

# RAPHIA



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*Raphia is the news letter of Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)*

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## TROPICAL TREAT—ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

by Fran Mason

Tropical Treat was a sell out! Thank you to everybody who made this year's event a success.

Over \$10,000.00 was raised toward the operation and improvement at Caño Palma. It is always difficult to prioritize where the money should go — the dormitory should be remodelled and made larger to accommodate any student or research groups, by adding a second floor which will be dry throughout the rainy season - The boat motors need to be replaced with 2 stroke engines, as part of a Tortuguero Park mandate - The damp plays havoc on all the electrical appliances

and their "life expectancy" is much shorter than in dryer climates. - The washing machine is on its last legs, and we should have a dryer for use in the rainy season when clothes and sheets do not get a chance to dry properly. - Our computer should be replaced—A dissecting scope has also been requested .

As great as the amount raised is, unfortunately the money will not go too far when it is converted into US currency to purchase the item in San Jose, and it is too expensive to ship the items from Canada.

What we need are con-



Tropical Treat Lots of Fun!

tacts in San Jose who could donate or supply the items at cost - but that is another story...

As always we want to recognise all the people and companies that support Tropical Treat. We always have so many comments about the variety of auction items. .

*Continued on Page 5*

## EUCHRE NIGHT IS NEXT EVENT

SET ASIDE FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2003 ON YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE. THE EVENT TAKES PLACE IN PICKERING, ONTARIO AT

PAPP'S RESTAURANT

PICKERING PARKWAY (JUST OFF THE 401 AT BROCK ROAD)

7:00 P.M.

TICKETS ARE \$20.00 PER PERSON AND INCLUDE A LATE BUFFET. THERE WILL BE DOOR PRIZES & A SILENT AUCTION. SO DO COME AND JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN, AND HELP TO RAISE SOME MONEY TOO!

## JOB POSTING—STATION MANAGER CAÑO PALMA BIOLOGICAL STATION

One year renewable contract starting December, 2002 for a Station Manager for Caño Palma Biological Station, located in the lowland rainforest of Tortuguero, Costa Rica. The station is accessible by boat only and the Manager will live in relative isolation, although there is a caretaker who lives on the property. Caño Palma is operated by Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC, a registered non-profit charity in Ontario, Canada. The applicant should be fluent in



The rainforest is a tool of learning.

English and Spanish, and have a sound ecological background. An ability to maintain and repair small engines is important, as well as a working knowledge of small boats and motors.

Student groups are encouraged to visit the station and participate in educational programs prepared and taught by the Manager. Researchers from Universities worldwide use Caño Palma as a base. The Manager will participate in the daily operation of the station including cooking and routine maintenance. A first aid certificate

is preferred. It is very important that the applicant has respect for the local people and maintains good relations with the community. The Manager will be encouraged to aid the community in sustainable development and restoration projects in the region. He/she will act as the local liaison for park, municipal, local authorities and government officials. Regular correspondence and reports to the COTERC office and Board of Directors are expected. Remuneration is \$300 U.S. per month plus room and board and Costa Rican Medical Insurance. Interested applicants should submit a resume to [coterc@interhop.net](mailto:coterc@interhop.net), fax to (905) 831-4203 or mailed to COTERC, Box 335, Pickering,

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

*Our grateful thanks to the following who have donated either items or cash to COTERC:*

*Devins Drive Public School, Aurora, Ontario held a Rainforest Café with proceeds to COTERC. They served punch and cookies made from rainforest plant ingredients*

*Lynn James—keyboard and toaster oven*

*Bay Mills—fiberglass screening*

*Currie Engineering—flagging tape*

*Bernie Gallant—laptop computer*

*Lone Pine Publishing—Field Guide*

*to Costa Rican Birds*

*Claire Muller—Save an Acre program*

*Gorsebrook Junior High Eco Team—Partners in Preservation*

*U. of Chicago Press—Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*



## FIELD TRIP TO CAÑO PALMA

If you have not yet had an opportunity to visit Caño Palma and would like to join an organized field trip, here is your opportunity!

