

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE CRITICAL TIME

to support organizations working to protect our environment, further scientific study, and raise awareness on conservation issues. We hope you recognize the important role ACFF plays in these efforts and will support us with your donation of any amount.

We need and appreciate your help!

Giving online is easy:
Visit conservationfilmfest.org/donate and hit the **DONATE** button!

Or mail a check to **ACFF, P.O. Box 889, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.**

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL for the generous support of so many sponsors, grantors, volunteers, community partners, and individuals who make our efforts possible.

Special thanks to these patrons in 2019:

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| <p>ALDO LEOPOLD \$5,000+
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Sky Meadows State Park
Sustainability Matters
The Hill School
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Wildlife Vet Care</p> |
|--|--|

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Every year, we learn more about our planet, the issues impacting it, the people on the frontlines of conservation and science, and how better to make ACFF a tool for positive change. As we enter 2020, ACFF has a renewed commitment to present the most compelling, contemporary films about conservation issues, sustain programs and events that engage people of diverse ages and backgrounds, and support filmmakers and film projects that make a profound and lasting difference.

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

INFORM a diverse audience about local and global conservation issues and actions we can take to help preserve nature, culture, and well-being for all.

INSPIRE filmmakers, audience members, and students interested in conservation issues, education, and storytelling.

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

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

OFFER 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.

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



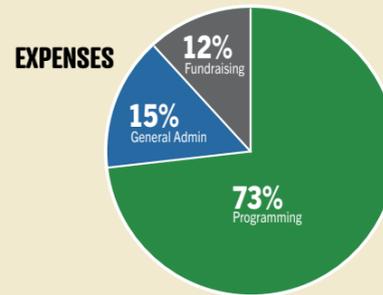
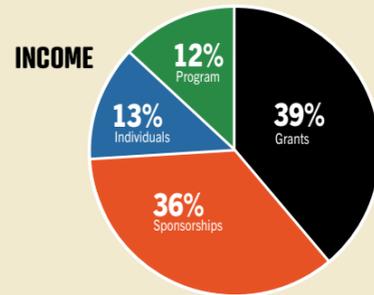
“As a student filmmaker, I was in awe at my time here. Equally informative and intimate, I had real one on one time with professionals. I hope one day I can give back to the festival as much as it gave me this weekend!”

— **ABBY MELLINGER**, STUDENT FILMMAKER & WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

BECOME AN ACFF AMBASSADOR!

- Volunteer at the festival and special events – it's easy and fun.
- Promote our events and programs – word of mouth is so powerful.
- Bring your kids and friends – lots to learn and actions to take.
- Join us in our mission to engage, inform, and inspire – your participation and support makes all the difference!

2019 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



L TO R: Pitch Panel award winners **Jessica Wiegandt & Sarah Koenigsberg**; Workshop participants **Andy Espinosa & Taylor White** from Shenandoah University; **Nikki Stamps, Belinda Burwell**, and bird ambassadors at Barns of Rose Hill Best of Fest.



PO BOX 889
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

conservationfilmfest.org



Stella van Hilst at Leskey Lab's Bug Petting Zoo at the 2019 Festival

AMERICAN
CONSERVATION
FILM FESTIVAL

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019



Mycologist **William Padilla Brown** sharing mushroom knowledge



Jennifer Lee & Hilary Lo at the Short Film Spring Fling



Student filmmaker award winners **Tito Barbosa, Paige Marsicano, and Lizzie Bankowski**



Molly Bloom, Jen Rolston, and Christa Matrangelo Joyce at the festival dance party



Green Fire Award winner **Josh Murphy**



Conservation Filmmaker Workshop participants

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

THE AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL...

Screened 58 conservation films on a wide variety of topics including environmental activism, scientific discovery, climate change, wildlife preservation, energy alternatives, sustainable agriculture, water quality, human population, and more.

Reviewed, curated, and selected the best 39 films from over 300 submissions for the annual film festival.

Shared films with over 2,000 people in the tri-state region.

