



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 15 2007

Contact:

Josie Patterson
(617) 253-4422
josiep@mit.edu

SOAP BOX

Debating Cutting Edge Issues with World-Class Scientists and Engineers

MIT Museum Presents

Boston University Biology Professor Richard Primack and Abraham Miller-Rushing

Global Warming, Up Close and Local, Part 1 & 2

Dates:

Wednesday February 21, 2007

Wednesday April 25, 2007

Location: MIT Museum, Main Gallery

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Free – Light food and drinks

Soap Box @ the MIT Museum is a series of salon-style, early-evening conversations with scientists and engineers who are making the news that really matters. Soap Box is a public forum for debate about important ideas and issues in science and technology. Now in its second season, Soap Box gives its audience the chance to debate serious issues with world-class scientists and engineers in an intimate setting at the MIT Museum.

Cambridge, MA - *Global Warming, Up Close and Local* is a special Soap Box program that launches one of the many interactive programs of the Cambridge Science Festival that will be held throughout Cambridge for a week in late April (21st through 29th). In their February program at the MIT Museum, Boston University Biology Professor Richard Primack and researcher Abraham Miller-Rushing will discuss the history of citizen observations, and their contribution to the growing understanding of the local

effects of climate change here in New England. They will reveal the seasonal changes over the past century as they relate to birds, insects, flowering plants and other harbingers of spring.

Data that Primack and Miller-Rushing have been collecting and analyzing show the alarming trend of early flowering of a range of native plants, including blueberries now blooming a month earlier than when Henry David Thoreau noted their first flowering dates in his journals. Temperatures in the Boston area have warmed significantly during the past 150 years due to global warming and urbanization. With relationships between species changing, all citizens are called upon to better understand the changes and identify ways to mitigate negative effects.

In Global Warming, Up Close and Local, Part 1 & 2, Primack and Miller-Rushing will describe their work and launch a new citizen's science campaign, "Nature's Calendar of New England." The public will have access to a newly developed data collection form which will explain how people can contribute their own nature observations to a data bank organized by Primack and Miller-Rushing.