April 1  Michael Landin, University at Albany- “Antarctica: the Frozen Continent" - Antarctica is billed as "Earth's most unusual and inspiring travel destination.” This presentation will take you on a photojournalistic "expedition" to the Antarctic Peninsula, including stops at several islands, such as Deception Island, King George Island (Arctowski Research Station) and Elephant Island (Point Wild). Take a cruise down the Gerlache Straight to the Lemaire Channel. The last stop is at Half Moon Island, during a snowstorm. You will see lots of penguins and majestic icebergs throughout the journey.

April 8  Bruce Bailey, President AWS Truewind LLC - "A Gale Force or a Subtle Breeze? How Wind Energy Models a Solution to the Looming Energy Crisis" – Wind energy has been the world’s fastest growing electricity source for the past decade. It supplies the electric power needs of nearly 5 million American homes. Despite this trend, wind energy technology is still largely unknown and misunderstood by the public and government decision-makers alike. This reality says more about our society’s head-in-the-sand attitude towards energy and climate change issues than it does about wind. This talk will illustrate wind energy’s success story and how its future prospects can change our thinking about the real benefits of shifting to a sustainable, home-grown energy economy.

April 15 Dr. Kevin Teichman, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, U.S. EPA -“Nanotechnology: Do Good Things Really Come in Small Packages? - Products made from engineered nanomaterials offer potential to improve our quality of life, but like many other materials may pose potential environmental risks. This presentation will describe what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is doing, in coordination with other federal agencies, industry, academia, and international organizations, to advance environmental applications of nanomaterials as well as to understand if these materials present human health or ecological implications different from those associated with more traditional chemicals and particles.

April 22 Dr. Douglas Burns, U.S. Geological Survey, - “Acid Rain: Have We Solved the Problem?” – The acidity of rain and snow that falls in New York has diminished greatly in the past 20 years, yet the scientific evidence indicates little recovery of acidified ecosystems in the State. This talk will explore the latest evidence from forests and waters of the Adirondacks and Catskills, and the reasons behind the lack of large-scale ecosystem recovery.

April 29 Dr. Stephen Mercier, Marist College, “The Life and Writings of John Burroughs” - Incredibly popular in the United States during his lifetime (1837-1921) John Burroughs was hailed not only as the most beloved author of the natural history essay, but also as the most popular American writer; his books sold more than one and a half million copies. Wearing many hats, Burroughs wrote diverse essays on natural history, literary criticism, poetry, and evolution. Burroughs was famous for his close observations of the natural world and became increasingly concerned about the welfare of flora and fauna in the Hudson River Valley.

May 6 Prof. James Edson, Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, “Marine Meteorology and Air-Sea Interaction under Extreme Wintertime Conditions in the North Atlantic” - The talk will describe observations from a recent research cruise in the North Atlantic Ocean. During the cruise, we directly measured the heat exchange between the ocean and atmosphere, which provides the "fuel" for the atmospheric engine. We also measured the frictional drag between the ocean and atmosphere, which applies the "brakes" on the atmosphere and drives (huge) waves and currents in the ocean. The talk will focus on how these measurements are made and what life at sea is like under these conditions.

Donations to sustain the Natural History Lectures may be made out to the "University at Albany Foundation” and mailed to the University at Albany Foundation (Room - UAB-201), 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222.
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