Spectrum Lecture Series 2017-2018

More Endangered than Giant Pandas: Saving the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat from Extinction

Wednesday, October 11, 4:30 PM
Montgomery College
Germantown Campus
BE151

Dr. Andy Podolsky

Unknown to most Americans, the closest living relative to the koala is the Australian wombat (which isn't related to "bats" at all!). In fact, there are three distinct wombat species, and one, the Northern Hairy-Nosed wombat, is critically-endangered: there are only about 200 left in the wild. Over the past few years Dr. Andy Podolsky visited every zoo in the world with wombats, and while in Australia he was fortunate to be invited by Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to serve as a volunteer supporting Northern Hairy-Nosed conservation. Dr. Podolsky will share his knowledge about wombats, his experience supporting their conservation, and most importantly what can be done to prevent the Northern Hairy-Nosed wombat from going extinct.

Biography:Dr. Andy Podolsky holds a Ph.D. in colonial American history from Northwestern University. His career has spanned academic administration (he's especially proud to have led the effort to change Federal tax law enabling the cancellation of student loans for citizens engaged in public service work) to "knowledge engineering" for software companies to management consulting. His passion, however, is wombats. He first encountered a wombat at San Diego Zoo about 15 years ago, and his infatuation simply grew (and grew).

As always, Spectrum Lectures are appropriate for a general audience and admission is free. No tickets are required. For questions or to request accommodations for physical disability, please contact Rick Pires at Richard.Pires@montgomerycollege.edu or 240-567-7798. More information about Spectrum Lectures can be found at: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department.aspx?id=10883