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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

### **“The Ancient Tea Horse Road”**

Jeff Fuchs, Award-Winning Author and Explorer

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Wednesday, November 13, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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One of the most fabled adventures of all time - the 5,000-kilometer Tea Horse Trail - predated the Silk Road and took in the span of the Himalayas, and yet is barely known. For 1,300 years one of the world's most daunting routes brought together commodities, brigands, and DNA, in a dynamic weave of culture and motion. Understanding this vital Himalayan route (and others like it) can help us understand the stunning and often tortured 'third pole', the Himalayas.

Jeff Fuchs gained prominence with his successful bid to become the first westerner to trek the entire Yunnan-Tibet Ancient Tea Horse Road, stretching almost six thousand kilometers through the Himalayas and a dozen cultures, documented in the book *The Ancient Tea Horse Road: Travels with the Last of the Himalayan Muleteers* (2008).

He followed that up with becoming the first-ever recipient of ‘Wild China Explorer of the Year’ when he led and successfully completed a never-before completed expedition along the grueling nomadic route of Salt, the ‘Tsa’lam’. Bringing this 600 km route in Qinghai province to the public eye, Fuchs’s featured stories on the adventure were published on three continents in award-winning publications ‘The South China Morning Post’, The Kyoto Journal, Outpost and the Toronto Star amongst others. Fuchs is considered the foremost western authority on the Tea Horse Road contributing to academic manuscripts, anthologies, and articles throughout the world. Work has included consulting for National Geographic and contributing articles to UNESCO. He was recently named ‘Explorer-In-Residence’ at award winning Kensington Tours and is a member of the fabled ‘Explorers Club’. His work has been recognized by the Banff Mountain Institute by a grant to continue to document nomadic culture upon the Himalayan Plateau. An admitted tea junkie, Fuchs has led over a dozen expeditions and spends 3 months of every year leading mountain journeys along portions of the Tea Horse Road from near his home in ‘Shangri-La’ (Gyal’thang) northwestern Yunnan.

**To help make WES a sustainable gathering, please bring your own cup for a hot beverage and small plate for light refreshments. The public is invited to attend.**