

# RAPHIA

Volume 10, Issue 3

## TROPICAL TREAT IS HERE AGAIN!

COTERC's annual fundraising event is just around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars and don't miss out on this fun event! **6:00 p.m.**

This popular event is always sold out. Our Master of Ceremonies this year is CITY TV Ombudsman Peter Silverman.

Raphia is the official newsletter of Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)

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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th**  
**TORONTO ZOO ATRIUM**

*featuring*

- **TROPICAL DINNER!**
- **SILENT AUCTION!**
- **LIVE AUCTION!**
- **DANCING!**

**TICKETS ARE ONLY \$45.00 EACH**

**ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

Available from the COTERC office

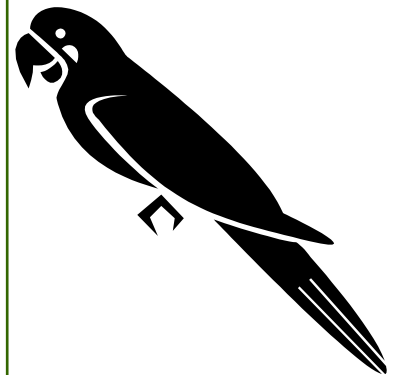
**HURRY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!**



## AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We have some exciting items for the Silent and Live Auctions, but still need some more items. We're looking for all sorts of things and a few examples are gift certificates to restaurants or for a service; hand-made crafts such as a

sweater, afghan, pottery, carving, etc. etc. We'd really appreciate your help in seeking out items from your friends or business contacts. If every member provided one item, we'd have a great auction! Please help.



## News from Caño Palma by Paul Grant

Everything down here kind of beats to its own drum and not wearing any watch or having to look at a calendar only further enshrouds one in the misguided perception of time. There are lots of projects that are going on and more still that are waiting for the necessary funding before they can be tackled. But what can be done, gets done, and in passing one notices how quickly the moon changes phases.

There is always something new happening here at Caño Palma. In the months that I have been here as Station Manager, I have had many wonderful experiences. There has been Jaguar sighted around the station. After a rain one might even see the soft depressions the elusive creature left in its silent wake. The White-lipped and the Collared Peccaries abound around

## New Station Manager for Caño Palma

*Paul Grant has been at Caño Palma for a few months now, and we thought it was time that we introduced him to our members. Paul was born in Roma, Losotho but grew up in Victoria, B.C. on Vancouver Island. He graduated from the University of Victoria with a B.Sc. In biology. His time since graduation has been spent traveling to various areas around the globe, working on a variety of research projects. During this time Paul also gained extensive field experience in the Neotropics travelling around Central America, studying bats in Nicaragua, caiman in Costa Rica and working as a teaching assistant for tropical field biology courses, also in Costa Rica.*

*During his time at Caño Palma, Paul's main goals are to continue the bat surveys of the area, start a caiman research project, begin a station insect and herbarium collection, as well as completing the various outstanding construction and maintenance projects. At this point some of the more important projects include rebuilding the termite-infested washrooms and building a concert walkway from the main house to the dormitory rooms, and constructing an information centre for student groups who tour the station. Ambitious undertakings, but certainly attainable, given Paul's background. We want to extend a warm welcome to Paul, and wish him all the best in his new position!*

the Station feeding on the fallen pejiballe fruit. In addition Black mantled howler monkeys, Geoffroy's spider monkey and White-faced Capuchins are also seen and heard on a daily basis. Other mammal sightings include Paca, White-nosed Coati, Neotropical River Otter, Tayra and the Red Brocket deer. I have also seen many of the known species of bats in the area, and have discovered a large Sinoloan Mastiff Bat maternity colony. Other wildlife sightings that one can see fairly regularly are the many varied bird species that thrive here including Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, White-crowned and Red-capped Manakins, Social Flycatcher, common Potoo, great Tinamou, Least Bittern, Bare-throated and Rufescent Tiger-Herons, numerous hummingbirds, Hermits and so many other birds. The Station is working with a group that monitors and bands migratory birds in addition to recording the presence of any other bird species in the area, so with their help we are constantly improving the Station bird list.

During the end of June the Station experienced heavy rainfall and high water levels in the canal, causing the grounds to become flooded with 3-4 feet of water. One could even canoe from the canals directly up to the main building. Although this was an adventure, it made it difficult to do such things as mow the lawn and keep things dry! Trees and houses become islands, safe havens from the water and during this period I was fortunate to see a lot of wildlife that is normally difficult to spot. One Annulated tree boa took refuge in the main house for awhile, in addition to two scorpions and two tarantula. A caiman took this opportunity to explore the Station grounds, along with a Boa constrictor, Satiny parrot snake, Brown vine snake, Bird-eating snake, Central American Bushmaster, Hog-nosed pit viper, Eyelash pit viper, Bicoloured coral snake and several Fer-de-lance. Numerous geckos, basilisk lizards, iguana, anoles, frogs, toads, turtles and caiman are observed daily.

