

SPOTLIGHT

Basin group gearing up for Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Auction on Saturday in Danville

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The Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Auction comes to Danville for the first time beginning at 6 p.m. this Saturday at Averett University's Pritchett Auditorium. All proceeds will go to the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA).

Started by the watershed advocacy group South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) in 2003, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a national event held the third week of January in Nevada City, California. The festival's namesake is in celebration of SYRCL's landmark victory to receive "Wild & Scenic" status for 39 miles of the South Yuba River in 1999.

The films celebrate the planet, inspire, make people laugh and teach something new.

"Films featured at Wild & Scenic give people a sense of place," said Tour Associate Director Amelia Workman. "In today's busy world, it is easy to disconnect from our role in the global ecosystem. When we realize that the change we need in this world begins with us, we start making a difference. Come get inspired."

For the Dan River region, DRBA has chosen 12 short award-winning films from the national festival. While many of the films take place in different states, regions or even countries, they still feature some of the same threats and natural resource challenges as in the Dan River Basin, such as fracking, climate change, dam removal, species/habitat protection and more.

Guests can learn more and get a sneak-peak of film trailers at danriver.org. Stories about hope, courage and changing the world for the better are just a few of the film topics.

“This event is a natural extension of DRBA’s work to inspire people to act on behalf of the environment,” said Tiffany Haworth of DRBA. “We are so excited to be able to host this national film festival for the first time in our region. It truly will be a night to remember.”

Also to be held will be a silent and live auction of one-of-a-kind items made from nature, inspired by nature or upcycled/recycled created by local North Carolina and Virginia artists such as Yancey Smith, Hollis Stauber and Briana Lee Bill.

Furniture, nature experiences, jewelry, pottery, fine art, textiles and a lot more will be auctioned at the event. The live auction will include a make your own beer experience donated by 2 Witches Winery & Brewery, a professionally guided rafting trip from Smith River Outfitters, and a stay for two at the award-winning Primland Resort, just to name a few.

Local Premiere Sponsors include Averett University, Jones/DeShon Orthodontics and Primland Resort. National partners include Patagonia, CLIF Bar, Sierra Nevada Brewing, Orion Magazine, Klean Kanteen, Earthjustice and Barefoot Wine & Bubbly.

“Averett University is very excited to have this unique and inspirational event at our Pritchett Auditorium,” said Laura Meder, associate professor of biology. “Whenever we can get our students outside of the classroom, that’s when they learn the most. DRBA gets people outside and gets them to value what is outside. Going outside for our students gets them to recognize the value of pushing themselves in different directions. And that learning experience is different every time, every day, for every student - and every person.”

Tickets are currently on sale for \$15 online or at a local DRBA office and include viewing of all 12 films, a bidding number to participate in the auction and an assortment of “movie snacks” locally sourced from within the Dan River Basin.

Guests will enjoy homemade nachos with locally made cheese, a trail mix bar of local candy, nuts and fruits, popcorn with a creative toppings bar and various other treats made right here in the region.

2 Witches Brewery will be serving wine and beer.