

Biography

of

David Seaborg

David Seaborg is an evolutionary biologist who does scientific research on evolutionary theory. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of California at Davis, and a graduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley, both in zoology. He has taught biology at all levels. He has taught not only at Bay Area schools but at the Alexander Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek; the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco; the Oakland Museum; the Oakland Junior Center of Art and Science; the University of California at Berkeley, Biology 1A-B. Wherever he teaches, he includes hands-on instruction with live animals and interpretive field trips. An excellent public speaker, he lectures to many scientific, environmental, civic, business, and non-profit organizations on evolutionary biology, the philosophical implications of science, and environmental issues.

David wrote an article that summarizes the scientific research on the effects of high atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide other than global warming. Unlike the climatic effects, these effects are not well known to the general public. They are very serious, and

have the potential to cause high levels of extinction of species and greatly disrupt ecosystems and our food supply.

He originated an important theory stating that organisms can act as feedback systems with respect to their evolution, and that their morphology and behavior play approximately as large a role as their environment in shaping their evolution. In this theory, traits of organisms occasionally become involved in positive feedback loops, leading to very rapid evolutionary change. This idea is a possible mechanism for the important idea of punctuated equilibrium, proposed by Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould.

An environmental activist, David founded and heads the **World Rainforest Fund**, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to saving the earth's tropical rainforests and biodiversity. He also founded the **Glenn T. Seaborg Greater Lafayette Open Space Fund**, a nonprofit foundation named after his father and dedicated to preserving open space in the greater Lafayette, California, area. In addition, he is Founder and Director of Research for the **Foundation for Biological Conservation and Research**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving tropical rainforest and research in evolutionary biology and biodiversity.

David has been to over thirty countries observing various natural ecosystems and wildlife. He is an award-winning nature and wildlife photographer. He carried the **Ten Commandments for the Earth**, a version of the original Ten Commandments rewritten to focus on saving the earth's environment, while riding a

camel down Mount Sinai, allegedly the mountain in Egypt down which Moses carried the original Ten Commandments. Then, in a brief ceremony, he presented these Ten Commandments to a Bedouin youth, who represented the indigenous people and the youth of the planet, the generation inheriting the earth for its stewardship. After completing this act, which was captured on video camera, David swam for over an hour with a dolphin in the Red Sea. He conceived the idea for, and was a leading organizer for, a press conference of Nobel Prize winners on global environmental issues that was held at the time of the 100th Nobel Prize ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden, in December 2001.

The Democratic Party caucus elected David as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2008, where he got three planks added to the Democratic Party Platform, namely: conservation and development of alternative energy to reduce global warming; saving biodiversity; and reducing nuclear weapons by verifiable treaty.

David was one of three winners in the 2008 Golden Gate National Recreation Area Big Year competition, a project with over 200 participants to save and observe the thirty-three threatened and endangered species that occur in this national recreation area.

David Seaborg is also an award-winning poet and author of *Honor Thy Sowbug*, a book of poems that is one of the best-selling poetry books in the Bay Area today.