



VINE CONFERENCE

1st – 3rd April 2008

INSPIRATIONAL NATURE

Harnessing passion, inspiration and creativity for nature conservation

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF KEY SPEAKERS



Mike Alexander began his career in nature conservation over 40 years ago. Worked as Warden or Assistant Warden on various reserves in Britain and Canada, including the islands of Skokholm and the Calf of Man. 1976 appointed Warden of Skomer. The ten years that he spent on the island confirmed and consolidated everything that he had ever believed about the importance of conservation.

After leaving Skomer, Mike joined the Nature Conservancy Council (now CCW) in 1986 as Warden of 5 National Nature Reserves, including Morfa Harlech, Morfa Dyffryn, Rhinog and Cader Idris. Jointly created the Countryside Management System (CMS), which is now widely used throughout UK. Mike remains as the general secretary of the CMS Consortium.

His work on the development of management planning which has spanned the past two decades culminated with the publication, earlier this year, of his textbook 'Management Planning for Nature Conservation'.

Since 1991 Mike has been the Conservation Management Coordinator for CCW, with a key responsibility for the management of all the National Nature Reserves in Wales.

He has been involved in the development of management planning for organisations as diverse as the Costa Rica National Park Service, the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Tanzanian Department of Forestry, and was responsible for developing the current management planning guidelines for Ramsar. He also runs regular professional training courses, mainly at Plas Tan y Bwlch in North Wales.

In 2007 Mike was elected Chairman of PONT, an organization in Wales, which is a member of the Grazing Animals Project (GAP). PONT's aim is to establish grazing schemes that will benefit the wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage of Wales.

Elected member of the Eurosite Council 2007 to 2010.

2007 Elected chairman of the NATUR executive committee, (NATUR is the emerging Welsh institute of countryside and conservation management).



Paul and Sarah Briggs who are responsible for the Ramblin' Vine film, own and run *dvaction.com*, a small company producing short training films in dvd and VHS formats. Sarah writes the scripts and Paul films and edits them. Sarah is also a creative writer and avid book collector and Paul delivers management training courses and in his spare time tries to play his alto saxophone.

They both want to tread as lightly on this Earth as they can and enthusiastically promote sustainable living.



Susan Cross AHl MA AMA has spent 25 years building memorable connections between people and the natural world first as a natural sciences curator and later as an environmental educator, writer, interpreter and poet. She now heads a vibrant and creative team at TellTale, an environmental interpretation consultancy based in the Peak District which specialises in inspirational communication at sites of cultural and wildlife significance. Her own work focuses on strategic and advisory work, pushing the boundaries of interpretive writing, and providing training to inspire the next generation of interpreters. She can be contacted on susan@telltale.co.uk



Stephan Harding, MSc Coordinator at Schumacher College, oversees the MSc in Holistic Science, teaching on the core models and as part of several of the short courses at the College.

Stephan was born in Venezuela in 1953. Since childhood Stephan has had a deep fascination with the natural world, and his scientific cast of mind led him to do a degree in Zoology at the University of Durham and then a doctorate on the behavioural ecology of the muntjac deer at Oxford University.

Before Durham, Stephan spent a gap year helping to carry out ecological research in the remote Sengwa Research Station in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia), where he worked on warthog ecology, and as a Durham undergraduate he led a two-man expedition to the Manu National Park in Peru. After completing his first degree he returned to Venezuela where he was a field assistant for the Smithsonian Institute, studying mammalian diversity in the rainforest and in the lowland plains. It was here that he learnt to play the 4-stringed Venezuelan guitar known as the 'cuatro'.

After Oxford Stephan was appointed Visiting Professor in Wildlife Management at the National University in Costa Rica, where he lived for two years before becoming a founder member of Schumacher College in 1990. The College's first teacher was James Lovelock, with whom Stephan has maintained a long-lasting friendship and scientific collaboration that recently culminated in their joint appointment as founding chair holders of the Arne Naess Chair in Global Justice and the Environment at the University of Oslo. Stephan lives on the College campus with his wife Julia Ponsonby and their son Oscar, and is the author of *Animate Earth: Science, Intuition and Gaia* published in 2006 by Green Books in the UK and Chelsea Green in the USA.