*"There has been Jaguar sighted around the Station"*

## Continued from Page 2—News from Caño Palma

There is also a whole world of insect species that dwell around the Station—sometimes not really visible unless one stops for a moment to examine the ground or a tree more closely. Then you realize that all around you there is life. A stick is no longer a stick but a very well camouflaged walkingstick insect. A leaf moves slightly and you realize it is a praying mantis. There is such a large diversity in insects in the Neotropics that it would be impossible to describe all of them and their wonderful, ingenious adaptations to their environment. There are the bright showy butterflies, the majestic and unfortunately rare Rhinoceros beetles, social ants and more, plus a number of equally amazing although at times unfriendly insects such as mosquitoes, biting flies, wasps and termites. Termites, although amazing in their own right, are not exactly welcome guests around the wooden structures of the station. In fact, they are the main reason why the building that houses the washrooms desperately needs to be rebuilt. Most of the structural supports are completely eaten by termites. Combined with rain and high humidity, the result is rapid decay of the wooden structures. At this

### Recent Fundraising Events by Fran Mason

COTERC receives no government funding, so it is necessary to carry on various fundraising efforts in order to meet our financial needs. Some of the more recent efforts include the following:

A BBQ at Loblaws, Ajax, Ontario on June 16th raised \$325. Special thanks to the McKee family, June Barringham, Sue & Leslie Crawshaw and the Mason family for being on hand to cook and serve up burgers to the hungry shoppers.

On July 9th we held our first ever Euchre Night and generated \$550 from a combination of entry fees and

### Did You Know?

1. Costa Rica was the first Central American nation to cultivate coffee. By 1850 a large coffee plantation produced enough coffee for export to other nations.
2. Most of the nutrients of a rainforest ecosystem are stored in its vegetation rather than in its soil.
3. Deforestation accounts for the loss of nearly 2/3 of

point in time we have received new wood and construction of new washrooms will be completed by mid-September. Other construction projects that are scheduled when funding is available is the construction of a concrete walkway from the main house to the dormitory rooms; a kiosk to house information posters in English, French and Spanish. The station's collections of preserved specimens, seed pods, etc. will all be on display here.

Recently we have had a new T-shirt designed, thanks to Fiona Reid who has allowed us to reproduce a beautiful Jaguar from her book "A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America & Southeast Mexico."

Caño Palma Biological Station protects one of the most endangered forest types in the world and is home to some of the most endangered species on the planet. It is because of your support that this Station is able to function, and I thank all of you for your efforts and allowing me to be a part of this project.

silent auction items. Many thanks to Chris Papadopoulos, owner of Papp's Restaurant for providing the facilities and to Myrna Picotte for her invaluable advice on how to run a tournament. It was great fun and we hope to do it again soon.

Thank you to the Sunshine Montessori School, Kitchener, Ontario, for raising \$90 on their Dress Down Fridays during the last school year.

We are collecting Canadian Tire money to purchase items for Caño Palma Biological Station. Any donations are gratefully accepted!

4. Central America's rain forests—almost 1 million acres/year.
4. More than 50% of the world's plant and animal species inhabit the 7% of the world that is covered in rainforest. Many of these species are located in small parts of the rainforest ecosystems & are found nowhere else on Earth.



These are just a sampling of our great auction donations.

Please become involved and support COTERC by purchasing our raffle tickets for the Bateman print, donating an auction item or placing a bid on an item.

Please contact the office at [coterc@interhop.net](mailto:coterc@interhop.net) or **(905) 831-8809** if you would like information on any of the auction items listed, or get a complete list of items offered for auction. Thank you so much for your support!

Remember, all proceeds from this event go directly to Caño Palma Biological Station.



## TROPICAL TREAT 2001

Many of our members cannot attend the event on October 20th, so we thought that you should have access to some of our auction items in order to place a reserve bid. Here are a just a few of the items that will be available on Oct. 20th.

1. **Serengeti Bush Camp, Toronto Zoo. Family of four overnight camp. 16 dates to choose from. Value \$340**
2. **Mozart CD. Signed by conductor Sir Charles MacKerras. Value priceless**
3. **Prize-winning hand-made ceramic doll. Collectors' item. Value \$500**
4. **Two Via Rail first-class tickets from Toronto to Montreal return. Value \$400**
5. **Hand-made Scottish glass calligraphy set. Value \$200**
6. **T.H.S. Complete Atlas of Reptiles and Amphibians—a must-have book for the serious herpetologist. Value \$200**
7. **Be a Zookeeper For a Day at Toronto Zoo. A special chance to see behind the scenes and work with the animals. Either Nov. 3 or Dec. 15, 2001. Ages 14 & Over. Value priceless**
8. **Overnight stay at Resonance Bed & Breakfast, near Peterborough, Ontario. Value \$150**