

Presented by

THE WRIGLEY LECTURE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY

CO-HOSTED BY THE VIRGINIA G. PIPER CENTER FOR CREATIVE WRITING,
THE CENTER FOR ASIAN RESEARCH AND THE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

From the Dusty Soil: What a Village in India Taught Me About the Global Village



JEFF BIGGERS

WRITER, EDUCATOR, RADIO CORRESPONDENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Jeff Biggers will discuss Mitraniketan, a legendary village revitalization project in Kerala that turned one of the most deforested, overpopulated, and depressed villages in India into a model of sustainable living and ecological restoration, following the visionary ideas of adivasi forest communities and traditions of Gandhi, Tagore, the Danish folk school, and TVA chair and Antioch President Arthur Morgan.

Jeff Biggers work has taken him across the US, Europe, India, and Mexico. His award-winning stories have appeared on NPR, PRI, and in scores of travel, literary and music magazines, and national and foreign newspapers. He is the author of *In the Sierra Madre* and *The United States of Appalachia*.

His work has received many honors, including an American Book Award, a Lowell Thomas Award for Travel Journalism, a Field Foundation Fellowship, and an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship. He serves as a contributing editor to *The Bloomsbury Review* and is a member of the PEN American Center. In the 1990s, as part of his work to develop literacy and literary programs in rural, reservation, and neglected communities in the Southwest, he founded the Northern Arizona Book Festival. In the 1980s, Biggers served as an assistant to former Senator George McGovern in Washington, DC, and as a personal aide to Rev. William Sloane Coffin at the Riverside Church in New York City.

Born in Ohio, raised in Illinois and Arizona, he earned a B.A. in History and English at Hunter College in New York City. He also studied at the University of California in Berkeley, Columbia University, and the University of Arizona. He and his wife Carla, and their two boys, Diego and Massimo, presently divide their time between Illinois and Italy.

Thursday, February 21, 2008 – 3:30 PM
Global Institute of Sustainability, Tempe Center Rm. 158
Arizona State University, Tempe campus

Visitor Parking in Apache Blvd Parking Structure or Fulton Center Parking Structure (\$2/hr)

The Wrigley Lecture Series is funded through the generous support of Julie Ann Wrigley.
For more information, call (480) 965-2975 or go to <http://sustainability.asu.edu>.

