



Brian Keating

Head Naturalist of goingwild.org & co-director of greatBIGnature.com

*Honorary Conservation Advisor, Calgary Zoological Society
Former Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Calgary*



For half of his 30 year career at the Calgary Zoo Brian was the Director of Education. For the other half, he was the founding Director of Conservation, where he raised money and spent it on environmental projects around the world.

Presently, he's the Zoo's Honorary Conservation Advisor to their outreach conservation efforts. For just over 20 years, he was a part-time Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the U of C.

He's presently the owner of www.goingwild.org and co-producer of www.greatBIGnature.com

Brian has been leading groups on nature-based travel for about 4 decades, exploring some of the best wildlife areas on the Planet.

He's a weekly guest on Calgary's CBC Radio, and for many years, was a regular on the Discovery & Canadian National Geographic channels, using much of his own wilderness adventure & wildlife filming to tell stories about the value and importance of nature.

He's in high demand as an international speaker, presenting at some 40 events a year.

His wife, Dee, is a retired physician and keen naturalist who always joins him on his adventures.

Awards / Achievements:

- 1993: Emerald Award, a Provincial environmental award from The Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence;
- 2002: “The Distinguished Public Education Award” from the Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs;
- 2003: Alberta film industry award for “Best Host” on his hour-long Discovery TV documentary “Planet Zoo” ;
- 2003: The “Integrity Award” by the Rotary Club of Calgary (Olympic Club);
- 2005: “One Of The Top Ten Contemporary Calgarians” as voted by the students of the Calgary Board Of Education;
- 2006: “Canadian Hero of the Year” award from Readers Digest Magazine for his global environmental efforts;
- 2006: Presented “Alberta Centennial Medal Award” in recognition of “outstanding work for the communities and province of Alberta”.
- 2007: "Honorary Chief of Dompie" (a village in Ghana), awarded at a powerful ceremony due to his efforts in raising the necessary funds to develop a nature sanctuary;
- 2009: "Honorary Doctor of Science", awarded from Brandon University in Manitoba, for his distinguished role as a public educator and environmental efforts;
- 2011: "Honorary Conservation Advisor" title and Life Membership award, Calgary Zoological Society
- 2011: "The Brian Keating Conservation Fund", the fund re-named in his honour
- 2011: “Honorary Doctor of Laws” , University of Calgary, for his distinguished role as a public educator and environmental efforts
- 2016: Awarded the Canadian Geographical Society medal, officially inducting him into the “Fellows” category of the organization, in Ottawa.
- 2022: Awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) in recognition of his service to the natural world and our community.
- 2022: Awarded the Royal Canadian Geographical Society “Louie Kamookak Medal” for making Canada better known to Canadians and the World.