THE BALANCING POINT

EQUINOX DOCUMENTARIES

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Summer Slowdown

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. — John Lubbock

The summer heat tells us it is ok to slow down. It's practically a necessity in order to cool our bodies, but even more, it's an occasion to sit quietly and observe the world around us.

Our lives happen at such a fervored pace, and so much is missed in every moment. When we take the time to slow down, we can appreciate the subtelties that otherwise go unnoticed.

Listen for the rustling of leaves as the soft breeze passes through an oak grove or the patter of rain drops dancing on a lake. See the vibrant details in the summer flowers and watch the bees as they casually collect nectar from the blossoms. Notice how cool the air feels against your sweating skin, or how sweet it smells after a rainstorm.

Sure, it's hot, but I am grateful for summer's gentle reminder to slow down and for the opportunity to honor the minutiae that I may have missed until now. — Stacey

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Evaluating Exciting New Film Projects!

Diving on underwater shipwrecks... Examining the rare paleo-dune that spines our peninsula... Remembering Florida's dramatic alert about a water crisis some 80 years ago... Recalling the visionary naturalists who discovered new plants and animals here.

These are the four major concepts that Equinox is considering for our next documentary film. In doing so, we'll ponder our capacity to tell each story, how the story fulfills our mission, and funding opportunities for each.

We'll also continue to study two partnering opportunities with independent filmmakers. One is a film on the complex salt marshes of the Georgia coast via naturalist Fred Whitehead; the other documents a solo kayak trek by conservationist Michelle Thatcher on the entire St. Johns River system.

For radio, we'll evaluate a series for NPR affiliates in which we chronicle environmental concerns in our region. Such a series could range from low-budget "commentary" essays to more fully produced audio-documentaries with narration, onsite sound bites and music.

Of our film projects, the most straight-forward is the *Shipwreck Trail* of Florida. This is a retelling of the stories of five wrecks designated as Underwater Archaeological Preserves, ranging from the treasure galleon *San Pedro* off Islamorada to the steamship *City of Hawkinsville* in the Suwannee River.

More complex is the *Florida Galapagos* in which speciation of plants and animals on the ridge of central Florida is compared with that of the Florida Keys. While both exert island-like affects on evolution, the Keys provide a very clear geographic "apartness."

At once historic and timely is the retelling of the classic 80 year-old book, *From Eden to Sahara*, considered a landmark for its frank alert to the impending water crisis that Florida faces today. *Eden* is the most timely as it allows us to also tackle the decline in our aquifer and springs, and to question why conservation has never been a popular solution in our growth-driven state.

More archival in approach is the film anthology that honors the naturalists who explored Florida as moderns explore Amazonia today. Such a list includes A.W. Chapman, Archie Carr, Thomas Barbour, Rachel Carson and more.

HELP DETERMINE OUR FUTURE!

We are soliciting input from you, our supporters, through our public mission survey. We have many ideas of our own and we'd like to know what you think of them. We'd also like to hear any of your own ideas for future Equinox projects.

The survey is designed to give us feedback and ideas about future projects, education and outreach initiatives. There's also a place for you to contribute your own ideas for programs and outreach.

The survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete but it will provide us with valuable guidance for how we move forward. Won't you please take a moment to help? Simply click here to take our public mission survey.

IMW Continues to Air on Florida PBS Stations

In Marjorie's Wake continues to air on Florida PBS stations. Please visit our website for updates to upcoming broadcasts; we are posting them as soon as they become available to us.

If your local PBS station has not yet aired *In Marjorie's Wake* or it does not have *IMW* on its upcoming schedule, contact them or check their website in the near future as their schedules are updated monthly. (Click on the call letters of your local PBS station for contact info.)

WBCC Cocoa/Titusville/ Melbourne

WGCU Ft Myers

WUFT Gainesville

WMFE Orlando

WPBT Miami

WSRE Pensacola

WEDU Tampa/Gulf Coast

WFSG/WFSU Panama City/ Tallahassee

Below are upcoming known air dates for June and July.

WUSF Tampa
Monday, June 23, 1:00pm

WXEL Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
Sunday, July 6, 3:00pm

WJCT Jacksonville
Sunday, July 20, 12:00pm

Board Member Profile — Bryan Dreisbach

Equinox Documentaries would like to welcome its newest member of the Board of Directors, Bryan Dreisbach.

