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CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR TROPICAL
EDUCATION AND RAINFOREST CONSERVATIONCANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR TROPICAL EDUCATION &
RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

RAPPHIA

Fiesta Verde is back! After an absence of a year or so we decided to return to having this as our major fundraising event.

As in the past we held it in the Atrium at the Toronto Zoo. We thank the zoo for providing us with this venue.

About 130 members, supporters and invited guests were in attendance. The atmosphere was truly festive. We held to, and also broke with tradition in how events throughout the evening unfolded. As in the past we ran a silent auction as well as a live one. We added a \$10 per item table as a new feature. This took care of all the surplus donations which didn't make it into the silent auction. We had the regular

share-the-wealth raffle as well as a bucket raffle. The bucket raffle featured several items from Costa Rica. Other items were animal related in design. Adjacent was a display of jewellery for sale made by Samuel, an artisan from the Cano Palma area. These were mostly earrings and necklaces.

We had an extensive display of prints available for purchase, all of various animals. These prints were from originals painted by John Lenard, a very skilled local artist.

John is a keeper at the Toronto Zoo and brought with him one of the zoo's spectacled owls. Guests had the experience of being up close to this very well behaved bird. Spectacled owls

can be seen in and around the Cano Palma area. A group of us who went down last October were fortunate to see a pair of them while at the Turtle Beach Lodge. We first heard them calling to each other in the trees near our rooms.

John donates a portion of his sales to COTERC. We thank him for this and for the visiting owl. Luna, the owl was a surprise and a welcome attendee.

Anyone visiting the station returns home with vivid memories of the flora and fauna, especially of butterflies. Who can forget blue morphos flitting through the trees? Bev Carter and Kara Besson were both in the group visiting last October. Between them they created



FIESTA VERDE (continued)



Costa Rican Sales Table



Some of John Lenard's Prints



Silent Auction Item



Sandi Burden, Hillary Lee, Brandon Roy at the front desk



Jim Taylor & June Enright



Luna & Marilyn Cole



Chef Vito



Student-made Raku Caiman



The Mason Family



Dr. Suzanne MacDonald and Bev Carter



COTERC Chair Shawn Blackburn modelling live auction item outback coat

FIESTA VERDE (Continued)

butterflies, all native to Costa Rica. Made from wood, painted both sides, they were hung in the Atrium, adding considerable ambience to this area. These were for sale and proceeds were donated to COTERC. A few are still available and are quite beautiful. Bev (a current director) also made and donated several sun catchers. A big thank you to both ladies for their artistry and generosity.

We managed to give a festive and green look to the Atrium by decorating the pillars as if they had vines growing up them. This work was handled by Dan Kunanec and his students from Don Mills Collegiate Institute. Students not only helped with setting up tables, decorating the Atrium and rolling up fact sheets into scrolls, they more importantly created the raku caiman placed on each dining table.

Dan's title is Teacher and Head of Technological Studies. The specific course taken by these Grade 11 and Grade 12 students is Green Industries and Technological Design, which Dan teaches. Before creating their own interpretations of a caiman in the raku art form, students had to do their own research into spectacled caiman specifically, and Costa Rica in general, including indigenous cultures and rainforests.

What was truly impressive was that these students were making pottery for the very first time.

Each student created their own spectacled caiman. The caiman

were all unique. As well as the raku caiman, they created an almost two metre one in papier mache. This one lurked in the foliage, staying so well camouflaged few people noticed it. It will make its appearance at future events.

The caiman were also for sale with proceeds going to COTERC. We have a few left, if anyone is interested in purchasing one please contact us. These may reappear at future events, such as our next Euchre evening.

Dan is the brother of Susan Kunanec, a current director. Susan ran the bucket raffle and jewellery sale. Thank you to Susan and an even bigger thank you to her brother and his students.

Caiman Capers was the name we gave to this year's Fiesta Verde event, the caiman being the featured animal for 2013. Not only did we have the wonderful raku pottery from the students we also had a spectacled caiman cake made by Lauren Ogle a zoo employee who donated her time and imagination in creating this great looking cake. Thank you Lauren. Jim Taylor (a current director) created our caiman capers poster.

In the early part of the evening we had music from Central and South America playing in the background, compiled by Bev. We also had a visual presentation of photos taken on the last October trip. Later we had a presentation by Jim Taylor featuring the Mason family. We were honouring the contribution the entire family

has made over the past several years. The boat dock at Cano Palma is being named the Mason Family Dock, and Samuel the afore mentioned artisan is making the plaque to be placed on the dock.

