

GREAT FILMS

GREAT DIALOGUE

GREAT FUN

NOVEMBER 6 9 2008

THE INTERSECTION OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

# AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL Mission Statement

The American Conservation Film Festival is dedicated to promoting outstanding films and the arts to educate and inspire people to become engaged in conservation. The motivating force behind ACFF is the power of imagery to inform and inspire. ACFF:

- Provides a venue for diverse conservation films that have rarely received a wide showing;
- ☼ Celebrates conservation film and video in the fun, eclectic atmosphere of historic Shepherdstown, WV;
- Showcases independent, historic, publicly funded and Appalachian films;
- Offers an education component that complements the film selections and supports those interested in conservation filmmaking.
- Supports young filmmakers as they are beginning their careers.

# Special Thanks

WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK.

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WV FILM OFFICE

WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL





Welcome to the sixth annual American Conservation Film Festival. This year's festival adds an exciting new component to our program that I hope you'll enjoy: Conservation in Context. ACFF has always welcomed filmmakers to discuss

their films. This year, due to feedback we received from you and a generous grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, we're pleased to also engage experts on many of the issues raised in our films for more in-depth discussion. That means that this year, in addition to great film and talented filmmakers, our panels can help you answer the question "What can I do about this?"

"This" can mean a lot of things. It can mean addressing global climate change through our energy use. It can mean understanding where our food comes from and making decisions with that knowledge. It can mean simply getting your family outdoors to enjoy wonderful West Virginia and the natural world around us. Our festival films this year explore all of these topics and more.

We also have a wonderful new addition to the ACFF family. Tatiana Petrone joined us as our Festival Manager in July and has enabled us to make this year's festival the best yet. She brings her passion for conservation and her artistic talents as a filmmaker to all that she does for us. So if you see her throughout the festival as she's helping make it all happen, be sure to give her a big welcome and thanks.

As you enjoy this year's films, don't forget that you can share the ACFF experience with your friends at other times of the year through our Traveling Festival. ACFF can bring many of our films to your community group, church, scout troop, or other meetings. We provide marketing materials for you to advertise your event, and can even provide an ACFF Ambassador to introduce the films. This makes a great fundraising event for many groups.

See our website at www.conservationfilm.org for more details, and enjoy this year's festival!

Amy Mathews Amos

President, ACFF Board of Directors

# 2008 FILM SECTIVAL



# National Conservation Training Center:: Byrd Auditorium

free of charge

7:00pm [FESTIVAL PREVIEW] Conservation in Context, Glamorous

Species: The History of Wildlife in Film presented by Gregg Mitman

NOV.
6

OPENING
NIGHT

### National Conservation Training Center:: Byrd Auditorium

free of charge

5:00pm China: A Memoir of Our Future

5:15pm Understory

5:45pm Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge 6:00pm Burning the Future: Coal in America

7:30pm Conservation in Context (Burning the Future panel discussion)

8:00pm Everything's Cool

9:30pm Conservation in Context (Everything's Cool panel discussion)

NOV.

MOVIES

THREE

### Shepherd University :: Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium

{located in Shepherd's new nursing building on High St.}

Tickets: \$7 for evening of films, \$5 for one film, \$3 for students

6:00pm The American Chestnut

6:30pm Plight of the Puffin

6:45pm Red Gold 8:00pm King Corn

9:30pm Conservation in Context (King Corn panel discussion)

### Shepherd University:: Byrd Science Center Auditorium

{located behind Snyder Hall on High St.}

free of charge

5:00pm Student Film Screenings (see descriptions on page 10)

The Artisinal Fisher, China: A Memoir of Our Future, Final Frontier, Fish and Cow: A Story of Restoring the Upper Big Hole Valley, A Moment of Clarity, Message in a

Bottle, Peace With Seals, A Place to Land, Sweetness and Light, Understory

8:00pm American Outrage

### Shepherdstown Opera House {131 West German Street}

Tickets: \$7 for entire evening, \$5 for one film

7:00pm In the Valley of the Wolves

8:30pm Burning the Future: Coal in America

### National Conservation Training Center:: Studio Screening

free of charge

12:00pm Where Do The Children Play?

