

# CONSERVE SAUK

## FILM FESTIVAL

# 2019 Film Guide



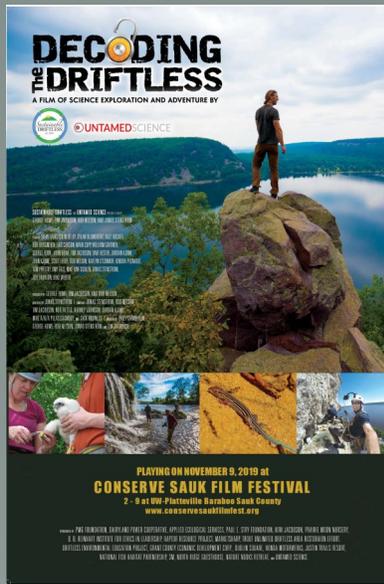
Conserve Sauk Film Festival is supported in part by a grant from the Sauk County UW Extension, Arts, & Culture Committee and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



**The Biggest Little Farm**  
Documentary • USA • 2019 • 91 MIN  
5:30 PM • Sauk County Pheasants  
Forever Theater

Director: John Chester; Producer: Sandra Keats; Executive Producer: Laurie David, Erica Messer; Writer: Mark Monroe; Composer: Jeff Beal; Editor: Amy Overbeck

*The Biggest Little Farm* chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts the Chesters unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination. Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's Call, *The Biggest Little Farm* provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.



**Decoding the Driftless - A FILM OF SCIENCE EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 61 MIN  
4:00 PM • Sauk County Pheasants  
Forever Theater  
6:30 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides  
Room

Director: Jonas Stenstrom; Producer: George Howe, Timothy Jacobson; Writer: Rob Nelson, Haley Chamberlain

Join us for a wild ride of adventure above, on, and below the amazing Driftless Region! Emmy- winning filmmakers George Howe, Tim Jacobson, Rob Nelson, and Neil Rettig have teamed up with Jonas Stenstrom of Untamed Science, to capture fantastic footage of the Driftless Region, and weave it into a compelling story, in a way never done before. You'll soar over ancient rugged bluffs, skim the surface of primordial rivers, venture deep underground to mysterious secret worlds, marvel at sacred archeological treasures, and hang perilously over massive rock cliffs. One thing for sure, you'll never forget this film, and you'll want to share it with everyone you know!



**Farmer's Footprint - REGENERATION: THE BEGINNING**  
Documentary • USA • 2019 • 20 MIN

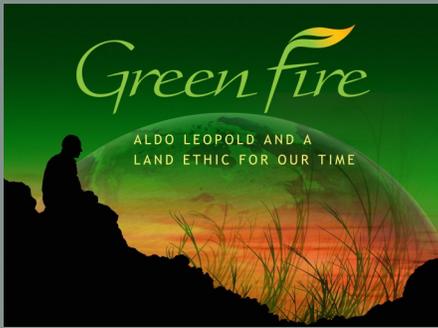
4:00 PM • Friends of Devil's Lake  
State Park Theater  
6:30 PM • Friends of Devil's Lake  
State Park Theater

Director: Nicol Ragland; Executive Producer: Dr. Zach Bush; Editor: Melissa Huffsmith-Roth; Producer/Supervising Editor: Amy Janes; Associate Producer: Jenn Perell Bush

**A PATH TO SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD INDEPENDENCE**

*Farmer's Footprint* is a coalition of farmers, educators, doctors, scientists, and business leaders aiming to expose the human and environmental impacts of chemical farming and offer a path forward through regenerative agricultural practices. The film *Regeneration: The Beginning* seeks to expose the science behind glyphosate's impact on human and environmental health through the lens of human stories that illuminate the health and economic impacts on farmers and our communities and supported by the medical finding of our team of researchers including founder, Zach Bush, MD.





