

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 11 – 15



THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

# FREELAND FILM FESTIVAL

VIRTUAL



stories that  
inspire

# VIRTUAL FESTIVAL INFO

In this ever-shifting “new normal”, film festivals have made the conscious decision to go online this year. By pivoting to a virtual experience, we can continue to share with you our amazing “stories that inspire,” and offer our festival to a global audience, including places where FREELAND’s international community can participate.

All films will be available any time between Friday, September 11 through Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Some films and panels will be broadcast live, including our opening night film *The Last Ice*, Endpandemics.earth Global Webinar, the Youth Environmental Activism Workshop, and more. Please stay tuned via our website, social media, or e-newsletter as we continue to make more announcements!

## Ticket Information

Passes and tickets can be purchased at [www.freelandfilmfest.org](http://www.freelandfilmfest.org). All tickets and passes must be purchased online. Unfortunately there are no in-person or cash/check options available.

### **Virtual Festival Pass \$40**

Gain access to all screenings, panels and music at the festival.

### **All films are ticketed (except *The Need to GROW*)**

Regular: \$8

Senior 62+/Student/Active Military: \$7

Workshop: \$8

Panels: Free

## **VIEW ALL FILMS AT:**

## **LEARN MORE ABOUT FREELAND AND OUR FESTIVAL AT:**

The Freeland Film Festival is a program of Freeland.org with a goal to foster a global storytelling platform featuring films about people, wild animals and ecosystems that are facing daunting challenges. These are stories of hope and inspiration.

# WELCOME



Since last year's festival, the world has turned upside down from a zoonotic outbreak and racial tensions. Our festival offers a platform for free expression about the causes and effects of these crises, as well as the search for solutions.

For nine months now, all walks of life worldwide have been impacted to some degree by an infectious disease called COVID-19. The virus was transferred from a wild animal that was taken out of its natural environment and exploited for commercial purposes. Whether that purpose was to sell for exotic meat or to be used for medical experimentation, we call that commercial wildlife trade and trafficking.

Racism and violence are also infectious diseases that destroy societies, and sometimes stem from a history of human trafficking.

Compassion is also infectious and can lead to solutions that rebuild our world, and help our environment.

Freeland's vision is a world free of wildlife trafficking and human slavery. Freeland Film Festival continues to offer a platform to share stories about the impacts – short and long term – that wildlife and human trafficking inflict on societies, and how to recover from them. As with our previous film festivals, this year's event will create space for people to watch, listen, or comment on these stories that we are certain will inspire you.

Freeland is spearheading a global campaign to illuminate the important connection among all lives on earth, and to prevent future pandemics that, as we know, do not discriminate in their destruction.

Following the viral explosion of COVID-19, as well as race-related tensions, we have a lot of recovery ahead of us. Let's push #Reset. Let's start by taking stock – by watching the films we've prepared for you. Our world cries out for harmony. Let's rebuild it together.

Steve Galster, Freeland CEO &  
Rich Christian, Board Member & Executive Producer

**Festival Producer:**  
Dawn Borchardt

**Technical Coordinator:**  
Sam La Strapes

**Digital Content Strategist:**  
Kristen Pieszko Rasmussen

**Graphic Designer | Web Developer:**  
Ying Kiratibhongse | Jen Harter

**Event & Development Coordinator:**  
Evelyn Galster

**Music Coordinator:**  
Marcella Jones

**Advisory Committee:**  
Luis Palomino Benitez, Thomas Eddy,  
Molly Ferrill, Claire Lind, Jolene Rueden  
Schatzinger, Kurt Sensenbrenner &  
Colin Sytsma

# OPENING NIGHT: THE LAST ICE

83 mins

\*Available in the US only

Friday, Sept 11 • 7pm



Our choice of an opening night film quickly became apparent with *The Last Ice*, a story that truly inspires. This is a powerful documentary produced by National Geographic about the Inuit people in Northern Canada and Greenland fighting to preserve their ancestors' way of life. Colonialism, global warming and industrial extraction of Arctic resources are threatening the future of the land, water and ice, and the Inuit's lasting traditional culture. Younger generations look to the old for new meaning. The film's subjects beautifully reflect on their own personal stories and histories, and what they want to see in their futures. The very recent reports of the polar ice shelf giving way make this film incredibly timely.

