



E.O. Wilson, Thomas Lovejoy, Thomas Friedman, and Jeff Sachs Among Speakers Set for Biodiversity Days, March 2-3

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Contact: Kellie Laity, 919/613-8137, [klaity@eowilsonfoundation.org](mailto:klaity@eowilsonfoundation.org)

DURHAM, N.C. – Biologists E.O. Wilson and Thomas Lovejoy, two of the most influential and widely cited scientists of our time, are among the speakers slated to take part in Biodiversity Days, a two-day series of public talks, March 2 and 3, at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and the Carolina Theater in downtown Durham.

The theme of this year's talks is "Half-Earth" – reflecting Wilson's urgent call for humans to set aside half of Earth's surface as protected landscapes to ensure the survival of the 10 million other species that share the planet with us.

Wilson will present the event's keynote address, "Half-Earth: How to Save the Natural World," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at the Carolina Theater.

Joining him in a panel discussion will be Lovejoy of George Mason University, John Seager of Population Connections, and Louie Psihoyos of the Oceanic Preservation Society.

Singer Paul Simon will also join them for a brief solo performance and special announcement.

Tickets for this event are available through the Carolina Theater at (919) 560-3030, <http://www.carolinatheatre.org> or by stopping by the theater's box office in person.

Other highlights of Biodiversity Days will include:

- "Green is the New Red, White and Blue," a free public talk at 9 a.m. Friday, March 3, by award-winning columnist Thomas L. Friedman of *The New York Times*. Friedman's talk, which does not require advance tickets, will be at Field Auditorium in Duke's Environment Hall, 9 Circuit Drive. Wilson and Lovejoy will join him for a discussion following the talk.
- "Half-Earth, Whole Heart: Half-Earth and Conservation as a Spiritual Necessity," a free public film event at 12 p.m. Friday, March 3, with Emmy Award nominated producer Graham Townsley and Academy Award winning documentary film director Louis Psihoyos. This film event does not require advance tickets, and will be at Love Auditorium in Duke's Levine Science Research Center, 308 Research Drive.
- "Forging Global Cooperation to Save the Biosphere," a free public talk at 4:30 p.m. March 3 by economist and senior United Nations advisor on sustainable development Jeffrey D. Sachs. No advance tickets are required. Sachs' talk will be in Field Auditorium. A reception and book signing by E.O. Wilson will immediately follow.

A full list of speakers and events is online at <https://eowilsonfoundation.org>.

Event sponsors are the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation, the Half-Earth Project, The Nature Conservancy, Discover Life in America, NatureServe, Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.