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The Portland Premiere of Maine's First-Ever Feature-Length Wildlife Film

Whitefield, Maine –

Maine's first-ever feature length wildlife film will make its **Portland premiere** thanks to the efforts and vision of 10 Portland-area land trusts and trail organizations. The collaboration will host a screening of *A Peace of Forest* on March 29, 2025 at USM's Hannaford Hall at 7:00 p.m. with a Q & A with the filmmakers, Lee Ann and Thomas Szelog, following the screening of the film.

A Peace of Forest is a compelling, feature-length film, celebrating the beauty and intimacy of wildlife in Maine. This one-of-a-kind cinematic adventure showcases surprising, tender and exquisite interactions of wildlife during peaceful moments in Maine's natural world. An original story filled with inspiration, the audience will be engaged in a fresh, entertaining and informative manner as they observe common and uncommon wildlife and the fragile balance between nature and human culture.

Reviews for *A Peace of Forest* are highly positive, praising the film's stunning cinematography, intimate portrayal of Maine's wildlife, and ability to evoke a sense of peace and serenity through its depiction of nature's subtle beauty, with many viewers calling it a visually captivating and deeply moving experience that encourages viewers to appreciate the natural world around them; some even describe it as a "gift" due to its calming effect.

Critics consistently highlight the exceptional quality of the film's photography, capturing the intricate details of Maine's natural environment with great clarity. The film is lauded for its ability to create a sense of tranquility and immersion in the natural world, encouraging viewers to slow down and appreciate the quiet beauty of nature.

A Peace of Forest is praised for its unique depiction of wildlife interactions, showcasing often overlooked aspects of animal behavior in a peaceful setting. Many reviewers appreciate the film's subtle message about reconnecting with nature and appreciating the simple wonders around us.

The husband and wife team, the co-producers, co-writers, and co-videographers, Lee Ann Szelog and Thomas Mark Szelog have a combined total of 60 years of professional wildlife image-making. Often described as Maine's most renowned wildlife photographers, the Szelogs specialize in photographing wildlife in remote locations, using the most ethical wildlife photography practices. They are the recipients of the *Philip Hyde Award*, presented annually to

photographers who are working to preserve the condition of the natural environment through the art of photography. As passionate wildlife advocates and award-winning photographers they work collaboratively, sharing their words and photographs in narrated photography presentations, fine-art exhibits, and books to educate and inspire people about the important role the natural world plays in our lives.

These 10 land trusts and trail organizations collectively conserve over 11,000 acres of land and maintain hundreds of miles of trails in the greater Portland area. This land not only provides critical wildlife habitat in a rapidly developing area, but it also offers community members and neighbors an opportunity to connect with nature. For hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, bird watchers and others Maine's largest city is a destination for those looking to get outside. This is the first collaborative effort to increase awareness of local conservation lands and efforts in the Greater Portland area.

More information about the film can be found at the film's website, apeaceofforest.com, and tickets can be purchased at the Falmouth Land Trust website, <https://falmouthlandtrust.org/events/peace-of-forest>

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