**Please connect with us together virtually for our Opening Night as we watch this powerful story, followed by a live Q&A with Director Scott Ressler.**

*\*If you miss the live watch of this program on opening night, it will be available through the 15th.*

# FEATURED PANEL: ENDPANDEMICS



## Rooting for Your Wild Mascot to End Pandemics

Sun. Sept. 13th from 9:00 CDT to 10:00 CDT •

The rising wildlife trade and disruption of wild habitats are among the root causes of increasing zoonotic disease outbreaks that lead to SARS, HIV, COVID-19 and other pandemics. A global alliance, **EndPandemics.Earth** is crowdsourcing effective solutions to address these root causes at community, policy, business and consumer levels. Tapping into **the popularity of wild animals as college sports mascots** is a powerful way of raising global public awareness. Four U.S. land-grant universities (Auburn, Clemson, LSU and Missouri) have teamed up to launch the **Tigers United University Consortium**, to marshal the pride and passion surrounding their super-popular tiger mascots. Understanding the wild origin of their mascots, students, faculty, and alumni will be driven to conservation of wild tigers and their habitats in Asia. The resulting changes in consumer behaviors in the U.S. and globally will reduce demand for wildlife and wildlife products. Panelists from the two movements, EndPandemics.Earth and Tigers United, will explore the untapped resources of youth engagement to shape the public opinion and consumer choices that will help prevent future pandemics by saving tigers and other wildlife, and their habitats.

**Moderators:** Brett Wright (Director, Tigers United University Consortium); Andrey Kushlin (EndPandemics.Earth)

Panelists: Faculty, students of schools in the Tigers United University Consortium; Participants of the EndPandemics.Earth alliance.

**Dr. Tim Boosinger** - former Provost, Auburn University

**Dr. Leslie Lyons** - Associate Professor of Veterinary Sciences, University of Missouri

**Mr. Pramod Yadav** - PhD student, Clemson University

**Ms. Vasavi Prakash** - PhD student, Auburn University

**Mr. Mohnish Kapoor** - Head – Programme & Partnerships, Global Tiger Forum

**Mr. Steve Galster** - CEO, Freeland & Co-founder, EndPandemics.Earth

# FESTIVAL LIVE EVENT CALENDAR

Friday 9/11	Saturday 9/12	Sunday 9/13
<i>Opening Night Film: The Last Ice</i> 7pm CST	<b>Traditional Native American Invocation/ Welcoming Ceremony by Rick Cleveland, Sr, Ho-Chunk Elder and the Bear Clan Singers &amp; Dancers</b> 10am CST	<b>Featured Panel Rooting for Your Wild Mascot to End Pandemics</b> 9am CST
	<b>Tigers in America</b> 11am CST	<b>Facing Human Trafficking in 2020</b> 11am CST
State of the Lake 2pm CST		<b>Monday 9/14</b> <b>We're All Connected: A Special Classroom Discussion</b> 11-11:30am CST

All programming is available throughout the festival

## Panels & Workshops

### State of the Lake

Sat. Sept. 12th - 2pm CST •

Join this virtual panel that will introduce and discuss the historical, present-day and future outlook for the Green Lake watershed and Big Green Lake, the state's deepest natural inland lake located in east central Wisconsin. Engage with specialist panel members who collaborate to employ the latest science-based solutions for improving and maintaining a healthy lake and watershed. Q/A will follow the panel presentation.

**Moderator:** Thomas Eddy - VP Conservation, Green Lake Conservancy

**Derek Kavanaugh** - Soil Conservationist II, Green Lake County Land Conservationist -

**Stephanie Prellwitz** - Executive Director, Green Lake Association -

**Lisa Reas** - Sanitary District Administrator, Green Lake Sanitary District

**Dr. Dale M. Robertson** - Research Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey

All panels are free and open to the public. Panels will be live at their scheduled times and recorded for those who cannot make the live experience!

## Panels & Workshops

### We're All Connected: A special Classroom Discussion

Mon. Sept. 14th - 11am-11:30am CST •

Juliana Machado Ferreira, Executive Director of Freeland, Brazil in Sao Paulo, will talk with teacher Katie James, and her 6th grade class at Green Lake Elementary School. The discussion is tied to Plants Have Wings, a film directed by Rose Madrone, about wildlife and pollination, and how all of us are connected.

### Environmental Youth Activism Workshops

#### Workshop: Make an Eco Pencil Holder!

Join Wisconsin native and school teacher Claire Lind as she demonstrates an eco-craft you can make at home in your yard, or out in nature at a park. During times of COVID or not, we are always looking to nature for our escape and the calmness it brings us. Claire loves to use nature as her canvas and highlight mother nature's gifts in creative ways. Using only typical household items (jar/can, rubberbands, yarn/ribbon) Claire shows you how you can use sticks and twigs to create an original pencil cup to use for home learning, school learning, or a gift to a loved one. This is a prerecorded video that anyone can watch at any time that works for them! Best for Ages 5-10.

