

RAPHIA

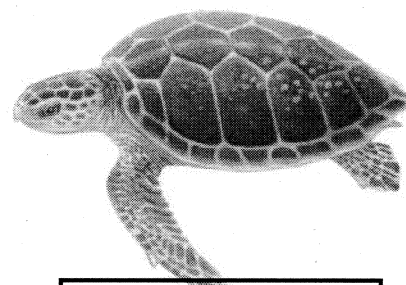
VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3 FALL, 2007

GREETINGS FROM CAÑO PALMA!

Hola and Greetings from Caño Palma!

Well, it has been a busy few months here down at the station with the arrival of the Green turtle season. The season has been a busy one on all accounts and is still going strong here in early October. The season started a bit late this year, and the lodges and tour guides in the area were starting to get worried that it was going to be a short and unsuccessful season. This was not the case and the turtles have come in great numbers. The season started to pick up in mid July and there have been nights where the two turtle teams have seen over

20 turtles between them. The busiest night of the season came in late July with a total of 77 turtles coming up onto the beach in our study area. This night required that we send out 4 teams to try to deal with this mini *arribada*! There have been over 700 reported green nests on our beach this season with a few weeks to go. We also have had about 15 Hawksbill nests reported, which is great news because every nest of this critically endangered species is important. However, there have been no Loggerheads nesting this year as of yet, although we have had a handful of half-moons. We are having a competition down here



Loggerhead turtle

to see who gets to work the first Loggerhead of the season, and I am hoping that I am the lucky one. Fingers crossed!!

Unfortunately, not all news regarding the turtle season has been good. There are still many poachers on the beach and the poaching rate for Green turtles is

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STEEL CITY SAFARI

COTERC participated for the second time in Hamilton's wildest event, Steel City Safari. The annual event is run by a long-time supporter and friend of COTERC who owns and operates The Reptile Store in Hamilton, Ontario. The event took place on November 18th at the Hamilton Convention Centre. One hundred percent of revenue goes to the CHML Children's Fund to enhance the quality of life of children. During the two previous years the event has raised a total of just over \$36,000 for the charity.

Many zoos, animal care professionals and conservation groups bring a wide variety of live exotic animals such as reptiles, amphibians, birds and even tigers. This is a fantastic foundation to attract the public and an effective forum towards conservation education. COTERC board directors and volunteers had such a fun time at the past Steel City Safari and we always look forward to volunteering our time towards this worthwhile cause. It also provides COTERC with an opportunity to educate the public on our mission: to provide leadership in education, research, conservation and the educated use of natural resources in the tropics.

Field Diaries

Field Diaries is a series of logs that provide an insight into the daily life of Sami Abdelmalik, a former researcher at Caño Palma Biological Station who worked on the ongoing Sea Turtle Conservation project. This personable series allows readers to get a sense of what it is like to venture out into the depths of the Costa Rican coastal rainforest, with the intent to enlighten and even inspire participation in the collaborative conservation effort.

Log 7: Partnerships in Conservation

For timeless generations, the northeastern Caribbean coast of Costa Rica has been an important breeding ground for the green sea turtle. However, since the 15th century this Caribbean native has been under attack. European settlers and tradesman first began hunting the turtles for food and sport. Later, colonial merchants and pirates reduced the numbers further, and, in the last century, western hunters pushed the creatures to the brink of extinction.

International research and conservation efforts began in 1959 by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC), which was co-founded by the legendary ecologist Dr. Archie Carr. Dr. Carr's research, teachings and writings are responsible for accumulating and distributing much of what is known about the biology and life cycle of sea turtles. Working closely with the Costa Rican government, the CCC helped establish Tortuguero National Park in 1970, a move that offered protection to the turtles and strictly limited the number of turtles that could be taken. Today, the CCC continues the work of Dr. Archie Carr every year on the 35 km black sand beach of Tortuguero, Costa Rica, the nesting site of more endangered green turtles than anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. Researchers, who are based at the CCC Biological Field Station, monitor nesting trends, growth rates and reproductive success. Endowed with years of this localized experience, the

CCC also plays an instrumental role in developing COTERC's sea turtle projects, which are new initiatives to monitor and protect additional nesting sites.