1:15pm Conservation in Context (Where Do The Children Play?

panel discussion}

1:45pm A Place to Land

2:30pm Conservation in Context (Where the Wilde Things

Were, Wolves and Other Species panel discussion)

3:00pm Waste=Food

4:00pm Pollinators in Peril

### National Conservation Training Center:: Byrd Auditorium

free of charge

12:00pm Children's Film and Activity: Zoo Vets

1:00pm Zoo veterinarian talk, plus live reptile and bird show

1:30pm Flow: For the Love of Water

3:00pm Color Talks and Selected Shorts

3:15pm Filming Rare Endangered species with George Butler

4:15pm Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

4:30pm In the Valley of the Wolves

### **Shepherdstown Opera House** {131 West German Street}

Tickets: \$7 for entire evening, \$5 for one film

7:00pm Seed Hunter

8:00pm Student Film Competition Winner

8:30pm The Lord God Bird (George Butler will introduce Lord

God Bird and take a few questions afterward.}

### Stone Soup Bistro {112 West German Street, Shepherdstown}

10:00pm Meet the Filmmaker Reception {cash bar}

## National Conservation Training Center:: Byrd Auditorium

free of charge

12:00pm The Lord God Bird

2:15pm King Corn

4:00pm Everything's Cool

### **Shepherdstown Opera House** {131 West German Street}

Tickets: \$15 for the full day, \$5 per film

2:00pm In the Valley of the Wolves

3:30pm American Outrage

5:00pm Seed Hunter

6:30pm Burning the Future: Coal in America

NOV.
8

MOVIES
THREE
LOCATIONS

SATURDAY

NOV.
9

MOVIES

TWO
LOCATIONS

# Film Descriptions

### THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT 30min, 2004

A hundred years ago, one out of four trees in the Appalachian forests was an American chestnut. Some towered up to 100 feet tall and had diameters greater than 10 feet. The magnificent trees dominated the forested hills and mountains over much of the eastern U.S. Then came the lethal chestnut blight. By 1950, billions of American chestnut trees had been killed by this exotic fungus. Now only rare sprouts remain, clinging to life. This film is a journey through the research and rediscovery of this species and the scientists who have made it their mission to find a way to bring the American chestnut back. *Friday 6:00pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium* 

### AMERICAN OUTRAGE > 56min, 2007

Directed by: Beth Gage and George Gage

Two grandmothers, Carrie Dann and Mary Dann, have been at the forefront of the Western Shoshone Nation's struggle for land rights and sovereignty for nearly 40 years. American Outrage documents their fight against the U.S. government's unlawful attempts to take over traditional Shoshone land in Nevada, part of 60 millions acres guaranteed to them in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. The Dann sisters have endured steady harassment from the Bureau of Land Management and squared off against international gold mining corporations and the nuclear industry. Their courage and perseverance in asserting the rights of indigenous peoples won them the 1993 Alternative Nobel Prize and the International Right Livelihood Award. Friday 8:00pm · Byrd Science Center Auditorium



# BURNING THE FUTURE: COAL IN AMERICA 🤌 90min, 2008

Produced by: David Novack

Writer/director David Novack examines the troubling forces behind the conflict between the coal industry and residents of West Virginia. Confronted by a U.S. energy policy and West Virginia government that critics say genuflects to the coal industry, local activists watch the nation praise coal without regard to the devastation caused by its extraction. Faced with toxic ground water, the obliteration of 1.4 million acres of mountains, and a government that appeases industry, residents

of coal counties take their battles beyond the Mountain State's borders to the halls of power and centers of commerce and culture. Thursday 6:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium / Friday 8:30pm · Sunday 6:30pm Shepherdstown Opera House