#### Workshop: Make a Lego Storage Jar!

Claire Lind shows you how you can turn an old peanut butter jar (or any container with a lid) into a cute and crafty Lego storage jar. This craft requires painting and a sharpie marker. Adult supervision may be required for the painting. Get creative with the many different Lego character faces you can design. Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling are key to keeping our planet healthy and clean. This craft is sure to brighten anyone's day, while also reusing materials and keeping them out of landfills. Best for ages 5-10.

### Facing Human Trafficking in 2020

Sun. Sept. 13th - 11am CST •

Freeland Founder, Steven Galster has worked undercover for decades to fight organized crime, sex trafficking, and human slavery. Steve will share insights on human trafficking today, including current syndicates and methods of investigation, before introducing Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi. Satyarthi has raised awareness globally about child slavery, and helped thousands of children at Bal Ashram in Northern India. He is featured in *Children of Bal Ashram* (2019 festival Opening Night film) directed by Len Morris. Len will discuss trafficking with the panel, that includes a trafficking survivor.

**Moderator: Len Morris** - Director, Documentary filmmaker (*Children of Bal Ashram*) & co-founder of Media Voices for Children -

**Steven Galster** - Founder, Freeland -

**Kailash Satyarthi** - Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (Introductory Message)

**Anjali Kochhar** - CEO The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation -

**Nina Smith** - CEO Goodweave, working to stop child labor in global supply chains -

## Tigers in America

Sat. Sept. 12th - 11am CST .

At the beginning of quarantine, many of us could be found binge-watching Netflix's Tiger King, a wild series full of drama about several infamous American tiger keepers. What many do not realize is that there are more captive tigers in the United States than the total number of tigers in the wild! Join us for a discussion with some of the world's experts on the situation for captive big cats in the United States and around the world.

**Moderator: Molly Ferrill** - National Geographic Explorer, photographer & filmmaker dedicated to documenting conservation issues -

**Steve Winter** - Contributing photographer, National Geographic & National Geographic Explorer -

**Sharon Guynup** - Investigative journalist, National Geographic Explorer and global fellow at the Wilson Center -

(Winter & Guynup co-authored "Tigers Forever: Saving the World's Most Endangered Big Cat" & collaborated on "Captive Tigers in the US Outnumber those in the Wild" - )

**Carson Baylak** - Campaigns Manager of The International Fund for Animal Welfare -

**Carole Baskin** - Founder of Big Cat Rescue -

**Carney Anne Nasser** - Big cat expert and animal protection attorney who pitched the wildlife trafficking case against "Tiger King" Joe Exotic, and founding director of the animal welfare clinic at MSU College of Law -

**Dan Ashe** - Former Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, now President and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums -

**Ellie Armstrong** - PhD Candidate at Stanford University focusing on using genetic tools to understand illegal wildlife trade of large carnivores and Science Advisor and Board Member for Tigers in America -



## Music

Each film program features a song from one of our dedicated festival musicians!



**Traditional Native American Invocation/Welcoming Ceremony by Rick Cleveland, Sr, Ho-Chunk Elder and the Bear Clan Singers & Dancers**  
Live Sat. 10am

Based in the Wisconsin Dells area, the Bear Clan Singers & Dancers are a renowned troupe of Ho-Chunk professional entertainers. The group is led by Rick Cleveland and includes his children, sisters and brothers, and nieces and nephews. Collectively they have won innumerable awards and championships at pow wows all over the country. Each family member has been taught the ways and meanings of their Woodlands dances with teachings that have been handed down for generations.

## Music



**Annie Humphrey**  
*Native American Folk Rock*

Annie Humphrey was born into a beautiful, sometimes sad life. A life of Earth connectedness. She is a wild ricer, fish netter, maple syrup maker, dress maker, medicine gatherer, grandmother, singer of traditional and contemporary songs, and Marine Corp veteran from the Minnesota Leech Lake Indian Reservation. She loves her people, the new generation and the Earth. “Earth is our true power source. The source of all things.”



**Brian Drow**  
*Original Folk*

Brian Drow is a singer/songwriter that performs vocals, guitar, and harmonica. He plays a variety of originals and covers ranging from folk to country to blues and pop. He has years of experience playing in cafes, coffee houses, pubs, festivals, and farmer’s markets and has released many albums including his most recent “acoustic electric artistic eclectic”.