### **Green Fire: ALDO LEOPOLD & A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME**

Documentary • USA • 2011 • 56 MIN

2:30 PM • Sauk County Pheasants Forever Theater

6:30 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

Director: David Steinke, Steve Dunsky;  
Onscreen Guide: Curt Meine; Editors: Steve Dunsky, Ann Dunsky; Writer: Stephen Most

*Green Fire* was produced through a partnership between the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Center for Humans and Nature, and the U.S. Forest Service. The film examines Leopold's idea of a land ethic and its relevance to a population facing 21st century ecological challenges. His biographer, conservation biologist Curt Meine, serves as the film's onscreen guide. The film describes the formation and evolution of Leopold's idea, exploring how it changed one man and later permeated all arenas of conservation. By presenting examples of the deep impact of his thinking on current conservation projects around the world, the film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the natural world.



### **Journey of the Whooping Crane**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 60 MIN

2:30 PM • Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Theater

5:30 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

Director/Producer: Greg Pope, Rhett Turner; Narration: Paul Christie

*Journey of the Whooping Crane* is a natural history documentary produced for Georgia Public Broadcasting illustrating the remarkable life story of Whooping Cranes. At five feet tall, with a wingspan over seven feet, the Whooping Crane has the distinction of being North America's tallest bird and sadly, also one of its rarest. Habitat loss and hunting pressure from European settlers in the late 1800s reduced the population of this iconic animal to just 21 wild cranes by 1944. Since then, in an intense effort to protect and restore the species, a broad coalition of NGOs, private interests, and government agencies has worked collectively and tirelessly to nurture the remaining wild flock to its current population of about six hundred birds.



### **Community Conservation: Living in the Park**

Documentary • USA • 2006 • 60 MIN

5:00 PM • Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Theater

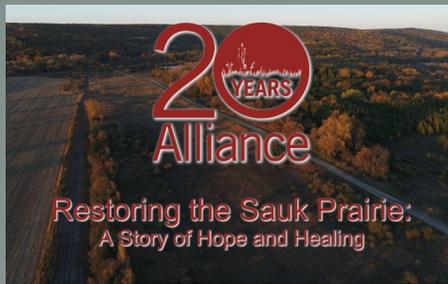
6:30 PM • The Nature Conservancy Room

Writer/Producer: Dave Erickson;  
Executive Producer: Kay Klubertabz;  
Narration: Michael Hanson; Editor: Frank Boll

This one-hour production travels from the Central American rainforest to the hidden valleys of western Wisconsin's Driftless area. From Caribbean beaches to crane marshes along the Russian/Chinese border, we learn how communities and private landowners are taking responsibility for their local flora and fauna.

Community conservation is at the core of the current debate on environmental policy. Former secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt addresses this idea while visiting ecologist Aldo Leopold's legendary "shack" along the Wisconsin River. Leopold's daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley, and his biographer, Curt Meine, tell how his 1948 book, "A Sand County Almanac," provides a context for community conservation.





**Restoring the Sauk Prairie**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 27 MIN

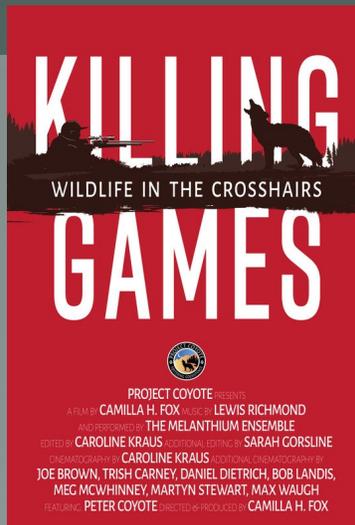
2:30 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

4:30 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

7:00 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

Director: Kurt Wenger, Jeff Elsoffer;  
Writer: Charlie Luthin, Curt Meine;  
Producer: Kurt Wenger, Jeff Elsoffer

When the US Army announced in 1997 that it was decommissioning the 7,400-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant between Baraboo and Sauk City, a group of citizens joined together to craft and promote a "green vision" for the old Army facility. Through determination, perseverance and pluck, the group prevailed and the property has become a large open area, half of which is managed by the Wisconsin DNR as the newest addition to the state park system. This 26-minute video is the 20-year story of the transformation of a military facility with 1400 buildings into a green space open to the public for diverse recreational and educational activities.



