

JOURNAL SKETCHBOOK

INSIDE THIS WEEK: THE SCENE | COUNTRY LEGEND ROY CLARK COMES TO TOWN | AND FINALLY

IT'S WILD, now you can see it

WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
FOCUSES ON ALL THINGS WATER

BY CINDY LANDRUM | STAFF

The Greenville Journal 11/4/11

A SMALL GROUP of people in California banded together to fight plans to construct two dams on the South Yuba River.

They won, and 39 miles of the river have been permanently protected through state Wild and Scenic designation.

The group – the South Yuba River Citizens League – started producing a film festival nearly a decade ago to educate and inspire citizens in other areas of California and the rest of the country to take action on behalf of the earth and to live deep and adventurous lives.

It's a film festival geared more toward the fleece-jacket and backpack type rather than the tuxedo and evening dress crowd and one that draws hundreds of submissions from all over the United States and many foreign countries.

And the Wild and Scenic Film Festival is coming to Greenville and Spartanburg for the first time next week thanks to Upstate Forever, a nonprofit organization that promotes sensible growth and protecting special places. Upstate Forever has an office in both cities. >



A still from "The Greatest Migration," which will be showing at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in the Upstate next week. The film is about Snake River salmon, which travel farther and higher than any salmon in the world.

> In Greenville, a dozen films will be shown, ranging from three films that last less than a minute each to a 30-minute movie, *WildWater*, a film that looks at the soul of adventure sports through the eyes of river runners who share a passion for whitewater.

In Spartanburg, a family portion of the film festival will feature 13 films ranging from less than a minute to 11 minutes long before the main program of five films.

Selections will include *Animals Save the Planet - Gassy Cows*, a clay animation featuring a farting cow that tells kids that the more meat they eat, the more greenhouse gases are produced. Academy Award-winning Aardman Animations, the company that did *Wallace & Gromit* and *Chicken Run*, produced the film for Animal Planet.

The main portion of the program features four films lasting 20 minutes to a half hour each and one short clip.

The majority of the films have something to do with water, said John Tynan, Upstate Forever's deputy director.

"By pairing the arts and film with conservation, it gives a visual component to the issues we work on every day," Tynan said. "We chose to emphasize water because it's an issue that's harder to talk about."

It is easy for Upstate Forever to show its land protection efforts in photographs, Tynan said. It's more difficult to show what a river restoration project feels like and looks like, he said.

"With these films, a person can literally see these issues and see what happens in their own backyard down to the river and beyond," Tynan said. "It goes from the very small to the big picture in a short, digestible way."

One of the films to be shown is "The Best Country: People Restoring Rivers" tells the stories of two Wallowa Valley, Ore., ranching families who took dramatic steps to restore salmon and steelhead habitat on their land. The families put curves back in the river to encourage the species to come back.

The film was selected because Upstate Forever just finished a trout restoration project on the South Saluda River that reclaimed a habitat that had been lost during the past 100 years, Tynan said.

The state Department of Natural

SO YOU KNOW



WHAT: Wild and Scenic Film Festival
TICKETS: \$10 adults, \$5 Children 12 and under
INFO: 250-0500 or 327-0090

GREENVILLE: NOV. 8
Camelot Cinemas, 48 Antrim Dr.
6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Films to be shown:

- WildWater
- Animals Save the Planet - Energy Efficient Penguin
- The Best Country: People Restoring Rivers
- Animals Save the Planet - Gassy Cows
- Slow the Flow
- Water Loving Doggies II
- Animals Save the Planet - Hippo-Elephant Shower
- The Incident at Tower 37
- Sarcastic Fringehead Quarrel
- Oktapodi
- The Greatest Migration

SPARTANBURG: NOV. 12
Chapman Cultural Center
1:30 p.m. (doors open at noon, family program starts at 12:30 p.m.)

Films to be shown during family program:

- Animals Save the Planet - Hippo-Elephant Shower
- Change for the Oceans
- Animals Save the Planet - Meerkat
- Darkened Horizons
- Animals Save the Planet - Polar Bear
- Insulation Overheat
- Sarcastic Fringehead Quarrel
- The Story of Bottled Water
- Animals Save the Planet - Supermarket Bags
- The Incident at Tower 37
- Animals Save the Planet - Gassy Cows
- Water Loving Doggies II
- Animals Save the Planet - Energy Efficient Penguin
- Oktapodi

Films to be shown in main program:

- WildWater
- The Best Country: People Restoring Rivers
- Slow the Flow
- Water Loving Doggies II
- The Greatest Migration

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JOHN TYNAN,

Upstate Forever's deputy director

Resources is finding a significant trout population in the river, Tynan said.

Another film to be shown looks at low-impact storm water retention tools such as green roofs, cisterns, rain barrels and pervious pavement, while a third will look at water quality degradation. Both are top priorities for Upstate Forever, Tynan said.

Among the other films are "The Great Migration," a film about Snake River salmon, which travel farther and higher than any salmon in the world, but are finding a gauntlet of dams blocking

their migration and pushing the species to extinction.

"The Story of Bottled Water" looks at why Americans buy more than a half of billion bottles of water every week when they can already get it from the tap. "Darkened Horizons" is a film by sixth- to eighth-grade students in New Mexico about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. It uses hand-drawn animation techniques such as cutouts and flipbooks.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

"Greenville, Spartanburg and the Upstate appreciates the arts and the environment," Tynan said. "We liked that the organization that produces the Wild and Scenic Film Festival started as a watershed protection organization. It sets it apart from all the other film festivals."

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