

WHAT IT  
TAKES '07

THE GREEN EDITION

35

Earth-Changing  
People + Ideas

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

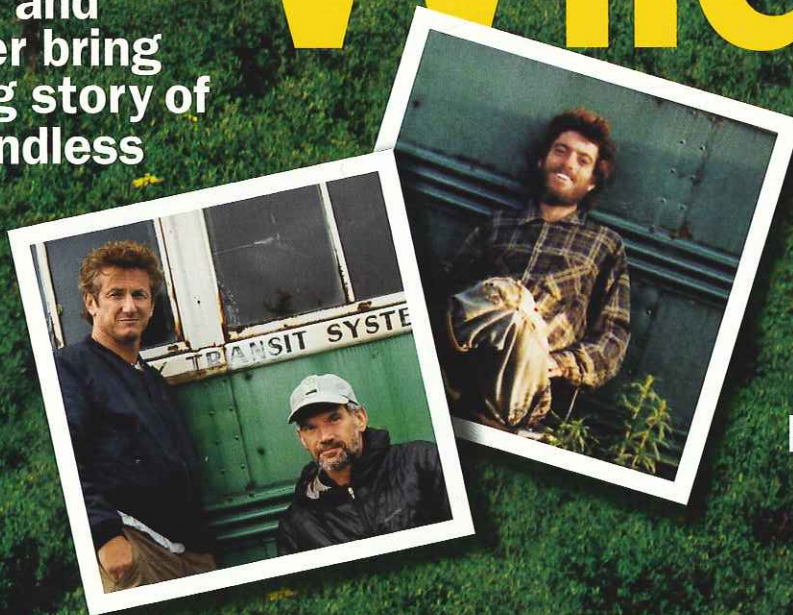
# ADVENTURE

www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure

DREAM IT. PLAN IT. DO IT.

# Back Into the Wild

> Sean Penn and  
Jon Krakauer bring  
the haunting story of  
Chris McCandless  
to a new  
generation



**Biking:**  
6 Classic  
Fall Rides

THE BIG TRIP:  
GOOD MIGRATIONS

PERFORMANCE:  
ALTITUDE 101

GALÁPAGOS  
IN CRISIS

EXTREME  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Chasing  
the Global  
Meltdown

FALL STYLE

Peak Season  
in Patagonia

OCTOBER 2007

\$4.95US \$6.95CAN



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## RESCUE A RAIN FOREST *from the top down*

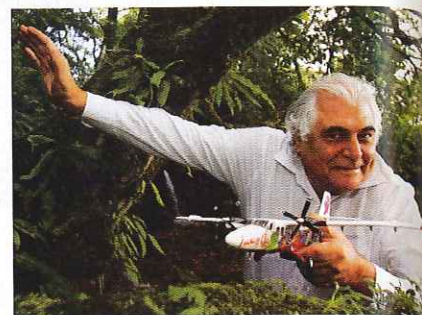
Margaret Lowman /// *Arbornaut, 53*

**▶** DURING HER NEARLY 30-year career as a rain forest researcher, “Canopy Meg” has hung out in trees from Australia to Peru, Cameroon to Panama. She’s mastered the intricacies of stringing steel-cable walkways hundreds of feet above the ground, contended with voyeuristic Pygmies, and stared down a particularly cranky Gabon viper. Her work has contributed to the preservation of the Washpool region, one of Australia’s last remaining rain forest tracts. But with trees around the world falling fast to saw and bulldozer, Lowman is as likely to be escorting politicians and developers on canopy walks as swinging through the leaves on a steel vine.

**Air your grievance.** “Good things can happen when scientists communicate to the public and not just to other scientists. I worked on a television series that was shot in the rain forest of Belize. While we were there, it was announced the forest was going to go under the chain saw. But after the program aired, the government withdrew the logging rights.”

### ACTION PLAN // Buy Green Lumber

Only purchase wood products from Africa, Brazil, Indonesia, or Malaysia if they carry an “FSC-certified” label ([www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org)), which means they come from sustainably managed forests.



## GROW TREES *with a propeller*

Alex Khajavi /// *Airline owner, 64*

**▶** TINY NATUREAIR, based in San José, Costa Rica, has managed to go completely carbon neutral. Alex Khajavi purchased the carrier in 2000 and now has seven efficient De Havilland Twin Otter Turboprops flying to 17 ecotourism destinations in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama. By taxiing on one engine and minimizing idling, NatureAir has contained its carbon footprint even as passenger miles have soared. But there’s still carbon output to offset—6,320 tons last year—which the airline does by investing in privately held rain forest on the Osa Peninsula, a hotbed of biological diversity. Farmers there have an incentive to keep trees standing, helping keep a crucial corridor between Piedras Blancas and Corcovado National Parks safe from loggers.

**Fly out front.** “If we can prove on a smaller scale that an airline can be sustainable, then maybe we can excite other airlines to follow. We want our clients asking, ‘Why isn’t my international carrier doing this?’”



THE NEXT STEP

### SCRATCH PAPER

If every U.S. home received and paid its bills online, annual greenhouse gas emissions would drop by 2.1 million tons. See > [www.electronicpayments.org](http://www.electronicpayments.org)

COST	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
\$0	20+ minutes		

PHOTOGRAPHS, FROM LEFT: CARLTON WARD; MÓNICA QUESADA CORDERO. ILLUSTRATION BY JASON LEE