



News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ann Obenchain
303.952.1645
ann.obenchain@chautauqua.com

New Chautauqua Explorer Series announced
Monthly presentations celebrate the spirit of human exploration



BOULDER, COLO. (July 26, 2016) – The Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA), steward of Boulder’s cultural and historical gem, the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark, is pleased to announce a new Explorer Series dedicated to celebrating the spirit of human exploration on land, in the sea, in the air, and to ancient origins.

This monthly series celebrates people who think outside the box, who test boundaries and look for the less-traveled path, for answers to the unknown. Each story is a unique exercise in endurance and perseverance, both mentally and physically, but all share the same taste for adventure, individualism and freedom.

The series kicks off Thursday, October 6 with an exploration of the very definition of true exploration in an age of modern day connectedness and continues monthly, concluding in May with a journey in the footsteps of the first explorers - the Ice Age People. The cozy atmosphere of the 125-seat historic Chautauqua Community House provides the perfect setting for an intimate evening of armchair exploration and discovery.

“It is still not hard to find a man who will adventure for the sake of a dream or one who will search, for the pleasure of searching, not for what he may find.” – Sir Edmund Hillary

[EXPLORER SERIES LINE UP](#)

David Roberts: Exploration, Past & Future
Thursday, October 6. 7:00 PM

For as long as explorers have been venturing into unknown territories, they have relied on the best science and technology of their day to survive the journey. Modern technology, from the synthetic materials that make Arctic coats warm and waterproof to the food preservation techniques that have allowed astronauts to stay nourished in orbit, to the modern day connectedness that now allows

adventurers to be plucked from predicaments that might once have been fatal, has triggered a sea change in the very nature of exploration.

[David Roberts](#) is the author of 25 nonfiction books on mountaineering, adventure, and the history of the American Southwest. His essays and articles have appeared in National Geographic, National Geographic Adventure, and The Atlantic Monthly, among other publications. Roberts is particularly noted for his books “The Mountain of My Fear” and “Deborah: A Wilderness Narrative,” chronicling major ascents in Alaska in the 1960s, which had a major impact on the form of mountaineering literature.

Eric Larsen: On Thin Ice, The Melting Arctic **Thursday, November 10. 7:00 PM**

In March 2014, Eric Larsen and Ryan Waters set out to traverse nearly 500 miles across the melting Arctic Ocean, unsupported, from Northern Ellesmere Island to the geographic North Pole. Despite being one of the most cold and hostile environments on the planet, the Arctic Ocean has seen a steady and significant reduction of sea ice over the past due to climate change. Because of this, this expedition—dubbed the “Last North Expedition”—will most likely be the last human-powered trek from land to the North Pole, ever.

Polar adventurer, expedition guide, dog musher and educator, [Eric Larsen](#) has spent the past 15 years of his life traveling in some of the most remote and wild places left on earth. In 2006, Eric and Lonnie Dupre completed the first ever summer expedition to the North Pole. During this journey, the duo pulled and paddled specially modified canoes across 550 miles of shifting sea ice and open ocean. Eric successfully led his first expedition to the South Pole in 2008, covering nearly 600 miles in 41 days. Eric is now one of only a few Americans to have skied to both the North and South Poles.

Charly Heavenrich: Grand Canyon Experience **Thursday, December 1. 7:00 PM.**

The Grand Canyon is many things to many people. It is a natural wonder visited by five million people every year. It is a rafting/hiking pleasure that often leads to life changes. It is dam controlled and yet within the canyon walls, has its own rhythm. “The Canyon Guy” Charly Heavenrich will explore the many facets of this incredible place. Experience the beauty, grandeur, peace and transformative power of the Grand Canyon.

[Charly Heavenrich](#) is a speaker, writer, photographer, consultant and Grand Canyon raft guide who has done 118 trips through the Canyon. Charly is the author of “Dancing on the Edge” and “Unimagined Gifts” as well as producer and photographer of the DVD “Spirit of the Canyon.”

Liz Thomas: Hiking the Triple Crown Trails **Thursday, January 19. 7:00 PM.**

Only a few hundred people have completed the Triple Crown of Hiking, a task that requires more than 7,900 miles of hiking and conquering the three longest trails in the United States – the Pacific Crest Trail (2,654 miles), Appalachian Trail (2,181 miles) and the Continental Divide Trail (3,092 miles).

Long-distance hiking is arduous, the failure rate is high and injuries are unfortunately common. Substantial dangers present themselves and hikers meet the wilderness on its terms. A week traveling

trails is a notable effort. Traveling long distance, especially the entire distance of just one of these trails in one season, is undeniably a remarkable exercise in endurance and perseverance, both mentally and physically.

