Film captures life and legacy of conservationist Leopold

By Kathryn Reed

Condensing any man's life and his legacy to 72 minutes would be difficult. Doing that for Aldo Leopold was even more challenging because of the significant contributions he made to conservation efforts in the United States.



In his lifetime that spanned from 1887 to 1948 Leopold became known as the father of wildlife ecology. He started working for the U.S. Forest Service in 1909, four years after the agency was formed.

Ann and Steve Dunsky were tasked with creating a film that captures who Leopold was and the mark he left on society. "Green Fire" will be shown at Lake Tahoe Community College on March 28.

"We initially started with community, which is the central theme to Leopold. Where we ended up was on his most important idea which is the land ethic," Steve Dunsky told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Leopold wrote, "That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of land."

Despite Leopold's impact, the Dunskys note that the majority of people have never heard of him. This fact required delicate editing by Ann Dunsky to combine enough biography about the

man and the essence of why his work is relevant today so movie-goers will know who the film is about and the importance of his work.

Steve Dunsky is the producer/director of the film, while Ann Dunsky is the editor. The husband-wife duo has been working for the Forest Service in this capacity for more than 20 years. Some of their films are their ideas; some are ideas that get handed down through the agency.

“Green Fire” is like a sequel to their earlier film “Greatest Good”. That film, which was a history of the USFS, was completed in 2005.

“Green Fire” is a partnership between the USFS and the Aldo Leopold Foundation. The latter funded the project and wanted the emphasis to be on the legacy of their namesake. The Forest Service provided the Dunskys and equipment for the making of the film.

The film debuted in February 2011, with it coming to PBS stations later this year or early 2013. It has been shown in 17 countries, with more than 600 screenings in that time.

The name of the film has multiple meanings. For one, Leopold wrote about how his beliefs toward wildlife and the environment changed after he watched the green fire in a wolf’s eye extinguish after he had killed it.

Another tie to the name is the worldwide green movement. The third is how fire itself can be green.

“We need fire, especially in the Western U.S., to have properly functioning ecosystems,” Steve Dunsky said. “The Lake Tahoe Basin is very much aware of fire and ecosystems.”

The Dunskys will be in Tahoe for the local screening for a Q&A/discussion after the movie. (They work out of the regional USFS office in Vallejo.)

They said they've been pleasantly surprised by the reaction to the film and the number of entities which want to show it.

"Ultimately the science will only get us so far and politicians will get us only so far. It gets down to discussions about what we value," Steve Dunsky said. "We need to find common ground and move forward. For too long we have been stuck in a morass of lawsuits and bickering. That doesn't help the land any."

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Movie info: Lake Tahoe premiere of "Green Fire" will take place at the Duke Theatre at Lake Tahoe Community College, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe on March 28. Doors open at 6:30pm, and the film begins at 7pm. Admission is free. Filmmakers Ann and Steve Dunsky will be available to answer questions after the screening.

Opinion: Important to know about dangers of poison

By Eric Guevin

We Participate in National Poison Prevention Week so we can celebrate the lives saved by prevention. In just the past year, America's 57 poison control centers fielded 4 million calls, treating 2.4 million human poison exposures and handling 1.6 million information calls.



Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District hopes to bring people together in commemoration of National Poison Prevention Week, to ultimately mitigate the number of people who are involved in poisonings each year, especially poisonings in the home – the most commonly reported poisonings.

By educating local residents about preventative steps in the home and in their lives, I believe we can make serious progress in keeping our loved ones safe. It is vital that people arm themselves with basic information on poison prevention in the home, such as keeping chemicals out of the reach of children and carefully reading the labels and dosages on all products.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, approximately 90 percent of poisonings happen at home, and 51 percent of poisonings involve children under the age of 6. The majority of fatal poisonings occur among adults, especially older adults.

National Poison Prevention Week was established by the U.S. Congress in 1961 to focus national attention on the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. To learn more about ways to keep people of all ages safe and help prevent poisonings, visit the Poison Help website.

