



AMERICAN  
CONSERVATION  
FILM FESTIVAL

Engage. Inform. Inspire.

# 2018

## YEAR IN REVIEW



*The Serengeti Rules* by Nicolas Brown

WINNER OF THE 2018 GREEN FIRE AWARD  
AND AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD



# 2018 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

**WELCOMED 22 filmmakers and special guests**, including four student filmmakers, to share their films, perspectives, and expertise with audience members.



**PRESENTED the seventh annual Conservation Filmmaker Workshop**, a two-day documentary filmmaking workshop, to 19 emerging filmmakers with 11 instructors from Smithsonian Channel, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, National Geographic, National Park Service, and independent production companies.



**SELECTED and screened 36** of the most compelling, diverse, and informative films from around the world to present over two weekends of the Festival. Film topics included scientists and conservation heroes, wildlife preservation, design innovation, water quality, climate change, sustainable agriculture, and more. Nearly 1,000 people attended.



**OFFERED five short, nature-focused Virtual Reality films** presented by Samsung, free to the public, during all six days of the Festival.



**PRESENTED entertaining learning opportunities for children** with the Backyard Wilderness film, pop-up exhibit, nature walk, and Bioblitz event, in partnership with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.



## MISSION

The mission of the American Conservation Film Festival is to foster a diverse community of filmmakers, scientists, students, and citizens to engage in conservation issues through film and education to inspire positive action.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[conservationfilmfest.org](http://conservationfilmfest.org)

## INITIATIVES

**PROVIDE** a platform for contemporary, independent, obscure, and student conservation films.

**PRESENT** thoughtful information and instruction on conservation issues that inspire and activate people to make positive change.

**NURTURE** a community of filmmakers, scientists, and community activists to strengthen partnerships, explore challenges, and pursue solutions.

**OFFER** educational opportunities for filmmakers, audience members, and youth through workshops, discussions, and complementary programs.

**SUPPORT** emerging filmmakers and new film projects.

**PARTNER** with community and conservation organizations to provide resources for learning and activism.

**PROVIDE** an accessible, inclusive, and supportive atmosphere for people of diverse backgrounds, ages, and interests.

## BOARD & STAFF

Elise Baach, *co-Vice-President*  
Bill McShea, *co-Vice-President*  
Janna Bond, *Secretary*  
Mark Burgess, CPA, *Treasurer*  
Jeff Feldman, *past President*  
Jeffrey Gustafson  
Alexandra Hazel  
Michael Hobert  
Dennis Liu  
Nicholas Snow  
Christina Van Hilst  
Jennifer Lee, *Executive Director*  
Hilary Lo, *Festival Manager*  
Anna Perkins, *Intern*

"The staff does a great job of providing a positive atmosphere for filmmakers of all experience levels to discuss important topics and network with one another. I highly recommend that any young and aspiring filmmaker with interest in telling stories about the environment take the opportunity to submit their work to this festival and participate in the workshop." — 2018 STUDENT FILM AWARD WINNER AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

# We are proud to share these accomplishments and thank you for your support.

**GRANTED free admission** to all students 18 or younger and Shepherd University students, staff, and faculty at all film blocks.



**INVITED community groups** and individuals to share information on composting, voter registration, an Eagle Scout chimney swift tower project, the Rockwool factory proposed for Jefferson County, WV, and solar energy.



**AWARDED cash prizes** to our eight award winning films: Green Fire Award (for overall excellence); Student Filmmaker Award (with a \$500 cash prize from Friends of NCTC); Foreign Film Award; Short Film Award; Green Spark awards highlighting a conservation hero, pathways to sustainability, and inspiring the next generation; and the Audience Choice Award.



**AWARDED four emerging filmmakers \$4,000** in cash gifts, thanks to The Allemall Foundation, to support new film projects proposed during the Conservation Filmmaker Workshop's Pitch Panel session.



**PROVIDED financial support** toward the travel, lodging, and filmmaker workshop tuition of aspiring filmmakers from Washington, DC, Florida, and New York through the Alex Kemnitzer Emerging Filmmaker Fund.



**WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL** for the generous support of so many sponsors, grantors, volunteers, community partners, and individual donors who make what we do possible. Special thanks to the following and all of those who support us!

## ALDO LEOPOLD

The Campbell Foundation  
HHMI Tangled Bank Studios  
The Allemall Foundation  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Shepherd University

## RACHEL CARSON

Shepherdstown Art Glass & Jewelry  
Sierra Club  
Tito's Handmade Vodka

## JOHN MUIR

Schutte & Yenser Wealth Management of  
Raymond James

## JANE GOODALL

Friends of the National Conservation  
Training Center  
Potomac Valley Audubon Society  
Route 11 Potato Chips  
Spichers Security Services  
Sustainable Solutions, LLC  
Winchester Gastroenterology Associates

## JACQUES COUSTEAU

Flying Dog Brewery  
Jefferson County Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

## MEDIA SPONSOR

*Spirit of Jefferson* newspaper

## VIRTUAL REALITY FILM SPONSOR

Samsung



## CONSERVATIONIST FUND MEMBERS

**These individuals each contributed between \$1,000 and \$5,000 this year.**

John C. Allen, Jr.  
Randy Barber & Melissa Moye  
Elise Baach  
Frances Brolle  
Jeff Feldman & Kristin Alexander  
Marguerite Harden  
The Rogers Family  
Nicholas Snow & Cathleen McCoy  
Harry & Becky Stimpson  
George & Holly Stone  
Hank Willard

## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

Barns of Rose Hill  
Contemporary American Theater Festival  
DCEFF – Environmental Film Festival in the  
Nation's Capital  
Dulles Area Transportation Association  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Friends of NCTC  
International League of Conservation  
Photographers  
International Big Cats Film Festival  
Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival  
National Conservation Training Center  
National Geographic Society  
Potomac Riverkeeper Network  
Potomac Valley Audubon Society  
Rappahannock Assoc. for Arts & Community  
Shepherd University  
Shepherdstown Film Society  
Sierra Club, Catoctin Group  
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute  
Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation  
Weinberg Center for the Arts

*Sponsor levels of giving: \$5,000+ Aldo Leopold  
\$2500+ Rachel Carson \$1500+ John Muir  
\$1000+ Jane Goodall \$500+ Jacques Cousteau*

"Professionalism and presentation match that of any NYC film festival I've seen in over 10 years." — AUDIENCE MEMBER

"Thank you for such positive, uplifting films that are inspiring and hopeful. Always, we are called to action by your brilliant film choices!" — AUDIENCE MEMBER



## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**PRESENTED** the 2017 Foreign Film Award winner, *Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants*, and the 2017 Student Film Award winner, *Keeping the Potomac*, as well as discussion with the filmmaker and river keepers from the Potomac Riverkeeper Network at our 6th annual Best of Fest at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland. 235 people attended.

**HELD** a spring fundraiser in Shepherdstown, WV, featuring three films from the 2018 International Big Cats Festival (in partnership with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival), discussion with a wildlife biologist and a National Geographic video producer, and an Indian-inspired evening of food, drink, and music. Over 100 people attended.

**PRESENTED** a special screening of *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste*, followed by discussion with a butcher and executive chef who focus on local food sourcing at our 3rd annual Best of Fest at Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville, Virginia. Over 100 people attended.

**PROVIDED** a year-long internship to a Shepherd University student who has cataloged and digitized over 300 films from the ACFF Archives.

**PRESENTED** a screening of *Water & Power: A California Heist* as part of the Contemporary American Theater Festival's *Friday Films* series during the theater festival in July.

**AWARDED** five students with cash prizes for their video submissions to our ongoing Next Gen Capture Conservation Contest, designed to engage and encourage students 18 and under to create and submit short videos about their relationship to nature and the environment.

**PARTNERED** with the Environmental Film Festival of the Nation's Capital to co-present films at our respective film festivals – *In the Hills and Hollows* at DCEFF in March and *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste* at ACFF in October.

**PARTICIPATED** in the Shepherdstown 4th of July parade with ACFF staff and volunteers.

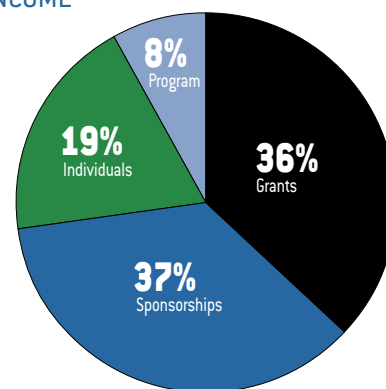
**PARTNERED** with the Shepherdstown Film Society for a special free screening of *In the Hills and Hollows* and a preview of 2018 festival films.

**PRESENTED** a special screening of the 2018 Green Fire Award winner, *The Serengeti Rules*, to students of the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

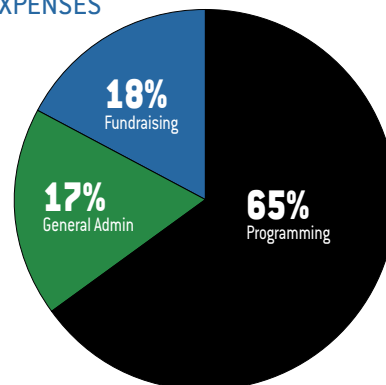
**PRESENTED** a screening of *Seed: The Untold Story* in Washington, VA, in partnership with the Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community as part of their Film-Talkback Series and the annual Farm Tour weekend.

## 2018 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



"The funding we got from ACFF's Conservation Promise Award essentially enabled us to make it through the first stages of production. As our very first bit of funding, it really gave us the initial boost of confidence and money necessary to get started."

— STUDENT FILMMAKER AND  
2017 PITCH PANEL CONTEST WINNER



## GOING FORWARD, WITH YOUR SUPPORT...

As ACFF anticipates its 17th year and beyond, we remain committed to presenting the most compelling, contemporary films about conservation issues, developing programs and events that engage people of diverse ages and backgrounds, and supporting filmmakers and film projects that make a profound and positive difference.

**With the support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and community partners, we can:**

**BE A DESTINATION** for filmmakers, audience members, and students interested in conservation issues, education, and storytelling.

**RECRUIT partners** in the environmental, science, and media fields to help teach, promote, and execute educational programs for students and aspiring filmmakers.

**STRENGTHEN local and regional communities** through education, partnerships, tourism, and special events.

**PROVIDE access** to select ACFF films to schools, community groups, and organizations and greater exposure for filmmakers and the critical issues they explore through their films.

**PROVIDE resources** that facilitate further understanding and exploration, opportunities to convert inspiration into action, and connections to the causes and organizations that will help people make a positive difference.

"This year's films were very pivotal and life-changing for me." — AUDIENCE MEMBER

"It really was an honor. I just got a note ... from Mary Power, the woman scientist in the film who experiments in rivers. She said: *'The Green Fire Award is particularly meaningful—two of Aldo's (Leopold) sons, Starker and Luna, taught at Berkeley—Luna was a colleague with my husband Bill on the geology faculty here.'*"

— GREEN FIRE AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER  
OF THE SERENGETI RULES