



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.

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FAW and ANF Team Up at Big Green Screen to Celebrate Wilderness

50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act Screening of Aldo Leopold Documentary April 4th In Erie

WARREN — On Friday, April 4, the Warren-based Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) and the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) will honor the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 by hosting a free screening of the Emmy Award winning film *Green Fire*, the first full-length documentary about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied today.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as a philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate – he was a cofounder of The Wilderness Society (TWS) in 1935.

“Aldo Leopold's legacy lives on today in the work of people and organizations across the nation and around the world,” said Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker. “What is exciting about *Green Fire* is that it is more than just a documentary about Aldo Leopold; it also explores the influence his ideas have had in shaping the conservation movement as we know it today.”

Green Fire illustrates Leopold's continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level. Viewers will learn of ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working on their own properties and with their neighbors, and wildlife biologists who are bringing back threatened and endangered species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, to the landscapes where they once thrived. *Green Fire* portrays how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land – his call for a land ethic – ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration for the future.

“The making of *Green Fire* has been a process of discovery,” says Curt Meine, the film's on-screen guide. Meine's doctoral dissertation was a biography of Aldo Leopold, published as *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). To give the film its modern perspective of Leopold's influence in the conservation movement today, Meine was charged with conducting hundreds of interviews with people practicing conservation all over the

country. "Meeting all those people has yielded new connections between Leopold and nearly every facet of the environmental movement," said Meine.

TWS was incorporated on January 21, 1935. The eight founders were Leopold, Bob Marshall, Robert Sterling Yard, Benton MacKaye, Ernest Oberholtzer, Harvey Broome, Bernard Frank, and Harold C. Anderson. TWS, of course, is the organization that under the leadership of Tionesta native Howard Zahniser led the charge to see the Wilderness Act passed, creating America's National Wilderness Preservation System for all future generations to use and enjoy. There are currently two designated wilderness areas in the Allegheny National Forest at the Allegheny Islands and Hickory Creek Wilderness Areas – both designated in 1984.

If You Go

Friday, April 4th, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Erie, Big Green Screen at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center
For more information, call the Big Green Screen at (814) 838-4123.

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About the Partners

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written,'" he explained. "It evolves 'in the minds of a thinking community.'" Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.

The Center for Humans and Nature explores and promotes human responsibilities in relation to the whole community of life. Connect with the center's ideas through the free e-journal *Minding Nature*, and find out more about their work by visiting the Programs & Projects webpage at www.humansandnature.org.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is a Warren-based non-profit organization established in 2001. Their mission statement is: "Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest." <http://www.pawild.org>

Established in 1905, the U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres, conducts forest research, assists forest landowners and helps formulate international forest policy. Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest was established in 1923 and today encompasses more than 513,000 acres, 9,000 of which are protected as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 at the Allegheny Islands and Hickory Creek Wilderness Areas. Learn more about the Forest Service at www.fs.fed.us.