

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

From the Appalachians to the Oceans...



18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 15-19, 2008

Hosted by Virginia Tech
at The Hotel Roanoke



Welcome!



The Appalachians are among the oldest mountains on Earth, born of powerful upheavals within the terrestrial crust and sculpted by the ceaseless action of water and wind upon the surface.

Today, the region is at the heart of national and global debates over the fate of humankind and our planet. The Society of Environmental Journalists' 2008 annual conference, scheduled for Oct. 15-19 in Roanoke, Va., will bring members into the belly of the crucial discussion over climate change and our world's energy future.

The region was once home to a wealth of plant life now extinct. These plants, such as giant ferns up to 50 feet tall, died off, turned into peat, were compacted 20-fold, and became coal...

Coal, which provides half of all U.S. electricity and is our most abundant domestic energy source...

Coal, which also produces the most potent greenhouse gas, and which can devastate the environment when it's mined, especially through the "strip mining on steroids" known as mountaintop removal.

Come to the 2008 SEJ conference, and you can visit – or fly over – a mountaintop removal mine. Hear citizens and scientists talk about mining's impacts, or learn from industry officials about their efforts to make coal cleaner.

Expect stunning vistas, top science briefings, incisive political commentary, and supportive craft sessions tailored to reporters' needs. Even with SEJ's extraordinary history of annual conferences, we think SEJ 2008 is shaping up to be one you just can't miss.

A major reason is the location. When you arrive, you will find the mountains ablaze with orange, red, and yellow colors of fall foliage. And you'll find yourself at the epicenter of the battle over how to power modern society in a carbon-constrained world.

Nestled in a valley between the Appalachian Plateau and the Blue Ridge Mountains, Roanoke has long been a transition point between the coalfields and the coastal plains. It is a railroad town for the coalfields. The endless stream of hopper cars rumbling down the mountains passes only a few yards away from the Hotel Roanoke, a grand old railroad company hotel beautifully restored by our conference's university sponsor, Virginia Tech.

As the preliminary agenda on the following pages shows you, we're putting together a diverse selection of tours and concurrent sessions. We're putting a special emphasis on serving SEJ's growing freelance community and on the biggest and best collection of computer lab sessions ever.

We're closing the conference with a special Sunday morning program dedicated to books and authors, featuring an appearance by Wendell Berry, and including many of our own members.

And ... oh yes! ... SEJ is also bringing back a favorite event, the Saturday night party, this year held in a mock railroad yard at the Virginia Museum of Transportation and featuring some of the best of the region's music.

Y'all come down...

Conference Co-Chairs:

Bill Kovarik
Professor, Radford University
School of Communication

Ken Ward Jr.
Reporter, *The Charleston Gazette*



TOURS *In the Field*

Thursday, October 16

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see below), but all Thursday tours will return to the Hotel Roanoke about 5:00 p.m. Planning is still underway, so please visit www.sej.org for more details. For those looking for some exercise, tours 6, 7, and 8 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 5 and 9 are best suited for wheelchair accessibility (contact SEJ headquarters for details).

1. Almost Level 1: Cutting Down Mountains for Coal

(6:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

Larry Gibson's piece of Kayford Mountain used to be the lowest peak for miles. Now it's the highest. There's no better place to see the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining – a practice that is feeding a growing demand for coal and leveling wide stretches of Appalachia. See an active mine and hear from people who live near the mines and the processing plants and coal trucks that serve them. See mine reclamation and hear from industry representatives who'll tell you why what they're doing is good and necessary. *Driving time – 6 hours total.* But there will be beautiful scenery, informative speakers, and documentaries on the way. **Also, see related event on following page: Mountaintop removal flyovers, available to SEJ members from independent sponsors Friday and Saturday.**

2. What Are Forests Worth? What Are They For? Can We Sustain Them?

(7:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

The southern Appalachians provide a rare look at the changing face of America's forests. Walk onto an acre that was traditionally property of companies like International Paper nowadays and you're likely to find it's owned by something called a REIT or a TIMO ... or maybe just some guy named Bob. See how foresters, community groups, and others are spurring a new take on sustainable forestry; how the U.S. Forest Service struggles to balance recreation demands with timber operations; how invasive species are literally eating away Appalachian hillsides; and how emerging "niche" forest products could bolster rural communities. *Driving time – 3 hours total.*

