

2008 FLAG EXPEDITION REPORT



WINGS WorldQuest, Inc.'s mission is to celebrate and to support extraordinary women explorers by promoting scientific exploration, education, and conservation.





2008 was a great year for exploration.

The WINGS WorldQuest flag moved ever farther into little known places, accompanying bold and insightful women on quests to expand our understanding of this mysterious planet. In a time when finite resources are in peril, ecosystems are on the brink, cultural traditions are threatened, and the earth's climate is in flux, we need these voices from the edge to help us find the best pathways to the future. We are pleased to present the following reports:

- Conservation photographer **Alison Jones**, Founder and Director of WINGS-sponsored No Water No Life, brought Flag # 13 into the Upper Columbia River Basin.
- Conservation biologist **Heather Bryan** took Flag # 17 to British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest to study wolves, a vital and misunderstood carnivore.
- Photographer and Arctic explorer **Rosemarie Keough** carried Flag #17 to the Inside Passage, documenting the northwest coast of North America.
- **Felicity Aston** carried Flag #15 on the first all-women crossing of Siberia's frozen Lake Baikal, documenting the fragile UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Fine Art photographer **Rena Bass Forman** carried Flag # 19 to Northern Svalbard to capture the last glimmer of light before the descent of the long Polar Night
- Botanist **Margaret Lowman** carried Flag#16 to the Peruvian Amazon, researching medicinal plants while on the longest canopy walkway in the world.
- Geophysicist **Robin Bell** led a team carrying Flag #7 to East Antarctica to research the Gamburtsev Mountains, a chain buried deep beneath the ice.
- **Jill Tarter**, Director of the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute, flew Flag #7 at the inauguration of the Allen Telescope Array in California.

This report is a collaboration of Julie McNamara, Hadley Jensen, Ashley Cross, Terry Williams, Susan Colacello and designer Dave Green. We thank Fiona Schiano-Yacopino for again granting us the privilege to use WINGS Fellow Marie Tharp's map of the World Ocean Floor. We especially thank the explorers for carrying our flag and providing us with images and stories from their expeditions. For more on our flag and education programs, please visit our website: www.wingsworldquest.org.

– *Milbry Polk*

Executive Director and co-Founder, WINGS WorldQuest

INSIDE PASSAGE EXPEDITION

Capturing a region's natural and human heritage

Five expeditions, each two to four weeks in length, brought Rosemarie and Pat Keough, their cameras, and WINGS WorldQuest Flag #17 to the beautiful maritime maze of the Inside Passage. The navigable waterway winds along the coasts of northern Washington, British Columbia, and southeast Alaska through a labyrinth of islands, interconnected channels, straits, sounds, and fjords.



Rosemarie Keough, with WINGS Flag #17, stands in front of LeConte Inlet, Alaska.

THE INSIDE PASSAGE

Both magical and much used, the Inside Passage is a marine highway extending 1,000 miles from northern Washington State through British Columbia and into Alaska. It is so named because the 1,500 islands that lie off the coastline protect the area from large Pacific Ocean surges, allowing safe passage for oceangoing vessels, such as fishing boats and freighters, as well as kayakers and canoeists. A temperate rainforest hugs the coastline – within the confines of these dense stands of trees dwell bears, wolves, goats, ravens, and eagles. The spawn-out carcasses of returning salmon release essential marine elements and serve to nourish the greater ecosystem as they decompose. Farther out to sea, whale,

seals, sea lions, and fish find their home amongst kelp and immense reefs of glass sponge. For thousands of years this region was home to the Tlingit, Haida, Bella Coola, Heiltsuk, and Salish whose cultures developed a richness reflective of the bountiful environment.

EXPEDITION TEAM

Rosemarie Keough,
Explorer & photographer

Pat Keough,
Explorer & photographer

SURPRISING FINDINGS

Great swaths of land north of the Salish Sea, beyond Desolation Sound, are now empty of people. Once abuzz with native peoples and great numbers of entrepreneurs and laborers who followed the Klondike Gold Rush, the canneries and mill towns now stand as ghost towns. The rainforest is reclaiming this territory. Silent boulders can be seen among

See more Keough photographs:

www.keough-art.com

inter-tidal rocks carved with mysterious symbols of what may be spirals, humans, birds, fish, and seal.

