THE BALANCING POINT

EQUINOX DOCUMENTARIES

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IMW Goes National!

On January 31, 2009, *In Marjorie's Wake* will be released to PBS stations throughout the United States. The release, which will be in both Standard and High-Definition (HDTV) formats, is good for two years, making *IMW* available for broadcast across the country until 2011.

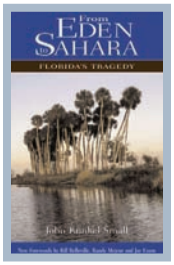
We're most excited to now offer the HD version as we feel the higher quality of digital broadcasting will really bring the beautiful imagery of the St. Johns River to life.

To make sure *IMW* is broadcast in your area, contact your local PBS station, tell them you want to see *In Marjorie's Wake* and let them know it will be available on January 31, 2009. If your station has already scheduled it, check with their websites for broadcast times.

Although *IMW* was released to Florida PBS affiliates last spring, those stations also have an opportunity to broadcast the documentary again during national release. The film will continue to be available as a DVD and can be purchased on the Equinox website.

Equinox Receives Grant for *Eden to Sahara*

The Lydia B. Stokes Foundation has awarded Equinox a $10,000 grant to help us get started on the fundraising and production for our next film, *Eden to Sahara*.



The Foundation, committed to the Quaker philosophy of empowering people to help themselves, does not allow for unsolicited grant requests. Board member Nancy Deren of Gainesville invited Equinox to apply for the funding since the *Eden* film will inform and empower audiences about choices in sustainable water management.

Other nonprofit Florida organizations that have recently received Stokes Foundation grants include the Florida Trust for Public Land, and The Nature Conservancy. Florida is one of five states in which grant-making emphasis is directed. Both the "environment" and "education" are key considerations for the grants. The majority of grants are between $2,500 and $10,000. The Foundation is based in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

We hope the prestige of the Stokes grant will help other potential corporate, individual and foundation funders more fully appreciate the significance of the *Eden* documentary. This film will use the environmental classic *Florida's Tragedy: From Eden to Sahara* by botanist John Kunkel Small to help us understand historic alerts to our current groundwater problems. By doing so, we can stress the wisdom of managing water for long term sustainability rather than for short-term political and economic gain.

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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.

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!

Annual Giving

The highlight of our year was the PBS release of *In Marjorie's Wake*. Thanks to all of our friends and funders who made this incredible documentary possible.

But we're not done yet! Natural systems and places in Florida are under serious threats. There's a greater need than ever to help people understand the need to connect with nature, and to sustainably balance preservation with growth.

As a result, 2009 is full of opportunities for film projects, educational programs, and outreach. We're actively moving forward with funding for our next film, *Eden to Sahara*, which vividly tells the timely story of Florida's water problems. We already have a $10,000 grant from the Lydia B. Stokes Foundation to serve as a base for underwriting this project.

Eden will require about half the funding of *In Marjorie's Wake*, so we are hoping to bring this film to television far more quickly than the more logistically complex *In Marjorie's Wake*. Like *In Marjorie's Wake*, *Eden* can also be used by educators to help them teach concepts of nature and conservation.

In addition, we continue prospecting for funds to support our *Off the Map* series of kayaking Florida's Rivers, as well as *Florida Galapagos*, a documentary that examines bio-geography and island speciation by comparing nature of the Florida Keys to the Lake Wales Ridge.

In addition to documentaries, we plan to launch a lecture series and create educational programs/materials related to *In Marjorie's Wake*. And, we'll be officially launching the music CD for *In Marjorie's Wake*, created by Jennifer Chase with the help of musician Goliath Flores.

As in the past, our success is directly related to your good will. Economic times are rocky, but we still need your help in keeping nature-related education alive. This is particularly urgent as the mainstream media now devotes far less time than ever to telling these vital stories.

Please take the time now to **make a pledge for 2009**. Donations are tax deductible, and can come from corporations, foundations, individual giving and from estate bequeaths.

If your pledge comes before 12/31/08, you will receive a donation credit on your 2008 taxes.

Explore the Equinox Website

Over the past year, we've been improving our website, adding elements to help showcase our work, keep you up to date on the latest Equinox news and add rich content to complement our productions. Now is the time to take a few minutes to explore the site with us.

www.equinoxdocumentaries.org

First stop, **EquinoxDocumentaries.org**. On this page, you will find a **Featured News** paragraph front and center. This will be updated frequently and links directly to our blog for more in-depth information. You'll also find our quarterly mini-video, ***Equinox Moments***, which offers a brief respite with beautiful nature scenery. You may notice that our clips are now hosted on our own channel at **You Tube**, which can also be accessed directly at **http://www.youtube.com/user/EquinoxDocumentaries**.

