



RAPHIA

The Canadian Organization for Tropical Education
and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)
Newsletter.

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Editor: Cathy Ward

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993

At the recent annual general meeting, the following were elected as the COTERC Board of Directors for 1993. (* indicates new board member).

Dr. Peter Silverman.*

Peter Silverman is well known as an advocate on CITY TV's program, 'Silverman Helps'. He is the author and editor of publications dealing with political and social issues.

Christine McGirr.*

Christine McGirr is a communications specialist with the firm of Teckham McGirr Communication Ltd and has extensive experience in fundraising for non profit organizations.

Dr. Jon Barlow.

Jon Barlow is the Curator of Ornithology at the Royal Ontario Museum and was formerly with the Dept. of Museum Studies at

the University of Toronto.

Dr. Marc Engstrom*

Marc Engstrom is the Curator of Mammalogy at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Dr. Frances Burton.*

Frances Burton is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and a primatologist.

Dr. Michael James.

Michael James is a physician specializing in industrial medicine and an entomologist.

Dr. Suzanne MacDonald.

Suzanne McDonald is a Professor of Psychology at York University with a focus on cognition in primates.

Dr. Tom Mason.*

Tom Mason is the Curator of Invertebrates at the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo and Director of the Ontario Herpetological Society.

Dr. Anne Russon.

Anne Russon is Professor of Psychology at Glendon College, York University and has conducted extensive research of rehabilitant orangutans in Indonesia.

Julia Murphy.

Julia Murphy is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at York University and has a special interest in traditional Mayan culture.

The directors were elected at the recent Annual General Meeting and look forward to the coming year. They anticipate that the focus of this year's COTERC activities will be on expansion of membership; further development

of the COTERC station and the establishment of committees through which members of COTERC can actively participate. The combined expertise that the new Directors bring to COTERC ensure that there is an exciting year ahead.

NEW EDITOR

Cathy Ward has assumed the position as editor of the COTERC newsletter. Cathy has just completed her Masters in Environmental Studies and her previous experience of living in tropical regions of Australia has developed a keen interest in rainforest conservation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting was held February 10, 1993. The year's activities were reviewed, the new board of directors was elected and plans for the upcoming year were defined. There is to be a major thrust in fundraising. As an organization, COTERC has reached the stage where funding needs to become more formalized. Sources need to be secured through grants from government bodies and foundations in addition to the

more localized fundraising initiatives that have been held to date. Even in these hard economic times, there is still a strong concern for the environment and people are ready to support initiatives that will secure a more stable environment for the future.

There is a possibility of having a resident field biologist at the station and Marilyn was to investigate this on her next trip to the station.

A small industry has been started by the Station Manager. Local people make small wooden boats and paddles and these are painted and sold to the tourists. At present, scrap wood from the boat building industry is being used.

The 'Save an Acre' Project has had a good response and this money will be used to buy more land.

"It has been said that we know more about some areas of the moon than we do about tropical rainforests "
- Catherine Caulfield "In the Rainforest"

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Marilyn Cole has received two conservation awards. In January, she received a Conservation Award from the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo and the City of Scarborough for her contribution to environmental education.

**C O T E R C ' S
ACHIEVEMENTS**

Since its inception in 1991, COTERC has established a reputable presence in the research community. The following is a list of some of the major accomplishments of COTERC.

* Established a scientific research station known as Cano Palma Biological Station, near the northeastern coastal village of Tortuguero in Costa Rica. Cano Palma has hosted researchers who have carried out studies on the birds, bats, primates, plants and reptiles of the region.

* Developed a program whereby the nearby lodges bring their guests to Cano Palma Biological

Station for guided walks.

* With CIDA funding, began development of a butterfly farming project in conjunction with the local villagers as a source of income.

* Established a liason with Costa Rican researchers who use the Station to carry out their research

* Established a Save An Acre Project, as a means of purchasing tropical rainforest in the region of Tortuguero to enlarge the Cano Palma property.

* Begun a preliminary feasibility study on the creation of a women's craft cooperative in the village of Tortuguero.

FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Three fundraising activities have been planned.

I. APRIL 22 - 10:30 - 4:30 - BARBEQUE has been organized at LOEB's - Westney Road in Ajax.

II. JUNE 12 - 10 - 5 - BARBEQUE at the Supercentre, Liverpool Rd. in Pickering.

Volunteers wanted and appreciated. If interested, call Marilyn Cole at 682-2116

III. JULY 17 - 8-5- YARD SALE - sideline 22, North of Concession 4 in Pickering. North on Brock Rd. until you see the signs.

Contributions wanted and needed. Please deliver contributions to the above address or call Marilyn Cole to make arrangements.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

by Marilyn Cole

Once again, I have had the pleasure to visit Cano Palma Biological Station and see the fine work Greg Mayne has been doing. We have a new addition to our staff. Aron is the 17-year old son of a neighbour, and has been hired to replace Juan (who is working for the National Parks). He is eager to learn English and is very knowledgeable about outboard motors and boats.

When I arrived at the station on Feb. 24, I was greeted by two Canadians, Denise and Lloyd Fischer of Victoria, B.C. and two Americans, Jennifer Richards of New York City and Tim Mosby of Watlinsville, Georgia. Denise and Lloyd were just finishing up (continued on page 5)

Health Watch ... Travelling to the Tropics, PART II
by Dr. Michael J. James, M.B., M.Sc., F.L.S.