[Liz Thomas](#) is among the most experienced female hikers in the U.S. and is known for backpacking light, fast-and solo. In 2011, she broke the women's unsupported speed record on the 2,181-mile long Appalachian Trail, besting the previous record by almost a week. She has completed the Triple Crown of Hiking and has backpacked over 15,000 miles across the United States on 16 long distance hikes.

Chris Fisher: City of the Jaguar

Thursday, February 16. 7:00 PM

Over the past year, the excavation of an ancient city in Honduras has yielded a trove of remarkable stone artifacts from a mysterious, unnamed Pre-Columbian civilization. A joint American-Honduran team of archaeologists led by CSU's Dr. Chris Fisher uncovered and removed more than 200 sculptures from the base of a large earthen mound at the center of the site, which is being called the "City of the Jaguar."

While the City of the Jaguar is spectacularly isolated now, at its heyday it was probably a center of trade and commerce. "When you're here today," Fisher said, "you feel so disconnected. It's a wilderness, and it's hard to imagine you're even in the 21st century. But in the past, it was in the midst of an intense network of human interaction. It wasn't isolated at all.

Chris Fisher is a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University. He has conducted fieldwork in several areas of the United States, Mexico, Portugal and Albania. His work is supported by the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, the Heinz Foundation and other agencies.

Amelia Earhart: A Modern Day Global Flight

Thursday, March 16. 7:00 PM

Since the first aircraft took flight in 1903, less than 30 women have ever been pilot in command of a flight around the world.

In 2014, [Amelia Rose Earhart](#) departed on a flight around the world to complete her lifelong goal of recreating and completing her namesake's ill-fated journey. She flew a Pilatus PC-12NG with co-pilot Shane Jordan along a 28,000-mile course, landing in sixteen different countries, over the course of eighteen days. Amelia became one of the youngest women in the world to complete this flight.

When not on the air at 9NEWS, Amelia flies on a regular basis out of Centennial Airport, recently obtaining her commercial license in a Cessna 182RG. She is currently writing a book about her experience flying around the world.

Jon Kedrowski: Sleeping on the Summits

Thursday, April 6. 7:00 PM

In 2011, [Dr. Jon Kedrowski](#) became the first person to camp and spend the night on the top of Colorado's 55 official 14ers (peaks over 14,000'). He achieved the feat from June 23 to September 28 2011, a stretch of only 95 days from start to finish.

In 2012, Dr. Jon successfully climbed Mount Everest, May 26th, 2012. His story has been chronicled extensively as he was a witness and survived the worst tragedy on Everest since the 1996 disaster.

Craig Childs: Footsteps of the First People

Thursday, May 4. 7:00 PM

Who were the first people in North America and how did they get here? This is a question that many have asked and researched but few have tried to retrace like Craig Childs. Finding the footsteps of these "First People" was the goal for Craig as he adventured to replicate their travels to North America down the coast and into the continent. How many years, the routes, and the hardships these people endured will be the subject of Craig's talk as he recounts his journey in the footsteps of these Ice Age people.

[Craig Childs](#) has published more than a dozen critically-acclaimed books, including his most recent book, "Apocalyptic Planet," which won the Orion Book Award and the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal and Outside.

"It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy...Let's go exploring!" - Bill Watterson, last line of the final "Calvin and Hobbes" strip, published December 31, 1995

TICKET INFORMATION:

- All events take place at 7:00 PM in the Chautauqua Community House
- All tickets: **\$12.00 (\$9.00 Concert Member)**
- Purchase tickets online now at www.chautauqua.com.
- Chautauqua Concert Members receive a \$3 discount on select tickets.
- All tickets are subject to a service fee.

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The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that preserves, perpetuates and improves the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua, enhancing its community and values through cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. The chautauqua experience is based on lifelong learning, love of nature, voluntary simplicity, and music, oration and the arts. Historic significance, traditions, cultural relevance, respite and enrichment are among the community benefits provided by the Colorado Chautauqua. CCA serves as the steward of historic Chautauqua. It leases from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of 26 acres of Chautauqua Park, home to many public buildings, gardens and 99 cottages, 58 of which are available for rental through the Association. The Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Tier II organization. For more information about the Colorado Chautauqua and the CCA visit www.chautauqua.com or www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua.

For access to historic or event photos, or to arrange interviews with executive director Andrea McGimsey, please contact Ann Obenchain at 303.952.1645