

# **THE MUDDY RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES**

September 22-29, 2005

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance and the Coolidge Corner Theatre join forces to present the Boston area's first environmental film festival. THE MUDDY RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES showcases quality films that bring people together around interests that make our community great: our cultural and our natural resources.

The festival kicks off on Thursday, September 22, with a special opening night gala focusing on the issue of Climate Change. The evening features a screening of OIL ON ICE, a new documentary that looks at how America's energy policies affect the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Also included will be short films and guest speakers who will provide insight on this important issue.

As the festival continues, each night will be dedicated to a different aspect of how the environment relates to urban and suburban living: Agriculture and Food, Sustainability, Parks and Open Spaces, Conservation, and more. We also have special matinee programs for kids, featuring animated shorts and the Dr. Suess classic THE LORAX, and Muddy River satellite screenings at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Peabody Essex Museum.

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## **Presented by:**

The Coolidge Corner Theatre and the Brookline Greenspace Alliance

## **Major Sponsors:**

The Blossom Fund, Wainwright Bank, Marjorie Harris Reynolds Foundation

## **Muddy River Film Series Committee:**

Tina Oddleifson, Kate Bowditch, Joe Zina, Elizabeth Taylor-Mead

**Program Coordinator:** Cozette Carroll

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## **PRICES:**

Opening Night: \$9 general admission/ \$6 CCTF members

Coolidge Festival Screenings: \$5 all seats

Kids Shows: \$5 adults/\$3 kids

**Thurs, Sept 22**

**Focus on: CLIMATE CHANGE**

Co-presented by Climate Change Action Brookline, Conservation Law Foundation, Massachusetts Climate Action Network



@ 7:30

Opening Night Gala on the Big Screen

**OIL ON ICE**

(2004, Dale Djerassi & Bo Boudart, 57 min.)

This vivid, compelling and comprehensive documentary connects the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the decisions America makes about energy policy, transportation choices, and other seemingly unrelated matters. Caught in the balance are the culture and livelihood of the Gwich'in people and the migratory wildlife of a fragile ecosystem.

**Special Guest Speakers:**

Mindy Lubber: President, CERES

Douglas Foy: Secretary of Commonwealth Development for the State of Massachusetts, former President of the Conservation Law Foundation

Bryan Poisson: founder, Approach Architects (for Wainwright Bank)

Opening Night sponsored by Wainwright Bank

# Fri, Sept 23

## Focus on: **FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

Co-presented by

Allandale Farm, Slow Food Boston, Whole Foods Brighton, and Clear Flour Bakery



### @ 6:00 **SLOW FOOD REVOLUTION**

(2003, Carlo Buralli, 52 min.)

Speed - the obsession of the modern world - is determining what people should eat and how. Traditional foods are at risk of disappearing forever. An international eco-gastronomic movement known as 'Slow Food' champions the protection of traditional culture, the environment and biodiversity while encouraging regional production, food education and pleasure. **SLOW FOOD REVOLUTION** travels around the globe recording this growing phenomenon.

Shows with: **SWEET SOIL**

(2004, Laura Meister & Erica Spizz, 21 min.) **Directors in person!**

Sweet Soil shares the stories of four family farms, a natural foods store committed to supporting them, and a community's passion for fresh, local food. Set to a toe-tapping, fiddle-driven soundtrack by local musicians, this film captures the spectacular autumnal beauty of the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts at harvest time.

**With post-film "slow food" reception.**

### @ 8:30 **THE FUTURE OF FOOD**

(2004, Deborah Koons 92 min.)

Unregulated and artificially produced "fruits" of the biotechnology industry currently threaten to overtake our grocery store shelves without warning, without labels and without regard for the values and ethics of biodiversity. This passionate in-depth investigative film explores a range of biotech issues including "suicide seeds," food-safety enforcement laws, the controversy over patented genes and contaminated cornfields in Mexico and South America. Unraveling the complex web of market and political forces changing the very nature of what we eat, **The Future of Food** packs a full serving of essential information but leaves enough room for hope and inspiration to take root.

**Sat, Sept 24**

**@ 2:00 PORTRAIT OF A COASTLINE**

(1980, Jim Gabriel, 30 min.)

Filmmaker Jim Gabriel joins us in person for this year-long exploration of the forces that move and shape a sandy coastline.

**@ 4:00 Encore! THE FUTURE OF FOOD**

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**Focus on: CLIMATE CHANGE**

**@ 6:00 TURNING DOWN THE HEAT**

(2000, Jim Hamm, 46 min.)

Profiling innovative and successful projects of the new energy revolution, this documentary showcases alternative sources of power. They include solar energy in Holland, Japan and California, biogas in Denmark and Vietnam, wind energy in Holland and India, and hydrogen fuel cells and ground source heat in Vancouver. We see the effects of global warming already manifesting themselves in the small island nations of the world. But, as Donald Aitken, Ross Gelbspan, Amory Lovins and others make clear, we do have viable options. All we need is the political will.

Shows with: **TURN TO THE WIND**

(2002, Lea Nakonechny, 6 min.)