3. Rural Energy: Wind, Hydro, and Development in the Highlands

(7:15 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

Virginia's western Highlands are some of the most pristine rural mountain regions left in the Eastern U.S. Bath and Highland counties are among the least populated east of the Mississippi, with county seats of fewer than 300 residents. But, like much of the rural U.S., these counties face new development pressures from energy industries and vacation home speculators. Highland County, with only a \$7 million annual budget, has approved a \$60 million wind power project. Construction is set for this year and, if built, it will be the first industrial wind power facility in the state of Virginia. *Driving time – 4 hours total.*

4. Healthy Food Shed

(7:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

In the wake of global warming concerns and food-borne illness outbreaks that could be partly the result of growing and processing methods used in industrialized agriculture, consumers are starting to pay attention to how their food is raised and how far it travels. Farmer,

writer, and speaker Joel Salatin is the poster child of the local food and farming movement. We'll visit Salatin's 550-acre diversified Polyface Farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and find out why his spread is, in the words of Michael Pollan, "one of the most productive and sustainable farms in America." And we'll hear from other industrious farmers, folks serving up everything from food to fiber to fuel in their communities. We'll also scope out some regional examples of Big Farming. *Driving time – 3 hours total.*

5. A National Treasure at Peril – the Blue Ridge Parkway

(8:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

Why are the Blue Ridge Mountains "blue"? Join us for the answer, traveling along lush ridgetops that were over-forested in the 1900s to the most photographed site on the parkway, Mabry Mill. The early 1900s community-gathering place today operates as a restored gristmill, sawmill, and blacksmith shop. As the parkway approaches its 75th anniversary, however, America's Favorite Scenic Drive faces environmental issues and federal budgetary shortfalls resulting in 57 unfilled staff positions. Air pollution emanates from coal-fired power sources, the mighty hemlocks are dying, and flourishing development blocks scenic views. *Driving time – 4 hours total.*

6. Old River, New Challenge

(8:30 a.m. departure, lunch and canoe rental included, \$55 fee)

The New River, a misnomer if ever there was one, is one of the world's oldest rivers. It's also among the most beautiful. We'll paddle canoes six to eight miles past towering cliffs and rolling meadows. At the put-in, ecologists from Virginia Tech will conduct an electro-fishing demonstration and provide a brief presentation of the New's diverse aquatic species. After taking out, we'll drive a short distance downstream to where the local power company is planning to landfill coal-fired power plant ash in the floodplain of the New. Speakers will address the controversial issue of managing coal combustion residues. Note: You will encounter mild whitewater rapids on this run. Basic canoeing skills preferred. *Driving time – 3 hours total.*

7. Journey Down the James

(9:00 a.m. departure, lunch and canoe rental included, \$55 fee)

Follow the *E. coli* and nutrient trail from mountain farms to the Chesapeake Bay on a canoe journey down the James River. You'll hear how nutrient and sediment runoff impacts water quality for everyone. You'll also see why farming in the mountains affects the bay hundreds of miles downstream as you paddle down about 10 miles of river through farmland and pristine forest. This trip is suitable for beginners, but expect to be on the water between four and six hours with several breaks. Canoes and a limited number of kayaks are available. *Driving time – 2 hours total.*

8. The Appalachian Trail – Land with a Past

(9:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

Like great chunks of the Appalachian Trail, which goes from Georgia to Maine, the roughly 11 miles of the trail's Catawba Ridge section pass over land that once held buildings. The jewel of this ridge is a rocky overlook, McAfee Knob, federally protected since 1987. The trail protection project marked a backward progression of sorts, from developed to backcountry – a reclamation of industrial and residential lands. Come and hike the trail to McAfee Knob and see the Catawba Valley below, which is slowly being invaded by houses. "See" what used to be on the trail – houses, a swimming pool, hunting camps. At the top, try your hand at geocaching, the latest backcountry enterprise. Hiking distance: 7 miles round-trip. *Driving time – 1.5 hours total.*

