

## Quest Foundation Successes

Over the years, Quest Foundation has generated countless arts/ecology/science projects. At any time, Quest Foundation is involved with a number of undertakings; each designed to raise awareness and help develop solutions to present and emergent concerns. The following list is a brief overview of partners, publications and past projects. For a complete listing of Quest Foundation activities, please contact us at: [www.quest-foundation.org](http://www.quest-foundation.org).

### Ongoing Partners / Activities

- *Islands In The Sky – Lost Worlds of El Dorado* – Documentary / Book development and research in the Tepui Mountains of the Ancient Guyana Shield. Partner: The Explorers Club
- *Wisdom of the Ancient Forest – Alaska's Tongass Rainforest*. Partner: McIntosh Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy: Conservation exhibits, presentations and images to illustrate publications. Photographic surveys of endangered lands.
- The Audubon Society: Conservation articles for the Audubon Magazine and environmental consulting.

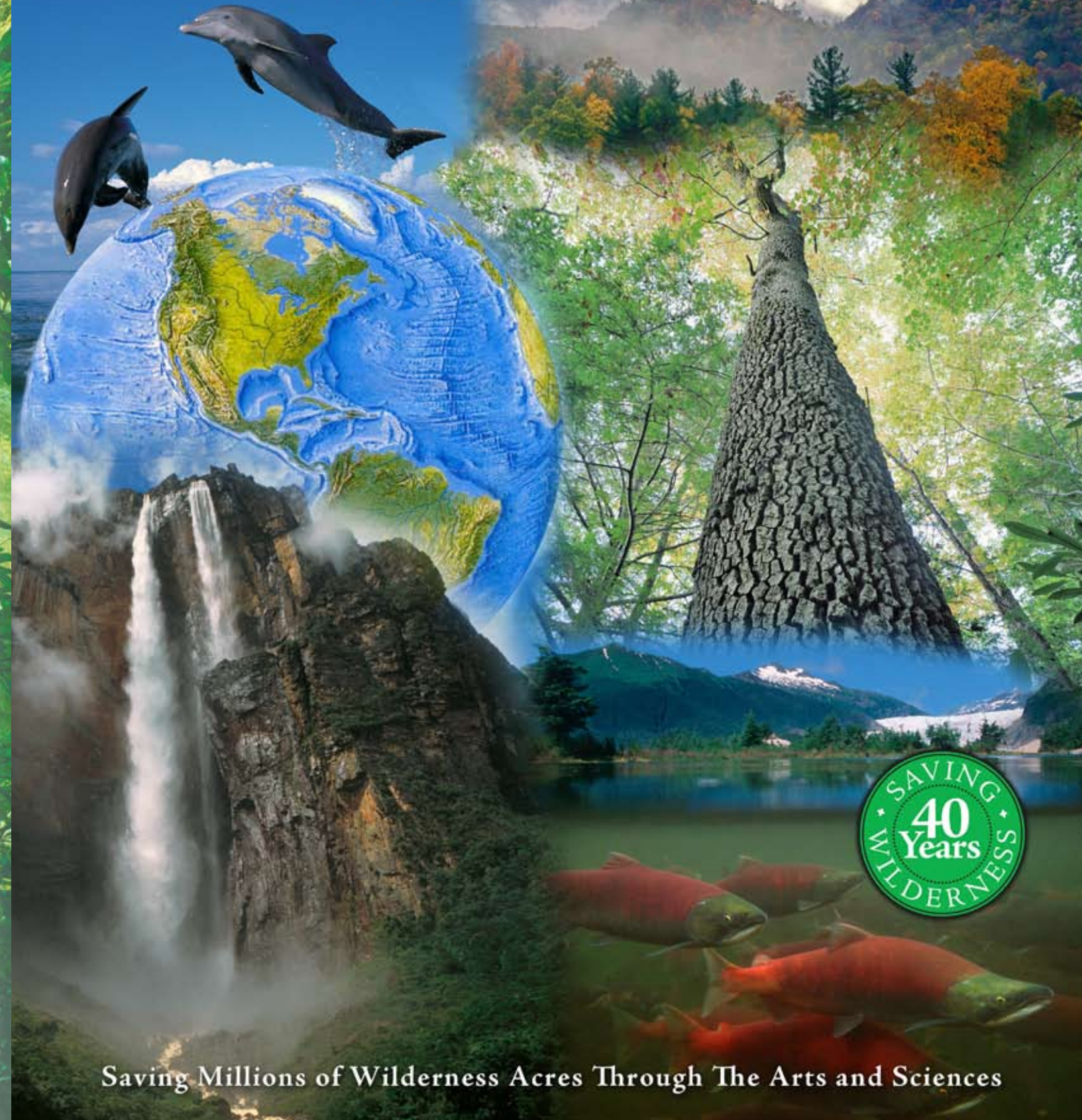
### Books / Videos / Publications

- *Guale: The Golden Coast of Georgia* – Friends of the Earth
- *Southern Light* – Oxmoor House
- *Florida: Images of the Landscape* – Westcliffe Publishers
- *North Carolina*, Editions I & II and *Georgia* – Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company
- *Guale: The Sacred Landscape* – Peachtree Publishers, Ltd.
- *Jim Fowler's Life In The Wild* – Television segment development and consultant.
- *Corridors of Life* - Northwest Florida Water Management District – Video and environmental poster series
- *Florida Magnificent Wilderness: State Lands / Parks / Natural Areas* – Book & exhibition
- *Southern Appalachian Celebration – Save Our Mountains* – University of North Carolina Press

### Regional & International Projects

- The Wild Foundation – 8th: World Wilderness Congress: Closing Feature Event For The Congress: A wrap-around fully orchestrated custom environmental sound tracks slide show and talk featuring the: Arts and Conservation In The Americas program artists.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Division of Recreation and Parks: Interpretive exhibit development of environmental images for Washington Oaks State Gardens and Jonathan Dickinson State Park Visitors Center – development of advertising campaign with coordinated design, photographic art for State Park posters, brochures and guide book for Division of State Lands, Florida Forever calendar, eco-system poster series, Preservation 2000 – publications, exhibits and web site.
- University of North Carolina: Coordination with The Appalachian Regional Commission and the University of North Carolina to support the establishment of the first environmental art center in the country. The Appalachian Environmental Art Center was based on Valentine's exploration and photographic knowledge of the wilds of the Southeast. The, "facilities, donated to the University of North Carolina, Highlands Biological Station include a dormitory, the Valentine House (now student resident home), and a scientific laboratory."