**Killing Games: Wildlife in the Crosshairs**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 30 MIN

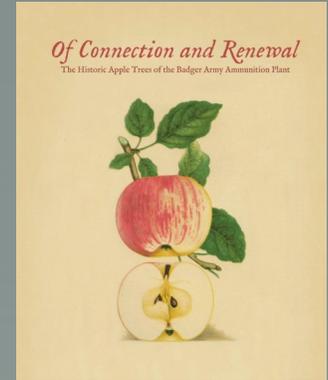
2:30 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

4:30 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

5:30 PM • Friends of Campus, Inc. Room

Director/Producer/Writer: Camilla H. Fox;  
Editor/Cinematographer: Caroline Kraus;  
Composer: Lewis Richmond; Editor: Sarah Gorsline

On any given weekend, some of America's most iconic wildlife are massacred in wildlife killing contests. Bloodied bodies are weighed and stacked like cords of wood, and prizes are awarded to the "hunters" who kill the largest or the most of a targeted species. Coyotes, bobcats, wolves and foxes are common victims of these contests; children as young as 10 are encouraged to participate. Fueled by anti-predator bias, these legally sanctioned but relatively unknown contests are cruel and foster ignorance about the critical role apex predators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems. In the groundbreaking exposé *Killing Games*, Project Coyote Advisory Board Member Peter Coyote with environmentalists, ranchers, public officials and Native Americans brings these shadowy contests to light and speaks out against this hidden war on wildlife. *Killing Games* inspires viewers to call on their state and local legislators to ban these brutal contests where wildlife become living targets.



**Of Connection & Renewal: The Historic Apple Trees of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 9 MIN

4:00 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

4:30 PM • Friends of Campus, Inc. Room

6:00 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

Director/Producer Anders Gurda; Writer: Curt Meine, Anders Gurda

Immediately following the engagement of the US in World War II, 80 farm families on the Sauk Prairie were given 60 days to leave their farms and find a new home, as the Army needed almost 10,000 acres to construct a massive munitions plant. Homes, barns, and outbuildings were removed or destroyed, as were the schools and churches associated with the farm community. All that remained were landscape plants like lilacs and daylilies and a number of apple trees planted by the farmers and their ancestors. During bird surveys on the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in 1998, DNR biologist Mike Mossman discovered the "historic apple trees," trees that survived WWII! In the intervening years, these trees have been located, mapped and are now being preserved and propagated to memorialize the original Sauk Prairie farmers and their descendants.





## Fight for Flight

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 16 MIN

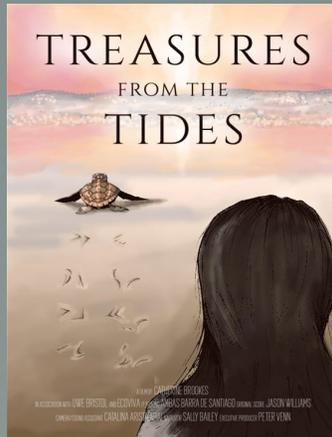
3:30 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

5:30 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

6:30 PM • *Friend of the Campus, Inc. Room*

Director: Jason Whalen, Chris Zuker;  
Music: John Berry; Produced by Fauna Creative

Each year, millions of birds migrate through the Great Lakes between northern breeding grounds and tropical overwintering grounds. The Fight for Flight highlights this natural phenomenon and the people who interact with these birds. As technology progresses, we are learning more about how we impact these birds during migration. The film tells stories of the research, rehabilitation and conservation involved in understanding and protecting the birds making this epic journey.



