

National Geographic Photographer to Present

ACE Basin Program at the Colleton Center

On Sunday, March 8 at 3 pm, Colleton County residents and visitors will have the chance to see stunning photographs of the ACE Basin, taken by *National Geographic* photographer, Vincent J. Musi, a resident of Sullivan's Island. The ACE Basin program, free of charge and open to the public, will be held in the Gallery at the Colleton Center, 494 Hampton Street in Walterboro. Seating is limited. For more information, call 843-549-8360.

For the last 30 years, Vince has travelled around the world, photographing everything from volcanoes and mummies, to vanishing cultures, history and archaeology. In between assignments, he has focused on the Lowcountry, producing a portfolio celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ACE Basin Project for the November 2014 edition of *National Geographic*. The accompanying essay was written by South Carolina native, Franklin Burroughs.

The ACE (Ashepoo, Edisto and Combahee) Basin is a complex ecosystem that includes protected public lands such as our own Bear Island and Donnelley Wildlife Management Areas, and other properties such as the Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge and Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area nearby. Establishing a new conservation model in the early 90s, the ACE Basin initiative has been replicated over and over in the Southeast and around the country.

The effort was initiated by private landowners such as Ted Turner and Gaylord Donnelley, who asked state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and others to assist in protecting the ACE, ensuring that it would be maintained as a working landscape where the long-time tradition of hunting, fishing, timber management, farming, and other outdoor recreation could continue. Musi's program, hosted by the Colleton Center and LifeSong Church, offers a variety of images reflecting the ACE Basin's beauty and importance to the region.

LifeSong Church, a non-denominational church, meets at the Colleton Center on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 843-635-1649.

The mission of the Colleton Center, a 501 C 3 organization, is to provide for the renovation and restoration of the historic Hampton Street Elementary School building and auditorium, and for the development of a premiere arts and civic center, serving the interests and talents of the diverse Lowcountry residents and visitors. For more information, call 843-549-8360 or email: colletonctr@lowcountry.com.