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Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival Comes to Atlanta

ATLANTA: The Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Tour is coming back to Atlanta and will be hosted again by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR), Georgia River Network (GRN) and Georgia ForestWatch (GFW). Ten inspirational and motivational films of varying lengths will be presented on Sunday, March 6, 2010, from 2:00-5:30 PM at the Tara Theater in Atlanta.

This film festival sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving participants feeling inspired and motivated to go out and make a difference for the environment in their communities. "It has been great to bring together our three organizations which deal with a variety of environmental issues. We wanted to host this film festival again this year to highlight pertinent issues that all of us work on every day," says Wayne Jenkins, Executive Director of Georgia Forest Watch.

The program (with a 15 minute intermission) offers a mix of films addressing environmental issues such as energy, food systems, biodiversity, climate change and the protection and restoration of wild lands and waters. The program concludes with a special local feature *Chattahoochee: From Water War to Water Vision*, a film by Rhett Turner and Jonathan Wickham. This one hour documentary explores the decades-long fight between Georgia, Florida and Alabama over water in the Chattahoochee River basin. The film looks at the complex origins of the conflict, the challenges to be overcome, and some promising solutions through the eyes of concerned individuals and experts, including UCR Executive Director and Riverkeeper Sally Bethea.

Other films include *Eastern Rises*, which won the People's choice award at the festival. In the film, a wild band of fly fishermen journey to one of the last wild places on earth, Kamchatka, Russia in the Russian Far East. They brave Cold War helicopters, grizzlies, mosquitoes, and even Bigfoot to explore rivers and search for the ultimate fish story. In *Slow the Flow* you will meet a landscaper who shocks his neighbors by putting in native landscaping, discover a school district that goes green, and meet a non-profit which puts gardens in the city. The projects highlighted are very low-tech, cheap, and beautiful, making a good argument for kicking back and not raking the leaves.

Since 2003, the Wild and Scenic Film Festival has grown to receive local, regional, and national applause for celebrating the spirit of environmental activism and has become the largest traveling festival of its kind in North America. The launch of the film festival in Nevada City, CA, includes three days of viewing and over 175 films. You can read more about the film festival at www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org.

This is the fourth year GFW, GRN, and UCR have joined together to bring this festival to Atlanta. "The film festival is a great opportunity to bring our community together around local environmental issues, inspire advocacy and offer people a direct way to get involved locally," says April Ingle, Executive Director of GRN.

You can learn more about the film festival and buy tickets online at www.chattahoochee.org. Local sponsors of the film festival include: Turner Broadcasting System, Chevron, 92.9 DaveFM, Red Sky Productions, Turner Foundation, Patagonia-Atlanta, RBC Bank-Blue Water Project, REI, Sweetwater Brewing Company, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, and Tom Wilson Photography, ,

What: Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Tour

Selected films to inspire, educate, and activate citizens for creating a better world

When: Sunday March 6, 2011 – 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Where: Tara Theater, 2345 Chesire Bridge Road, Atlanta, GA, 30324, 404-634-6288

Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$12 students/seniors, \$11 each for groups of 8 or more and may be purchased online at www.chattahoochee.org