



For Immediate Release:

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Jackson Wild™ Announces 2020 Legacy Awards and Rising Star Award Winners

August 25, 2020, JACKSON, Wyo. — For almost 30 years, the [Jackson Wild Summit™](#) has brought together filmmakers, scientists, conservationists, innovative media creators and thought leaders for a multi-day industry conference, during which the Jackson Wild Legacy Award™ Winners and the Rising Star Award Winner are honored. Jackson Wild is proud to announce this year's winners of each of these prestigious awards.

The Legacy Awards are Jackson Wild's highest recognition, honoring visionary filmmakers, conservationists, scientists and innovators. This year, Jackson Wild has chosen to recognize two Legacy Award honorees.

Enric Sala, Pristine Seas will receive the Jackson Wild Legacy Award in Science and Conservation in recognition of his lifetime in the research and protection of our planet's oceans. Enric founded and leads National Geographic Pristine Seas, a project that is dedicated to protecting some of the most biologically important areas of the ocean. Pristine Seas has inspired the creation of protected areas where marine life can thrive while ensuring effective management for years to come. The project has helped protect nearly six million square kilometers across 22 protected areas to date and works in support of a global goal to protect at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030. Pristine Seas partners with country leaders, businesses, NGOs, local governments, and communities, and through pioneering research and captivating storytelling has helped to establish some of the largest marine reserves in the world. Since its inception, the project has conducted more than 30 expeditions, published more than 170 scientific

papers in peer-reviewed scientific literature, and produced 28 documentaries.

Steve Burns will receive the Jackson Wild Legacy Award in Media. Steve's career spans more than 25 years from National Geographic cinematographer/producer to EVP of Production and Chief Science Editor for Discovery Networks, including GM of Science Channel. He returned to National Geographic as EVP of Global Content for NGC worldwide. Burns was a freelance Executive Producer for WNET/ New York's long-running series, *Secrets of the Dead*, for PBS before joining CuriosityStream as Chief Content Officer, programming the 5-year-old factual SVOD, pay and liner service, now available in 13-million homes worldwide.

Burns recently retired from CuriosityStream rejoining Roller Coaster Road Productions as EP at the company he founded in 2011. He also continues as Special Advisor to CuriosityStream.

He has won multiple industry awards, including two Emmys for *5 Years on Mars* and *Spirit of the Rainforest*. His teams have been nominated for two Academy Awards, won two Peabody Awards and well over 200 Emmy nominations, including dozens of wins, most recently Stephen Hawking's *Favorite Places* in 2017 at CuriosityStream. This Jackson Wild Legacy Award in Media keynote is sponsored by Doclights.

Extending beyond its tradition of honoring the outstanding innovators and leaders of our industry industry, Jackson Wild™ is committed to elevating emerging leaders in nature, conservation and science media. The Rising Star Award exemplifies outstanding achievement alongside extended impact, and this year, Gunjan Menon, an independent conservation filmmaker and writer from India will be recognized. An accomplished filmmaker, Gunjan is Founder and CEO of 'Beyond Premieres', an organization that supports filmmakers to create tangible impact through their art. She spends a great deal of time teaching and mentoring emerging storytellers in India and Africa to hone their craft. In addition, she is a volunteer bat rescuer and advocate, working within communities to change commonly vilified perceptions of the little-known species.

This year's Legacy Awards and Rising Star honorees will accept their awards during the first-ever Virtual Jackson Wild Media Awards™, slated for Oct 1 during the [Virtual Jackson Wild Summit™](#) following keynote conversations presented earlier in the week.

For more information, visit [here for more about our Legacy Awards](#), and [here for more about our Rising Star Award](#).

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About Jackson Wild™: For almost 30 years, the Jackson Wild Summit has grown a reputation for hosting an extraordinary convening of scientists, conservationists, innovators and media. The Summit fosters an environment where collaboration and innovation thrive, ideas are launched, and strategic partnerships are forged as participants work together to address critical conservation and environmental challenges facing our planet. The 2020 Jackson Wild Summit will be hosted virtually, September 28 - October 1, 2020. Registration will be open by the beginning of September. The Jackson Wild Media Awards are slated to stream live on October 1.

Jackson Wild's international board members include: ARTE France, BBC Studios, Bonne Pioche, Borealés, Conservation International, Discovery, Doclights, FujiFilm Optical Devices - Fujinon Lenses, Gorongosa Restoration Project, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Love Nature / Blue Ant Media, Media Alliance, National Geographic Partners, National Geographic Society, Nature/THIRTEEN/WNET, Netflix, Off the Fence Productions, ORF/Universum, PBS, Saint Thomas Productions, San Diego Zoo, Seeker, Smithsonian Channel, Sony Electronics, SVT - Swedish Television, The Nature Conservancy, Terra Mater Factual Studios, Vulcan Productions, Wanda Films, WGBH, and World Wildlife Fund US.

About the Jackson Wild Legacy Awards: The Jackson Wild Legacy Awards recognize visionary filmmakers, conservationists, scientists and innovators. Previous award recipients in science and conservation include: Jane Goodall, E.O. Wilson, Alan Rabinowitz, Sylvia Earle, and Paul Hawkin, Greg Carr/Gorongosa Project, Kris Tomkins/Tomkins Conservation, Cynthia Moss, Joyce Pool & Iain Douglas-Hailton and Dame Daphne Sheldrick, George Schaller, Mardie Murie and Richard Leakey.

Award recipients in media include: Beverly & Dereck Joubert, Michelle & Howard Hall, Mike duGruy, Clark Bunting, Bill Grant, Barry Clark and Wolfgang Bayer, Roy Disney, Sir David Attenborough, Hans Haas, Alan Root, and Gil Grosvenor.

In 2019 filmmaker and Executive Director of the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute, Philippines Sally Snow received Jackson Wild's first Rising Star award.

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