Thursday, May 29
BARROW TO BAJA: SAVING PACIFIC SEABIRDS & SHOREBIRDS
Michael Sutton, National Audubon Society
Seabirds and shorebirds include some of the world’s most beautiful, longest-lived, and most-traveled bird species. The Pacific Flyway—stretching from the Arctic to Patagonia—is especially rich in diversity and abundance of these species. But seabirds and shorebirds are also among the world’s most threatened birds. New efforts are underway to restore and protect marine birds along the Flyway.

Tuesday, June 3
INTERNATIONAL LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT: FLAUNTED & LAWLESS
Pamela Vealid '86, University of Arizona School of Law and Vermont Law School
Each year, billions of cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens are transported internationally, by sea and by highway. Are there legal mechanisms for standardizing and enforcing humane conditions for animals transported internationally? Or is an animal’s only protection for safe journeys lasting a month or more? This lecture surveys domestic, international, and maritime animal welfare and health regulations and agreements—and the absence of them—highlighting an often overlooked and lawless gap in our food and farm policy.

Thursday, June 5
ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND THE GRID: NEW LOAD OR NEW RESOURCE?
Steven Letendre, Green Mountain College
Electric vehicles represent an historic opportunity to diversify fuels used for transportation, both reducing our dependence on foreign sources of oil and potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While electric vehicles will draw power from the grid, they also represent value to the grid providing distributed energy storage services.

Tuesday, June 10
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008: WILL THE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY EVER BE THE SAME?
Curt Veitch, University of Vermont
This lecture will explore several factors that have become increasingly more pronounced since the economic crisis of 2008, including the study of environmental policy (and public policy in general). Some of these issues include social equity, accountability, and limits of the market.

Thursday, June 12
A FEDERAL PRACTITIONER’S PERSPECTIVE ON OCEAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
James E. Lanni ’02, Fleet and Operational Environmental Law, U.S. Navy
Contrary to the un忖dertow view from the shore, ocean water is in high demand and the need to reduce risk in protected areas, transportation, recreational uses, resource extraction, defense training, and commercial uses is critical. As ocean demands increase, legal conflicts will intensify. Marine Spatial Planning provides a framework for the legal issues and interactions among the relevant stakeholders, their competing interests, and the resilience in the applicable legal regimes, including NEPA, CESA, NMFS, MMPA, and ESA.

Thursday, June 16
UNNATURAL DISASTERS: HOW LAW HURTS, HOW LAW HELPS
Sandra Zellmer, University of Nebraska College of Law
Storms may be natural phenomena, but humans have demonstrated an uncanny ability to exacerbate or lessen their vulnerabilities to them. The acknowledgement of our own responsibility to design disasters that can prod us to confront the consequences of our actions. If we acknowledge that at least some disasters are unnatural, not uncontrollable “acts of God,” then we have a fighting chance at making better laws and better decisions in the future.

Thursday, June 19
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL IN VIETNAM: REALITY AND POLICY Hurdles
Randolph H. Hill, U.S. EPA
Bandy Hill, summer faculty member and EPA Clean Water Act expert, recently went to Vietnam to attend a workshop on improving Vietnam’s water pollution control regime and to educate Vietnamese government officials and NGO leaders in U.S. policies and practices. This lecture will convey what he learned about environmental protection in Southeast Asia and any lessons from the Vietnamese experience that can be applied to the U.S. (Mr. Hill’s remarks do not necessarily reflect the views of U.S. EPA).

Tuesday, June 24
KOONTZ: A BIG YAWN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW? J. B. Ruhi, Vanderbilt Law School and John Echeverria, Vermont Law School
Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District confirms that the Nollan/Dolan exactions doctrine extends to monetary exactions as well as to instances in which an agency denies a permit because the applicant refuses to accept the agency’s exaction conditions. A point-counterpoint will argue whether or not the development is largely of no consequence to environmental law permitting programs focused on land and resource development, such as the Section 404 wetlands program and the ESA HCP program.

