

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour - *State College*

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, a program of The Banff Centre, is the largest, and one of the most prestigious, mountain festivals in the world. Hot on the heels of the festival held every fall in Banff, Alberta, the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour hits the road.

With stops planned in about 390 communities and 35 countries across the globe, this year's tour features a collection of

the most inspiring action, environmental, and adventure films from the festival.

Traveling to exotic landscapes and remote cultures, and bringing audiences up-close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports, the 2011/2012 World Tour is an exhilarating and provocative exploration of the mountain world.



*Photo credit:
Cory Richards Photography, LLC 2011*

From approximately 300 films entered into the annual festival, award-winning films and audience favorites are among the films chosen to travel the globe.

Join Sierra Club Moshannon Group when the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour brings the spirit of outdoor adventure to State College. Films we will be showing are on pages 4-5. Complete details are on page 2 in the calendar.

Upcoming Presentations:

March 22nd Gasland PA: Documentary Photography by Mark Schmerling

Details on website and in Calendar on page 2!

April 19th Cougars in the Northeast: What is Real and What is Not by Kerry Gyekis

Details on page 3 and in Calendar on page 2!



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**Saturday, April 14th,
 from 10-6pm**

appoutdoors.com 814-234-3000

**Store Hours: Sun 10-6
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 Fri 9:30 - 9, Sat 9 - 8**



We Need You!

The Sierra Club Moshannon Group is involved in a number of issues, ranging from countering the massive Marcellus Shale drilling lobby, to alerting the public about other potential environmental threats, to assisting us on special events including the Banff Mountain Film Festival and bringing in public speakers on various conservation-related issues.

Have you been thinking about the possibility of getting involved in protecting and helping people enjoy the environment, but been putting it off for sometime in the future? Well the future is now, and we could really benefit from your knowledge, skills and talents! We are looking for volunteers that may be able to contribute - whatever your area of knowledge, experience or expertise. Whether you can give one night a week or 3 days per year, your contribution of time, ideas and effort could be very valuable to us!

For more information or to contemplate how you can help, please call or email Ronn Brouman at ronnb@comcast.net or (814) 360-1617. We hope to hear from you!

Calendar

**ALL ARE WELCOME!
 PRESENTATIONS**

**Our Public Presentations are held in the
 State College Borough Building, 234 South
 Allen Street, Community Meeting Room,
 State College PA 16801**

**Questions? Contact Randy Earhart
 814-466-7414 or randy_earhart@yahoo.com**

March 22, Thursday 7PM - Photographer Mark Schmerling will give a presentation: *Finding a Life's Purpose: Spreading the Truth via My Camera.* Mark will talk about documentary photography, images from Gasland PA, the people and their stories.

April 19, Thursday 7PM - Cougars in the Northeast: What is Real and What is Not, a presentation by Kerry Gyekis. See article on page 3 and our website.

9th Annual BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

- STATE COLLEGE -

April 14-15, Saturday and Sunday. Location: The State Theatre in downtown State College. Different films each night. Many community organizations will have displays in the lobby and loft. Doors open at 6 PM and the films begin at 7PM. Come early, enjoy the displays, and join us for the evening!

Tickets are \$16 advance sale; \$28 in advance for both nights; \$14 with student ID; \$18 at the door.

Tickets are available at our Local Presenting Sponsor, Appalachian Outdoors www.appoutdoors.com and at The State Theatre www.thestatetheatre.org

For more information: visit www.sierramsh.org

OUTINGS

Saturday, March 24 — Waterfowl Watch at Dunning Creek Wetlands: Mike and Laura Jackson will lead a field trip to Dunning Creek Wetlands to observe migrating waterfowl. Meet at

(Continued on page 4)

Cougars in the Northeast: What is Real and What is Not

Kerry Gyekis will give a presentation **Cougars in the Northeast: What is Real and What is Not**. The show takes in a wide variety of information, including prehistory, biology, reproduction, print and sign, statistics on kills (both animal prey and humans), hoaxes, “sightings,” and what is real both in the East and elsewhere in North America, ending with a discussion of habitat - both for the big cats and for the rest of us.