- High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia: Exhibition – *Guale: The Golden Coast of Georgia* to preserve the coast of Georgia. At that time the first and largest environmental art, scientific and natural sound exhibition in the country. The exhibit and book by the same name helped pioneer the establishment of Cumberland Island National Seashore Park and the preservation of many of Georgia's coastal river systems, estuaries and barrier islands. This scientific based exhibit and book helped inspire the establishment of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 for the entire continental U.S.

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Saving Millions of Wilderness Acres Through The Arts and Sciences

# Quest Foundation

## *Saving Millions of Wilderness Acres Through The Arts and Sciences*

Quest Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 publicly funded organization established in 1971. Our environmental education efforts, through a union of the arts and sciences, have been used to help champion the preservation of millions of acres of wilderness. <sup>1</sup>Four decades of conservation successes help insure the future protection of some of the world's most bio-diverse ecosystems. From our inception our focus has been to champion the cause of sound environmental practices and defense.

## Partnerships

Partnerships are critical to maintain broad base communication, support and success in the environmental arts and science arena. We have maintained close partnerships with leading conservation groups, schools, universities, environmental foundations, artists, corporations, and governmental units on a local, state and international level. We provide conservation media, educational tools and services to these institutions and organizations; products which they would not be able to obtain from other sources.<sup>2</sup>

## The Challenge

We are now living with such terms as “critical habitat” and “caring capacity.” These terms not only apply to an understanding of our internal ecosystem but how we connect in a sustainable way to the living planet with its interrelated ecosystems. Through the alliance that is Quest’s trademark, arts and sciences, humanity can begin to understand the importance of the earth’s interrelated systems and the significance of “sustainable consumption”. Jim Fowler of Wild Kingdom and Quest Board Member describes sustainable consumption as the “ability of any single species or group of species to live healthily and multiply within its own habitat.”The challenge is to use this current window of opportunity where the public’s focus is on “green” and the “environment” and move forward swiftly in those areas where we can have the greatest impact.

## Administration

The Quest Foundation has excelled in our ability to leverage limited funding for the greatest possible outcome. Through our skilled staff and network of volunteer professionals and board members we have produced high quality and timely products and programs over our near forty year history.

Our General Administrative support consists of three staff: Our executive director, our assistant director /project manager, and our communications director...along with a wide variety of ongoing volunteer support. This unusual blending of staff skills allows us to produce a large amount of work/product and to tackle projects typically demanding of much larger budgets and staffing teams.

<sup>1</sup> Quest Foundation has focused primarily on the Southeastern United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the upper/lower Amazon region.

<sup>2</sup> Quest has arranged for publication of 8 books (see addendum), video presentations, multi media events, speakers, educational brochures and artworks.