COTERC Vice President Tom Mason is leading a group for a stay of either one or two weeks.

Tom's group will spend one week at Caño Palma Biological station and a second week at Campanario located in the Osa Peninsula. The group will fly from Toronto, but you can join up in San Jose, if you wish.

Space is limited. If you are interested, please contact the COTERC office as soon as possible.

(905) 831-8809

[coterc@interhop.net](mailto:coterc@interhop.net)



## COTERC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

by Josh Feltham

The primary objective of COTERC, aside from conserving rainforests, is to educate the public about rainforests and their conservation. Although it is important to educate people of all ages, educating young people is critical if we wish to make a difference in the future. One venue for this type of programming is the classroom. Reaching students in the classroom with interactive and educational programs focusing on rainforest conservation is an effective way of raising awareness.

The Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum identifies very specific criteria for teachers to meet in the classroom. However, much of

what teachers need to teach students in science can be directly related to rainforest conservation. For example, in Grade 7 students learn all about ecology, food webs, interactions and energy flow through ecosystems. A program that addresses these topics in an interesting and unique way will be effective on several levels. First, teachers will value the program because it covers material they have to address. Second, it relates directly to what students are being exposed to, making the information more meaningful. Finally, it raises awareness and draws direct links between the classroom and the outside world.

COTERC's educational programs involve interactive slide shows that engage students in a discussion. Students are asked questions throughout the lesson that challenge them to teach themselves about rainforests, conservation and ecology. Work sheets left after the lesson help teachers follow up on the material covered during COTERC's visit. The following is a brief outline of programs written for students in grades 2, 4 and 7. Each description specifically identifies the curriculum expectations that will be addressed during the lesson to help teachers assess the value of the program.

*Continued on page 6*

## FIELD TRIP TO COSTA RICA

*(these students sailed from Germany to Costa Rica)*

by Nina, High Seas High School

One of the largest and almost untouched regions of Central America can be found on the Atlantic Coast in northern Costa Rica. The area between the Rio Parismina and the Rio San Juan is covered by a wetland with a lot of channels. It is an ideal living space for an abundance of animals and plants. A natural system of navigable channels runs from the southeast to the northwest through a national park with a unique fauna and flora.

Our trip on these channels started in a little village called Moin. During our journey we saw a lot of

white herons, other water birds and even some monkeys and iguanas. After a four-hour trip we arrived at the Caño Palma Biological Station in the middle of the rainforest. There we were welcomed by Paul Grant, a Canadian and Todd from Great Britain. Our first decision was whether to sleep in the more comfortable log cabins or in one of the tents we had brought along. Katharina and I, as well as seventeen other students,

opted for camping—despite all the warnings about the heavy tropical rain showers and the spiders hanging around everywhere, some of them as large as a man's hand. Todd and Paul suggested that we not put up the tents right under one of the coconut trees, in case one should fall. From the beginning they both tried their best to make our stay as informative and pleasant as possible.

*Continued on page*

*"We opted for camping—  
despite all the warnings about  
heavy rain showers and spiders  
hanging around everywhere"*

## DONATION TO COTERC

The Southern Ontario chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers hosted a very successful conference in the fall of 2001, with delegates traveling from all over the world to

attend. They have very generously donated \$500 to COTERC for its ongoing conservation work from the proceeds of this conference. We want to

take this opportunity to thank the Southern Ontario chapter of AAZK for its ongoing support. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

## TROPICAL TREAT DONORS

Many people contribute to any successful event, and Tropical Treat is no exception. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of those who donated items to the silent and live auctions. We simply could not do it without the wonderful support received. Thank you!!

