

# Robert Bateman's Invitation

## Sunday, December 19, 2010

I've been invited to act as an ambassador to the *Robert Bateman Get To Know Your Wild Neighbours* website which has been up for ten years, encouraging young people to get involved with Nature. Endorsers include Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jane Goodall and Steve Nash so I'm in reasonably good company.

I know Bob through The Explorers Club, he contributed to my *Adventurous Dreams, Adventurous Lives* book, and we've met at The Explorers Club Salt Spring Symposium hosted by Pat and Rosemarie Keough, close friends of his as well as ours. He's a very nice, unassuming, quiet man, totally unaffected by his enormous success and fame as the world's preeminent boreal wildlife artist. We share an abiding love of Nature, and anything I can do to fight Nature Deficit Disorder, I'll do it—so I'm very happy, indeed honoured, to be invited.

I also contacted my buddy Les Stroud—another major outdoors guy if there ever was one (and the reference in my last posting)—and Les is delighted to lend his name as well. The website is at <http://www.gettoknow.ca/us/>



"I remember the exact moment—I was a boy of ten—when I first fell in love. I was in the bush in northeast Saskatchewan near Carrot River, the small town I was brought up in. It's backed into boreal forest sweeping up to the Tree Line. I could hear her soft voice soothing through the pines, smelled her fresh fragrance. She was tantalizing, dressed in vivid greens and blue. While other loves have come and gone my lifelong affair with Nature has only deepened. And I know no better way to find my way into her revitalizing company than by canoe. I encourage young people to join Scouting—the best experience of my youth—and a canoe club. I enjoy having youth on my annual cost-sharing brigades onto northern Saskatchewan's 100,000 pristine lakes and rivers. That way I can introduce you to my special girlfriend too, and join me in celebrating the International Year of Forests."

**Jason Schoonover**

Adventurer, Author, Ethnologist & Fellow of The Explorers Club