
Raphia



The newsletter of the Canadian
Organization for Tropical Education and
Rainforest Conservation

Volume 7 No. 3
Fall 1998

ISSN 1188-7425

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr. R. Cook, of Toronto, Ontario was the lucky winner in our recent raffle draw. His prize was a beautiful framed signed, limited edition print entitled, "Path of the Panther" by renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman. Second prize of a signed, limited edition framed print of an otter by Barry Barnett went to Sheri Mulhall, Mississauga, Ontario. Congratulations, and thanks to all who supported COTERC by buying a raffle ticket!



Unfortunately we don't have a photo of Mr. Cook. Sheri Mulhall is shown here with her otter print.

Have you received a renewal notice? Has your address changed? Have you been receiving Raphia? We found that we had a major glitch in the computer program that stores our membership list, and it may be that we have accidentally omitted your name from our mailing list. Please let us know if there is any problem with regard to your membership or receipt of Raphia so that we can correct our records. We are now using different software, so hopefully we won't run into any future problems.

MASTERCARD IS HERE!

We can now accept payment for orders for t-shirts, etc. on MasterCard. We will also accept credit card payments for our Partners in Preservation Program or your membership. Simply give us your MasterCard number and date of expiry when you order or renew.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ian Morrison

At our Annual General Meeting last spring, the members agreed to synchronize our membership year so that in the future, all renewals will become due on March 1st (you will receive a renewal notice before that date). If you have joined during the last three months of the year, your membership will be renewed automatically on March 1st, without extra charge, for the following year.

Moving to a common renewal date will cut down on my workload and will be more efficient.

**FAREWELL TO PAT OPAY
and ROBIN JAMES**

Many of you came to know Pat over the four years that he worked for COTERC at Cano Palma Biological Station and others certainly enjoyed the articles that he contributed to *Raphia*. I know that some of you are wondering whether Pat is still with us, so I thought it was time to bring you up to date. In February, 1998, Pat decided to move on to other experiences. Since then he has remained in Costa Rica working on other projects, including sea turtle protection. We wish Pat every success for the future and we hope that he will continue to pursue his dreams of working in the conservation field.

As most of you know, Robín James is a Canadian from Bracebridge, Ontario who came to us as an intern under a grant from the Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry to help set up La Crisalida, the butterfly garden project in Tortuguero. He has now returned to Canada to pursue other interests

WHO IS AT CANO PALMA?

We are pleased to announce that Ross Ballard who started off as a volunteer just over a year ago is now Project Manager at Cano Palma Biological Station. Ross hails from Calgary, Alberta and brings with him such practical skills as construction experience and cooking. He has a true love of horticulture and has turned the station grounds into a wonderful botanical garden.

The Station Coordinator's position is now filled by Daniel Cogliano, who also came to us first as a volunteer. Daniel is from New York City and travelled around Central America for awhile before landing in Tortuguero.

You will be learning more about our staff in an upcoming edition, but in the meantime we would like to extend a warm welcome to both Ross and Daniel.



Ross Ballard



Daniel Cogliano & Marilyn Cole

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GREG?

By Marilyn Cole

During the early days of Cano Palma Biological Station, Greg Mayne kept things going, often under very adverse conditions. I don't know what we would have done without him! Greg has continued to pursue his own dream, and is currently enrolled in the Wildlife Toxicology program at the University of Guelph, where he is doing well. He lives in Hamilton, Ontario where we recently met to reminisce over dinner and swap stories about the "good old days". He is keeping up his Spanish, but is swamped with course work. We all wish Greg the very best for the future.



Doug Parker making a "tree"

TROPICAL TREAT II — ANOTHER SUCCESS!

The Atrium at the Toronto Zoo was electric with excitement on Saturday, September 26, 1998 when we presented our second annual fundraiser, known as "Tropical Treat".

We were very fortunate to have Mr. Cal White, General Manager of the Toronto Zoo, as our Master of Ceremonies. He kept the evening interesting with his witty remarks and public announcements. All 135 guests were delighted by the variety of auction items available, including a weekend for two at a Bed and Breakfast in Niagara-on-the-Lake plus tickets to the Shaw Festival; original artwork by Greg Hodge as well as several other signed, limited edition prints; a hand-made, hand-painted porcelain doll; autographed ballet slippers; a hand-painted sweatshirt with a red-eyed tree frog; a cell phone; a familiarization airplane flight; tickets to sports events; a kayaking trip in northern Ontario... the list goes on and on. Randy Potter and Donna Shea of Kahn Auctions, did a great job by encouraging people to increase their bids to greater amounts than perhaps what they had planned! Many people took home door prizes, and each female ticket holder received a lapel pin.



