

U.P. Wild's
- *Becoming a Community of Beholders* -

In a world filled with the busyness of back-to-back zoom meetings, the pressures of taking care of our families, and the worries and anxieties of our times – it is no wonder that we have a hard time noticing the wonder in our midst.

U.P. Wild seeks to uncover the stories of our lives that reveal the wonder and awe around us; the moments of grace and gift that God gives us that stick with us. That brings us a much-needed smile or affect us so fully that they even change the course of our lives. These are the encounters we have with the Mystery of all life that usually happen through the conduits of nature. When we are gardening, on hike in the woods, when a fox crosses our path, when we behold the beauty of a flower. We call this; becoming beholders of God's beauty, compassion, and infinite love for us.

What does it mean to become a Beholder?

It means to have a mini moment of metanoia; a transformative change of heart or biblically speaking it is a softening of our hardened hearts that allows us to fully see, hear, and feel in a new way. As one author puts it, "The leaves have not suddenly changed their colors, nor has the sky been transformed / All that beauty was already there / The splendor was there, but I did not notice it. What has changed? / I became a beholder and I see what is there to be seen / To behold what is always present, I truly see and fully appreciate what is there / I can see the love that supports all that exists, that bedrock of your being and mine and the being of everything about us / For I now see the Omnipresence of God / In and throughout all things." And as another author puts it, "Every creature is a book about God". We know that each one of us has read a line from the Book of Nature, some of us have read chapters! There lies a community of beholders that we can draw upon for inspiration, for hope, for peace, for guidance especially in these troubling times.

We ask you to open up your collection of stories with us.

This is the community. We are inviting people who are doing things in relationship to creation care, those who have projects related to this interconnectedness, and those who love the wilderness to make short videos to show us how they see the world around them. We hope that by raising the diverse voices of people in all parts of the world, we will be better able to see how God is at work in the micro and macro webs of our lives.

We would like YOUR voice:

- * Have you had an encounter with creation that moved you?
- * Is there a project you are working on that you're passionate about on this subject?
- * How do you see the heart breaks of this world as related to our disconnection with nature and God?
- * Where do you see beauty in the world?
- * Has an animal friend or wild animal taught you how to be more compassionate?

YES, I would love too but how do I do this?

Make a short video (5 Minutes MAX) and send it to us. By doing so, you are giving us permission to use it as a part of the becoming a community of beholders series.

Logistical Tips:

Set up your “camera” -

- Record in landscape mode, not portrait. To do this, turn your phone to the side, making sure the camera reorients, then hit record.
- We want this:



Not this:



- Find your light - stand facing a window or light source. DO not stand with your back in front of a window for example. If your face looks too dark, its probably because you have too much light behind you or not enough light in front of you. The best lighting is usually outdoors.
- Selfies or tripod are both okay - just make sure your camera stays pretty steady and we can see your face clearly. Try not to make us sea sick ;-)
- One of the biggest issues affecting quality is audio. Do not stand far away from the camera UNLESS you are using a microphone. If you are outside, make sure you do a test first: is it too windy, is the traffic too noisy? Try to pick a spot that minimizes distracting noises so we can focus on your voice (unless you want that to be a part of your video).
- There is no need to edit it unless you would like too. We encourage all levels of submissions. IF you're super tech savvy and creatively inclined then go for it!

Where do I send it?

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14kYxu5NbuNIOwj04ec8Ckoy4OSyC5QTS?usp=sharing>

* Once you click the link, you can drag and drop your video into that folder, or can hit “New” and “New file upload” and navigate to find your file.