

February 5, 2022



PROJECT FACT SHEET

Title:	<i>Wildlife Photographer: The Life of Karl Maslowski</i>
Length:	One hour (56:40)
Format:	High Definition video
Components:	Documentary, companion website, educational materials
Categories:	Nature, conservation, photography, biography, mid-20th century history
Producers:	Steve Maslowski and Voyageur Media Group, Inc. (501c3 nonprofit)
Administrator:	Tom Law, Voyageur Media Group, Inc., 1319 Hayward Court, Cincinnati, OH 45208, contactus@voyageurmedia.org
Project Director:	Steve Maslowski
Advisors:	DeVere Burt, Artist; Director Emeritus, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Science; Stan Hedeon, Professor Emeritus, Biology, Xavier University; Bill Hopple, Director Emeritus for Cincinnati Nature Center; John Tallmadge, Ph.D., Author and Essayist on Nature and Culture.
Distribution:	Spring 2022 - regional public television stations (broadcast and streaming), public and academic screenings.
Website/EDU:	Information, and educational materials: https://voyageurmedia.org/projects/karl-maslowski/

Summary

Wildlife Photographer: The Life of Karl Maslowski is a one-hour documentary about one of Cincinnati's most acclaimed nature writers, photographers, and filmmakers. Karl Maslowski (1913 – 2006) helped introduce generations of Americans to the natural world through his newspaper columns, wildlife photographs and pioneering films. The documentary combines archival photographs and film, interviews and HD video for a compelling look at Maslowski's long career from his impoverished childhood to his work as a conservationist. The documentary is a co-production of Steve Maslowski, a son of Karl Maslowski, and Voyageur Media Group, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of educational media.

Biography

Karl Maslowski began photographing wildlife in the 1930's with an \$8 used still camera and a borrowed movie camera. The son of an immigrant gardener, he was forced to leave high school to work at age 15, but quickly mastered the challenges of early photography and stalking wildlife. By the time he was drafted in WWII, Maslowski was working full-time as a wildlife photographer, cinematographer and writer. He further refined his skills while serving as a combat cameraman in Italy under the command of Major William Wyler, an Oscar-winning Hollywood director (*The Best Days of Our Lives*, *Ben-Hur*, *Funny Girl*).

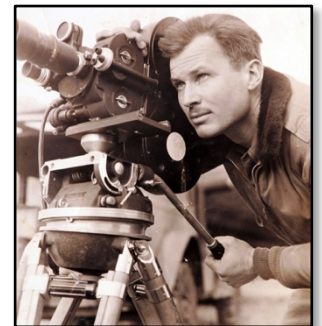


Photo: Karl Maslowski filming in Italy during World War II as a member of the 12th Combat Camera Unit, US Army Air Forces, 1944. Courtesy, Maslowski Family.



Returning home, Maslowski contributed to Walt Disney's *True-Life Adventure* series, lectured nationwide about wildlife and conservation, and began producing outdoor documentaries for a variety of clients. He became one of the most published wildlife still photographers of his era. Maslowski's nature column for the *Sunday Cincinnati Enquirer* ran half a century, longer than any other column by a single author in the paper's history. His lifelong devotion to conservation helped preserve thousands of acres around Greater Cincinnati. And, his work was recognized nationally by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Outdoor Writers Association of America, and others.

Photo: Karl Maslowski carries a photo blind into a Reelfoot Lake cypress swamp, 1937. Courtesy, Maslowski Family.

Maslowski's cameras focused mostly on near-hand wildlife – the small birds, mammals, and other lesser creatures that serve a vital ecological niche. He turned them into “stars” of the stage and screen. Maslowski's work through much of the 20th Century helped to underscore the need for conservation near home and in distant lands. In Greater Cincinnati, Maslowski helped to establish the renowned Cincinnati Nature Center, Oxbow, Inc., and The Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. Across the nation, he generated interest in vanishing wildlife and environmental issues that provided a foundation for the strong conservation legislation passed in the 1970's. Maslowski's Sunday column in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* marked fifty years of real-time observations on 20th Century changes in our natural world.

Photo: Karl Maslowski (left) with Walt Disney (right) James Agar (seated), circa 1949.



Companion Website



The documentary project features a companion website with additional information and educational materials designed to enhance classroom use and home learning. Visit:

<https://voyageurmedia.org/projects/karl-maslowski/>

Project Facebook



The Facebook page for *Wildlife Photographer: The Life of Karl Maslowski* features news, reports from the field, and information about regional broadcasts and screenings.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Wildlife-Photographer-The-Life-of-Karl-Maslowski-100476255037559>

Project Funding

Wildlife Photographer: The Life of Karl Maslowski was made possible through the generous support of these organizations and individuals.

Major Donors



Contributors

Helen Rowe-Drake, Louise Head, Oliver Family Foundation, DeVere and Patricia Burt, Pete Griffin, Noel Rowe, Alpaugh Foundation, Kathryn Neuman, and the Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau

Production Team

Steve Maslowski (Project Director)

Steve Maslowski, a son of Karl Maslowski, has produced dozens of videos distributed by Discovery Communications/Education on nature, geology, the solar system and other science topics. Additional works include documentaries for the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Hamilton County Park District (Great Parks); Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District; and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. As a cameraman, Steve has filmed for *Marty Stouffer's Wild America* (PBS); *Birdwatch* (PBS), *National Geographic Explorer*, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Steve graduated from Brown University and is member of Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. (Project Administrator)

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of public media about science, history and culture. Established in 1998, Voyageur's production team has created dozens of documentaries for regional and national public television distribution, including *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun*, *The Kentucky Archaeology & Heritage Series*, *Sacred Spaces of Greater Cincinnati*, and *Searching for the Great Hopewell Road*.

Project Advisors

- DeVere Burt, Artist, and Director Emeritus, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Science.
- Stan Hedeon, PhD, Author and Professor Emeritus, Ecology, Xavier University
- Bill Hopple, President, Board of Directors, Cardinal Land Conservancy, former Executive Director, Cincinnati Nature Center.
- John Tallmadge, PhD, Author/essayist on nature and culture, and former Professor at Yale, University of Utah, Carlton College, Dartmouth and the Union Institute.

Production Team

- Project Director, Editor: Steve Maslowski
- Project Administrator: Tom Law, Voyageur Media Group, Inc.
- Videography: Tom Uhlman and Steve Maslowski
- Script: Steve Maslowski, John Tallmadge, Parker Bauer and Tom Law
- Narrator: Robyn Carey Allgeyer
- Character Voice of Karl Maslowski: Steve Maslowski
- Music: Frank Proto
- Musicians: Erich Bates, Tim Berens, Larrie Howard, Norman Johns, Frank Proto, Lise Proto
- Educational Consultant: Emily Morgan

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