

# Some Selections from the 2008 ACFF Season

**American Outrage** *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.*

**Burning the Future: Coal in America** *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.*

**Carpa Diem** *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.*

**Colour Talks** *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.*

**Fish and Cow: A Story of Restoring the Upper Big Hole Valley** *Winner of the student filmmaker award, 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.*

**FLOW: For the Love of Water** *Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st 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 of a domineering world water cartel. Flow introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the worldwide water grab, and asks the question, "Can anyone really own water?"*

**In the Valley of the Wolves** *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.*

**King Corn** *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.*

**The Lord God Bird** *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.*

**Plight of the Puffin** *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.*

**Red Gold** *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.*

**Where do Children Play?** *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.*



## AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL

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## AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# American Conservation Film Festival

The motivating force behind the American Conservation Film Festival is the power of imagery to inform and inspire. ACFF is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting outstanding films and the arts to educate and inspire people to become engaged in conservation.

Based in Shepherdstown WV, in 2008 ACFF celebrated its sixth year of presenting high quality films at its annual fall festival at little or no charge.



These films explore the relationships between people, culture, nature, and the environment — inspiring audiences to reexamine their personal relationships with the world around them. This focus on the intersection of people and the environment gives the American Conservation Film Festival its distinctive voice.

ACFF seeks independently produced films that explore the range of human experience. ACFF also partners with broadcast producers to bring high-quality, evocative films to the big screen – films which have had limited screenings in a theater setting.



ACFF brings filmmakers and audiences together in dialogue. Part of the ACFF commitment is to examine the topics explored through the films and promote understanding of both the artistic process and the environment.

## Filmmakers Value the ACFF Experience

A dedication to filmmakers is a distinguishing feature of ACFF. The festival provides free lodging and meals to filmmakers whose work is presented. We provide them a four-day retreat in a beautiful riverside arts town where they are the main attraction.



# American Conservation Film Festival 2008 Accomplishments

- We screened 32 films submitted to us from filmmakers across the U.S. and 5 countries at our 4-day festival November 6-9, 2009.
- Winners of our Student Competition, Geoff Stephens and Rick Smith, received a \$500 cash award.
- Our Children's Festival included a workshop on reptiles by Critters & Conservation, and live parrots from the parrot rescue group, Phoenix Landing.
- The Conservation in Context discussion series features more than a dozen speakers, including filmmakers and conservation experts, on a variety of topics raised in the films.
- We continued our Traveling Festival with evenings of films at the Howard County Conservancy in Maryland and the Medomak Valley Land Trust in Maine.
- We hosted an evening of films by Lawrence Cumbo, including his popular, *Search for the Afghan Girl*, made while he was with National Geographic. Lawrence and his producer, David Royle (now with the Smithsonian Channel) shared stories about the challenges of making a film in Afghanistan.
- The ACFF Board expanded its capacity, recruiting new members with extensive nonprofit arts management and conservation experience.
- Our new festival manager, Tatiana Petrone, joined us in July 2008 to help develop our programs and improve our festival even further.



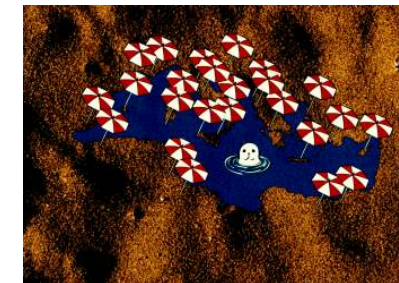
## FY 2008 Revenue

Businesses	\$5,000.00
Individual	\$5,000.00
Program Service Revenue	\$3,500.00
In-kind	\$40,486.00
Foundations, Nonprofits	\$35,000.00
Board Giving	\$2,500.00
Traveling Festival Income	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$96,486.00</b>

## FY 2008 Expenses

Salaries and Wages	\$32,600.00
Program Service Expense	\$19,000.00
Printing and Design	\$5,000.00
Theater/Office Rent	\$20,986.00
Insurance	\$2,200.00
Postage	\$500.00
Marketing and Advertising	\$5,000.00
Office Expenses	\$700.00
Website Expenses	\$500.00
Licenses and Other Taxes	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,536.00</b>

## Income to Reserves \$9,950.00



## Major Donors

- PRODUCERS (\$10,000+)**  
Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment
- DIRECTORS (\$5,00-\$9,999)**  
Carl M. Freeman Foundation  
West Virginia Humanities Council
- ASSISTANT DIRECTORS (\$1,000-\$4,999)**  
Martin Burke & Barbara Spicher
- STARS (\$500-\$999)**  
Friends of NCTC  
West Virginia Film Office
- SUPPORTING CAST (\$250-\$499)**  
John Amos & Amy Mathews Amos  
Neal & Alice Barkus  
John McGrath  
Bowles Rice, LLC

## Board of Directors

- Amy Mathews Amos, President  
Catherine Irwin, VP External Affairs  
Charles Dunkerly, VP Festival Programming  
Susan Womeldorf, Secretary  
Anne Sechler, Treasurer  
Steve Chase, NCTC Liaison  
Keith Alexander, Board Member  
Alex Kemnitzer, Board Member  
Mark Madison, Board Member  
Stan Mopsik, Board Member  
Wendy Mopsik, Board Member

## Staff

- Tatiana Petrone, Festival Manager  
Candice Byrne, Festival Assistant