

Lake Flower Landing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Screening of “Sanctuary” and “Seasons in Wetlands,” followed by a conversation with the filmmaker Lillian Ball, Curt Stager, and Rob Carr

Saturday, March 14 | 7 pm

Lake Flower Landing | 421 Lake Flower Ave, Saranac Lake

For more information contact Karen Davidson Seward

lakeflowerlanding@gmail.com, 917-887-6342

\$5 suggested donation

Seasons in Wetlands—5 years at WATERWASH Bronx River

2016 | 6 minutes

An art animation of the five-year transformation of the Bronx River from abandoned wasteland to thriving wetland park by filtering stormwater runoff.

SANCTUARY

2018 | 52 minutes |



For more than two millennia, the majestic Sarus crane, the tallest flying bird in the world, nested in the fields around the sacred garden that designates the Buddha’s birthplace in Lumbini, Nepal. The three-square-mile protected habitat is a holy site for Buddhists worldwide and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is threatened to be squeezed out of existence by developers who propose to foster pilgrimage tourism by replacing the Lumbini Crane Sanctuary with luxury hotels or a giant meditation center.

This hybrid art documentary interviews George Archibald of the International Crane Foundation and Venerable Metteyya Sakyaputta, a charismatic Theravada monk born in Lumbini. Venerable Metteyya founded the Lumbini Social Service Foundation (LSSF). In addition to championing the preservation of the Sarus Cranes and the sacred garden wetlands, he established schools for underprivileged rural children and a nunnery to educate girls who choose not to marry at age 12. His other projects include a peace education center, a monastery for boys, and a hospital. In 2017, he was appointed Vice Chair of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT).

If preservationists persevere in Lumbini, initiatives for a public nature walk, conservation education center for the protection of cranes, and habitat restoration will create a sustainable

local economy around the millions of Buddhist pilgrims and tourists. Already Lillian designed hand-crafted baskets made from invasive plants in the shape of the Buddha for local women to make and sell instead of importing cheap trinkets.



Earlier, shorter versions of *Sanctuary* premiered in NYC at Tibet House and in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2018. This final cut of the film premiered at the Parrish Art Museum, in Water Mill, NY on January 3rd, 2020. Partners include LSSF, UNESCO, Natural Resources Development Center, International Crane Foundation, Animal Nepal, Green Lumbini Youth, and World Wildlife Fund.

Lillian Ball's educational outreach through public artworks developed out of her multidisciplinary background in anthropology, ethnographic film, and sculpture. For 15 years, she served on a land preservation committee on Long Island's North Fork. She created the WATERWASH® project to help communities restore overdeveloped wetlands and remediate stormwater runoff, a leading cause of pollution in our lakes. GO H.O.M.E. Bimini is her interactive video game about threatened mangrove wetlands.

Curt Stager—paleoecologist, professor of natural sciences at Paul Smith's College, radio co-host, author, musician—for decades observed the secret worlds hidden beneath the surfaces of the world's most remarkable lakes. In his 2018 book, *Still Waters*, Curt examined human impacts on lake ecology from the pristine waters of the Adirondack Mountains to the wilds of Siberia, from Thoreau's cherished pond to the Sea of Galilee. Curt's narrative is filled with wondrous details—diving insects chirping underwater, African crater lakes that explode, and why it is essential to protect our complex and vulnerable inland waters.

Rob Carr splits his professional time between working as a freelance exhibit designer at large nationwide, and as Executive Director of Play ADK, working to build the first children's museum in the Adirondacks. Rob has more than 15-years experience in the museum field as an administrator, educator, exhibit developer, and interpretive planner. His resume includes both The Wild Center in Tupper Lake and the International Crane Foundation's world headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he directed interpretive exhibits for all 15 species of cranes, the work being done to protect them, and the habitats they rely on for survival.