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AREDAY HIGHLIGHTS - Wednesday, August 12, 2015
Science, Systems and CO₂

Andreas Merkl, Ocean Conservancy—“Every Second Breath Comes from the Ocean”

- We can't predict behavior of complex systems under pressure, and the physical system of the ocean is unbelievably complex
- The stresses of adding heat, plastics, nitrogen, acidity to the oceans are enormous
- We've been in the “known known,” and need to wade into the “known unknowns”
- As we figure out the “knowable unknowns,” we need to find out the “what,” more than the *where* or *when*, to know what to do. (Such as in earthquake preparedness, the question is, “What are the requirements for a building to withstand a 7.8 magnitude quake?”, not *where* or *when* it will occur)

Armchair Conversation, “Science Doesn't Care If You Believe It or Not”

With Greg Holland, National Center for Atmospheric Research; Juliene Stroeve, National Snow and Ice Data Center; Jason Box, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)

- In scientific matters, politicians often try to kill the messenger, not the message
- There is a huge range of uncertainty in matters of climate change
- Uncertainty in scientific communications comes across as weak-kneed and undecided
- Change is happening faster than and worse than the predictions
- Must commit to maximum 2 degree rise in temperature by end of the century, and 350 ppm of CO₂
- Education is critical and most necessary
- Massive planting of trees will increase humidification, wildlife habitat, carbon neutrality, jobs
- Hope is part of the uncertainty

Panel: “Water and Climate: Collapse or Catalyst”

With Jon Freedman, GE Power and Water; Uli Kappus, Providice; Henry J Charrabe, RWL Water; Melissa Meeker, WaterReuse Association; John Hanula, MWH Global

- The amount of water (366 quintillion gallons, of which .007% is potable) on the planet remains constant, it just changes form
- Everything takes water to create, and we need to use the right water for the right use (recycled, untreated, potable, etc.)
- Bottled water is ridiculous, when our tap water is safe to drink
- Water is not priced properly: desalinated water is \$2000 per acre foot, farmers pay \$20-30 per acre foot, Fiji water is \$1,000,000 per acre foot
- Water treatment should be decentralized
- 78% of world's fresh water is in Antarctica, and icebergs can be hauled to areas of need
- We can't wait for our kids to solve this...what can we do now?
- Singapore is the world leader in water use and technology

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Armchair Conversation: “Vanishing Common Sense: Disappearing Farms, Forests, Ranches and Public Lands”

John McBride, Sopris Foundation

- The whole state of Colorado may well be subdivisions in the future, as a result of the 1972 SB 35 which was meant to help ranchers and farmers get out of trouble by selling some of their land
- Public policies encourage subdivisions rather than ranches, as land is valued by what it *might* be, not what it *is*
- Look to European models which preserve farmland and protect wildlife and landscape
- A train from Aspen Airport to Aspen and Snowmass makes sense

Startup Green Finalists:

The Start Up Green workshop was inaugurated this year to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to present innovative clean tech ideas. It is the brainchild of AREDAY’s American Renewable Energy Institute – AREI – which produces AREDAY.

- Thuy Le, My Open Road—the first social energy conservation app that measures a Social Responsibility Score (SRS) and rewards with discounts from businesses
- Philip Calabrese, Boom Algae—re-routes CO₂ from brewing beer to growing algae for food and flour
- Scott Stroup, Steam2Power—Pressure Relief Valve (PRV) which makes possible smaller, more reliable, cost-effective and local steam micro-turbines for energy production

Keynote: “Birds and Climate Change: The Amazing Place Where Conservation Doesn’t Have a Party”

David Yarnold, National Audubon Society

- Audubon Society is huge ally for climate change action—have mobilized 47 million in a response network
- Partnering with Garden Club of America, hunters, others
- 126 species of birds are endangered, 188 threatened, and one half of all species are at risk of extinction
- People are willing to take action because it’s not political; it’s a bird issue
- It’s happening now, it’s local and it’s personal — “That’s my bird”
- Mobilizing out of love and passion—more powerful than anger and fear

Bruce Gordon, EcoFlight

- Flights and photos bring awareness of what is really happening on the land
- Conservation flying is the “Environmental Air Force”

Keynote: “Shifting the Debate from Climate Change to Air Pollution”

Indy Nelson, LedXChange

- 39% of our electricity comes from coal
- 55% of CO₂ emissions go into the atmosphere, 15-20% to the biosphere and 25-30% into the oceans
- There is a 30-50 year lag time for the effects of the CO₂ in the ocean
- One in seven deaths is related to air quality issues, and 13, 000 people die every year in the US due to pollution from coal plants; 7 million worldwide
- Switching to all LED lights would eliminate a large percentage of CO₂ emissions

Panel: “Listen, Watch, Read: The Importance of Media”

Moderator: Diana Dehm, Sustainability News & Entertainment

Greg Reitman, Blue Water Entertainment; Stefanie Spear, EcoWatch;

Taj Mahal, Musician; James Brundige, First Light Films; Maranda Pleasant, ORIGIN Magazine

