

Hello everyone,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Wright Center Climate Change workshop in Glacier Park Montana, July 13th – 18th, 2007.

I am really looking forward to working with you all this summer and beyond. I also truly enjoy presenting these workshops but unfortunately we have had to decline applications from over a dozen teams this year so if you realize that you can not attend it is important for us to notify these other teams of any openings as soon as possible. This workshop is generously financed by the Wright Center for Science Education at Tufts University and The Chandra X-Ray Project at NASA. And supported by the Glacier Institute and the Crown of the Continent Learning Center and Glacier National Park.

As you probably realized, this workshop is only one in a series that I have been directing for seven years. Each workshop has been built on experiences from the last so your participation is very valued and important to help in organizing the next. This is the second time we have been to Glacier National Park and it is truly one of the most spectacular settings for a workshop. It is also one of the few places in the country where you will see a most incredible record of geologic history from fossil stromatolites at hundreds of millions of years old now at ~6,000 feet elevation to the presently melting Grinnell Glacier. We try not to make this an athletic event but please be aware that we will be outside hiking and touring every day regardless of the weather. The longest day hike is to the Grinnell Glacier which is an all-day event including a 10 mile/6 hour hike (round trip), that gains 1600 ft of elevation. It is a “good” trail but your best hiking boots are recommended. The entire week is packed with indoor presentations, classroom activities, and outdoor hikes/tours. It does not seem right to hold a climate change workshop entirely indoors.

We have/will post all the information you need on and about the workshop at http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/iecws/index.html

This includes transportation and all the e-letters (including this one) that we will send you. If you misplace a note or any valuable information about the workshop it will be posted on the site which serves as the point of dissemination, so we suggest looking there first.

This workshop is being held this year at the Glacier Institute field camp near the West gate to Glacier National Park. You know by now that you are responsible for your own transportation/meals/lodging to and from the workshop. Once you step in the door by late afternoon on July 13th (please do not arrive at the Institute past 4 pm) the Wright Center will cover all your meals, lodging, and transportation. After noon on July 18th you are on your own again. We encourage you to connect the workshop with a holiday visit of the area but while you are at the workshop there will be no time to run to town, shop, and do touristy stuff. Our workshop funding does not provide “free time”. So, please plan your travel, etc. accordingly.

Lodging is in five “cabins” each of which has five beds in one large room. You should bring a sleeping bag and towel as there are no linens provided. Currently we have 3

cabins for women and two for men. There is a shared shower/bath facility. We do have a separate meeting room for indoor functions. This workshop is completely packed to the max and there is not a corner left so that we could provide this opportunity to as many teachers as possible.

To try and save you some money and effort, and since it is an environmental workshop, we encourage you to not rent your own car at the airport unless absolutely needed.

Please also check

http://www.gonorthwest.com/Montana/northwest/glaciernp/glacier_np_vis.htm for information on alternate transport to GNP. We will be listing all your names and e-mails on our web site. If this is a problem for you please let me know now but as far as I know no former workshop participants have ever had a problem will junk mail. We do this for future participants, funders, and so that you can contact each other prior to arriving to help you coordinate rides to and from, as well as never having to misplace a new friend's e-mail after the workshop. One of our goals is for you to network with new contacts that may extend well beyond the workshop. Before you arrange your travel we would like you to calculate your ecological footprint. There are a number of web sites that list these like - <http://www.myfootprint.org/>. If you have never done the calculation I suggest sitting down first. There is a prize for the team that makes the biggest reductions in their “normal” movements to and from the workshop. Think green.

We will not post the final daily workshop schedule until the last week or so but you will find that there is something scheduled almost every hour from 7am until 9 pm each day. Presenting this year will be myself

(http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/fellows/zach.html), our media director Scott Battaion, Donna Young (http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/fellows/donna.html), and many others on topics from basic glaciology to new methods of collecting and visualizing real-time weather/climate data with your kiddos. On one day we will travel to and hike to the Grinnell Glacier accompanied by the head park geologist – trail map posted on the web site. Naturalists from the Glacier Institute, and the Crown of the Continent Learning Center, and others. With transportation, the hike, and supper it is a 12 hour day but well, well worth the effort.

We will post a gear list on the web site

http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/iecws/index.html but you should bring all the basic hiking stuff – sturdy shoes (DO NOT plan on breaking in new shoes during the workshop – we have found this to be a bad idea), extra socks, water bottle, day pack, rain/wind gear, personal first aid kit, hat and sun glasses, sunscreen, clothing appropriate for any change in the weather, camera, etc. We have a number of first aid qualified people on staff during the workshop but you will be thousands of feet up and miles from the nearest emergency room and any “minor” medical “concern” is treated as very serious. Please have your personal insurance coverage up to date and please please notify me if you have any medical condition, medication, or allergies that might help us if a situation were to arise. This workshop is geared for persons of any ability and please let me know if you have any concerns and

consult with your doctor ahead of time if you have any questions. Sorry that this sounds so serious but we want you to have a splendid time during the workshop and anything that needs medical attention may put you and others at risk – which we would like to avoid. This is not one of those “in the hotel meeting room” type of workshops. Get in shape and walk walk walk. We will all have a much better workshop experience.

We will be posting a suggested reading list and please feel free to contact us and add new recommended readings. Before the workshop please read *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Robert Persig and *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson. We will be discussing portions of these books throughout the workshop. Please also do not buy *Exploring Glacier National Park*, David Rockwell since you will be receiving a copy (along with a thousand other items) once you arrive.

There are lots of other things but I think that all this may suffice for now. Thanks again for your enthusiasm and we look forward to working with you.

Get ready for some serious fun and education.

Wage Peace

Zach