Log 8: Thoughts on the Hill

Today the station manager, two volunteers, and I trekked up "Turtle Hill". It is a turtle shaped hill roughly 6 km north of the village of Tortuguero. Since we are at sea level, the protrusion predominates the landscape and is high enough to be seen from anywhere in the Tortuguero area. The trail leading up to the hill can be reached just by crossing the canal adjacent to the station. The expedition to the top barely takes 30 minutes or, in my case, a bit longer since I stopped regularly to examine the unique organisms that favor high and humid environments.

The view at the top is WOWING! I could see the "mouth" of the Tortuguero River where the river meets the sea. This intersection divides the endless stretch of coastal beach into two sea turtle study areas.



The view from Turtle hill. The village of San Francisco lies between the meandering river while the sea coast to the left stretches to the horizon.

(Continued on page 4)

Raphia chooses FSC Certified paper

You may notice the logo for the FSC, or Forest Stewardship Council, on the last page. This means that the paper used for printing our newsletter is environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable. By choosing to print on certified stock we are helping to assure that our country's resources are used in a sensible manner, with an intention to preserve natural processes, biodiversity, and wildlife. FSC-certified forests protect wildlife habitat and endangered species, ensure clean water by respecting rivers and waterways, and are not planted with genetically modified trees, or converted into plantations. And with FSC-certified paper, we are guaranteed that both virgin and recycled fibre come from forest-friendly sources that meet the highest international standards.*

Using FSC-certified paper is an easy and highly visible way to show environmental leadership. The FSC stamp of approval guarantees that the paper we're using has been responsibly harvested – no cutting on stream banks, no cutting in sensitive areas, and much more. FSC is the ONLY paper endorsed by WWF Canada, National Aboriginal Forestry Association, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, and the Sierra Club of Canada.*

Many thanks to The Printing House who provides FSC-certified stock and paper to their customers at no extra cost.

For more information on FSC visit www.fsccanada.org.

*courtesy of The Printing House

Caroline Greenland—Membership & Volunteer Development

Caroline is very pleased to join the COTERC Board as Director of Membership and Volunteer Development. She has been aware of and admired the positive conservation and education work COTERC has achieved both in Canada and Costa Rica for quite some time. A week long trip with Zoo volunteers and Tom Mason to Cano Palma in 1999 strengthened that conviction. Torrential downpours and ant bites did not detract from her enjoyment of the amazing diversity of wildlife, the charm of the local people and the grand company of Tom and her fellow travellers. She loved it!

Caroline has worked at the Toronto Zoo since 1979 and is presently the Manager of Education, responsible for formal and informal education programming. In the early days, she was the Zoo's Volunteer Coordinator and continues to enjoy and be involved with the 350 Zoo volunteers who are an integral part of the Zoo. She looks forward to meeting the dedicated volunteers presently associated with COTERC and will work hard to add to their numbers. In keeping with other charitable organization, we rely on support from you, our members. She is prepared to do what is necessary to keep the membership robust and growing and is looking forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

Field Diaries cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

One side is the north (from the mouth) and the other is the south. The south side is well studied and sea turtle activity has been monitored for years by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation. The south side is also well known for the size of the nesting population where it is not uncommon to document thousands of nests in one season. It is a clear contrast with the north beach where my feasibility study is being conducted. The lack of surveillance attracted frequent poaching which resulted in a dwindling sea turtle population. In 2004, COTERC stepped in by initiating the sea turtle feasibility study in order to quantify the scale of the problem and be able to further mitigate a protection program.

From the top of the hill, the nearby village of San Francisco is also visible. It became more apparent to me how convenient it is for an impoverished local to go down to the neighboring beach in front of the village and illegally harvest eggs. All this became clearer just by getting a better view and orientation of the area. The reality of the situation hit me like a punch in the face. Can poaching be prevented? What

can be done to alleviate the pressure off a dwindling species? What are the alternatives? Can humanity attain a balanced coexistence with sea turtles? Can we save the people before we save the turtles? There are many questions that need time and dedication to be answered.

The enthusiastic students of San Francisco.