Hosted and/or partnered in 12 special screenings at 10 venues in 8 towns or cities including Frederick, MD, Middleburg, VA, Shepherdstown, WV, Winchester, VA, and beyond.

Presented 13 programs and special events during the festival, including a vegetarian food tasting, display of electric cars, discussion on human population, presentation on foraging for and cultivating mushrooms, dance party with the “greenest DJ in America,” and discussion on what it means to be a “green” business.

Partnered with 21 organizations and venues to present screenings, support conservation initiatives, and share information. New partners include Shenandoah University, the Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Long Branch Historic House and Farm, and The Hill School.

Welcomed 11 guest speakers to special events and the festival on topics ranging from the role of raptors to maintaining hope in a time of environmental distress.

Welcomed 11 filmmakers to the festival from California, Florida, Washington, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

Awarded cash prize awards for excellence in 8 film categories: Green Fire, Short Film, Foreign Film, Student Film, Green Spark Awards in three categories, and Audience Choice Award.

Presented the 8th annual Conservation Filmmaker Workshop, providing instruction and networking opportunities to **26** emerging and seasoned filmmakers from **9** conservation media experts.

Gave 7 scholarships to student filmmakers to assist with tuition, travel, and lodging to attend the Filmmaker Workshop, thanks to the Alex Kemnitzer Emerging Filmmaker Fund and the Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

Awarded 4 cash prizes totaling \$4,000 to filmmakers for new film projects at the Pitch Panel Contest at the Filmmaker Workshop.

Garnered 25 national, regional, and local festival and event sponsors, 9 of whom were new this year.

Offered dozens of Take Action items on our website related to festival films to inspire direct involvement in conservation issues.

Involved over 35 volunteers in helping with events, programs, and planning.

Presented 3 free educational and entertaining events and programs for youth: a special screening of *Backyard Wilderness* at the National Conservation Training Center; a wildlife film followed by a Bug Petting Zoo at the festival; and the Next Gen Capture Conservation video contest, open to all students 18 and under.

Completed a 2-year archive digitizing and cataloging project, where Shepherd University intern Anna Perkins digitized and compiled over **400** films from the ACFF archives, 2003 to 2014. These films are now safely stored on a dedicated ACFF hard drive.

Developed an updated, comprehensive strategic plan to guide our mission and initiatives for the next **three** years.

Introduced a new ACFF logo and mascot, Athena the Owl, custom designed by local artist Maria Nicklin.

Granted free admission to all students 18 and younger at all events and to all college students at the festival.

“LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this film fest. So inspiring. Leaves me craving more.” —AUDIENCE MEMBER

“Hilary and the team run a really great program and I appreciate their being very forward thinking taking an interest in exposing the topic of unsustainable population growth and its impact on the environment.” —FILMMAKER

“You can get an instant understanding of the impact you can engender by being an ACFF sponsor. Responsible living on this planet is, perhaps, the most pressing issue for humans, and the festival provides vivid reminders why.” —SPONSOR

“Thank you again for inviting me to be a part of your amazing film festival. It was a wonderful experience and I was really impressed by all the students! I’ll definitely come back to check out the film festival in the future.” —FILMMAKER WORKSHOP PRESENTER

“If you’re a filmmaker considering submitting or attending, the folks at ACFF are SO generous to their filmmakers. They were kind enough to offer us a travel stipend that helped our team of student filmmakers attend. We would likely not have been able to make it without their financial assistance. We are SO GRATEFUL.” —STUDENT FILMMAKER

“You do what you do SO WELL! It’s always so invigorating to come to town and take in the weekend’s screenings.” —AUDIENCE MEMBER



AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL
ENGAGE • INFORM • INSPIRE

MISSION

The mission of the American Conservation Film Festival is to present conservation-focused films and programs that engage, inform, and inspire.

INITIATIVES

CURATE and present contemporary films on conservation issues.

SUPPORT emerging filmmakers and new film projects.

PROVIDE educational, interactive opportunities for filmmakers, audience members, and youth.

PARTNER with organizations, businesses, and individuals to share information and strengthen resources.

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