Continued

9. Nuclear Power – from Ore to Volts

(10:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$30 fee)

There are five stages in the life of nuclear power: mining, processing ore, enrichment of uranium to commercial or weapons grade, fuel fabrication, and utilization in a nuclear power plant. This tour covers the nuclear cycle with visits encompassing three of these stages. We'll visit a 1,000-acre farm, once owned by Thomas Jefferson, and now proposed as the U.S.'s first uranium mine outside the Southwest. Next, we tour a fuel fabrication facility and a full-scale nuclear plant training center, owned by the French nuclear giant AREVA NP Inc. We'll watch an actual production run, from delivery of the enriched uranium through to the completion of 12-foot-long nuclear fuel rods that power the nation's 104 commercial reactors. At the training center, we will see the inside of a nuclear power plant, with full-sized cutaways of steam generators, reactors, and other equipment. *Driving time – 3 hours total.*

AGENDA

SEJ's 2008 annual conference officially begins Wednesday evening, October 15, with a dinner reception, special welcomes, and the SEJ awards ceremony.

Sunday, October 12 – Wednesday, October 15

Environmental Reporting Boot Camp

Whether you're new to the beat or a veteran wanting to bolster your toolbox, SEJ's second pre-conference boot camp offers something for everyone. Michigan State University's Knight Center for Environmental Journalism will train journalists at a three-day workshop in Roanoke. Boot Camp includes sessions on computer-assisted reporting, investigative techniques, writing, ethics, and topical issues. It includes the all-day Wednesday workshop (see below). **Check www.ej.msu.edu for details, application, and deadlines.**

Wednesday, October 15

All-Day Workshop: Covering Climate Change and Our Energy Future in Rural America

In the heart of coal country – with coal trains rolling nearby and not far from where mine operators are blasting off the mountaintops – we'll bring leading energy researchers, climate experts, and top editors and reporters together to explore new angles for covering this most daunting of topics. The workshop is designed specifically to address the reporting needs of rural journalists in Appalachia and beyond, as well as reporters who work outside the environment or energy beats. The program will be of interest both to SEJ conference regulars and to those new to the annual meeting scene. All sessions will be at the Hotel Roanoke. **Breakfast and lunch are included. Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. See www.sej.org beginning in April for more details. SEJ members only.**

Opening Reception at the Hotel Roanoke

Join your colleagues and our distinguished guests, Virginia Governor **Tim Kaine** and West Virginia Governor **Joe Manchin**, for dinner and drinks at this grand, historic, and beautifully restored railroad hotel, the site of most conference activities this year.

SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment

Since environmental issues are often the most important stories on the planet, then the SEJ Awards ceremony is among the most important of its kind. We invite you to witness the best of the best

with co-hosts **Philippe** and **Alexandra Cousteau**, ocean explorers and grandchildren of Jacques Cousteau, and **Jeff Burnside**, SEJ board member from WTVJ NBC 6 Miami. At this lively event, you'll see clips and images of the winning newspapers, TV, online, and other recipients of SEJ's \$1,000 awards. And, new this year: The Rachel Carson Environment Book Award, worth \$10,000.

Thursday, October 16

Tours: See previous page for details and logistics for SEJ's 2008 field expeditions throughout Appalachia.

Independent Hospitality Receptions and Exhibitor Sneak Peek

After a day of adventure, wind down with old friends and new acquaintances in the maze of exhibits and receptions throughout the Hotel Roanoke. Wine and dine with environment and technology exhibitors and independent hosts. Festivities kick off immediately following your return from tours. And, check www.sej.org beginning in July to see lists of receptions and exhibitors as well as evening sessions added to the agenda.

