



American Conservation Film Festival – NORTH!

at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

FRIDAY, MARCH 6th

7:00 – 7:45 pm	<p><i>Flight of the Butterflies</i> Filmmaker: Mike Slee</p> <p>Following the year-long annual migration cycle of the butterflies, the award-winning production team filmed hundreds of millions of monarchs in their remote overwintering sanctuaries in Mexico in 2011 and again in 2012 and also along their migratory routes from Canada, across the U.S. and into Mexico.</p> <p>The monarch butterfly is a true marvel of nature. Weighing less than a penny, it makes one of the longest migrations on Earth across a continent to a place it has never known. Follow the monarchs' perilous journey and experience millions of them in the remote mountain peaks of Mexico, with breathtaking cinematography from an award winning team including Oscar® winner Peter Parks. Be captivated by the true and compelling story of an intrepid scientist's 40-year search to find their secret hideaway. Unravel the mysteries and experience the <i>Flight of the Butterflies</i>.</p>
8:00 – 9:00 pm	<p><i>From Billions to None – The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction</i> Filmmaker: David Mrazek</p> <p>September 1, 2014 marked the centennial of the end of a species, when “Martha,” the last known passenger pigeon, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. These sleek and beautiful birds darkened entire skies by the billions for millennia, yet they were driven to extinction – by us – in a matter of a few decades.</p> <p>Naturalist and author Joel Greenberg, along with scientists and artists, reveal the bird’s compelling story and striking relevance to conservation issues today. Stunning animation recreates massive flocks that blocked the sun, “as by an eclipse.”</p>

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

9:30 – 9:45 am	<p><i>Voices of the Great Marsh</i> Filmmaker: Eight Towns and the Bay</p> <p>In March of 2001, the Eight Towns and the Great Marsh Committee in cooperation with organizations such as Mass Audubon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local citizens and students, produced a short videotape about the Great Marsh.</p> <p>“Our primary goal in making this videotape is to capture, before it’s too late, the stories of the Great Marsh, its significance to our natural and cultural heritage, and the need for us to protect it for future generations. We will promote the value of this resource and place it in the context of the historical landscape, by illustrating uses of the marsh over time, its economic benefits, its value for recreation, and its importance as habitat for countless plant and animal species.”</p>
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9:45 – 10:15 am	<p><i>Ribbon of Sand</i> Filmmaker: John Grabowska</p> <p>The famed Outer Banks of the Carolina coast are a slim and moving line of sand in the open Atlantic. Many travelers think they know these islands, but south of Ocracoke Inlet there rises a luminous bar of sand almost sixty miles in extent, with no roads, no bridges, no hotels: the wild, remote beaches of Cape Lookout, one of the few remaining natural barrier island systems in the world. At once an exaltation and elegy, <i>Ribbon of Sand</i> profiles this seascape and the transitory islands doomed to disappear. The film features writings by environmental pioneer Rachel Carson, interpreted by Academy Award-winner Meryl Streep.</p>
10:30 – 11:30 am	<p><i>Magic of the Snowy Owl</i> Filmmakers: Fergus Beeley and Matt Hamilton</p> <p>A pair of snowy owls struggles to raise a family on the unforgiving Arctic. Filmmakers take us deep into the snowy owl's tundra home on the North Slope of Alaska to observe the daily struggles involved in raising a family of owlets until they are ready and able to fly.</p>
11: 45 am – 12:30 pm	<p><i>Flight of the Butterflies</i> Filmmaker: Mike Slee</p> <p>See Friday night synopsis.</p>
Lunch Break	
1:30 – 2:45 pm	<p><i>Chasing Ice</i> Filmmakers: Jeff Orlowski & James Balog (Rated PG-13)</p> <p>In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a skeptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.</p> <p><i>Chasing Ice</i> is the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet. Within months of that first trip to Iceland, the photographer conceived the boldest expedition of his life: The Extreme Ice Survey. With a band of young adventurers in tow, Balog began deploying revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.</p> <p>As the debate polarizes America and the intensity of natural disasters ramps up globally, Balog finds himself at the end of his tether. Battling untested technology in subzero conditions, he comes face to face with his own mortality. It takes years for Balog to see the fruits of his labor. His hauntingly beautiful videos compress years into seconds and capture ancient mountains of ice in motion as they disappear at a breathtaking rate. <i>Chasing Ice</i> depicts a photographer trying to deliver evidence and hope to our carbon-powered planet.</p>
3:00 – 4:00 pm	<p><i>The Ends of the Earth: Alaska's Wild Peninsula</i> Filmmaker: John Grabowska</p> <p>The Alaska Peninsula is a cloud-cloaked land of active volcanoes, rolling tundra and the greatest concentration of the largest bears on earth. The writings of naturalist Loren Eiseley inspire <i>The Ends of the Earth</i>, a filmic profile of a landscape where bears outnumber people and the sockeye salmon run is the most prolific in the world. At the base of the peninsula lies Katmai National Park, a wilderness larger Yellowstone and Yosemite – combined. Farther down the peninsula a giant volcanic caldera emerges on the horizon, so remote that more people climb Everest than visit Aniakchak.</p>

