



**LIVING WORLD LECTURES  
DEPT. OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

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## **Welcome to the Pyrocene. How a Fire Creature Has Remade a Fire Planet**

**Friday November 20, 2021 (Zoom, see link below to register), 7:30 P.M.**

### **SUMMARY**

The Earth is a uniquely fire planet, humans a uniquely fire creature, and how they have interacted has been shaping our world throughout the Holocene. First through the control over ignition, and then by adding some control over living biomass, people have been reshaping biogeography and even climate. The process went on afterburners when humanity's quest for more firepower led to the burning of fossil biomass. This pyric transition has passed over every environment humans inhabit. It upset fire regimes in living landscapes, leading to fire crises. Its impact on the atmosphere has globalized that effect, quickening a fire epoch. We are creating a fire age, the Pyrocene, the fire-informed equivalent to an ice age.

### **BIO**

Stephen Pyne is an emeritus professor at Arizona State University, mostly a fire historian, and the author of many books, among them fire histories of America, Canada, Australia, Europe (including Russia), and the Earth. Recent publications include *Between Two Fires: A Fire History of Contemporary America* and *To the Last Smoke*, a 9-volume series of regional fire surveys. A book on the Pyrocene is in press, and he is writing a fire history of Mexico. In a former life he spent 15 seasons with the North Rim Longshots. In his present life he runs a small urban farm in Queen Creek, Arizona. He is a MacArthur Fellow among other honors. In 1995 he received the Robert Kirsch Award, Los Angeles Times, for "a living author whose residence or focus has been in the West and whose career contributions merit body-of-work recognition."

To register for this zoom talk, [please link to Stony Brook Science Open Nights to register](#). Thank you.