



Post Screening - Panel Discussion

Moderator: Fritz Byers
Metroparks Toledo Board of Commissioners

Panelists:



Christy Frank is an **award-winning filmmaker, photojournalist and writer** based in the Great Lakes region. She is passionate about storytelling that intersects environmental and human/wildlife conditions. Christy's work has appeared in bioGraphic, National Wildlife Federation, PBS, Great Lakes Now, Audubon, CBS news, PBS Nature and for numerous nonprofit causes. Christy received a bachelor of arts and masters in business administration from the University for Toledo.



Alex Goetz is a **wildlife filmmaker and photographer, and co-founder of Running Wild Media**, a film production company specializing in stories of wildlife and conservation. He has contributed to outlets such as National Geographic, BBC, PBS, CNN, CBS and was a winner of the National Geographic WILD "Wild to Inspire" film competition.

An Ohio native, some of his extensive travels have taken him from the countryside of Tasmania filming Tasmanian devils, to boating throughout the vibrant Marshall Islands, and road-tripping around four amazing African countries filming wildlife and conservation efforts. Alex is a 2019 Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leader, 2019 NAAEE 30 under 30, TEDxToledo 2017 speaker, and a 2013 graduate from Bowling Green State University, with a degree in Film Production and Environmental Science



Karen Menard is the **Research and Monitoring Supervisor for Metroparks**, where she has worked for over 27 years. Karen holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Toledo and initially worked as a Manager in the Environmental Programming department-- later moving into her current role within the Natural Resources Division. Currently, much of her work focuses on northwest Ohio botany which includes vegetation surveys and rare plant discoveries.

Since 2015, Karen has documented 12 species of state-listed, rare plants in the limestone glade at Blue Creek Metropark, which has led to the site's upcoming state nature preserve dedication. She also oversees the data collection of over 100 species of state listed rarities through Metroparks' rare plant monitoring volunteer program. Karen also has experience monitoring rare bird and insect species with volunteers and staff and is a past member of the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly recovery team for Ohio and The Ohio Ornithological Society board.

Along with carrying out many ecological field surveys each season, Karen writes about unique natural phenomena discoveries bi-weekly in the Metroparks blog. She is also a Certified Interpretive Guide with the National Association of Interpretation.



Carl Nelson, Chief Scientist, Imagination Station

For nearly 30 years, Carl has taken his passion for science and transformed it into content that is relevant, educational and entertaining. He is the mastermind behind the "Aha" moments that make science come alive for visitors, students and television audiences.

He plays a vital role on the leadership team directing the creation and training of new content that sparks curiosity with new experiences and outreach initiatives.

Carl earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls as well as a Masters in Low Temperature Condensed Matter Physics from Michigan State University.