

*Celebrating*

**20** *Years*



**MARCH 10 - 12, 2023**

SHEPHERDSTOWN OPERA HOUSE  
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Welcome to the 2023 American Conservation Film Festival at the Shepherdstown Opera House.** We are so happy to be sharing our 20th festival with you. ACFF was created by a group of volunteers who shared both a devotion to film arts and a commitment to conservation. Like you, they shared the belief that attitudes about the environment are shaped by our experiences in it and that people and their cultures are an essential part of Earth's biosphere.

What you will see this year reflects some of the most creative work being done in the field of conservation films around the world. We honor the filmmakers who created these inspiring, zany, thought provoking, and intelligent films and their commitment to the art of filmmaking and the cause of conservation. They have persevered through some difficult years.

ACFF festival would not be possible without the dedication, expertise, and guidance of our Festival Director, Hilary Lo. The ACFF board is grateful for her belief in our mission to present conservation-focused films and programs that engage, inform, and inspire.



## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Hilary Lo**  
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY MARCH 10

7PM  
SPECIAL FEATURE  
**Path of the Panther** (89MIN)

## SATURDAY MARCH 11

12:30PM  
SPECIAL FEATURE  
**Super/Natural** (43MIN)

2PM  
**Short Film Block A**

4PM  
CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHTS  
**Wild Hope Films & Feedback**

7PM  
**Short Film Block B**

## SUNDAY MARCH 12

12:30PM  
**Short Film Block B**

2:30PM  
**Short Film Block A**

4:30PM  
SPECIAL FEATURE  
**All That Breathes** (94MIN)

6:15PM  
**Indian Dinner**

**AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD:**  
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE FILM  
BEFORE MIDNIGHT SUNDAY!



### BLOCK A

- **My Brand New Car** (3MIN)
- **Little Stream, Big Magic** (6MIN)
- **Hellbent** (19MIN)
- **Feeling the Apocalypse** (7MIN)  
STUDENT FILM AWARD WINNER
- **Monumental Divide** (25MIN)
- **Peace Pipeline** (24 MINUTES)  
GREEN SPARK AWARD WINNER

### BLOCK B

- **I Am Salmon** (3MIN)  
SUPER SHORT FILM AWARD WINNER
- **Eco-Hack** (17MIN)
- **Stolen Fish** (30MIN)  
GREEN FIRE AWARD WINNER
- **Pig** (8MIN)
- **sym•bee•o•sis** (17MIN)
- **Shaba** (12MIN)

### CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHTS

- **Wild Hope:**  
**Does Nature Have Rights?**  
(28MIN)
- **Wild Hope:**  
**The Big Oyster** (28MIN)

## POP-UP HEADQUARTERS

evolve  
S H E P H E R D S T O W N

Evolve Shepherdstown (106 W. German Street) is the festival's pop-up headquarters, a place for guests to pop in and meet representatives from conservation groups like Solar Holler, Sky Truth, Trout Unlimited, WV Rivers, Garden Stewards, and Oak Springs Garden Foundation. Film stars and filmmakers are popping in throughout the weekend, including the on-screen personalities from *Hellbent* and *Little Stream, Big Magic*, and filmmaker Neil Losin of *sym•bee•o•sis*.



At **1pm on Sunday** afternoon, Shepherdstown resident **Mary Anne Hitt**, international climate advocate and activist, will read an excerpt from her essay included in *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. At **2pm**, learn more about West Virginia's native brook trout and star of the film, *Little Stream, Big Magic* from **Than Hitt**, research biologist. Don't miss the art installation "School of Trout" created by fourth grade students at Shepherdstown Elementary School: over 50 beautifully collaged trout will greet visitors to Evolve all weekend.

ADMISSION IS FREE

EVOLVE WILL BE OPEN SAT & SUN  
11 AM TO 5 PM

1PM SUNDAY  
CLIMATE ADVOCATE AND ACTIVIST  
**MARY ANNE HITT**

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Elisabeth Staro

# SPECIAL THANKS

Amy Mathews Amos  
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Emily Morgan  
Maria Parisi  
Thad Reid  
Jen Rolston

Barbara Spicher  
Elisabeth Staro  
Robin Young

Shepherdstown  
Community Club  
Welsh Sound

Thank you to the 4th grade students at Shepherdstown Elementary School,  
their teachers and advisors:

Marisa Ambrutis  
Monica Grabowska

Amanda Groff  
Andrea Mitchell

Liz Sutherland

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS



**OAK SPRING**  
— GARDEN FOUNDATION —



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