



**Fast Food
in Halifax.**

WASHINGTON DULLES DIRECT TO HALIFAX
Click here to find special deals, packages, coupons and contests. Discover Halifax, a city that touches your soul.



NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA

Monday, Februar

WASHINGTON FLYER

Cover Story
Famous Faces
Airport News

Shopping
Dining
Promotions

International Travel
Domestic Travel
Travel Trends

Neigh
C
A

Subscribe to the eFlyer:

high flyer

QUIPS AND QUOTES 

RECENT ARTICLES

Jon Turteltaub
Suzanne Vega
Brianna Keilar
Colin Quinn
Kermit the Frog

Well Rooted

National Geographic Emerging Explorer and ethnobotanist [Maria Fadiman](#) waxes poetic on plants and Indiana Jones with Johnna Rizzo.

January/February 2008

Go out on a limb: Tell us what you do for a living.

I look at sustainability in terms of how people use plants for medicine, construction, spiritual practices, food and anything else you can think of.

Is it intimidating to be named a leader in the future of science by *National Geographic*?

Hadn't occurred to me. I'm into it.



Photo: Renee Fadiman

You've said, "Looking at conservation without including people in the equation is a fantasy." How much do people factor into the equation?

Since there are almost no places in the world where people do not have an impact, I figure they play as important a role in the equation as the land itself.

Any particular creepy creature you've encountered in the rainforest or savannah you hope never to share underbrush with again?

I once slid my foot into my shoe and realized that my toes weren't alone. I then watched as a tarantula dizzily scurried out over the top of my rubber boot.

Plant in our minds an average day in the field.

I wake up far too early as the howler monkeys call, stiffly slip my body down to the river to wash, walk with villagers through the forest collecting plants, then return to sit by the fire and listen while everyone laughs at how many times I fell.

You record local plant uses in Ecuador, the Galapagos, Tanzania and



▶ GO

**CLICK
HERE
FOR
SPECIAL
OFFERS**



Zimbabwe. How do you distribute the information for future generations?

I make booklets in the local language (with drawings for those you can't read). Also, just showing an interest in people's knowledge helps keep the information alive.

Are you made in the mold of Dian Fossey, or do you fancy more the fearless-

into-the-unknown Jacques Cousteau style?

Ooh ... I was going more for Indiana Jones.

The truth: How are you with houseplants?

Pretty scary, really. I have ones that crawl all over my walls. Makes people nervous.

We're a country obsessed with immediate gratification. What can we do to leave some leaves for later?

Start with the easy stuff to change in our daily habits. Once that is done, move to a tree house in the boonies and protect your view.

What's the next step for securing the planet's botanical future? Remember, Al Gore's listening.

Hmm ... is the Nobel Prize committee listening? As my mother quoted to me when I was 8 years old and selling guavas from our tree for the environment: "Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is important that you do it." (Gandhi)

[CONTACT US](#)

[ADVERTISING INFO](#)

[MASTHEAD](#)

[EDITORIAL](#)

Washington Flyer Magazine, The official magazine of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, serves Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Dulles International Airport and the DC Metropolitan Area.

[Airport Interactive Kiosk Registration](#)

©2007 *Washington Flyer Magazine*

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority: <http://www.metwashairports.com>