

## Coastal America Ocean Art Contest National Contest Judging Panel



### **Jean-Michel Cousteau** President, Ocean Futures Society

Since first being thrown overboard by his celebrated father at the age of seven with newly invented SCUBA gear on his back, Jean-Michel Cousteau has led a life synchronous with the ocean. Explorer, environmentalist, educator, film producer— for more than four decades, Jean-Michel has used his vast experiences to communicate to people of all nations and generations his passion and concern for our water planet.

The son of ocean pioneer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel spent much of his life with his family exploring the world's oceans aboard Calypso and Alcyone. Honoring his heritage, Jean-Michel founded Ocean Futures Society in 1999 to carry on this legendary work, including his role as Executive Producer of Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures. Jean-Michel has produced over 75 films, received the Emmy, the Peabody Award, the 7 d'Or, and the Cable Ace Award, among others.

Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization, functions as an ambassador for the ocean by communicating worldwide its critical bond with humanity and the importance of wise environmental policy. As Ocean Futures' president, Jean-Michel serves as a diplomat for the environment, reaching out to the public through a variety of media.

Traveling the globe, Jean-Michel meets with leaders and policymakers at the grassroots level and at the highest echelons of government and the private sector. He is dedicated to educating younger generations, documenting stories of change and hope, and lending his reputation and support to energize alliances for positive development.

In 2006, Jean-Michel's initiative to protect the Northwest Hawaiian Islands took him to The White House where he screened his PBS-KQED documentary, *Voyage to Kure*, for President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush and other dignitaries. The President was inspired and in June 2006, he declared the 1,200-mile chain of islands a National Monument—the largest marine protected area in the world.

Jean-Michel has been recognized for his work with the following awards: first recipient of the Ocean Hero Award from Oceana in 2003; first person to represent the Environment in the Opening Ceremonies of the 2000 Olympic Games; Environmental Hero Award, presented by Vice President Al Gore, 1998; the Poseidon/Lifetime Achievement Award from Reef Check; appointed Global Marine spokesperson for British Virgin Islands, 2003; elected to the Global Green Board of Directors.



**Dr. Sylvia Earle**

**Oceanographer and "Ocean Ambassador"  
National Geographic Society  
Explorer-in-Residence**

Sylvia Earle, called "Her Deepness" by the New Yorker and the New York Times, "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress, and the first "Hero for the Planet," is an oceanographer, explorer, author, and lecturer with experience as a field research scientist. She also is executive director for corporate and nonprofit organizations, including the Aspen Institute, the Conservation Fund, American Rivers, Mote Marine Laboratory, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Rutgers Institute for Marine

Science, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Ocean Conservancy.

Former chief scientist of NOAA, Earle is president of Deep Search International and chair of the Advisory Council for the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. She has a B.S. from Florida State University, an M.S. and a Ph.D. from Duke University, and 15 honorary degrees. She has authored more than 150 scientific, technical, and popular publications, lectured in more than 60 countries, and appeared in hundreds of television productions.

Earle has led more than 60 expeditions and logged more than 6,000 hours underwater, including leading the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970 and setting a record for solo diving to a depth of 1,000 meters (3,300 feet). Her research concerns marine ecosystems with special reference to exploration and the development and use of new technologies for access and effective operations in the deep sea and other remote environments.

Honors include the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark, inclusion in the National Women's Hall of Fame and the American Academy of Achievement, and medals from the Explorers Club, the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, the Lindbergh Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, Sigma Xi, Barnard College, the New England Aquarium, the Seattle Aquarium, the Society of Women Geographers, and the National Parks Conservation Association.



**VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.**

**Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans  
and Atmosphere, Department of  
Commerce (NOAA Administrator)**

Retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., is the undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere. He was appointed Dec. 19, 2001. Along with this title comes the added distinction of serving as the eighth administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in applied mathematics.

VADM Lautenbacher oversees the day-to-day functions of NOAA, as well as laying out its strategic and operational future. As NOAA Administrator, he spearheaded the first-ever Earth Observation Summit, which hosted ministerial-level representation from several dozen of the world's nations in Washington July 2003. Through subsequent international summits and working groups, he worked to encourage world scientific and policy leaders to work toward a common goal of building a sustained Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that would collect and disseminate data, information and models to stakeholders and decision makers for the benefit of all nations individually and the world community collectively. The effort culminated in an agreement for a 10-year implementation plan for GEOSS reached by the 55 member countries of the Group on Earth Observations at the Third Observation Summit held in Brussels February 2005. Lautenbacher was selected to serve as co-chair to the Group on Earth Observations at GEO-I in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2005.

He also has headed numerous delegations at international governmental summits and conferences around the world, including the U.S. delegation to the first and second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ocean Ministerial Meetings in Korea 2002 and Indonesia 2005, and the annual meetings of the World Meteorological Organization, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as leading the Commerce delegation to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa. Before joining NOAA, Lautenbacher formed his own management consultant business, and worked principally for Technology, Strategies & Alliances Inc. He was president and CEO of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). This not-for-profit organization has a membership of 76 institutions of higher learning and a mission to increase basic knowledge and public support across the spectrum of ocean sciences.

Lautenbacher is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1964), and has won accolades for his performance in a broad range of operational, command and staff positions both ashore and afloat. He retired after 40 years of service in the Navy. During his distinguished military career he held numerous positions including Commanding Officer of USS HEWITT (DD-966), Commander Naval Station Norfolk; Commander of Cruiser-Destroyer Group Five with additional duties as Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Riyadh during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Commander U.S. Third Fleet. During his final tour of duty, he served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments) in charge of Navy programs and budget.



