

2020 Spring Schedule Cullowhee Classes  
Jackson County Public Library, 310 Keener Street, Sylva, NC  
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

01/14/2020

Jay Erskine Leutze, "Land Conservation / Grassroots Advocacy"

Jay Erskine Leutze was raised in Chapel Hill, NC, and lives in the Southern Appalachian Mountains on the North Carolina-Tennessee border. Trained as an attorney, he has become a leading voice for state and federal conservation funding for investment in public lands. He is the board president of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, one of the nation's most established land trusts. He is the author of *Stand Up that Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness Along the Appalachian Trail* (Simon & Schuster, 2012). In the tradition of *A Civil Action*, it's the compelling true story of a North Carolina outdoorsman who teams up with his Appalachian "mountain people" neighbors to save

students. Her doctoral coursework and research at the University of Virginia focused on creativity, intrinsic motivation, and the adult learner.

Presentation Outline:

To be *indomitable* is to be impossible to subdue or defeat. This illustrated talk will consider the lasting legacies of indomitable women who set a course for change in their mountain communities and would not be deterred: Lucy Morgan, Olive Dame Campbell, Gertrude Dills McKee, Wilma Dykeman, Amanda Swimmer, Marie Colton, and more come to mind. If you don't know of them yet, it's my hope that you'll want to know more than what fits on a roadside historical marker and that you, too, will be inspired by their lives, their art, and the places they strove to protect.

1/28/2020



Darin Waters, "A Personal Odyssey: Uncovering the history of African Americans in

2/4/2020

Adam Bigelow, "Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia"

Adam Bigelow is the Garden Manager for both The Cullowhee Community Garden, and the Sylva Community Garden. . He holds an Associate's Degree in Horticulture from Haywood Community College and a B.S. Degree in Environmental Science from Western Carolina University. Adam has been gardening organically for over a 15 years. He is a member of the Steering Committee f



everyday culture that make the city such a dynamic destination for visitors from all over the world. Lori Oxford will discuss those experiences as well as opportunities to take part in upcoming trips.

3/17/2020

David Easterling, "Climate Change"

David Easterling is a Supervisory Physical Scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information (NOAA/NCEI) in Asheville, North Carolina. He is currently Director of the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the U.S. National Climate Assessment. The TSU provides scientific, editorial, graphical, and software support to the U.S. National Climate Assessment and sustained assessment process of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

David received his Ph.D. in 1988 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as an Assistant Professor in the Atmospheric Sciences Program, Department of Geography, Indiana University-Bloomington from 1987 to 1990. In 1990 he moved to NOAA's National Climatic Data Center as a climate scientist, was appointed Principal Scientist in 1999, Chief of the Global Climate Applications Division in 2002, and Director of the Technical Support Unit in 2013.

David was a Lead Author on the Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Extremes, the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, a Convening Lead Author for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP) 3.3 on Climate Extremes, and a Convening Lead Author on the Fourth National Climate Assessment. He has been awarded four NOAA Administrator's Awards, four NOAA Bronze Medals, and one Department of Commerce Silver Medal.

Presentation outline:

My talk will discuss the scientific evidence for climate change, both past and future climate change. Also I will briefly touch on our Center and what we do.

3/24/2020

Barbara McRae, "Nikwasi Mound in Franklin, NC"

The daughter of an Air Force officer, Barbara Sears McRae spent her youth moving around. After her marriage to the artist Jim McRae in 1972, she put down roots with him in Franklin, N.C., and began avidly learning all she could about the region. Since 1976, when she joined The Franklin Press as a reporter, she has written a weekly column, "Know Your County," which allowed her to further explore the history of the county and region. Her career has included seven years as a systems engineer with IBM, 20 years in corporate communications with Nantahala Power and Light/Duke Energy, and, finally, 10 years as editor of The Franklin Press. Retired since 2012, she serves on the Town Council and as Vice-Mayor of Franklin and is active in several organizations, including Nikwasi Initiative and the Women's History Trail. As a Town Council member, she led a successful campaign to transfer Nikwasi Mound to Nikwasi Initiative, a nonprofit Community Development Organization in which the Town of Franklin, Macon County, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Mainspring Conservation Trust are partners.

### Presentation Outline:

The best-preserved Mound in Western North Carolina, Nikwasi occupies a special place in the region. It is a sacred site to the Cherokee and a place steeped in mystery and history for the people of Macon County. This presentation will cover these topics:

- The prehistory, history, and cultural significance of Nikwasi Mound in the Cherokee Nation.
- The Mound's role during the tumultuous contact period and the time of early settlement.
- How the Mound came to be preserved, why its return to the Cherokee became controversial, and current plans to create a Nikwasi Park surrounding it, with a tie to the developing Cherokee Heritage Corridor.

3/31/2020

Annual Luncheon