Some of the auction items



June Barringham carried the tropical theme into the decorations by creating a jungle canopy complete with many rainforest 'creatures'. The metal pillars were wrapped with burlap and fake leaves, and to complete the rainforest illusion, appropriate audio tapes were played during dinner. Lovely table decorations featuring plastic rainforest frogs and other critters amongst tropical vegetation were supplied courtesy of Clifton Florists.

The evening began with a free campari tasting, courtesy of Peter Mielzynski Agencies along with hors d'oeuvres such as Moroccan chicken rolls, Gravlox on rye toast, jalapeño mini quiche and spinach & feta stuffed cherry tomatoes. The buffet, catered by Armadillo Texas Grill, featured a tropical menu including such tantalizing delights as roasted vegetable platter with caramelized garlic dressing, jerked chicken with plum glaze, maple-glazed yams, green beans & red pepper with honey brown ale glaze, pork & pineapple kebabs with spicy apple salsa followed by a wonderful dessert table.



Debbie Mason with "tropical trees" decorations

Our thanks go to Tropical Treat committee chairman Malcolm Enright, who did a superb job of organizing everything, to Fran Mason and her children Debbie and Daniel for pulling the auction together, and to all those who obtained such a great variety of items for the auction. A successful event such as this takes the efforts of many people and we'd like to thank you all!

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COTERC is fortunate to have a group of enthusiastic volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors, to ensure the future of the organization. We thought you would be interested in getting to know them a little better. Sorry we couldn't get photos of everyone, but perhaps the camera will work better in the future!

MALCOLM ENRIGHT

"Blue" Enright lived in Australia for many years before immigrating to Canada, and opened Minolta Aquarium and Reptile World in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He is the owner of Enright Plumbing Inc. specializing in corporate and insurance fire restoration. He calls himself a "TV and movie reptile wrangler" and has earned a certificate as a Zoo Keeper III Animal Care Technician. In 1970 Malcolm was a founder of Ontario Herpetological Society and is still a member, as well as being a director of The West coast Herpetological Breeding & Research Foundation, American Federation of Herpetoculturists and League of Florida Herpetological Societies. Blue joined the COTERC Board of Directors in 1997, and has served as Chair of the Tropical Treat fundraising event for the past two years.

Malcolm lives in Ontario with Blue has Palma Station a few to visit again others in



"Blue" Enright Pickering, his wife June, visited Cano Biological times and hopes with June and April, 1999.

DERRICK FULTON

Derrick graduated from the University of New Brunswick and is now a barrister and solicitor in Toronto. Having won several prizes and awards during his time in NB and in Iowa, he also took Japanese studies in Japan in 1980. Before starting a practice in corporate/commercial litigation Derrick had some interesting jobs, one working as a wrangler and instructor at a ranch in Colorado. Derrick enjoys mountain

biking, squash and soccer and plays the piano and guitar. Derrick lives in Toronto.

Derrick made his first visit to Cano Palma in September and is looking forward to a second trip.

BRIAN HENSHAW

Brian is a wetlands and wildlife consultant and has been an active field ornithologist for over twenty years. He has a broad range of experience related to the monitoring, inventory, analysis and evaluation of natural systems, with special expertise in avifauna. He was co-publisher and editor of Birders' Journal and presents hands-on science in school projects as well as serving on committees for the Friends of Second Marsh and West Side Marsh, and has affiliations with the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Field Botanists of Ontario, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Dragonfly Society of the Americas, Ontario Herpetological Society, Ontario Bird Banding Association and Royal Ontario Museum. He has also led several birding tours to Costa Rica, and has visited Cano Palma Biological Station.

Brian grew up in England where he managed a chain of retail outlets before immigrating to Canada in 1987. He now lives in Brooklin, Ontario with his wife Karen and daughter.

Brian has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Land Acquisition Sub-Committee for 1997 and 1998.

TOM MASON

Tom has a degree from the University of Guelph and has worked at the Toronto Zoo for seventeen years. He is currently Curator of Invertebrates and Acting Curator of Birds. He was Acting Director of the Reptile Breeding Foundation in 1991 and is currently working on conservation projects involving the Blue Racer (a snake), the Karner Blue Butterfly, Loggerhead Shrikes and Trumpeter Swans.