**Mambo Surfers***Funkified Jazz Rock*

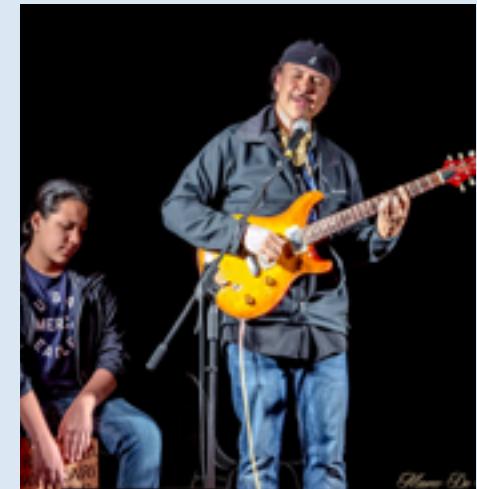
The Mambo Surfers are a Milwaukee-based band performing original music that stimulates the mind and senses. Their songs showcase influences ranging from blues to polkas, punk to reggae, Indian ragas to Native American and Sufi chants. A deep commitment to social justice, the earth and its creatures underlies their world rhythm jazz rock music.

**Burton Guibord***Native American Folk*

Raised on the Bad River Ojibwe reservation in northern Wisconsin, Burton lived with all the hardships that come with reservation life, including alcohol and drugs. Ultimately he was able to rise above these difficulties through music and by walking the Red Road. His music underscores his deep-felt beliefs and experiences based on the history and stories of his Anishinabe people.

**Phil Gatewood***Original Music in a Rock Vein*

Philip Gatewood is a songwriter, author and retired private detective who lives in Cudahy, Wisconsin. He has released three recordings: "Episodes of Obsession" (1989), "Cobalt Cool" (2007) and "Slices on the Take" (2012). In retirement his performing is relegated to his church choir and rare acoustic cameos.

**Wade Fernandez***Native American Folk and Rock*

Wade Fernandez is a multi award-winning touring artist from the Menominee Nation reservation in Wisconsin. Beginning his solo career opening for Jackson Browne and the Indigo Girls and being invited to perform alongside them has led to a long career with well over 40 international tours. His passion to share his music, culture and spirit is reflected in his international presentations and performances in schools (K-college), workshops and concerts, from Woodstock '94 to intimate house concerts.

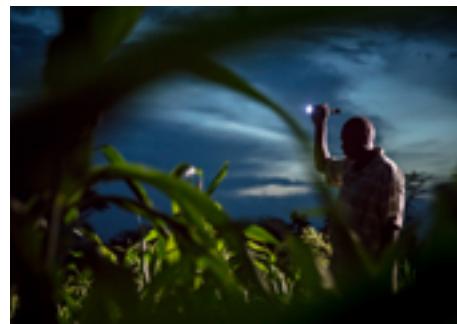


**Current Sea**

\*Available in the US only

90 mins

In this docu-thriller, investigative journalist Matt Blomberg travels to a remote island off of Cambodia's coast where environmental activist, Paul Ferber is living along with his family and fellow activists and biologists. Ferber and his team are aggressively protecting Cambodia's coast from relentless illegal fishing using a small boat to patrol the waters. Exhausting themselves with this patrol, they find a more peaceful and permanent solution in building underwater cement block homes for sea life to protect them from the fisherman's large nets. Along the way a new generation of Cambodian environmentalists are inspired to create a better life for their people and sea animals. Dir. by Christopher Smith



**The Edge of Existence**

87 mins

Set in the Serengeti, this film sets out to uncover and document the human and wildlife conflict happening on the border of the massive wildlife preserve. Human development has pushed communities closer and closer to wildlife habitats, while hungry animals get closer to town in search of food. This clash is reaching a crisis point, and park rangers are working hard to come up with solutions. This film allows for all perspectives to come forward and share their stories about this dire situation that needs urgent attention. The film was made with the intention to help uncover solutions, and connect communities, conservation authorities and governments around the world. Dir. by Charlie Luckock & James Suter



**Erik & the Iban**

40 mins

Anthropologist Dr. Erik Jensen was recruited by the local Borneo government in the 1960s to assist the Indigenous Iban community in conflict resolution between other Indigenous tribes and the local government. At first fearing this outsider, the Iban developed a strong bond with Erik, creating friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Combined with incredible archival footage, this film documents Dr. Erik Jensen as he travels back to Borneo to find out how the Iban are faring in the 21st Century. This film ignited the most discussion on our programming team, so we look forward to the conversations you all will have. Dir. by Dan Childs



**Flying without Borders**

53 mins

From Estonia to Ethiopia, Ukraine to Turkey, experience the common crane's incredible migratory journey. A poetic ode to freedom, the cranes cross national borders of political conflict, refugee crises, and varying cultures. Let this amazing journey inspire you to dream of peace and connectedness between humans, animals, and nature. Dir. by Maxence Lamoureux & Arnaud Devroute

*\*Special post-film discussion with Tom Schultz co-founder of Green Lake Bird & Nature Club and National Geographic Illustrator, George Archibald co-founder & senior conservationist of the International Crane Foundation, and film director Maxence Lamoureux.*



**Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry**

80 mins

With Green Lake, WI nestled in farm country, when we saw this film we knew we had to program it! Look & See is a cinematic portrait of the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America in the era of industrial agriculture, as seen through the mind's eye of writer, farmer, and activist, Wendell Berry. Filmmaker Laura Dunn skillfully weaves Berry's poetic and prescient words with gorgeous cinematography and the testimonies of his family and neighbors, all of whom are being deeply affected by the industrial and economic changes to their agrarian way of life. Often called "a prophet for rural America," Berry has long been a voice for the communities that are so often overlooked by the media. Dir. by Laura Dunn



**Love Sonia**

122 mins

Inspired by real life events, Love Sonia is the story of a young girl's journey to rescue her sister from the dangerous world of international sex trafficking. The film is the harrowing account of two sisters robbed of their innocence when one is sold by their debt-ridden father, and the other follows after her in the hope of rescuing her but becomes trapped in the sex trade herself. With appearances by Demi Moore and Mark Duplass, this film is one of our only narrative films in the festival. Dir. by Tabrez Noorani

*Note: This film includes violence and sexual content. Ages 15+ recommended.*

*While viewing the trailer, enable Closed Captioning for subtitles*



**The Need to GROW**

96 mins

With an estimated 60 years of farmland soil left on Earth, *The Need to GROW* offers an intimate look into the hearts of activists and innovators in the food movement - an 8 year old girl challenges the ethics of a beloved organization - a renegade farmer struggles to keep his land as he revolutionizes resource efficient agriculture - and an accomplished visionary inventor faces catastrophe in the midst of developing a game-changing soil regeneration technology. *The Need to GROW* delivers alarming evidence on the importance of healthy soil - revealing not only the potential of localized food production working with nature, but our opportunity as individuals to help regenerate our planet's dying soils and participate in the restoration of the Earth. Executive Produced by Rosario Dawson. Dir. by Rob Herring & Ryan Wirick

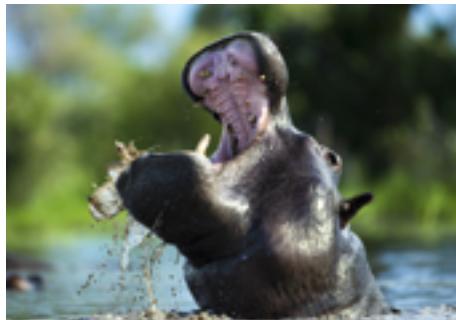


**No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger**

86 mins

Our Classics with a Conscience series presents this 1968 film named after Muhammad Ali's famous anti-war statement. Collectively expressed by our program team to be one of the most powerful films they'd ever seen, this story feels especially poignant this year. An archival film of on-the-street interviews during an anti-war march in NYC combined with a sit down interview with young Black soldier visionaries, this incredibly honest film represents clashing views of both young and old, Black and white. Dir. by David L Weiss

**Feature  
Films**



**Okavango: River of Dreams**

\*Available in the US only

94 mins

Made by prolific NatGeo photo-journalists, this is an insiders' view of one of the greatest river systems on the planet. Full of natural animal conflict, this wildlife drama proves to be another stunning NatGeo wildlife film. You may recognize Botswana's Okavango Delta as the location of the ongoing mysterious elephant deaths. See many of these majestic creatures in this film before the recent tragedy that has struck more than 280 elephants. Dir. by Dereck Joubert & Beverly Joubert



**Pilliga Rising**

40 mins

A salt-of-the-earth farmer, a crafty business owner, a young Indigenous multimedia artist and an experienced citizen scientist rise up to protect their communities against a proposed coal seam gas-field in the Pilliga forest; a million acres of iconic Australian bush.

An oil and gas corporation plans to drill 850 wells through the Great Artesian Basin – one of the largest underground freshwater reservoirs in the world – which flows beneath the Pilliga. Now, the people who live in this rural New South Wales region are uniting to protect the land and water against this threat and determined to win their freedom. Dir. by Mark Pearce



**Public Trust**

98 mins

The fight to protect America's public lands from industrial natural resource extraction and waste disposal is a longstanding bipartisan issue. From hunters and fisherman wanting to protect the Boundary Waters in Minnesota as a serene place to connect with nature, to the Gwich'in people in Alaska fighting to maintain their integral relationship to wild caribou, to Diné activists working to protect the Bears Ears region in Utah, this film covers walks of life all across the US. You may remember Gwich'in subject Bernadette Demientieff from our 2018 Patagonia film *The Refuge*. Catch back up with her in this stunning, powerful film Executive Produced by Robert Redford about the importance of protecting our country's wildlife and natural resources. Dir. by David Byars.

