

IIS CONSERVATION AWARD

The International Iguana Society is proud to announce the decision to award Mr. Edwin Duffus of St. Catherine, Jamaica, our first **International Iguana Society Conservation Award**.

In May 1990, Mr. Duffus was hunting feral hogs in the center of the Hellshire Hills in southern Jamaica, when his hunting dogs gave chase to something. When he caught up, he discovered an animal wedged in a log that he had never before seen in his eight years of hunting in the Hellshire Hills. It was the first live Jamaican Iguana, *Cyclura collei*, found on the Jamaican mainland in this century!

Edwin, always the conservationist, carefully placed the iguana into his burlap sack and carried it out. He knew he had found something important. He took several buses to Mona Heights in Kingston, to question people at the Hope Zoo about what animals might exist in the hills. When he was satisfied with the answers, he told the people of what he had found.

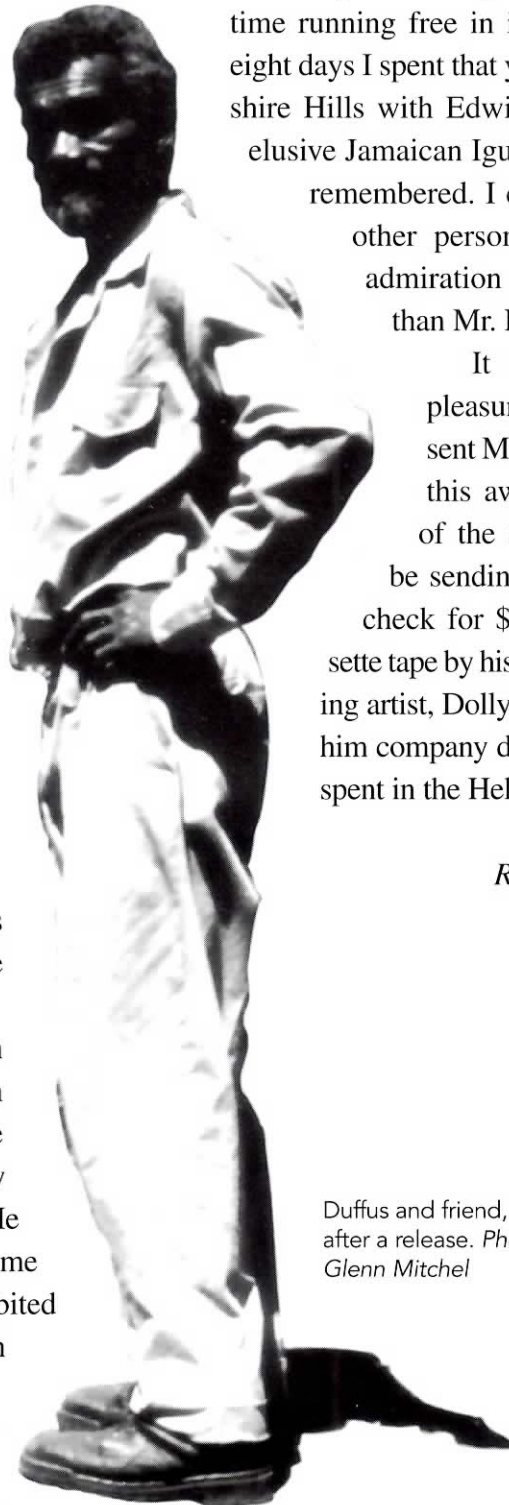
In the next six and a half years Edwin became the main protector of the Jamaican iguanas in the wild. He was hired by the Jamaican Iguana Program and spent as many as six weeks at a time in the Hellshire Hills. He would ride his bicycle 14 miles from his home to begin his duties. Edwin has always exhibited amazing endurance and tact in working on behalf of the Jamaican Iguana.

In August, 1990, I was fortunate to be in Edwin's company

when the iguana was spotted for the first time running free in its habitat. The eight days I spent that year in the Hellshire Hills with Edwin, tracking the elusive Jamaican Iguana, are fondly remembered. I can think of no other person I have more admiration and respect for than Mr. Edwin Duffus.

It is with great pleasure that we present Mr. Edwin Duffus this award. As a part of the award, we will be sending Mr. Duffus a check for \$100 and a cassette tape by his favorite recording artist, Dolly Parton, to keep him company during his nights spent in the Hellshire Hills.

Robert W. Ehrig
President



Duffus and friend, moments after a release. Photograph: Glenn Mitchel





Duffus at base camp with *C. collei* prior to trapping.
 Photograph: Glenn Mitchel



In the Hellshire hills, August 1990. Photograph: R. W. Ehrig



At a nesting site with tagged female *collei*. Photograph:
 Glenn Mitchel



Edwin with Richard Nelson, a Jamaican Iguana
 researcher, putting on a tag. Photograph: Glenn Mitchel