



Roy Chapman Andrews
Society

Join Us



For the 22nd Distinguished Explorer Award Event

Presentation & Acceptance Lecture

Honoring Dr. John Hawks

Friday, April 11th, 4:30 p.m. CT

In-person FREE event at the Beloit College Wilson Theater

Celebratory fundraising dinner immediately following
at Beloit College Powerhouse

Deadline for reservations is April 4th - checkout mail-in form on reverse side or
online at RoyChapmanAndrewsSociety.org

Meet Our 2025 Distinguished Explorer Award Recipient

Dr. John Hawks is a renowned expert on human evolution and genetics. He is Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Vilas-Borghesi Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also serves as a visiting professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Africa.

Hawks' research covers seven million years of human development and includes fieldwork in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Combining fossil evidence with genetics, he was one of the first to show how genes from ancient groups like the Neanderthals can make a difference in people today. His research also helped reveal the very rapid pace of genetic evolution with the rise of agriculture. For the last decade, he has worked with scientists and explorers in South Africa to bring to light new hominin fossils. The best known come from the Rising Star cave system where the team discovered the new species, *Homo naledi*.



Hawks is the coauthor of two books (with Lee Berger), *Almost Human*, and *Cave of Bones*, three lecture series, and more than 100 scientific articles. A powerful advocate of open science, Hawks strives to bring the heritage of human ancestry to the public, both in the U.S. and internationally. His work has been featured in documentaries for PBS Nova, PBS Secrets of the Dead, National Geographic Channel, Science Channel, and the BBC as well as Discover, Scientific American, Archaeology, Science News, New Scientist, coverage in the New York Times, USA Today, Time, Der Spiegel and many others. His lectures, blogs, YouTube channel, and educational materials reach millions of people worldwide.

He lives in Wisconsin with his wife, Gretchen, and their family includes four adult children and their cat, Kenobi.

The Roy Chapman Andrews Society

Established in 1999, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society is intent on building awareness for Beloit's most celebrated explorer, adventurer, naturalist and educator who later became director of the American Museum of Natural History. Roy Chapman Andrews (1884-1960), for whom adventure and narrow escapes from death were a staple of exploring, is said to have served as inspiration for the Hollywood character "Indiana Jones." The Society's mission is to inspire scientific discovery by engaging with contemporary explorers who exemplify the legacy of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's native son.



Each year, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award recognizes explorers for their outstanding achievements in scientific discovery through explorations that offer new insights into previously unknown or poorly known subjects or areas. The award presentation ceremony and acceptance lecture is free to the public at the Beloit College Wilson Theater and will be followed by a celebratory fund-raising dinner at the Beloit College Powerhouse Fourth Floor Stack. During their visit, recipients present lectures to area middle and high school students and often discuss their work with Beloit College classes.

Past recipients include Shane Campbell-Staton (2024), Sarah Stewart Johnson (2023), Philip Currie (2022), Sarah Parcak (2021), Neil Shubin (2019), Richard Alley (2018), Wade Davis (2017) Alan Rabinowitz (2016), Edith Widder (2015), Meg Lowman (2014), John Grotzinger (2013), Nathan Wolfe (2012), Steve Lekson (2011), Sylvia Earle (2010), Paul Sereno (2009), Mark Moffett (2008), Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson (2007), Steve Squyres (2006), Robert Ballard (2005), Mark Plotkin (2004), and Michael J. Novacek (2003).

Student Programs Sponsored by the Society



The Society's student educational programs are designed to engage students throughout the Distinguished Explorer Award events. From participating in the virtual school lecture, special seating at the public acceptance lecture, a private meet-and-greet reception with recipient, and a reservation to attend the celebratory dinner, this student inspired program includes photo opportunities and a book signing. Your tax-deductible donation will help to support these and other educational programs in science and exploration for local youth in the Greater Beloit Community.

Join Us As We Celebrate the 22nd DEA Event

In 2025, the Society will celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of the first Distinguished Explorer Award event that honors modern day explorers who exemplify the legacy of Andrews, Beloit's Native Son.

The RCAS Traveling Exhibit, "A Visual History of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's Native Son" will be on display at the Beloit Public Library March 10th until April 10th. The exhibit includes banners of expedition photos from the American Museum of Natural History, where Andrews retired as the director. It also includes artifacts and personal photos of Andrews's life and career donated by his granddaughter.



Membership & Reservations for April 11th Fund-raising Dinner

Fund-raising dinner at the Beloit College's Powerhouse will be served approximately 7:00 p.m.

Please indicate the following DEA celebratory dinner reservations:

- # Member \$90/person, # Non-member \$100/person, # Member table of 8 \$720, # Non-member table of 6 \$800
- We want to sponsor a Student Table of 8 (yourself, a guest, 5 students and 1 chaperon) *includes student reception with recipient and reserved seating*
- We want to be a Patron Sponsor in the amount of _____ (\$101-\$500) and be listed as sponsor on the RCAS website, receive a complimentary ticket to a private reception with Dr. Hawks, and have reserved seats in the first 2 rows of the lecture. As a member, reserve ___ seats at the acceptance lecture. Please be there by 4 p.m. Seats will be held for members until 4:15 p.m.

We would like to renew our annual members in The Roy Chapman Andrews Society at the following level:

\$5/Student, \$30/Individual, \$50/Family, \$100/Explorer Membership

We would like to support the Roy Chapman Andrews Society with a tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, Other.

Total amount enclosed including dinner reservations, memberships, sponsorships, and donations \$ _____

The Roy Chapman Andrews Society is a 501(c)3 organization. To comply with the IRS requirements regarding charitable donations for contributions/donations in excess of any value of property or services, your payment is considered a tax-deductible donation. Please copy this form for your tax records.

Attendee(s) name(s): _____

Menu selections: Served with an assorted roll basket, spring vegetables, salad, dessert selection, coffee and tea service.

- # Parmesan marinated and crusted chicken, creamy stone ground grits with grilled citrus asparagus
- # Grilled salmon and herbed couscous with wilted arugula, fresh peas and pickled patty pan squash
- # Braised beef cheek with hearty root vegetables, chef mushroom medley, merlot braised pearl onion with shaved parsnip au gratin potatoes
- # Alfredo gnocchi with squash and Parmesan Alfredo sauce, shaved Swiss chard, and fennel roasted rutabaga

Please seat us at dinner with: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ St.: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Reservations & Payment **MUST** be received by **April 4th** with mailed checks made payable to:

Roy Chapman Andrews Society, P.O. Box 273, Beloit, WI 53512-0273

Reservations, membership and donations can be made at Roychapmanandrewssociety.org