### **EVERYTHING'S COOL** 89min, 2007

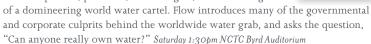
Produced + Directed by: Judith Helfand + Daniel B. Gold

Now that America is finally grasping the reality of global warming, a group of global warming messengers are on a high-stakes quest to find the iconic image, the magic language, the points of leverage that will finally create the political will to move the United States from its reliance on fossil fuels to the new clean energy economy—and fast. Thursday 8:00pm • Sunday 4:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### FLOW: FOR THE LOVE OF WATER > 97min, 2008

Produced by: Irena Salina

Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: the world water crisis. Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence





Produced + Directed by: Bob Landis

In 1995, the first gray wolves were transported from Alberta, Canada to Yellowstone National Park to repopulate the sprawling landscape with the species, absent for more than 70 years. The following year a second wave of wolves were brought to the park from British Columbia, Canada. Five of them were released together, and they were named the Druid Peak pack. Since the arrival of those first immigrants, wolves have thrived in Yellowstone. Emmy Award-winning wildlife cinematographer Bob Landis has created a stunning film chronicling one year in the rugged wilderness of Yellowstone National Park. Friday 7:00pm • Sunday 2:00pm Shepherdstown Opera House / Saturday 4:30pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### KING CORN > 55min, 2007

Producers Ian Cheney + Curt Ellis

King Corn is the story of two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. Best friends Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis move from the East Coast to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized



grain on one acre of Iowa soil. When they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm. Friday 8:00 pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium / Sunday 2:15pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

6 € www.conservationfilm.org

### THE LORD GOD BIRD P 90min, 2007

Produced by: George Butler

The ivory-billed woodpecker had been presumed extinct for decades. Then came the report in spring of 2005 that the ivory-billed woodpecker had been discovered deep in the swamps of Arkansas. The rarest of rare birds, the ivory-bill is so spectacular that according to folk legend those who see it spontaneously cry out "Lord God!" For most Americans the discovery came as a piece of rare good news from the conservation front. But to the inner circle of bird enthusiasts it was the latest installment in a legendary tale of hope and survival. Made in association with The Nature Conservancy, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and National Geographic Feature Films, this strikingly beautiful film, with music by Paul Cantelon (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly), is the first in a planned trilogy of films dealing with extinction by director George Butler. Saturday 8:30pm Shepherdstown Opera House (with Film maker) • Sunday 12:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium



### PLIGHT OF THE PUFFIN 15min, 2008

Produced by: Maria Frostic

Producer Maria Frostic traveled to Iceland to document the Puffin and their struggle to survive on islands they have lived on for thousands of years. With the reality of rising water temperatures the puffins and the people who have come to rely on these birds face a new challenge: how to survive. Friday 6:30pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium

### POLLINATORS IN PERIL 50min, 2000

Produced by: Rhett Turner

Pollinators like bees, birds, bats and insects are essential to the world's food supply, but many species are threatened with extinction. Producer Rhett Turner teams up with actor Peter Fonda to travel the world in search of the most endangered pollinators and show us what we can do to help the populations of these critical species. Saturday 4:00pm NCTC Studio Screening

### SEED HUNTER 🍃 50min, 2008

Smithsonian Channel

One of the first casualties of global warming will be food crops. Australian scientist Ken Street and his team of 'gene detectives' are hunting for plant genes that could help our food withstand the impact of 21st century global warming. Seed Hunter is a remarkable journey from the drought ravaged farms of Australia, to the heart of the Middle East, to the mountains of Tajikistan, to secure planet saving plants and store the bounty in the newly constructed seed bank known as the 'doomsday vault.' Along the way they meet farmers struggling to grow crops in a climate gone haywire, and scientists working at the front line of gene technology to save tomorrow's food. Saturday 7:00pm · Sunday 5:00pm Shepherdstown Obera House