On the left, you'll see our navigation has expanded. We've got links for all you're looking for, including an up-and-coming **Solstice Society** special members-only area and our new **Young Filmmakers Prize**. Be sure to visit the **Portfolio**, where we've added information about past works. Click on **Explore More** for details about the **Off The Map** series and three completed segments.

Under **Current Projects**, ***In Marjorie's Wake*** contains a full mini-site, with photo galleries, educational resources for further study, press materials, and the **Producer's Journal** of the filming. We've also begun adding content for our newest projects as well, so visit this space often for updates.

In Marjorie's Wake "mini-site"

Our **Shop** area brings the music, images and words of our work to your home. These items are available as a thank-you gift for your suggested donation to our organization.

If you're looking for a quick link to subscribe a friend to our newsletter, click on **Contact** and use the easy sign-up form to enter an email address to add it to our automated mailing list. To dive in a little deeper, use the form under the **Get Involved** tab to give us your contact information and interests related to our work.

Finally, be sure to visit our **blog**, where we feature the most recent news and information about the organization. You'll see sections for each of our current projects and some past pieces as well. The area is rich with stories and images about our work, and we're adding to it all the time. The **Categories** option on the right lets you narrow your search or read about specific projects featured in the blog. At the bottom right, you will see a link to **subscribe to the blog via RSS**. By clicking the link, you can have the headlines delivered to your Google or Yahoo news reader (or other similar news program) as they are posted. (If you are not familiar with this great tool, check out **http://www.whatisrss.com/** for a brief description to get you started).

We hope that you'll enjoy exploring our website and become more connected with the work we do. As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback on our site, as well as your involvement in our organization and in the natural world around you.

What About Bob?

Fall is always one of my favorite seasons. Growing up in the northeast, it was a time of preparation—chilling changes and "gathering nuts" for a sequestered winter. It was also a time to take inventory of what I'd accomplished and those things left unfinished.

With the surprising changes in the economy, work life has been pretty slow, leaving the inventory numbers a little depressing. But it has given me the opportunity to make preparations and be hopeful for a busier time, to catch up with family and friends, read a few books and examining new opportunities.

I've spent more time volunteering on projects I have a passion for, such as creation care at my church. The slow times have allowed me to align my interests, my passions and my goals into a business plan that appears more hopeful for the coming year. A new year and a new start—I hope that's what it is for all of us.

Workwise, I'm still posting progress on my front yard transformation. You can continue to follow the progress of *Bob's Place* at www.TheLandscapeRenovator.com. I'm continuing production of the short creation care film, *God's Stewards*, with my church group, the Sierra Club, Conservation International and others. I've almost completed the filming phase with interviews in Michigan, Kentucky, Chicago, Washington DC and Atlanta. I've been involved in a few short filming projects, including an underwater Mermaid shoot for a presentation in China. And I'm working on a short fundraising video for Angel's Trace on domestic violence.

Bill and I continue to work on a short film about Archie Carr's cabin on Lake Nicotoon, which you can read about in this newsletter, and on funding and early production of *Eden to Sahara*. The opportunity to tell the story of water in Florida over the last 85 years is both timely and needed.

All that as well as budget preparations and Annual meeting preparations keep us all busy on Equinox objectives. There is no slow down in *our* economy!

I hope that you all take a moment to take an inventory and celebrate the good things that happened to you this year. Happy Holidays.

Advisory Board Member Profile: Robert Freeman

Robert Freeman grew up in New Smyrna Beach. He began boating on the Banana River in 1948 and continued boating on the St. John's and Ortega Rivers through the late 1950s. He went on family fishing trips to the Welaka and Ocklawaha River,s and camped and canoed at O'Leno, Ocean Pond and Alexander and Juniper Springs. He was a member of Sea Explorer Ship 26 and learned to sail at the Rudder Club.

Robert has taken numerous backpacking trips in the American Southwest and Pacific Northwest. More recently, he kayaked in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia and in Baja, California. He always looks forward to sleeping under the stars.

Professionally, Robert has served as counsel and legal advisor to local governments in connection with their capital project financing since 1978 and is with the firm Bryant Miller Olive. Robert is a graduate of Darlington School in Rome, GA, of Princeton University, where he majored in history, and of the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was an editor of the Georgia Law Review.

Robert is a communicant at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville and the San Marco Club. He is a past president of the Mental Health Association of Jacksonville, the University of Georgia Law School Council, and the Princeton Alumni Association of North Florida, a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of Gateway Community Services, Inc., and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Darlington School.

Robert is currently attending the Haden Institute in Flat Rock, NC, where he is studying to be a dream group facilitator. His principal interest is with the intersection of religious mysticism, Jungian studies, meditation and 12-Step programs.

Robert enjoys camping, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, hiking, backpacking, walking and reading. He and his wife, Victoria, have two married sons and two grandchildren.