Kerry is a practicing consultant forester who has run his business here in the East since the mid-80s. He has been a Peace Corps forester for two years in the Asian jungle, a federal forester in the American West, a County Planner for 14 years in Tioga County, and a writer/commentator of novels, articles, and commentary on a wide variety of topics from politics to the gas industry. He lives back on a mountain in a home he and his family built from their own rock and hemlock many years ago. He and his wife Janet have kayaked on all of the Great Lakes, much of the North Pacific from Seattle to Glacier Bay, Alaska and the Yukon

River, most of the Finger Lakes, Northern Norway, and, frankly, just about every local body of water he can.

Kerry has taken cat “sightings” and “evidence” since the mid-80s and been involved with the Cougar Rewilding Foundation (formerly the Eastern Cougar Foundation) for some years, and he has tracked the big cat in the American West.

Join us on Thursday April 19th at 7PM in the Community Room at the State College Borough Building for a fascinating look at one of North America’s most elusive animals!



www.sierramsh.org

2012 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

State College Film List

Films and schedule are subject to change

Saturday, April 14, 2012

The Freedom Chair

– Best Film –

Mountain Sports

Sponsored by Live Out There

Canada, 2011, 15 min.

Directed and produced by Mike Douglas

Focus: Snow sports



Photocredit: Mike Douglas

Josh Dueck was an aspiring skier and coach until a ski accident in 2004 changed his life for good. Despite his comeback and success in the world of competitive sit-skiing, he wasn't content. Josh's dream is to tackle the backcountry and the steepest and wildest mountains in the world – and with his infectious outlook, he may just catch his dream.



Photocredit: From the film 'Kadoma'

Kadoma

– Best Film –

Exploration and Adventure

Sponsored by Nemo

USA, 2011, 42 min.

Directed and produced by Ben Stookesbury

Focus: Exploration, kayaking

"Kadoma" is the nickname for Hendri Coetzee, a legendary South African kayaker known for exploring some of Africa's wildest rivers. In December 2010, American pro kayakers Chris Korblic and Ben Stookesbury followed Coetzee into the Democratic Republic of Congo for a first descent of the dangerous Lukuga River. Seven weeks into the expedition, tragedy struck.

Reel Rock: Sketchy Andy

USA, 2011, 22 minutes

Directed by: Peter Mortimer

Produced by: Nick Rosen

Focus: Slack lining, BASE Jumping, craziness!

American climbing dirtbag Andy Lewis is taking the discipline of slacklining into the future as he solos the world's longest high-lines and masters the hardest aerial tricks, while pushing his equipment to the limit. As Andy goes higher, harder, and faster with climbing, slack, and B.A.S.E., we all wonder how far he can go before it'll be one step over the line.



Photocredit: From the film 'Reel Rock: Sketchy Andy'

Chasing Water

– Best Short Mountain Film –

Sponsored by The North Face

USA, 2011, 18 min.

Directed by Peter McBride

Produced by Anson Fogel

Focus: Environment

Pete McBride grew up on a ranch in Western Colorado, a child of the Colorado River.

After a life spent visiting other countries to tell stories as a *National Geographic* photojournalist, in 2008 Pete decided to follow the water from his family's ranch to see where it ends up. This is the story of Pete's journey, and a story about the lifeblood of the American West.



Photocredit: Peter McBride



From the film 'Journey on the Wild Coast'

Journey on the Wild Coast

(Special Edit for the Banff Tour)

– Special Jury Mention–

USA, 2010, 30 min.

Directed and produced by Greg Chaney

Focus: Adventure

A young married couple with a passion for adventure turn their camera on themselves, even in their weakest moments, as they attempt to walk, paddle and ski under their own power from Seattle to the Aleutians. Filmed over the period of a grueling year, this film reveals the rugged beauty of the wild northwest coast of North America – and the true meaning of intrepid.

C.A.R.C.A

Canada, 2011, 8 min.

Directed and produced by Adam Bailey

Focus: Humour, avalanche rescue

One man's quest to revolutionize the world of animal avalanche rescue.



Photocredit: Adam Bailey

Where: The State Theatre, downtown State College

Tickets are \$16 advance sale; \$28 in advance for both nights; \$14 with student ID; \$18 at the door.

Tickets are available at our Local Presenting Sponsor, Appalachian Outdoors www.appoutdoors.com or The State Theatre www.thestatetheatre.org (available online).

Different films each night!

