

## NEWS AND COMMENTS

### NANCY TURNER NAMED RECIPIENT OF 1997 SCHULTES AWARD

ST. LOUIS AND WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
JUNE 5, 1997

Professor Nancy J. Turner of the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, B.C., is the recipient of the 1997 Richard Evans Schultes Award, presented annually by The Healing Forest Conservancy. The award recognized the scientist, practitioner, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to ethnobotany or to indigenous peoples issues related to ethnobotany. Specific recognition is given Dr. Turner for her leadership in partnering with First Nations peoples to bring ethnobotanical knowledge to the forefront in discussions on management of the ancient, temperate forests of the Pacific Northwest with the government of Canada. Turner's impressive scholarly corpus includes almost 30 books, monographs, or chapters. She has inspired many devoted students to enter the field of ethnobotany. The award honors the name of Richard Evans Schultes, the Harvard ethnobotanist widely recognized as one of the most distinguished figures in the field. The International Nominating Committee for the award is chaired by Michael J. Balick, Philecology Curator of Economic Botany and Director of the New York Botanical Garden's Institute of Economic Botany. Each Schultes Award features a \$5000 cash prize donated by Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and The Leland Fikes Foundation. Nominations for the 1998 Richard Evans Schultes Award are open until May 1, 1998. Submit nominations to Katy Moran, Director, The Healing Forest Conservancy, 3521 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 (moranhfc@aol.com).



### NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS WOMAN TO RECEIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

SALT LAKE CITY  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

Mary Thomas, Elder of the Secwepemc (Shuswap Interior Salish) Nation of central British Columbia, Canada has been named as the Indigenous Conservationist of the Year 1997 by the Seacology Foundation. The award ceremony was held Monday, September 22, 1997 at Sundance.

“Mary has devoted her life to the conservation and perpetuation both of her own indigenous culture and language and of the lands and waters of her traditional homeland,” states Dr. Nancy Turner of the University of Victoria, B.C. She has received local recognition and many community awards for her work as an educator, elder, medicine and plant specialist, conservationist, and authority on the Secwepemc culture and language. In 1992 she founded the Salmon River Watershed Coalition as a means to provide community support and action to monitor and restore the Salmon River, one of the major salmon spawning rivers of the British Columbia interior.

Mary Thomas was born in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. As a young child, she attended the Kamloops Indian Residential School, which was an unhappy experience for her and one she does not like to remember. Much happier memories for her were the times she spent with her grandmothers, aunts, and parents, together with her brother and sisters, traveling up into the mountains, digging wild root vegetables, picking berries, harvesting Indian-hemp for cordage making, and learning all of the cultural traditions and environmental and conservation knowledge of her people.

“This place brings back memories. When you’re a little girl, and families were still intact and still practiced a lot of the natural way—our people survived many, many years. And this place reminds me of when I was a little girl and we used to come up here. Children were brought up to be so close to Mother Nature, to appreciate it, what you’re seeing here now. I can remember as a little girl running, hopping, skipping, jumping through all these beautiful flowers—I think that’s one of the happy memories I have. And we did take part in the gathering of food. When the food, especially the potatoes—that was one of the diets through the winter, and they had to collect a lot of that. What they did was they collected the avalanche lily [*Erythronium grandiflorum*] and spring beauty [*Claytonia lanceolata*], *scwicw* and *sqwaqwinna*, down in the bottom. When that was completely finished then our people came up to the plateau. They hunted up here. They picked huckleberries. They gathered more avalanche lilies and spring beauties, and those were brought down to the valley and stored for the winter. And not only that—you can tell the difference in the air. The children were taught to respect Mother Nature and to appreciate it, and when you breathe in this cool air and you can imagine yourself sleeping out here in open air—we just had a little lean-to, and you’re breathing in this beautiful mountain air. And when you’re breathing, even now you can smell the air has that *melanllp* [subalpine fir, *Abies lasiocarpa*] smell, from the beautiful boughs, the trees. And every time you smell that beautiful smell of Mother Nature’s creation, you appreciate it, you love it, you’re a part of it—you become a part of it. So I think those are the happy memories I can really appreciate today, because we very seldom come to these areas where there’s a lot of beautiful flowers yet. Hopefully we can preserve and maintain this for the generations to come.”

The Seacology Foundation, based in Springville, Utah, seeks to preserve Earth’s ecosystems and cultures. The Seacology Indigenous Conservationist of the Year award is funded annually by Seacology President Ken Murdock, founder of Nature’s Way Products, Inc., a natural pharmaceutical manufacturer in Springville, Utah. Mary Thomas is the sixth recipient of the annual award.

Thanks to Nancy J. Turner for the background information.

## SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO  
APRIL 15-19, 1998

This year's conference is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Historic Preservation Program, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Quaternary Sciences Center, Desert Research Institute.

This year's conference theme is: **Seeking and Saving Common Ground: Interfacing Ethnobiology and Conservation Biology**. Sessions are scheduled for Thursday, April 16 and Friday, April 17, with field trips Saturday, April 18 to the Carson Sink, Hidden Cave, and Stillwater Marsh and to Pyramid and Winnemucca Lakes.

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### DENNIS MICHAEL WARREN

Mike Warren died suddenly at his home in Ara, Nigeria December 28, 1997. Dr. Warren was well known and highly regarded for his dedication in defense of indigenous knowledge systems and the communities that sustain them. Dr. Warren studied at Stanford University, then received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1974. After a stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa, he adopted Nigeria as his home. He helped found the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Agriculture and Rural Development (CIKARD) and at the time of his death served as professor of anthropology at Iowa State University.

A memorial service and celebration of the life of Dennis Michael Warren will be held Sunday, March 8 at Iowa State University. A memorial fund has been established to honor Mike's commitment to introducing students to West Africa and to the study of indigenous knowledge. Department of Anthropology, 319 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050. For further details, contact Norma H. Wolff, Department of Anthropology, 319 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050 or email nhwolff@iastate.edu.