THE BALANCING POINT

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

If you've visited our home page, you've probably seen the **Equinox Moments** feature. This is a place where each of us can share with all of you our experiences and connections with nature.

(click on image to view Equinox Moments video)

This summer, I hit the Oregon Trail and did some camping and hiking in the Central Cascade Mountain Range. It was my first visit to this part of the country, and, as expected, I fell in love with it. I was a child, replete with wonderment for this new environment: brilliantly colored wildflowers, the likes of which I'd never seen; icy waters in rushing rivers fed by glacial snowmelt; waterfalls descending from seemingly nowhere; the majesty of Mt. Hood and the vastness of the Columbia River Gorge.

The spring thaw had come late to this area so there was still a chill in the air and even some snow on the ground in a few places. Being a Florida girl, I am still amazed every time I see snow. I don't think I'll ever get used to it—in fact, I hope I don't, as seeing it and touching it never fails to turn me into a giddy little kid.

My days in Oregon were spent hiking, my nights, huddled in front of a roaring campfire. There's nothing like camping in the mountains to reinvigorate your soul. The air is fresh, the fire warm and the solitude priceless. My visit to Oregon was brief, but the connection I felt to this vibrant landscape will stay with me always.

Our latest **Equinox Moments** is a short clip of some of the beautiful images and scenes I experienced there. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

—Stacey

EQUINOX DOCUMENTARIES

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Equinox Begins Work on Film to Remember the "Carr Cabin"

Equinox producers Bob Giguere and Bill Belleville have started working on a short film to celebrate a "Cracker" style cabin in the Ocala National Forest used extensively by renown Florida naturalist Archie Carr and his family. Videotaped oral history with some of the Carrs is helping provide valuable insight into the subject.

When Archie's family first moved to Florida in the late 1930s so their father could become the minister of a church in Umatilla, they built the little cabin in the "scrub" with the help of a local Cracker carpenter. The cabin and 46 acres of land on Lake Nicotoon were donated to the U.S. Forest Service two years ago by Archie's surviving brother, Dr. Tom Carr, an esteemed physicist.

As a backwoods retreat, the cabin provided a full immersion experience in the new Florida landscape for family and distinguished friends like Thomas Barbour. When Archie, an accomplished writer, sold his very first essay ("Hound Magic") to *Field & Stream*, he used the proceeds to screen in the cabin porch. Archie's dad also built small wooden boats for rowing and fishing out on the one-square-mile lake. In many ways, the rustic cabin is reminescent of nature ethicist Aldo Leopold's "Shack" retreat in Wisconsin.

Today, Archie and his wife Marjorie are fondly remembered for the courageous work they accomplished in Florida and throughout the Tropics—Marjorie with the Barge Canal and Archie with sea turtles. In this way, the cabin is more than a tin-roofed shack; it's iconic in what it means to all of us who have been inspired by the work of the Carr family.

Thanks to Ray Willis, archaeologist with the U.S.Forest Service, for his tenacious caring in alerting us to the need to "save" the cabin, to the generous input from Tom, Chuck and Steve Carr, and to Equinox Board member David Strickland who offered to financially support the film. It is our hope the film can be used to raise funding for restoration to help the public appreciate both the vernacular wisdom and the abiding spirit of the place.

IMW Honored by Inclusion in Two More Film Festivals!

In Marjorie's Wake has been accepted into two prestigious film festivals this fall. One is the inaugral Amelia Island Film Festival in Fernandina Beach. It includes screenings, receptions, workshops and a gala set for the Florida House Inn in the historic downtown.

IMW joins a festival roster of highly regarded films, including John Sayles' *Sunshine State* and Victor Nunez's *Yulee's Gold*.

IMW was also selected for the international Global Peace Film Festival in Orlando. This acclaimed series celebrates movies and documentaries that "set out to make a difference in the world" and includes a number of foreign films.

Venues included the Rollins College Bush Theater, the Orlando Science Center, Winter Park Library and other sites. *IMW* was screened twice with intros from the filmmakers.

Amelia Island Film Festival
September 25–28, 2008
Fernandina Beach
www.ameliaislandfilmfestival.org

Global Peace Film Festival
September 17–21, 2008
Orlando
www.peacefilmfest.org

Advisory Board Member Profile: Eileen Schein

Eileen Schein is an award-winning producer and Community Outreach Specialist. She started in television and radio at the age of eight, appearing in local weekly series in her hometown of Cleveland.

Eileen's career spans many years with the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), starting at WLIW-TV in Long Island, New York. Her work includes the Emmy award winning PBS series *The Health Chronicles*, *Safe Night USA* and *No Greater Love*, as well as regional and local shows, many of which were built around national projects: *Poetic License*, *Creating Health*, *Listen to the Kids*, *Scouts' Honor* and *Reading Rainbow* to name a few.

