



The Center for Tropical Ecology & Conservation

Presents **John Crockett**

Of War and Whales: A Personal Journey from Nicaragua to Nova Scotia and Beyond

Thursday, April 3rd 11:30 –12:30PM

at Antioch University New England



Whales are among the most charismatic of all the large mammals. For many people, their first encounter with a whale is life-changing. At times they have been the poster children of the environmental movement. But what is the message that most needs to be communicated with and about whales?

John Crockett's journey toward whale conservation began in the midst of the U.S. proxy war against Nicaragua in 1986, where he met, not a whale, but three children, victims of a made-in-the-USA ambush. Nine years later he met his first fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia where he continues to observe whales in their feeding grounds every summer. These two very different experiences contain a core similarity that continues to shape the content of his public education work.

This talk will follow John's personal journey from the war in Nicaragua to the Bay of Fundy, and beyond to the questions both experiences raise about our human nature, the roots of conflict, and the role of humans and whales in reestablishing balance. It will include several of the video segments John has created for his public programs, featuring fin whales, humpback whales, and highly endangered right whales.

John Crockett is Lab and Herbarium Coordinator at Antioch University New England. He also works as a self-employed marine educator in association with the Whale Conservation Institute/Ocean Alliance.

Free and open to the public. Email ctec@antiochne.edu for more information