



George P. Mitchell

and the Idea of Sustainability

Jurgen Schmandt



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*All photos are courtesy of the Houston Advanced
Research Center and the George P. Mitchell family.*

*This story is for my grandchildren who will help create
a more sustainable world: Nicolaus, Danielle, Mike,
Cyra, Henry, Dennis, and Lily*

on in other places, as illustrated eloquently by Dean Pamela Matson in her comment on changes brought to Stanford University as a result of Mitchell's Academy project: "We have worked very hard to harness the strengths that we have throughout the university ... around sustainability. I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of that whole thing. It changed my life."¹¹



APPENDIX 1

Laureates of the International George and Cynthia Mitchell Prize for Sustainable Development

The Mitchell Prize was awarded to several individuals in 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, and 1991. The selection was based on an open essay competition in which the prizewinners prepared an essay on some aspect of sustainability and a panel of judges ranked abstracts and full papers. In the following list I include abstracts of three prizewinning essays that I view as particularly important.

In 1997 and 2001 the Mitchell Prize was awarded to a single individual for outstanding professional performance in the field of sustainability. Candidates were recommended by a committee convened by the National Academy of Sciences.

The Young Scholars Award was given in 1991, 1997, and 2001. In each of these years, up to ten individuals under the age of thirty-five received the prize for an outstanding work plan on some aspect of sustainability. The young scholars met again in the following year to report on the results of their project.

1975

Limits to Growth '75: The First Biennial Assessment of Alternatives to Growth

Bruce Hannon, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois (First Prize)

"Economic Growth, Energy Use, and Altruism"

Robert Allen, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Morges, Switzerland (Second Prize)

"Toward a Primary Lifestyle"

John Tanton, Zero Population Growth, Petoskey, Michigan (Third Prize)

"International Migration and World Stability"

Bruce Hewitson, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania
"Regional Climate Change Prediction in General Circulation Models"

Karen L. O'Brien, Pennsylvania State University, University Park,
Pennsylvania
"Global Change and Biodiversity: The Case of Deforestation in Mexico"

Peter J. Poole, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan
"Technology Offers the Answer: Japanese Management of the Risks of the Greenhouse Effect"

Deborah D. Stine, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
"International Environmental Decision Making"

Alexey A. Vionov, Computing Center of the USSR Academy of Sciences,
Moscow, USSR
"Impacts of Global Climatic Change on Freshwater Ecosystems"

1997

Sustainable Development: Managing the Transition

Lifetime Achievement Award

Marcelo C. de Andrade, Chairman and Founder, Pro-Natura, Rio de Janeiro and New York City

Young Scholars Award

Jayesh Bhatia, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, India
"Industry-Farmer Linkage for the Paper and Pulp Industry in India"

Christopher J. Carr, Washburn, and Briscoe McCarthy, San Francisco, California
"Making the Transition to Sustainable Fisheries: New Technology for Regulators and Fishermen"

Elizabeth Conover, Stapleton Development Corporation, Denver, Colorado
"Changing the Way Cities Are Made: The Stapleton Development Project"

Pierre Desrochers, University of Montreal, Canada
"How Would the Invisible Hand Handle Solid Waste?"

Alastair Iles, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
"Fostering Social Learning in Industrial Firms for Sustainable Development"

Katrina Smith Korfmacher, Denison University, Granville, Ohio
"Planning for Sustainability: Preservation of Agricultural Resources in Licking County, Ohio"

Mitchell L. Mathis, University of Texas, Austin
"Market Mechanisms for the Efficient Allocation of Water Resources: A Study of Tradable Water Rights and the Emergence of Water Markets in Semiarid Regions"

Laszlo Pinter, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, Canada
"Think Public, Act Private: Building Compatibility between Corporate and Public Visions of Sustainable Development"

Andrew Seidl, CPAP/EMBRAPA, Corumba, Brazil
"A Spatial Economic Analysis of Deforestation for Cultivated Pastures on Sustainable Development in the Brazilian Pantanal"

2001

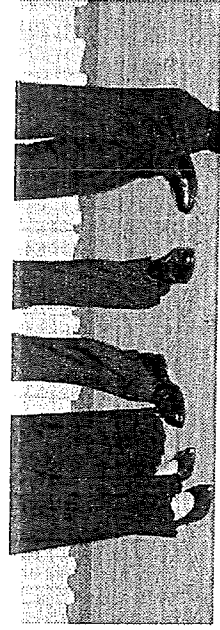
Corporate Capabilities and Tools: Making Sustainability Work in the Twenty-first Century

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ray C. Anderson, Founder and Chairman, Interface, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

