

AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 6 - 9, 2025

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV



It's a Wild Life

28 STORIES TO ENGAGE, INFORM, & INSPIRE



DAY 1 // THURSDAY

MARCH 6

10AM STUDENT DAY

StudentDay@ACFF is an exciting new program which brings together sixth-grade students from Shepherdstown Middle School, biology students from Jefferson High School, and film students from Frederick Career and Technology Center for a day of immersive learning. Participants engage with filmmakers and films, discovering how scientists and filmmakers collaborate to craft compelling narratives about the natural world. With support from the West Virginia Film Office and Potomac Valley Audubon Society, the first ACFF student day showcases the power of film to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and filmmakers.



3PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

4PM SHORT FILM BLOCK 1

- Timber Rattlesnakes of Catoclin Mountain Park
- Saving the Southern Appalachian Red Spruce Forest
- Friends of the Frogpool Lane
- Wild Hope: Unleaded
- Reviving the Forgotten River (Student Film Award)



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ATC

AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 1

Katie Allen

Director of Landscape Conservation Appalachian Trail Conservancy



PANEL DISCUSSION

AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 1



Geoff Luck

Executive Producer & Director of Impact for the Wild Hope Initiative at HHMI Tangled Bank Studios



Kylv Pienaar

Filmmaker, *Wild Hope: Unleaded*



Grace Eggleston & Nick Tucker

Filmmakers, *Timber Rattlesnakes of Catoclin Mountain Park*



Lindsey Aranson, Elizabeth Green, Lily Huffman, & Sarah King

Filmmakers, *Reviving the Forgotten River*



5PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

6:30PM THE GRAB

Q&A

Dr. Christine Wimer

Local Policy Expert



DAY 2 // FRIDAY

MARCH 7

3PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

4PM SHORT FILM BLOCK 2

- Quota (Super Short Award)
- Plant Heist
- Vanishing Voices: Saving Our Hawaiian Forest Birds
- Deep Trouble



Plant Heist

Q&A

AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 2



Lori L. Udall

Program Director for the
Sacharuna Foundation
(Producers of *Deep Trouble*)

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Mollie's Pack

5PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

7PM MOLLIE'S PACK



*Vanishing Voices: Saving
Our Hawaiian Forest Birds*



**THROUGHOUT
THE FESTIVAL**

Justin Perkinson

Benthos 360°

An Immersive, VR
Freshwater Experience

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DAY 3 // SATURDAY

MARCH 8

10AM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

11AM BURY ME AT TAYLOR HOLLOW



A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

John Christian Phifer

Film Subject and Conservation Expert

Orion Pahl

Filmmaker

.....



12PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

1:30PM AN OPTIMIST'S GUIDE TO THE PLANET



Q&A

John Ealer

Senior Production Executive, *An Optimist's Guide to the Planet*

.....



2:20PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

4PM SHORT FILM BLOCK 3

- Catapults to Cameras (Green Fire Award)
- Bat Boy



Q&A AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 3

Aaron Lemle

Filmmaker, *Bat Boy*

Joey Curti

Scientific Advisor, *Bat Boy*

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5PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

7PM WILDING



DAY 4 // SUNDAY

MARCH 9

10AM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

11AM SHORT FILM BLOCK 4

- Polar Bear Country
- Welcome Home
- We Can Get There from Here

12:10PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS



1PM SHORT FILM BLOCK 5

- On the 8th Day
- The Snowy Owls of Logan Airport
- The Bird in my Backyard
- Flora, Fauna, Funga



Q&A AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 5

Sam Sheline

Filmmaker,
Flora, Fauna, Funga



Giuliana Furci

Film Subject & Mycologist,
Flora, Fauna, Funga

2PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

3:30PM SHORT FILM BLOCK 6

- To Scale: Time
- Truffles are Hiding a Dirty Little Secret
- Freetown’s Ultra Cool Roofs
- Planetwalker (Green Spark Award)



4:30PM CONCESSIONS & EXHIBITS

6:30PM QUEER PLANET

Q&A

Dr. Christine Wilkinson

Film Subject and
Conservation Expert



ZOOMED Q&A

AFTER SHORT FILMS BLOCK 6

Nadia Gill

Filmmaker, *Planetwalker*



VOTE!

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD: After attending the screenings, vote for your favorite short film from your “My Tickets” page.



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