Shawn, our intrepid chairman, was master of ceremonies and kept things clipping along. He and Jim Taylor handled the live auction, Jim as auctioneer and Shawn as model. The irrepressible Blue Enright also contributed an impassioned expression of friendship and commitment to Tom Mason and to our organization.

The success of the evening was largely based on our caterer. Everyone commented on how good the food was. We broke with the tradition of a sit down dinner. We intended to have it "tapas" style with the four corners of the Atrium having food "stations". We sold so many tickets we didn't have the space available to do this, so we compromised and had it as a buffet.

Vito, our chef, was a tremendous asset in making this evening a success. He was a joy to work with, full of presentation ideas, food choices, bar suggestions, affability etc. He even suggested the pale yellow table covers and lime green napkins. We added the scrolled fact sheets. Plus he added so much to our live auction in offering up his services, not just once, but twice in providing himself as an in house chef.

FIESTA VERDE (Part Three)

A very, very big thank you to Chef Vito.

Vito Clemente. Sage and Savory Culinary Solutions
T 647 404 4166, 905 329 2830

As always we had several willing volunteers helping out at this event. Where would we be without them? Thank you to one and all.

This event was primarily coordinated by our current board. We had minor glitches, all correctable. We did reach our objective of being able to donate funds to our boating equipment needs at Cano Palma.

Come and check us out next year. No doubt Vito will be back.

Thanks to

Elaine Christens for initially finding Vito our chef and liaising with him in the weeks prior to the event...

Blue Enright for not only picking up our refreshments but for also returning what we didn't consume for a refund.

Sandi Burden and Kara Besson for helping Bev and Annette transport auction items from our storage facility to the zoo on the Friday before Fiesta Verde. They also stayed on at the zoo throughout the afternoon to help Dan and his students decorate the Atrium.

Marilyn Cole, Daphne Pasterzko and Jeremy Leath for setting up and running the silent auction. An additional thank you to Marilyn for the table covers used on the various sales tables., and soliciting and keeping track of auction items.

Joanne Pink and Pat Kunanec for helping Susan set up the Cano Palma jewellery display and the Bucket raffle. Both ladies continued to help Susan with sales throughout the evening including selling caiman.

Andrea Beatson for helping Annette with the \$10 table set up and sales as well as assisting John with his art sales (while he handled Luna the owl)

Wendy Hunter for handling the refreshment ticket sales and helping out in general.

Kara Besson at the butterfly sales station.

George Banavage for running the 50/50 raffle.

Lauren Ogle for donating her time and creative skills in making our caiman cake.

June, Tom, Blue, Fran and anyone else who helped behind the bar.

A specific thank you to **Tom Mason** for being the top ticket seller.

Thank you to the front desk team of **Hilary Lee, Sandi Burden and Brandon Roy**.

And lastly, a huge thank you to Toronto Zoo for their ongoing support and allowing us to use the Atrium once again for Fiesta Verde.

The biggest thank you of all goes to my fellow board members. This was a collaborative effort.



Annette Simms

Annette Simms

NEW MARKETING DIRECTOR

At the recent COTERC Annual General Meeting, we elected a new member to the Board of Directors. The vacant position of Director of Marketing has been filled by Darryl Swain. Darryl brings years of experience to COTERC, and is currently in charge of marketing at Toronto Zoo.



Darryl lives in Port Perry and we're very excited to have him join the Board. We look forward to working with him in the future.

Welcome, Darryl!

CANO PALMA REPORT

by Charlotte Foale

Turtle season is in full swing, but many will be pleased to hear that that's not all that's been going on!

We were thrilled in May, to play host to a group from Shawnee State University in Ohio. This is the second of what we hope will be many visits to come. This year the supervising professors were a pair of entomologists, and in their free time, they set about listing local species with a view to conducting their own study in future years. They will be providing us with a species list from the trip, which will be made available on our website.

The Shawnee Bears provided a tremendous boost to beach patrols, as well as helping with primate, bat, caiman, mammal and bird surveys and providing muscle for the beach cleans. With their help, we've collected approximately 400kg of rubbish from just 5/8 of a mile of beach.

Determined to make the beach clean serve as more than just a band-aid, we're monitoring the quantity of rubbish we remove, and using this information in presentations to tourists at Turtle Beach Lodge and Vista El Mar, to try and bring attention to the amount of waste we generate on a daily basis, and the damage it can cause. In addition to this information, we have been providing the hotels with multi-lingual presentations on epiphytes, cane toads, otters, bats and of course, turtles.

