

Spirit of Place

A film by Monty Hempel

Click here to watch the trailer: <http://vimeo.com/105378177>

Film Release: 2011 (running time: 29 minutes)

How can twenty-first century human beings cultivate a spirit of place – one that connects them to Nature and community? *Spirit of Place* examines this question through the eyes of Dr. Marilee Scaff, an extraordinary 98-year-old woman, whose love of magnificent forests, flowers, mountains, and streams has taught her valuable lessons about the meaning of life. Focusing on America's wildest and most alluring landscapes, the film celebrates the powerful sense of wonder that springs from human encounters with wildlife and spectacular scenery. It also explores the benefits to health and spirituality provided by such encounters.

Shot in the American West, the award-winning *Spirit of Place* tells a moving story about the importance of wildness on a human-dominated planet. It addresses today's "indoor" children and their distancing from Nature – what author Richard Louv terms the "nature deficit disorder." It asks, "What will we leave future generations in the way of healthy eco-systems and wilderness encounters that enrich the quality of their lives?"

A video essay with a poignant message and inspiring ending, the film is suitable for viewing by all age groups.



Filmmaker's Summary: "*Spirit of Place* addresses the idea of wildness in a technologically transformed and urbanizing world. The purpose of the film is to remind nature lovers everywhere of the inspiring places that add meaning to their lives, and to encourage young people, especially, to discover the true wealth hidden in wild landscapes and seascapes. The film builds slowly to an emotional climax that explores human spirituality at its most profound level, inviting both secular and religious interpretations of our changing relationship with Nature."

About the Filmmaker: *Spirit of Place* was written, directed, and produced by Monty Hempel, president of Blue Planet United and Hedco Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Redlands. Hempel is a veteran college teacher and filmmaker, as well as a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and environmental protection. He was the first (interim) president of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) and served as a founding board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Hempel has taught university courses about environmental issues for 30 years and has produced three books and more than a dozen previous films.

About Blue Planet United: Blue Planet United is a public benefit, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps people make connections between three defining issues of the twenty-first century: population stabilization, sustainable consumption, and the preservation of wild landscapes, seascapes, and habitat. We create print publications, educational films, and web resources that foster awareness and action to save the last great wild places of this tiny blue planet. Visit us at www.blueplanetunited.org. See the film trailer: <http://vimeo.com/105378177>