Community projects are Eileen's special interest. Most recently, she directed the National Center for Outreach's 3-year regional campaign, *Outreach For Florida*. A National Emmy award for Community Outreach was awarded to her for her innovative direction of an outreach campaign. The broadcast, *No Greater Love*, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, is a documentary telling the many stories around the topic of organ transplantation.

A self-professed city girl at heart, Eileen's leisure activities included walking on the beach and biking in the park. But in 1995, she moved to Wisconsin where it was her good fortune to work with folks who were not only passionate about their leisure sports, but also passionate about keeping the natural environment pure and sustainable for generations to come. It was then that she added canoeing to her list of activities.

Her biggest learning curve came while working on projects about food, farming, saving the pristine lakes, native Americans and their love of the land, and the small farmer's struggle to survive.

Eileen's leisure time and work time have always been blurred because her work involving community engagement and production is also her passion.

Eileen become involved with Equinox after meeting Bob. The two have been working on several projects, and as she says, "of course the conversation often turned to Equinox." Eileen's interest in Equinox projects as well as the insight she can provide from her experience in engaging communities made her a good candidate for Equinox's advisory board.

When she's not working, you can find Eileen keeping up with four children and a husband, traveling, reading, cooking and bicycling.

Bring the Adventure Home!

Explore the St. Johns River and revisit Marjorie Rawlings' historic journey again and again with your copy of *In Marjorie's Wake*. The DVD is available as our gift to you for a suggested donation of $29.95.

The companion CD, *In Marjorie's Wake,* has ten songs written by Jennifer Chase and performed with guitarist Goliath Flores. It is available as our gift to you for a suggested donation of $19.95.

Bill Belleville takes us behind the scenes of our PBS documentary in *Rediscovering Rawlings*. The book is available as our gift to you for a suggested donation of $17.95.

Click here to order.
Shipping is included. Donations can be made using PayPal via our website.

What About Bob?

Summer, as usual, has slipped by rather fast as we've watched numerous hurricanes turn into tropical storms and lots and lots of rain. It has given me an opportunity to see some things I haven't seen before… like a day on the St. Johns River with no boat traffic!

flotilla of kayaks await the eminent darkness

I took a short day jaunt down the Wekiva River to the mouth of the St. Johns and then a short way to my take-out at High Banks Marina. I must say that the short paddle on the St. Johns was like nothing I'd ever experienced on that river. There was a ban on watercraft due to the high level of water—compliments of Tropical Storm Fay—and it felt like I was paddling back in time. It could have been 200 years ago as I paddled, quiet and serene with only a few wading birds and a kingfisher for company. As I reluctantly hauled my kayak out of the water, I noticed a curious solitary barred owl in the tree above me. It's almost as if he too was enjoying the quiet of the river…until I disturbed it with the loading of kayaks on our vehicle. Both the owl and I may have to wait a long time for another day like that on the St. Johns River.

I also had the opportunity to again experience the excitement of bioluminescence in the Indian River lagoon system. I had the fortunate experience to bring along some "rookies" from my church's Creation Care group. The nighttime didn't disappoint as mullet and redfish were abundant and active and illuminated our evening paddle with exciting underwater fireworks display.

Opportunities to recharge and re-connect with nature are what Equinox is all about and it starts with our own nature experiences…shared with others.

If you haven't reconnected this summer, I'd encourage you to do so; it might just "illuminate" you to the wonders of nature that surround you every day.

In between my nature moments, I'm still making progress on my web series called *Bob's Place*. You can watch the transformation of my home landscape at **www.TheLandscapeRenovator.com**. And I'm continuing production of the short creation care film, *God's Stewards*, with my church group, Sierra Club and others.

I've kept busy with a lot of little projects including a sustainable growth video for the Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies at UCF and I've helped Bill on an interpretive presentation on *In Marjorie's Wake*. And Bill and I continue to work on a short film about the preservation of Archie Carr's cabin on Lake Nicotoon in Eustis.

I hope that the fall will introduce me to exciting new projects and, more importantly, a continuing string of "natural" endeavors.

Under Construction

Our latest "Construction Zone" is our **website**. We've been hard at work making improvements to enhance your ability to be interactive and to provide more information and options for our visitors. Our goal is to have an easy site to navigate and lots of information and links to help our visitors learn about Florida's environment and, more importantly, to help them find their own connection to our state's precious resources.

To improve the resource goals, we reconnected links and information in our ***Off the Map*** area. Here you can learn more about the rivers we feature, including the Indian River Lagoon, Shingle Creek and the Western Everglades.

You can find our latest newsletter posted on the website in our **Media/ News** section and you can also subscribe yourself or any of your friends to our quarterly newsletter, right on the website. And if you qualify, you can apply for our **Young Filmmaker's Award**, with all the criteria and information posted on the site.

visit our blog to keep up with our latest adverntures

We added many opportunities to engage with us or others on our website. We've redesigned our blog area, called **Latest News**. It will include the latest stories and pictures of our activities and it functions like most other blogs in that we'll allow you to post comments to us and our viewers about our activities or environmental issues of concern. And if you're familiar with it, you can subscribe to the blog with an RSS feed.