**Michael Lawrence**

**Chief of Exhibit Design  
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural  
History**

Michael Lawrence is the Chief of Design in the Department of Exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History. As a registered architect in Washington, DC, Mike has worked as a senior architect and exhibit designer for MFM Design, Inc; senior project architect and manager for LLD

Inc. Architects; sole proprietor of M Lawrence Architects; architect at A+B+S Architects Group; and instructor and Assistant Exhibit Designer at the Cleveland Museum of Art at MFM Design.

At MFM Design, Mr. Lawrence was project architect and/or senior designer for numerous projects, including: Visitor gateway facilities, Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens; Smithsonian American Art Museum, second-floor galleries, Mystic Seaport Master Plan with SmithGroup Architects; Frazier Historical Arms Museum, Louisville, Kentucky; Tomo Kikuchi Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Mall-wide Signage Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; and the Mount Vernon Museum, Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, Virginia.

Mike received his Master of Architecture with AIA Gold Medal from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and his Bachelor of Arts and Education from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art located in Cleveland, Ohio.



## **Bob Talbot**

### **Marine Photographer and Filmmaker**

As a world-renowned marine photographer, award-winning filmmaker and dedicated environmentalist, Bob Talbot has combined his unique visual style and storytelling ability with state of the art entertainment technologies to create intimate ocean experiences on film.

His photographs of whales and dolphins have been reproduced into millions of lithographs distributed around the world, and his motion picture work has appeared in many television, film and special venue productions. Talbot filmed the wildlife sequences for the Warner Bros. series of FREE WILLY feature films and Universal Pictures' FLIPPER. He directed and photographed the IMAX® Ridefilm™ motion simulation system film DOLPHINS – THE RIDE, and acted as a director and cinematographer for sequences in the Academy Award-nominated MacGillivray Freeman IMAX® film, DOLPHINS. Talbot also directed and photographed the award-winning IMAX® film OCEANMEN-EXTREME DIVE about world champion free divers Pipin Ferreras and Umberto Pelizzari.

Talbot is a recipient of the Environmental Hero Award presented by the United States Department of Commerce, as well as the Ark Trust Genesis Award. In 2004 he was presented with International SeaKeepers Society's prestigious SeaKeeper Award by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco.

Talbot has worked on several Cousteau Society productions, and continues to collaborate with Jean Michel Cousteau on Ocean Features projects. He serves on the board of governors for Oceana, on the Board of Trustees for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Talbot also works with many other environmental groups on marine conservation issues.

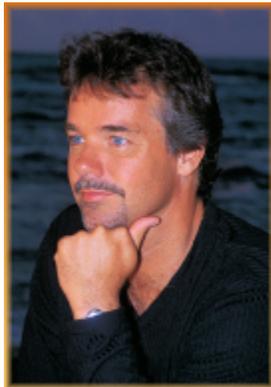


## **Jim Toomey** Syndicated Cartoonist – “Sherman’s Lagoon”

Jim Toomey is a syndicated cartoonist best known as the creator of Sherman's Lagoon, distributed by King Features Syndicate. Sherman's Lagoon appears in over 250 newspapers in North America, including the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and the San Francisco Chronicle. It also appears in over 30 foreign countries, in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Norwegian and Swedish. Jim illustrated *50 Ways to Save the Ocean*, authored by David Helvarg, and has just completed his fourteenth book, entitled *Yarns & Shanties*, published by Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Sherman's Lagoon is a combination of his two life-long passions: drawing and the sea. Jim's been engaged in the former activity since he could hold a crayon, and his love affair with the sea dates back to his early childhood. The inspiration for the comic strip can be traced back to a family vacation in the Bahamas where he saw a real shark swimming in a remote lagoon. Jim became a certified diver at the age of twelve, and, as an adult, has logged dives all over the world, including Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean, Latin America, and extensively in the kelp forests of California. Jim's also an avid sailor.

He received a B.S.E. from Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering in 1983, an M.L.A. from Stanford University in 1995, and a Master's of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences in 2008.



## **Wyland** Painter and Sculptor – “Artist of the Sea”

Marine Life Artist Wyland has earned the distinction as one of America's most unique creative influences, and a leading advocate for marine resource conservation. An accomplished painter, sculptor, photographer, writer, and SCUBA diver, he has traveled the farthest reaches of the globe for more than twenty-five years, capturing the raw power and beauty of the undersea universe.

His non-profit Wyland Foundation has supported numerous conservation programs since 1993, including Wyland's monumental Whaling Wall mural project — an epic series of more than ninety-one life size marine life murals that spans twelve countries on four continents, and is viewed by an estimated 1 billion people every year. The artist's efforts, moreover, have been recognized by the United Nations, Sierra Club, the Underwater Academy of Arts and Sciences, where he is listed among its Diving Hall of Fame, and private and public institutions throughout the world.

Hailed a “Marine Michaelangelo” by USA Today, Wyland's work is sought by millions of collectors and his galleries throughout the United States are considered a must-see on the itineraries of travelers everywhere. His equally successful Wyland

Foundation, in partnership with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is actively engaged in teaching millions of students around engaged in teaching millions of students around our oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Listed in *Who's Who in American Art*, the Guinness Book of World Records, and many other national and international publications, the multi-faceted artist has even hosted several series for television, including, "Wyland's Ocean World" on the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet Network. Today, he is considered one of the most influential artists of the 21st Century, with artwork in museums, corporate collections, and private homes in more than one hundred countries.