

Kenton Miller: A biography by Sue Miller

Kenton Riegel Miller was born on April 9, 1939 to the late Henry Miller and Melinda Riegel Miller in Chicago, IL. When asthma kept Kenton from spending summers with his brother and all his cousins on his Riegel grandfather's dairy farm, he joined the Y and the Boy Scouts. He was so enthusiastic that he earned his Eagle Award several months before reaching the minimum age. He went on to earn the Order of the Arrow, and at 17 was one of 100 Boy Scouts in the U.S. to be selected to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in Japan. Meanwhile, at Y camp, after one summer as a camper, he became a junior and then a senior counselor, using the woodland and Indian lore as well as the canoeing that he'd learned through Scouting. During the school years, Kenton met regularly with the father of one of his 8c (to)2(m)14(e)3(e)3(t)10(A)4(l)4(br)14(e)3(c)8(ht,)15()JJ[K]5(e)3(n)10(to)12(n c)8(o)2(n)10(ta)4(c)8(te)13(c

Development Programme (UNDP), Kenton headed FAO's Latin American Programme on Wildland Management, and directed the teams he had recruited for the RBF funded projects in Central America and the "Southern Cone" of South America. The projects included two summer-long workshops (one in Chile's lake country, the other in Iguazu, National Park) for Forestry professors in the 'southern cone' countries to learn the basics of planning national parks, truly hardship duty! Sue and Todd alternated between joining workshop activities and vagabonding around the countryside

and loved grad school so much, she went on to a PhD programme after getting her Master degree. Growing up in football mad Ann Arbor, Todd was counting the years until he could play football. Of course part of every summer was spent in Lost Hollow, picking wild black berries, watching for deer and other wildlife, doing lots of photography, taking long walks. Roots in the US were getting deeper and deeper.

Once again, out of the blue, destiny's finger tapped Kenton on the shoulder, when he was nominated for the Director General position at IUCN, a position he had never thought of, but of course could not refuse if he was elected. Those long deep roots were whacked off at the soil line, and the family soon found itself in French speaking Switzerland. The initial culture shock wore off as they began exploring the lakes, mountains, and castles of Switzerland and its neighbors, made new friends, began to understand and be able to speak a bit of French, joined the school Rugby team, began downhill skiing in winter and eventually windsurfing in summer (and for Ken and Sue, met Prince Philip, honorary VP of IUCN, and many other dignitaries).

As the Director General of IUCN, Kenton's focus necessarily broadened considerably from Protected Areas to the entire spectrum of international conservation. His managerial skills were stretched in many ways, and economics, politics, and diplomacy were suddenly paramount, as he realized when a colleague gave him a copy of Machiavelli's *The Prince* to welcome him to his new post. All of this was more than enough to handle, but once the family was settled, Kenton encouraged Sue to return to Michigan for a semester to finish up the course requirements for her doctorate, and added "managing an au pair" to his already full agenda. Sue did finish her PhD, and had several interesting writing opportunities, which helped to round out her resume. Kenton's many contributions to IUCN during those years are documented elsewhere. The contributions of the "IUCN Years" to each member of the family were enormous, and continue to this day. The Millers left Switzerland with many wonderful memories and the satisfaction that Todd and Natasha were very much citizens of the world, thanks to their opportunities and experiences during those years.

Returning to the U.S., Kenton joined the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington, DC, and led the international cooperative effort to prepare the Global Biodiversity Strategy, contributed to the Global Biodiversity Assessment, helped to plan and participated in the 1992 World Parks Congress, and played a significant role in the development of the Global Convention for the Conservation of Biological Diversity, a prominent aspect of the World Environment Congress in Rio. Sue put her new PhD. to work on the faculties of the University of Maryland Schools of Nursing and of Medicine.

Shortly after the return to the US, 12 year old Nathaniel Mack joined the family. Nathaniel's father had been a college friend of Kenton's, attended Ken and Sue's wedding, played an instrumental role in that very first letter out of the blue from Costa Rica, and had remained a good friend through the years. When he and Nathaniel's mother learned that they each had terminal illnesses, Ken and Sue were able to arrange for Nathaniel to join the family when the time came. Meanwhile, Nathaniel and his mother

visited Switzerland, and Nathaniel joined the family for summer vacations. There's no doubt that having an empathetic and fun-loving brother and sister was enormously helpful to Nathaniel in coping