The Voyager

The Newsletter of the Environmental Discovery Voyages Vol. 1 No.1 Fall 1993
Box 2757 Invermere, BC V0A 1K0

Greetings Friends and Voyagers!!

Here it is, the inaugural issue of our **Voyager Newsletter**. I say 'our' newsletter because I sincerely hope that the **Voyager** will become a meeting point through which **Environmental Discovery Voyage** participants can exchange ideas, announce happenings, share successes in our personal and professional endeavors, discuss important issues facing our environment, our families and our world, write poetry, print pictures, keep in touch, talk like pirates, wax eloquent, swap cheesecake recipes, sing songs... you get the picture.

Many times over the past summer I have reflected on the experience we shared aboard the World Discoverer exploring the natural beauty and fragility of the Pacific Coast, the honesty and pride of its inhabitants and the dedication of those who seek to ensure that it remains a provider of inspiration, giver of life and supporter of cultures that respect and live within its limits. We each carried home impressions shaped by our own personal experience and perspectives but what remains dominant for me was the sense of collective energy and enthusiasm that flowed among our 'floating community' over those ten days together.

In the spirit of communication we fostered during those sparkling days in May and June the **Voyager** finds itself in your mailbox today. It is with renewed excitement and enthusiasm that it delivers details about the upcoming **Pacific Coast EDV Reunion** in Toronto and announcement of the **1994 Project Arctic Coast EDV from Greenland to Baffin Island** in the Canadian Arctic.

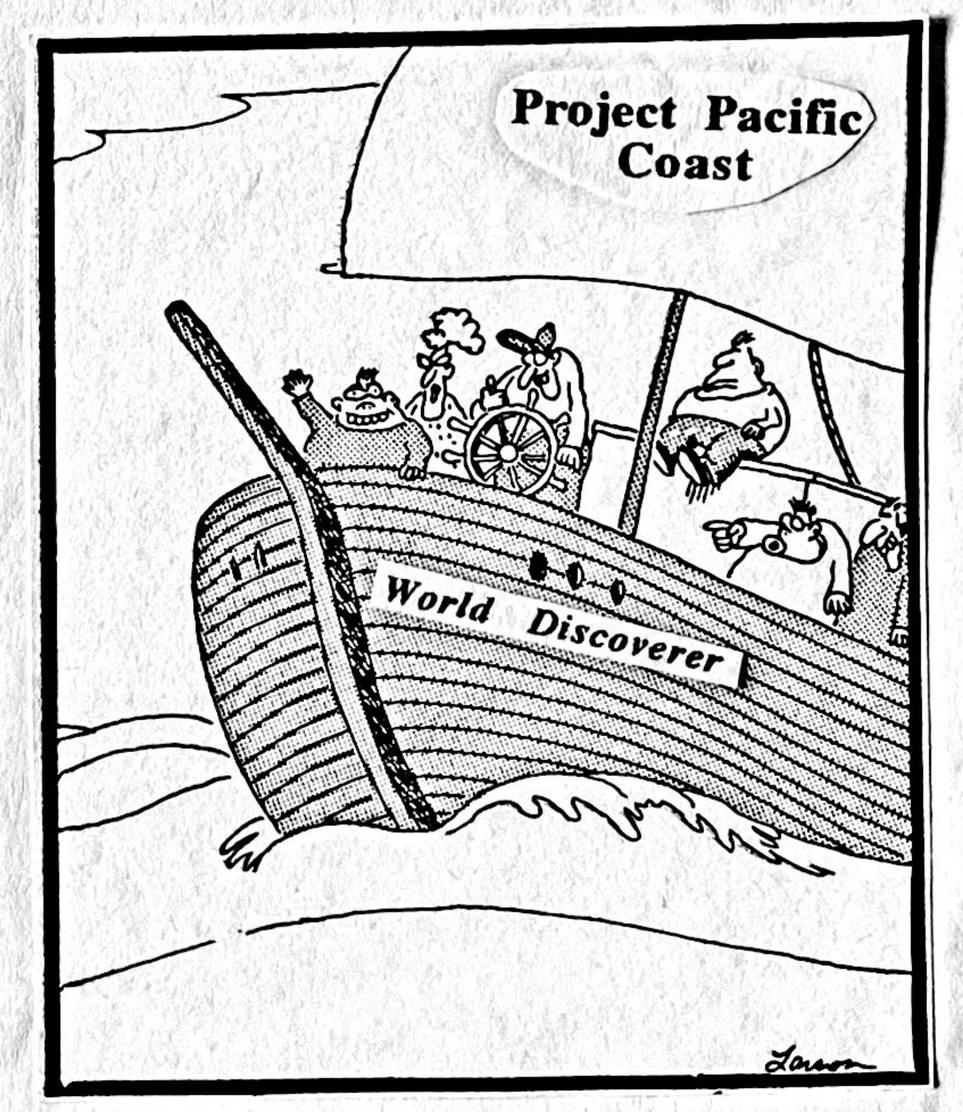
We also invite you to contribute to the next **Voyager Newsletter**, the theme of which I would like to suggest be, **Our Personal Environments.** If the key to a healthy environment and community begins with each of us what are some of the ways that you achieve this? How do you shop? Are you involved in any special projects you'd like to tell us about? Does your art work help you recognize the balance and beauty of nature and would you like to share that art work with us? What are your reflections on the Pacific Coast EDV? Did you get responses to all those letters you wrote to the politicians? Are there some organizations, exhibits or events out their you think we should know about or support? Got any wonderful Christmas baking recipes? The topics are open and to lead off in this issue I've included information on wild bird feeding and indoor plants - two ways I like to contribute to my immediate environment.

