

CURRICULUM VITAE :

Michael M. Scott OBE, B.Sc., Dip.Ed

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Date of Birth: 10.5.51

Place of Birth: Edinburgh

Married to Sue Scott; 2 stepchildren

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Awarded OBE in Queen's Birthday Honours, June 2005, "for services to biodiversity conservation in Scotland".

Awarded Planta Europa 'Silver Lead' Award in September 2007, "for excellent work in European wild plant conservation".

Education

Primary education: George Heriots School, Edinburgh (1956-1962)

Secondary education: Madras College, St Andrews (1962-69).

Further education: University of Aberdeen (1969-1974):

Bachelor of Science (Honours; upper second) in Botany, 1973

Diploma of Education, 1974

Aberdeen College of Education (1973 - 1974):

Certificate of Education in secondary education (botany, zoology and general science), 1974

Employment history

1974 - 1976: Assistant Education Officer, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (Edinburgh Zoo).

1976 - 1980: Scottish Field Officer, Wildlife Youth Service, World Wildlife Fund (including schools lecturing and running adventure holidays and field courses for young people).

1990 – 2004: Scottish Co-ordinator of Plantlife – the Wild Plant Conservation Charity (approx ¼-time post).

1999 – 2005: Deputy Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage (part-time)

1980 – present: Self-employed as writer, consultant, broadcaster, lecturer and conservationist.

Directorships

1998 – 2005: Director, Highland Birchwoods (representing Scottish Natural Heritage)

Conservation experience

April 2005 – April 2008: Chair of Marine Biodiversity Working Group and member of Scottish Biodiversity Committee (under an ongoing small contract from the Scottish Government)

2004 – date: Member of Advisory Council, Plantlife International

November 1999 – March 2005: Deputy Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage

April 1999 – March 2005: Member, Main Board of Scottish Natural Heritage

- 1997 – 1999: Member, North Areas Board of Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 1997 – 2004: Member, Scottish Natural Heritage Scientific Advisory Committee
- 1996 – 2004: Member, Scottish Biodiversity Forum (previously Scottish Biodiversity Group)
- 1996 – June 1999: Chair, Scottish Wildlife & Countryside Link (now Scottish Environment Link) (on daily honorarium basis)
(1995-96: Chair of Management Team, SWCL, with overall responsibility for management of organisation and staff).
- 1990 – 2004: Scottish Co-ordinator (previously Scottish Officer), Plantlife – the Wild Plant Conservation Charity (approx. ¼-time post) (with responsibility for all aspects of Plantlife's work in Scotland)
(previously Scottish Representative, Conservation Association of Botanical Societies, 1988–1989, and Scottish Plants Liaison Officer, 1989–1990 (part-time)).
- 1990 – 1994 : Chairman, Save the Cairngorms Campaign.
- 1985 – 1991; 1992 – 1996: Council member, Scottish Wildlife Trust.
- 1983 – 1986: Chairman of Scottish Wildlife Trust Lothians branch, in which capacity helped design visitor displays in Holyrood Park Visitor Centre, Edinburgh and wrote nature trail guide to Holyrood Park.

Also member of many organisations including British Ecological Society, Botanical Society of the British Isles, Botanical Society of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Marine Conservation Society, Scottish Wildlife Trust etc.

International conservation experience

- 1998: Chair of resolutions committee for *Planta Europa* international conference, Uppsala, Sweden.
- 2001/2004/2007: Facilitator, *Planta Europa* workshops on European (now Global) Plant Conservation Strategy, Pruhonice, Czech Republic; Valencia, Spain; and Clug-Napoca, Romania.
- 2004 – 2005: Served on EC Strategic Goals and Objectives Group developing European Marine Strategy, representing SNH and the European Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC).
- 2004: Co-chaired Natura 2000 Task Force for Euromontana, the European association for mountain areas and led workshop at European Mountain Convention, Rodez, France

Adult education experience

- Frequent lecturer in adult education classes, briefly for Workers' Education Association, then for University of Edinburgh Department of Extra-mural Studies from 1975 until moved from Edinburgh in 1990 (courses on botanical subjects, general natural history and travel).
- Ran natural history study tours for University of Edinburgh Department of Extra-mural Studies (to Highlands, Scottish islands of Colonsay, Uists, Orkney, Shetland, Rum; East Anglia, mid Wales). From 1989, these tours have been “adopted” by the Scottish Field Studies Association (including tours to the Algarve, Cyprus and Arctic Sweden), all with wife Sue as co-leader. Responsible for all arrangements on these tours, including travel, accommodation, programme, and budget.
- Led “*Mountain Flowers*” field course for Scottish Field Studies Association (now Field Studies Council) at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire, 1986-2004
- Guest lecturer and guide on round-Britain cruise in 1996 and 1998 on board *Caledonian Star* for Noble Caledonia Ltd.
- Guest lecturer on National Trust for Scotland cruise to Iceland and Greenland, July 2005
- Since 2007, working regularly as a cruise ship lecturer, jointly with my wife Sue, for companies including Fred Olsen Cruise Lines, Voyages of Discovery, Saga Cruises and Noble Caledonia, including

cruises round Scotland and to Norway, Iceland, Greenland, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and the Amazon.

