

June 17, 2011

Dear IUCN/WCPA family,

After reading Adrian Phillips' thoughtful and articulate tribute to Kenton in the recent WCPA newsletter, I decided that I was finally ready to go to the website and read the condolence book, and I spent a couple of really lovely hours reading all the notes and tributes posted. I have been very moved by the sincerity and depth of feeling so many of you have expressed in the condolence book as well as in personal notes to me via email or conventional mail. Reading of the ways in which Kenton and his contributions have affected fellow "Parks people," conservationists, and environmentalists has been heartwarming for our children and myself. In addition to expressing admiration and gratitude for Kenton, your notes also demonstrate the qualities of all of you, with whom we shared Kenton through more than 4 decades, and remind us that IUCN/WCPA is a large, caring global family. One to which the Miller family is infinitely proud to belong.

In thinking about a way in which I could express the appreciation of our family for your tributes to Kenton, for your concern and best wishes for us, and for the contributions made to the Kenton Miller award, it occurred to me that you might enjoy reading the biography I prepared to be inserted in the programme for the Celebration of Kenton's life, which took place on May 26th. Very few of you know of some of the adventures he had as a youth and young man, which in many ways "set the stage" for the career which you all know so well. I've also included the words to a hymn suggested by the pastor who presided over the Memorial service. It was not a hymn that we had known, but when I read the words, I thought it could well have been written for him, and for all of the IUCN/WCPA family as well.

A couple of thoughts occurred to me while composing the bio, and while reading the tributes. One quality of Kenton's, which always impressed me with regard to his life's work, was his optimism. He was eternally optimistic, and with the state of our planet today, that sort of optimism is really difficult to maintain. But he did, and I think it allowed him to continue being creative and innovative up to the end.

A few years ago, Kenton felt deeply honored when CATIE, the graduate school where Kenton began his professional career, established the Kenton Miller Latin American Chair for Protected Areas and Biological Corridors. One of the two professors who share that chair has as part of his signature, a quote from Nietzsche, "**A man's maturity is to rediscover the seriousness he possessed as a child at play**" ("**La madurez del hombre es haber vuelto a encontrar la seriedad con que se jugaba cuando era niño.**"). When I noticed that, I could not help but think that it was a very accurate description of Kenton's life, and gave me the idea of sharing some of the stories of his "play" as a teenager and young man during the memorial service, and in the bio. (The quote also convinced me that CATIE had the right man for the position!)

I think that after you read the bio, you'll agree with William Wordsworth, that "**the child is father of the man.**"

Thanks, once again. Continue your wonderful work. I'll be keeping Kenton's email address, so I'll be able to stay in touch with the WCPA family.

Sincerely,

Sue Miller