Please send anything you would like to see included in the next issue of **Voyager** to the above address **by November 7**, preferably typed if you are submitting writing or even better, on a Macintosh disc using MS Word version 4.0 or higher. Thanks all! Hope you enjoy **The Voyager** and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bill Swan

Bill Swan
Voyager Editor at Large ("They'll never catch me" he said with a sparkle from his gold tooth and a slash of his rapier)



Mutants on the *Bounty* World Discoverer

Left to Right: Puddyspud Carson, Sabina Leader at Large, Capt'n Bobo Bateman, Ian Tumbler, Dennis "Big Mouth" Mense, Sinbad Swan.

DO IT FOR THE BIRDS

Undoubtedly many of you have discovered the joys of feeding wild birds. If you haven't and you think you might like to try, now is the time to consider putting out a bird feeder as the fall migrants continue their journey south. Many good bird feeders are available for purchase commercially or can be easily constructed from scrap wood, old plastic pop bottles, wax milk cartons etc. A reference book from your local library on different types of feeders will give you some ideas if you'd like to build one.

If you have not been feeding birds in your yard it can take anywhere from one day to several months for birds to discover your new feeder. Be patient and remember to change the feed at least once a month if the birds have not been eating it. Start by putting your feeder up a good distance from your house. You'll likely want to move it closer to get a better vantage point as the birds become accustomed to feeding from it. A clothes-line makes an ideal mobile system to hang a feeder from.

Why feed wild birds? While it is true that wild birds are able to find feed during winter, the presence of a reliable food source can help them survive cold snaps or winter storms. The benefits birds derive from feeders also helps to offset damages that the activities of humans are having on the bird's natural habitats and food sources. Research has shown that wild birds won't come to rely on your feeder, in fact feeders usually make up a small percentage of any bird's total diet. So don't worry if you miss filling the feeder for a few days.