In case of a poison emergency, contact your local poison center at 800.222.1222.

Eric Guevin is Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District fire marshal.

Fair Play Wine Festival

The annual Fair Play Wine Festival is the weekend of June 2-3, 11am-5pm each day.

Sixteen wineries are participating.

Tickets are $20.

Go online for more information.

Tahoe Truckee Earth Day Festival

The largest eco-event in the North Lake Tahoe-Truckee area – the Tahoe Truckee Earth Day Festival – is April 21 from 11am to 5pm at the Village at Squaw Valley.

This all-ages, community sponsored event gives participants an opportunity to learn about recycling and composting, alternative energy, sustainability, watershed and forest health, and reducing ecological footprints via a diverse array of agency representatives and earth-friendly vendors.

Earth Day is a zero waste event. Typical trash receptacles will not be available in an effort to drastically minimize waste at the event. Booth participants are requested to minimize handouts and implement other forms of waste reduction. All food vendors will be using biodegradable take-out containers made of either paper or PLA, a high tech

starch-based plastic provided by Tahoe Green Products. Food and biodegradable waste will be collected by volunteers and IVGID Waste Not and composted by Full Circle Compost in Minden.

This year’s theme is Do One Thing. All participants are asked to consider and implement their pledge to help the environment and cool the climate.

For more information, go online or contact info@tahoetruckeeearthday.org.

Tahoe state reps set meetings on ADA concerns

Sen. Ted Gaines, R-Rocklin, and Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, R-Rocklin, along with local chambers of commerce, California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, and Lawyers Against Lawsuit Abuse, have teamed up to host a series of workshops for small businesses focused on Americans with Disability Act issues.

These events are in response to the alarming number of lawsuits being filed in the region against small businesses for minor ADA/accessibility issues like having incorrect railing height or parking lot striping color. Many of these businesses have been forced to close their doors because they can’t afford to operate after settling these lawsuits.

During the workshops, Assemblywoman Gaines will provide information on her two measures, Assembly Bills 1878 and 1879, aimed at curtailing frivolous ADA lawsuits and pinpointing conflicting state and federal ADA regulations.

Attendees will also receive a walk-through of what they need to know about ADA lawsuits including how to reduce their risk of being sued, and what to do if they have already have been sued.

Panelists will also include Tom Scott, executive director for California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and David Peters, CEO and general counsel for Lawyers Against Lawsuit Abuse who has been consulted in more than 850 ADA lawsuits throughout the U.S.

Rocklin: March 26, 6-8pm, Rocklin Sunset Center – Main Hall 2650 Sunset Blvd.

Orangevale: March 27, 7-9am, Orangevale Community Center – Auditorium, 6826 Hazel Ave.

Placerville: April 25, 7-9am, Town Hall, 549 Main St.

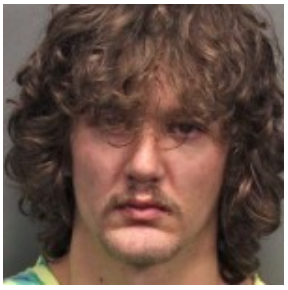
Truckee: April 30, 6-8pm, Truckee Donner PUD – Board Chambers 11570 Donner Pass Road.

5-year-old burglary ring busted

A search of an Incline Village residence resulted in the recovery of belongings from 11 burglaries that dated back to 2007, according to Washoe County sheriff's deputies.

Washoe County detectives worked a collaborative investigation with Placer County Sheriff's Office and Truckee Police Department that ended March 21 with a search warrant executed

at a residence in the 100 block of Tramway Road in Incline Village.



Matthew Stanaway

Detectives said they have identified property from previously reported vehicle burglaries, commercial burglaries and residential burglaries. The recovered property includes car stereo equipment, laptops, jewelry, sports memorabilia, flat screen televisions, GPS devices, credit cards, identifications, a guitar, snowboards and a bicycle.