### Live Auction Donors

In Kind Canada  
King's Court Catering  
Toronto Zoo  
Pogue Consulting Services Inc.  
Arlene Brazeau  
Cacts Hotel  
Tami Kazan  
Derrick Fulton  
Paul Harpley  
Orono Jungle Cat World

### Silent Auction Donors

Jamie Sale & David Pelletier  
CN Tower  
Marilyn Cole  
Cullen Gardens & Miniature Village  
June Enright  
Edwin McKend  
Tom & Fran Mason  
Ontario Power Generation  
Jim & Carol Taylor  
John Mitchell  
Dog Bite Steel  
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Lone Pine Publishing  
Toronto Rock Lacrosse Club  
Pam Evett  
Dollies Unlimited  
Bryan Bridgeman  
Mark & Amanda Stone  
Map Art



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THF Books  
Genisoft  
Peter Silverman & Frances Burton  
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Sir Corp  
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National Hockey League Players' Association  
Dawn Todd  
Warner Home Video  
International Society for Endangered Cats (ISEC)  
Pat Bumstead  
Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
Pennie Mason—Wizard of Vase  
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## TWO NEW MONKEYS FOUND IN AMAZON RAINFOREST

by Cat Lazaroff,  
excerpted from Environment News Service

June 24, 2002 ...

Two never before described species of monkey have been found in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. The scientists responsible for the discovery say there are likely to be other species within the rainforest that are unknown to science, and their existence lends even greater urgency to the race to save one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth.

Conservation International announced today the discovery of two new species of titi monkey in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. The monkeys were described by Marc van Roosmalen, a primatologist at Brazil's National Institute for Amazon Research, his son Tomas van Roosmale and Russell Mittermeier, president of Conservation International and chair of the World Conservation Union Species Survival Commission's primate specialist group.

One of the species, *Callicebus bernhardi*, or Prince Bernhard's titi monkey, is remarkable for its dark orange sideburns, chest and the inner sides of its limbs, its reddish brown back and a white tipped black tail. It lives between the east bank of the Rio Madeira and the lower reaches of its tributary, the Rio Aripuaña.

*Callicebus bernhardi* is named for His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, a noted naturalist who created the Order of the Golden Ark to honour conservationists around the world. Both Marc van Roosmalen and Russell Mittermeier

*Continued from page 4*  
are past recipients of the award

Van Roosmalen presented the discovery to the Prince in a special ceremony at Soetdijk Palace in Holland on June 25, four days before the Prince's 91st birthday. Prince Bernhard received a special portrait of his monkey by Stephen Nash, Conservation International's technical illustrator, who has made major contributions to primate conservation worldwide through his posters and educational materials.

The second new species, *Callicebus stephenashi*, is named after Nash, who works for Conservation International and is based at the Dept. of Anatomical Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



New Primate Species Still Being Discovered

Stephen Nash's titi monkey is silver in colour, with a black forehead and red sideburns, chest and inner sides of limbs. The researchers are not sure where its native habitat lies.

"I am currently using my new discoveries to convince the Brazilian government to create nature reserves in the areas where I have found these species and where others, yet unknown to science, are likely to live," said Marc van Roosmalen. "The Amazon is extremely rich in biodiversity, and these newly discovered creatures should be regarded as flagship species."

Titi monkeys are about the size of a small cat. They live in the dense understory of the South American tropical forests in small family groups of a mated pair and their

offspring. Twenty-eight species, each with unique and colourful fur patterns, are now known to occur in the Amazon basin and the Atlantic forest of eastern Brazil.

An account of the newly discovered titi monkeys appeared in a just released special supplement to the journal "Neotropical Primates".

"Even though our closest living relatives, the primates, have been well studied for the past four decades, we are once again surprised by the discovery of even more species," said Russell Mittermeier. "It proves how much we still need to learn about biological diversity, especially in the tropical rainforests."

Scientists have described 24 monkeys new to science since 1990. Thirteen of these new species are from Brazil.

**RAPHIA** is the official newsletter of Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)  
Editor & co-founder—Marilyn Cole  
Administrator—Fran Mason  
Bookkeeper—Cathy McCartney

**Membership—Hilary Lee**  
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**Tropical Treat**  
(Continued from Page 1)

and this is due to all the people who go out of their way to collect and respond to our requests for items.

