

Linking Our Community to the Global Environment

Hosted by the Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network

Tornstrom Auditorium - January 31, 2008

7-8:30 p.m., doors open at 6:00

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it is attached to the rest of the world.”- John Muir

We live within a global tapestry of interconnected ecosystems—systems that we humans and other creatures depend on for our mutual survival. But as humans, our actions can have clear and undesirable implications for this global fabric—expansive dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico, deforestation of African rain forests, human development along natural lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Join us on a journey to explore the causes of environmental decline in three different global landscapes and what positive actions are taking place. Learn about simple things you can do to help create a more sustainable future in your community, and across the globe.



How do lakes and people interact here in the Midwest? **Dr. Timothy Kratz**, an ecologist and director of the Trout Lake Biological Station in northern Wisconsin will look at ways that people affect lakes—and the ways that lakes affect people. His presentation will touch on relevant issues in the Brainerd Lakes Area, including shoreline development and how this changes the near-shore area and promotes exotic species. Dr. Kratz has studied lake ecosystems in the upper Midwest and conducted long-term monitoring of lake ecosystems through the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network.

Coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea and the Mississippi River watershed.

For more than 20 years, **Tim Taylor**, marine explorer and environmental educator/advocate, has observed the demise of coral habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. Taylor’s captivating photography and discoveries of unique coral reef habitats in the Florida Straits region tell a compelling story of human impact on this beautiful and ecologically significant underwater environment.





Creating positive change in the African Congo.

Dr. Richard Carroll, Managing Director for the World Wildlife Fund's Congo Basin, has observed firsthand the forces threatening the survival of chimpanzees, gorillas, forest elephants and bongo. Dr. Carroll will explore the causes of these threats and share strategies to make positive change for these species and the native peoples living in the region. Dr. Carroll will tell this story through the beautiful images he has gathered over the years of working in the heart of Africa.

*From 6-7:00 p.m. there will be light refreshments and educational displays. After the talks, there will be time for questions with the speakers. The event is **FREE and open to all**. Tornstrom Auditorium is located in the Washington Educational Services Building, 804 Oak Street, Brainerd. For more information contact Stephen Mikkelson at (218) 855-5001, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.*