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Distinguished Speaker Series

VIA ZOOM:

Saturday, Sept. 16 at 3:00 p.m. ET



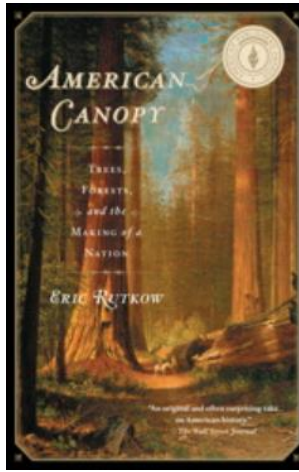
Eric Rutkow

**“American Canopy:
Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation”**

This fascinating and groundbreaking work tells the remarkable story of the relationship between Americans and their trees across the entire span of our nation’s history.

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Eric Rutkow's "deeply fascinating" (The Boston Globe) work shows how trees were essential to the early years of the republic and indivisible from the country's rise as both an empire and a civilization. Among *American Canopy's* many captivating stories: the Liberty Trees, where colonists gathered to plot rebellion against the British; Henry David Thoreau's famous retreat into the woods; the creation of New York City's Central Park; the great fire of 1871 that killed a thousand people in the lumber town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin; the fevered attempts to save the American chestnut and the American elm from extinction; and the controversy over spotted owls and the old-growth forests they inhabited.

Eric Rutkow:

Eric Rutkow is a writer, lawyer and historian. His first book, *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation* (Scribner, 2012), received the Association of American Publisher's PROSE award for U.S. history, was named one of the top twelve books of the year by *Smithsonian* magazine, and was selected for Oprah's online book club.

Rutkow's research and teaching is focused on international relations, the environment, political economy, and tourism. Before earning his doctorate, Rutkow practiced as an environmental human rights lawyer in Cambodia and as a junior associate with Latham & Watkins LLC in New York. He received his BA and PhD from Yale and his JD from Harvard. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

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Zoom participants will be eligible to win a copy of *American Canopy*