Thank you to our volunteers, and the set up and the break down crews, our Master of Ceremonies, Peter Silverman and guest speaker Paul Grant. Also thanks to the peo-



ple who worked during the evening, to manning the bar, auctions, tombola, flags and front desk. The evening could not have run smoothly without you.

A HUGE thank you to Toronto Zoo who donated the Atrium for the event.

Lastly, thanks to everybody who was able to attend the function and

your support through ticket purchases, tombola and auction items while there.

We will hold another event next year — and it is never too early to start asking for auction items. If you are a talented woodworker, or artist or seamstress, or whatever, or if you can obtain a donation from your work, regardless of where you live, you can help out.

**COTERC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS***Continued from Page 3***Grade 2: Animals & Environment**

This program introduces children to some of the fascinating animals of the rainforest. While looking at slides of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects, students will learn about the amazing lives of these creatures. COTERC volunteers will explain the differences between different types of animals and how they meet their needs for survival in the rainforest. Children will learn about the cycles of life in the rainforest and changes that occur on a seasonal basis. Students will also learn about how humans are affecting the lives of these animals.

**Grade 4: Habitat disturbance and Conservation**

The interconnectedness of the natural world is the focus of this lesson. Children learn that their actions have a direct affect on the world around them. They also learn that the natural world has a direct affect on humans. People are a part of nature and their activities affect the natural world positively and negatively. What students will come to understand is that when they damage the natural world, they damage themselves and the lives of others. The slide show illustrates both ecologically sound and unsound practices in rainforests around the world. Issues of deforestation, large-scale farming, amongst others, will be addressed. Students will also have an opportunity to draw parallels with human activities in Canada.

**Grade 7: The Ecological Balance**

Energy flow in ecosystems and the disruption of energy flow is what rainforest conservation is all about. Rainforests are incredibly productive ecosystems where most of the energy in the system is in the form

of living organisms. Students will learn about the differences between this type of system and others where there is either very little energy or where most of the nutrients and potential is in a non-living form.

COTERC volunteers will teach students all about the affect of human activity on the ecological balance.

Each program helps teachers meet the individual curriculum expectations, as follows:

2s1—demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences among various types of animals & the ways in which animals adapt to different environmental conditions

2s3—identify ways in which humans can affect other animals 4s3—describe ways in which humans can change habitats & the effects of these changes on the plants and animals within the habitats 7s3—demonstrate an understanding of the effects of human activities and technological innovations, as well as the effects of changes that take place naturally, on the sustainability of ecosystems.

In addition, these are the basic concepts required by the curriculum:

2s4—identify & describe the major physical characteristics of different types of animals (I.e. mammals, reptiles, insects)  
2s6—classify a variety of animals using observable characteristics  
2s7—compare ways in which animals eat their food  
2s9—compare the life cycles of some animals that have similar life cycles & some that have different life cycles

4s6—demonstrate an understanding of a food chain as a system in which energy from the sun is transferred eventually to animals, construct food chains of different plant

& animal species

7s9—interpret food webs that show the transfer of energy among several food chains, and evaluate the effects of the elimination or weakening of any part of the food web

There is also a requirement to relate science and technology to the world outside the school for each grade level:

2s18—describe features of the environment that support the growth of familiar animals

2s20—describe ways in which humans can help or harm other living things

4s15—describe ways in which humans are dependent on plants & animals

4s16—describe ways in which humans can affect the natural world  
4s18—show the effects on plants & animals of the loss of their natural habitat

4s19—investigate ways in which the extinction of a plant or animal species affects the rest of the natural community and humans

7s18—investigate the impact of the use of technology on the environment

7s21—describe the conditions in an ecosystem that are essential to the growth and reproduction of plants and micro-organisms, and show the connection between these conditions and various aspects of the food supply for humans