Tom is often asked to give talks on one of the many topics about which he is so knowledgeable

and he can usually be relied on to provide the odd "critter" from his own collection.

Tom has been involved with COTERC since 1992 and has served on the Board of Directors since 1993. He is currently Vice President and Chair of the committee looking at upgrading the facilities at Cano Palma Biological Station and has begun a survey of the herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) of the Tortuguero area. He also advises the butterfly recently Tortuguero. Palma several joined an reptiles in Royal Ontario

He lives in and is assisted his wife Fran Debbie and



the Tortuguero area. for "La Crisalida", garden COTERC opened in He has visited Cano times and has expedition to survey Vietnam initiated by Museum

Pickering, Ontario in all his efforts by and his children Daniel.

BEV MCMULLEN

Bev works in the marketing department at SirCorp (Service Inspired Restaurants) with Jack Astor's, Armadillo Texas Grill, Walt's Grill and Bar, etc.

Bev is an avid world traveler and has been to the Ituri jungles in Zaire (now called Congo) with the pygmies, went 3,000 miles down the Amazon and survived a hurricane to arrive at Cano Palma Biological Station to visit during an eco-expedition in 1996. She plans to visit the Rio Orinoco in February, 1999.

Beverly is a professional photographer and has mentored with the likes of National Geographic's Frans Lanting and Galen Rowell. She is an inventor/entrepreneur, inventing Morpho Wear Butterfly Clothing to create proceeds for COTERC, and to promote rainforest awareness. She has just invented two new computer products for 1999.

She loves the rainforest and wants to do something to secure its future survival. She has a background with animals in attraction parks, but her concerns are more in the area of conservation and preservation. Bev joined the Board of COTERC in 1997, and is Chair of the Marketing Committee.

Bev lives in Port Dalhousie, Ontario.

DOUG PARKER

Doug is one of our most recent appointments and is already getting his feet wet raising money. He hails from Rexdale, Ontario and has worked with Canada Post for over 24 years in transportation. He is also a partner in the family advertising business. His pastimes include tennis, computers and spending time at the cottage on Lake Simcoe.

Doug joins the COTERC team as an experienced volunteer having worked for Peel Memorial Hospital, Canadian Cancer Society and as team leader for the Pickering Kidney Foundation fundraising drive in March of this year.

He hopes to continue working as a fundraiser with COTERC, as well as helping Tom Mason and Malcom Enright on the new construction and renovation plans for Cano Palma Biological Station.

SANDRA PARKER

Sandra has operated an advertising/promotions company for over ten years. She is very busy working with six different retailers including Suzy Shier, LaSenza Lingerie and Thyme Maternity stores.

Sandra has volunteered for over 25 years with a variety of different organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society, Rotary and The Kidder Foundation. Her goal is to help COTERC create a million dollar capital fund to ensure the long term growth of this work. She is currently visiting service clubs in the Greater Toronto area to raise awareness and additional funding for COTERC projects.

Sandra is married to Doug and they live in Pickering, Ontario.

DR. WILLIAM A. RAPLEY,

Bill was born in Hamilton, Ontario and developed an interest in nature and conservation as a boy. At an early age nesting birds and ornithology

stimulated his interest to explore the outdoors and natural habitats where wildlife abound.

Bill Rapley graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. After completing an internship at the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Wild Animal Park he joined the Toronto Zoo in 1973 as its first veterinarian and eventually became the Animal Health Director. In 1982, Dr. Rapley became the veterinarian for the University of Western Ontario and in 1988 he completed an M.Sc. in pharmacology studying environmental toxicology.

Armed with both administrative and research experience, Bill returned to the Toronto Zoo in 1989 as Executive Director of the Biology and Conservation divisions where he is responsible for the animal and plant collection, exhibits and research areas. He lectures in zoo biology, administration and conservation biology at a number of Universities and public organizations.

Bill has travelled extensively and is very active in international conservation. Presently he serves on the executive of IUCN Canada and interacts with numerous local, national and international conservation and nature oriented organizations.

Bill joined the Board of COTERC in 1998 and chairs the Research and Education Committee. He is looking forward to visiting Cano Palma Biological Station in the near future.

Bill lives in Uxbridge, Ontario with his wife and son.