**Feature  
Films**



**¿Qué les Pasó a las Abejas?  
(What Happened to the Bees?)**

\*Available in the US only

67 mins

An influx of major transgenic soybean farms in Campeche, Mexico has had a devastating effect on the health of the local Mayan people, land, and their bees. Bees are our new canary in a coal mine when it comes to safety of a local environment, and the bees/birds are chirping in Campeche. Mayan activists Gustavo Huchin and Leydi Pech see the devastation the chemical-ridden soybean farms are creating, and decide to stand up to the Mexican authorities, Mennonite communities, and Monsanto to make a change. Dir. by Adriana Otero Puerto & Robin Canul Suárez



**Shattered Dreams: Sex Trafficking in America**

55 mins

We are starting to see more reports about sex trafficking in America on the news, and especially on social media lately. Mothers especially are begging to get more attention to this issue, and want to learn more about what they can do to help, and prevent this tragedy for their daughters. Shattered Dreams has three survivors tell their stories in this powerful film. Unexpectedly groomed by pimps, these women went through horrific trauma in their young lives. Finally able to escape, they now share their stories of recovery, and what they are doing to help other victims today. Dir. by Bill Wisneski

*Note: This film includes violence and sexual content. Ages 15+ recommended.*



**Now is the Time**

*Plays before Sockeye Salmon*

16 mins

This New York Times Op-Docs film was made with incredible archival footage from 1969 in an Indigenous community in British Columbia, Canada. The film focuses on young artist David Robertson, a traditional Haida carver who carved the first Haida totem pole to be erected in almost a century. A representation of culture, traditional ways, spirituality and connectedness, the raising of this totem pole brought his community together. We saw this film as a metaphor for the film festival in a way - a community art event created to celebrate and inspire a sense of community, healing and positive change. Dir. by Christopher Auchter

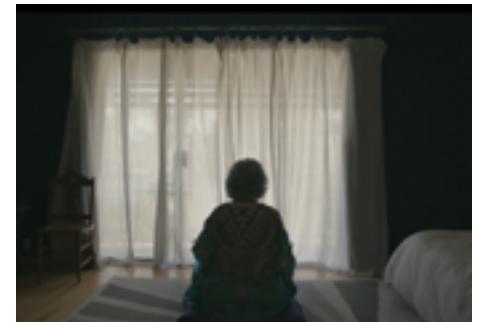


**Sockeye Salmon**

*\*Available in the US only*

51 mins

Native to Kamchatkan waters in Russia, Sockeye are a species of wild salmon, an important component to the region's people and animals. Bears eat the fish as a primary food source, and people cherish watching the fish spawn, and catching them for food. This important animal in the ecosystem is threatened by poachers who are overfishing in the Kamchatkan wildlife refuge. In addition to fighting against poachers, the locals are also up against the construction of gas pipelines, dams, and mines. Originally setting out to capture a beautiful nature film, the filmmakers knew there was a more important story unfolding that needed to be shared with the world. Dir. by Dmitriy Shpilenok & Vladislav Grishin



**Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence**

97 mins

Amy Ayoub, a prominent political fundraiser, and the first female to serve on the Nevada State Athletic Commission (famously the woman who denied Mike Tyson's boxing license), was holding in a painful secret for years. Amy had been a longtime victim of sex trafficking and abuse. A personal portrait, the film explores the emotional and physical devastation associated with sex trafficking; being a survivor; public vs private personas; and finding one's voice in unexpected ways. A remarkable woman, Amy risked everything to speak out publicly and in the process, set herself free. Dir. by Robin Greenspun

*Note: This film includes violence and sexual content. Ages 15+ recommended.*



### ADAPTATION: Kentucky

12 mins

ADAPTATION: Kentucky tells a story that could inspire those in Green Lake, Wisconsin, and all across America! Asian Carp are an invasive species in our fresh water lakes, and many have been struggling to find an effective solution. In this film we see one entrepreneur make the best of the problem by selling the fish caught in her town in Kentucky to overseas markets, transforming the problem into an environmental and economic triumph. Dir. by NatGeo Explorer Alizé Carrère



### #NatureNow

4 mins

Greta Thunberg & George Monbiot narrate this short film promoting trees as nature's natural climate solution. "Nature is a tool we can use to repair our broken climate," says George, "but only if we also leave fossil fuels in the ground."