Shot on location at the SunBridge Wind Farm near Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, Turn to the Wind is an aesthetic exploration of towering wind turbines in the unique landscape that surrounds them. The film is both a "day in the life" of these amazing high-tech structures and an attempt to reconcile the new dynamic between landscape and technology.

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**Focus on: TOXIC WASTE**

**@ 8:00 & 10:00 BLUE VINYL**

(2002, Judith Helfand & Daniel B. Gold, 97min.)

With humor, chutzpah and a piece of vinyl siding firmly in hand, filmmakers Judith Helfand and Daniel B. Gold set out in search of the truth about polyvinyl chloride (PVC), America's most popular plastic. From Long Island to Louisiana to Italy, they unearth the facts about PVC and its effects on human health and the environment. A detective story, an eco-activism doc, and a rollicking comedy, BLUE VINYL puts a human face on the dangers posed by PVC at every stage of its life cycle, from factory to incinerator. Consumer consciousness and the "precautionary principle" have never been this much fun.

**Sun, Sept 25**

**@ 1:00 THIRST**

(2004, Alan Snitow & Deborah Kaufman, 62 min.)

Is water a human right for all people, or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? Following stories in Bolivia, India, and the United States, THIRST reveals how the debate over water rights between communities and corporations can serve as a catalyst for resistance to globalization.

**@ 2:00 3RD ANNUAL WATERSHED WALK**

Meet at top steps to Ward's Pond on the corner of Perkins St. & the Jamaicaaway. Join local hydrologist Kate Bowditch for a walk along the Muddy River to learn about the river's hydrology, the challenges the river faces, and projects underway to restore it. Details at [www.brooklinegreenspace.org](http://www.brooklinegreenspace.org)

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**Focus on: SUSTAINABILITY**

Co-presented by Green Roundtable, MassBike, and Bikes Not Bombs

**@ 5:00 THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

(2001, Chris Bedford & Shelley Morhaim, 55 min.)

Two leaders in the growing movement to transform the relationship between commerce and nature are architect William McDonough and chemist Dr. Michael Braungart. Together, they work with corporations like Ford and Nike to redesign buildings, processes, and products to work according to nature's rules. Narrated by Susan Sarandon, this film looks at five projects that represent a revolutionary change in the direction of the human economy. McDonough and Braungart see an exciting and hopeful future where humanity takes nature as our guide, reinventing technical enterprises to be as safe and ever-renewing as natural processes. It's part of what they call The Next Industrial Revolution.

**@ 7:00 BIKE LIKE U MEAN IT**

(2002, Rusty Martin & Susan Kirr, 46 min.)

An inspiring and fun portrait of bicycle activists in Austin, Texas: those who ride their bikes for transportation, defiantly eschewing cars. They promote not only alternative forms of transportation, but an alternative vision of cities, urban design, lifestyle and culture. Featuring Austin's Yellow Bike Project, Critical Mass, Bikes Not Bombs, The Cyclown Circus & more.

## **Mon, Sept 26**

### **Focus on: BROOKLINE PARKS and OPEN SPACES**

Co-Presented by Friends of Lost Pond, Friends of Larz Anderson Park, Brookline Division of Parks and Open Space, Brookline Park and Recreation Commission, & Brookline Conservation Commission

#### **@ 6:00 & 8:00 LOST POND**

(Carol Kowalski, 15 min.)

LOST POND chronicles the story of the natural and cultural history of Brookline's Lost Pond Sanctuary. With beautiful images and interviews with local activists, the film reminds us of the importance of community activism and the need to protect what remains of the natural world around us.

#### **Shows with: ISABEL'S GIFT**

(James Griebisch, 17 min.)

The story of Larz Anderson Park, whose celebrated gardens were a gift of visionary couple Larz and Isabel Anderson. Like many estates after WW2, theirs went into decline, but emerging respect for historic landscapes have led to a call for renewal.

## **Tues, Sept 27**

### **Focus on: CONSERVATION**

#### **@ 7:00 CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Learn more about the Charles River Watershed Association and their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Charles River and its watershed. This special event features short films, speakers, and more.

*Free for Coolidge & CRWA members.*

#### **@ 6:00 & 8:30 THE GREATEST GOOD**

(2005, Steve Dunsky & Dave Steinke, 120 min.)

This breathtaking documentary traces the history of the Forest Service and its efforts to deliver the most benefits to the most people, while remaining good stewards of the land. This is a story of America's land, the public land we all own and where we resolve our conflicting interests. Since 1905, the United States Forest Service has been at the forefront of this ongoing experiment of democracy on the ground, an experiment which asks: What is the greatest good?

**Wed, Sept 28**

**Focus on: OIL**

**@ 7:00 & 9:30 THE END OF SUBURBIA**

(2004, Greg Greene, 78 min.)

Since World War II North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. Suburbia has become the American Dream. But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. This film explores suburbia's prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, when global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply.