## Treasures from the Tides

Documentary • United Kingdom • 2018 • 16 MIN

4:00 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

5:00 PM • *Friends of the Campus, Inc. Room*

6:00 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

Director/Writer/Producer: Catherine Brookes; Narrator: Sally Bailey; Music: Jason Williams; Camera/Sound Assistant: Catalina Aristizabal

*Treasures from the Tides* tells the story of one small community's fight to protect the sea turtles of El Salvador. The precious turtle eggs laid on these shores have long been threatened by poachers, but a dedicated all-female local team is providing hope for this vulnerable species. As awareness rises about the shocking impacts that ocean plastics and climate change are having on our marine species, a lesser-known threat is often overlooked. This film aims to shed light on the vast-scale issue that is the poaching of sea turtle eggs, while giving recognition to an amazing community of people whose dedication to turtle conservation is truly inspirational.



## Bracelets for Birds

Documentary • USA • 2015 • 34 MIN

2:30 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

4:30 PM • *The Nature Conservancy Room*

7:00 PM • *Friend of the Campus, Inc. Room*

Director/Producer: Charles Johannsen

*Bracelets for Birds* is about the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (SBBO) in Winnebago County, Illinois, telling the hows and whys of banding migratory birds. SBBO has trapped, banded and released 350,000 birds since it began in 1967. In a typical year, the banding station puts up nets and starts banding spring migratory birds in late March. During autumn, SBBO sets up additional facilities for trapping and banding migrating hawks and owls. Studying thousands of birds over decades brings to light changes in bird populations and the issues facing birds today. The video features amazing birds, beautiful still photographs, anecdotes, and scientific information. SBBO is an all-volunteer organization that is one of the largest (in number of birds banded) in this part of the continent. The facility is open to the public and free to visit.





**Country Roads**

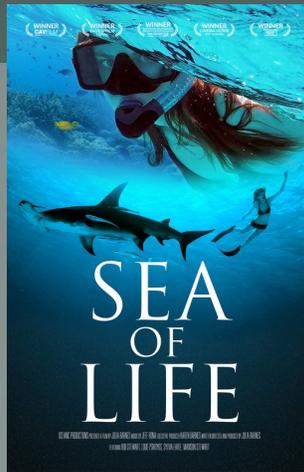
Documentary • USA • 2019 • 4 MIN

3:30 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

5:30 PM • Devil's Lake Climbing Guides Room

Director/Writer/Producer: Matt Oehmichen

Leopold wrote that conservation is a state of harmony between us and the land. In Wisconsin we have lost that balance. Our state is facing a water crisis from loss of soil health on farmland. Agriculture is not blameless, but it is the solution, by implementing conservation practices like minimum tillage, adaptive rotations and continuous cover. In this film a small town farm kid laments the issues, but is optimistic, encouraged from the great work being done by those who live out on the country roads. This isn't Wisconsin. It's time we move forward, and get to work.



**Sea of Life: Ocean Acidification**

Documentary • Canada • 2018 • 4 MIN

3:00 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

4:30 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

Director/Producer/Writer: Julia Barnes;

I never intended to become a filmmaker but when I watched Rob Stewart's Documentary *Revolution* everything changed. I was 16 years old, learning for the first time that the world's coral reefs, rainforests and fisheries are expected to disappear within my lifetime. Every species I loved, every ecosystem we depend on was in jeopardy. Action became a necessity and the journey to make *Sea of Life* began. I bought a couple of cameras, learned to dive, and set out on a mission to expose the biggest threats facing the ocean.

This is an excerpt from the feature-length film, *Sea of Life*.



**Manchar The Last of the Lake People**

Documentary • Pakistan • 4 MIN

3:30 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

5:30 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

Director: Aftab Abbasi; Producer: Tauseed Haider; DOP: Javed Akhtar; Editor: Kamran Fazal

*Manchar Last of the Lake People* is aimed to raise awareness about the dire situation the ecology of Machar faces. Manchar is one of the biggest lakes of Asia that used to be home to thousands of fishermen, migratory birds from across the globe and a flourishing thriving flora sustaining wide varieties of fauna especially fish. It is a story of a paradise lost due to the pollution caused by an industrial drain which has all but destroyed the ecosystem of Manchar and along with it the livelihood of the lake people.