Dir. by Tom Mustill



### Butler Farms

3 mins

Did you know Wisconsin is home to 139 hemp farms? After the decriminalization of hemp farming in most of the US, it inspired a whole new generation of farmers! A former engineer and former teacher, Lane and Kathleen, were determined and motivated to live a better life, and they found that in hemp farming. Farmed in a sustainable way, hemp has the ability to change the world for the better. We had a full Patagonia film series in 2018, and are excited to bring back another Patagonia film with Butler Farms this year.



### Diving for Balance

25 mins

Katie Leeper was working in an office in London and knew there was more to life. One New Year's Eve she made a resolution to change her life, and within four months she found herself in the Caribbean working for the Coral Restoration Foundation Curacao as a diver saving the coral reef. This woman's story inspires all of us to reflect on where we are spending our energy, and if we have more to give to the world to help make it a better place. Dir. by Sara Cornelissen & Steff Donkers



Program 1 continued



### Rewilding Honeybees

9 mins

Rewilding Honeybees analyzes our current relationship with honeybees and calls for a radical shift in beekeeping. In the United States, beekeepers are losing 45% of their hives annually, but these losses are not happening in the wild. This film tells the story of a revolutionary beekeeper's vision to restore honey bees' natural way of living. This could be a solution to saving honeybees. Dir. by Cameron Nielsen



### The Rescue Center

11 mins

Animal keeper Ade Solihin has found purpose in his life working at the Cikananga rescue center in Indonesia. At first just a job, he has grown close to the animals, and knows that he is helping to make a positive difference. In this film, we get to see rescued pangolins (the world's most trafficked animal), primates and more. Dir. by Nikki Dodd



### Every Drop Counts

3 mins

While many of our stories are international, this one is right here in our own backyard! Every Drop Counts is an ode to our community's lifeline, Green Lake. Home to relaxation, beauty and recreation, Green Lake has been around for generations, and hopefully many future generations. This film tells us the importance of keeping the water clean and safe. It takes 21 years for one single drop of water to exit the lake once it enters, so every action matters! Presented by the Green Lake Association. Dir. by Avery Rost & Marcel Hones



### Zibi Yajdan (The River Tells It)

8 mins

Made by two young Indigenous sisters, this film tells the story of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, and the relationship the Pottawatomi people have with it. The river's water gives life to the surrounding environment, as well as the people. After the Enbridge oil spill, the tribe leads the effort in an attempt to clean up the spill. Dir. by Brit Hensel & Taylor Hensel



### Eyes in the Forest

19 mins

The Amazon rainforest in Colombia is losing approximately 30 soccer fields of forest every hour. Duo Angélica Diaz-Pulido and Jorge Ahumada have set up a series of wildlife cameras throughout the forest to capture and datalog the forest's biodiversity in an attempt to thwart further deforestation. Can this new technology be a solution to help show the government and logging industries the importance of protecting these natural habitats and resources? Dir. by Ryan Ffrench



### 24 Leeches

10 mins

A heartwarming story in memoriam to the filmmaker's late son, *24 Leeches* documents their family camping and fishing trips to Lake Superior. Narrated by the boy, he expresses the impact connecting with nature has had on his childhood, emphasizing that other kids go to Disney world for vacation, and he gets to go into the wilderness. Connecting with nature brings their family closer together, brings them joy, and connecting to our Earth, something all Green Lakers can relate with. Dir. by Aaron Peterson

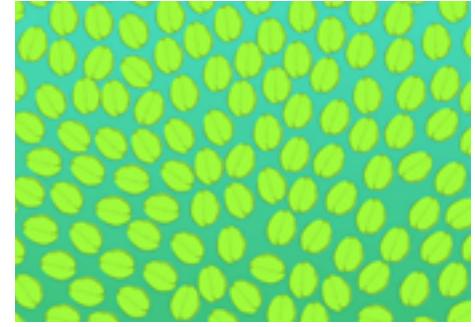
50 mins • 5 shorts



### Wetlands Create Family Memories

3 mins

Ripon Natives TJ Rogers and his father, Tom, wanted to create a recreational property for their family on some marginal farmland they owned. So with the help of USDA's National Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program, they restored their land back to wetlands. Now, the Rogers' property is not only a home to wildlife, it also cleans water and provides flood storage for communities downstream, all the way to the Fox River. Produced by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association



### There's Something in the Water

8 mins

It's not often we get some comedic relief in this festival, so we were excited to see this film! This animated doc takes us down south to Texas, where "there's two kinds of lakes in the South: them that's got Giant Salvinia and them that's about to have Giant Salvinia." Folks who live and work on Caddo Lake are brought together to try and come up with a solution to fight this freshwater invasive species (not found in Green Lake...yet). Dir. by Rory Waudby-Tolley



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**Gitxsan: Our Land, Our Culture, Our Laws**

