

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

For Release after March 23, 2009

T. Boone Pickens Appearing March 29

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T. Boone Pickens, founder and chairman of BP Capital, will appear Sunday, March 29, at the Wortham Center, Brown Theater, at 7:30 PM in a public event. Tickets range from \$14 to \$74 and all attendees will receive his book at the event, *The First Billion Is The Hardest* (Crown, 2008), which outlines the PickensPlan (www.pickensplan.com) for reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and avoiding the potential threats from peak oil. His vision calls for major investments in wind, solar and alternative energies as well as natural gas as a transportation fuel. A limited number of patron tickets at \$144 provides a reception with Mr. Pickens in the green room at 6:15, a complimentary signed book, and center-front seats. Tickets are available at www.progressiveforumhouston.org where you can select your exact seats and print your tickets at your computer. Phone sales are at 832-251-0706. The only physical box office will be at the theater on event night.

Called the "Oracle of Oil" for his ability to predict oil and gas prices, T. Boone Pickens manages over \$4 billion through his investment company, BP Capital. He built Mesa Petroleum, one of the largest independents, from an initial investment of \$2,500 according to his book.

Pickens company, Mesa Power, is planning the world's largest wind farm in the
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Texas Panhandle. At publishing time for *The First Billion*, he was planning a \$10 billion investment with a wind farm stretching over five counties, Carson, Gray, Hemphill, Roberts, and Wheeler. His company, Clean Energy (CLNE), went public in 2007. According to his book, Clean Energy is fueling over 15,000 vehicles a year at 185 stations, and building 20 to 40 stations a year. It operates in 11 states as well as in Canada and Peru. Market capitalization is \$625 million.

Thomas Boone Pickens, Jr. was born May 22, 1928, in Holdenville, Oklahoma. His father worked as an oil and mineral landman and later for Phillips Petroleum. During World War II, his mother ran the local Office of Price Administration, rationing gasoline and other goods in four counties. At age 12, Pickens delivered newspapers. He graduated in 1951 from Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State, where he majored in geology. He worked for Phillips Petroleum until 1954 and founded Mesa Petroleum in 1956.

His autobiography, *Boone*, (updated as *T. Boone Pickens, The Luckiest Guy in the World* in 2000), spent 15 weeks on *The New York Times* best seller list.

Pickens lives in Dallas and is married to Madeleine Ann Pickens. He has five children and 12 grandchildren.

The Progressive Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting five to seven events a year at The Wortham Center. It's the only civic speaker organization in the nation dedicated expressly to progressive values. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds

from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of individuals, our species, and life on the earth.

This year of 2009 marks the fourth full year of The Progressive Forum. Past speakers include Al Gore who launched *An Inconvenient Truth* at The Progressive Forum, his first U.S. book event for that title. Others have included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Jared Diamond, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, Joe Klein, Tim Flannery, Anna Deavere Smith, Gloria Steinem, James Hansen, Ken Burns, George Lakoff, Robert Redford, Bill McKibben, and Elizabeth Edwards.

All Progressive Forum events are carbon neutral through a donation from DrivingGreen.com which offsets 51 tons of greenhouse gasses per event including the speaker's air and ground transportation, venue air conditioning and power, and audience driving to and from the theater.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model in the field of public affairs in Houston to deliver a higher quality experience to much larger audiences that typically attends speaking events. The Progressive Forum operates as a performing arts company by using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to top intellectual stars, and marketing throughout the region. It offers convenient box office services through its website allowing ticket buyers to print tickets at their computer, in addition to traditional phone sales.

The Progressive Forum premiered on June 13, 2005, with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Houston Mayor Bill White in a program called our "Environmental Challenges." Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc. for 33 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included

leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum in 1994 and produced it for nine years, a speaker platform which is still going as the largest in the oil industry. While earning a degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.