



JACKSON HOLE

SCIENCE MEDIA AWARDS

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Abbey Greene

307.733.7016 | abbey@jacksonholewild.org

Final Judges Announced for the 2018 Jackson Hole Science Media Awards

Jackson, Wyo. (Aug. 20, 2018) – With just over a month remaining before the Jackson Hole Science Media Awards, Jackson Hole WILD is proud to announce the final jury for this year’s competition. The awards celebration, slated for Sept. 27, is the culminating event of the Science Media Awards and Summit in the Hub (SMASH).

There has never been a more dynamic time in scientific discovery and innovation, and the need to communicate science to public audiences has never been more critical.

The Jackson Hole Science Media Awards recognize innovation and excellence in 20+ categories spanning content, program and craft sectors of science media.

Final judges include:

- **Hashem Al-Ghaili**, a science communicator born in Yemen. Hashem’s Science Nature Page has over 27 million followers from all over the globe and garnered nearly 9 billion organic views. It is currently the most followed science page on Facebook. He graduated from Jacobs University Bremen in Germany and obtained his master’s degree in Molecular Biotechnology.
- **Barry Clark**, a media producer with an academic background in Physical Chemistry and Chemical Physics, with studies in the latter pursued at Harvard University under a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. In the course of a career that has spanned 40 years, he has produced hundreds of hours of non-fiction film, TV, and IMAX programs. His partners in these productions have included WGBH/Nova, WNET/Nature, NHK, Disney, the World Bank, and the Smithsonian.
- **Lynn Hirshfield**, Participant Media’s Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliances. Lynn joined Participant Media in September, 2005 and is responsible for leading the development of ancillary content and strategic partnerships for the company’s social impact campaigns. She is also responsible for launching Participant’s publishing division to complement the company’s films and social action campaigns. Over her career, she has garnered a number of awards, including four Emmys, a Peabody Award and two Television Critics Awards -- among them the PBS series *Wishbone*.

- **Bob Hirshon**, Program Director for Technology and Learning at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and host of the daily radio show and podcast *Science Update*. He is Principal Investigator for the NSF-supported National Park Science Challenge, a mobile data gathering platform and augmented reality game for engaging young adults in National Park-based science inquiry. Hirshon curates and hosts the annual AAAS Science Film Showcase, and also heads up Kinetic City, including the Peabody Award winning children’s radio drama, McGraw-Hill book series and Codie Award winning website and education program.
- **Gianna Savoie**, an award-winning documentary producer, writer, and professor. Nearly two decades of experience in Natural History filmmaking and a penchant for powerful storytelling has led Gianna to sink her teeth into some of the most critical conservation issues on the planet. Trained as an environmental biologist, she pairs her love of science with the art of filmmaking to craft stories that not only inform, but deeply resonate. Her Emmy-nominated work has been featured on PBS, NATURE, National Geographic, Discovery, and the BBC, as well as in theatrical documentaries, print and web publications.

This year’s competition saw more than 500 entries competing for 21 special awards. Over 100 international judges screened an aggregated 1,250 hours of media in order to select the finalists. For the full list of finalists, visit our website at ScienceMediaSummit.org/2018-media-competition.

“This film competition recognizes excellence and innovation in science storytelling across all media platforms,” said Lisa Samford, Executive Director of Jackson Hole WILD. “The final judges truly help us celebrate the best of science media by giving meaningful recognition to science media makers. The final jury will be screening the finalists now until their arrival, and we can’t wait to see who they pick.”

The final judges’ selections for the Jackson Hole Science Media Awards will be available for WILD On Tour screenings, along with other finalist films and specially selected projects. Please visit Jackson Hole WILD’s website for more details if you are interested in hosting a screening in your community.

About Jackson Hole WILD:

For more than 26 years, Jackson Hole WILD has held the biennial Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and Conservation Summit, which is recognized as the premier event of its genre. In 2019 the Conservation Summit will be focused on the species, ecosystems and current issues associated with our planet’s OCEANS. The week-long media industry conference and film awards gala draws more than 750 international conservationists, scientists, journalists, filmmakers and broadcasters to Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. The Festival amplifies global impact in association with natural history programming around the world by providing non-fiction media industry stakeholders with an international film forum to conduct business, test new equipment, refine production techniques and celebrate the world’s finest nature and science programming. For more information, please visit JacksonHoleWild.org.

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