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Environmental Film Festival Kicks Off Earth Month in Fort Wayne

(Indianapolis—March 4, 2020) The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) is kicking off Earth Month in Fort Wayne with its popular Wild & Scenic Film Festival (WSFF) on March 22. The film lineup features 10 films, two of which were produced in Indiana. Teardrop Pictures, a film company based in Indianapolis, produced *Snag in the Plan*. This film documents the story of IFA's search for the once common Northern long-eared bat. IFA's short animated film *Our Imperiled Forests* examines the threats to Indiana's state forests and how Hoosiers can work to protect them.

The full lineup features films from diverse storytellers and settings, including the conservation efforts of a Rwandan park ranger. Another film follows the story of a group of Indigenous women fighting against fossil fuel pollution in Louisiana. The festival will also include a raffle and Indiana musicians, The Hammer & The Hatchet and Chris Wolf.

In recognition of 50 years of Earth Day, area conservation organizations are coming together to share their work with Festival attendees. Those include Marquee Sponsor, Purdue University Fort Wayne Environmental Resource Center (ERC), as well as representatives from a number of area organizations who work in and around Fort Wayne.

"We're proud to be local supporters of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in its Fort Wayne inauguration. The opportunity for the ERC to collaborate with Indiana Forest Alliance for this film festival and bring likeminded people onto campus is something we hope to continue for years to come!" said Bruce A. Kingsbury, Ph.D., Purdue University Fort Wayne professor, associate dean of Arts and Sciences, and director of the ERC.

Organizations to be represented at the WSFF include: Citizens Action Coalition; City Nature Challenge Fort Wayne; Friends of Salamonie; League of Women Voters—Fort Wayne; Little River Wetlands Project; Owen Putnam Friends of the Forest; Save Maumee; Sierra Club; Solarize Indiana; and Wild Tecumseh Friends.

For IFA staff, the Festival has become a highlight of the year in Bloomington and all indications suggest that the Festival will be well received in Fort Wayne!

"The Festival provides an opportunity for environmental advocacy and education for attendees," said Elizabeth Tollefson, IFA's director of development. "This Festival is a wonderful opportunity for Hoosiers who love Indiana forests to come together for an entertaining evening and leave feeling inspired. You are guaranteed to learn something new!"

This year's sponsors include:

Indiana Forest Alliance; 2123 N. Meridian St.; Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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- Marquee level: Purdue University Fort Wayne Environmental Resource Center and Indiana University Integrated Program in the Environment
- Spotlight level: Do317; Greenscape Geeks; Indiana Originals; J.L. Waters Adventure Outfitters; Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.; and Tanner's Creek
- Patron level: Wasatch Lake and Wild Tecumseh Friends
- Feature level: IBEW Local 481; Craig, Kelley & Faultless; Zeller Insurance; and the Sierra Club

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival, presented by the Indiana Forest Alliance, is organized by the South Yuba River Citizens League in California. 2020 marks the 18th year of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival nationally.

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

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Media Resources

Film Lineup: <http://bit.ly/WSFF-FortWayne>

Festival Image Stills: <http://bit.ly/Images-WSFF-Indiana>

Fort Wayne Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Date: March 22, 2020, 6 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm

Location: Rhinehart Recital Hall, 2101 Coliseum Blvd. E, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Tickets: \$25; \$15 for students with a valid ID

Online ticket sales: <http://bit.ly/WSFF-FortWayneTickets>

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