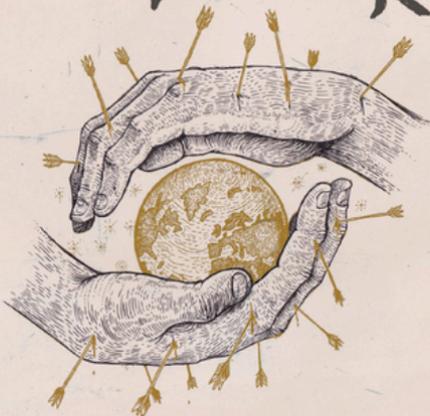




# WILD & SCENIC<sup>®</sup> FILM FESTIVAL 2020

WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28



### MOBILIZE



Artwork by Jeremy Collins



WILTON HIGH SCHOOL, LITTLE THEATRE  
395 DANBURY ROAD, WILTON CT

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM • FIRST SCREENING STARTS AT 6:30PM

9 FILMS • FOOD • REFRESHMENTS • TICKETS & INFO: [WOODCOCKNATURECENTER.ORG](http://WOODCOCKNATURECENTER.ORG)



Brought to You By:



National Partners:



# Lights. Camera. Community.



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of the Wilton Film Festival

Celebrating films that inspire conservation, community,  
and a deeper connection to the world around us.



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**WILD & SCENIC®** FILM FESTIVAL  
where activism gets inspired



# BEHIND THE SCENES :

## MEET THE ORGANIZING NON-PROFITS

We are excited to share with you some of our favorite films of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, the largest festival of its kind in the United States

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The Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and restoring the rivers and streams of lower Fairfield County.

The Norwalk River Valley Trail will be the longest trail in Fairfield County – 30 miles of trail connecting Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, Connecticut to Rogers Park in Danbury, passing through Wilton, Ridgefield, and Redding along the way.



NRWA engages community volunteers to protect and restore water quality and fish and wildlife habitats in the Norwalk River Watershed among stakeholders in seven watershed towns in CT and NY.

Inspiring, Educating And Supporting Diverse Communities Working Together To Restore And Connect Habitat For Pollinators.



Engaging, Educating & Inspiring Green Living in Wilton and beyond since 2010.

The Wilton Land Trust is a community-focused land trust dedicated to preserving land for open space, protecting biodiversity, and promoting environmental awareness and education.



The only nature center serving Wilton and Ridgefield, Woodcock Nature Center re-connects the community with nature and one another, through programming and events for all ages.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF TONIGHT'S COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS  
FOR HELPING MAKE THIS EVENT A REALITY!



# TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

- 5:30** Grab food & refreshments
  - Mix & Mingle with community organizations
  - 6:20** Grab your seats
  - 6:30** Festival Introduction
  - 10 min. intermission after Film 5
- 



Film 1: *Freya* | 4 min.

Feel inspired by 9 years old Freya, who shares how she uses climbing as a practice to lean into discomfort and fear to help her navigate her neurodiversity. The strength she gains through both are applicable and inspirational to us all.



Film 2: *Bears in Hot Tubs* | 17 min.

*Bears in Hot Tubs* is an intimate short film co-created with Maddie Bear and her kin. Set in suburban Los Angeles, it reveals black bears as sentient neighbors navigating a shared landscape. Through poetic imagery and quiet observation, the film reimagines coexistence as an invitation to co-thrive with care, empathy, and respect.



Film 3: *Friends of Frogpool Lane* | 7 min.

In "*Friends of Frogpool Lane*" we follow a group of vigilante crossing guards as they help frogs and salamanders navigate a busy road through a rainy Spring night, so these driven amphibians can arrive safely to the unique wetland that is critical for their life cycle.



Film 4: *Wingspan* | 10 min.

"*Wingspan*" Over the past six years, wildlife and conservation photographer Joshua Asel has climbed the peaks of Pinnacles National Park countless times to document the critically endangered California condor population that calls this stunning mountain range home. *Wingspan* follows Joshua on one of his expeditions and explores the vital role photography plays in creating awe and awareness for these incredible animals.



Film 5: *Norwalk River: Source to Sea Expedition* | 6 min.

The Norwalk River Source to Sea (NRS2S) expedition, in partnership with the Norwalk River Watershed Association, Brien McMahon Marine Science Academy and Norwalk High School Digital Media and Communications Academy, was a 2024 project in which expedition guides traveled the length of the Norwalk River under human power, engaging students, teachers and community in hands-on water quality and microplastics research while filming the journey.



Film 6: *Judy's Creek - Discovering the Secret Life of the Streambed* | 5 min.

"Judy's Creek - Discovering the Secret Life of the Streambed" we follow ecologist, educator, and author, Dr. Judy Li, into the world of caddisflies, the artisans of the aquatic world. With contagious passion, Judy shares how her childhood curiosity led to a career in freshwater science, and how she has found ways to share the joys of science with audiences of all ages.



Film 7: *Here the Wild Things Are* | 9 min.

In "Here the Wild Things Are" Aotearoa joins a fun, global competition where ecologists and enthusiasts scour cities to uncover the weird and wonderful wild. But can they save the planet, one photo at a time?



Film 8: *The Cost of Forever* | 23 min.

In "The Cost of Forever", we uncover the hidden and costly dangers of 'forever chemicals' in our rivers and drinking water sources, following Riverkeepers and water protectors as they strive to protect communities—and themselves—from PFAS contamination.



Film 9: *Aldo's Bug Extravaganza* | 6 min.

In "Aldo's Bug Extravaganza," join 5-year-old Aldo and his dad on a backyard safari filled with tiny wonders and big laughs. Armed with a camera and boundless curiosity, Aldo embarks on a bug-hunting escapade, narrating his discoveries with adorable wit and charm. As the week unfolds, Aldo's wide-eyed explorations not only capture the audience's imagination, but also subtly echo the timeless wisdom of Aldo Leopold, making for a delightful and endearing ode to the joy of nature's smallest marvels.



# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

## Anonymous Community Sponsors



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*Carasuzzi's*





The Wild & Scenic Film Festival was started in 2003 by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced 'circle'), a nonprofit river conservation organization located in Nevada City, CA in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. The organization was formed in 1983 when a small group of concerned citizens banded together to fight against several proposed dams. The festival's namesake is in celebration of achieving Wild & Scenic status on 39 miles of the South Yuba River in 1999. The festival celebrates its annual event in Nevada City and Grass Valley, CA each January featuring more than 100 award-winning films and welcoming filmmakers, celebrities, and activists who bring a human face to the environmental movement.

SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a call to action! Films can serve as a potent tool to educate and inspire activism and growth, and Wild & Scenic is committed to offering programming that addresses environmental injustice, racism, and inequity as well as lack of representation in the outdoors and environmental movements. The films chosen by WSFF illustrate not only the challenges facing our planet but the work communities are doing to protect the environment and the places we love. The stories give us a sense of place and what it means to be responsible stewards of the earth.

Once the curtain closes in Nevada City and Grass Valley, SYRCL shares their success with other organizations by taking the film festival On Tour to over 100 communities across the continent. The tour, now reaching over 30,000 people a year, is building a grassroots network of organizations connected by a common goal of using film to inspire activism. The festival's National Partners: Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Tangled Bank Studios, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Earthjustice, Oars Whitewater Rafting, and Nia Impact Capital have joined together to support this campaign. They help to bring these inspiring and provocative films to communities across the globe.

**Enjoy the festival!**



For more information about  
**Wild & Scenic's flagship festival and SYRCL:**  
[wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org) [yubariver.org](http://yubariver.org)

**Thank you to our National Partners:**