Log 9: Environmental Education

Another project in which I started getting involved is the environmental education classes. They are

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GREETINGS FROM CAÑO PALMA! CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

still around 20%. This is lower than last year, but it would be nice if we could decrease it even more. There have also been turtles killed as they come up onto the beach to nest. Thoughts about eating turtle eggs and meat will not change overnight and until then, we will have to try to educate the people and show them that these creatures are worth more to the community alive than they are dead. It's a slow process but an achievable one.

Here is hoping that this finds everyone well and I hope to see you all soon here at Caño Palma!

Pura Vida!!!

Jonathan "Juanito" Willans

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to all! I am starting this note by thanking everyone for supporting COTERC today and over the years. It is our members that take the time to volunteer for special events and excursions to Caño Palma and many of you gain support for us and find articles to increase our financial base for doing our work. Thank you!

Since our last Raphia, several things have happened. After working with the people at Bingo Country in Ajax, we have finally had to say goodbye. Due to lowering attendance and the gradual decline of income, Bingo Country closed their doors at the end of September. This was a source of 35% of our income and we are going to have to come up with some good ideas to replace this income. Some of these ideas have already started.

One of these ideas is to become active at the Reptile Expos held nine times each year around the country. Grant Crossman, the creator and coordinator of the expos has offered us space for free and has gone out of his way to find various objects for us to use in silent auctions at the events. On November 18th, Blue and June Enright and volunteer George Banavage spent the full day at the "swap". Thousands of people passed through the gates and the three of them were kept busy answering questions and promoting COTERC. As we gain experience, I believe we will improve and find methods to replace that lost bingo resource. The next Expo is in February. Come out and help—we'd love to see you.

Also on the 18th, Greg Mayne was talking to people at the Steel City Safari in Hamilton. I left the Mississauga Expo and arrived at the Safari just after noon. Steve Featherstone, the creator of the Safari, has gathered a huge array of animal oriented people and the place was full, with people looking at and holding birds, reptiles and other exotic beasts throughout the three story exhibition centre in downtown Hamilton. All profits gained went to help the Children's Aid Society, and we were happy to support such a cause while generating exposure for COTERC at the same time.

Besides this, other Board members were very

busy. Greg Mayne and Jim Taylor took time out of their busy schedules to visit Caño Palma. They spent a week down there discussing issues at the station, working on projects and seeing GVI in action. Unfortunately rains in San Jose kept their return flight on the ground, so they were forced to travel over land to San Jose and missed their flight home, and spent an extra day in San Jose before the next flight. Thank you guys, for taking the time—I know that Jonathan really appreciates the visits.

In the coming months we are planning more events for COTERC. The next euchre night will be in January. We are also looking at setting up an art show for several Ontario artists. Josh Feltham, Manager of Reptilia, has offered his facility as the home for this event, so keep an eye out for your invitation this spring. You will be able to see fine art mixed with amazing reptiles—so don't miss it.

The Board of Directors is also looking at other options as well and we welcome any ideas you can send our way. Please contact June if you have any ideas.

So what is happening down at the Station?

We seemed to be heading for a great year with the sea turtles, and had a very busy period after a slow start. Jonathan, our manager, is looking for volunteers to help walk the beaches next year during the GVI interim periods. Please contact us if you are interested. I will be down there for part of the spring run—hope to see you there!

Jonathan has been very busy creating new volunteer quarters and it will be interesting to see what other changes will be made. I know new showers and a new laundry room are planned. Let's hope we find the funds to get this done.

Please feel free to call us and find out all the other things we are working on. Thanks again for supporting us!

Tom Mason

"Conservation is humanity caring for the future." Nancy Newhall

Fiesta Verde "Project Rainforest": A night to remember!

If you missed September 29th at the atrium of the Toronto Zoo, you undoubtedly missed a night to remember. Scrumptious starters and exquisite entrees were the perfect companion to enhance the spirit of mingling among a surprisingly varied guest list, from zoo keepers and curators to auditors and IT project managers. Friendly but feisty competition at the silent auction tables provided nonstop excitement from the beginning to the end of this remarkable evening. Our final plea for much-needed support was positively successful thanks to the humorously entertaining live auctioneer, Randy Potter, who added just the right amount of encouragement to help COTERC realize one of our most successful fundraisers to date.