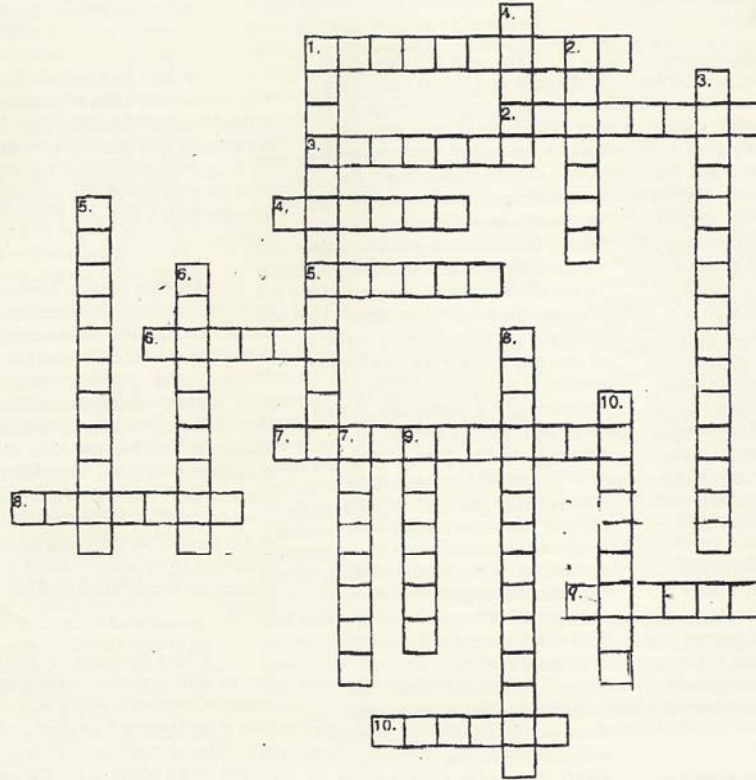
7s23—explain the long-term effects of the loss of natural habitats and the extinction of species

7s24—identify and explain economic, environmental and social factors that should be considered in the management and preservation of habitats.

One can only hope that the new curriculum will generate a new group of informed citizens who will care about the environment, and who will have the knowledge to take measures to preserve it.

# Rainforest Crossword

Answers on Page 10



## Across

1. We are studying \_\_\_\_
2. Top of the tree \_\_\_\_
3. Rainforest is \_\_\_\_ home
4. \_\_\_\_ comes from Rainforest
5. Trees in Rainforest have \_\_\_\_
6. Most of bird live in \_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_ stay all year around
8. Another word for food cycle
9. Living thing
10. Non- living thing

## Down

1. We need trees to control \_\_\_\_
2. Half world \_\_\_\_ live in Rainforest
3. Animal dependence other
4. Rainforest have a lot of \_\_\_\_
5. Decomposers live in \_\_\_\_
6. Another word for Food Web
7. \_\_\_\_ comes from the Rainforest
8. Process make food
9. You can found Rainforest near \_
10. Rainforest has many \_\_\_\_

## WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AT CAÑO PALMA

by Paul Grant

Cano Palma Biological Station, known mainly for its role in rain forest conservation and education, also plays many lesser roles around Cano Palma and Tortuguero. The station staff, in conjunction with the help of locals equipped with an array of boats, routinely remove fallen trees from across the canals and help ensure the water route between Tortuguero and larger towns is kept open. At various times the station has also served as a walk-in medical treatment center for a few local Costa Ricans. However, one of its more interesting roles is that of a wildlife rehabilitation center.

While most of the time it is generally better to just let nature take its course, there have been a few occasions where injured animals were taken in, nursed back to health and released into the wild.

One of the greatest success stories was the re-introduction of a Tiger Heron into the wild. This young Tiger Heron was brought to the station by one of the locals, after it had fallen from a nest overhanging the canal. It had been abandoned and was close to death when he came across it. Indeed, this young juvenile was cold to the touch and fairly lifeless. However, after we wrapped it in towels and dried it with a hair drier, it seemed to recover marginally.

