

The Whaleback Festival

by Dyanna Smith, May 6, 2011

Roam Portsmouth for the weekend of May 14th and you will see a beautiful, scenic biography of Aldo Leopold, talk with filmmakers about climate change, remember being a child in the woods, and help create environmental art sculpture. And be sure to have your phone handy to follow the trail of images and haiku hidden in bar code tags scattered out from Market Square. All of this is open to you through the Whaleback Environmental Film & Art Festival. The Festival is a new community event that is timed with the Sustainability Fair and organized by the Red Eft Project, a nonprofit conservation organization that is headquartered here in Portsmouth.

For three days, Whaleback invites you to six films, four art installations, two parties and lots of interesting conversation and new ideas. The films chosen for Whaleback will each take you on a journey. Visit the Anderson Farm in Massachusetts that is forever protected as working farmland for our future. Next, come out to play in a Vermont creek with Mother Nature's Child. Learn fly fishing with teens in the city and remember the days when your only instruction was "come home before dark!"

Listen to the children of Aldo Leopold - who have all grown to become ecologists in their own right - tell you how their Dad changed the way we look at the land. The scenery and historic images in this freshly released biography called Green Fire beautifully reflect back to the beginnings of our modern "ecological consciousness", and include excerpts from Leopold's famous book A Sand County Almanac. Then thoughtfully consider, along with the folks interviewed in Beyond Denial, how to navigate the feelings that come up around big issues of climate change. Knowing what we do about the state of the environment, how do we move beyond despair into hope?

During the Sustainability Fair, Whaleback presents two films for the whole family. Students from Winchester Middle School will travel to Portsmouth and premiere their first documentary, focused on an issue they feel strongly about - I'll let you discover their

very relevant theme! This motivated group of young environmentalists also has a fun, interactive art sculpture at the fair that needs your help to complete. Come by and talk to them about their filmmaking experience and participate in the artwork. We're also screening the animated short film Little Blue, by Portsmouth filmmaker Bob Svihovec. This uplifting film, featuring a penguin who wants to break out from the pack and learn to surf, is an international award winner great for kids of all ages.

Whaleback weekend has film that you can't see anywhere else right now, and the same is true for the art. Installations lead from Market Square out to the Farmer's Market and South Street. Local eco-artist Tim Gaudreau strings together the locations of sustainable events all over town with his series of mystery tags that you'll need your smart phone to reveal.

So come out and engage in our new Whaleback Festival weekend! For details about the films and art, and to connect with the event, visit our website at www.whaleback.org.

Whaleback is supported in part by a grant from the Thomas W. Haas Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and sponsored by the Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth Gas Light, Green Alliance, Sustainable Portsmouth, Checkmate Bookkeeping Services, and the Center for Wildlife.

Whaleback

environmental film & art festival



Whaleback Launch Party

5:30-8:30 pm • Friday, May 13th

 Hosted by the Gas Light in their 3rd floor nightclub

Screening: The Anderson Farm


This poignant short shares one farmer's success in saving the dairy farm passed down in his family since 1643.

Screening: Green Fire

Visually stunning biography of Aldo Leopold, the author of A Sand County Almanac. Historical documentary of American wilderness preservation and land ethics combined with innovative projects going on around the country today.

Youth Filmmakers & Artists

10 am-3 pm • Saturday, May 14th

 Presented during the 4th annual Sustainability Fair at Little Harbor School

Screening: film premier • 11 am & 1:30 pm

Student documentary created by Winchester Middle School. Young filmmakers will be presenting their new documentary during two screenings, and are available for audience Q&A.


Screening: Little Blue • 11:45 am & 2:15 pm

Internationally acclaimed animated short film featuring a penguin who dreams of learning to surf! Local filmmaker Bob Svihovec will be on hand for audience Q&A.

Double Feature & Wrap Party

People's Choice Award

5:30-8:30 pm • Sunday, May 15th

 Hosted by the Portsmouth Brewery: Jimmy LaPanza Lounge!

Screening: Beyond Denial

Battleboro filmmaker Jessica Zane presents her thoughtful inquiry into transforming climate change anxiety into hope, followed by an informal conversation with some of the people featured in her film.

Screening: Mother Nature's Child

Biopic exploring the role of experiences in nature as a child in developing a wholistic view of the self and the world. Interviews with Richard Louv, David Sobel, and inspirational youth programs.

For a map of Whaleback art installations and more Festival details, visit:

www.whaleback.org

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