

RECONCILING CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND VALUES

A Bemis Lecture Series Presentation by
John Hagan, President, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences



Sunday, October 3, 2010 at 4 p.m.
Bemis Hall, 15 Bedford Road, Lincoln, MA

Climate change is no longer just a physical, scientific issue. It is a social phenomenon—an “idea” that now touches everyone in every part of the globe. It is changing how we interact with our friends and family members—and how nations interact with each other. Opinions can range from the greatest threat ever faced by the human species to a clever hoax fabricated by scientists whose survival depends on government grants. Climate change will cause drought, famine, agricultural collapse, more frequent catastrophic weather, displacement of millions of people, and wars. Or, the climate has always changed—it’s just Mother Nature.

Why such diverse viewpoints? It would be too simplistic, and dangerous, to blame it on “education,” or lack thereof. People would just disagree about who needs educating—climate advocates or climate skeptics. Climate change has become a debate over values. More science will not reconcile value differences. The issue has escaped the relatively narrow confines of the scientific arena.

The Bemis Lecture on October 3, 2010 will focus on what we know, and what we don’t know about climate change. What does science tell us about what New England will be like in 2100? The audience will participate in an analysis of the risks of climate change considering their own values. What will it take for society to move forward on climate change? If we can understand why we *disagree* about climate change, we will be more likely to *agree* on how to live sustainably on an increasingly crowded planet.

We hope you will join us on October 3 for a refreshingly new discussion of climate change.



About the speaker: Dr. John M. Hagan is President of Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, a non-profit research center based in Plymouth, MA. Manomet is dedicated to building an informed citizenry so it can make its own well-informed decision about issues related to sustainability. Dr. Hagan is currently on the Forest Research Advisory Council to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. In 2007 he received the Austin Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award from Maine Governor John Baldacci, and in 2009 he received the New England Society of American Foresters award for Integrity in Conservation. To learn more about Manomet, visit www.manomet.org

For more information about the Bemis Lecture Series and for directions to Bemis Hall, visit www.bemislectures.com