Tim Kemp MA MBA FCIPD FCMI facilitator, writer and consultant to a wide range of organisations in the UK and across Europe. Coach and management adviser to conservation professionals and scientific specialists as they manage the challenging transition from specialist to generalist management and leadership positions. As Managing Director of First Step, a small management and organisational development consultancy, Tim sees his role as trying to reduce the detrimental impact that our work may have on the natural environment while, at the same time, maximizing its effect on the organizations with which we work.



John Lloyd-Jones OBE is Chairman of the Countryside Council for Wales; Member of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee; Member of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research Governing Body; Member of the Strategic Advisory Committee on Rural Economy and Land Use Programme (RELU) and Chairman of RELU's Food Chain Forum; Member of Wales Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel; Member of National Trust's Estates Panel. Lay Representative for Disciplinary Hearings: Council for the Inns of Court.

He has formerly held the position as Member of the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development; Chairman of the Welsh Advisory Committee to the Forestry Commission; Chairman of the Beef and Lamb Working Group of the Welsh Food Strategy; Chairman of NFU Wales (1993-1998); Chairman of NFU Parliamentary, Land Use and Environment Committee for England and Wales (1998 – 2000). Member of Snowdonia National Park.



Alastair McIntosh was Isle of Lewis-raised and between 1969 -1977 he did seasonal work as a ghillie (rowing boats on salmon lochs) and pony boy on the hill (deer stalking) on Soval and Eisken estates, shift work in the Alginates seaweed factory, builder's labourer and boatman to Loch Erisort scallop divers. He is now a writer, broadcaster and campaigning academic best known for his work on land reform on Eigg, in helping to stop the Harris superquarry; also for developing human ecology as an applied academic discipline in Scotland. He holds a degree of BSc in geography, submajoring in psychology and moral philosophy from the University of Aberdeen (1977), an MBA, specialising in finance, from the University of Edinburgh (1981).

His book, "Soil and Soul" (Aurum Press, 2001), has been described as "a book every Scot should read" by John Burnside in The Scotsman, "No Logo in a Fair Isle jumper" by Susan Flockhart of the Sunday Herald, "life-changing" by the Bishop of Liverpool, and "truly mental" by musician Thom Yorke of Radiohead. Other books include a poetry collection, "Love and Revolution", from Luath Pess (2006), and 'Beyond a Wounded Land' - a forthcoming work on the psychology and spirituality of climate change from Birlinn Press.

He has also featured in the Wall Street Journal for knocking a psychological hole in Gallagher's *Silk Cut* cigarette advertising campaign; served as a consultant to Groupe Credit Mutuel, France's largest mutual bank, on the meaning of mutuality; sits (unpaid) on the Sustainability Stakeholders Panel of Lafarge, the biggest construction materials company in the world, that he helped to see off from the Harris superquarry; he has lectured on the theology of land reform at the Economics Department of the Russian Academy of Sciences; served as a theological consultant on non violence to the World Council of

Churches; and every year, for the past decade, has addressed 400 senior military officers on the Advanced Command & Staff Course at the Joint Services Command & Staff College. He is a Fellow of Scotland's Centre for Human Ecology, a Visiting Fellow of the Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages at the University of Ulster, and in 2006 was appointed to an honorary position in Strathclyde University as Scotland's first Visiting Professor of Human Ecology. He is a regular presenter for *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio Scotland and has some 200 items of published work to his name, many of which are available at www.AlastairMcIntosh.com.

Alastair's work seeks to connect people, place and spirituality into a more full understanding of community. He sees global crises as crises of the human condition requiring evolution that is more cultural than political, economic or technical. Spirituality for him is "that which gives life" and specifically, "life as love made visible." As a Quaker, he approaches this from both Christian and interfaith perspectives. Walter Wink has described him as, "in my opinion, and apparently in many others, one of the best theologians in Scotland today." Others consider his views heretical, and in 1996 his teaching post at Edinburgh University was controversially axed in connection with his work challenging corporate and landed power. He lives with his wife V er ene in the Greater Govan area of Glasgow, where he is a founding director of the GalGael Trust working with local people in hard-pressed circumstances.