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Sunday, April 15, 2012



From the film 'All.I.Can'

All.I.Can: The Short Cut

– Best Feature-length Mountain Film –
Sponsored by Town of Banff

Canada, 2011, 11 min.
Directed by Dave Mossop, Eric Crossland
Produced by Eric Crossland, Malcolm Sangster
Focus: Snow sports

Stunning time-lapse sequences, creative visuals, great skiers, and deep powder are highlights of this excerpt from the award-winning feature film that looks at snow sports and the environment.

Seasons: Fall

USA, 2010, 4 min.
Directed and produced by Skip Armstrong
Focus: kayaking

Deep canyons with steep, spring-fed creeks provide Kate Wagner with a soul-session in this paddling paradise.



Photocredit: From the film 'Seasons: Fall'

On the Trail of Genghis Khan: The Last Frontier

– People's Choice Award –
Sponsored by V.I.O.

Australia, 2011, 46 min.
Directed by Tim Cope
Produced by Richard Dennison
Focus: Adventure, exploration, culture

On an epic journey of truly historic proportions, Australian Tim Cope, his band of horses, and his dog Tigon travel overland 10,000 km from Mongolia to Hungary, following the footsteps of legendary warrior and nomad Genghis Khan. Cope visits distant parts of the world rarely seen, places on the cusp of modernity yet proud of nomadic traditions. The Last Frontier captures the culmination of his stunning three-year journey, the crossing of the Carpathian Mountains.



Photocredit: Tim Cope



Photocredit: Ian McAllister

SPOIL

– Best Film –
Mountain Environment
Sponsored by Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

USA, 2011, 44 min.
Directed and produced by Trip Jennings

Focus:
Environment, photography

Photographers join the Gitga'at First Nation of British Columbia in an attempt to photograph the legendary spirit bear, with the help of a local guide who is deeply connected to the bear and its environment, a place threatened by a proposed oil pipeline.

Blue Obsession

USA, 2011, 8 min.
Directed by: Alan Gordon, Jordan Halland
Produced by Alan Gordon
Focus: Ice climbing

The beautiful and ever-changing icefalls of Alaskan glaciers provide a stunning setting for some unusual ice climbing adventures.



Photocredit: Kristina Williams

Cold

– Grand Prize –
Sponsored by Mountain Equipment Co-op

– Best Film – Climbing

Sponsored by Alpine Club of Canada

Audio Post-production Scholarship provided by The Banff Centre

USA, 2011, 19 min.
Directed and produced by Anson Fogel
Focus: Mountaineering

Experience Gasherbrum II in the middle of a deep, dark winter as seen from the raw, honest perspective of alpinist Cory Richards's camera. This film deftly captures the interwoven roles of pain, fear, and doubt – and reveals a harrowing descent that amplifies their isolation and exposure.



Photocredit: Cory Richards Photography, LLC 2011



Photocredit: Eric Crossland

Ski Bums Never Die

Canada, 2011, 4 min.
Directed by Eric Crossland
Produced by Mike Douglas
Focus: Snow sports

What does it take to be a ski bum? An unending dedication to powder skiing? The ability to do anything in your ski boots? A lifelong quest for deep snow? Find out with this unusual and inspiring band of skiers in the Kootenay region of British Columbia.



For more information, visit
www.sierramsh.org

(continued from page 2)

Calendar

the Apple Bin Restaurant, on Pa. Rt. 56, a few miles west of I-99 at 8 a.m. Wear boots, as it will be wet, and be prepared for cold, windy conditions. The trip will last most of the morning. Contact: mljackson2@embarqmail.com.

SERVICE OUTING

Saturday, April 21 — Spring Creek Canyon Cleanup: The Moshannon Group will be conducting their annual canoe/kayak cleanup of the Spring Creek canyon as a participant in Clearwater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day. *Please consider joining us... members and nonmembers are welcome.* Supplies and shuttle (Rock Run Road to Fisherman's Paradise) are provided. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at Rock Run Road. Cleanup lasts from about 8 a.m. until Noon. You must bring your own boat(s) and equipment unless you have made other arrangements with us prior to the event. **RSVP required.** Contact Ron Johnson - greenbowl@verizon.net.