Following an opportunity to peruse the diverse selection of silent auction items and mingle among a room of old and new friends, guests were invited to enjoy the delicious creations of Kings Court Catering. Dinner was followed with a delectable assortment of desserts accompanied by enlightening educational presentations from Josh Feltman (Sustainable Environments) and COTERC board member, Kymberley Snarr (Large Mammal Monitoring at Caño Palma). To cap off a wonderful evening, dining tables made way to the dance floor where guests "twisted" and "tapped" to the music of Turning Point.

Feedback was solicited from a varied group of our guests immediately following the affair. We are extremely happy to report that across the multiple facets of the evening, including the overall atmosphere, events of the evening, cuisine, and education,

comments were consistently and enthusiastically positive. We sincerely hope this echoes the sentiments of all our guests. For those that did not have the opportunity to attend this year, we hope this positive report on Fiesta Verde will encourage you to mark your calendars for next year's event.

Planning has already begun to prepare for next year incorporating some excellent ideas for how we can improve the affair. Our goal is to create an exciting, enjoyable and memorable evening, ultimately enlightening your intellect with environmental realities that will encourage you to say yes in supporting COTERC. Incorporating a sea turtle theme, Fiesta Verde 2008 "Project Sea Turtles" on October 25, 2008 is an event you don't want to miss!

Fiesta Verde "Project Rainforest" would not have been possible in the absence of a dedicated planning committee, generous individuals and corporations that provided funding and auction items, the participation of a stellar group of volunteers and our valued event guests.

Along with support from the COTERC board as a whole, the following individuals comprised the core planning committee for the event: Rachel Atkins, June Enright, Joanna Romani, Linda Ervine and James Taylor.

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Fiesta Verde "Project Rainforest": A night to remember! cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

A special note of appreciation is extended to the following individuals and teams:

- Kings Court Caterers – donated the event appetizers and fed our volunteers
- The humorously entertaining and talented auctioneer, Randy Potter
- Lois Zimmerman for her abundance of patience in guiding us through the zoo planning and setup management

The evening could not have happened without the generous support of our corporate sponsors: **Deloitte and the Toronto Zoo.**

The planning committee and COTERC would like to extend a tremendous thank you to the following individuals for their support and participation:

*Ellen Ji
Eliza Tian
Cecilia Prieto
Jose Mori
Betsy Ling
Zol Mellary
Shelly Monahan
Jessica Sylvestre
Sue Crawshaw
Elizabeth McLean
Josh Feltman
Kymberley Snarr
Jennifer Corris*

*Fran Mason
Pam Evett
Janet Mephram
Eric Sorensen
Krerare Aliovski
Michael Rapley
Peter Andrew
Tim Mahoney
Keith & Leigh Woods
Bonnie & Bob Jackson
Gary Murakami
George Banavage*

Fiesta Verde "Project Rainforest": A night to remember! cont'd

Any fundraising auctions would not be possible in the absence of individuals and corporations that generously donate items for the event. We sincerely thank everyone in the following list for supporting COTERC, whether this is a repeated act of generosity or the first time contributing:

Best Western St. Jacobs Country Inn

Bird Kingdom

Birds & Beans

Black Creek Pioneer Village

Bowmanville Zoo

Burbs Bistro & Bar

Campanario

Canadian Geographic

CN Tower

Edible Arrangements

Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre

Fantasy Fair

Grasshopper Imports

Havana Nights

Joseph's Estate Wines

Karma Photography

London Regional Children's Museum

McMichael Canadian Art Collection

Montgomery's Inn

National Ballet of Canada

Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory

Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Show

Ontario Science Centre

Pelee Wings Nature Store

Port Credit Pet Centre

Purdy's Chocolates

Quiznos Subs

Rainforest Publications

Reddy Blooms Inc.

Reptilia

Ripley's Believe it or Not! Museum

Rockport Boat Line

Royal Canin

Royal Ontario Museum

Safari Bar Grill Billiards

Scenic Caves

Steinhaus Studio

Stonehurst Services

Stoney Ridge Estate Winery

Storybook Gardens

Strait's Aqualife

Swim Zone

The Second City

Textile Museum of Canada

The Boutique

The Villa

Tim Horton's

Toronto Botanical Gardens

Toronto Economic Development, Culture & Tourism

Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club

Tropical Conservancy

Turtle Beach Lodge

Valerie Kent Art Studio

Warner Home Video (Canada) Ltd.

