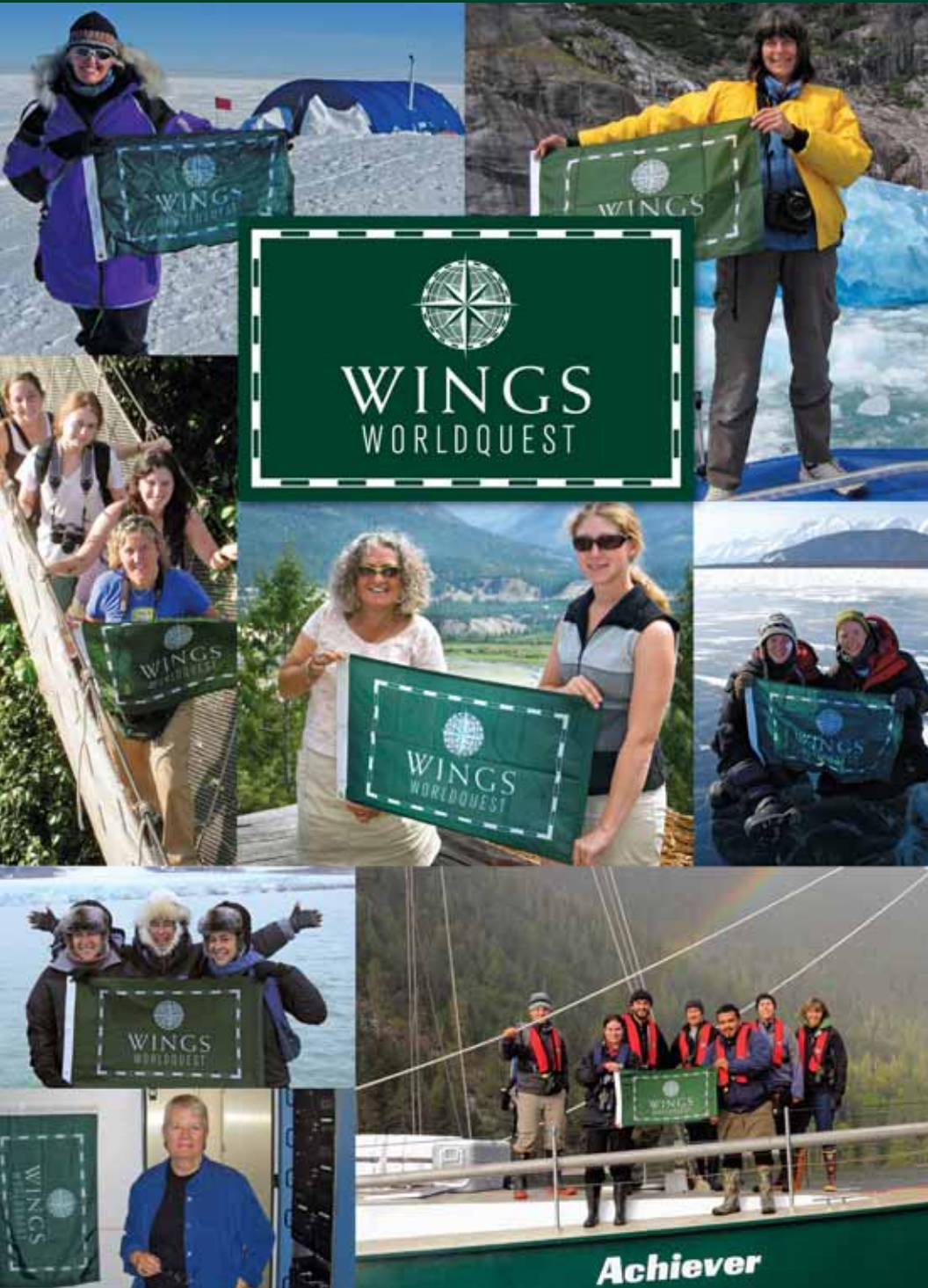


2008 FLAG EXPEDITION REPORT



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

COLUMBIA RIVER EXPEDITION

Exploring Freshwater Values and Management Solutions



Ellen Zimmerman and Kalista Pruden hold WINGS Flag #13 in front of the Columbia Wetlands.

Alison M. Jones, Director and Lead Photographer for the non-profit organization No Water No Life, carried WINGS WorldQuest Flag #13 to the Upper Columbia River Basin. Her team explored Canada's 15% portion of

the 40-million-year-old, transboundary Columbia River Basin; opened a photo exhibit; and met with stakeholders. Her focus was on the river's headwaters, wetlands and the conservation efforts affecting the 9 lakes, 10 tributaries, and 4 mountain ranges visited. The goals were to raise awareness of freshwater issues; foster stewardship partnerships; and document local conservation and freshwater management solutions.

PEOPLE POWER: CONSENSUS

Alison Jones knows that nothing matches the power of collective knowledge and coordinated action. In an effort to understand the significance of water in the Columbia River Basin and to help preserve this unique treasure, Alison set out to talk with scientists, policy analysts, representatives of tourism and recreation industries, museum curators, and concerned stakeholders such as hunters, foresters and local residents. Through lectures, meetings, a sharing of ideas, and the installation of a photographic exhibit, Alison brought focus to the water issues of the area. She connected stakeholders in different regions with one another and documented and shared the important efforts already being made in the region.

“All water is off on a journey...”

