

# Salt Spring Symposium

British Columbia, Canada

ROSEMARIE KEOUGH MED'02 AND PAT KEOUGH MED'02

"I spent several days with scores of the most delightfully eclectic (and some pretty famous) explorers on this planet...and some of the busiest and most 'booked up.' The fact that they were there and not off on one or another of their pursuits says loads for the esteem they hold for this gathering. None of us are 'slow'. We recognize a special event hosted by special people when we see it. And we throw out our calendar just so we can rewrite our schedule in order to attend. The *Salt Spring Symposium* has become one of THE places to be because of the setting, the hosts, the talks, the food... and best of all, the interaction of friends, old and new. It is an educational event bar none, yet the teachers and the students alike are equals with all egos left at home. Friendships develop there almost automatically." sentiments as true today as when voiced by the late Jim Chester FN'00 a decade ago.

Over September 6-9, 2018, 51 Explorers came together for the 12th Salt Spring Symposium held at the mountain-top, ocean-front home of Pat and Rosemarie Keough, both Sweeney medalists (2014). Participants arrived from Mongolia, Tanzania, England, Norway, Israel, Alaska, New York, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Yukon, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia for three days of intensive fellowship.

A great breadth of fieldwork was presented by passionate specialists who maintain

open-minded curiosity about all facets of exploration. Topics among the 24 full lectures plus 20 shorts included: the Ocaina of the Amazon Jungle; Kyrgyzstan's Manaschi epic storytellers; Bald & Golden Eagle research; the Gwich'in and caribou of Alaska's Arctic Refuge; finding the *Musahi* WWII battleship at a depth 1000m; paleobotany in western Canada; technology and dinosaur discoveries in Mongolia; diving an Arctic iceberg; rate of evolutionary adaptations in Stickleback fish; climate change at Mt. Everest; dispelling myths shrouding sharks, Leopard seals and Polar Bear; marine mammal research utilizing satellite imagery; observations of French Polynesia 50 years apart; culture and land claims of the San of Botswana.

The atmosphere was one of a grand family reunion. With this in mind, everyone volunteered to assist: keeping coffee brewed and cookie platters full; running the projection equipment flawlessly; minding speakers to their allotted time; preparing a grand total of 500 meals and cleaning afterward. Among the treats contributed were *kgaaw* (herring row on kelp, from Haida friends), prawn ceviche and smoked Spring salmon (the latter seafoods caught and prepared by explorers.)

Club news was shared by Richard Weise FI'89, TEC president, and chapter chairs George Kourounis FI'09 (Canada), John All

LM'14 (Pacific Northwest), and Jeff Blumenfeld FN'89 (Rocky Mountain), plus four officials from HQ. Musical interludes of digeridoo and drumming were complimented with ethnological discussions. Thank you Richard for bringing The Explorers Club Flag; Jeff Whiting FI'11, Brent Cooke FI'13, and Rob Butler FI'08 for the Silent Skies Mural art panels of endangered birds; Tony Mayo FI'14 and Jim Allan MI'97 for artifacts collected along the upper Amazon and Irian Jaya; Mike de Roos for the impressive transient Killer Whale skull and teeth.

Jett Britnell FI'16, British Columbia's incoming Regional Director, has the final word: "This was one of the most informative and intensive symposiums I have ever attended. It dawned on me as I was traveling home on the ferry, how much goodwill permeated the entire weekend. This is a tribute to the Keoughs for creating such a fertile environment for stories and experiences to be shared; and for the explorers who came together a rare opportunity to get to know each other. After I gave my presentation up until the moment I had to leave to go home, people were figuratively ambushing me in conversation offering compliments and asking questions. It never gets old when people's eyes are opened to something they may never have seen before. From top to bottom, the entire weekend was one to remember."



TRANSIENT KILLER WHALE SKULL, FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA, LOANED BY MIKE DE ROOS, MASTER SKELETON ARTICULATOR AND BIOLOGIST. Photo: Jett Britnell



TEC PRESIDENT RICHARD WIESE REPORTS ON HEADQUARTERS TO RELAXED EXPLORERS SPRAWLED ABOUT THE KEOUGH LIVING ROOM. Photo: Pat & Rosemarie Keough



51 EXPLORERS, 3 EXHILARATING DAYS, AT KEOUGH HOME IN THE GULF ISLANDS OF CANADA. Photo: Pat & Rosemarie Keough



(L-R). JEFF BLUMENFELD, BRIAN P. HANSON FOLLOWING WASHING DISHES. THE VIEWS FROM THE KITCHEN MADE MORE REMARKABLE WITH THIS RAINBOW! Photo: Pat & Rosemarie Keough



EVA B. KOPPELHUS, PALEOBOTANIST/TEC STEFANSSON MEDALIST/ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDALIST. Photo: Pat and Rosemarie Keough



PHILIP CURRIE, TEC EXPLORER MEDALIST/CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA/FORMER CURATOR OF DINOSAURS, ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY/RECOGNIZED BY PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM, ALBERTA. Photo: Pat & Rosemarie Keough



PAT KEOUGH, SWEENEY MEDALIST; CONSTANCE DIFEDE, DIRECTOR/SWEENEY MEDALIST; ROSEMARIE KEOUGH, SWEENEY MEDALIST; RICHARD WIESE, PRESIDENT; CAPT. LYNN DANAHER, DIRECTOR; BRIAN P. HANSON, CLUB OMBUDSMAN/SWEENEY MEDALIST.