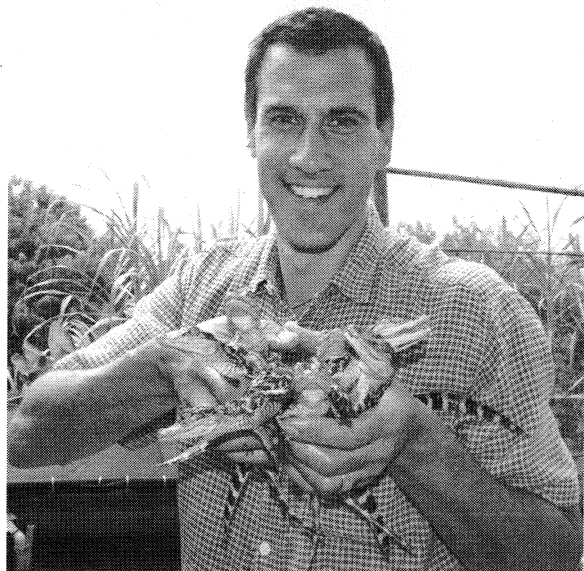
Westfield Heritage Village

Wild Water Kingdom

Wind Dancer Boat Charters

Wings of Paradise

Josh Feltman, Guest speaker at Fiesta Verde



Josh's primary goal in life is to introduce others to the wonders of nature, and cultivate a respect and admiration for all forms of life. His passion for animals lead him to attend the University of Toronto where he majored in Zoology and Environmental Science.

After graduating from the University of Toronto, Josh started a Master's in Science at the University of Guelph. In 1998, the Master's was put on hold when he accepted the position of General Manager at Reptilia Inc. in Vaughan.

As with all aspects of his life, traveling for Josh has always centred around searching for reptiles and amphibians. Fortunately, he has an understanding wife and two sons who seem to enjoy these excursions with him. He has traveled throughout Ontario, the eastern U.S., Honduras, and Costa Rica on his search for snakes, lizards, crocodilians, and other creatures that creep and crawl.

Field Diaries *cont'd*

(Continued from page 4)

conducted weekly at the elementary school in the village of San Francisco. Mario and Jana (the former station managers) planned and led the classes, all in español of course. The class includes a mixture of students between ages 7 to 13, totaling about 50 students.

This day the class fell on a special date. It was World Sea Turtle Day, and that was the subject of the lesson of the day. I helped teach about the man who started it all, Dr. Archie Carr. Not only is Dr. Carr responsible for accumulating and distributing much of what is known about sea turtles, he also co-founded the CCC. The day's activities were received by much enthusiasm from all the students who are always eager to participate. During these interactions, the students provide us with a valuable look into the life of the

community. In addition, the students also represent a sample of the demographics (i.e. population size, family class, place of origin, etc.), which could be analyzed to determine the circumstances of the locals. During today's class, the students were asked to raise their hand if they have ever eaten turtle eggs. To my despair, they all raised their hands. One student even yelled out that his family eats as much turtle eggs as rice and beans (which is the staple diet). It shook me a bit to hear this since I am working on a conservation project, but at the same time it made me link the issue with the problem and realize that the people need to be helped in order to help the turtles. I have been told by Mario and Jana that the majority of the locals only poach out of necessity in order to feed their families. In the short-term, I can only do my job and hope for a change in the future where alternatives are in place, and the need to wipe out one species for the survival of another is diminished.



YOUR SUPPORT IS OUR STRENGTH

Your Support and Commitment to COTERC helps us to carry on our conservation work in Costa Rica. Caño Palma Biological Station is a proudly Canadian-operated field station located near Tortuguero, Costa Rica, and is accessible only by boat. Please help us to continue our environmental education programs with the local children and tourists, as well as to continue to provide facilities for visiting students and researchers who come here to add to the world's knowledge of the flora and fauna of the lowland tropical rainforest. It is only with YOUR help that we can continue to maintain the field station. Money is needed to carry out repairs to the buildings and to replace old and worn-out equipment. COTERC relies upon support from individuals and corporations to fund our programs. Every financial, in-kind and volunteer commitment to COTERC is very much appreciated! Tax receipts are available for donations.