Young Scholars Award

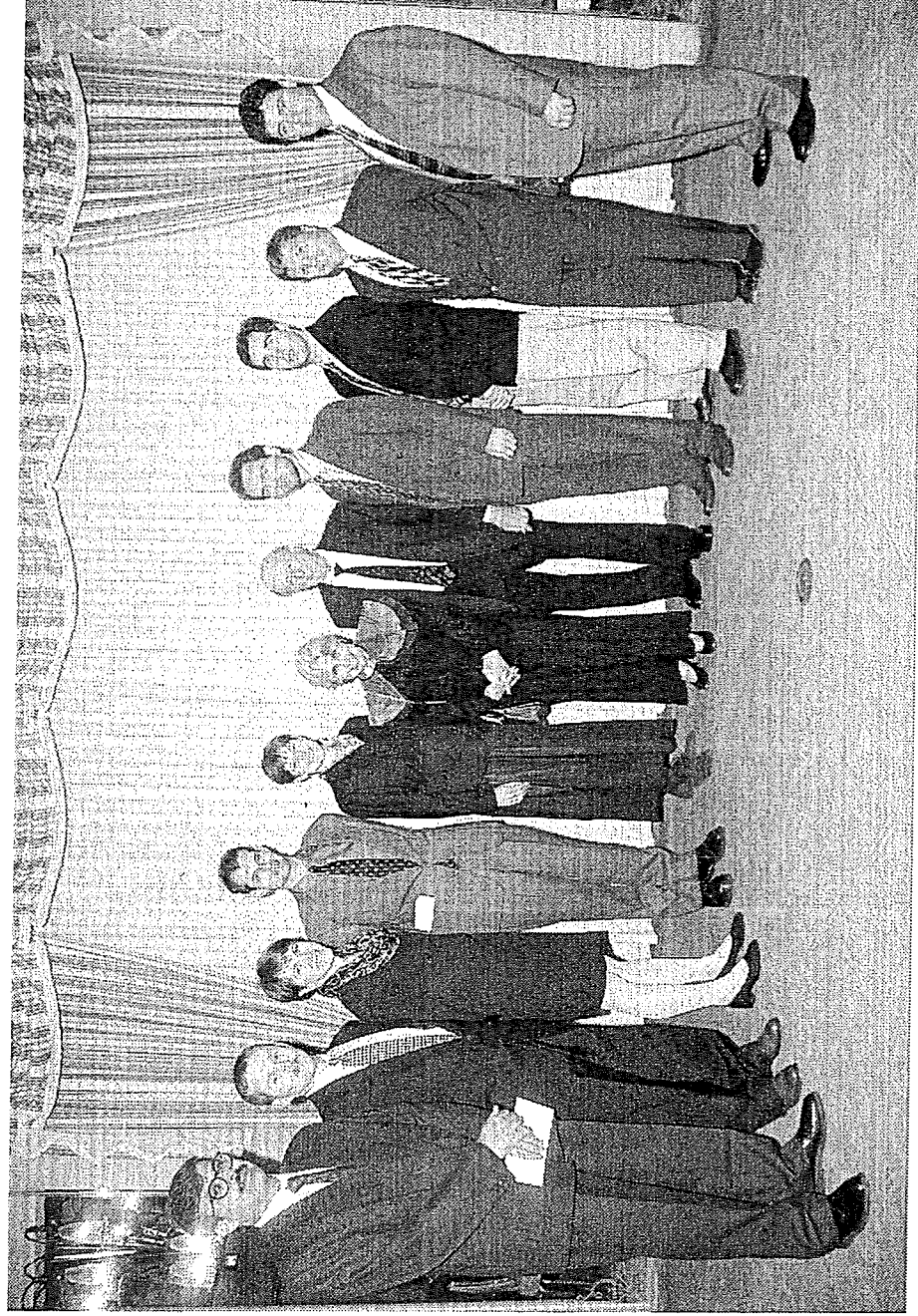
Jem Bendell, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
"Finding Banana Karma: The Role of Civil Society in Chiquita's Conversion to Sustainability"



Cynthia and George Mitchell with first-place Mitchell Prize winner at the 1997 Woodlands Conference: Marcelo C. de Andrade, chairman and founder of Pro-Natura, Rio de Janeiro and New York City.



Ray C. Anderson, founder and chairman of Interface, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia, is presented the first-place Mitchell Prize by Cynthia and George Mitchell at the 2001 Woodlands Conference.



Winners of the 1997 Young Scholars Award with Cynthia and George Mitchell. From left to right: Jayesh Bhatia, Laszlo Pinter, Elizabeth Conover, Alastair Iles, Katrina Smith Korfmacher, Cynthia Mitchell, George Mitchell, Christopher Carr, Pierre Desrochers, Andrew Seidl, Mitch Mathis.