In the previous issue of Raphia, Dr. James gave valuable information to the traveller about the necessary vaccinations that should be considered before arriving in the tropics. He gave some tips on travellers diarrhoea, malaria, cuts and scrapes, skin fungus, chiggers, sunburn and insect bites. In this issue he concludes his advice with a discussion of how to deal with first aid for snake bites.

Definitely, prevention is better than cure. Snakes such as Bothrops asper (Fer-de-Lance) and B. schlegelii (Eyelash viper) cause particular concern and are responsible for several cases of envenomation yearly. The principal aim of first aid for snake bites is to delay venom absorption until the victim can reach medical care. Also important is that first aid should cause minimum harm to the victim. This may sound strange, but antique remedies such as scarification or lancing snake bites and grinding in potassium permanganate, which might do more harm than good, were formerly in vogue. Even the popular tourniquet or ligature, to stop blood flow completely from the bitten limb, has been shown to be dangerous and cannot be recommended. Recent research has shown pressure bandaging to be the best technique and the protocol is:

1. Immediately apply a broad firm bandage (tensor) to cover the bitten area. Torn strips of clothing can be used. With a limb, as much as possible should be bound. The bandage should be bound as tightly as for a sprained ankle. Do not wash, cut or excise the bitten area.
2. Immobilize limb with splint. Leave on the bandage and splint until medical care is reached. Bring transport to victim if possible. Avoid movement as much as possible.
3. If the snake is available, bring it with the victim. The bandage and splint can be left on for hours. When it is released, the venom flows rapidly into the circulation.

AMPHIBIAN SKIN TOXINS: Amphibians such as poison dart frogs (Dendrobates spp., Phyllobates spp.) and bufonids (Bufo marinus) secrete skin toxins. Wash your hands after handling them.

PHYTOTOXINS : contact with bark, leaves and wood of some trees (such as Anacardium excelsum, a relative of the cashew apple) can cause skin irritation and rashes. Steroid creams can be used for treatment.

Appropriate clothing in the bush, high boots, long sleeves and pants are a very effective deterrent for bites, stings and contact poisons of all sorts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

a month's study on the three species of monkeys found on and around the station, while Jennifer and Tim had spent a week discovering the tropical rainforest.

How wonderful to have left our dreary Canadian winter behind and to wake up to the call of the howler monkeys, toucans, parrots and aracarís! For the next five days I found myself out at dawn wandering along the Raphia and Colibri trails where inevitably I ran into monkeys, usually spider monkeys. They often seemed more curious about my presence than frightened, and one or two would come closer for a better look at this strange-looking primate. Afternoons were deliciously hot and sunny and a perfect excuse for a nap in a hammock. I managed to collect some very close up videotape of capuchins as they moved along the river and I will add this to my library of previous spider monkey footage.

A three day meeting was being held in the village of Tortuguero, jointly by the IUCN, Fundacion Neotropica and other interested conservation groups, led by

Juan Carlos Camacho P, a representative of CCI Coop (a European based organization). The purpose of the meeting was to develop a five year plan for the inhabitants of the region. Cano Palma Biological Station was invited to attend. Greg and I attended sessions dealing primarily with the question of natural resources. Sr. Camacho is a skilled facilitator who drew out participants in such a way that various problems concerning the villagers were defined and possible solutions were identified. It is anticipated that a report will be prepared summarizing the three intensive days. These issues that were identified will benefit not only the lives of the villagers but also the environment of the region.

The remainder of my time in Costa Rica was taken up with meetings with various government and academic officials. We have always felt strongly that Costa Ricans should be one of the main beneficiaries of studies conducted at Cano Palma Biological Station and that all information gathered should be shared. As much as we are eager to have Canadians and American researchers and students visiting the station, we feel that it is equally important

for Costa Rican researchers and students to have the opportunity to study their own flora and fauna. As a result of my meetings, there should be more opportunity for this to happen.

Yolanda Matamoros, director of Simon Bolivar Zoo and lecturer in zoology at Universidad Nacional, and Melania Ortiz, director of Museo Nacional de Costa Rica have both kindly agreed to be advisers to COTERC. I know that both of these women will be a welcome asset and I look forward to working with them.

CALGARY RAINFOREST ACTION GROUP (CRAG)

CRAG is a non-profit organization in Alberta informing Calgarians about the need to protect the world's rainforests. This organization is made up entirely of volunteers and their interests include tropical and temperate forests. They publish a newsletter that provides a wide range of articles from different sources. COTERC is planning to set up an exchange of either membership and/or newsletters.

CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR TROPICAL EDUCATION AND RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

MEMBERSHIP

YES, I want to join COTERC and support its efforts in the tropics. I'm enclosing my membership fee of :

- Senior/Student \$ 15.00
- Individual \$ 25.00
- School Class \$ 25.00
- Family \$ 35.00
- International \$ 50.00
- Corporate
- Membership \$100.00
- Donation* _____

TOTAL _____

*tax deductible

NAME:(PLEASE PRINT) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____

SUPPORT COTERC- BUY A COTERC T-SHIRT

HIGH QUALITY 100% WHITE COTTON SHIRTS FEATURING OUR LOGO OF HANDS PROTECTING THE RAINFOREST (JADE COLOUR)

ONLY \$15.00 PLUS \$2.50 for postage and handling charges

I would like to order _____ COTERC shirts for \$15.00 plus \$2.50 postage each.