Please join COTERC and you will continue to receive our newsletter Raphia, to keep you up to date on the happenings of the organization, in both Canada and in Costa Rica

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
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Large Animal Monitoring Program

Dr. Kymberley Snarr, Centre for Environment, University of Toronto

Having recently joined the Board of Directors as a Director at Large, I am excited to announce a new project on Large Mammal Monitoring which is in its preliminary stages. As an Environmental Anthropologist, I have been carrying out various research projects in a number of locations around the world, including mainland China, the Caribbean, and for the last seven years, Central America. I was first introduced to Caño Palma in 1992 when the station had just opened, and it left a lasting impression on me. The vibrant forest appeared to be teeming with animals and birds, lush and alive. While very undeveloped and isolated in 1992, over the last 15 years, the area surrounding Caño Palma has seen a slow building development of ecotourism lodges and a recently colonized village. Human impacts on the natural environment are being felt including decreasing forest cover, increasing boat and human traffic, and poaching of large mammals. All of which are likely to be having an impact on much of the ecosystem,

including the large mammal population. To better understand the human impact on the large mammals, in collaboration with Greg Mayne (Director of Site Services), I have

developed a monitoring program with the aim to understand the large mammals found at the station. Why focus on large mammals? We know that there has been little to no study on the various large mammal species ranging at Caño Palma Research Station. To initiate the understanding about the



Mantled howler monkeys are key components in forest ecosystem and are important seed dispersers



Baird's Tapirs (*Tapirus bairdii*) are one of the largest bodied mammals in the Neotropical forests. They are classified as endangered with fewer than 5000 individuals ranging in Central America.

ecological needs of the large mammals ranging in north-eastern Costa Rica where Caño Palma Research Station is located, a COTERC volunteer scientist, Ariadne Angulo, conducted a systematic literature search and supplied background research. This research and other research in many forest types indicate that large mammals are important to study as they are key components in ecosystems. For example, certain species are known to be important as seed dispersers. Take, for example, the mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) which feed on the multitude of fig species, living in large social groups, travelling through the high canopy of the forest. They eat the fruit of the fig trees, move through their range in the forest, and deposit the

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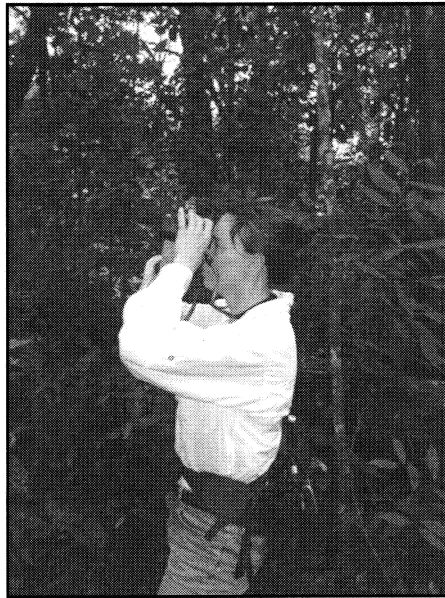
Large Animal Monitoring Program

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seeds of the fig in a new location. The seeds are dispersed through the movement of the monkeys. This helps maintain the diversity of tree species by allowing germination in different areas. Other large mammal species live on the ground, such as the Baird's tapir. The endangered Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) is a large odd-toed ungulate, about the size of a large sheep. It lives solitary in the forest, travelling along its path, and browses on a select number of young tree shoots and brush. This browsing helps to thin and select trees and shrubs, and allows biomass to be recycled into the system in a quicker manner as it passes through the gut of the tapir to be passed as fertile dung. These are just two species in a wide variety of large mammals who range at the station and play important roles in the health of the ecosystem.

But how many of the large mammal species live in the habitat of Caño Palma Research Station on a permanent basis? How many are only passing through the area temporarily? What are the population numbers of the various species living there? Which habitat do they utilize, and what components of the habitat are they utilizing?

These are important questions to answer so that appropriate management can take place if changes are found to be occurring.



