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PO Box 33522, Decatur GA 30033
Phone: 770-934-5644 Web: georgiarocks.us/events

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Testing Our Wings” for Fixing Climate Change

Geologist Bill Witherspoon, co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, will present a unique workshop on addressing climate change, hosted at the Dunwoody Nature Center and cosponsored by Atlanta Audubon, on Sunday, June 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The good news about today’s challenge posed by burning fossil fuels, according to Witherspoon, is that there is a plausible path to phasing them out before a life-ending catastrophe is set in stone.

Dr. Witherspoon will set the framework with examples from Earth history when changes in the atmosphere and oceans challenged and shaped Earth’s capacity to support life. Asteroid impacts, massive outflows of lava that sometimes burned through hydrocarbon deposits, and even progress in the evolution of life drove these changes.

He will then explore a Citizens’ Climate Lobby proposal for gradually increasing the price of carbon while returning the fee collected as a dividend to households. Both economist George Shultz, who served in the cabinets of Presidents Nixon and Reagan, and climate scientist James Hansen, the most persistent “gadfly” testifying about climate risk before Congress as 1981-2013 Director of NASA’s Goddard Institute, endorse this proposal. A CCL-commissioned, independent study projects increased jobs and economic growth while halving carbon emissions within 20 years.

Using a spreadsheet, Bill will engage participants in several “what-if” scenarios to demonstrate how the rising dividend and price on carbon might influence an individual’s behavior and consumer choices, demonstrating that we can all play a role in fixing climate change.

The workshop is \$5 for AAS or DNC members, \$10 non-members. Register early at [this link](#) to reserve your seat and to receive instructions on an option to bring your own household data. Dunwoody Nature Center is located at 5343 Roberts Drive, Dunwoody, GA 30338.

Like many geoscientists, Witherspoon has both joined in the hunt for hydrocarbons and warned students about the risks of their overuse. As a research scientist he assisted Shell Oil with Arctic oil exploration. From the start of his 17 years teaching at Fernbank Science Center, he brought Environmental Science classes an outreach program about heat-trapping fossil fuel emissions and opportunities for reducing them. He taught two semester-long high school classes on sustainable use of energy.

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers named Dr. Witherspoon Georgia Outstanding Earth Science Teacher in 2007. In the wake of the 2013 publication of *Roadside Geology of Georgia* and his 2014 retirement, he has presented dozens of walks, talks, and workshops to the public on a wide variety of topics related to the geology of Georgia.