



# Norfolk Field Naturalists

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In recognition of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012, the Norfolk Field Naturalists have purchased and donated a collection of 23 educational videos to the Norfolk Public Library, and President Bernie Solymar donated an additional 12 DVDs from his personal collection. The 35 DVD collection, entitled “*The Nature and Environment Series*”, includes breath-taking nature films that highlight Earth’s natural history and visits special places like the Galapagos, Africa’s Great Rift and the Pacific Ocean and its islands, and ones that trace our human origins and the journeys of Charles Darwin, which led to his defining theory of Natural Selection. The “Environmental Issues” series covers a broad range of topical issues affecting our world today – from disquieting documentaries on global warming, large-scale industrial food production, the American healthcare system and stories of corporate greed in the natural resource industry, to uplifting and optimistic stories about how individuals and communities around the world are making a difference in protecting our biosphere.

The Norfolk Field Naturalists is a community-based, non-profit organization founded in 1962. The main aims of the organization are the study, appreciation and conservation of our natural world. Members can attend monthly meetings featuring dynamic speakers and thought-provoking presentations, year round guided nature hikes, and various hands-on educational workshops. The NFN are also the stewards of the Rowanwood Sanctuary and are affiliated with *Nature’s Calling Environmental Education*, an organization that connects local youth and their families with nature and the outdoors by raising awareness and appreciation for our natural world and fostering a strong environmental ethic through community-based education and engagement. To learn more, or to become a member of the Norfolk Field Naturalists visit them at: [www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org).

To rent any of the below documentaries visit the Norfolk County Public Library website at <http://www.ncpl.ca/> and follow these instructions:

- 1) During 2012 (our 50th anniversary year):
  - a. Click on **Search**
  - b. See **Featured Materials** for a link to all the DVDs donated
- 2) Permanently
  - a. Click on **Our Community** and then **Norfolk County** in the drop down menu
  - b. Click on **Norfolk Field Naturalists** for a link to [www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org) and a complete list of the DVDs donated

A description of the documentaries in the 2 series is provided on the following pages.

## **NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY SERIES**

### **BBC's Last Chance to See (2010)**

Stephen Fry and zoologist Mark Carwardine head to the ends of the Earth in search of animals on the edge of extinction, following the route Mark took 20 years ago with author Douglas Adams.

### **Darwin's Secret Notebooks (2008)**

Along the wild edges of the Earth, against a stunning background of aerial, underwater, and wildlife photography, evolutionary biologist Armand Leroi leads us on an unforgettable journey retracing the adventure – and uncovering the evidence – that inspired Darwin's revolutionary work, *The Origin of Species*. Using Darwin's own dairy and field notes, Armand goes beyond the Galapagos to explore forgotten shores to witness the very creatures, fossils, and places that captivated the young naturalist's imagination....and changed the world forever.

### **BBC's Galapagos (2007)**

A documentary following Smithsonian marine biologist Carole Baldwin as she explores the Galapagos Islands, a fascinating microcosm of our planet and home to some of the most astonishing creatures on Earth. Galapagos reveals how wildlife has found the most enterprising ways to survive on this restless volcanic outpost. Baldwin links her story to Charles Darwin's 1835 expedition which propelled his theory of evolution.

### **BBC's Wild China (2008)**

China is one of the oldest civilizations on Earth, and for the first time, in almost a century, it is opening up to the world. This in-depth look at some of China's most impressive natural sites such as the ancient Han Kingdom the Mongol steppes, the Silk Road and the Tibetan Plateau. A total of 300 minutes in 6 original episodes.

### **BBC's Wild Pacific (2009)**

The Pacific Ocean is unimaginably vast. The distance between islands can be huge – literally hundreds and thousands of kilometres – and yet, the Pacific is home to stunning natural beauty and an amazing abundance of some of the most unique wildlife on the planet. The six-part series (353 minutes) surveys the natural history of the islands of the South Pacific region, including many of the coral atolls and New Zealand. It was filmed entirely in high-definition.

### **National Geographic: Prehistoric Predators (2007)**

This zoological documentary transports audiences innumerable millennia back in time to the Earth's Ice Age, when massive carnivorous predators including the dire wolf, the sabre-toothed cat and the short-faced bear roamed the face of the planet. In addition to recreating this prehistoric world onscreen for viewers, the program poses the question of why these magnificent beasts (who once freely exerted power and terror over lesser members of the animal kingdom) suffered from rapid extinction, while smaller and seemingly more vulnerable species persisted

### **National Geographic: Birth of Civilization (2008)**

National Geographic journey's back 15,000 years to trace humankind's incredible journey through time. Relive mankind's defining moments through the ages and witness the challenges and incremental advancements that gave birth to civilization as we know it.

### **National Geographic: The Human Family Tree (2009)**

The program sets out to reveal, in dramatic fashion, that by gathering and studying the DNA of a couple of hundred random people collected in a single day on a single Queens, New York street, scientists are able to prove that we are all related; that we are, as the program title implies members of the same human family tree.

