



10th Annual Rhode Island Nature Video Festival

THE 2027 RHODE ISLAND NATURE VIDEO FESTIVAL IS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

Submit your videos now for the video festival that celebrates everything about nature that people can get on video!

Rhode Island has a great abundance of nature in our lands and waters and cities. These days most people carry a camera every day that can capture remarkably good video. This is a perfect opportunity to share your videos with a wider audience. All styles of nature video are welcome:

- a single encounter or discovery
- experimental camera techniques
- edited and narrated storytelling
- documentary
- from a few seconds long (for SHOW REEL) up to 25 minutes (in FEATURES category)

All amateurs and professionals are invited, and new submitters are especially encouraged! We especially encourage youth to submit videos, and we will work with youth-oriented organizations to help make that happen. Show Reel selected by a jury, good exposure for up-and-coming video makers, cash prizes for the Peoples' Choice Awards.

This tenth annual festival will be hosted LIVE at Rhode Island College (RIC) on a Saturday in February in conjunction with RIC's Winter Festival, exact date still TBD (snow date the next day). Attendees can vote their favorite for the Peoples' Choice Award. Find out who will win the coveted Clam d'Or!

The RI Nature Video Festival is organized and curated by the RI NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, the RIC Environmental Club, and Friends of the Moshassuck. Over one thousand people watched the 2026 Show Reel LIVE or ONLINE on the Survey's YouTube channel.

All video submissions meeting inclusion criteria will be viewable online, and from them a jury with diverse experience will select up to 75 minutes of videos for the Show Reel shown LIVE at Rhode Island College. One to three Features of up to 25 minutes in length may be selected for special screening. Please read the entry rules below carefully.

Submit a video by emailing your name, contact info, and a link to your video to Greg Gerritt at gerritt@mindspring.com by 8 pm January 15, 2027. If you have any questions, email Greg.

2027 RHODE ISLAND NATURE VIDEO FESTIVAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS AND CONTEST RULES

RI Nature Video Festival submission deadline: **January 15, 2027**

Videos may be submitted to one of two categories: FEATURES or SHOW REEL

SHOW REEL videos must be under 7 minutes in length, are eligible for a Peoples' Choice Award, and will be juried for appearance in the SHOW REEL, and must be suitable to appear in the SHOW REEL on the Survey's YouTube channel (must be copyright-strike-free).

FEATURES may be invited or contributed, up to 25 minutes in length, and will be selected for screening by the organizers based on theme, interest, and total program run time. They are not eligible for SHOW REEL or Peoples' Choice Awards. If you have a Feature you'd like to submit, contact the organizers for further details.

To be eligible for the SHOW REEL, videos must be:

- Your own work
- Genuine video of real subjects in the world...no AI content will be allowed
- No longer than 7 minutes
- Recorded substantially in Rhode Island or nearby waters (incidental shots from elsewhere that make sense within the context of the video may be acceptable)
- "New" work...recorded substantially after December 1, 2025 or, if assembled over a longer time, not previously in wide distribution (incidental shots from earlier times that make sense within the context of the video are acceptable)
- About some sort of nature in Rhode Island...animal, vegetable, mineral, trail, water, activity...but it must at least focused on natural or naturalized plants, animals, habitats, natural communities, systems, or features.
- Not containing material (images, logos, music) with copyrights claimed by someone else (**NOTE**, much "free to use" music on YouTube is not really copyright free and may cause your video to be edited or disqualified; use YouTube Studio Audio Library if in doubt).

To submit a video: you must post your video online and email us the link. Post it anywhere we can access it (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.). It does not have to be publicly visible, we just have to be able to reach it to view it and download it. Email your name, the video's title, and its address (and any necessary access code or password) to gerritt@mindspring.com. The deadline is January 15, 2027,

OTHER RULES and CONSIDERATIONS:

One video submission per person

No videos focusing on domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, pet fish, pet birds, or farm animals or on exotic species such as primates or tropical reptiles (although incidental inclusion may be okay depending on the context of the video). Depiction of yards, farms, gardens, or other human-mediated habitats are fine, for example videos showing the science of soil or the wild critters and plants in the garden.

Activities and interaction with wildlife in the video must be carried out in compliance with applicable Rhode Island and federal law and regulation (interaction with marine mammals, feeding/baiting wildlife, etc.).

Animals in videos must be ranging freely or headed for release, such as a netted sample of fish or wildlife that's being rehabilitated. No hunting videos.

Any video longer than 45 seconds, other than an unedited scene in nature, must include credits

Videos that attract copyright violations on the Survey's YouTube channel may be edited or rejected at the organizers' sole discretion (where did you get that music?). We regularly run into problems with videos using copyrighted music. Please do not submit videos that have copyright issues. **NOTE:** many "free-to-use" songs are not copyright-free and create problematic copyright claims. Use YouTube Studio Audio Library if in doubt

The organizers will pick a panel of people representing diverse backgrounds and experience to be the jury for selecting videos for inclusion in the SHOW REEL. The organizers will give deference to the jury but ultimately may select or refuse any video at their sole discretion.

Video makers can be amateur or professional videographers; however, the jury considering a video for inclusion in the SHOW REEL may consider the resources available to the maker as a criterion. Please tell us of your experience and resources if you do this work professionally when submitting your video.

By submitting a video for consideration for the Festival, you aver that it is your own work and has no AI video content (AI editing, incidental effects, sounds, text, or other non-video content may be allowed, at the organizers' discretion, if it is minimally central to the work).

By submitting a video for consideration for the Festival, you further aver that you have the rights to the video, its contents, music, characters, stories, and images, and the right to submit it to the Rhode Island Nature Video Festival for possible inclusion according to the rules described here. All submissions remain the property of their makers/owners.

Submitting a video is explicit permission for the RI Natural History Survey to:

- screen it in the February 2027 event
- to include your video with others in the SHOW REEL,
- to post it on the Survey's YouTube channel
- to use stills, short clips, or descriptions of your video in publicity about the Video Festival
- to remove and/or replace music or other content that causes a copyright claim on YouTube.

The organizers of the Festival will have sole discretion as to whether a video meets the rules specified here and thus is eligible for inclusion in the Festival, which videos are shown in the SHOW REEL and in what order, and which videos are eligible for Peoples' Choice Awards. The organizers have sole discretion to set the rules for the Peoples' Choice Awards, run the voting as they see fit, and award prizes as they deem appropriate.

In picking videos for the SHOW REEL, the organizers may give consideration to the age, experience, and the resources of video makers in order to foster diversity of participants and perspectives. Places may be reserved for children under twelve, teens, and students.