It can't be denied that there are purely selfish advantages to viewing these beautiful living creatures close up. Personally, I find that wild birds bring life to the winter window sill, and music to my yard. From my home office I have excitedly blurted out a bird sighting many times to an unsuspecting friend or client on the other end of the phone. "WOOOHW!! it's a lesser purple-bellied piping bushtit!!" Silence reins on the other end of the phone but I don't care - happily eccentric am I. Stride on bird feeders and let's hear about your sightings in the next **Voyager.**

PS-Keep notes on your sightings, they can be very important sources of information for researchers studying the distribution and migration of wild bird populations. Contact **Project FeederWatch** at the **Long Point Bird Observatory** for more information about getting involved in birding studies:

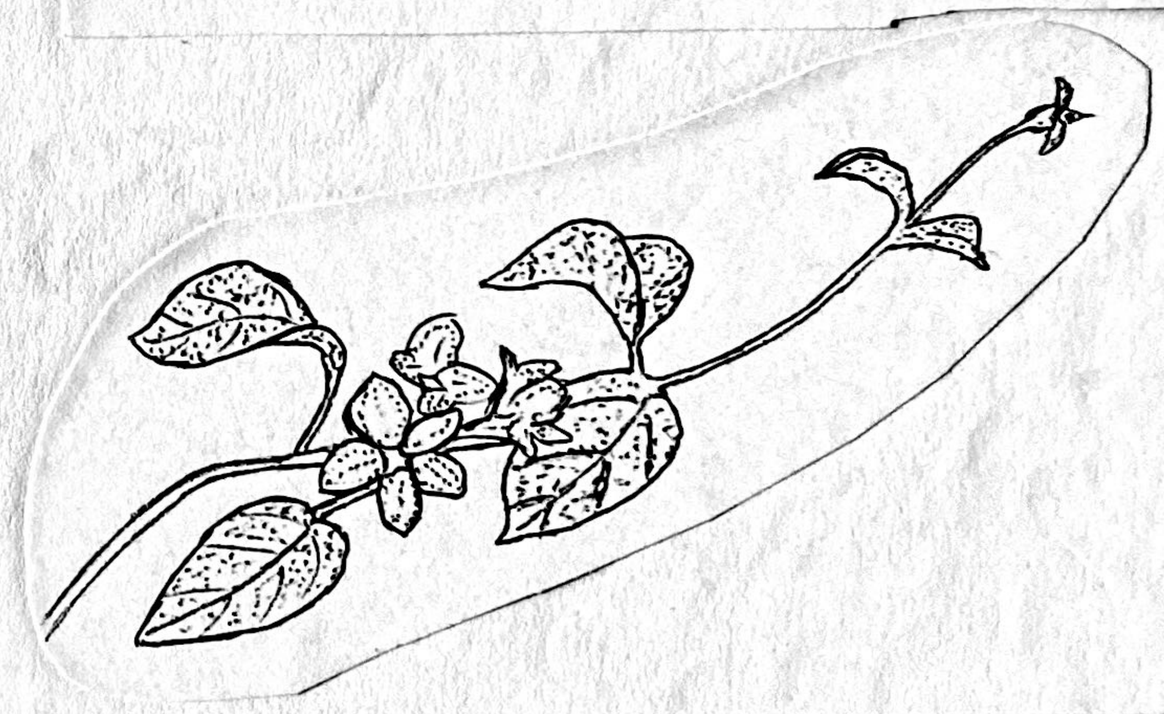
P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan Ont. N0E 1M0

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

As summer greens give way to the colours of autumn we know that winter will soon be here. Indoor plants in sunny winter windows give the spirit of life but they provide much more than aesthetic beauty. In some cases our indoor environments can be detrimental to our health due to chemical by-products of modern construction materials and practices and in the maintenance of our homes. Through the process of respiration some plants are capable of filtering out potentially dangerous off-gases. The following is a list of common pollutants that are present in many buildings and the plants that can help us guard against their effects.