Broadcasting experience

Radio: Recently worked on several *Nature* programmes for BBC Radio4 (2007), *Shared Earth* and *World on the Move* (2008). Previously, wrote and presented programmes for BBC Scotland Schools Radio (*Jigsaw*, *Exploring Scotland*). Contributed to, scripted and presented programmes for *Leisure Trail*, *In The Country*, *Wildwatch*, *What's New?* (science series), *Science File* etc for BBC Radio Scotland, and *The Living World* and the *Natural History Programme* for BBC Radio 4. Chairman of first three series of *The Litmus Test*, a light-hearted science quiz (Radio Scotland / Radio 4). Presented c.15 editions of *MacGregor's Gathering* (live Radio Scotland programme specialising in Scottish music and talk about Scotland's culture and history).

Television: Presented many programmes for BBC Scotland schools television series *Let's See* and *Around Scotland*, c. 1980–1990. Contributed to *Operation Survival* film (*Living Colour*). Regularly contributed interviews for range of programmes including *Landward* and *Reporting Scotland*.

[NOTE: The above areas of work have been deliberately reduced and the following areas increased, since moving from Edinburgh to live in Lochcarron in 1990].

Writing experience

Main publications as author

- *The Young Oxford Book of Ecology** (Oxford University Press, 1994), now also published in American, German, Catalan, Castilian, Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, and Greek editions! In November 2002, the German edition of the book won the inaugural *Umweltpreis für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur 2001* ('Environmental Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature').
- *Collins Guide to Scottish Wild Flowers** (Harper-Collins, 1995), published in 4th revised edition in March 2008; 12,500 copies sold to date.
- Contributed section on 'the deep sea' and other spreads to *Oceans** (Dorling-Kindersley, 2006)
- Co-author with wife Sue of *Walk & Eat: Cape Town** (Sunflower Books, 2007)
- *The Northern Highlands: A Dynamic Economy in a Living Landscape* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2007).
- *Rising to the Challenge: the first 20 years of Scottish Environment Link* (Scottish Environment Link, Perth; 2007).
- Contributed sections on 'Tropical Forests' and 'Mountains' for children's book *Earth Matters* (Dorling Kindersley, 2008).
- Co-author of a series of 6 children's books, *Amazing Plants*, for publication in 2008 by Raintree Perspectives.
- *The Battle for Roineabhal – Reflections on the successful campaign to prevent a superquarry at Lingerabay, Isle of Harris, and lessons for the Scottish planning system* (Scottish Environment Link, 2006), co-written with Dr Sarah Johnson.

Other writing work

- Regular writer for *BBC Wildlife* and *British Wildlife** magazines (including news reports and features).
- From 1992 until May 2001 co-edited and co-published (with wife, Sue) 116 issues of *SCENES*, an independent monthly digest of Scottish environmental news.
- 'Expert reader' for range of Heinemann/Harcourt/Raintree Perspectives educational publications for children.

- Wrote *Corrie Fee NNR: The Reserve Story* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2005)
- Wrote 2003-2005 Highland Birchwoods Annual Report (not yet published!)
- Contributed articles in *The Nature of Scotland** (ed: Magnus Magnusson, Canongate, 1991), *The Wildlife Year* (Readers' Digest books, 1991), *Wildlife Explorer* fact-files (1998) and several children's books.
- Contribute occasional articles to *The Scottish Garden** magazine, and have also contributed to *Scottish Quest* magazine* (STB), *The Scotsman**, *WWF News* etc.
- Co-wrote and edited *Flowers of the Forest: Managing Scottish Forests for Wild Plant Biodiversity** (Plantlife, 2001).
- Joint editor of *A Flying Start: Local Biodiversity Action in Scotland* (Scottish Executive, 2001)
- In 1997, researched and wrote various biodiversity materials for Scottish Office and Scottish Natural Heritage, including series of biodiversity posters and accompanying teachers' notes.
- Contributed to and consultant for the *Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia* (1996 edition, including CD-ROM), and various offshoots from this publication.
- Major contributor to *Discover Scotland* partwork (*Daily Mail*, 1989–90)
- Contributed Scottish entries to *Nature Atlas of Great Britain* (Pan/Ordnance Survey, 1989), a guide to sites of natural history interest.
- Contributed to *A Guide to Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat* (Gordon Wright Publications, 1987)

Natural History interest

I have a wide interest in natural history, most especially flowering plants, in which capacity I have travelled (and photographed) extensively around Scotland, including most of the islands. More widely, I have explored the plants and natural history of parts of the Arctic (arctic Sweden, Iceland, Greenland), the Alps and Dolomites, the Mediterranean (Cyprus, the Algarve), the Canary Islands (a particular interest) and Madeira, the Cape Province and Kruger National Park areas of South Africa, and Australia (New South Wales, Queensland including the Great Barrier Reef, and Western Australia). Through my wife, who is a marine biologist, I have developed a strong interest in the marine environment, and I have a PADI diving qualification.

We have developed a 'wild garden' of native Scottish species (and a few arctic-alpines of interest) around our house in Wester Ross, which also provides a valuable photographic resource! We have planted over 200 trees in our grounds, sourced from the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve north of us in Wester Ross.

Photography

My photographs have been used in publications marked * above, and in publications by Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature and the Department of the Environment. I hold an extensive library of botanical, general natural history and landscape photographs of Scotland and a number of overseas countries. In spring 2005, I went fully digital, and all photographs can be supplied in electronic format.

Computer knowledge

I am reasonably fluent in basic PC computer skills, using Windows XP, Word, WordPro, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop Elements, e-mail, internet etc. I have full computer and broadband facilities at home.

Other interests

Botanising (especially mountain flowers), travel, walking, Scottish islands, gardening, photography, computers, rugby supporter, cinema, good wine, Runrig concerts (!).