



David Weintraub, filmmaker

The Wisdom of Nature Recounted in New Local Documentary Film

The Center for Cultural Preservation invites you to embark on a transformative cinematic journey that delves into the interplay between storytelling, native wisdom, and the intelligence of nature. Come see the world premiere of "Nature's Wisdom Thru Native Eyes," an extraordinary documentary by acclaimed filmmaker David Weintraub and the Center for Cultural Preservation starting June 24.

Immerse yourself in the captivating narratives shared by Cherokee elder, storyteller, and mask-maker Davy Arch. "We were trying to stay connected to the natural world because we realized that everything that was connected to it thrived," Arch says, "so we understood that if we stayed connected to it, we would be prosperous as well." He, along with other revered native elders, unveils the profound bond between storytelling, nature, and community spanning over 10,000 years. The film highlights the use of medicinal plants and the native approach of finding connections, offering invaluable insights to heal our fractured relationship with the living world.

Director David Weintraub was deeply moved by the Eastern

Band of Cherokee Indians and numerous other native tribes he collaborated with during the production. Their sophisticated perspective, which weaves history, culture, and nature, left an indelible impact. Weintraub explains, "In the Western tradition, humans are considered at the top of the hierarchy, with animals and plants far below. But native people instead believed that since humans were the last to come and had the least experience on how to live, they must turn to plants and animals as their teachers. By looking at the living world that way, it transforms us and how we view the living world. Instead of nature being our conquest, it becomes our partner."

Prepare to be astonished as Nature's Wisdom artfully integrates native storytelling and philosophy with cutting-edge scientific research. Recent studies validate what native people have advocated for thousands of years—the intelligence of nature. Trees have been found to communicate, share resources, and warn each other of potential dangers, while animals exhibit remarkable tool usage and communication abilities. This film unearths the ancient observations and wisdom passed down through generations.

Nature's Wisdom features prominent scientists, including New York Times bestselling author, renowned wildlife ecologist Carl Safina, and local botanists Steve Pettis and Dave Coyle. They discuss the significance of embracing native wisdom and its role in reconnecting ourselves to the living world. Safina emphasizes, "Native people understood that all the knowledge they needed to survive and thrive was contained in the land and that their role was not to change it or control it but to learn from it."

They are thrilled to announce that "Nature's Wisdom" will have its world premieres in the enchanting Western North Carolina region from June 24-July 1. Each screening will commence with soul-stirring performances by native flutists, followed by an engaging discussion with the filmmaker and esteemed participants. Mark your calendars for these extraordinary events:

- June 24: North River Farms in Mills River (drive-in theater with seating options)
- June 29: The Orange Peel in Asheville
- July 1: Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville

All screenings will begin at 7:30 PM, and please note that outdoor locations are subject to weather conditions. Given the tremendous interest and anticipated sellouts, it may be highly recommend securing your tickets in advance. Prices vary by location, and you can conveniently make reservations online at www.saveculture.org or by calling the Center at (828) 692-8062. As a token of appreciation, ticket buyers will receive a \$5 discount on the DVD if purchased in advance.

Join the Center for Cultural Preservation in rediscovering our profound connection to the land, our sustenance, our pharmacy, and our bridge to the past and future. Let us embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, who understood that history, culture, and nature are inseparable.

The Center for Cultural Preservation is dedicated to preserving mountain heritage through oral history, documentary film, education, and public programs, proudly presents this groundbreaking work. For additional information visit them at SaveCulture.org or at (828) 692-8062.



Davy Arch, Cherokee elder, storyteller and mask maker