### **BBC's Yellowstone: Battle for Life (2009)**

Filmed over the course of a year in Yellowstone, this documentary tracks the area's wildlife as they grapple with life and death within one of America's last remaining wilderness regions.

### **BBC's The Great Rift (2010)**

Journey through this amazing geographical feature and see how the forces of nature have shaped the landscape, creating a hotbed of evolution and the cradle of mankind. Visible from space, the Great Rift runs for thousands of miles. It creates, connects and defines the wildest, most charismatic landscape in the world. - from the majestic, snow-capped mountains of the Kilimanjaro to the hustle and bustle of the Red Sea's coral reefs to the dry open savannahs of the Serengeti to the rain-soaked forests of the Mountains of the Moon.

### **National Geographic: Great Migrations (2010)**

Three years in the making, and from award-winning National Geographic cinematographers, Great Migrations is a landmark series featuring the epic struggles of animal migrations around the planet and the groundbreaking science behind these life-or-death marathons. The movie provides an unparalleled look at the volume and diversity of wildlife that face countless obstacles in the name of self-preservation or the survival of the species--from jellyfish and wildebeests to walruses and monarch butterflies. Filmed over 3 years in stunning high-definition. Reveals never-before-seen animal behaviour.

### **Waterwalker (1984)**

Follow naturalist Bill Mason on his journey by canoe into Ontario wildness. The filmmaker and artist begins on Lake Superior, then explores winding and sometimes tortuous river waters to the meadowlands of the river's source. Along the way, Mason paints scenes that capture his attention and muses about his love of the canoe, his artwork and his own sense of the land.

### **Natural Treasures of Lambton County (2010)**

Larry Cornelis, of Lambton Wildlife, and filmmaker Danny Alexander teamed up to produce this DVD. The pair spent 14 months and travelled 2,000 kilometres gathering footage for the 20-minute film. The film chronicles the extensive biodiversity of the area, with scenes at Pinery Provincial Park, the Port Franks sand dunes, Rock Glen and Bickford Oak woods.

### **Microcosmos (1996)**

Microcosmos captures the fun and adventure of a spectacular hidden universe revealed in a breathtaking close-up view unlike anything you've ever seen! Marvel at a pair of stag beetles dueling like titans amid the thunderous clashing of their horns. Stare bug-eyed as a magnificent army of worker ants race to stock their larder...while trying to avoid becoming some feisty pheasant's dinner. And you'll have a front-row seat to witness an amazing transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, the remarkable birth of a mosquito and several other minute miracles of life. With its tiny cast of thousands Microcosmos leaves no doubt that Mother Nature remains the greatest special effects wizard of all.

### **Grizzly Man (2005)**

In this mesmerizing film, acclaimed director Werner Herzog explores the life and death of amateur grizzly bear expert and wildlife preservationist Timothy Treadwell. Treadwell lived unarmed among the bears for thirteen summers, and filmed his adventures in the wild during his final five seasons. In October 2003, Treadwell's remains, along with those of his girlfriend, Amie Huguenard, were discovered near their campsite in Alaska's Katmai National Park and Reserve. They had been mauled and devoured by a grizzly, the first known victims of a bear attack in the park.

### **Isaac and Blewett in Fundy National Park (2009)**

The incredible environment of Fundy National Park has been captured on film by Isaac since the early 70's. The duo's original songs about living on the edge of the bay combined with Brian's visuals have been part of their regular summer gigs in the park. For almost a decade they've been playing throughout the summer for visitors in the park, and this DVD came out of their wish to take a piece of Fundy home with them. Sit back with a glass of wine or cup of tea and really see the edge of the Bay of Fundy.... with an awesome soundtrack!

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SERIES**

### **The Future of Food (2004)**

Offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade. From the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada to the fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, this film gives a voice to farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been negatively impacted by this new technology. The health implications, government policies and push towards globalization are all part of the reason why many people are alarmed about the introduction of genetically altered crops into our food supply. Shot on location in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

### **Our Daily Bread (2005)**

Welcome to the world of industrial food production and high-tech farming! To the rhythm of conveyor belts and immense machines, Nikolaus Getzhalter's award-winning film looks without commenting or flinching into the places where food is produced: monumental spaces, surreal landscapes and bizarre sounds - a cold, industrial environment which leaves little space for individualism. People, animals, crops and machines play a supporting role in the logistics of this system which provides our society's sustenance.

### **National Geographic's Guns, Germs and Steel (2005)**

Based on Jared Diamond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same name, the movie traces humanity's journey over the last 13,000 years - from the dawn of farming at the end of the last Ice Age to the realities of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Diamond argues it is due to the acquisition of guns and steel and the changes brought about by germs that there is such disparity between those with advanced technology and those who still live primitively.

### **SiCKO (2007)**

Michael Moore's new documentary sets out to investigate the American healthcare system. Sticking to his tried-and-true one-man approach, Moore sheds light on the complicated medical affairs of individuals and local communities.

