



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired



April 23 | 6 to 9:30 PM | Maynard Fine Arts Theatre

Hosted by

OARS

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. 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 also 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 its 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
yubariver.org

Thank you to our National Partners:



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And heartfelt thanks to the OARS Board of Directors for their door prize donations

Thank you to our volunteers for making this evening exceptional!

A special shoutout to our emcee, [Marlies Henderson](#), and to [Jeff Collins](#), our dedicated volunteer film selector, who spent countless hours helping us curate the inspiring lineup you're enjoying tonight.

We're also deeply grateful to [Isabel Ryen](#) for organizing the evening, and to [Carol Glad](#) for her help setting up the event and making it all come together.

We couldn't do it without you!

OARS is excited to bring you our favorite films from the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour, the largest festival of its kind in the United States.

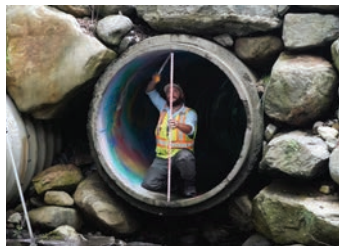
Emcee: Marlies Henderson

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE



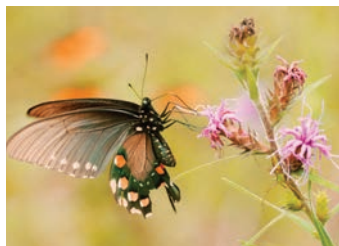
Here the Wild Things Are (9 mins)

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?



Reconnected: Restoring the Rivers of Long Island Sound (20 mins)

A documentary that highlights the importance of stream barrier removal through interviews with community members, environmental experts, and river advocates. water treatment plant on the Sunday Creek Watershed.



Alabama Roots (19 mins)

Travel across Alabama to rediscovering their native plants, meeting passionate plant people along the way who are making changes big and small in hopes of preserving the last vestiges of once vast ecosystems and Alabama's unprecedented botanical biodiversity.



Local Climate Solutions: Biodiversity & Forest Conservation in the Sierra Gorda

(8 mins) Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda leads grassroots conservation, restoring biodiversity through science-based efforts. Their carbon credit program links habitat regeneration with financial support for local communities.

INTERMISSION—25 mins



Judy's Creek-Discovering the Secret Life of the Streambed (5 mins)

Follow Dr. Judy Li into the world of caddisflies. She shares how childhood curiosity led to a career in freshwater science—and how she shares the joys of science with audiences of all ages.



Black Water (12 mins)

Once teeming with life, Lake Mai Ndombe in the Congo Basin is now depleted and local communities face starvation. The vanishing fish population can be traced back to an unlikely culprit, but they have a hopeful solution that could turn the tide.



Canyon Chorus (17 mins)

Join Mikah Meyer, his mentor Larry, and friends as they journey down Utah's Green River in Desolation Canyon—a river trip centered on friendship and joy. Canyon Chorus is about being your true self in the outdoors, advocacy, and honoring the important people in our lives.



Friends of Frogpool Lane (7 mins)

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.

With heartfelt thanks to the
Mass Cultural Council
for their generous support of the 2025 Wild
& Scenic Film Festival.



Mass
Cultural
Council

Their commitment to arts, culture, and
community helps make this event possible.



Commitment that could
only come from
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