The next few days were a struggle and it was necessary to force feed it fish to keep it going. Each day it grew stronger, and by the end of the first week it was able to walk around the inside of the main house. By the end of the second week it was taking fish by hand and using its wings to fly to a favoured perch on top of the freezer. Chico and Maggie, the two station dogs, were not too sure what to make of this new houseguest, so they tended to be very cautious in its company. In a short time, it was large and healthy enough to intimidate the two dogs. It constantly chased them out of the house, not to mention barring anyone who was not familiar, from entering the house by spreading its wings and attacking with its long pointed beak if they got too close. After a great deal of effort, and a fair number of misses, the Tiger Heron learned how to take dead fish floating in a bucket of water, then graduated to a full bucket with live fish from the canal, which gave it the needed learning opportunity to catch moving prey. The agile, glimmering fish darting around the bucket soon provided the heron with sufficient incentive to start fishing for itself in the station pond. It became a great companion, accompanying me around the station and on fishing trips in the canoe, in order to satiate its boundless appetite.

It steadily grew larger and stronger, began to fly up and roost in treetops at night, and became a ferocious, watch-bird for the station. Slowly, it was given fewer fish and encouraged

to fend for itself in the pond and canals. In time, it became an excellent forager, catching fish, fresh water shrimp and other prey with ease. No longer dependant on handouts, and with its adult plumage coming in, it steadily began to roam farther from the station.

Another station success story was the raising and releasing of a baby, nectar-feeding bat. After many weeks of feeding it milk, followed later with various juices including, sugar-cane juice, it grew strong enough to fly around the enclosed office at night, returning to roost on the back of my shoulder or on a soft cloth that was hung in the office. When it became active enough the doors were left open and it flew off into the night, hopefully adjusting to its environment and becoming an established part of the local fauna.

There have been a few tragedies in which creatures have been too severely injured to survive, such as the case of an Oropendola chick, which fell out of the nest and was brutally attacked by an adult, male Oropendola. However, for the vast majority, the station enjoyed success, including the rehab of a badly wounded caiman, injured humming birds, and various other birds, including the white-crowned parrot raised at the station after its roost tree fell over.

Whereas it is not in our mandate to keep wildlife in captivity, I have no doubt that we will continue to play a minor but vital role in the rehabilitation of wildlife in the Tortuguero area in the future.



**FIELD TRIP TO COSTA RICA***Continued from Page 3*

At 6 p.m. we all met in the main cabin for a typical Costa Rican dinner that consisted of rice, frijoles and chicken fricassee; Immediately after dinner Todd and Paul told us about the dangers we had to expect in a tropical rain forest, what we were supposed to watch out for and our itinerary for the next few days. After that Todd offered a guided night hike through the jungle. During the rainy and muddy tour we saw a white tarantula and lots of different frogs, among other things.

The next morning we set out for the cerro Tortuguero, a hill 360 feet high, from where we enjoyed a breathtaking view over the plain, the channels and the sea. We could even see Nicaragua! The trail started half a mile north of the Tortuga Lodge and was very exhausting, muddy and slippery — something some of us had to find out the hard way — to the amusement of others. We visited a cave full of vampire bats as well, and after that some played Tarzan and Jane swinging on lianas. Before dinner we had free time; some chose to go canoeing; some dared to swim in the sea, despite the strong currents; and some chose to chill out in the pool, in the company of the shouting of the monkeys in the nearby forest.

After dinner Christoph held his short report about poisonous animals in Costa Rica and Ole talked about bats, followed by a feedback meeting with Andreas. Christoph had mentioned that poisonous snakes prefer to hide in sleeping bags or blankets and that caused a somewhat paranoid searching for snakes before bedtime every night. Later that evening Paul brought out two large boas and a tarantula from their cages. Having overcome our initial skepticism, we could even let the tarantula walk over our hands and hold the boas.