The sea too is being reclaimed, as shown by the recent profusion of humpbacks. Locals say that 30 years ago it was very fortunate to see two or three humpback in the area. Today, hundreds of humpbacks feed and cavort in the coastal waters.

At the same time, though, the Keoughs noted the influence of clear-cut logging and other industries on the area. In contrast to the reclamation of once-developed lands by the forest in some places, in others vast expanses of forest had been cleared and the land was barren, causing profound negative impacts on the native flora and fauna.

WHO

Rosemarie Keough
Pat Keough

WHAT

Photographing the landscape and people of the Inside Passage

WHERE

The North American Northwest Coast

WHY

To create a portfolio of work that portrays the beauty and diversity of this unique area



Sleeping black bear, Sitka forest, Anan Creek, Alaska

EXPEDITION RESULTS

An extensive archive of images of the Inside Passage has been accumulated. From this archive, 345 outstanding pictures have been selected for publication in a portfolio which will travel to exhibitions and lectures, and will be used in various articles about the region.

In addition to their hopes that the resulting portfolio will bring enjoyment through appreciation of the stunning images they have captured, the Keoughs also endeavor to have their work inspire change. The Inside Passage is predominantly defined by the natural wonders that it harbors, yet increasingly these habitats are coming under threat due to detrimental human activity in the area. The Keough's portfolio can begin the journey towards change by stimulating discussion and calls for protection.

ABOUT ROSEMARIE AND PAT KEOUGH

Self-taught photographers, Rosemarie and Pat Keough have received numerous awards for their spectacular photography. Their accolades include the Native Photographer of the Year Award and World's Best Photography Book Award from the International Photography Awards; Outstanding Photography of the Natural World Award from the Institute of British Geographers; the Cherry Kearton Medal from the Royal Geographical Society; and the Benjamin Franklin Award, Premier Print Award. They have published 7 books and placed their images in dozens of magazines, newspapers, galleries, and library and museum collections.



Ice bergs, Le Conte Inlet, Alaska

EXCERPTS FROM ROSEMARIE'S JOURNAL

May 14 – The seas are strong in the Hecate Strait between here and mainland, too strong for a safe passage. The journey that normally is 7 hours length is already triple that, and quite possibly will be longer. We may well be spending a second extra day aboard our ferry.

In the dense rainforest, we saw two moss-covered canoes partly carved and abandoned, one a 12meter long war canoe, the other a single person fishing canoe. Both canoes date from around 1880, and likely the carvers, or those who commissioned the vessels, died of “white-man’s disease.” We found it rather sad to see these canoes’ silent testimony to the unfulfilled ambition of people who lived long ago. Today these old Haida villages are all but reclaimed by nature. Few elaborate yet decaying totem poles still stand facing the sea along crescent beaches in front of what was once a row of highly ornamented long houses.

June 25, 2008 – Highlight of today: Finding 20 “scented candle orchids,” also called “white bog orchids,” all together in a group. One of the orchids was particularly exquisite – full of delicate white blossoms. I spend almost two hours taking various photos of this one plant – while being feasted upon by little “no-see-ums.”

July 9 – This afternoon I was on a boat to Le Conte Bay and we navigated between ice pieces to the glacier at the head of the bay. Le Conte Glacier is North America’s most southerly glacier to meet salt water. While I was focused on the vertical face, about 1/3 of the snout calved. It was incredible – and I got it on film! I’m hoping I got the exposures right.



Five War Canoe Pictographs, Johnstone Strait, British Columbia, Canada.



Bat stars and urchin, Shuttle Reef, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, Canada.



The foot of LeConte Glacier, the northern hemisphere's most southerly tidewater glacier.



2008 WINGS WORLDQUEST FLAG LOG

FLAG #13

Alison M. Jones

COLUMBIA RIVER EXPEDITION

Exploring freshwater values
and management solutions

FLAG #17

Heather Bryan

BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPEDITION

Tracking wolves in the Great
Bear Rainforest

FLAG #17

Rosemarie and Pat Keough

INSIDE PASSAGE EXPEDITION

Capturing a region's natural
and human heritage

FLAG #15

Felicity Aston and Jenny Pugh

LAKE BAIKAL EXPEDITION

Traversing the world's oldest and
deepest frozen lake on foot

FLAG #19

Rena Bass Forman

SVALBARD EXPEDITION

Chasing the Light at
79 degrees North

FLAG #18

Meg Lowman

PERUVIAN AMAZON
EXPEDITION

Ethnobotany in the treetops

FLAG #7

Robin E. Bell

EAST ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Glacial ice and the mountains
and lakes below