In our next newsletter, we'll unveil a new **Solstice Society** area on the website and we'll share some specific details and strategies on how to get the most out of your expereince when you visit our website. In the meantime, we hope you'll take some time and browse the new site at **www.EquinoxDocumentaries.org**.

And when you do, be sure your "connection" is more than "electronic."

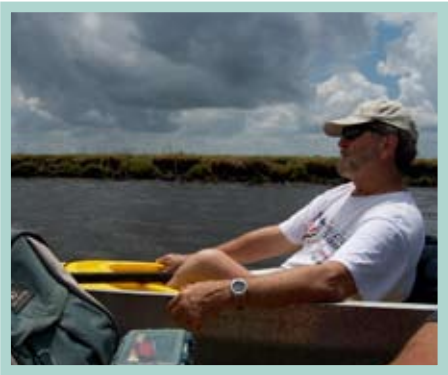
Where in the World is Bill?

Figuring Sanford wasn't hot enough this summer, Bill traveled to the Keys to do a series of essays and photos for the Travel Channel-sponsored site, **WorldHum.com**, traipsing from land to sea and back again.

With Bob's co-production input, he debuted Equinox's new PowerPoint on *IMW* at the University Club of Winter Park to a full house, explaining Equinox's art and mission, and distributing info to the 100-plus attendees. The PP, which includes five short clips from *IMW* and many digital pix, can now be used by anyone to tell the story of our accomplishments.

In September, Bill made several solo presentations, including one on the St. Johns to the Florida Trails Association at Leu Gardens in Orlando. With Bob, he is co-producing a short Equinox film about restoration of the Archie Carr cabin in the Ocala National Forest. (Bill is also working closely with archaeologist Dr. Ray Willis of the USFS and the Carr family to help plan media and educational strategy for that project.)

Bill rode the long asphalt river known as I-95 to FIU's Biscayne Bay campus to speak on nature and sprawl as part of the "New Horizons in Science and Humanities" lecture series, sponsored by the FHC and the college. Back upstream in St. Augustine, Bill and noted author



Bill kayaking on Puzzle Lake

Les Standiford chatted as a two-person panel about creative writing at the First Annual Florida Heritage Book Festival. Bill followed that with a screening of *IMW* where he fielded questions for a large festival crowd.

Bill continued to work with Art Historian Mallory O' Connor on "The Art and Science of Water" at SFCC, slated for Oct. 3 in Gainesville. The Forum and Expo celebrates the art of the St. Johns via an exhibition at the Thomas Gallery; "river art" is also a subject of a new UPF book by Bill, Mallory and Gary Monroe. Bill invited Cynthia Barnett (author of Mirage), Dr. Carol Lippincott (Chair of the Blue Spring Working Group), and St. Johns RiverKeeper Neil Armingeon to participate in a panel discussion for the Forum. (For more info on this event, email **oconnormall@bellsouth.net**)

In the field, Bill worked independently with Michelle Thatcher and outside editors to help her bring a film about her solo 500 mile river trek on the St. Johns to life. As part of that continued shooting, Bill again returned to Puzzle Lake—this time in a single kayak. As usual, he got lost.

With author Herb Hiller, Bill continued to plan the Second Annual River Classroom for Blue Spring in March '09 via the River Alliance (**www.stjohnsriveralliance.com**). Bill continues working closely with the Friends of the 18th St. Park in Sanford, and on the board of the Friends of the Wekiva River on various community projects, including park grants.

Meanwhile, his *Sprawl* book has joined several of his other titles in being endorsed for educators via the Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment; a new review of *Sprawl* also appeared in the academic journal *Southern Historian*. Excerpts of his writing have been included in the CD "Natural Florida In Word, Image and Deed," produced by the Defenders of the Environment and the FHC. The CD covers 500 years of cultural history in Florida via audio, video and print. Otherwise, to read essays on Bill's new "Florida Nature" web site, **www.FloridaNature.wordpress.com**.

Young Filmmaker's Prize for Florida Nature Documentaries

Equinox Documentaries and the Orlando Film Festival present the 2009 Young Filmmaker Prize for Florida Nature Documentaries.

Are you an amateur filmmaker with an interest in producing a nature documentary? Do you have a message about conservation or stewardship you'd like to share? If you answered yes, you may be eligible to enter the Young Filmmaker's Prize for Florida Nature Documentaries.

Sponsored by Equinox Documentaries and the Orlando Film Festival, this contest is open to amateur filmmakers between 18 and 30 years of age, as well as those currently enrolled in film school.

The first place winner will receive a cash award of $1,000 and his/her film will screen at the 2009 Orlando Film Festival. Additional prizes will be awarded for second and third place finishers.

For complete entry guidelines and detailed amateur criteria, or to submit an entry form, please visit **www.equinoxdocumentaries.org/yfp/**.

Entries must be received by April 2, 2009 so get out there and start shooting!