Friday, October 17

Almost Level 2: Mountaintop Removal Flyovers

The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition is teaming up with SouthWings to give journalists a bird's-eye view of one of the most environmentally controversial industry practices in Appalachia. Volunteer pilots will fly participants from the Roanoke Regional Airport into West Virginia for a loop around the coalfields. Morning and afternoon flights are planned for Friday and a morning flight on Saturday, all weather permitting. *Tour takes about 3 hours.*

Space very limited. SEJ members only. Cost: \$40, payable to Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. Participants register in advance and schedule a flight time with Tonya Adkins at OHVEC, 4themountains@gmail.com or 606/286-1442. For more information on the independent organizers of this tour, visit www.southwings.org/index2.html and www.ohvec.org/.

Exhibitor Breakfast and Craft Breakout Sessions

Join us bright and early for continental breakfast with exhibitors and green technology enthusiasts. Browse the exhibits and talk with experts about a myriad of environmental issues. Then join your colleagues for roundtable discussions on a wide range of craft-related topics.

Opening Plenary

Old King Coal: What's His Role in America's Energy Future?

Coal provides half of America's electricity and is the nation's most abundant domestic fuel source. But burning coal is a major source of greenhouse gases. And mining coal takes a toll on workers, mountains, streams, and forests. What role can – and should – coal have in the nation's future energy diet? Experts on all sides, including **Don Blankenship**, the outspoken president of Massey Energy (invited); American Electric Power CEO **Michael Morris**; and "Big Coal" author **Jeff Goodell**, will debate the issue during our opening plenary session moderated by XM Satellite Radio's **Bob Edwards**.

Network Lunch

Always a popular favorite, grab your lunch and choose a discussion table or small breakout session on a wide range of reporting tips, timely topics, and lively newsmakers.



Do-It-Yourself Beat Dinners

A wide variety of restaurants are within easy walking distance of the Hotel Roanoke, and SEJ is reserving all available options. Check www.sej.org beginning in July for details on leading your own dinner or joining dinners organized by others.

Saturday, October 18

Breakfast Plenary Session: Environmental Justice and the Poor

Since its inception in the 1980s in North Carolina, the environmental justice movement has drawn attention to the inequitable environmental risks that many African-American communities have long been forced to bear. In Appalachia, these same inequitable risks have been borne by poor white communities. Noted expert **Robert Bullard** leads a diverse panel discussing where the movement came from and where it's headed. *The plenary session includes a full breakfast. Pre-registration and \$25 fee required.*

Lunch and Plenary Session: Election 2008 and the Environment

The invitations are out. If we can't lure the actual candidates themselves, then we'll at least expect the top environmental advisors from each camp, as well as congressional leaders, to meet head-to-head to discuss their candidates' and parties' visions for our future environmental policy.

Mini-Tour Adventures

Sign up on-site beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Options this year may include: GPS technology, megalandfills, black bear research center, green buildings, agriculture research, Tall Growth Tree Chamber, sediment flumes and creek restoration, prescribed forest burn, aquaculture center, and the NanoBioEarth lab.

Saturday Night Party: All Aboard!

Join the SEJ Party Train for an evening full of fellowship, food and drink, and music and dancing. Okay, so we're not really riding a train. But, we're doing the next best thing. The venue is the Virginia Museum of Transportation (www.vmt.org), located just minutes from the Hotel Roanoke. We'll hear – and sing and dance to – regional music while dining on local barbeque. The party takes place outside in the museum's rail yard, where SEJers can check out a collection of vintage locomotives, the kind that for decades hauled coal, other freight, and passengers on the old Norfolk and Western Railway. Inside the museum is a wide array of transportation exhibits. Check www.sej.org for updates. *Pre-registration and \$35 fee required.*

Sunday, October 19

Bestsellers Breakfast

Join us for a full breakfast and a relaxed literary morning as some of SEJ's favorite authors read from their works at the historic Hotel Roanoke. The Virginia Tech Bookstore will have books available for purchase and author signing, and we encourage all SEJ member authors to have their books on display. Breakout sessions will include a publisher's pitch-slam and separate sessions on travel books, science and policy books, and environmental history. And you won't want to miss the main event, a rendezvous with regional authors **Wendell Berry, Ann Pancake, Penny Loeb, Erik Reece**, and others. *Pre-registration and \$25 fee required.*

Post-Conference Tour: From the Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay

The bus departs from Hotel Roanoke shortly after noon on Sun., Oct. 19, following the morning program of authors, and runs to Wed., Oct. 22. The \$325 fee includes transportation, lodging, Sunday morning breakfast, and most meals throughout the tour. Please book return flights out of Richmond, with airport drop-off at 2:30 p.m. (for flights departing no sooner than 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 22). The bus will return to Roanoke about 6:30 p.m.

