



News Release For Immediate Release

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Library announces author and naturalist Craig Childs as 2009 Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial lecturer *James "Big Jim" Griffith to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award*

Craig Childs, a critically-acclaimed writer who focuses on natural sciences, archaeology, desert ecology and mind-blowing journeys into the wilderness, is the 2009 Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial lecturer.

The annual lecture, hosted by Pima County Public Library and the Friends of the Pima County Public Library takes place Dec. 10 at Pima Community College's Center for the Arts Proscenium Theater, 2202 W. Anklam Road, at 7 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception and book sale and signing will follow the lecture.

An Arizona native, Childs is well-known for his forays in the wild, expeditions that influence and inform his writing and prompted the *New York Times* to characterize him as "a modern day desert father." The *LA Times* compares his writing to "pure oxygen," that "stings like a slap in the face." He has won numerous awards, including the 2008 Galen Rowell Art of Adventure Award, the 2008 Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award and the 2003 Spirit of the West Award for his body of work, an honor he shares with Wallace Stegner, N. Scott Momaday and Terry Tempest Williams.

Childs is the author of *The Animal Dialogues*, *The Secret Knowledge of Water*, *House of Rain* (A *Southwest Books of the Year* Top Pick in 2007), *Soul of Nowhere* and numerous other books and articles, and he is also a frequent contributor to NPR's *Morning Edition*. He lives off the grid in Colorado.

The Lawrence Clark Powell Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Dr. James S. (Big Jim) Griffith. One of the foremost folklorists in the nation, Griffith ran the University of Arizona's Southwest Folklore Center between 1979 and 1998, hosted a weekly spot called "Southern Arizona Traditions" on KUAT's *Arizona Illustrated* program, and directed numerous exhibitions of regional art. He is the author of six books on southern Arizona folk arts and, with his wife, Loma, started the Tucson Meet Yourself folklife festival, held annually in October.

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