### WASTE=FOOD 51min, 2006

Produced by: William McDonough
Rob van Hattum's award-winning
documentary explores how companies like
Nike, Herman Miller and Ford are experimenting with ways to completely reinvent
how products are designed, made, and
used. Following the concept that "waste
equals food," a new industrial philosophy





is emerging that promotes clean and sustainable production, a world where every ingredient in every product is designed to be re-used. It's an idea that is triggering a new industrial revolution among designers and manufacturers. Saturday 3:00pm NCTC Studio Screening

### RED GOLD 3 60min, 2008

Produced by: Ben Knight + Travis Rummel

Imagine a pristine Alaskan watershed with the most productive Sockeye salmon rivers in the world, teeming with millions of native fish pushing up river to spawn. Now imagine the world's largest open pit gold and copper mine at their headwaters. Produced by Ben Knight and Travis Rummel of Felt Soul Media and Trout Unlimited Alaska, Red Gold explores the proposed Pebble Mine; it is told through the voices of commercial, subsistence and sport fishermen of Bristol Bay, Alaska. Friday 6:45pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium







### WHERE DO CHILDREN PLAY? Þ 60 min, 2007

Michigan Public Television

An examination of how restrictive patterns of sprawl, congestion, and endless suburban development across America are impacting children's mental and physical health and development. Saturday 12:00pm NCTC Studio Screening

### **Z00 VETS** 50min, 2008

Smithsonian Channel

Zoo Vets goes behind the scenes of the National Zoo and shows us the lives and the work of the people who care for the sick animals. Perfect for children and the whole family. Saturday 12:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

8 🖞 www.conservationfilm.org

# Student Film Competition

### THE ARTISINAL FISHER > 14min, 2008

Over 200 million small-scale fishermen feed 1.5 billion humans. Is this lifestyle sustainable? Friday 5:30pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium

### CHINA: A MEMOIR OF OUR FUTURE \$\frac{1}{2} \text{ 12min, 2008}

A group of students from Eastern Connecticut State University travel to China to discover its economy, culture, history and environment. In the process they discover the unexpected. Thursday 5:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### FINAL FRONTIER 3min, 2007

Student animator Colin Bombard delivers this thought provoking animation of robots set in a far way time and land. Friday 5:00pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium



# FISH AND COW: A Story of Restoring the Upper Big Hole Valley № 17min, 2007

Student Film makers Geoff Stephens and Rick Smith tell the tale of heritage, cooperation, success, and restoration in the Upper Big Hole Valley watershed, a place where people, cows and trout can live in harmony. Friday 7:45pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium

### A MOMENT OF CLARITY 24min, 2007

A visually impressive film from New Zealand student Sarah Cowley and Louise Davidson, this first person natural history account chronicles the rat population of New Zealand, all from the perspective of the Rat. Friday 7:15pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium

### MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (on Urban Visionaries DVD) 🗗 1min

Part of the Urban Visionaries film festival, this short examines the choices between littering and survival. Friday 5:00pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium



### A PLACE TO LAND 🗗 30min

American University student Lauren DeAngelis examines the difficulties of owning pet parrots by exploring parrot rescue groups, including Virginia-based Phoenix Landing whose members will be on hand to answer questions. Saturday 1:45pm NCTC Studio Screening





Meet Gaston the Seal, the "most famous animal in Europe." Gaston is the entry point to examining Europe's wildlife losses and increasingly decimated waterways. An original, humorous, and very European look at how humans and wildlife interact (Brief Nudity). Friday 6:15pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium

### **SWEETNESS AND LIGHT** 30min, 2008

Montana graduate student Stefanie Misztal hones her story telling skills as she interviews family and friends to explore the elusive relationship between science, religion and nature. Friday 5:45pm Byrd Science Center Auditorium