The following day a hiking tour through the rainforest was on the agenda. Paul showed us an abundance of plants and animals and lots of small poison arrow frogs. The whole trail was flooded and muddy because it had rained very hard the previous night. Sometimes we were stuck up to our hips in the mud. After two hours we returned completely soaked and dirty, but in good spirits. In the afternoon Paul and Todd showed us some of the animals that they keep in terrariums at the station. The comical highlight of this afternoon was when a large tarantula urinated on Sascha's t-shirt and everybody roared with laughter. Everybody's

darling was a red-eyed tree frog. You simply wanted to hold it in your hand — this funny, clumsy thing with its tiny suction cap fingers.

Unfortunately, our last evening had come and after dinner we presented two Thor Heyerdahl cards and two t-shirts to Todd and Paul for their friendly care. In return they gave us a bottle of Costa Rican rum as a present. Todd invited us for one last nightly hike and Paul and some students went to a local cantina to celebrate the last evening. There we danced to merengue music and mingled with the local Tortugueros. But the night was not over yet. Todd and Paul and some students sailed once more on the canal and Paul tried to catch some caiman. Back at the station we enjoyed home-made caramel pudding.

The next day everybody agreed that we had spent four incredibly informative, impressive and funny days at Caño Palma Biological Station.

*Editor's Note: It is STRONGLY recommended that no one swims in the Caribbean anywhere near the station or Tortuguero. Undercurrents and riptides take tourists every year who think they can handle it.*

**A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

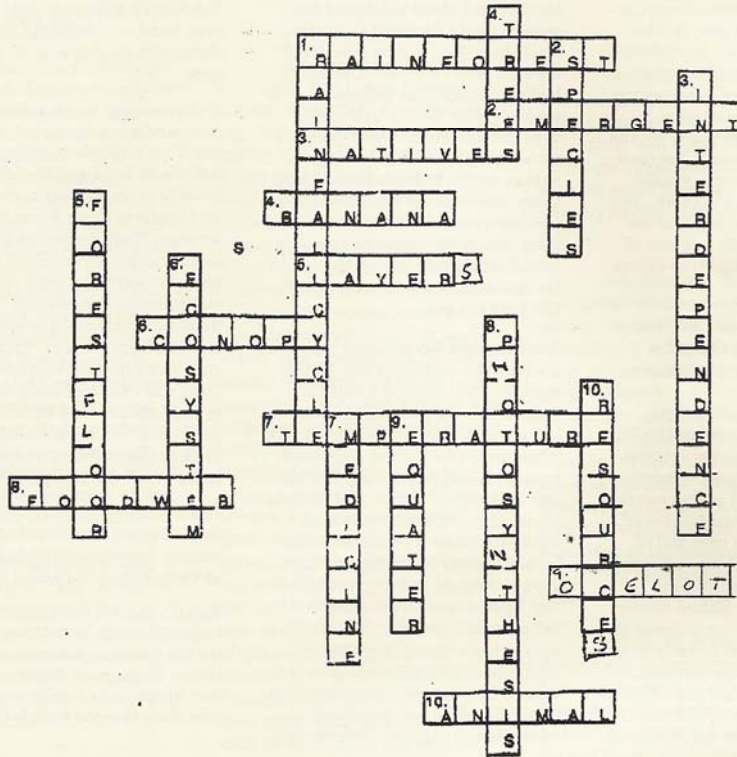
Do you have someone on your Christmas list who is hard to shop for? How about a certificate for our **Partners in Preservation** program?

For as little as \$20, you can help to preserve the habitat of many rainforest creatures.

**OR** you can contribute to our **Save An Acre** project to purchase additional rainforest.

Check out our website for more details, or contact the COTERC office for a brochure.

# Answer to Crossword



**HELP SUPPORT OUR  
CONSERVATION GOALS  
BUY A T-SHIRT!**

The original shirt features the COTERC logo in 100% cotton. Size Large only - Ash grey colour with green logo \$ 15.00 each

Our Caño Palma shirt features an original



CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR TROPICAL EDUCATION AND RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

design by Joan Watson printed in six colours on a white shirt. Size Large only \$18.00 each



Yes, I want to order ( ) COTERC logo shirt(s) @ \$15.00 and/or ( ) Caño Palma logo shirt(s) @ \$18.00. Please add \$6.00 shipping charge for first shirt and \$3.00 for each additional shirt

Total value of order \$  
Plus Shipping \$  
Total \$

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....  
Visa/Master Card #.....  
Expiry date.....  
Signature.....

**CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR  
TROPICAL EDUCATION AND  
RAINFOREST CONSERVATION**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**JOIN US AND HELP SUPPORT OUR  
CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Senior/Student ( ) \$15  
Individual ( ) \$25  
School Class ( ) \$25  
Family ( ) \$35  
International ( ) \$50  
Corporate ( ) \$100

Donation\* ( ) \$.....

Total \$.....

\*tax receipt available in Canada

(Please print)

Name.....  
.....  
Apt/Box.....  
Street.....  
City.....  
Province/State.....  
Postal/Zip Code.....  
Country.....

Visa/Master Card.....  
Expiry date.....  
Signature.....

Please return cheque & completed form to:

COTERC  
Box 335  
Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R6  
Canada

e-mail [coterc@interhop](mailto:coterc@interhop)

Visit our website

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Another year has flown past, but not without a few ups and downs.

We said good by to Paul Grant as station Manager, who returned to Victoria, to return to school. Paul worked very closely with the local community in Tortuguero and maintained a high level of respect for Caño Palma and its programs and goals. Daryl Loth, a Canadian who was one of our earlier Managers is now a long time resident in the village of Tortuguero and is the COTERC voice in all community matters. Mario Gomez, Daryl's uncle in law is our station caretaker and an expert in local medicinal plants. Mario maintains the station, and oversees it if we are looking for a Manager.

Ernie and Laurie Clarke arrived as Station Managers in early August and due to personal problems left the station and returned to the US in September. Hence the Manager job posting included in this issue. Currently a British Researcher Todd Lewis is working at the station for 3 months as part of a 4 year study on the World Amphibian Decline.

The station has a new bodega ( educational kiosk) which looks very smart as well as being functional. Todd reported seeing an ocelot and lots of peccary tracks around the station as well as an eyelash viper. A caiman visited our pond at the station - and Todd thinks ate some of his specimens. The winter rains have not yet started to flood.

Tom Mason and Josh Feltham, two directors, escorted educational trips to Caño Palma last Spring. Bunker Hill Community College and High Seas School from Germany were just a couple of the school groups to visit the station this year.

I would like to invite to you to become involved with COTERC. Josh Feltham has rewritten our education program, and copies are available at a nominal cost for use in school programs. He has a report on the program in this issue.

The Board is currently working on rewriting a shorter version of the COTERC Masterplan. Once completed we will send all members a copy.

On behalf of all of the Board of Directors we wish you all a very happy holiday season and thank you for your support in the past year.

## BOOKS TO READ

*The Laughing Falcon*

by William Deverell

This book was recently recommended to me by Pat Bumstead, and I am passing along the recommendation to those of you who enjoy a good mystery. William Deverell is a Canadian who spends his winters in Costa Rica and sets this particular novel in that country. To those of you who have visited San Jose, Quepos and Manuel Antonio, you will enjoy his descriptions of the places and people he meets there. You may even recognize a few!



*The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*

By Jay M. Savage, University of Chicago Press, 2002

COTERC members are being offered a 10% discount off the price of \$75.00 for this in-depth treatment of each of the 396 species of amphibians and reptiles that may be found in Costa Rica. Each species entry synthesizes and analyzes everything that is known about the animal's anatomy, behaviour, geographic distribution, systematics and evolutionary

history and provides keys for identifying amphibians and reptiles in the field. In addition to distribution maps and systematic and morphological illustrations, the book includes colour photographs of almost every known species.

This is a must for every serious herpetologist.

If you would like to order a copy and take advantage of the COTERC discount, please contact our office.

*We're on the Web!*  
[www.coterc.org](http://www.coterc.org)