– Zora Neale Hurston

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN, CANADA

The Columbia River pours more water into the Pacific Ocean than any other river in North or South America and, along with its tributaries, is the dominant water system in the Pacific Northwest Region. The entire length of the river, from its sources to the Pacific Ocean, measures more than 1,200 miles and flows through British Columbia, Canada, into 7 U.S. states and 11 tribal nations, an area larger than France. Over 15 million people rely on this complex and heavily utilized fresh water resource for power, food and fiber through irrigation, transportation through navigation, recreation, fisheries, and municipal and industrial water supply. In fact, the Columbia River is the most hydroelectrically developed river system in the world with over 400 dams along its length and among its tributaries.

WHO

Alison M. Jones

WHAT

Research and share imagery of the Columbia River Basin's freshwater values, degradation and management

WHERE

Upper Columbia River Basin in British Columbia, Canada

WHY

To raise awareness of global freshwater issues and to foster partnerships upstream and downstream

Industry dominates Canal Flats, BC, the headwaters of the Columbia River.



Visit No Water No Life's Website:

www.nowater-nolife.org

See Alison's photographs and find out about her research into the water issues of the Mississippi River Basin, Raritan River Basin (New Jersey), Blue Nile River Basin (Ethiopia), Omo River Basin (Ethiopia) and Mara River Basin (Kenya).



A water lily blooms during summer in the Columbia Wetlands.

EXPEDITION TEAM

Project Director/Photographer:

Alison M. Jones

Researcher/Canadian Liaison:

Kalista Pruden

Project Coordinator:

Robin MacEwan

Science Advisor:

Dr. Robin Sears

Base Manager:

Jasmine Graf

Researcher:

Erin Vintenner

Exhibit Consultant:

Mark Lukes

Today, the Upper Columbia and its wetlands are still fed by remaining glaciers now called the Columbia Icefield. At a depth of 2000 feet (365 meters), this Columbia Icefield represents the largest accumulation of snow and ice in the Rocky Mountains. But the climate is rapidly changing. The Icefield is melting.

The threatened 58,575-acre Columbia Wetlands, home to over 60 endangered bird species, is one of the longest intact wetlands in North America and a critical Pacific Flyway habitat. Due to active stewardship in the area, 95% of these wetlands remain in their natural, dynamic state despite resort development, logging, golf-course pesticides, mining, and motorized boats.

WHAT ARE WETLANDS GOOD FOR?

- **Source of Photosynthesis and Beneficial Nutrients:** Fisheries, migrating birds and species seeking seasonal habitats are nourished by wetlands.
- **Flood Regulation:** Wetlands' control of rain, snowmelt and floodwater releases is a more effective and less costly mitigation than man-made dams. High flood risks will continue to increase as wetlands are lost and degraded.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** Wetlands re-supply nature's water storage tanks.
- **Filtration:** Wetlands' absorption of nitrogen and phosphorous provides cleaner water downstream for drinking water supplies, aquifers and reservoirs. As well, silt deposits from upstream erosion are settled out, filtered and trapped.
- **Climate Regulation:** Wetlands' absorption of heat during the day and release of heat at night moderates local climates.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Many wetlands – especially those that are forested or defined by organic soils – harbor carbon within their plant communities and soils and thus reduce climate change effects.

“You think of water only when the well is dry.”

– African Proverb

- **Sustenance Provision:** Wetlands have traditionally supplied food, water, fiber, medicinal products and timber for construction and fuel.
- **Cultural Values:** Aesthetic, spiritual, recreational and educational values of wetlands have nourished human populations through the ages.

EXPEDITION RESULTS

Alison believes that, through No Water No Life, she has helped establish upstream and downstream partnerships that will become critical links in future holistic approaches to preserving the values and functions of a watershed. She found that scientists and stakeholders alike are eager to be interviewed and to share their data. Her team has succeeded in dispensing information and publicity to watershed agencies and individual stewards, and has introduced stakeholders to each other, often across national boundaries. Through creative partnerships, all stakeholders involved will become stronger advocates for the preservation of this critical landscape.

ABOUT ALISON M. JONES

Alison M. Jones is a conservation photographer who has documented ecosystems and their management for over 20 years in Africa and the Americas. She founded No Water No Life® in 2006 to raise public awareness of freshwater issues by combining the powers of photography and science in three watersheds in North America and three in northeastern Africa. She and the No Water No Life team also have completed expeditions to the Blue Nile, Mara, Omo, Mississippi and Raritan River Basins.

EXTRACTION and POLLUTION



Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. - Carl Sagan

“If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water.”

– Loren Easley

Some of Alison's photographs seen in the NWNL traveling exhibit.



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 BRUCE C. BECKER AND MARIE TRAPP

Author of *World Ocean Atlas* and *World Ocean Atlas*

Editorial Board Member of *Journal of Geophysical Research*

Editorial Board Member of *Journal of Marine Research*



WILEY

WILEY

WILEY





WINGS WORLDQUEST

WINGS WORLDQUEST BOARD

Maud I. Welles, *Chairman*

Ellen Williams, *Vice Chair*

Elena T. Kissel, *Secretary*

Joan Lanius-Nichol, *Treasurer*

Virginia Lynch Dean

Cheryl Heller

Susan Lyall

Nina Rumbough

Angela Schuster

Lekha Singh

Milbry Polk, *Executive Director*

Susan Colacello, *Educaton Director*

Julie McNamara, *Office Manager*

Wings WorldQuest

267 Fifth Avenue, Second Floor

New York, NY 10016

212-759-1128

Email: info@wingsworldquest.org

Visit our website at www.wingsworldquest.org