The suspect, Matthew Stanaway, was arrested earlier Wednesday by the Placer County sheriff's deputies following the investigation into an overnight burglary in Truckee. Evidence from this theft was allegedly found in his car as well as in his residence.

Detectives believe Stanaway was involved in a burglary ring that extended from Truckee through Lake Tahoe and into the Truckee Meadows. Detectives are actively investigating further leads which could result in other arrests and property recovery.

Stanaway faces extradition to Nevada on charges including possession of stolen property and an ex-felon in possession of a stolen firearm.

There will be a property viewing March 27 from 11:30am-2pm at the sheriff's Incline Village substation, 625 Mt. Rose Highway. Owners must provide a positive description of the

items and a police report.

Anyone with information on this case, is asked to call (775) 328.3320 or remain anonymous by calling Secret Witness at (775) 322.4900.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Lahontan considering permit for USFS fuels reduction project

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board anticipates considering waste discharge requirements for the U.S. Forest Service, LTBMU South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project at the April 11-12 meeting in South Lake Tahoe.

The Forest Service wants to start working on the project this summer.

Written comments are being accepted until noon April 2. Comments received after that date and time may not be given full consideration in preparation of the recommended Order to be presented to the Board for adoption. The documents may be viewed and downloaded.

George Cella may be contacted for more information at (530) 542.5426.

Snowshoe event on North Shore

Alpenglow Sports is partnering with Tahoe Institute for Natural Science to bring a unique type of guided snowshoe to the North Shore. The tour will last approximately three hours and will focus on winter survival strategies of the flora and fauna found throughout Page Meadows.

Meet at Alpenglow in Tahoe City on March 31 at 10am. Bring warm clothes. Participants will carpool to Page, leaving about 10:30am. The hike is free, but space is limited to 25 slots. Preregister by emailing will@tinsweb.org.

For more information, call (530) 583.6917 or email brendan@alpenglowsports.com.

More entreprenuers are older

By Lynn Hicks, Des Moines Register

Quick, picture a startup sensation.

Did you see 27-year-old Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg? Or maybe Ben Milne, who created two successful companies in his 20s, including the mobile payment darling Dwolla? Or Ben Silbermann, who 10 years after graduating from Des Moines' Roosevelt High School helped launch one of the fastest growing websites ever with Pinterest?

But if you look beyond those headline-grabbing names, you're more likely to find a baby boomer launching a new business.

Over the past decade, the highest rate of entrepreneurial activity belongs to the 55 to 64 age group, according to a study by the Kauffman Foundation, a Kansas City, Mo.-based entrepreneurship institute. The 20 to 34 age bracket has the lowest rate.

Kauffman's latest study shows that about 23% of new entrepreneurs in 2010 were in the 55 to 64 age group, compared with 15% in 1996.

"When people think startups, they think kids," said Christian Gurney of Torsion Mobile, a year-old Des Moines tech firm. He and co-founder Richard Kirsner's combined ages are 114, and they say it's no liability.

"We tell clients, 'We've made lot of mistakes and we're not likely to repeat them.' That gets chuckles, but also wry smiles," Gurney said. "They've worked with the new startup sensation, a 20-something, and 50% of the time it flamed out."

Read the whole story

California's small businesses worried about state's economy

By Darrell Smith, Sacramento Bee

A majority of small-business executives remain pessimistic about California's prospects, weighed down by concern about the economy, education and health care, a new survey found.

Nearly two-thirds of executives surveyed by Small Business

California, a San Francisco advocacy group, said the state is headed in the wrong direction.

Fifty-six percent of respondents said they think California's economy will either remain unchanged or grow worse in the next three years.

"Clearly, they don't think the climate is very good," said Scott Hauge, Small Business California president. "The silver lining is that it's a little better than last year."

Small-business owners' pessimism reached its height in the 2009 survey, when more than 80 percent of respondents said California was on the wrong course.

That sentiment has steadily decreased in the three polls since, and some businesses are hopeful amid the anxiety.

Read the whole story