



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN, ANGLING AND FIELD SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

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Caption: (Detail) Plate no. 286, "The Carolina Turtle-Dove" from *The Birds of America, from Drawings Made in the United States and Their Territories*, Vol. V, by John James Audubon, Philadelphia: J. J. Audubon, 1843. NSLM collection

National Sporting Library & Museum Symposium
"Perspectives on Teaming with Nature"
November 16, 2013
Features Major Leaders

MIDDLEBURG, VA – The NSLM symposium hosts leaders in conservation, historic preservation, art and art history to talk about their involvement with nature as a resource and partner in their work: **Thomas Lovejoy, Gerald Adelmann, Eleanor Jones Harvey, James Prosek, Lisa Roberts, Perry Mathewes, Robin Hill and Meg Page.**

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Upcoming Symposium “Perspectives on Teaming with Nature”
Features Major Leaders November 16, 2013
Discussing Nature as a Resource and Partner

There is a long tradition of viewing nature as both resource and partner among people who engage in equestrian, angling and field sports. Recent National Sporting Library & Museum exhibitions have explored Izaak Walton’s ideas on the contemplation and celebration of nature; the emergence of the artist-naturalist; and the 19th century intersection between field sports and the evolution of conservation.

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, the NSLM is presenting a symposium called “Perspectives on Teaming with Nature” that continues the tradition by exploring 21st century opportunities and challenges. The symposium features acclaimed leaders who are deeply engaged with the natural world in their respective fields: scientist and conservationist **Thomas E. Lovejoy**; Smithsonian art historian **Eleanor Jones Harvey**; conservationist and historic preservationist **Gerald Adelman**; and artist, writer, naturalist and conservationist **James Prosek**. Participants will be able to learn how these leaders have creatively “teamed” with nature in art history, conservation, science, historic preservation and the visual arts. There also will be an opportunity to learn how to build broader awareness within one’s own community, especially in museums and educational settings.

Brief descriptions of the speakers highlight their originality and contributions to contemporary thinking.

Scientist and conservationist **Thomas E. Lovejoy** is an innovative and accomplished conservation biologist who coined the term “biological diversity.” He is the University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University and currently holds the Biodiversity Chair at the Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment based in Washington, D.C. Among his many achievements, Lovejoy developed “debt-for-nature” swap programs, led the Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project and founded the popular TV series *Nature*. Lovejoy’s extraordinary achievements as a scientist and policy advisor demonstrate that the 19th century tradition of effective public and private partnerships continues today.

Art historian **Eleanor Jones Harvey** is a senior curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Among her research interests are 19th- and 20th-century American art and landscape painting. She is the award-winning author of several works on 19th century art, including most recently, *The Civil War and American Art*, which accompanied her eponymous exhibition. While looking at how various artists portrayed the war and its impact, Harvey demonstrates that fine art painters such as Frederic Church were profoundly influenced by the work of contemporary naturalists and that “geographical and meteorological metaphors were a common language for comprehending the violence of the war and its uncertainty.”

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Conservationist and historic preservationist **Gerald Adelman** is President and CEO of Openlands, Chicago, Illinois. He helped to create the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the first federal land designation of its kind. There now are more than fifty in the United States. Adelman has also been involved in conservation and historic preservation projects in China since the early 1990's. He is chairman of the Center for Humans and Nature which partners with some of the brightest minds in ethical thinking to explore relationships and responsibilities. Adelman's pioneering work in building creative partnerships demonstrates how a variety of interests and concerns can find common ground.

Artist, writer, naturalist and conservationist **James Prosek**, made his artistic and authorial debut at nineteen years of age with *Trout: an Illustrated History* (1996). Prosek has written for The New York Times and National Geographic Magazine and won a Peabody Award in 2003 for his documentary about traveling through England in the footsteps of Izaak Walton, seventeenth-century author of *The Compleat Angler*. His study of eels has been the subject of a Nature documentary. While working in the 19th century artist-naturalist tradition of travel, study and illustration, Prosek has provided fresh insight including a reconsideration of taxonomy. There is an exhibition of his work, *Teaming with Nature: James Prosek*, in the Forrest H. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall of the Library. On public display for the first time are selected watercolors Prosek painted for *Trout of the World: Revised and Updated Edition*, by James Prosek © Abrams Books, 2013. The watercolors are presented with rare books selected by Prosek from the NSLM collection that illustrate the legacy he honors and challenges.

The afternoon presentations will focus on "Teaming with Nature" within our own lives and communities. **Lisa Roberts** is an educator, writer, curator, artist and planner. Her career has focused largely on museums and museum-like institutions, particularly of a botanical nature. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Museums and Social Issues* and has served as an advisor to a variety of civic and community organizations. Most of her work in recent years has centered on developing unorthodox ways to help people experience and care for the natural world, with a special interest in artistic and technological media. **Perry Mathewes**, a horticultural specialist, has overseen historic gardens at Tryon Place Historic Sites & Gardens, New Bern, North Carolina, developed educational programs at Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, Virginia, and presented papers on the early British naturalist, explorer and writer John Lawson, as well as on historic gardens in the Carolinas. Mathewes' knowledge of historic gardens and gardening practices combined with expertise in current horticultural operations at historic sites will be of special interest.

Symposium participants will have the exceptional opportunity to view the art of contemporary artist-naturalists and discuss their work informally. The setting will shift to the Museum exhibition *Contemporary Artist-Naturalists: Robin Hill and Meg Page*. The first gallery walk will be led by renowned artist-naturalist **Robin Hill** whose early work was featured in a 1980's Smithsonian traveling exhibition benefiting the World Wildlife Fund, a model for combining art, conservation and science to "Team with Nature." **Meg Page**, a Maryland artist and

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conservationist will also provide insight into the tradition of the artist-naturalist as it appears in her work. A reception will be held.

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Founders' Room, NSLM Library
Registration will open on Tuesday, October 15th. The cost is \$50.00 (NSLM members \$35.00).
Call 540-687-6542 ext. 10 or email jsheehan@nsl.org. Limited seating.

Captions: courtesy of the National Sporting Library & Museum

The National Sporting Library & Museum is dedicated to preserving, promoting and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 26,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European animal and sporting fine art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.

Admission: free.

Library Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

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