### UNDERSTORY > 27min, 2008

Student producers Jake Williams and Heather Altier document Eastern Connecticut State University students as they travel to the Mexico's rainforest and learn first hand from working scientists about the pressures this delicate ecosystem is facing. Thursday 5:15pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

# Film Shorts

### BEYOND THE BLUE & 8min, 2007

A sensational world premiere exploring the magic of underwater fluorescence and the ability of marine animals to transform themselves from one color to another. Some of the most breathtaking underwater cinematography ever seen. Saturday 3:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### CANAAN VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 🤌 10min, 2008

A moving examination of the cultural and natural history of this unique corner of West Virginia. This unique ecosystem recently became the 500<sup>th</sup> National Wildlife Refuge. After viewing this film you will understand why. *Thursday 5:45 pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium* 

### CARPA DIEM 🏖 2min, 2006

An apartment. Bedtime. A little girl lovingly watches her fish swimming in the aquarium, while her younger brother is playing in the bathroom, listening to music and letting water run into the sink. A waste of water that could turn tragic. A brilliant short from Italy's Sergio Cannella. *Thursday 8:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium* 

### COLOUR TALKS \$\&\text{8min, 2008}

In a teeming social world of camouflage and display, marine animals talk in a language we do not yet understand. In a groundbreaking step toward learning to listen, Colour Talks unravels the mystery of underwater color, and brings a revolutionary understanding of the language of fish. Saturday 3:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### DOPE SPIDER D 2min, 2007

Natural history meets psychedelia in this hilarious short. (some PG-13 Language). Friday 8:00 pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium

### KODIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 🤌 12min, 2008

Discover the largest bears in North America as they explore and dominate this pristine Alaskan wilderness. Saturday 4:15pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

# Conservations in Context



### BURNING THE FUTURE COAL IN AMERICA 🤌 30min

Producer/Director David Novack and Activist Cindy Rank of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, will lead a discussion about the effects of the coal industry on the environment and people of West Virginia. Thursday 7:30pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### **EVERYTHING'S COOL** 30min

Global climate change can seem like an impossibly large problem for an individual or community to tackle. But the most energetic and targeted efforts to combat global warming are taking place at the grassroots. Lauren Glickman of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network describes a regional effort that inspires people and communities to revisit the connections between culture and the causes of climate change. Thursday 9:30pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### GLAMOROUS SPECIES: THE HISTORY OF WILDLIFE IN FILM 5 60 Min

Gregg Mitman is a professor of history of science, medical history, and science and technology studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of a number of award-winning articles and books, including Reel Nature: America's Romance with Wildlife on Film (1999). Enjoy a riveting discussion on the history of conservation film and our relationship with this enduring media. Wednesday 7:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### KING CORN 🗗 30min

Two local farmers talk about food and farming. Third generation Jefferson County farmer Cam Tabb describes his farm operation and the changing face of agriculture in Jefferson County. Clarissa Mathews, farmer and Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Shepherd University, explores the ecology of the American food supply, and suggests that consumers can heal the environment by how they shop and what they eat. Friday 9:30pm Erma Ora Byrd Auditorium

### WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY > 30min

Join a discussion lead by Dr. Mark Cucazella, Ellen Murphy, Debbie Crouse and Lynne Cherry to explore the problems of nature deficit disorder and what can be done to remedy this condition. PANELIST: Dr. Mark Cucazella, Family Practice Physician at HF Family Medicine • Ellen Murphy, Youth Education Director for the Potomac Valley Audubon Society • Debbie Crouse, West Virginia Master Naturalist • Lynne Cherry, Author Saturday 1:15pm NCTC Studio Screening

### WHERE THE WILDE THINGS WERE, WOLVES AND OTHER SPECIES 3 45min

Will Stolzenburg, environmental journalist and author, including just released book "Where the Wild Things Were" will explore the loss of species in our environment. Using the wolf reintroduction program in Yellowstone as a case study this discussion will center around what we can do to turn the tide of species extinction. Saturday 2:30pm NCTC Studio Screening

This project is being presented by the American Conservation Film Festival with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program does not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment of the Humanities.