# *Arts & Ecology In the Americas*

## General Ongoing Development

The *Arts and Ecology in the Americas* program primary objective is to research, identify and support leading conservation artists/artisans, environmental educators and musicians from Alaska to the Amazon and across the Americas.

This one of a kind program brings together leaders in each of the creative fields that are collectively and individually able to play a major role in the understanding of biodiversity and conservation of “critical habitat” areas in the Americas. We are connecting environmental artists throughout the Americas by engaging/linking them and their collective creative energy to capture the ecology and unique wilderness of critical as well as unspoiled habitats. Long range planning includes dialogue with artists throughout the Americas and developing programs that supports conservation via the arts, music and the sciences.

We have been in support of: *Usko Ayar - Amazonian School of Painting* developing one of the largest children fine art collections in the country. Our *Arts & Ecology in the Americas* shows and exhibits have been coordinated with The Nature Conservancy, Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science and the 8th World Wilderness Congress.

## *International Biodiversity Conservation Photographic Archive Development*

The organization and archiving of 30,000 + fine art images into a permanent collection for conservation and cultural usage: inventory & cataloging, reproduction scanning, appraisal, development.

International Biodiversity Conservation Photographic Archive for the Wilson Library – UNC at Chapel Hill, NC (Proposed)



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## *Southern Appalachian Celebration: Save Our Mountains*

Book published by the University of North Carolina Press – Release: Fall 2011

There are few places on earth that equal the beauty and ecological diversity of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. James Valentine, renowned naturalist photographer has spent over twenty years photographing the natural splendor of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Mr. Valentine has partnered with internationally respected naturalist author Chris Bolgiana who will take the reader on a spectacular journey into the natural history of the mountain landscape. Through their joint creative endeavors, one will discover the remote and unspoiled scenes of mountain vistas never before witnessed in such display of environmental art photography and accompanying text. The images and text follow in the footsteps of André Michaux and Aldo Leopold's classic, best-known essay, "Thinking Like A Mountain."

The exhibition: *Master Works Ancient Forest Collection – In Search of the Southern Appalachian Giant Trees & Falconry: The Ancient Connection* is being developed to coincide with the book. This gathering of ancient tree images and landscapes is a tribute to one of the most biodiverse mountainous regions on our planet. The exhibit will be available for museums, science centers, libraries, universities and cultural centers throughout the Southeast.

The Quest Foundation has seen the successes brought about by producing books of this quality and making them available to the public. Through these publications, public appreciation and knowledge of our sensitive lands grows immeasurably. By expanding awareness of the systems in the Southern Appalachians and raising the public's consciousness as to the sensitivity and necessary stewardship of this region, support for protecting and maintain these systems is generated and enhanced.

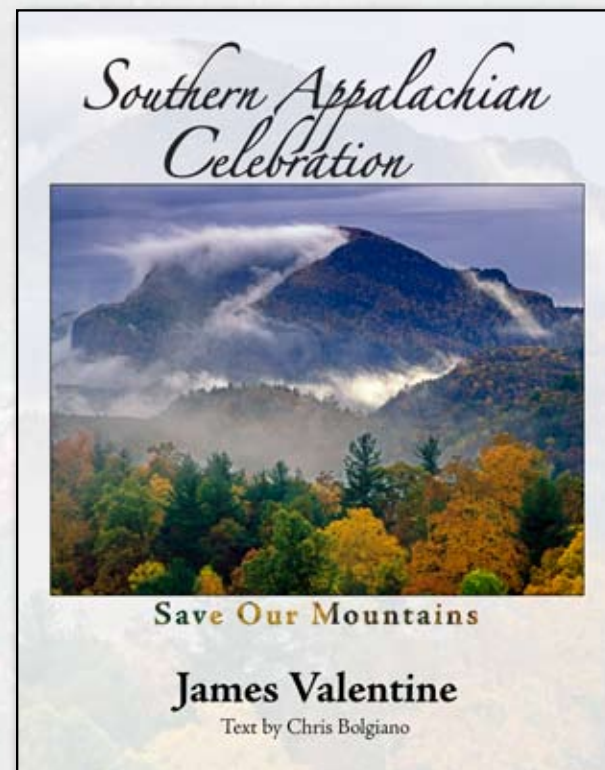
The book and exhibition will explore the heart of the Southern Appalachian Mountains that expand over seventy million acres and bear witness to each important and remote unspoiled ecosystem. Travel with Chris and Jim as they trace the beauty of nature to enlighten the reader as to their role in maintaining this breathtaking portion of our world.

Photography: James Valentine

Author: Chris Bolgiano

Forward: William H. Meadows

Introduction: Robert Zahner, Ph.D.



