

WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

A SIP *of* SCIENCE

2019 BENEFIT COCKTAIL PARTY

Thursday, June 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wagner Free Institute of Science
1700 W. Montgomery Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19121

A Sip of Science is the Wagner's signature fundraising party. It draws together Wagner supporters, community leaders, and a distinguished honoree for a night of cocktails and camaraderie amid our sublime natural history collections. Party proceeds allow us to preserve our National Historic Landmark building and collections, and to provide free access to science for thousands of people every year.

Each year, a Sip of Science honors a leader who has made significant contributions in a field represented in the Wagner's mission—science, architecture, preservation, or the history of science—and is committed to sharing his or her work with the public.

HONORING ROBERT MCCrackEN PECK

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University



Our honoree for 2019 is Robert McCracken Peck, the acclaimed author, naturalist, and historian of science whose books show us the glories of the natural world—and of scientific discovery.

Robert McCracken Peck is a modern-day embodiment of the 19th century naturalist. A fearless explorer with a sharp eye and a notebook, Peck chronicles his findings and his field expeditions in sensitively-written books aimed at the general public. In his writings, he encourages us to embrace a sense of wonder—just as the Wagner set out to do in 1855. As Senior Fellow at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, he has participated in scientific expeditions to South America,

Africa, and Asia, and lectured and published widely on the history of science and the history of exploration. His books include *Specimens of Hair: The Curious Collection of Peter A. Browne* (2018) and *A Glorious Enterprise: the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Making of American Science* (with Patricia T. Stroud). A species of South American frog, *Eleutherodactylus pecki*, was named in his honor.

ABOUT THE WAGNER

Founded in 1855, the Wagner Free Institute of Science is home to the oldest free adult science education program in the country. Today, it is an active educational institution, a natural history museum and library, and a National Historic Landmark, blending contemporary education with an unparalleled view into the age of Victorian science. The Wagner reaches 37,000 people each year through its free programs, which include college-level courses, public talks, hands-on lessons and field trips, and GeoKids LINKS, an award-winning partnership between Saint Joseph's University and North Philadelphia schools.