# 2008 FILM VENUES



# Children's Film & Activity

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS P 90min

After Zoo Vets several animal handling experts will get up close and personal with live snakes and rescue parrots to talk about the care and protection of these wild and sometimes domestic creatures. Saturday 1:00pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

### FILMING RARE ENDANGERED SPECIES WITH GEORGE BUTLER 3 60 Min



Acclaimed Film maker George Butler, Director of "Lord God Bird", will host a work in progress session on "Burning Bright" (in production) his second film in the trilogy on the rare and endangered species. This workshop will give us a rare glimpse into the production of a conservation film. Butler will discuss how he chooses subject matter, his films past and present, his creative process, and the film making challenges he faces and how he overcomes them. Saturday 3:15pm NCTC Byrd Auditorium

12 € www.conservationfilm.org

# **CONTRIBUTORS TO ACFF**

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### **LEVELS OF GIVING**

PRODUCERS	\$10,000 +
DIRECTORS	\$5,000-\$9,999
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS	\$1,000-\$4,999
STARS	\$500-\$999
SUPPORTING CAST	\$250-\$499
RED CARPET	\$100-\$249
REEL FRIENDS	\$25-\$99

### **PRODUCERS**

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### 2008 Contributors through October 22 are listed. ACFF thanks everyone who continues to contribute in 2008.

# 2008 Board of Directors & Staff

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Build your own conservation film festival with a three-hour or six-hour (up to 2 days) package of programming. The ACFF Traveling Fest is great for groups who want to host their own film festival, raise funds through ticket sales, or have a film component to an outdoor or environmental event.

ACFF Traveling Festival

You can even choose to have an ACFF Ambassador come to your festival to introduce films! Need technical support? We might be able to help with that. too.

Along with the films, you'll get:

- Demplates to create your own ACFF flyers, posters and festival program guides to advertise and promote your festival,
- Promotional photos of each film (if available),
- D Information on each film and its filmmakers and
- Use of the American Conservation Film Festival logo.

ACFF Three-Hour Travel Fest Cost: \$250

ACFF Six-Hour Travel Fest Cost: \$500

ACFF Ambassador: Travel costs plus, for multi-day festivals, a \$200 stipend

Equipment costs: If you need technical support and equipment to present your festival, ACFF can provide a cost estimate based on travel costs and duration of your festival.



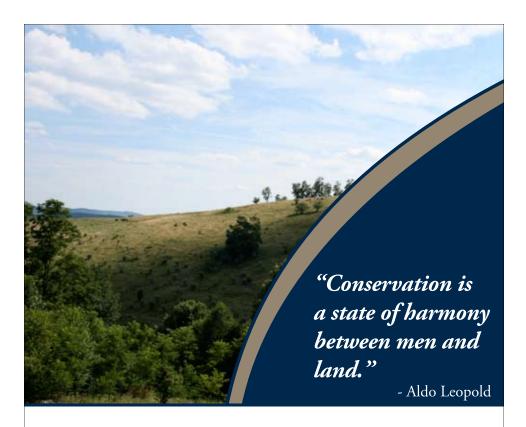




### **ACFF MOVIES FOR YOUR MEETINGS**

Would you like to make ACFF a part of your organization's regular activities? This package is ideal for groups who want to present conservation-themed films at meetings, youth events, and community clubs.

Choose an hour of ACFF film programming and receive a DVD to screen at your meeting. Cost for a one hour DVD for your meetings: \$30.





101 South Queen Street Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401 (304) 263-0836 For six extraordinary years, the American Conservation Film
Festival has brought forth a diverse group of film makers from across the globe to help inspire, educate and engage individuals in conservation.
We salute the efforts of the ACFF and congratulate them on another outstanding year.