DR. FIONA REID

Fiona Reid is a mammalogist, writer and illustrator. She recently completed a much-needed Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico, (published by Oxford University Press) providing both the text and all the illustrations.

She lived in Costa Rica for two years, doing field studies of mammals for the book, and has spent a lot of time in the Tortuguero area. She is presently working on a revision of the Peterson Guide to the Mammals of North America, which she will co-author with her husband Dr. Mark Engstrom. They live in Scarborough, Ontario with their two small children Holly and Ian.

Fiona joined the COTERC Board of Directors in 1997 and serves as Director of Research. She visited Cano Palma Biological Station in May, 1998.

DR. PETER SILVERMAN

Peter serves as a television ombudsman under the name "Silverman Helps", fighting for consumer/citizen/small business rights against governments, unscrupulous traders, etc. Prior to this spot he was Business Specialist for CITY TV, and began his career at Global Television as a news reporter. He also hosted and scripted "Code 10-78", a program on unsolved crimes.

Peter is also an author (*Who Speaks for the Children; Voices of a Lost Generation*) and editor (*Angola, Story of a Revolt*), and is currently writing a book on stroke victims and their families.

At different times he has been a construction foreman in various parts of the world, a seaman and a professional soldier with airborne forces in the Israeli Army. Peter has been a university lecturer, an entrepreneur, consultant, advertising executive and holds a Ph.D. in history.

Peter spent time at Cano Palma Biological Station in 1995 to wire it for electricity — an event that really changed the station. He has served as President of COTERC since 1996.

Peter lives in Toronto, Ontario with his wife Professor Frances Burton (who has served as unofficial advisor and inspiration since the inception of COTERC). Peter enjoys spending his vacations working in Third World countries. Their twin daughters Alexis and Leah are now adults.



A Note from the Editor,
I would like to say a special 'Thank You' to Allison Piercy who helped produce the summer edition of RAPHIA. Ed

MARILYN COLE

Marilyn spent most of the early part of her adult life working as a secretary, but always loved animals so she raised and trained horses and dogs as a hobby.

In 1973 she began work as a keeper at the Toronto Zoo where she remained for the next 22 years working in various areas of the zoo. She had the privilege of raising many baby animals, including several gorillas. During that time she did field work in Gibraltar, studying the Barbary macaque under the tutelage of Professor Frances Burton and later Marilyn spent six months studying wild orangutans with Dr. Birute Galdikas in Indonesia.

During her Zoo she Bachelor of from the Toronto and Environmen York participated conferences



and was a Board member of the American Association of Zoo Keepers. In 1995 she accepted an early retirement package so she could devote her full attention to COTERC..

Marilyn is co-founder of COTERC (a registered Canadian charity started in 1990), and purchased the property now known as Caño Palma Biological Station. In her role as Executive Director, she tries to visit Caño Palma as often as possible. She loves nothing more than waking up to the call of the howler monkeys and falling asleep to the orchestra of insects. Marilyn lives on a farm in Pickering, Ontario.

MORE POETRY FROM CHILDREN

The rainforest is an apple,
it provides things we need.
The animals in the rainforest are little children,
they sing and play all the time.
The plants are a city,
they always seem to grow.
The air is a flower,
a beautiful scent and refreshing.
The ground is porridge,
mushy and damp.
The rainforest is a shooting star,
always making dreams come true.

by Lindsay P.

RAPHIA STAFF

Editor John Parry
Contributors Students of Sir Alexander MacKenzie Sr. P.S.
Marilyn Cole

COTERC EXECUTIVE & BOARD

President Peter Silverman
Vice Pres. Tom Mason
Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Brian Henshaw
Directors Malcolm Enright
Derrick Fulton
Bev McMullen
Doug Parker
Sandra Parker
William Rapley
Fiona Reid
Ian Morrison
Marilyn Cole

Membership Ex. Director

Costa Rican Advisors

Yolanda Matamoros, Director
Fundazoo Pro-Zoologicos
Melania Ortiz C., Director
Museo Nacional de C.R.

Honorary Patrons

Sir Charles & Lady MacKerras

Destruction

The wind cried and the animals screamed in terror
as the burning fire tore the leaves off the dying tree.
The birds flew in fear of being killed by the falling trees.
This place which used to be filled with happiness
and laughter is now filled with pain and sorrow.
The trees no longer standing,
The animals no longer playing.

By Anasha S.