Sunday, April 22 — Sunday Trillium Hike on the Lower Trail: Join Deb Tencer to see the repeat performance of thousands of red and yellow trilliums and Dutchman's-breeches that cover the hillside along a section of the Lower Trail. Meet at the Water Street flea market at 11 a.m. The hike is only 2 miles and is quite easy. Afterward, please join us to go for pizza! Contact Deb at naturehikergal@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 28 — Save the Frogs Day: In an effort to raise awareness of the plight of amphibians, the scientific community has declared Saturday, April 28 as "Save The Frogs Day." On this day we encourage the appreciation and celebration of amphibians. Join Moshannon Group Endangered Species and Wildlife Chairman Dr. Stan Kotala for a short educational program about frogs and toads, followed by a brief evening stroll looking for amphibians along the Lower Trail. Meet at the Lower Trail Mt. Etna Trailhead pavilion at 7:30 p.m. ([Lower Trail Map](#)). Contact Dr. Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840.

Saturday, May 5 – Sunday, May 6 — Pine Creek Outing: classic class II canoe/kayak run on Pine Creek; Saturday we will paddle ~17 miles from Ansonia to Blackwell with overnight camping near Blackwell.; on Sunday, we'll continue ~12 miles downstream to Slate Run. Expect to see great scenery, bald eagles, waterfalls, and nature. The MGSC has teamed up with the CCofCC club to offer this outing, so there should be a variety of paddlers and skill levels. Boats may be available if needed. Contact Ron Johnson for details: greenbowl1@hotmail.com.

Saturday, May 5 — Wildflowers and Warblers at Blue Knob State Park: Mike and Laura Jackson will lead a field trip to Blue Knob State Park to view spring

wildflowers and migrating warblers. Meet at Chappell's Field in Blue Knob State Park at 8 a.m. The 3-hour walk will be on Sawmill Trail, which is easy, but rocky in places. Contact: mljackson2@embarqmail.com.

Sunday, May 6 — Spring Mushroom Walk along The Lower Trail: Join Bill Russell, author of *Field Guide to the Wild Mushrooms of Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic*, along with Karen Croyle. The 4-mile hike will take about 3 hours. Meet at the Water Street entrance to the Lower Trail (near intersection of Route 22 and SR 453) at noon. Contact: Deb Tencer naturehikergal@gmail.com

Saturday, May 12 — Annual Terry Wentz Memorial Hike: Four-mile moderate hike on Moore's Hill Trail honoring former Canoe Creek State Park manager, the late Terry Wentz, who served on the Juniata Valley Audubon board of directors for more than a decade. Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park Environmental Education Center at 2 p.m. For more information, contact trip leader Dr. Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840.

Saturday, May 19 — Spring Wildflower Walk at Bell's Gap Run: Join Marcia Bonta for a walk in State Gameland 108 at Bell's Gap Run to observe spring wildflowers. Meet in the parking lot for the Bellwood Rails to Trails at 10 a.m., then drive halfway up the mountain to a parking lot on the left. The walk is a gentle climb that leads past a variety of wildflowers on the left cliffs as well as some rare ferns. It's also a good place for spring warblers and other birds because we are looking down at large trees and the stream. Bring a trail lunch and a beverage to enjoy at the top of the hollow. For more info contact Marcia at marciabonta@hotmail.com

SERVICE OUTING

Saturday, May 26 — Canoe Creek State Park Butterfly Garden Work Party: Please lend a hand at Canoe Creek State Park's butterfly garden. No gardening experience is necessary. Bring a covered dish item to share at a picnic afterward. Everyone welcome to lend the Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS) a hand with this project. Contact Stan Kotala for details.

Sunday, June 10 — Mountain Laurel Hike in Brush Mountains Woodlands: Join Deb Tencer to hike The Nature Conservancy's property known as the Brush Mountain Woodlands to admire the massive amounts of Mountain Laurel, along with other flora and fauna specific to this dry, rocky area. At 11 a.m., meet at Panera Bread in Logantown Centre, Altoona, to carpool. For more info, Contact Deb at naturehikergal@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

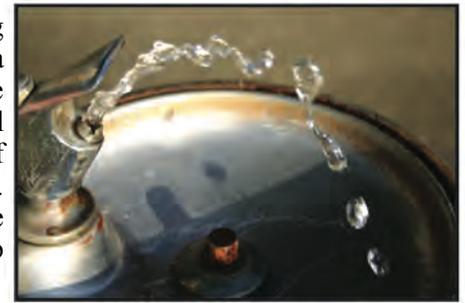
All members welcome. First Tuesday of the month, 7PM at ClearWater Conservancy. Call an Excom Member to confirm the next meeting location and date.