We have been very fortunate to have two independent researchers on base whose focus has very much been in the jungle. Hanah Al-Samaraie has been studying tent-making bats. Joining us from [Edinburgh Napier Univer-](#)

[sity](#), she is investigating whether or not there is a correlation between tent occupancy and the distribution of tent-making bats, and precipitation.

Nicolas Vanlangendonk is currently studying at the University of Kent, and

has been looking at the effects of anthropogenic pressures on the three monkey species that live in the area. He collects early morning samples of monkey feces, and preserves them for later analysis in a lab in San Jose. Needless to say, volunteers have been queuing up to join Hanah's surveys, while Nicolas has largely been surveying alone.

We're looking forward to seeing more of you here as we head into the madness that is the green turtle season!

"We are very fortunate to have two independent researchers on base"

FIESTA VERDE PHOTOS

Continued



The first station manager Greg Mayne & Friend



Director Bev Carter



Blue
Enright



Toby Styles & Kathy Parker



Special Caiman Cake



Chef Vito
Shawn Blackburn
George Banagas



Volunteers Jeremy Leath
& Daphne Pasterzko



Tom Mason



Barry & Colette McKee



WANTED: DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to take an active role in sea turtle conservation?

Volunteers are needed to help with the Sea Turtle Monitoring Project at the Cano Palma Biological Station in Costa Rica.

Volunteers will assist with gathering data on nesting turtles, performing excavations of turtle nests to determine hatching and nest success, and deterring poachers by maintaining a presence on Playa Norte

PLEASE APPLY IF YOU CAN:

Walk up to 15 miles per day

Live in a communal setting with shared responsibility

Foster a positive attitude toward hard work and conservation

Commit to a minimum of 10 days

Reasonably priced package includes training, rustic housing, three meals a day, wi-fi, use of Kayaks and Jungle Trails

TO APPLY, EMAIL station@coterc.org TODAY!

COTERC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COTERC's Annual General Meeting was held on May 12 in the Atrium of Toronto Zoo. These are the highlights:

1. Now that we have a full Board of Directors at ten, we meet the requirements for legal recognition in Costa Rica. Darryl Swain has been elected to the vacant position of Director of Marketing.
2. The new website for both COTERC and Cano Palma are up and running, so that the charity and the station have distinct presences that are linked together.
3. Raphia has again been on track after a brief hiatus in 2011 and early 2012 and will continue to be edited by Vice Chair Marilyn Cole. She has also formed a committee to review the by-laws and to present any proposed changes at the 2014 AGM.
4. The Director of Education Nia Gibson has developed lesson plans for use in Costa Rica schools and is developing high school lesson plans with volunteers in Canada.
5. Director of Special Events Annette Simms reported that COTERC has held euchre events, set up a booth at fall Reptile shows, and held a very successful Fiesta Verde in the spring. A presentation to Toronto Zoo volunteers was given by Bev Carter, telling them about her recent visit to Cano Palma Biological Station.
6. The Director of Finance Brandon Roy only joined the Board in December, and is spending time getting acquainted with COTERC, reviewing the current processes and found weaknesses that can be fixed.

7. Tom Mason, Director of Sites Services thanked station manager Charlotte Foale for getting Cano Palma to such a stable level both financially and with regard to infrastructure. Tom visited the station twice this year and reports that the main buildings are in good shape. He has been working with Charlotte to purchase new boats and a new, more reliable motor and will discuss using some funding to install new electricity infrastructure. MINAET (the Costa Rican government authority) have re-defined their policies and the station and staff are ensuring that they are working within the boundaries of these policies. MINAET have recently had a more frequent physical presence at the station.
8. Dr. Kym Snarr, Director of Research and Conservation, gave a lengthy report on her extensive portfolio, including managing the Donner Foundation funding, interviewing and the hiring of the Station Manager and Research Coordinator and maintaining weekly Skype communication with them and assisting with the interview process for the York University internship candidates. She worked with the new Research Coordinator to establish feasible projects for students from various institutions. She is also following up on obtaining early published research data that were not provided by former visitors to the station. She was also involved in the early stages of the revamping of the websites and Facebook, including development of station manager historical information. She also worked with Membership Director Jim Taylor in the donation of computer equipment for both the station and the school in San Francisco.
9. Jim Taylor, Director of Membership reported that the current membership base is 445 with 186 paid-up members. Of this number, only 47 reside in Ontario. The method of communicating in bulk emails has improved but the database is bulky and he has requested assistance in the management of this data-base. The newsletter Raphia is also being distributed electronically now, thus cutting down on our paper usage and postage. Jim has also been categorizing the photo archives, and requests all members to submit their photos from their visits to the station. He would like to see another Board member take over the volunteer recruitment aspect of his portfolio.
10. Bev Carter, Director at Large, visited Cano Palma in the fall of 2012, and aided the Director of Special Events in organizing Fiesta Verde.
11. Susan Kunanec, Director at Large, visited Cano Palma twice and transported many items from Canada (kitchen supplies, scientific equipment, new fact sheets) to the station. She aided the Director of Special Events in organizing Fiesta Verde.
12. Station Manager Charlotte Foale gave an update on happenings at Cano Palma via Skype.
13. The Chair stated that there was one Board position up to renewal. By unanimous vote Dr. Kym Snarr was re-elected to the position of Director of Research and Conservation for another two-year period. All other board positions have not expired. In 2014 elections will include positions for Vice Chair, Director of Site Services, Director of Education, Director of Special Events, Director of Membership, Director at Large and Director at Large. The Chair will be elected by membership. Anyone who is interested in standing for nomination should communicate with the Chair at chair@coterc.org in advance of the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The Chair raised several points that he wishes to address in the coming year and there were a number of comments and suggestions from the membership.