Dr. Kymberley Snarr has worked closely with local natural resource guards and national scientists to gain an understanding of key assemblages of large mammals and local knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards them.

But as many large mammals are elusive and shy, many are rarely seen. So, how can we monitor their presence? The Large Mammal Monitoring Program employs a method called presence/absence data collection which is an older widely used method by wildlife managers. This older method is now coupled with patch occupancy modelling, and has

data collection, transforming it into a robust statistical analysis approach to monitoring. To detect their presence, not only are live mammal sightings included in the data, but tracks, vocalization, and dung are indications of the presence of the mammals. This non-invasive technique is ideal and works within the mandate of the organization. A separate research transect is now being set-up by our station manager, Jonathan Willans, which runs along the edge of the research station. This transect will cover most of the habitat types found at the station and surrounding Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge. Jonathan reports that while some of the areas are wet, the transect is reasonably passable. Each week, Jonathan, along with station volunteers and/or GVI expedition members, is collecting preliminary data, moving along the transect in a quiet methodical manner, and looking for the presence of large mammals (either the living animal or the signs left behind by them). The preliminary data indicates that the method is successful, with

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Large Animal Monitoring Program

(Continued from page 12)

vocalizations heard and excellent visualizations of clear tracks. To date, the species detected include jaguars, red-brockett deer, ocelot, collared and white-lipped peccary, mantled howler monkeys, and the tapir. As the large mammal project continues,

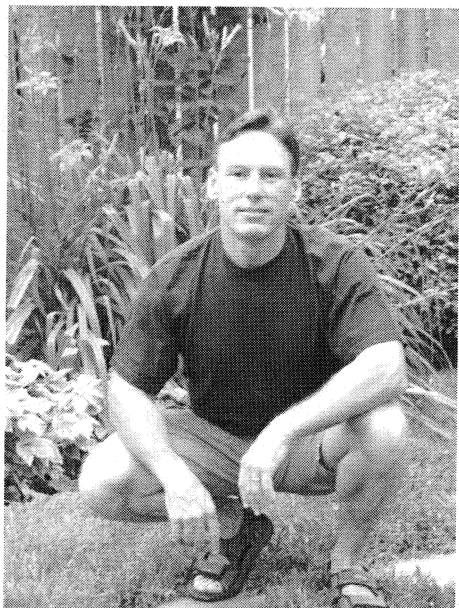
we will provide updates on the species present, and in time, give indications of species density and habitat usage. It is the hope of this researcher that the large mammal populations are stable and vibrant, and that the impacts from encroaching development in the area are minimal.

"It is good to realize that if love and peace can prevail on earth, and if we can teach our children to honour nature's gifts, the joys and beauties of the outdoors will be here forever."

-Jimmy Carter

GREG MAYNE—DIRECTOR OF SITE SERVICES

Greg Mayne joined the COTERC Board as the Director of Site Services in May of 2006. The roles and responsibilities associated with this position should come naturally to Greg, as he was COTERC's first Manager of the Caño Palma Biological Station (1991 to 1993). While managing the station in its formative years, Greg's goal was to learn the culture and language, establish partnerships for research and conservation, develop the Biological Station and make continual improvements to its infrastructure. Ranking high on the priority list was the installation of board walks to provide safe and low-impact access to the forest for visiting biologists. The station was indeed developed to provide comfortable, but rustic, accommodations and Greg developed a firm grasp of the Spanish language. To this day, however, the trails require board walks and this remains one of his priorities.



Greg holds an undergraduate degree in environmental toxicology, a Masters of Science in wildlife toxicology and a Fish and Wildlife Resource Technician diploma. He has worked with both provincial and federal governments as a fish and wildlife biologist, wildlife toxicologist and more recently, as a Restoration Programs Officer with Environment Canada, where he works closely with multiple agencies and stakeholders to restore environmentally degraded areas within the Canadian Great Lakes basin. His interests extend beyond station management and infrastructure improvements and he currently collaborates with Station Management, COTERC Directors and external partners to help develop avian, mammal and turtle monitoring programs. Greg is pleased to return to the COTERC fold and his passion for tropical ecology and research continues.