4:15 – 5:15 pm	<p><i>The Queen of Trees</i> Filmmakers: Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone</p> <p>The remarkable story of an African fig tree and the special relationship it has with the animals who depend on it. The fig tree and fig wasp differ in size a billion times over, but neither could exist without the other. Their extraordinary relationship is a pinnacle of co-evolution, and the basis of a complex web of dependency that supports animals from ants to elephants. Each individual fig is a microcosm - a stage set for birth, sex and death as the tiny players battle against predators and parasites to fulfill their mission. It is one of the most amazing stories in the natural world - a tale of intrigue and drama, set against grand Africa and its wildlife.</p>
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Dinner Break

7:00 – 8:30 pm	<p><i>The Power of One Voice: A 50 Year Perspective on the Life of Rachel Carson</i> Filmmaker: Mark Dixon Film will be introduced by Carson scholar Dr. Patricia DeMarco</p> <p>Rachel Carson is widely regarded as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century. She grew up in Springdale, Pennsylvania, where she witnessed first-hand the beauty and genius of nature juxtaposed with the ecological devastation caused by industrialization. Carson’s widely recognized talent as a writer, combined with her deep knowledge of the natural world, made her a potent advocate for the use of precaution when working with biological systems. In 1962 her best-selling book, <i>Silent Spring</i>, awoke the environmental consciousness of America with poignant words of caution in the face of rapidly advancing scientific progress.</p> <p>This film pulls insights from a variety of speakers at a 50-year anniversary celebration of <i>Silent Spring</i> held at Chatham University and The National Aviary on April 11-12, 2012. Rachel Carson’s adopted son, Roger Christie, her biographer, Linda Lear, and other notable writers, scientists and advocates reflect on the impact and lessons learned from her life and work.</p> <p>Today, Rachel Carson stands as a role model and inspiration for people across the globe, even as the controversy created by her challenge to the chemical industry continues unabated. We hope that, by highlighting the power of Carson’s voice, we may inspire others to add their voices to this essential conversation. [Synopsis written by Mark Dixon and Patricia Demarco]</p> <p>*The film will be preceded by a brief slide presentation – <i>A Rachel Carson/Parker River NWR Sense of Place</i> – featuring images of the refuge, quotes by Ms. Carson, and set to music.</p>
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SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

2:00 – 3:00 pm	<p><i>Magic of the Snowy Owl</i> Filmmakers : Fergus Beeley and Matt Hamilton</p> <p>See Saturday morning synopsis.</p>
3:15 – 4:00 pm	<p><i>Chasing Ice</i> Filmmakers: Jeff Orlowski and James Balog</p> <p>See Saturday afternoon synopsis.</p>