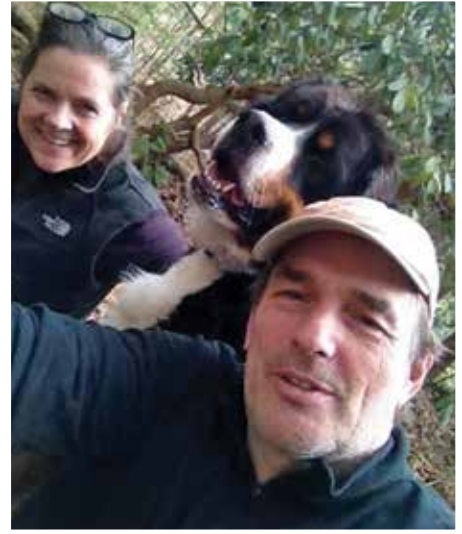


All Earth Eco Tours: *Having a Positive Impact*

YEAR-ROUND TOURS, ACTIVITIES,
LEARNING EXPERIENCES, AND TEAM BUILDING

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**

Photography provided by: **All Earth Eco Tours**



When participation at parks and other outdoor areas ballooned in the mid-1900s, the National Park Service and other organizations developed guidelines to reduce visitors' negative impact on natural spaces. These ideas came to be known as Leave No Trace (LNT). Carol and Crede Calhoun were early proponents for experiencing the outdoors while also preserving the environment.

Carol grew up in Northern Ontario, the daughter of the Superintendent of Parks for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, fully immersed in outside activities. As a teen, she worked at a summer camp on the Ottawa River, where it was possible to canoe into Algonquin Park. Campers came for two or four week sessions for horseback

Above: Kayaking tours near Deep Creek Lake, MD.

Inset: Carol and Crede Calhoun enjoying the outdoors with their dog, Apollo.

riding, canoeing, sailing, and hiking under the supervision of experienced guides like Carol.

Crede grew up in Cleveland, developing an early affinity for the natural world. His job for an outdoor outfitter and work with Wilderness Trails gave him the opportunity to lead trips to wild places such as Dolly Sods, which introduced him to West Virginia. An excellent photographer and telemark skier, Crede moved to Snowshoe to ski, race, and operate a ski photography business called Mountain View Photography



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Snakes and Salamanders Funday Hikes • Savage River Reservoir Kayak Tours
Spring, Summer, Fall Hiking Tours for all Ages • Yoga Sessions for Groups • Birds of Prey Programs
Hikes and Nature Walks from Mild to Wild • Team Building Exercises • Kids Summer Day Camps

before moving to Deep Creek Lake, where he produced images for local businesses and tourism publications. He served as a whitewater rafting guide and led trips on the Cheat River for the Blackwater Outdoor Center.

Crede and Carol met when Carol and a group of friends enjoyed a weekend of adventure in West Virginia that included rafting on the Cheat River. The two nature lovers soon married and bought a home in Friendsville, Maryland. The natural resources of this area had made it popular with Native Americans and later with European settlers. The town of Friendsville established here initially boomed, with an economy based on timber, coal, and other industries, but by the second half of the 20th Century, it had become a place where few people lived and worked. Gradually, the town revitalized around its other assets, including its setting on the Youghiogheny River, the only river designated as wild and scenic in Maryland.

Carol and Crede set up Windrush Gallery in their home; it was a place that showcased the work of Crede and other local artists. Crede's photography appeared in many magazines, including *Audubon*, *Outside*, *Southern Living*, *Maryland Magazine*, *Mid-Atlantic Country*, *Paddler*, and *Backpacker*. His work featuring whitewater kayaking was installed at the Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

When their daughter Caileigh arrived, Crede and Carol decided they didn't want to raise a child in a home that was partly an art gallery filled with things she couldn't touch. They also preferred to have her spend as much time outdoors as she could. This, coupled with their ideal location in an area rich with woods and water, was the genesis of All Earth Eco Tours. Of course the business was designed to conform to the LNT standards.

All Earth Eco Tours evolved around the couple's interests and skills. Over time, they developed a wide range of year-round tours, activities, learning experiences, and team building exercises designed to strengthen the connection between people and nature. These have included hikes around the Youghiogheny River; snowshoe expeditions in Swallow Falls State Park (winter hikes if there isn't enough snow); exploration of Dolly Sods, the Cranesville



Year-round adventure tours are available for small to large groups and anywhere in between.

Swamp, and other wild areas; experiential workshops on topics such as bush craft, birds of prey, herpetology, nature photography, or team building; tours and camps for people interested in learning about small family farms and their practices; yoga sessions in Friendsville's community park or at your lodging location; and kayaking on the Savage River Reservoir.

In the decades following the development of LNT, concern has been expressed that thoughtful effort to protect the environment should be made not only in wilderness areas, but also in all walks of life. Fittingly, in addition to running the business, Carol and Crede have worked to sustain the wild areas of the region as well as to promote everyday living in healthy relationship with the natural world.

As a young man, Crede told a newspaper reporter that he wanted to learn the ways of old mountaineers so that this culture could be passed along to future generations. Crede said that this knowledge was as valuable as gold to him, better than gold, in fact, because it was scarcer.

Sadly, Crede passed away unexpectedly in August of 2022, but he succeeded in his life goal of learning and teaching about the natural world.

Because he did this so well, All Earth Eco Tours continues his legacy under the steady leadership of Carol, their daughter Caileigh, and Caileigh's husband Jose Vitale. The family, along with the Feral Nut (aka Mark Pankowski), raptor specialists Deron and Sherry Medor, and many other members of the team make it possible for All Earth Eco Tours to offer their usual wide range of recreational and learning experiences.

The Garrett County Commissioners recently presented a proclamation to All Earth Eco Tours, recognizing and celebrating the business' 30th anniversary. Their efforts in outdoor advocacy, preservation, and recreational entrepreneurship have helped contribute to a legacy that future generations will continue to enjoy for years to come.

Check the website for current information and to book your own adventure. <https://allearthtours.com>