

SUSTAINAFEST LAUNCH EVENTS ENTERTAIN HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS



SustainaFest
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Press Release

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CONTACT: GEORGE CHMAEL

PHONE: 410-991-0244

EMAIL: GCHMAEL@SUSTAINAFEST.ORG

222 Severn Avenue
Suite 48
Annapolis, MD 21403
United States

Phone: 410-991-0244

Fax: 888-260-5074

Email: info@sustainafest.org

Website: <http://www.sustainafest.org>

Friend-Raiser Marked by Exciting Partnership Announcements Is Followed By Powerful Lineup of Mountainfilm in Telluride Films

Annapolis, MD - SustainaFest enjoyed a fantastic pair of launch events on a beautiful October evening on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in historic Annapolis. The organization kicked off its innovative programming with two events - a Friend-Raiser reception attended by more than 120 sustainability leaders, athletes, educators, filmmakers and others; and a film night that featured more than 400 attendees enjoying nine award-winning films from the 2012 Mountainfilm in Telluride festival.

Those fortunate attendees at the Friend-Raiser were treated to locally-sourced, seasonal delicacies and locally brewed refreshments and heard inspiring comments by USA Paralympic athletes Clark Rachfal and Greta Neimanas. Clark, a tandem cyclist and Annapolis resident, just returned from the 2012 London Paralympics where he and Greta, also a cyclist, represented the USA. Attendees also heard from 3 middle school students from the Crossroads School in Baltimore operated by SustainaFest Founding Partner Living Classrooms Foundation. They previewed their public service video regarding the Healthy Harbor Initiative, an attempt to return Baltimore Harbor to a fishable, swimmable state in 10 years.

Highlighting the reception was the announcement of two exciting SustainaFest partnerships moving forward. Representatives from both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Mountainfilm in Telluride informed attendees regarding details of up-coming sustainability education and action-oriented activities that the organizations will be pursuing with SustainaFest.

Immediately following, more than 400 attendees enjoyed nine films from the 2012 Mountainfilm in Telluride festival. Allie Barstow of Right to Play USA and Henry Lystad from Mountainfilm helped bring to life films highlighting critical sustainability-related issues including the relationship between sport and the human spirit, the increasing challenge of water sustainability, the connection of African Americans to National Parks, the inspirational power of determination, and the need for a renewed environmental ethic. All that, plus plenty of gravity-defying, spine-tingling adventure!

Join the celebration - and ongoing conversation - on what we can all do to create a healthier, more prosperous, and sustainable Chesapeake Bay region. To learn more about SustainaFest, our events and activities, please visit www.sustainafest.org or email us at info@sustainafest.org