Pollutant	Plant	Notes
Formaldehyde*	Boston Fern	most effective
(particle board, carpets	Philodendron	+95% effective
pressed wood products,	Spider plant	95% effective
adhesives, wall board,	Snake plant	
indoor plywood, paints,	Peace Lily	+90% effective
waxes, polishes, gas	Aloe Vera	
appliances)	Bamboo Palm	
	Golden Pathos	67% effective
Benzene**	African Daisy	
(gasoline, plastics,	Potted Mum	
rubber, detergents,	English Ivy	+90% effective
dyes)	Peace Lily	
	Bamboo Palm	
	Snake Plant	
Trichloroethylene*	Daisy	
(paints, lacquers,	Janet Craig Dracaena	
varnishes, adhesives)	Peace Lily	
	Bamboo Palm	
	Potted Mum	41% effective

* potential carcinogen ** recognized carcinogen

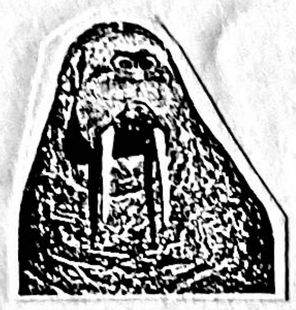


THANKS FOR YOUR CARDS & LETTERS

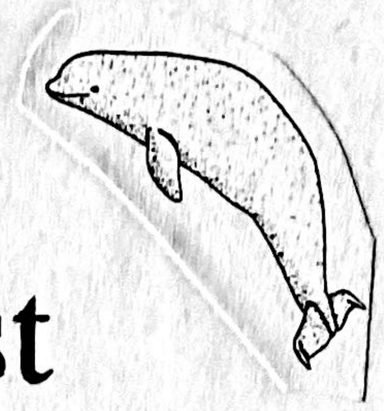
Since arriving back from the Pacific EDV, Matthew, Dave and Bill have received many beautiful communiques from fellow voyagers expressing their appreciation and thanks. We enjoyed receiving them and thank those who took the time to send us these cards and letters, many with special photos included. Thanks also to those who returned the EDV questionnaires that Matthew circulated; your observations and suggestions will help us in our preparation of the Arctic EDV in 1994. By the way, an overwhelming number of you indicated that the recap brothers **should** quit their day jobs without a moment's hesitation!

And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the wind longs to play with your hair.

- Kahil Gibran, *The Prophet*



Off to the Arctic Seas!!



Project Arctic Coast

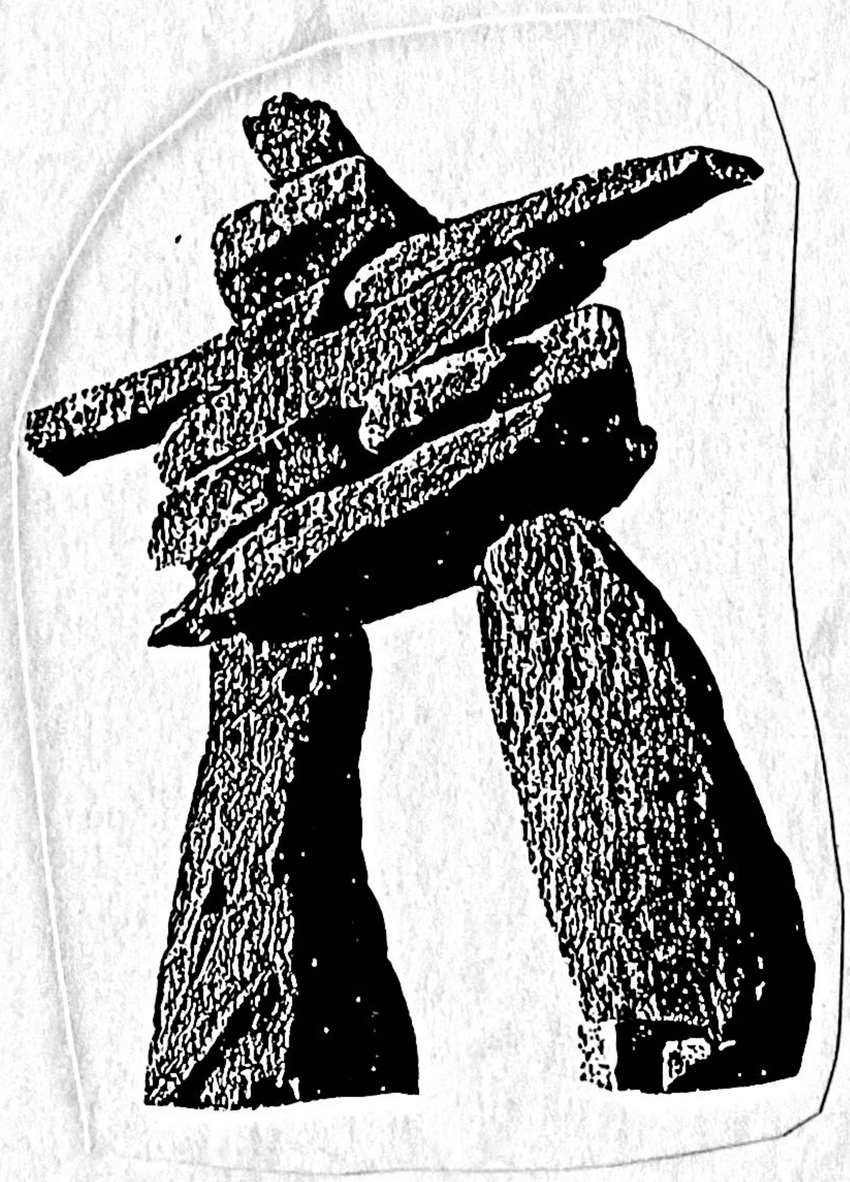
In 1994 the Environmental Discovery Voyage will head north as we undertake a 10 day excursion from Greenland to Baffin Island. Some familiar friends will be joining us - including, Robert and Birgit Bateman.