Come see the Chesapeake Bay, North America's largest and historically most productive estuary, and learn firsthand about the continuing struggle to save it 25 years after it became a poster child for regional ecosystem restoration. We'll take you from the headwaters of the James River, where you'll see efforts to control stubborn farm pollution, to the shore of the bay, witnessing along the way the sprawling suburbia that is the bay's other nemesis. After an overnight stay in a state park, we'll go by boat to Tangier Island, a traditional fishing community in the very heart of the bay, to immerse ourselves in the human factor of this complicated story. While staying at the Port Isobel Lodge of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, we'll explore a salt marsh by canoe, seine for fish, and learn about the bay's "dead zone." Finally, we'll head back to the mainland to see an oyster farm and hear from experts at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on the latest bids to bring back the bay's signature oysters and crabs. *Deadline to sign up is August 6; include your departing airport and time. Deadline to cancel for refund, less \$25 processing fee, is August 16. Please check www.sej.org for updates.*

SESSIONS

Friday and Saturday Concurrent Sessions

Check www.sej.org for updates on sessions and speakers. Please note: SEJ members and working journalists will be given preference during the question-and-answer periods.

THE CRAFT

- The Freelance Pitch-Slam
- Covering Tragedies and Disasters
- Environment Reporters of the 21st Century
- Book Publisher Pitch-Slam
- Energy 101: A Primer for Reporters
- TV and the New Media
- Covering Climate Change without Getting Whiplash
- The Dating Game: Connecting Scientists and Journalists
- How to Be Your Own FOIA Lawyer
- Getting the Goods: Using Court Records for Environmental Investigations

COAL

- Coal Around the Globe
- Carbon Sequestration: Silver Bullet or Black Hole?
- Almost Level: Mountaintop Removal Overview
- Beyond Coal: Strategies for Appalachian Reclamation and Renewal

ENERGY

- Must We Grow? Conservation, Green Lifestyles, Alternative Energies
- Take Two: Nuclear Power Reconsidered

Continued



- Biofuels: Beyond the Steel Cage Debate
- Is Energy Independence Green? Liquid Coal, Tar Sands, Natural Gas, and More...

THE CLIMATE

- Close Quarters: Can Controlling Population Growth Help Stabilize the Climate?
- Climate Change and Agriculture
- After Tomorrow: Can We Adapt to Climate Change?
- Climate Change and Emerging Legal Challenges

THE WATER

- Are the Oceans Already Lost?
- Water Quality from the Headwaters to the Chesapeake Bay
- Dams: Past, Present, and Future
- Ends of the Earth: Polar Science and the Environment

THE LAND

- Sharing Life on Earth: Biodiversity in Appalachia and Beyond
- Animal Business: Wildlife Trafficking and International Law
- Joy Ride or Ecocide? ATVs on Public Lands
- Suburban Decay: The Sub-prime Mortgage Mess as an Environmental Story

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- The Rollercoaster World of Toxicology
- Women's Environmental Health Issues
- Toying with Toxics: Childhood Exposure to Chemicals
- Workers and the Environment: Asbestos and Other Occupational Hazards

THE NATION

- Environmental Policy, Public Opinion, and the Election
- Broken Bridges and Straight Pipes: Aging Infrastructure and the Environment
- Environmental Justice and the Economy: From Cap-and-Trade Concerns to Green-Collar Promises
- The Clean Air Act's Unfinished Business

NEW THIS YEAR!