### **Flow – For the Love of Water (2009)**

The world water crisis has rapidly become one of the most topical issues of our day as our global resources dwindle. Tensions continue to mount between politics, the environment and human rights in the battle for the future of our planet's supply of drinking water. Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigates this crisis at the global and human scale like never before, begging the question: Can anyone really OWN water? FLOW offers a scathing look at the emergence of a world water cartel as well as an examination of the solutions we can embrace in the future.

### **The Cove (2009)**

*The Cove* is directed by experienced *National Geographic* photographer Louie Psihoyos, who sets about to uncover a shocking (but regular) ritual on the Japanese coast: the herding and slaughter of thousands of

bottlenose dolphins in the town of Taiji. A few dolphins are saved during this process, and sold off to aquariums so they can perform in water shows. The rest are crowded together and--away from prying eyes--stabbed to death, their meat sold as food.

**Dirt! the Movie (2009)**

Directed and produced by Bill Benenson and Gene Rosow, this documentary takes you inside the wonders of the soil. It tells the story of Earth's most valuable and underappreciated source of fertility--from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation.

**Food, Inc. (2008)**

For most Americans, the ideal meal is fast, cheap, and tasty. *Food, Inc.* examines the costs of putting value and convenience over nutrition and environmental impact. The filmmaker takes his camera into slaughterhouses and factory farms where chickens grow too fast to walk properly, cows eat feed pumped with toxic chemicals, and illegal immigrants risk life and limb to bring these products to market at an affordable cost.

**Climate of Change (2009)**

This documentary takes the viewer to countries and communities around the world, and highlights the efforts of everyday people who are making a difference in the fight against global warming. From saving giant trees in New Guinea to building a Global Seed Vault in Norway, this movie is a testament to the individuals, groups and cultures around the world that care about our Biosphere.

**TAKING ROOT: The Vision of Wangari Maathai (2008)**

Tells the story of Kenya's Green Belt Movement, a grassroots organization encouraging rural women and families to plant trees in community groups, and follows Maathai, the movement's founder and the first environmentalist and African woman to win the Nobel Prize.

**Sharkwater (2006)**

For filmmaker Rob Stewart, exploring sharks began as an underwater adventure. What it turned into was a beautiful and dangerous life journey into the balance of life on earth. Driven by passion fed from a lifelong fascination with sharks and filmed in visually stunning, high definition video, Sharkwater takes you into the most shark rich waters of the world, exposing the exploitation and corruption surrounding the world's shark populations in the marine reserves of Cocos Island, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

**BLACK GOLD: Wake Up and Smell the Coffee (2006)**

As westerners revel in designer lattes and cappuccinos, impoverished Ethiopian coffee growers suffer the bitter taste of injustice. In this eye-opening expose of the multi-billion dollar industry, Black Gold traces one man's fight for a fair price.

**The Age of Stupid (2009)**

This ambitious documentary/drama/animation hybrid stars Pete Postlethwaite as an archivist in the devastated world of the future, asking the question: "Why didn't we stop climate change when we still had the chance?" He looks back on footage of real people around the world in the years leading up to 2015 before runaway climate change took place.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour: Turn Mankind's Darkest Hour into It's Finest**

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio produces and narrates this urgent and transformational look at where we've been, where we're going - and most importantly - how we can change our rush towards global ecological

collapse. Some of the world's greatest thinkers, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Stephen Hawking, David Suzuki and others, provide insights on solutions to save our unique blue planet for future generations

### **Up The Yangtze (2007)**

In China, it is simply known as 'The River'. But the Yangtze - and all of the life that surrounds it - is undergoing a truly astonishing transformation wrought by the largest hydroelectric project in history, the Three Gorges Dam. Canadian documentary filmmaker Yung Chang returns to the gorgeous, now-disappearing landscape of his grandfather's youth to trace the surreal life of a "farewell cruise" that traverses the gargantuan waterway. Singularly moving and cinematically breathtaking, UP THE YANGTZE gives a human dimension to the wrenching changes facing not only an increasingly globalized China, but the world at large.

### **The Nature of Things: Visions of the Future (Volume 1) (2009)**

In this collection of 4 documentaries David Suzuki and daughter Sarika embark on an amazing journey that takes them to Germany, Denmark, France and Spain in search of sustainability in action. They encounter special individuals who are working to restore the equilibrium between human needs and planetary limits.

### **Waterlife (2009)**

Waterlife follows the epic cascade of the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. From the icy cliffs of Lake Superior to the ornate fountains of Chicago to the sewers of Windsor, this feature-length documentary tells the story of the last great supply (20 per cent) of fresh water on Earth. The source of drinking water, fish and emotional sustenance for 35 million people, the Great Lakes are under assault by toxins, sewage, invasive species, dropping water levels and profound apathy. Some scientists believe the lakes are on the verge of ecological collapse.

### **Sarah Harmer – Escarpment Blues (2006)**

It started as an idea for a walking tour. It became a celebration of the land. Join Sarah Harmer and her band on their "I Love the Escarpment" tour along the beautiful Niagara Escarpment. Featuring intimate performances with special guests, candid backstage footage, and interviews that address key issues surrounding Harmer's quest to protect a World Biosphere Reserve. Escarpment Blues won the award for Best Music DVD at the 2007 Juno Awards.