



Wes Jackson to give first address in Kansas Lecture Series

Wes Jackson

The Kansas Studies Institute inaugurates its first Kansas Lecture Series

with Dr. Wes Jackson, president, The Land Institute, presenting *What We Need to Know to Meet the Sustainability Challenges of the Next Half-Century* at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the Hudson Auditorium of the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. Jackson's lecture is free and open to the public.

The Land Institute, Salina, was founded in 1976, and has worked for more than 30 years to develop an agricultural system with the ecological stability of the prairie and a grain yield comparable to that from annual crops. Scientists with The Land Institute have researched, published in refereed scientific journals, given hundreds of public presentations and hosted countless intellectuals and scientists. Their strategy now is to collaborate with public institutions in order to direct more research in the direction of natural systems agriculture.

Born on a farm near Topeka, Jackson received a bachelor's degree in biology from Kansas Wesleyan University, a master's degree in botany from the University of Kansas, and a PhD in genetics from North Carolina State University. He was a professor of biology at Kansas Wesleyan and later established the environmental studies program at California State University, Sacramento, where he became a tenured professor. He resigned that position in 1976.

Jackson's writings include both papers and books. His most recent work, *The Virtues of Ignorance: Complexity, Sustainability, and the Limits of Knowledge*, co-edited with William Vitek, was released by University of Kentucky Press in 2008. Other books are *Rooted in the Land: Essays on Community and Place*, also co-edited with Vitek; *Becoming Native to This Place*, sketching his vision for the resettlement of America's rural communities; *Altars of Unheaven Stone*; *Meeting the Expectations of the Land*, edited with Wendell Berry and Bruce Colman; and *New Roots for Agriculture*, outlining the basis for the agricultural research at The Land Institute.

The work of The Land Institute has been featured extensively in the popular media including The Atlantic Monthly, Audubon, National Geographic, Time Magazine, The MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour and National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. In the November 2005 issue, Smithsonian named him one of "35 Who Made a Difference" and in March 2009 Jackson was included in Rolling Stone's "100 Agents of Change."



A test plant is pulled to check its root structure at The Land Institute.

Jackson is a recipient of a Pew Conservation Scholars award, MacArthur Fellowship and Right Livelihood Award (Stockholm), known as "Alternative Nobel Prize." He has received four honorary doctorates and in 2007 received the University of Kansas Distinguished Service Award.

The Kansas Lecture Series will continue each spring and fall as part of the Kansas Studies Institute (see story, opposite page). For more information about Jackson's presentation, call Dr. James Leiker, director, KSI, at 913-469-8500, ext. 3673. **Im**