Thursday, June 26
FERTILE CITY
Sarah Rich, Freelance Writer
This lecture will discuss the many roles urban agriculture can play beyond providing food for city residents, from job creation to blight remediation. Case studies from around the U.S. will be presented and discussion will include some future farming scenarios that may come yet to pass.

Thursday, July 8
A CLIMATE TREATY WITHOUT CONGRESS?
David A. Worth, Boston College Law School
Contrary to popular belief, approximately 90% of international agreements, including treaties concluded by the United States are done without submission to the Senate. The President’s commitment to moving forward domestically on existing legal authority invites the very real possibility that we may need not wait for Congress to exact new legislation before concluding legally binding multilateral or bilateral agreements to promote the climate.

Thursday, July 15
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THE RELATIONSHIP BECOMES CLEARER
John Knox, Wake Forest University School of Law
In recent years, the application of human rights law to environmental protection has become much clearer. The question is no longer whether human rights law is relevant to the environment—it clearly is. The focus is now how best to ensure that human rights norms are taken into account in environmental policy-making.

Thursday, July 17
CHANGING THREATS TO CORAL REEFS
C. Thomas Ebert, Earthzine.org
Because of their extraordinary biodiversity, coral reefs have been called “the rain forests of the sea.” And like rain forests, coral reefs are threatened by an array of human activities. This lecture will discuss the changing constellation of problems facing coral reefs globally, from overfishing and physical damage to newer threats like ocean acidification.

Tuesday, July 22
RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CONFLICT PRONE COUNTRIES
Leo Swinton, USAID
In December 2012, USAID announced its first ever policy and program guidance on building resilience, aimed at reducing chronic vulnerability and promoting sustainable development in areas of recurrent crisis. Promoting resilience—and addressing its opposite, sources of instability—presents many diverse challenges as illustrated by recent experience in Sudan and Afghanistan.

Tuesday, July 24
THE STRUGGLE TO PROTECT CHINA’S ENVIRONMENT
Robert V. Percival, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and Haiyu Zhuo, Shanghai Jiaotong University
China’s rapid development has come at a staggering cost to the environment. More than 1.2 million Chinese die each year from exposure to air pollution, which recently has been so horrendous as to force major economic activity to come to a temporary halt in some Chinese cities. As the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases, China now has more impact on the health of the planet than any other country, giving everyone a stake in efforts to combat Chinese pollution. This lecture will explore why the enactment of extensive bodies of environmental law has not been enough to turn the tide in China and the prospects for overcoming this immense challenge to China and the global environment.

Tuesday, July 29
OVERSIGHT IN PRIVATE FOOD SAFETY AUDITING: ADDRESSING AUDITOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Lesley K. McAllister, University of California Davison School of Law
The lecture will analyze the nature and sources of conflict of interest in food safety auditing and the ways that it manifests itself in its inspection of suppliers’ operations and to skew their evaluations in favor of suppliers’ desire for cheap certification. Second, we will survey the different oversight mechanisms currently in place under that aim to counteract auditors’ incentive to reduce the rigor of audits.

Thursday, July 31
FRACKING, CASE LAW, AND MARCELLUS SHALE COMMUNITIES: HOW EVOLVING PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS ARE LEADING TO A NEW LEGAL LANDSCAPE
Kevin Begos, Associated Press
Pennsylvania has over 50 years of case law on a wide range of oil and natural gas issues. Now that seemingly firm legal footing is anything but, as communities and politicians re-examine the relationship between the public and a resurgent industry.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS | 12:00–1:00 p.m. | Oakes Hall Room 007 | Vermont Law School, South Royalton
Each lecture is worth one VBA CLE credit. Tickets are free and open to the public.
For more information, contact COURTNEY COLLINS at 802-831-1371 or COLLINS@VERMONTLAW.EDU.