**@ 8:30 Peak Oil Debate**

Some scientists argue that World Oil Peak and the inevitable decline of fossil fuels are upon us now. Join our guest Cutler J. Cleveland, Director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Studies at B.U., for a discussion on this and other issues presented in the film. *Free with paid admission to THE END OF SUBURBIA.*



## Thurs, Sept 29

### Focus on: URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Co-presented by Urban Ecology Institute, and Boston Natural Areas Network

#### @ 6:00 **PALE MALE**

(2002, Frederic Lilien, 54 min.)

In the midst of New York City, a bold and daring red-tailed hawk has taken up residence. Affectionately known as "Pale Male," the hawk courts, breeds, and hunts as its devoted urban fans root for its survival. This is a surprising account of the relationship humanity can have with nature.

#### Shows with: **MORE THAN FLOWERS**

(2001, Laura Beer, 29 min.)

During the 70s, many New York residents removed garbage from abandoned lots and planted gardens. Community gardens became valued sites for families to socialize, relax, and enjoy nature. In the 90s, however, the city began selling these lots to developers.

#### @ 8:00 **GOTHAM FISH TALES**

(2003, Robert Maass, 73 min.)

New York City fishermen are plumbing the city's unexpectedly vital waters to hook some of the more than 250 species of fish that live or migrate through Gotham's waterways. The beguiling and good humored characters in this film tell stories that come as a delightful surprise to city dwellers who don't know how vibrant and living city water can be. Tuna, sharks, mammoth striped bass, great schools of slashing bluefish, porpoises, harbor seals and great sea turtles, they all visit the harbors and bays of New York regularly.

#### Shows with: **HUSH**

(2004, Mike Seely, 4min.)

Paul Matzner really listens to our environment. Founder of the Nature Sounds Society in Oakland, he guides us through his auditory worlds and contrasts the images and sounds in nature with everyday noises and urban surroundings.

#### @ 9:30 **CHAIN**

(2004, Jem Cohen, 99 min.)

As regional character disappears and corporate culture shapes our environment, it's increasingly hard to tell where you are. In CHAIN, malls, theme parks, hotels and highways across the globe are joined into one "superlandscape." Two characters appear: one is a businessperson sent out to study theme park prospects; the other is a young drifter, surviving on the fringes of a mall. This feature film mixes documentary and narrative to tell their stories.

Co-presented by Balagan Experimental Film & Video series



## **ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS JUST FOR KIDS (And Their Parents, Too)**

**Saturday, Sept 24 & Sunday Sept 25**  
**Only \$5 adults/\$3 kids**

### **@ 11am ANIMATED SHORTS**

(1998/2004, Dir. Nick Hilligoss, 60 min.)

A selection of fun and funky shorts from enviromentally friendly animator Nick Hilligoss. BUNCHES OF FIVE is a collection that make us laugh as we reflect on the lessons we still have to learn if we expect to be a sustainable species. Includes "Turtle World", "Cell Animation", "Lower Orders", "Banjo Frogs" and "Possum's Rest".

GOOD RIDDANCE follows the exploits of Eco, the clean, green pest controller with a clever biological solution for every pest problem. But getting rid of pests the clean and green way isn't always easy...



### **@ noon Dr. Seuss' THE LORAX**

(1972, Hawley Pratt, 60min.)

THE LORAX offers the best of what we've come to expect from the illustrious doctor: delightful original creatures and brilliant whimsical rhymes. But here there is something more - a powerful message that Seuss implores both adults and children to heed. The story of the Lorax is an ecological warning that still rings true today amidst the dangers of clear-cutting, pollution, and disregard for the earth's environment.

## MORE MUDDY RIVER SCREENINGS

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### At the MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

#### *Sat, Sept 24 @ 1:45* **DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE**

(2004, Hubert Sauper, 107 min.)

Said to be the birthplace of mankind, the green and fertile Great Lakes Region of Africa is known for its unique wild life and famous National Parks. At the same time, it is truly the "Heart of Darkness" of our world. In the 1960's, the Nile Perch was introduced into Lake Victoria as a scientific experiment. The new fish extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish, and the tasty white fillets of this voracious predator are today exported in exchange for ammunition. This booming multinational industry of fish and weapons has now overtaken the shores of the world's biggest tropical lake.

\$9.00 general admission, \$8 for MFA members, students and seniors. Tickets can be ordered on line at [mfa.org](http://mfa.org) or 617/369-3306

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### At the PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

East India Square, Salem [www.pem.org](http://www.pem.org)

*Sat, Sept 24*

*@ 1:00* **PALE MALE**

*@ 3:00* **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

(2004, Robert Nixon, 90 min.)

Young men and women from public housing communities in Washington, D.C. join together and to clean up the polluted Anacostia River and return the endangered bald eagle to its historic nesting home. Filmed over twelve years, the film shows that these activists are endangered themselves, as many of them become the tragic victims of inner-city violence.

*Sun, Sept 25*

*@ 1:00* **THE FUTURE OF FOOD**

*@ 3:00* **BLUE VINYL**

All films at the Peabody Essex Museum are free with museum admission. Made possible by the Lowell Institute.