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INDIANA'S WILD BEAUTY THE FOCUS OF ONE-NIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

- **WHEN:** Sunday, February 17: Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; show runs from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington
- **TICKETS:** \$25; \$15 for students w/ ID; \$10 youth. Tickets available via the Buskirk-Chumley box office in advance, at the door night-of, or at <https://www.bctboxoffice.org/>. The event benefits the [Indiana Forest Alliance](#).
- **PRESS IMAGES:** downloadable from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/139729494@N08/albums/72157677855078588>

An evocative collection of locally-produced films documenting the history and future of Indiana's environment headline this year's [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) presented by the Indiana Forest Alliance. with [IU's Integrated Program on the Environment](#) as the title sponsor.

"What you'll get if you come to this film festival is a sense of wonder about our environment and a connection to people who enjoy it and work to protect it," says Sandra Messner, development director at the Indiana Forest Alliance, who will also emcee the one-night event featuring eight nature-related film shorts.

"You'll also get to choose from a dizzying variety of raffle items to bid on," she adds. "Local businesses really stepped up to contribute valuable items that are going to be really popular." **Prizes** include hand-crafted furniture, bed n' breakfast stays, and a customized birding/canoe trip for five people.

Films about the cultural future of the White River (produced by Indiana Humanities), a journey through Indiana's habitats and seasons (produced by WTIU), and an animated short about Indiana's imperiled forests are **program highlights**. Other films address light pollution, the conflict between native animals and urban sprawl, and racial diversity in the world of outdoor recreation.

"Toe-tapping, local Americana **music** is another reason to attend the festival," says IFA board member Dave Seastrom, a member of the festival planning committee. "Forest Gras does great blues and The Hammer and the Hatchet does great bluegrass--the perfect complements to the films about our natural heritage."

The event is a **benefit** for the Indiana Forest Alliance, whose mission is to preserve and restore Indiana's native hardwood ecosystem for the enjoyment of all. IFA led the campaign to protect public forests, including Yellowwood State Forest, from logging. The program will also include an update from IFA Executive Director Jeff Stant about **pro-forest legislation** now pending in the Indiana General Assembly.

"This year's festival has a record number of **sponsors**, including IU Integrated Program on the

Environment, Wasatch Lake, JL Waters Outfitters, NUVO, White Rabbit Copy Service & Digital Printing, and Wild Tecumseh Friends,” said Messner. Additional sponsors include Dan Antes Marquetry, Do317.com, Indiana Humanities, Indy Urban Hardwood, Tanner’s Creek Whiskey & WTIU.

The Wild & Scenic Film Fest is presented by the Indiana Forest Alliance & organized as a touring festival by the South Yuba River Citizens League in California.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival **steering committee** includes Julie James, Joan Staubach, Mark Dawson, Lora Kemp, David Seastrom, Sandra Messner and Lora Bowman.

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About Indiana Forest Alliance: IFA is a non-profit, statewide organization founded in 1996 and dedicated to preserving and restoring Indiana’s native hardwood forest ecosystem for the enjoyment of all.