Computer Labs and Craft Workshops on the Cutting Edge

Want to catch up, keep up, or get ahead of the new media landscape? We have two well-equipped computer labs this year, and we plan to take full advantage of them with sessions offering hands-on experience with audio, video, podcasting, mapping, and turning data into stories. Other sessions will cover what's happening with mobile media, search engine strategies, blogs, social media, citizen journalism, crowdsourcing, entrepreneurial media projects, and much more. Learn the skills and mindset that can keep environmental journalism – and your career – going strong, regardless of the fortunes of mainstream news organizations.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register Online at www.sej.org/go/conference2008.htm

Mail conference registration to:
 Convention Management Services, Inc.
 SEJ Conference
 500 Business Centre Drive
 Lansing, MI 48917

Make your check payable to SEJ.

Paying by credit card? Fax your registration to: **517/485-4178**
 Questions? Call **800/878-5131** (U.S.) or **517/485-2309** and ask for SEJ conference registration.

Registration can be confirmed only when payment is received.

Cancellation Policy: If you cancel your registration in writing by Sept. 15, 2008, you will receive a full refund less a \$50 processing fee. Non-attendance does not constitute cancellation. Substitutions may be made. Mail or fax your request for cancellation to Convention Management Services Inc.

Member Dues: Current members only: You may include your dues payment of \$45 (students and Canadian members, \$35; Mexican members, \$30) with your registration fee. You must already be a member of SEJ to renew with conference registration.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Member rates apply to SEJ members only. SEJ membership is restricted to journalists, professors, and students. Please visit www.sej.org or contact the SEJ office at 215/884-8174 or sej@sej.org about eligibility and to receive an application.

Membership applicants: Do not include your new member fees with conference registration. Membership applications submitted after Sept. 1, 2008, may not be processed in time for the conference. Send your membership application and member fees to:

SEJ Membership Department
 P.O. Box 2492
 Jenkintown, PA 19046

MEMBERS

By 8/15/08 **\$190**
 After 8/15/08 **\$235**

Single day (Please specify which day)

By 8/15/08 **\$100**
 After 8/15/08 **\$110**

STUDENTS \$75

Membership is not required for the student rate. However, students may be eligible for and will benefit from membership. Visit www.sej.org for details.

NON-MEMBERS

Save money! Subscriptions to SEJ's quarterly newsletter, *SEJournal*, include conference fee discounts for up to three people per subscription.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- **Corporate: \$200** (saves 10% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- **Government: \$80** (saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- **Nonprofit: \$75** (saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- **University: \$55** (saves 50% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- **Small nonprofit: \$50** (saves 50% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- **Individual: \$45** (saves 50% off non-member registration fees)

To take advantage of subscriber discounts, subscribe today by including your subscription fee with your conference payment. Please contact SEJ at sej@sej.org or **215/884-8174** if you are unsure about your category.

CORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS REGISTRATION FEE

By 8/15/08 **\$900**
After 8/15/08 **\$990**

Single Day (Please specify which day)

By 8/15/08 **\$360**
After 8/15/08 **\$405**

NONPROFIT/GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBERS

By 8/15/08 **\$700**
After 8/15/08 **\$770**

Single Day (Please specify which day)

By 8/15/08 **\$280**
After 8/15/08 **\$315**

INDIVIDUAL, UNIVERSITY, SMALL NONPROFIT SUBSCRIBERS (annual budget of \$1 million or less)

By 8/15/08 **\$500**
After 8/15/08 **\$550**

Single Day (Please specify which day)

By 8/15/08 **\$200**
After 8/15/08 **\$225**

NON-MEMBERS WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION

By 8/15/08 **\$1,000**
After 8/15/08 **\$1,100**

Single Day (Please specify which day)

By 8/15/08 **\$400**
After 8/15/08 **\$450**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES!