John MacPherson is a self-taught professional environmental photographer with over 35 years experience. His background is varied: Yarrows Shipbuilders as an apprentice welder, then a 5 year carpentry apprenticeship and several years in the building trade interspersed with long periods of solo travel using bicycles, motorbikes and on foot, through Europe, Africa and the USA. He then qualified as a Social Worker (Disability Services) and worked there for over 20 years. He has used photography as a learning aid for his SW clients, and community groups, increasing awareness of their environment through the use of imagery.

He is a self-taught stained-glass window designer and manufacturer, web and database designer and whatever else takes his fancy. He undertakes a variety of freelance photography work for agencies such as SNH, Forestry Commission, and numerous advertising agencies,. He also works as a photographic guide with 'Wildshots' based in the Cairngorms, leading aspirant photographers around Scotland and overseas. Current projects are photographing the Moray Firth dolphins, and recording the lives of inshore fishermen in remote parts of Scotland's west coast. His own inspiration comes from a lifetime spent in the outdoors, from observation and experience, and continual wonder at the range of amazing stuff mother nature creates on a daily basis. His website is www.john-macpherson-photography.com



Pen Mendonca, Graphic Facilitator / Associate Consultant OPP, has more than ten years' experience as a graphic facilitator and an independent consultant. As a graphic facilitator she works in partnership with people in small and large groups using pictures and text, to assist their discussions, facilitate decisions and record key actions.

Pen has worked with national and local government, the Office for Disability Issues, small and large voluntary sector organisations and local communities. She recently worked on the Guardian Climate Change Summit.

Based in the UK, Pen previously worked in India, New Zealand and the Middle East. She also makes comics and sculptures.



Professor Adrian Phillips CBE trained as a geographer and a planner. He worked in London, Kenya and Switzerland for the government, the United Nations Environment Programme and IUCN – the World Conservation Union. He was then Director General of the UK Countryside Commission (1981-1992), and professor at Cardiff University (1992-2000). He chaired the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (1994-2000), and has worked closely with the World Heritage and European Landscape Conventions. He has written and lectured on landscape, and works with the Heritage Lottery Fund on their Landscape Partnerships Programme. He is a former trustee of RSPB, WWF and CPRE and currently of the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, as well as a Vice President of BANC and of the Council for National Parks. Locally, he is a member of Cotswolds Conservation Board, chairs the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust and helps to run the village shop.



Peter Phillipson, B.Sc., Dip.L.D., MIEEM. has had a rich and varied career that has encompassed landscape design, nature conservation, ecology, site and visitor management and interpretation. This gives him an in-depth and practical understanding of the relationship between people and the natural environment. He believes that many of our most powerful reactions to the natural world are emotional, instinctual and spiritual. As a result he was one of the founding members of VINE and is currently a member of the Vine Steering Group. He is also a passionate advocate for raising the level of professional expertise within nature conservation. Peter is responsible for the development and course direction of all the nature conservation professional training courses at the Peak District Study Centre at Losehill Hall. He sits on the Training, Education and Careers Committee of IEEM. He can be contacted on peter@telltale.co.uk



John Rodwell has worked as an ecologist for over 30 years both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. He coordinated the UK National Vegetation Classification and has provided training, toolkits and research for the UK wildlife agencies, the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, the National Trust, WWF, the European Environment Agency, local authorities and many consultancies. He directed a Darwin Initiative programme for skill-transfer for vegetation database management to Eastern Europe and is Secretary of the European Vegetation Survey. He was until recently Professor of Plant Ecology at Lancaster University but now works independently as a consultant.

More recently, he has been concerned with the less quantifiable values of the natural world and relationships between nature and culture. At the moment, he is working, among other things, on a three-year project for the MB Reckitt Trust developing a critique of the notion of sustainability and researching how people understand 'belonging' and 'place'.



Adrian Tissier works for the National Trust as a Learning Adviser. He has developed creative arts programmes with various community groups (e.g. Drug Rehabilitation group, Women's Counselling project), and delivers training on creative approaches to engagement with the natural and built heritage.

He is also a performing poet, writer and storyteller. He has organised regular poetry events and festivals for Buxton Festival Fringe, attracting lottery funding and winning several awards. He has written books on poetry and literature for schools as well as performing outdoor storytelling and creative writing events in wild location