Over 10 days the plan is to visit the Inuit-European communities of Greenland, cross the Arctic Circle to the iceberg-choked waters of Disko Bay - the iciest region in the northern hemisphere - cruise the waters of Davis Strait to Baffin Island, Cumberland Sound, Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) and Cape Dorset. As with all Discovery Voyages the emphasis will be on ecology, natural history, aboriginal cultures, environmental issues facing the region, art, photography and good fun among new and familiar friends.

The Finnish built, 75 passenger polar research vessel, Akademik Vavilov, will depart Sondre Stromfjord, Greenland, on August 3, 1994 with passage starting at $2,995.

This early announcement is being received by Voyager readers only, the general announcement coming in the next issue of Equinox magazine. Literature for this trip will be ready in October and more details will be available at the Reunion in Toronto.

Please advise our Adventure Canada office if you wish us to mail you a kit. (416) 533-0767.



Baffin Island

FRIENDS OF EQUINOX

We need the tonic of wilderness - to wade sometimes in marshes...we are earnest to explore and learn all things...that land and sea can be infinitely wild. We can never have enough nature.

- Henry David Thoreau

LETS HAVE A BASH!! FUN & GAMES FOR ALL!

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY VOYAGE 1993 REUNION

Where: Enoch Turner Schoolhouse - The West Hall 106 Trinity St., Toronto (one block east of Parliament and King Streets)

When: October 14, 1993 From 7:00 pm - till we get tired!!

Please bring: Your favorite photos and or slides (slides - 15 max.) and we'll load them into a carousel for public viewing/giggling.

If you wish to contribute please bring an item for the "Jean Horn Invitational Tasty Baked Goods and Wine Table" (Jean has also arranged the hall and a tea & coffee service - a definite golden cigar candidate). Categories in the Baked Goods Contest (a juried event) include:
- Sweet and Sticky
- Lumpy and Colourful (Paddy Carson won't be allowed to enter himself)
- Rich and Stodgy
- Low Cal and Good for Ya (yuk)

Wine Categories:
-Expensive
-Scottish

Also bring dancing shoes (just in case we're in the mood)

