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***National Geographic Live* Presents *On the Trail of Big Cats*
Photographer **Steve Winter**
Wednesday, October 15**



Mesa, AZ – The 2014-15 *National Geographic Live* Arizona Speaker Series kicks off with **award-winning wildlife photographer Steve Winter** at Mesa Arts Center on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ikeda Theater. Winter will bring audience members dangerously close to tigers, snow leopards, jaguars, and cougars, through his unforgettable stories and images.

“By saving the world's top predators, we save huge forests, rivers, wildlife, and ultimately, our planet.” — Steve Winter. Tickets are available through the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at MesaArtsCenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Winter's talk will highlight the dangerous and lighter moments of his journey to save big cats, from being attacked by rhinos to mishaps with remote-controlled cameras. Despite the dangers and challenges of working in the field, Winter continues on his mission to share the beauty of big cats while reinvigorating efforts to save them. His organization Panthera works with National Geographic's [Big Cats Initiative](#) to develop and implement global strategies for saving these majestic but endangered creatures.

Winter is also co-author of the National Geographic book, *Tiger's Forever: Saving the World's Most Endangered Cat*, and his photography garnered him a BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year award, as well as recognition as BBC Wildlife Photojournalist of the Year.

The 2014-15 *National Geographic Live* Arizona Speaker Series is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona.

Also in the 2014-15 *National Geographic Live* Arizona Speaker Series:

David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes, Photographer and Aquatic Biologist/Photojournalist
Coral, Fire, and Ice: Exploring Secret Underwater Worlds

Wed, November 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater

Explore rarely seen undersea worlds with two photographers who are creating a visual voice for the world's oceans. Their talk will go beyond the published stories to share the reality of "behind-the-camera" adventures.

Mike Libecki and Cory Richards, Climber/Explorer and Climber/Photographer
Untamed Antarctica

Wed, February 4, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater

Mike Libecki, climber-photographer Cory Richards, and two colleagues battled extreme cold, furious katabatic winds, and fickle weather in an epic, ten-day climb to the summit of Antarctica's remote Wohlthat Range. Audiences will join Libecki and Richards for a humorous but gripping firsthand account of this first ascent at the bottom of the world.

Pete McBride, Photographer and Filmmaker
Chasing Rivers

Wed, March 25, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater

Named a "freshwater hero" by National Geographic for his work photographing and filming great rivers, Pete McBride's talk offers unforgettable journeys down two of them. The Colorado, featured in his award-winning film *Chasing Water*, flows through majestic landscapes but no longer reaches the sea. And the Ganges, India's sacred waterway, is revered as a god, but polluted by the people who worship it.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com).

About National Geographic Live

National Geographic Live is the live events division of the National Geographic Society, featuring live concerts, films and dynamic presentations by today's leading explorers, scientists,

filmmakers and photographers, covering a wide range of topics including exploration and adventure, wildlife and habitat conservation, natural phenomena and relevant issues such as climate change. Proceeds from speaker series ticket sales help fund future National Geographic initiatives in field research, exploration and education. For more information, visit www.nglive.org.