FLAG #7

Jill Tarter

OUTER SPACE EXPEDITION

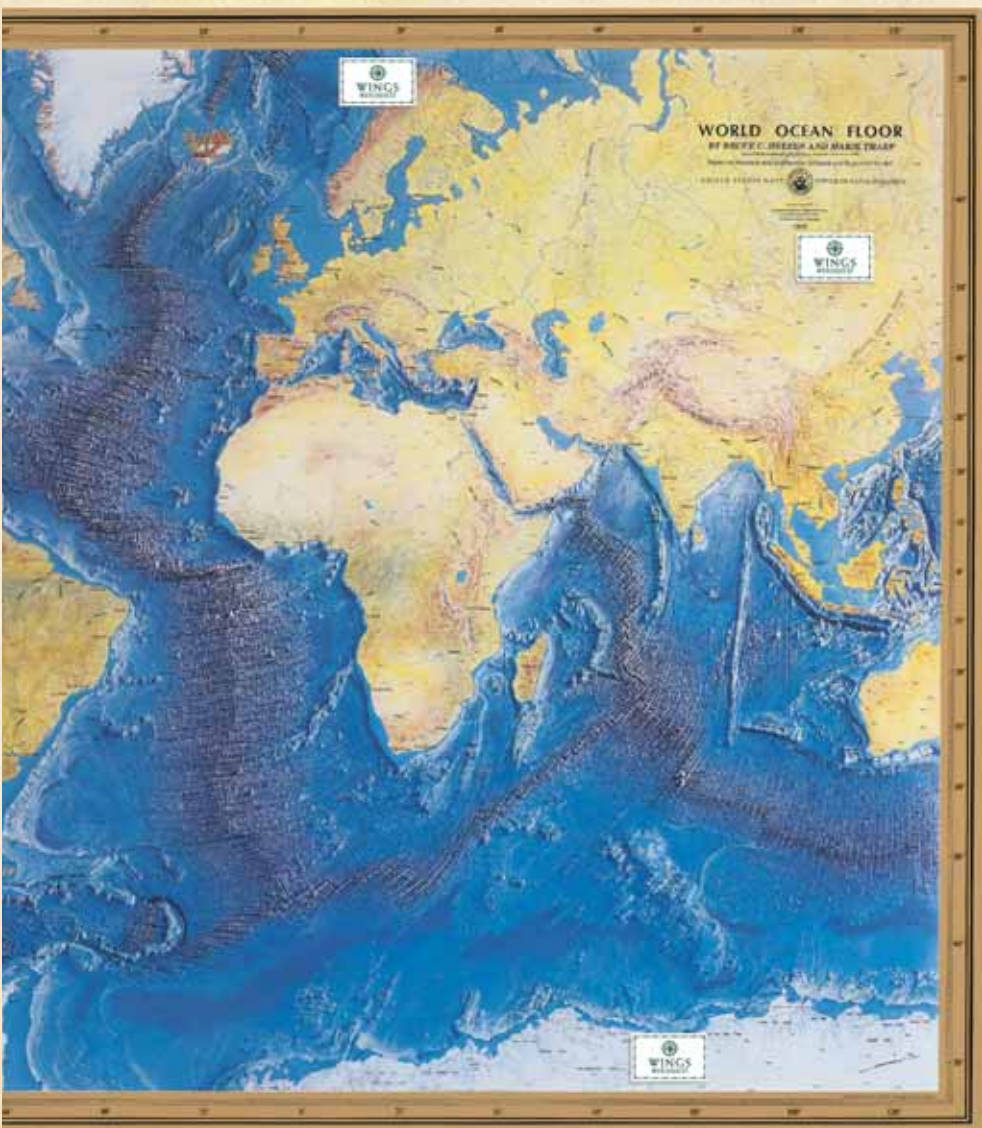
Looking for life in the universe

To carry our Flag, the applicant must be a woman who is conducting original field research or documentation and who plans to write reports, make a film, or otherwise share information about the discovery. All must file a WINGSWorldQuest report. WINGS Fellows are automatically eligible; others must apply to WINGS WorldQuest.



WORLD OCEAN FLOOR
BY BRUFF C. HEDDER AND MARIE TRAPP

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE TECHNOLOGY
GEORGE FOSTER BART





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