing techniques—raise questions about who counts as human, what it means to belong, and how far we should go in retooling the human genome. In “Fables and Futures: Biotechnology, Disability, and the Stories We Tell Ourselves,” George Estreich, a poet with a daughter with Down Syndrome, explores new technologies that grant unprecedented power to predict and shape future people. In “Hacking Darwin: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Humanity,” technology futurist Jamie Metzl “brings us to the frontiers of biology and technology, and reveals a world full of promise and peril,” writes Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD. When we can engineer our future children, massively extend our lifespans, and build life from scratch, should we? Which people, which variations, will we welcome? Sponsored by BerkeleySide.

1:30 - 2:45

Outdoor Therapy: National Parks with Becky Lomax (Berkeley City College Theater)

Becky Lomax interviewed by Amanda Machado

Need a break from the traffic and stress of city life? Ready for a technology detox? Let Becky Lomax, author of “Moon USA National Parks,” be your “outdoor therapist” with wise advice on choosing the park that’s just right for unwinding. From the misty mountains of the east and the redwoods of the west, to the glaciers of Alaska and volcanoes of Hawaii, Lomax reveals the top experiences in each of the 59 parks throughout the U.S. With deep knowledge of each park, she explains where to go for maximum solitude or a family’s first camping trip. Lomax will even demonstrate the expert way to pack all of your essentials for a good, long hike. Interviewed by Amanda Machado of Latino Outdoors. Sponsored by Moon Travel Guides.

1:30 - 2:45

Political Optimism, Political Despair, and the Wilderness (The Marsh Cabaret)

Pam Houston, Katie Peterson, moderated by Lucille Lang Day

In this intimate conversation moderated by Lucille Lang Day (editor of the new anthology “Fire and Rain: Eco-poetry of California”), memoirist Pam Houston (“Deep Creek”) and poet Katie Peterson (“A Piece of Good News”) discuss the case for optimism and joy in our troubled American landscape. Across ranchland, mountains, borderlands, and deserts, these women will explore how our political discussion is shaped by our land, and how care for our wild spaces can change the way we think about our future.

1:30 - 2:45

Sand and Seeds: The Surprising Stories Behind Humanity's Most Vital Elements (Brower Center, Goldman Theater)

Vince Beiser and Mark Schapiro

Without seeds, there is no food; without sand, there are no cities. Both are resources central to life on our planet. One element is animate, one inanimate. But both are at the center of global battles to control them, and both are threatened

by corporate consolidation and climate change. Two leading journalists, Mark Schapiro ("Seeds of Resistance") and Vince Beiser ("World in a Grain"), take us deep into the stories and futures of these vital elements—stories that are quirky, dramatic, and urgent.

3:15 - 4:30

Writing Climate: Literature of the Anthropocene (Veteran's Memorial Building Auditorium)

Charlie Jane Anders, Cai Emmons, Brenda Shaughnessy, moderated by David Wallace-Wells

The 20th century brought us "1984" and "Brave New World" as harbingers of terrifying social and technological change. In the 21st century, we have climate literature. Brenda Shaughnessy gives us "The Octopus Museum," bold poems that imagine what comes after our current age of environmental destruction. Charlie Jane Anders (called "this generation's Le Guin") presents "The City in the Middle of the Night," where humanity lives in a barely habitable dusk on the planet January. In Cai Emmons' "Weather Woman," a young TV meteorologist discovers that she can tap the energies of the earth to alter the weather. This conversation is moderated by David Wallace-Wells, author of "The Uninhabitable Earth" and former deputy editor of *The Paris Review*.

Sunday, May 5

10:00 - 11:15

Uninhabitable Earth (Freight & Salvage)

David Wallace-Wells

Journalist David Wallace-Wells warns that climate change could make parts of the earth nearly uninhabitable unless we take action now. "'The Uninhabitable Earth' is the most terrifying book I have ever read," wrote Farhad Manjoo in the *New York Times*, saying that "its method is scientific, but its mode is Old Testament. The book is a meticulously documented, white-knuckled tour through the cascading catastrophes that will soon engulf our warming planet." This is a literary account—Andrew Solomon praised the book's "overflow of insanely lyrical prose"—but an urgent one. There's still time, but only a generation, to prevent these scenarios from coming true. Interviewed by a young Bay Area climate activist.

11:45 - 1:00

The Once and Future Forest: The Mighty Redwood (Brower Center Goldman Theater)

David Harris, Greg Sarris, David Rains Wallace, moderated by Sam Hodder

Ancient and mysterious as they are beautiful, the redwoods are an essential part of the California landscape. What are the inner workings of these giants, and what does the future hold? Save the Redwoods League and Heyday Books have produced a majestic, oversized, boxed book, "The Once and Future Forest," that showcases the grandeur of the redwood ecosystems, explores their history and significance, and looks toward a more ecologically informed future. Sam Hodder, executive director of the Save the Redwoods League, will moderate a conversation featuring contributors David Harris,

writer; Greg Sarris, activist, author, and chairman of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria; and David Rains Wallace, natural history writer and conservationist. Sponsored by Guy and Jeanine Saperstein.

1:30 - 2:45

A Bird's Eye View: Attention, Observation, Birdwatching, and the Fine Art of Doing Nothing (Goldman Theater)

Tim Dee, Jenny Odell, Jérémie Royer

Beyond clicks and checklists is an entire universe of deep listening and thoughtful observation. If we let them, natural spaces and creatures can show us how to slow down, to notice, and to reflect on modern life. Tim Dee ("Landfill: Notes on Gull Watching and Trash Picking in the Anthropocene") comes to us from England; Jenny Odell ("How to Do Nothing"), from Oakland; and Jérémie Royer ("Audubon, On the Wings of the World," a graphic novel), from France. These writer-artists and bird lovers explore the wonders that acts of attention can bring. With the support of Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States.