

There is no one I think more highly of than Tom Smith, inside or outside the Heritage network. From the earliest days of our association, and that goes back a long way, well before Virginia, Tom was as dedicated to the biodiversity inventory and conservation mission as it is possible to be and time has shown him to be one of the most effective people in the history of the enterprise. Smart, steadfast, insightful, patient, dependable, collegial, good to work with (and for, I understand), and dare I say, nice -- you pick a complimentary adjective and it will undoubtedly fit Tom well. I'm far away and little connected with Heritage goings-on at this stage of things and I do miss it all. And I miss Tom. I wish him all the best but I needn't bother to wish he will do well, because of course he will. He always has, always will.

Here's to you, Tom, with great admiration,

Robert E. Jenkins
Founder of the NatureServe Network