**Voices of the Forest**

Documentary • Mexico • 2018 • 15 MIN

4:00 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

6:00 PM • Bekah Kate's Room

Director: Jorge Ramos Luna; Producer/Writer: Juan Carlos Serio Silva;

Wildlife conservation is a community effort. In the southern state of Tabasco, Mexico, Black Howler Monkeys are under constant threat due to the loss of their habitat. At the Estación de Investigación Primatológica y Vida Silvestre in Balancan, research and education focuses on the ecology, behavior, human interactions and conservation of this species. This film portrays the close relationship of these efforts, and this species with local people. It documents how this community and conservationists came together to revitalize the site after the loss of the station's director, and thus continue their collective dream to conserve the Black Howler.



**10K by 2020**

Documentary • USA • 2019 • 5 MIN

2:30 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

4:00 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

Director/Writer/Producer: Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

The conservation program at Upham Woods seeks to engage people, especially youth, with the management of our land and connect them with Wisconsin's established conservation ethic. Since the beginning of Upham, youth involved in conservation have been a part of who we are. We are celebrating our commitment to conservation by contributing 10,000 hours of service to this landscape over by the end of 2020. Our 10k by 2020 Conservation Challenge aims to get us closer to restoring our oak forest and protecting our unique northern ecosystem.



**Youth Hunt Unleaded**

Documentary • USA • 2018 • 15 MIN

3:30 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

5:00 PM • International Crane Foundation Room

Director: Cherin Spencer Bower, Craig Jourdonnais, Mike McTee, Mike Henning, Alan Ramsey, Philip Ramsey; Producer: Cherin Spencer Bower

MPG Ranch is a conservation property in western Montana with an education program that promotes youth hunting. This video follows hunters as they pursue antlerless elk on the ranch during the 2017/2018 season and covers our use of non-lead ammunition. We use public hunting to control deer and elk populations. MPG Ranch hunt coordinators Dr. Philip Ramsey, Mike Henning, and Craig Jourdonnais guide the hunters. Mike McTee conducts studies on non-lead hunting and the environmental impact.



**Low White Sky**

Documentary • USA • 2017 • 33 MIN

2:30 PM • Friends of Campus, Inc. Room

Director/Editor: Magdalena Reilly, Joseph Reilly; Writer: Joesphy Reilly; Director of Photography: Magdalena Reilly

*Low White Sky* is an exploration of alternatives to our current agricultural systems. The film focuses on vertical farming, permaculture and urban gardening while featuring interviews with Dr. Dickson Despommier and Tao Wimbusch.

The filmmakers envisioned it as a meditation and memory while infusing traditional aspects of documentary filmmaking, to explore solutions that can be achieved in our society today.



**Aldo Leopold at Faville Grove**

Documentary • USA • 2004 • 44 MIN

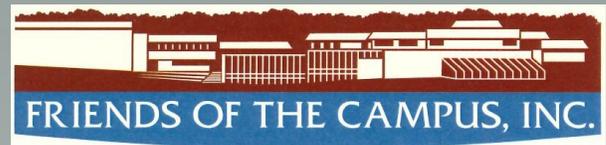
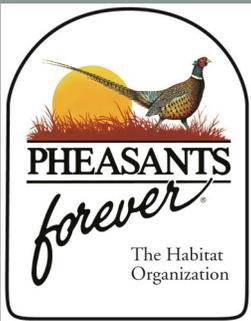
3:30 PM • Friends of Campus, Inc. Room

Director/Producer : Charles Johannsen

This is the story of Professor Aldo Leopold's efforts at Faville Grove, near Lake Mills in Southeastern Wisconsin, marking the beginning of prairie preservation as a public endeavor. The video also touches upon the beginnings of prairie restoration: the public prairie plantings at the UW Arboretum, and the Leopold family project at "the shack" in Sauk County. Highlights of the video include interviews with three of Leopold's children, one of his graduate students, and with others who knew him. Also included is an essay, "Exit Orchis", written by Professor Leopold, but never published. Botanical footage of prairie plants, especially the rare Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, is interspersed throughout the film. Rounding out the story are archival photos of Wisconsin's past, balanced with more recent activities of the local conservation/restoration community.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

## GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



---

## SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

