

INTO THE WILD

Exploring the ends of the Earth

BY NED KELLY

MARK MOFFETT

Known as 'the Indiana Jones of Entomology' – or simply 'the bug man' – Moffett has risked life and limb in far-flung destinations to discover new animal species, writing several books about his encounters with all manner of creepy crawlies.

My most Indiana Jones-style



escapade was... on one trip to Colombia; I had to escape Indians with blow guns and drug lords with real guns.

The best China-based insect is... the Chinese medicinal ant. And, though it isn't an insect, I would love to see a Chinese giant salamander in the wild. Can anyone take me?

The closest I have come to

death was... sitting on the most deadly snake in the Amazon, the fer-de-lance.

One place I'd rather never return is... Myanmar. A friend of mine died right in front of me from a snake bite, so I have not been interested in returning there. But I probably will anyway, some day!

The friendliest people I've ever met are... African people, who especially surprise me with their friendliness because the reputation of the continent seems so harsh. Go there, it's amazing!

The strangest thing I've ever eaten is... everything from spiders to centipedes to earthworms to hamburgers. Hamburgers are pretty strange if you think about it, but nowadays everyone eats them.

I never leave home without... a Swiss army knife.

The furthest I've ever felt from

home is... the craterized district of San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos. It's like hiking across Mars.

One place I'd like to explore that I haven't been to yet is... Mongolia. I would go there right after the literary festival, but it's too cold in this season for me to find my favorite critters.

I was inspired to write by... the books of the early jungle explorers.

The greatest explorer of all time is... hard to say. Living today it may be Charles Brewer-Carias of Venezuela, who goes to all kinds of places few, if any, have ever seen. A real survivalist. Ask nicely and I will tell stories about him at the literary festival.

My favorite book is... *White Waters and Black* by Gordon MacCreagh. An early classic that's very funny.

// March 3, 1pm. Glamour Bar.

CAMERON DUECK

Published last year, Dueck's first book, *The New Northwest Passage*, chronicles his journey through the icy Canadian Arctic. His next will explore modern Mennonite culture in the Americas, which he is researching by traveling from Canada to Argentina on a motorbike.

The most wonderful moment from my Arctic expedition was... the first time we encountered ice and it was covered with walrus.

And the most terrifying was... when we left Fort Ross in heavy fog and my GPS chartplotter failed. I could only see maybe two to three meters, I knew there were shallow rocks around and I could not rely on my navigation system.

I prefer to travel by... sea. I've caught myself dreaming of the sea while riding motorcycle on this journey. The sea has ro-

mance and beauty that speaks to me in a way the land does not.

The closest I have come to death was... either eating undercooked grizzly bear meat and getting trichinosis or being knocked out when our boat was weathering a storm in the Davis Strait. Truthfully, they happened at the same time – and I survived. That's two lives gone...

One place I'd rather never return is... the open deck of a yacht in Arctic seas during a storm in late autumn. It's a cold that no amount of hot tea can fix.

The friendliest people I've ever met are... Inuit hunters who discover you've never eaten the species of animal they have just shot and are in the process of dressing. This kind of friendliness got me into the situation of eating a raw, still-warm caribou kidney.

I never leave home without... a good knife.

One place I'd like to explore

that I haven't been to yet is... the open sea, solo sailing. It's something I must do before I die.

The greatest explorer of all time is... Roald Amundsen. He not only was the first to sail the NWP, but was also the first to

the South Pole. And he did the first while dodging creditors, which is an attitude I appreciate.

My favorite book is... *Papillon* by Henri Charrière.

// March 10, 11am. Glamour Bar.