## *Florida Magnificent Wilderness: State Lands – Parks – Natural Areas*

We are developing a 11,000 square foot Florida Magnificent Wilderness exhibition as an art, educational and science oriented multi-media exhibition that will promote Florida's wilderness aquifer waterways and greenways, its wildlife, terrestrial and marine offshore environments, and the working landscape.

The viewer will take an extraordinary journey through Florida's major ecosystems: springs, aquifers, waterways, forests, uplands and coastal communities to witness their unsurpassed natural splendor.

The exhibit will depict the largest land conservation program in the world – the Florida Forever program – that has acquired and protects public lands, Florida's State Parks and natural areas. Several years of research have gone into the development of the exhibit's hardware/technical systems, layouts and logistical planning of how the exhibit would be displayed throughout Florida.

It will feature art by Florida's leading artists, photographers, biologists, naturalists and graphic artists; wilderness murals created by local school children; and a multi-media environmental education/science kiosk – all blended together with bio-acoustical sounds orchestrated to music.

The primary goal is to develop Florida's largest and most comprehensive environmental exhibit celebrating the preservation of our unique natural world. Our secondary goal is to move citizens, both adults and schoolchildren through the conservation process - from understanding and appreciation to concern and action - and to emphasize the importance of a sustainable green society working with nature. The exhibit will be available on a rental basis for museums, science centers, libraries, universities, cultural centers, Visit Florida, throughout Florida and the United States.



## *Islands in the Sky – Lost Worlds of El Dorado*

Documentary film and table-top book

*Depicting A Remote, Pristine and Threatened World Class Wilderness*

The fabulous Guiana Shield and its towering tepuis is one of the world's few remaining biodiversity hotspots that is not only remote but one that is also vanishing under our eyes. Its amazing tropical animals and plants are specially adapted to this region and cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

With the onset of climate change, logging and mining, the clock for this wilderness and its unique life forms is running out. Our film and book will bring the tepuis and their high biological value to the attention of the world for support of its protection and further scientific study. For over twenty-five years our team has conducted critical scientific research in the region and has filmed wilderness areas that are unknown to the world.

We will reveal the evolutionary story of the region through bio-acoustical recordings, large format landscape photography, wildlife images illustrating many new species to science and high definition video that will help answer the fundamental questions about "The Lost World." The film and book will address how life forms evolved in this location and why it is important for humanity to know now. Attention will be given to the well being of the Amerindians of the region and sustainability issues.

The development of a coffee table book and HD documentary are nearing completion. It is planned that the documentary will be shown to a national and international audience. This first-of-its-kind publication will be a much-needed tool for the international conservation community.

### **Executive Director – Biologist**

D. Bruce Means, Ph.D • Coastal Plains Institute

### **Film Maker – Producer / Director**

James Valentine



## *Wisdom of the Ancient Forests: Alaska's Temperate Rainforest*

The proposed documentary explores the incomparable rainforest and marine life of the Tongass National Forest region along Alaska's inside passage. It will reveal the ecological wisdom learned from the ancient forest. We will present observations by scientists and conservation spokespeople who understand that wisdom. We will witness how the Tlingit and Haida native peoples revere and celebrate the land through their traditions, carvings, dance and ancient connection with the land that they have lived on and cared for over 10,000 years. Jim Fowler, of Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom", will host the documentary.

This region of temperate rainforests is buttressed by glacier-clad landscapes in the heart of the Alexander Archipelago; a 500-mile strand of over 1,000 islands spanning across Southeast Alaska. With the Tongass at its center it covers 17 million acres with forest, glaciers, rivers, fjords, and mountains.

Alaska's Tongass Rainforest is located within a broader temperate rainforest bio-region that stretches from the coast of Northern California north beyond Glacier Bay and extending into Prince William Sound and Kodiak Island.

The documentary focuses on the Tongass National Forest, which is three times as large as any other in America, and is part of the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest. It borders Canada to the East and is endowed with some of the most rugged peaks on the globe. This area is home to one of the planet's healthiest fishing industries. The Tongass is a globally bio-diverse region; residence to rare, unique plant and animal life with a great abundance of marine mammals and predators.

The documentary will foremost celebrate the love and spirit of the Tongass through the forest and its incredible wildlife. We will hear from leading scientists, conservation spokespeople and honor the native peoples who have walked the land for tens of thousands of years.

The documentary will also be a part of the Quest Foundation Arts and Ecology projects(s). Two years of production have already gone into the project.

We are seeking completion funding to benefit the project in the final post-production stage of the 1 hour documentary that provides awareness and solutions for the conservation of Alaska's Tongass Rainforest.

### **Film Makers / Producers / Directors**

James Valentine / Jeremy Williams