

## About Our Lead Author & Editor



In 1977 John Furey began his work in the environmental field as a YMCA camp counselor; helping inner city teenagers from San Francisco discover the Pacific Northwest's natural ecosystems. He later served as a US National Park Service interpretive ranger, first at Redwoods National Park in California, and later at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii. John moved to the island of Saipan in 1984 with his wife of CNMI descent, Eloise Seman Ada Furey. Eventually the two built a house in Saipan's Dandan Village homestead. Here they raised their two beautiful girls, Jennifer and Elizabeth.

For his first seven years in the CNMI, John taught biology, advanced biology, and environmental science at Marianas High School. He later worked for more than nine years as a multi-discipline programs manager with the CNMI's Coastal Resources Management Office. Beginning in 1986, John also taught two full year's worth of night and weekend semester classes as a part time adjunct instructor for Northern Marianas College's Science Department and later worked fulltime for NMC under a professional services contract for another seven and a half years. He regularly taught courses in NMI natural history, marine biology, and natural resources management, usually during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Science-wise, John is very much a general ecologist, with focuses of research including forest, wetland, and coral reef ecology; tidal mudflats, migratory shorebirds; marine mammal studies-particularly whales and dolphins, tropical botany; meteorology; and local geology. Resource management-wise, again, John is a generalist, emphasizing in zoning and land use planning; resource economics and public policy; environmental law and international relations; forest and wildlife management; agronomy and horticulture; pollution prevention and integrated solid waste management; and most particularly, environmental education. Most of his work was printed in 'agency grey literature' but more recently several of his projects have resulted in published 'peer-reviewed' science journals. During his free time, he enjoys "family time", reading, gardening, hiking, *surfing* the Internet, and exploring the CNMI's lagoons and coral reefs.

John was an active participant in the early stages of the CNMI's Science Education Task Force. He wrote the original biology, advanced biology, and environmental science course curriculums for the CNMI's secondary schools and taught the CNMI's first environmental science and advanced biology classes. Combining both the MHS and NMC classes, John has led more than 350 on-island educational field investigations. He conducted model biology and environmental science teaching workshops on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, organized several major science fairs, and developed numerous laboratory and field trip lesson plans and activity guides. At MHS, he organized and advised its very active Marine Biology Club. With the club's assistance, he developed the Commonwealth's first natural science teaching laboratory. At NMC, he co-advised a very active Ecology/Marine Biology Club, a group which successfully undertook off-island science educational excursions, these to Palau (4 times), Guam (1 time), Rota (4 times), and Tinian (many times).

Mr. Furey was also the author and manager of a large number of resource management grants, over \$6 million dollars at last count, these from more than 40 federal and local agencies. He drafted numerous agency intra- and inter-governmental memoranda; proposed legislation and executive policy comments; contracts, position descriptions, requests for proposals and procurement justifications, employee evaluations, public speeches, brochures, posters, PowerPoint and other presentation media documents and products; and an array of other public agency documents. At symposiums, conferences and intergovernmental meetings, he composed and publicly presented his agency's position on a wide range of resource management issues, these always as assigned and concurred with by the agency Director and the Governor. These have included the US & International coral reef initiatives, Saipan's zoning and land use management efforts, intergovernmental jurisdictional issues, endangered species habitat plans, multiple-use plans for both lagoon and inland resources, wetland management issues, and integrated solid waste planning and management. During fiscal year 1999-2000, John assisted the CNMI Division of Solid Waste to accomplish the closure of Saipan's Puerto Rico dump, establish a new sanitary landfill, and implement an integrated solid waste management program for the island.

Via an early government retirement option, John and Eloise both retired from full time government service. Together they established a business and environmental consulting firm, (*Furey & Associates*). An endeavor of the heart, completing this heretofore unfinished textbook had been a long, unassigned and unrecompensed venture for John, advanced almost entirely during his after work hours and on weekends and holidays. He wrote and administered numerous support grants providing honorarium payments for others' involved and he wrote the major printing grant which allowed this project's final accomplishment. The overall effort took about ten years. Sales of the textbook are to be used as program income for efforts to establish and support an NMC environmental/marine science center and obtain and support a marine research vessel for college student use. The NMC Bookstore is in charge of sales and can be contacted via phone at (670) 234-5498, request Operator (0) and request connection to Bookstore Manager. Via snailmail this would be NMC Bookstore, Box 501250, Northern Marianas College, Saipan, MP 96950 USA.

John remains very much involved in local and regional resource management issues, ecological research, and environmental education projects. He can be called upon should any particular agency or firm need his professional assistance. He is also interested in assisting other regional island jurisdictions with efforts they may wish to undertake to model this ecology and resource management text for their populations. This text is his first attempt in the lead author and editorship role for an effort of this project's nature and scope. Consequentially, all "fact" challenges, critical remarks, etc., should be directed to him (c/o *Furey & Associates*, P.O. Box 502316, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. He can also be reached via the APASEEM email location, [apaseem@gmail.com](mailto:apaseem@gmail.com). John promises to respond to all comments and inquiries as best he can.