



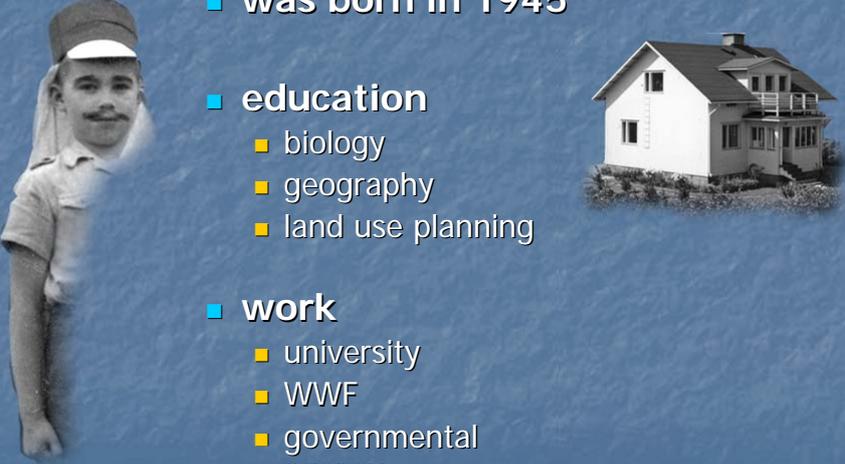
In the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section we are immensely proud and honoured to have a person who – this very evening - is about to be awarded the 2010 Alfred Toepfer Medal.

Our nominee has a background in natural sciences and graduated a Master of Sciences in biology and geography. He then did a thesis on land use planning. Ever since, he has worked relentlessly – full-time and nonstop – for nature conservation.

Now, that's very short version of the story... On behalf of our section, I would like to tell you a little bit more about our nominee's background and the reasons behind our nomination.

... a person who...

- was born in 1945
- education
 - biology
 - geography
 - land use planning
- work
 - university
 - WWF
 - governmental agency

A young boy in a cap and a house. The boy is on the left, wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt and a dark cap. The house is on the right, a two-story white house with a dark roof and a small porch. The background is a textured blue.

Roughly speaking, our nominees career can be divided into three periods – each spanning over approximately 13 years:

First, he had a successful career working for the University where he graduated - As a lecturer in land use planning and other topics, always related to nature conservation.

Then, he was the Conservation Director of the World Wildlife Fund in his home country. During this period the role played by the WWF in biodiversity conservation, and species protection in particular, became increasingly more important.

Under our nominees leadership, the WWF's mandate and support from the Ministry of Environment was markedly strengthened.

During his third term, our nominee worked for the governing body of his country's Protected Area system. He was a senior adviser coordinating the body's international cooperation.

This summer, he retired from this position, at the age of 65.

Nature conservation achievements

- Environmental education
- Grey and Ringed Seals
- Transboundary cooperation



His achievements are numerous – but some of the most important during those three periods, are related to:

Environmental education at the University

The Saimaa Ringed seal and the Grey Seals at the WWF.

The development of transboundary conservation with neighbouring countries and elsewhere in Europe.

His reputation as a trustworthy, innovative and enthusiastic conservationist – with an extremely friendly, open and supportive touch - has surely contributed to his success.

As you've understood, our nominee has a *strong* involvement in nature conservation and European cooperation.

Of course, not least so in EUROPARC, where he first got involved in 1992.

Approaching

EUROPARC Federation

- EUROPARC Conference 1992
- Nordic-Baltic Section
- Transboundary Parks
- Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC)
- TransParcNet



He was among the initiators of the Nordic-Baltic Section in 2003.

He was a most active member of the group of experts developing the basic standard criteria for the certification of *Transboundary Parks – Following Nature’s Design* – and a member of the EUROPARC Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee, STEC, from its very beginning.

Recently, he initiated the establishment of the TransParcNet Forum, to support and promote collaboration among existing and potential transboundary protected areas under the certification *Transboundary Parks – following nature’s design*.

- The driving force behind the network on this map
- Green Belt of Fennoscandia



As the **focal point of Green Belt Fennoscandia in Finland** (which is his home country) he has been working determinedly to find the best solutions for linking the Green Belt Fennoscandia with the culturally and historically different European Green Belt. In order to facilitate this process, our nominee invited the European Green Belt to hold their annual meeting in back to back with the 20year anniversary of the *Friendship Park*, which is the first transboundary park recognised on the governmental level, along the Green Belt of Fennoscandia between Russia and Finland.

Our nominee also...

... speaks

- Estonian
- Swedish
- English
- Finnish



Dear friends, while this short “ Our nominee in a nutshell” presentation, certainly does not give full justice to all of the valuable achievements and contributions to nature conservation made by our nominee, - I am sure that you will all agree that the 2010 Alfred Toepfer Medal is awarded to the right person...:

Lassi Karivalo

Retired this year from
Metsähallitus Natural Heritage
Services



Thank you **Lassi Karivalo** for having devoted all your time, energy and enthusiasm to nature conservation during 40 years!

