travel

Epic Adventures

Three men call attention to our planet's progress through bold feats of endurance by MICKEY STANLEY

ith practically no stone in the world left unturned, the fate of modern exploration lies in conservation. After decades of technological advancements and population growth diminishing the unknown, ecological activism and adventure are natural bedfellows. Bushwacking may be outmoded, but educating tomorrow's trailblazers about environmental protection is pressing. Just ask these three 21st-century Jonny Quests. >>

Sebastian Copeland sets up camp on the Greenland ice sheet.

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Iridium and HP technology allows folks back home to keep up with the expedition. Greenland Crossing, 2010.

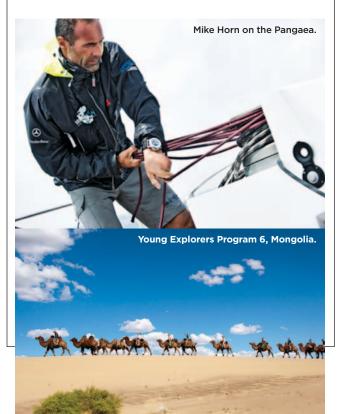


SEBASTIAN COPELAND SEDNA FOUNDATION

Next month, Sebastian Copeland will embark on a transcontinental crossing of Antarctica's 2,300-mile ice sheet over an estimated 85 days. The UCLA Film School graduate has captured countless scenes of his frozen adventures (last year, Copeland and partner Eric McNair-Landry kite-skied across the Greenland ice sheet, covering an astounding 370 miles in a 24-hour period) providing evidence of a degrading climate. The Sedna Foundation, Copeland's notfor-profit organization, is the perfect vehicle to address the area's temperamental ecosystem where Arctic oil-drilling endangers the polar bears, arctic foxes and migrating whales of this frigid expanse. Sedna, aided by Copeland's high-profile explorations, hopes to preserve threatened wildlife with pointed campaigning and policy change. sednafoundation.org.

MIKE HORN YOUNG EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Mike Horn scores one for the kids with his Pangaea Young Explorers Program. Started in 2008, the four-year-long journey spans the seven continents, covering an estimated 100,000 miles on a solar-powered, 115foot sailboat. The multi-part expedition comes after Horn's harrowing 2006 trek to the North Pole in the region's forbidding permanent darkness. In September, 2010, Horn enlisted some eager students for a coastal cleanup at beaches in Encinitas and La Jolla. Those 15 to 20 years old can still get a golden ticket to the two remaining Pangaea adventures: the Amazon (May, 2012) and Africa (November, 2012). mikehorn.com.





DAVID DE ROTHSCHILD ADVENTURE ECOLOGY + MYOO.COM

Son of financier Sir Evelyn, David de Rothschild uses his good fortune to grapple with climate change via his nonprofit enterprise. Adventure Ecology. Last year, he embarked on a 128-day voyage across the South Pacific aboard the Plastiki, a boat he and his shipmates crafted from 12,500 reclaimed plastic bottles and launched from San Francisco's Pier 31. MYOO. com, de Rothschild's latest development, is a playfully animated online community that allows budding explorers to share their experiences and eco-triumphs, proving, as de Rothschild likes to say, "Nobody's as clever as everybody." theplastiki.com.

