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November 2012



**THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTS
NATURE AND POETRY: A CONVERSATION WITH E. O. WILSON AND ROBERT HASS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT 7:30 PM**

**Program Is Part of a Yearlong Celebration of
Theodore Roosevelt's Role in the American Conservation Movement**

The American Museum of Natural History, in collaboration with **Poets House**, presents [*Nature and Poetry: A Conversation with E.O. Wilson and Robert Hass*](#) on **Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 pm.**

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass, author of *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*, engages in conversation with internationally acclaimed entomologist and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner E.O. Wilson, author of *The Social Conquest of Earth*. Sharing the stage for the third time in the course of their careers, these two extraordinary thinkers and writers discuss how art and science mix in their respective fields to raise awareness of the world around us. Hass and Wilson examine how the close observation of nature, which is central to both poetry and science, can inspire the conservationist in all of us.

Following the talk, Hass and Wilson will be signing their latest books, Hass's *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World* and Wilson's *The Social Conquest of Earth*.

This program is part of the yearlong celebration of the reopening of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall at the American Museum of Natural History with a slate of special events that commemorate Roosevelt's foundational role in the American conservation movement and illuminate his impact on conservation policies and conservation science today. Inspired by Roosevelt's passion for engaging the public in natural history, these programs—including workshops, family series, symposia, and lectures by notable scientists and nature writers—encourage a greater understanding of urban biodiversity, contemporary conservation practices, and the importance of natural science, and will inspire the naturalist in all of us.

Robert Hass

Poet Robert Hass's work is rooted in the landscapes of his native northern California. In his tenure as U. S. Poet Laureate, Robert Hass spent two years battling American illiteracy armed with the mantra "imagination makes communities." For Hass, everything is connected. When he works to heighten literacy, he is also working to promote awareness about the environment. Hass has published many books of poetry including *Field Guide*, *Praise*, *Human Wishes*, and *Sun Under Wood*, as well as a book of essays on poetry, *Twentieth Century Pleasures*. *Time and Materials*, his 2007 poetry collection, won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. His most recent volume of poetry is *The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems*. He recently published a book of essays titled *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*. Awarded the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the National Book Critics' Circle Award twice (in 1984 and 1997), and the Yale Series of Younger Poets in 1973, Hass is a professor of English at University of California-Berkeley.

E. O. Wilson

E. O. Wilson is an American biologist, researcher, theorist, naturalist, and author who is often dubbed "the father of sociobiology." His biological specialty is myrmecology, the study of ants, on which he is considered to be the world's leading authority. Wilson is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Social Conquest of Earth* and *Anthill: A Novel*, as well as the Pulitzer Prize-winning *On Human Nature* and (with Bert Hölldobler) *The Ants*. For his contributions in science and conservation, he has received more than 100 awards from around the world. A professor *emeritus* at Harvard University, he lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Poets House

Poets House is a national 50,000-volume poetry library, literary center for adults and children, and exhibition space that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House—through its poetry resources, literary events, and archival and poetry-related visual art exhibitions—documents the

wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues related to poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by two-time Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz and legendary arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the library has created a home for all who read and write poetry. In 2009, Poets House moved into its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City on the banks of the Hudson River. Last year, 65,000 people visited Poets House on-site, including 14,000 children who learned about poetry there, and over 5 million were introduced to Poets House via its new website and national partnerships. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit poetshouse.org and join us on Facebook and Twitter.

American Museum of Natural History (amnh.org)

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum encompasses 46 permanent exhibition halls, including the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, as well as galleries for temporary exhibitions. It is home to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, New York State's official memorial to its 33rd governor and the nation's 26th president, and a tribute to Roosevelt's enduring legacy of conservation. The Museum's five active research divisions and three cross-disciplinary centers support 200 scientists, whose work draws on a world-class permanent collection of more than 32 million specimens and artifacts, including specialized collections for frozen tissue and genomic and astrophysical data, as well as one of the largest natural history libraries in the Western Hemisphere. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, it is the only American museum authorized to grant the Ph.D. degree. In 2012, the Museum began offering a pilot Master of Arts in Teaching with a specialization in Earth science. Approximately 5 million visitors from around the world came to the Museum last year, and its exhibitions and Space Shows can be seen in venues on five continents. The Museum's website and collection of apps for mobile devices extend its collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to millions more beyond its walls. Visit amnh.org for more information.

Public Information

For additional information, the public may call 212-769-5100 or visit the Museum's website at amnh.org.

Prepare for your Museum visit by downloading the new **American Museum of Natural History Explorer App**, a groundbreaking enhanced navigation tool available for free from the App Store on iPhone and iPod touch or at www.iTunes.com/appstore/. The Explorer pinpoints your location within the Museum and offers turn-by-turn directions and customized tours, a fossil treasure hunt, and social media links for posting to Facebook and Twitter.

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