Bryan Dreisbach is an eighth generation Floridian and has lived in Florida his entire life. He attended Edgewater High School in Orlando and the University of Florida in Gainesville where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in accounting.

Bryan's love and interest for nature and the outdoors began at an early age. His innate inquisitiveness about animals and the natural world was fostered as a young fisherman and through his involvement in scouting.

As a Boy Scout, Bryan was able to experience the wilderness of Florida and the southern United States, ranging from North Carolina to the Dry Tortugas in the Florida Keys. His most memorable and adventurous excursion was a weeklong trip out of Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys, on which he and his troop sailed *The Heritage of Miami*, an 81' topsail schooner, from Lower Matacumbe Key to the Dry Tortugas to explore Fort Jefferson and the surrounding coral reefs. Here, they had a frightful encounter with a white squall that nearly left them shipwrecked.

After countless hiking, canoeing and camping trips in the Ocala National Forest, Everglades National Park and on parts of the Wekiva River, Bryan culminated his scouting career by earning the highest rank and honor of Eagle Scout.

There is no doubt that Bryan's love for Florida and the outdoors has continued into his adult life. His interest in fishing has manifested itself into a true passion. It is hard not to find Bryan on a saltwater flat or off a beach on Florida's west coast on any given spring weekend or on part of Tampa Bay during the rest of the year. Bryan began fishing for bream and largemouth bass on Lakes Adair, Spring and Silver, but after his first trip to the Everglades, he realized that fishing in the salt is where he wanted to be. Bryan uses fly and spinning tackle and is truly dedicated to the sport, conservation and doing it right.

Bryan is a Certified Public Accountant and a Partner of Franklin Street Insurance Services, a Franklin Street Financial Partners company, where he focuses his efforts on real estate, commercial property and casualty insurance and the finance and accounting for FSFP. Previously, Bryan was a Vice President and Director of Planning for Foster & Dunhill, Ltd. where he and his department worked with high net worth clientele through-out the U.S. to develop U.S. compliant offshore structures for asset protection and financial planning. Bryan began his career at Deloitte, where he worked in the Lead Tax Services group in the Jacksonville office. He is a member of Coastal Conservation Association, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The Founders Society, The Tampa Club, Florida Tax Watch and the Tampa Bay Real Estate Investment Council.

Bryan resides in Tampa with his wife. Lisa. They are expecting their first child (a baby Gator!) in October of this year.

Where in the World is Bill?

Like the proverbial madly-swimming duck whose hyper-leg movements go largely unseen, Bill continues paddling through a myriad of projects.

Duck-wise, he spent two days on the St. Johns as a lecturer aboard two separate eco-heritage tours for the St. Johns RiverKeeper. He also led a paddling day trip for winners of a Sierra fundraising auction to support the legal costs for the DeBary marina, taking the participants to Brickyard Slough where our *IMW* crew had one of their most memorable experiences.

On land, he was part of a larger lecture series on nature at the UCF library. Earth Week was marked by a special book signing at Urban Think in downtown Orlando where he had a chance to promote *Rediscovering Rawlings*. Another such signing took place at Maya Books & Music during Sanford's monthly street party.

At the Enzian Theater, Bill spoke to 200 high school students who attended a nature film festival as part of Earth Week. On the WMFE-FM program, "Intersection" with Mark Simpson, Bill fielded questions about the current water challenges in our region as well as *IMW*.

Bill at Maya Books& Music

With Bob, he ventured out into the Big-Little Econ State Park to hunt down some butterfly orchids for an "Equinox Moment." No orchids were bagged, but the pair shot many blooming bromeliads and a number of seasonal wildflowers along with some scenics of the river.

Bill also hosted internationally known filmmaker Wes Skiles who was here to keynote the annual Friends of the Wekiva Banquet. Bill led Wes and friends on a field trip to photograph several springs in the Seminole State Forest. Bill also accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Directors of the Key West-based Reef Relief, the state's premier coral reef conservation organization. In early June, he traveled to Key West to be inducted to the Board and participate in a strategy meeting for the coming year.