Robert's connection to Equinox is a result of his acquaintance with Bill Belleville, who has been a regular guest at the B&B in Jacksonville where Robert and Victoria make their home.

Give the Gift of Adventure This Holiday Season!

Equinox Documentaries' DVDs, CDs and books make great gifts — not just for the holidays, but any time! And your tax-deductible donation helps support our mission of helping viewers connect with nature. ***Click here or on the item to order.*** *Shipping is included. Donations can be made using PayPal via our website.*

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.

Where in the World is Bill?

Like most of us, Bill's been enjoying the seasonal transition in Florida, taking time to pay careful attention to the way nature sheds her warm weather skin for a more temperate one.

Although he's bounced around on the lecture circuit, he most enjoyed the chance to once again paddle the Suwannee River, putting in above White Springs and camping in the valley cleaved from karst limestone and white sandy shoals. Despite the bustle of today's Florida, Bill and friends found a river that is essentially unaltered since his first paddle here a couple of decades ago. Certainly, a vital part of the spirit of Equinox has to do with not just lamenting the loss of our natural places, but celebrating the rare landscape that still remains.

Back in the "built landscape," Bill joined Bob and Leslie Poole to screen *IMW* for Rollins students. That was followed by an introduction to *UCF's* Metro Center Forum entitled "Reconnecting with the St. Johns," an event keynoted by former Mayor John Delaney and co-sponsored by the Trust for Public Land.

At the invitation of historian Dr. Mike Denham, Bill presented "Sprawl and Our Natural Landscape" at Florida Southern College. There, in the Hollis Conference Center, he had fun experiencing a round lecture room designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Suwannee River

As part of the Florida Humanities Council lecture series, Bill presented *IMW* to some 400 people at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach and after, entertained a lively Q&A session from the audience.

In between, Bill had a chance to speak to a literary club in St. Augustine, and to spend time with Jamie Aquino's Leesburg High School journalism class, who are studying manatees and dolphins in a special partnership with the U.N. Environmental Program.

As an member of the Advisory Board for the St. Johns RiverKeeper, Bill attended their annual Oyster Roast fundraiser at the Garden Club in Jacksonville, and had a chance to talk with Ex. Dir. Jimmy Orth about partnering on future public events. Bill continues working with Reef Relief, the leading coral reef advocacy organization in the Keys, on expanding their conservation range beyond that island chain via a series of "coral culture" lectures and collateral materials.

And the Equinox project that is producing a film "trailer" to bring needed attention to the Archie Carr family cabin in the Ocala National Forest gained some momentum when the Umatilla Historical Society agreed to serve as the non-profit for project donors. Archie and Marjorie Carr's daughter, Mimi, agreed to read the narration for the short film. Dr. Ray Willis, the USFS archaeologist who helped kickstart the Carr Cabin restoration, will present the trailer during the Black Bear Festival in April 2009. It will later be used as a DVD for fundraising, entered into film fests for short clips, and so on.

Finally, with ecotourism guru Herb Hiller, Bill continues to fine-tune the upcoming Second Annual River Classroom at Blue Spring from March 10-13, sponsored by the St. Johns River Alliance. To book a spot, visit www.stjohnsriveralliance.com. Otherwise, you can continue to follow Bill's nature field essays at www.FloridaNature.wordpress.com

Carr Cabin Project Update

The Umatilla Historical Society has agreed to shepherd incoming donations to the Archie Carr cabin project so all future donations to the restoration of that structure and site will be charitable.

Archie Carr

Equinox is providing a free short film "trailer" to help promote the awareness for and restoration of an old Cracker-style cabin the Carr family built in the scrub back in the late 1930's. The Carrs moved to Florida a few years earlier so that Archie's father could take a post as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Umatilla. With the help of a local carpenter, they built the tin-roofed cabin on the square-mile Lake Nictoon in the nearby Ocala National Forest. The cabin was used as a retreat by the family for several decades, and many personal and professional visitors shared in that experience.

Donations to the Umatilla Historical Society will not go to the short film, but will directly fund the restoration and interpretation of the dilapidated cabin. A separate state project is independently restoring the now-dry Lake Nicotoon.

Several Carr family members have been interviewed on camera for the short film, which will be narrated by Mimi Carr, one of five children of Archie and Marjorie Harris Carr. The film will be produced in time for the Black Bear Festival in Umatilla in April 2009. For information on how to support the Cabin project, check the Equinox news blog for the latest news.

Special Thanks...

For financial and in-kind contributions to Equinox Documentaries, Inc.

Unrestricted Support for Equinox Documentaries

The "Writer's" Level ($5,000 - $9,999)
David Strickland

Contributor
United Way
Joanne Hanley
Westminster Towers
Elizabeth Miller

Support for Video on Archie Carr's Cabin Restoration

The "Crew" ($1,000 -$2,499)
David Strickland

Jon Boat donation
Lisa Bohlman