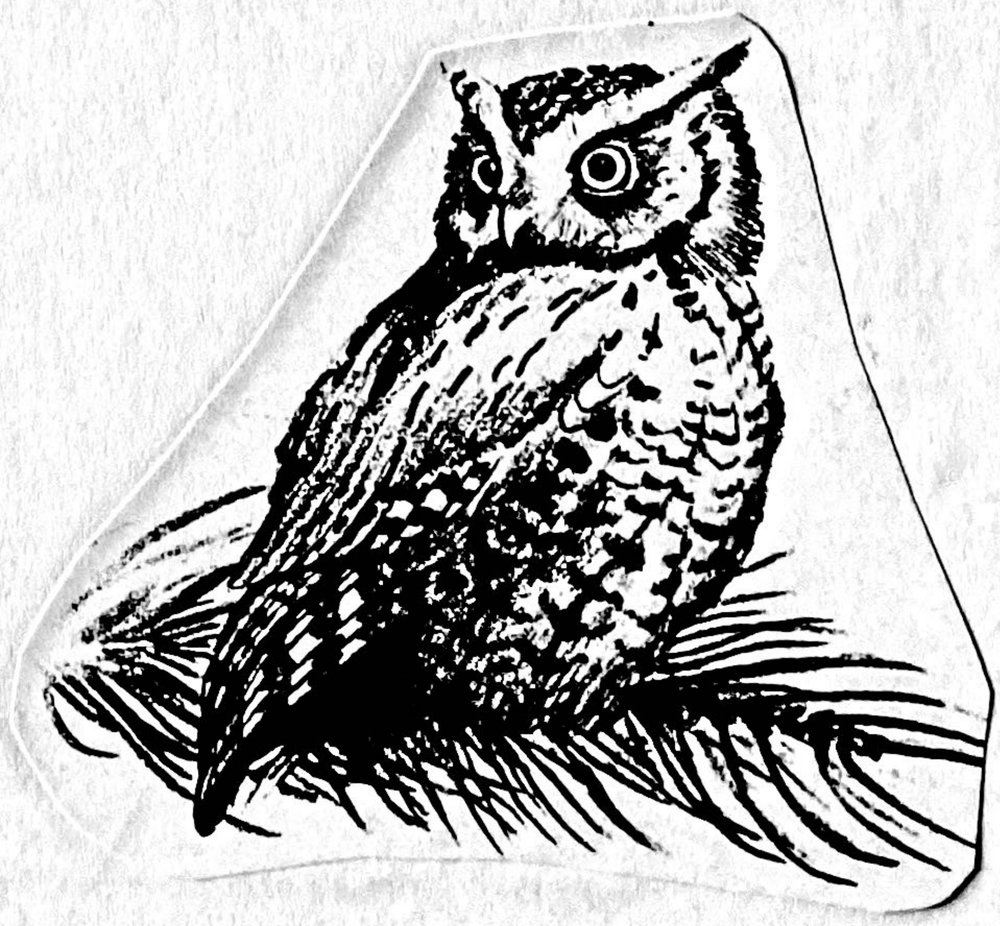
Highlights: Preview of Norm Lightfoot's BIG FILM on the Voyage (Those who have ordered videos will be able to pick them up from Norm - we'll mail the others.)
Baked Goods Contest Awards
The usual silly stuff

Resource Staff: Mike Beedell, Bart Robinson, Paddy Carson, The Batemans, The Vickers, Matthew Swan, Ian Tamblyn and Rachel Gauk, have all so far indicated they'll be able to join us.
We hope you can too!

RSVP: **Adventure Canada 416 533 0767 Anita, Bruce or Matthew**
By Oct 5

PHOTO REQUEST

We would love to see any photos that you'd care to send us here at the **Voyager.** Besides just being fun to see pictures from the trip, we would also like to have your permission to use your photos to encourage others to join us on the next EDV. We'll try to print a selection of photos received in the next newsletter. Here are but a few categories to consider:

- best dressed voyager
- silliest resource person
- natural wonders of the Pacific Coast
- people of the Pacific Coast
- fellow voyagers

Note: Remember to send us your photos after the Reunion if you'll be needing them at the party.