



Carbon Dioxide and the Ocean: The Acid Test of Climate Change
OR,
Ocean Acidification for the Utterly Confused!
OR,
What's a Marine Biologist Doing in Colorado?!!

Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 7:00 pm
Boulder Public Library
Main Library's Canyon Theater

“Science Serving Society”
NCAR Lecture Series
Celebrating NCAR's 50th Anniversary

Dr. Joanie Kleypas
National Center for Atmospheric Research



Carbon dioxide, a by-product of fossil fuel burning and forest destruction, is well-known as the main greenhouse gas responsible for global climate change. Increasing carbon dioxide is also causing "ocean acidification," which refers to changes in seawater chemistry as the ocean absorbs excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Ocean acidification is predictable and measurable, and is already affecting the world oceans. The effects of ocean acidification on marine life are less predictable or measurable, but there is now considerable evidence that many marine species and ecosystems will be impacted.

This talk will present ocean acidification in simple terms, with an honest presentation of what scientists know and don't know about its effects on marine life. It will also address various myths and misunderstandings about ocean acidification, particularly those that tend to show up in public blogs.

Joanie Kleypas is a marine scientist who specializes on the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems. Her background is in the ecology and geology of coral reefs. After obtaining a master's degree in marine science at the University of South Carolina, she finished her Ph.D. at James Cook University in Australia, where she led an intrepid group of researchers who went out for weeks at a time to remote sections of the Great Barrier Reef. For the last 10 years, Dr. Kleypas' work has focused on two main aspects of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration: global warming and ocean acidification.

This talk is sponsored by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). This year, UCAR and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) are celebrating 50 years of discovery and science in service to society.

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