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WORLD, A10

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'Mysteries of Driftless' wins Emmy

Tribune staff

CHICAGO — A locally produced documentary, "Mysteries of the Driftless," has won a regional Emmy.

The film was honored in the Outstanding Achievement for Documentary Programs — Topical category on Saturday night at a Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences ceremony in Chicago.



Howe



Jacobson

The joint production of Untamed Science and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy features a team of explorers and scientists

"Exploring the bluffs and paddling the rivers revealed how close we can live to so many incredible mysteries in nature ... without realizing the rare ecosystems under our very noses."

Dan Bertalan, co-producer

documenting the unglaciated Driftless Region of southwest Wisconsin, northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota.

Rob Nelson and Dan Bertalan, producers, and Tim Jacobson and George Howe, executive producers

were awarded the gold statuettes. Jacobson, of Boscobel and former head of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy; Howe, of La Crescent; and Bertalan, of Madison, attended the awards ceremony.

"I never thought I'd be nominated for an Emmy, let alone win one," said Nelson, the director-producer of the film. "At Untamed Science, we focus on making science education fun, and I'm thrilled with the tremendous educational platform which the film has become."

"Helping to create this film is a dream come true for me," said Howe, "and witnessing people's

See **EMMY**, A6

EMMY

From A1

great enthusiasm and support for the film is another dream come true!"

"Science filmmaking is always an adventure in discovery," Bertalan said. "But I must admit, co-producing this film held more than its share. Exploring the bluffs and paddling the rivers revealed how close we can live to so many incredible mysteries in nature, yet we too often plod along in everyday life without realizing the rare ecosystems under our very noses."

The film has aired several times in the past year on Wisconsin Public

Television, and broadcasts are planned on public television in Minnesota. It has been featured at many film festivals and community screenings, and it can be purchased from the Mississippi Valley Conservancy (www.mississippivalley-conservancy.org).

"It's phenomenal to have our work as documentary filmmakers recognized with such a prestigious award," Jacobson said. "I'm blown away with how effectively we've been able to showcase the beautiful and enchanted Driftless Region landscape to such a wide audience."

More information about the documentary can be found at www.untamedscience.com/mysteries-driftless-zone.