



STEVE WINTER / COURTESY PHOTO

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival offers free community screenings at the Center for the Arts, including "My Pantanal," about jaguars in Brazil.

## Wildlife films to invade town this weekend

**Who:** Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival

**What:** Free community screenings

**When:** Films start at 5:30 p.m. Friday,  
2 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Center Theater, Center for the Arts

**How much:** Free

**Web:** JHFestival.org

By Richard Anderson

Every other year since 1991, the top professionals in the natural history filmmaking industry have gathered to talk shop, share war stories and view one another's work as part of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival.

This year, as in past festivals, the hobnobbing takes place up at Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park. The event started Monday and continues throughout Saturday.

Lisa Samford, executive director for the festival, said she looks each year for ways to include the wider Jackson Hole community. This year, members of the public are invited to come up and watch all the movies they want for a flat fee of \$25 a day. But not everyone is willing

to make the hourlong drive to the lodge.

"So on Friday, we move the whole works to town," she said.

Friday and Saturday will bring free screenings to the community to the Center Theater at the Center for the Arts.

Friday's films will start at 5:30 p.m. and will feature some of the cutting-edge 3-D films that received advance screenings or were finalists in the festival competition, as well as other films.

The first movie will be "Flying Monsters 3-D," by National Geographic and Atlantic Entertainment, a vivid imagining of a time 220 millions ago when dinosaurs ruled the Earth and pterosaurs ruled the skies. David Attenborough narrates, with visits to Texas, England and China with paleontologists.

DisneyNature's "Wings of Life," a finalist in the festival's animal behavior category, follows at 6:30 p.m. Offering a close and often luscious look at a technical subject — pollination — the film looks at the lives and lifestyles of bats, hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. The worlds of these creatures prove to be fraught with drama and danger, and

nothing short of the longterm survival of humankind depends on their future.

"The Last Reef 3-D," screening at 8 p.m., invites viewers undersea for tours of coral reefs, sea walls and other biodiversity hot spots. Using technology the filmmakers describe as "groundbreaking macro 3-D cinematography," the film shows marine life familiar and exotic as few have experienced it.

Friday concludes with the Grand Teton Prize winner, the highest recognition the festival gives. The winner will be named Thursday during the festival's gala night, so which film will be shown will remain unknown at least until then. Maybe it will be "My Life As A Turkey," about Joe Hutto (who has a home in Lander) who takes nearly a year out of his life to mother a clutch of wild turkeys. Or perhaps it will be "Worm Hunters," featuring a cast of infectious enthusiastic taxonomists in search of worms big, small and oddly colored. Or maybe "Into Iceland's Volcano" will make the grade with its on-the-edge peek into Eyjafjallajökull, whose eruption disrupted the world in 2010.

Saturday starts at 2 p.m. with a chil-

dren's showcase. Among the films to be screened are "My Pantanal," about a Brazilian ranching family that seeks a different relationship with the jaguars of the surrounding jungle; "The Shark Riddle," starring 20 shark species as well as other fascinating and fun marine creatures; and "Turtle Vision 3-D," which follows a sea turtle named Sammy from the tropics to the Antarctic.

The BBC's mesmerizing "One Life" follows at 4 p.m., showing how a variety of life forms — from primates and elephants to frogs and plants — survive, thrive and teach their young in the eat-or-be-eaten natural world. Incredible land- and seascapes accompany short segments, which range from humorous to poignant to jaw-dropping.

Finally, "The Last Lions," made by Dereck and Beverly Joubert for National Geographic, starts at 7 p.m. This story of a lioness that will do anything to keep her family going takes place in the wetlands of the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Fire, buffalo, crocodiles and even other lions are a few of the dangers from which Ma di Tau ("Mother of Lions") must protect her cubs.