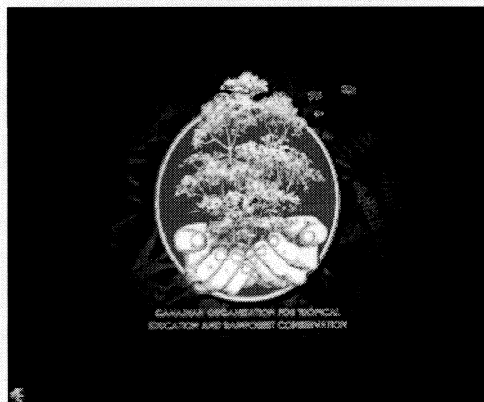
SAVE AN ACRE

Support a unique strategy to establish a wildlife reserve. You can Save an Acre by buying an acre. Habitat destruction is the greatest threat to wildlife today.

We are a registered Canadian non-profit charitable organization (#890096183 RR0001) which is establishing a wildlife reserve in the Atlantic Lowland Tropical Rainforest of Costa Rica. We currently own 100 acres on which the Cano Palma Biological Station is located. The properties nearby are being bought up for use as lodges and farms; trees are being cut down to clear the way to build cabins and other buildings, thus destroying the habitat of many species of animals.

The Save an Acre Project is very special, dedicated to promoting conservation through the acquisition, protection and sustainable use of threatened habitat.

One hundred percent of your contribution goes directly to the land trust to buy land for the wildlife reserve. The money is held in trust until we reach our goal of \$450,000 to purchase land presently available



Help us to save this precious piece of our planet!
Each acre costs \$450.
You will receive an Acreage Certificate acknowledging your participation in the land trust

YES, I want to Save an Acre by contributing towards the cost of _____ acre(s) at \$450, for a total of \$ _____ OR 1/2 acre at \$225 _____ OR 1/4 acre at \$120 _____
Other amount \$ _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Email (optional) _____

Tax receipts are available on request. Please mail to COTERC office Box 335, Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R6, Canada info@coterc.org www.coterc.org

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, January 19, 2008

The Atrium, Toronto Zoo

Cash bar, food, awards, prizes, and a draw!

Food & Registration @ 5:00 pm

First Game @ 6:00 pm

Please RSVP with \$20

Visa/MC/Cheque/Cash to

PO Box 335, Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R6

Tel: 905-831-8809

Donate your HBC Rewards!

Don't forget that you can help COTERC by donating your HBC Rewards points!

It doesn't cost you anything, you'll be helping the rainforest while you shop ~ and it's really easy!

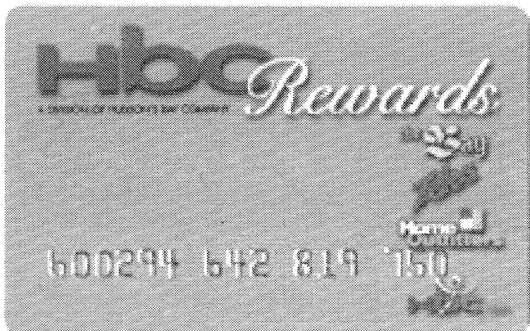
If you have an HBC Rewards card and you wish to donate points to COTERC, choose one of the following options:

Go to www.hbc rewards.com/community and click on Donate to a Community Group, then search for COTERC by entering our Community Organization Public ID # which is **5352662**.

Or visit the customer service desk at any Bay, Zellers or Home Outfitters.

You can also specify what percentage of future points you wish to donate to COTERC, if you wish to donate automatically with each purchase.

Any amount is greatly appreciated, and all donations go a long way toward much-needed supplies for Caño Palma Biological Station.



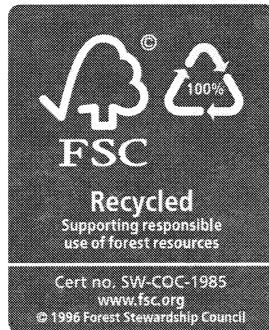
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~ EDUCATION ~ RESEARCH ~
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October 2007

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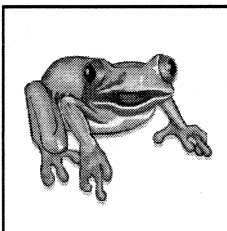
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