Bill was again asked to join National Geographic's "expert panel" to evaluate the historic components of World Heritage destinations he has visited. Bill also wrote an op-ed essay for the *Orlando Sentinel* on the power of "story", contributed a short essay to FHC's *Forum* on sense of place, and continued to develop long-term book projects.

Find out where in the world Bill is next at www.billbelleville.com.

What About Bob?

Well, I can't believe that summer is already here. For many in Florida, that usually means air-conditioning restrictions, but I usually head for the outdoors with a few extra shirts and towels. There's nothing like the rainy season to bring out the lush tropical vegetation in this sub-tropic zone and all the associated wildlife.

(click on image to view Equinox Moments video)

Just in my own yard, I've watched active lizards, snakes, squirrels, a variety of birds and a whole bunch of bees feasting on my blossoming palm trees. The transformation is refreshing for me.

Jogs along the lakes and bike trail paths extend my range, but there's nothing like hoofing it to the Econ River or Seminole State Forest for some car-free zones. My camera and I are ready for the summer. Slowing down is the only pre-requisite.

As a result, I've included a short clip of a moment in nature that I had the pleasure of watching — a golden orb spider in the early morning sun, having breakfast. While the clip is only a few minutes long, the actual meal took well over 20 minutes.

It was a fascinating experience that I shared with my good friend, Chuck Towne. Earlier that morning, we shared a few hours with a couple of black bears in Wekiwa State Park, but the golden orb really made my day. With the sunrise just at the right height and angle, it was clear to see the web of spun gold, giving this often-feared spider its name. I hope you'll enjoy the video.

In between my nature moments, I'm still making progress on my web series, Bob's Place. You can watch the transformation of my home landscape at www.TheLandscapeRenovator.com. I'm also putting the finishing touches on the last episodes of *For Your Health* for UCF-TV and I've started production of the short Creation Care film, *God's Stewards*.

That's a short list compared to my last entry, but the break gives me time to reconnect with special moments in nature. I hope to continue to share those little "snapshots" with you, both via this newsletter and our website, where I'll be asking others to join me and share their moments with us each month. I hope you'll take a moment to slow down and notice the natural, every day events that happen in your life, too.

Keep up with Bob at www.bgenesis.net.

What's Next for Equinox?

What *is* next? How about some up close and personal time with the people who make Equinox Documentaries go?

Do you want to see the beauty of the St. Johns River on the "big screen"? Are you looking for some interpretive takes on Leslie's and Jennifer's journey, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings or art and culture in nature?

Our mission is more than just producing documentaries — it includes helping individuals find a way to turn learning opportunities and experience into action.

The first step is to personally share our own experiences and help you understand the true impact that each and everyone of us can have on conservation and preservation.

Contact us and let us bring the *In Marjorie's Wake* experience to you. Just visit our website and fill out an application form so we can customize your presentation to fit your needs.

Hope to see you soon!

Become a Solstice Society Member

The Solstice Society is comprised of people who care about our environment, people who believe it is urgent to tell stories of "place" so we can all make better informed decisions about sustainability of nature and place. They are individuals and businesses who provide vital ongoing support of Equinox Documentaries through multi-year unrestricted donations.

Equinox Documentaries is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that relies on private donations to support the production of its films as well as its annual operating costs. Equinox can continue to produce films only to the extent that it receives the generous support of people like you.

To join, please visit our website at www.equinoxdocumentaries.org.

LEVELS OF SUPPORT AND BENEFITS

Crew ($1,000 – $2,499)
• Recognition in Promotional Materials
• Invitation to Annual Recognition Event

The Editors ($2,500 – $4,999 per year for 3 years)
includes all ***Below the Line*** level benefits plus • Equinox Hat or Shirt

The Writers ($5,000 – $9,999 per year for 3 years)
includes all ***Editor*** level benefits plus • J.T. Glisson Poster
• *In Marjorie's Wake* DVD or *Off the Map* series

The Producers ($10,000 + per year for 3 years)
includes all ***Writer*** level benefits plus • Production Trip Journal
• Framed Limited Edition Glisson Print • Equinox Hat and Shirt
• *In Marjorie's Wake* DVD and *Off the Map* series

Individuals or businesses may join by making a pledge of multi-year support at one of the levels described above.
All donations are tax-deductible as specified by the rules of the IRS.

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.

Shipping is included. Donations can be made using PayPal via our website.