18 mins

Gitxsan chiefs must address the overfishing crisis of Chinook (King) salmon happening on their tribal waters in British Columbia, Canada. Change-making filmmaker Farhan Umedaly joins us for the third year in a row with another stunning, powerful film about an Indigenous tribe fighting to protect their way of life.  
Dir. by Farhan Umedaly



**Where the Shrubs Grow**

9 mins

UWM Film student Jayce Kolinski takes us on a journey just off campus, to popular student hangout spot, Downer Woods. An experimental film a bit different than traditional Freeland fare, let this film take you into the woods and into another realm...where the shrubs grow. Dir. by Jayce Kolinski



**The King's Keeper**

12 mins

Once an elephant trainer in the circus, Prahlad is now an elephant keeper at a sanctuary after his beloved circus elephant went into retirement. Caring for elephants and keeping them safe is now Prahlad's priority. In this film, they expose the abuse of animals in the circus, and the transformation that both people and animals can go through when compassion and care is the focus, instead of entertainment and money.  
Dir. by Thomas Rowell



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**Shorts**  
.....  
**Program 4**

42 mins • 2 shorts



### Good Morning

12 mins

Made pre-COVID-19 as part of the Sundance Native Filmmakers Lab, this narrative film almost seems to be a premonition of what was to come. Haunted by her father's death from a global virus that has ravaged her native Navajo Nation, and now under constant surveillance from an unknown military, Crystal must learn to embrace her visions, memories and dreams in order to both survive and rediscover what may be left of the world. Dir. by MorningStar Angeline



### Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible

30 mins

On remote land in Montana sits the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, suffering from the rampant issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). A former parole officer decides he can be more useful owning a boxing gym and teaching young women self defense. This ESPN short goes beyond athleticism and shows the struggle these women go through in their daily lives, the never-ending pain of the MMIW victims' families, and also the confidence that comes with these girls' ability to protect themselves. Dir. by Kristen Lappas & Tom Rinaldi

**Shorts**  
.....  
**Program 5**

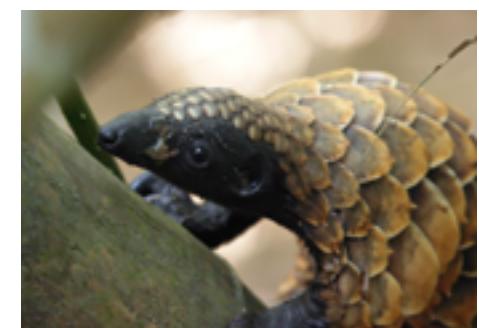
50 mins • 4 shorts



### Water Flows Together

11 mins

Diné (Navajo) woman Colleen Cooley is a river guide on the sacred San Juan River which flows through the Four Corners. While many river guides focus on having a good time, hitting big rapids, and group bonding, Cooley has a meditative method to her guides. Her focus is on connecting with the environment and teaching her guests about the history of the land and water, a physical and spiritual resource for her people. Take a seat in Cooley's boat as she takes a new river guide under her wing and teaches her traditional ways. Dir. by Taylor Graham



### Nigerians Fight to Protect the World's Most Trafficked Mammal

10 mins

Pangolins are believed to be the most trafficked mammals in the world. As the four Asian species of pangolins have dwindled, poachers are increasingly turning to the African species to supply the trade. In this short film, meet the bold Nigerians who are fighting to protect this gentle and vulnerable creature. Created with funding from National Geographic Society, this film was Produced by Katie Schuler & Mike Olcott.



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### Plants Have Wings

16 mins

Director Rose Madrone (Interconnections, festival selection in 2019) returns with her latest short film Plants Have Wings. Madrone focuses her work on seeing the interconnections in nature throughout our world - the butterfly effect. In this film, she goes to a bike race in Iowa where one inspired bicyclist decides to add more meaning to her race by creating seed pods that she can throw into the fields to help spread pollination along the way. Dir. Rose Madrone



### Kagaraja – Lord of All Animals

13 mins

Made by local Wisconsin filmmaker, Kagaraja- Lord of all Animals is a video portrait of a wildlife activist who takes us on a surprising journey. We begin in his home city, Bangalore, India, “the largest network hub for illegal wildlife trade in the world.”

Dir. by Lenore Rinder

9 mins + Extended Discussion



### Stolen Apes: Buanoi

9 mins

Returning to the Freeland Film Festival once again is award-winning filmmaker Colin Sytsma (*From Mass to the Mountain, Stolen Apes*). The only gorilla in Thailand, Buanoi, has spent the last 30 years in a concrete cage on the 7th floor of a high rise zoo. One Thai woman is looking to change that.

\*Following the film will be an extended discussion with exciting updates on Buanoi from Director Colin Sytsma.



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