- Music connects us with the tradition of the communal collective
- Everybody is somebody, nobody is nobody
- “Life is too exciting not to be excited” – Taj Mahal
- *ORIGINS* magazine gets celebrities to talk about things that matter and brings issues to the mainstream, making them sexy and cool; it’s not just a print-based magazine, it’s a movement

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Media Panel, continued:

- Educating, protecting and supporting women is of primary importance
- “Rooted in Peace,” a film about non-self-centered thinking, becoming coherent, finding inner peace
- Online *EcoWatch* reaches broad audience, engages readers
- On the impact of media and film: The Vietnam war was the first cause where media had an impact—it ended because of the images on TV every evening, the draft (it affected us personally), and music
- We need to pay attention
- We don't have time
- Learn to get a message out in short forms

Armchair Conversation: “Climate of the Deep Past and Today: A ‘Mammoth’ Opportunity”

Tom Cardamone, Snowmass Discovery; Mayor Markey Butler, Town of Snowmass Village

- The Snowmass woolly mammoth fossil tells a story of the ancient past, and can help envision the future
- Tells the story of climate change, connects the dots between the old climate change and the current Anthropocene era of climate change
- The Snowmass Discovery Center will link with other ice age centers and sites

Armchair Conversation: “Engaging Millions of Sports Fans on Green Solutions”

Diana Dehm, Sustainability News & Entertainment; Michael Totten, Rocky Mountain Institute

- Both Diana Dehm and Michael Totten were inspired by the story of the movie “Invictus,” in which South Africa was brought together in the post-apartheid era by President Nelson Mandela’s enlisting the national rugby team to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup
- “Sport has the power to change the world” – Nelson Mandela
- Sport in the US is a half-trillion dollar industry
- The Green Sports Alliance (GSA) has more than 235 members, including major sports teams and venues, and was co-founded by Dr. Allen Hershkowitz
- GSA aims to shrink and green the ecological footprints of arenas, stadiums, teams and game venues
- Sports are outside of politics, culture wars and toxic media
- New England Patriots are pushing healthy foods at their games
- Atlanta and San Francisco are building LEED-certified stadiums
- Seattle is retro-fitting with LEDs
- Many stadiums are making composting and recycling an expected part of the experience
- 7th inning stretches are used to educate about environmental issues
- National Hockey League commissioned a study to learn its carbon footprint
- “Mascots at Risk” program is educating about the 60% of team mascots who are at risk of extinction
- “Mascots Forever” program donates 10% of mascot paraphernalia sales to protecting natural habitat
- Messaging at stadiums educates people about environmental issues
- 80% of sports fans believe that climate change is real

Panel: “Show Up, Stand Up, Speak Up!”

Moderator, Chip Comins. Panel: Louis Psihoyos, Ocean Preservation Society, film maker;

David Yarnold, Audubon Society; Sally Coxe, Bonobo Conservation Initiative

- Audubon Society was able to mobilize its members to stop a bill introduced in Congress by Jeff Duncan of South Carolina that would have stopped enforcement of Fish and Wildlife regulations; origins of the bill were traced to Duke Energy working with Duncan
- Bonobo Peace Forest is a self-replicating system, providing information exchange, education, technical college, and scholarships for women and working to mitigate climate change and poverty as well as habitat
- “Live Ape” music festival planned
- How do we reframe capitalism, do more with collaboration?

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Panel, “Show Up, Stand Up,” continued:

- Partnerships come out of AREDAY; anybody can do something, take action; address the heart
- Media model is wrong, it is based on conflict and what’s wrong—base it instead on what is right, what’s working
- David Yarnold is convinced that the people in this network are enough to change the world; tell hard truths; people are hungry for hope

Closing Panel: Critical Crossroads in Paris: COP21

Moderator: Chip Comins, AREI. Panel: Sally Ranney, AREI; Jacob Scherr, Natural Resources Defense Council; Daniel Fung, UNDP Peace and Development Foundation; Osprey Orielle Lake, WECAN and Rights of Nature; Hal Connolly, The Climate Reality Project

- China is a microcosm of the world
- China is at the table now as the biggest upcoming polluter joining with the US, the biggest historical polluter
- Daniel Fung thinks that by 2025 China will reach the standards set by COP21
- There is a critical mass in China, and environmental and climate change issues have become mainstream. With the Chinese system in place, and the will of the government and the public, Fung is optimistic
- Things are different this time, going into Paris. Different dynamics with a global dialogue and a bottom-up shift from around the planet
- Millions of citizens around the world are demanding climate action now
- Business is not afraid of a really strong climate agreement
- Goal should be to limit warming to a 2 degree rise in temperature
- Vision of a 100% clean energy world by 2050
- Need to use our hyperconnectivity
- 47 of the 193 nations are small island nations, half of which are at risk of disappearing by 2020—it’s no longer theoretical
- A positive result out of addressing climate change could be better governments around the world, based on the needs and affinities of people
- Coming out of the Paris conference, there should be five-year cycles of coming back to goals, accountability
- Must leave 80% of fossil fuels in the ground
- Fight against false solutions
- Paris is opportunity for us to be Mother Earth’s immune system
- Chip Comins closed the summit by saying, “Listen to the wisdom of the women”

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