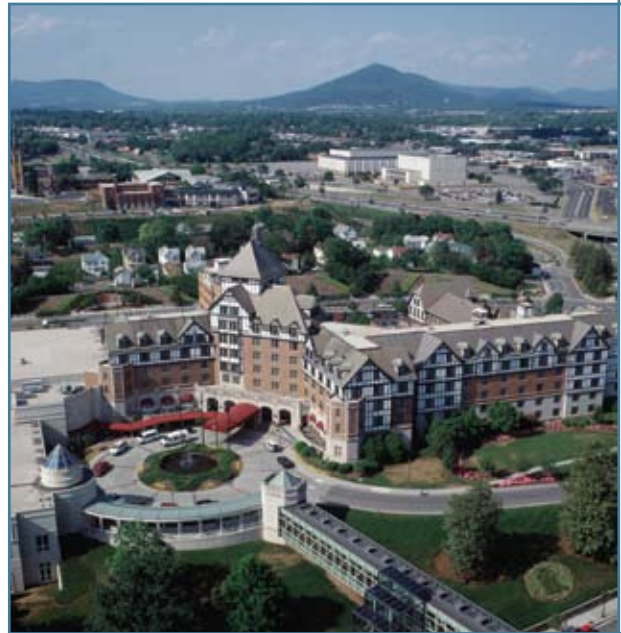
AUG. 6: Deadline to sign up for the post-conference tour

AUG. 15: Postmark deadline for early discount registration

AUG. 16: Deadline to cancel post-conference tour reservation for a refund less \$25 processing fee

SEPT. 15: Deadline to cancel conference registration for refund less \$50 processing fee (see cancellation policy)

SEPT. 15: Deadline to book rooms at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center



LODGING

The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, SEJ's headquarters for the 2008 annual conference, is now available for reservations. The Hotel Roanoke will be the center of conference sessions, meals, and a variety of other events. The historic Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center is situated alongside downtown Roanoke in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, just minutes from Roanoke Regional Airport.

The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center

110 Shenandoah Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: **540/985-5900** or toll free at **866/594-4722**
www.hotelroanoke.com

For online reservations: www.sej.org

Room rates: **\$118** single/double occupancy plus applicable taxes (12%)

Ask for the "Society of Environmental Journalists" group name in order to receive your discounted conference rate.

Room blocks will be released after Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

VERY IMPORTANT!

Due to other events taking place in Roanoke during the same dates as the SEJ conference, hotel rooms outside the SEJ block will sell fast and at a premium rate. Avoid missing out on a conference headquarters room and book at the Hotel Roanoke right away.

TRANSPORTATION

Roanoke Regional Airport

(5 miles/10 minutes to Hotel Roanoke)
5202 Aviation Dr., Roanoke, VA 24012
540/362-1999
www.roanokeregionalairport.com

See www.sej.org for more transportation options.

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

Founded in 1990, the Society of Environmental Journalists exists to advance public understanding of environmental issues by improving the quality, accuracy, and visibility of environmental news reporting. SEJ works to develop more and better news coverage of environmental issues through programs and services designed by and for journalists. For more information about SEJ, please visit www.sej.org.



VIRGINIA TECH

Nestled on a plateau between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains, Virginia Tech is the state's leading research institution with a \$367 million research program that ranks it among the top 10 percent in the nation. Through its mission of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement, the university of nearly 30,000 students offers 60 undergraduate and 140 graduate programs throughout its eight colleges: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Architecture and Urban Studies, Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Natural Resources, Science, and Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Virginia Tech is a leader in addressing many environmental challenges facing the world, from clean energy, air, soil and water, to sustainable forestry and farming, liveable communities, and wildlife conservation.



THE HOTEL ROANOKE AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Built in 1882, the beautifully restored Tudor-style Hotel Roanoke is proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a member of IACC (International Association of Conference Centers), Hotel Roanoke is pleased to offer world-class lodging facilities, including newly renovated guest rooms and 63,000 square feet of state-of-the-art conference space. The hotel's business facilities include 35 meeting rooms, a fixed-seat lecture hall, two boardrooms, conference center lounge, and an elegant hotel ballroom that can accommodate up to 1,400 guests.



This publication is printed on recycled paper. 80% post-consumer fibers, 20% from Forest Stewardship Council certified managed forests. Paper is chlorine free.

Society of Environmental Journalists

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