

home:
subscribe
today's page 1
contact us
search

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Headwaters News
offers organizations an opportunity to provide readers **A Look Ahead** at upcoming conferences, seminars and symposiums on Western issues.

on this page:
column
analysis
post a comment
readers respond
backgrounders
archives

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A Look Ahead

Beamed-in Bioneers

The 17th Bioneers conference will be broadcast to several western towns and includes local presenters

By Marita Prandoni
Communications Associate
Bioneers/CHI
for Headwaters News
October 10, 2006

This three-day event is a hub of practical solutions for restoring the Earth — and people. Find out for yourself why more than 10,000 people attended Bioneers national and local conferences across the country last year!

On October 20-22, [Bioneers 2006](#) gathers at the Marin Center in San Rafael, Calif., and offers 18 live satellite conferences across the country, including many in the West. At the main California gathering, a vibrant network of more than 160 presenters and upwards of 3,200 attendees will celebrate inspiring ideas, models, tools and resources — and make worthwhile connections. The satellite conferences beam in by satellite three half days of plenary talks from California, and then offer locally selected programming customized to local issues, featuring many local presenters.

Bioneers are "biological pioneers," visionary innovators who look to nature for solutions to some of the world's greatest problems. They have peered deep into the heart of living systems to devise strategies for restoration based on nature's own operating instructions. The bioneers map the connections among economics, jobs, ecologies, cultures and communities and seek to advance economic models founded in social justice and environmental health.

Bioneers 2006 incorporates 15 stellar plenary speakers, five per morning.

Headwaters News is pleased to provide a feature that will provide readers a preview of upcoming conferences on important regional issues. If you'd like to share your conference, please [let us know](#).



This year's sites include:

In the Region:

Boulder, Colo. ecenter.colorado.edu/bioneers06

Bozeman, Mont. www.bornnetwork.org

The event features charismatic mycologist **Paul Stamets**, who has demonstrated how mushrooms remediate diesel oil spills and Sarin VX nerve gas, and destroy E. coli bacteria; New York Times writer and best-selling author **Michael Pollan**, whose newest title is *The Omnivore's Dilemma*; renowned Jungian scholar **James Hillman**; **Lois Gibbs**, known for her courageous grassroots environmental justice organizing beginning with Love Canal; Turtle Island Native **Clayton Thomas-Müller** of the Indigenous Environmental Network on his work in Indian country to stem the industry of unsustainable resource extraction throughout North America; **Tzeporah Berman** of ForestEthics who helped lead the successful campaign to preserve the Great Bear Wilderness in BC, four million acres of the last great Boreal forest; **Maria Elena Durazo** on labor and immigration issues; and **Spencer Beebe** of Ecotrust on greening large-scale regional economies.

The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers will link to the main conference live from Dharamsala, India by a two-way interactive satellite "spacebridge." The grandmothers represent a global alliance of prayer, education and healing for the Earth, and are committed to the ancestral teachings in protecting diverse cultures, lands, medicines and ceremonial ways for children and Earth's inhabitants for seven generations to come.

Bioneers 2006 in California offers more than 60 panels and workshops. Presenters share strategies, successes and discourse on a diversity of topics — from sessions on women farmers, youth leadership and eco-art activism to green building, local self-governance, defending the commons, and municipal sustainability.

Several innovators from the West will present in workshops in San Rafael. Courtney White ([who writes a column for Headwaters News](#)) of the Quivira Coalition will discuss restoration ecology and citizen diplomacy with wildlife biologist Peter Warshall and ForestEthics program director Tzeporah Berman.

Taos educator Miguel Santistevan of the New Mexico Acequia Association will join Lani Malmberg, a former rancher who employs 1,200 grazing goats for ecological restoration in ten Western states. Paula Garcia of the New Mexico Acequia Association will present on multi-cultural food ways with the Cultural Conservancy's Melissa Nelson and David Roach, founder and president of Mo'Better Food, which connects African American Farmers with inner-city communities.

Bioneers celebrates its third Moving Image Festival at the conference. A special program on Democracy in Crisis will premiere several films documenting election fraud, including "Hacking Democracy" which will air

Flagstaff, Ariz. www.bsolr.com/Flag_Bioneers.htm

Logan, Utah
extension.usu.edu/bioneers

Brigham City, Utah keviny@ext.usu.edu

Vernal, Utah
clareb@ext.usu.edu

Taos, N.M.
www.sustaintaos.org

Beyond the region:

Anchorage, AK
www.sustainak.org

Atlanta, GA www.inspiringfutures.org/bioneers

Bloomington, IN www.simplycsl.org

Carbondale, IL
www.sicsf.org

Detroit, MI www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers

Eugene, OR www.bridgingworldsnw.org

Honolulu, HI www.humanrightshawaii.org

Houston, TX www.blackwoodland.org/bioneers

Marion, MA www.connectingforchange.org

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN www.

on HBO on November 2nd. An interactive workshop called "From the Silver Screen to the Mean Streets: How to Leave the Theater and Hit the Ground Running" will be led by Robert West of Working Films and Free Speech TV, to explore ways in which educators and activists can strategically use film to transform audiences into activists.

The Bioneers Youth Program rocks. One workshop will address youth leadership with Brooklyn-based filmmaker and educator Shalini Kantayya, 28; Adrienne Maree Brown, 27, executive director of the Ruckus Society; and Evon Peter, 29, the youngest-ever Chief of the Neetsail Gwich'in in his village in northeastern Alaska, and co-founder and chair of Native Movement, an indigenous nonprofit.

More than 11,000 people attended last year's 17 satellite sites. We hope you'll join us this year.

Marita Prandoni grew up in Montana and New Mexico and has worked for the Bioneers for more than two years. She resides in Santa Fe, N.M.

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[back to top](#) | [to page 1](#)
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