“Dr. Snarr gave a lengthy report on her extensive portfolio”

The meeting officially ended at 8:45 p.m.



BEACH CLEAN-UP



HANAH AL-SAMAROEIE, Edinburgh Napier University and her study subject, tent-making bats (known as the Bat Girl)



Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation

Membership Application Form

This is a request for: NEW Member: _____ Membership Renewal: _____ *Date:* _____

Membership Type: Individual\$25: _____ Student/Senior:\$20 _____ Family: \$40_____ Corporate \$100_____

Surname: _____ Given Name: _____ Initial: _____

As a member of COTERC a copy of our quarterly newsletter “*Raphia*” will be sent to your primary E-Mail address unless you check one of the following options.

- Do not E-Mail the newsletter to me. Please send a hard copy to my Mailing Address
- I do not wish to receive the “*Raphia*” newsletter

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street: _____ Apt: _____

Town/City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal Code _____

Cheque, payable to CO-TERC	Credit Card	No. Expiry Date	Cash		
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Persons visiting a COTERC station who have not previously arranged membership can pay in cash directly to the Station Manager.

Please mail form to Box 335, Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R6, Canada

Recently we said a very sad goodbye to our Research Coordinator Aidan Hulatt.

GOODBYE TO RESEARCH COORDINATOR AIDEN HULATT

Aidan has been a rock over the past year, bringing exactly the skill-set we needed for this new position at the station. He has provided sound advice and support for students and researchers (and station managers!) alike, as well as conducting his own lichen study, and showing an aptitude for fixing, building and painting.

Our databases have been overhauled, training for our surveys and survey effort itself, brought up to a new level. Aidan's tireless efforts and positive attitude have meant that we've been able to expand our long-term research projects, as well as make a significant number of base improvements.

It's been a privilege and pleasure to work alongside him, and we cannot thank him enough for his contribution here. We wish him the very best for his future, and hope to see him here again in the not too distant future.



We're on the web!
www.coterc.org

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert Murphy
Dr. Fiona Reid
Dr. Peter Silverman, Order of Ontario
Dr. Wm. Rapley

Raphia Editor & COTERC
Co-founder *Marilyn Cole*

SITE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tom Mason
Bryan Bridgeman
Malcolm Enright
Dr. Kimberley Snarr
Jim Taylor
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The High Frontier: Exploring the Tropical Rainforest Canopy

(ISBN 10: [0674390393](#) / ISBN 13: [9780674390393](#))

by [Mark Moffett](#)

Loaded with aerial plants and the millions of creatures dependent upon them, tropical tree crowns are the last and greatest ecological frontier. Hundreds of species - earthworms, frogs, lichens, flowers - never descend to earth during their lifetimes. Eight out of ten remain unnamed and unclassified by science. Donning rock-climbing gear to join researchers working 150 feet and more above the ground, Mark Moffett photographed strangler trees in Borneo, giant squirrels in India, and canopy bears in Colombia. He also entered the terrifying world of arboreal spiders and ants, photographing them under extreme magnification. Described as a world-roving zoologist by National Geographic magazine, Moffett has documented virtually every major active canopy research site. The immediacy of his writing and the intelligence of his photography make the canopy's fantastic architecture and unearthly inhabitants accessible to the general reader. In the tradition of the great 19th-century explorers, he captures the struggles of the individual scientists and the passions that enable them to brave perilous situations in pursuit of their work.