Central PA Cave, Bats, and Other Rare Wildlife Saved from Mine



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Conservationists have succeeded in saving a central Pennsylvania cave and surrounding wildlife habitat from a proposed limestone mine. A state-endangered bat species and a tiny cave arthropod found nowhere else on the planet are among the beneficiaries of the settlement agreement reached today by conservation groups Center for Biological Diversity and Juniata Valley Audubon Society, and the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEP) and Catharine Properties, LLC, the mine developer. In exchange for dropping their lawsuit against the DEP and Catharine Properties, the conservationists have received a formal pledge from the company that it will not disturb the cave site or surrounding area, or bring harm to the species of concern.



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we can clean up our water.

**Please help us work to keep
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Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

“Bats in the Northeast have been under huge pressure in recent years, because of the devastating effects of white-nose syndrome,” said Mollie Matteson, conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Further stressing these animals, by destroying important bat habitat and possibly even killing bats directly, is completely unacceptable.”

Juniata Valley Audubon president Dave Bonta said “Juniata Valley Audubon thanks the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club and the 16 other organizations which, though not appellants in this case, supported our fight to save this Blair County Natural Heritage Area.”

The groups had challenged the DEP permit because it failed to protect the eastern small-footed bat, which hibernates in Heller Cave and roosts in rock piles in the surrounding area. The mine also threatened the sole location of the Heller Cave springtail, first discovered in 1997. Hikers, bicyclists, and birdwatchers were concerned about the impact of the quarry on the adjoining Lower Trail, and local residents worried about the safety of hundreds of quarry trucks per day, driving back and forth on the area’s narrow, rural roads.

The bats in Heller Cave were discovered to have contracted the newly emergent fungal disease, white-nose syndrome, two winters ago. Bats throughout the eastern United States have been devastated by the illness, which is estimated to have killed nearly 7 million bats over the last five years, in 16 states and four provinces. The Center filed a federal petition two years ago requesting endangered species listing of the eastern small-footed bat and the northern long-eared bat, which has also been found in the vicinity of the mine site. Both species have experienced steep declines due to the ravages of the disease.

The terms of the settlement agreement stand so long as Catharine Properties, or its successors, are without an approved “large non-coal” mining permit. The large permit would be subject to the same review, and potential litigation, as the small permit that had been challenged by the conservation groups. Among the claims brought by the groups was that DEP had not included a requirement in the permit for a “total avoidance area” around Heller Cave—a stipulation made by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in its review of the permit’s impact on state-protected species.

Stan Kotala, Conservation Chair for the Juniata Valley Audubon Society, was cautiously optimistic that the long-term outcome for the Heller Cave area would be its permanent protection. “Ideally, this site, which has been recognized by both Blair County and the state of Pennsylvania as an outstanding natural area, will eventually be protected by a permanent designation, such as a conservation easement. Until then, our groups will stay vigilant to protect this special place.”

The conservation groups were joined in the lawsuit by wildlife advocate Laura Jackson, and were represented by Professor Kenneth T. Kristl and his law students at Widener University Environment and Natural Resources Law Clinic. The Delaware-based school has a campus in Harrisburg.

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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Moshannon Group Directory

**Executive Committee members*

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Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		vogelsong100@yahoo.com

Development of Natural Gas from Shales: Some Myths and Realities

Professor Ingraffea discusses 4 myths and realities as well as additional minor myths - “minor” only in the sense that they are not the four that are the primary focus of this talk.

Professor Ingraffea is one of the most articulate voices in the discussion of whether we should be drilling for deep shale natural gas.

This complete 2 hour talk is available on DVD for a donation of \$1. We will have them wherever we have a table.

So far we have distributed over 700 copies!

To receive a copy by mail, send a check for \$3 (or more, if you would like to help us distribute more of these DVD’s) made out to “Sierra Club Moshannon Group”. Mail your request to: Gary Thornbloom, 702 Hall Road, Julian, PA 16844.

www.sierramsh.org

All phone numbers listed above are area code 814