



The Hum...

Las Galarías Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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Señor Tim's Tales by Tim Krynak, President

We recently returned from another wonderful and productive visit to Reserva Las Galarías. We participated in the Christmas Bird Count, set up nets at the bird banding station, attended a Christmas fiesta at Escuela Rio Tumbez, held a board meeting for LGF, spent many hours on trails at night looking for amphibians, met with individuals at the Católica University in Quito to discuss amphibian conservation in Ecuador, and met some wonderful people along the way. It was a busy week, but we would not have it any other way.

One depressing sight we encountered as we approached the reserve was that a chunk of forest adjacent to the Reserve was cut. Jane warned me that this

was happening but seeing it first hand gives you a sinking feeling inside. We are trying so hard to protect the forest and to see deforestation right next door is difficult. On the other hand, it is always great to see the progress/growth of the countless trees transplanted in the deforested areas of the Reserve.

There is a great concern for this entire ecosystem in the threat of climate change due to global warming. As temperatures rise, many of the species that call these valleys and mountains home could possibly disappear. This has already been seen in amphibian populations around the world.

Our mission is urgent and difficult, but what encourages

me and keeps me motivated is all the individuals that I have met, and some that I haven't, that have the desire to do their part in conservation too.

As we move into the New Year, we want to thank everyone that has volunteered, contributed, and shared our mission with others.



Deforestation adjacent to Reserva Las Galarías

FOUNDATION UPDATE BY TIM AND KATHERINE KRYNAK

What a year! 2006 went out with a bang. We have raised close to \$14,000 towards the Santa Rosa River Valley parcel!

In October, a fundraising event was held called "Flippers n' Frogs, Wings n' Suds" sponsored by the Cleveland Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). For this fundraising event Jane Lyons donated a stay on Reserva Las Galarías for 5 days and 5 nights to be raffled off. Over 100 tickets were sold at \$10 each for the chance to win this amazing

prize. A young woman from Akron Ohio was the lucky winner. This event brought in an additional \$750 moving us closer to our goal of purchasing this parcel which will protect the entire watershed of the Santa Rosa River Valley.

So with the proceeds from this AAZK sponsored event, we raised \$1750! What is even more fantastic than that is the AAZK donated another \$1250 to make a total of \$2700! We would like to thank everyone that helped make this so successful!

Best of all we just found out that Las Galarías Foundation Inc. has received federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status!

Donations are tax deductible!



Green Violetear hummingbird

Calendar of Events

- February 8, 2007 Animal Attractions, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, LGF display
- April 11, 2007 Cleveland Museum of Natural History Brown Bag Lecture Series
- April 18, 2007 Director's Dinner Series, Cleveland Zoological Society
- April 26, 2007 Tails and Cocktails Series, Cleveland Zoological Society
- April 27 - 28, 2007 North Coast Nature Festival, Rocky River Nature Center
- May 12, 2007 Kirtlandian Society Meeting, LGF Display

Conservation Corner by Katherine Krynak

value in the unknown

On our last trip to Reserva Las Gralarias Tim and I continued the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo sponsored amphibian survey. It was on this trip that we came across a couple species that the experts have said could possibly be undescribed to science. Even the thought of this possibility is so exciting, but the truth is that new species are discovered everyday. With each of these discoveries new knowledge is gained.



Unknown Eleutherodactylus

Recently I've been conducting numerous programs about the Global Amphibian Crisis, trying to explain why people should care about the rapid extinction of this class of animals. I display photos of gastric brooding frogs that had the ability to turn off their digestive juices in order to raise their tadpoles into tiny frogs inside their stomachs. What amazing medical discoveries could have been gained with such a

model! I talk about how substances isolated from amphibian skin have been shown to completely inhibit the growth of HIV, and that there is a frog in Ecuador whose skin produces a substance that can be used like morphine, without the side effects. I tell them how amphibians warn us of problems in our environment and I remind them of how the frog has been revered as a symbol of rebirth and life, of good luck, and the symbol for conservation in many cultures throughout the world. I have tried to impress upon them that it is the uncertainties and unknowns that are of the most value to us. If saving these species for the sake of biodiversity is not enough, think of the invaluable knowledge that is at risk of extinction.

It is through the work of individuals like Jane Lyons that we have the opportunity to discover the undiscovered and learn the "value" within, beyond our wildest dreams.

Jane's journey has brought her to Ecuador and she has given us all an invaluable gift of preserving the unknowns. The "us" I refer to isn't just those of us who have hiked her trails searching for frogs, banding birds, and attracting moths. She has preserved this land for all it contains, everyone who visits its enchanting beauty, and for everyone who may

never see it with their eyes, but know in their hearts that this magical place has been forever preserved. With time we can learn of the unknown treasures it contains. From the most micro of moths, and the puma that grace the trails with a royal power, to the bellflowers that smell like honey to the bats that roam the skies at night, they all have secrets to tell and it is thanks to Jane that they will have the chance.



Santa Rosa River

We have about \$21,000 additional dollars to raise before we can make an offer for the land of the Santa Rosa River Valley. Just think of the possibilities that lie within. I am sure that it is of more value than we will ever know.

Board Bio: Katherine Krynak

Your Chance to meet and learn a little about one of our board members



Katherine Krynak grew up in the Cincinnati area of Ohio, but moved to Cleveland six years ago to pursue her career as an amphibian keeper at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Her background includes a BS from the University of Cincinnati in both Biology and Environmental Science, undergraduate work with reptiles of the Mojave Desert, fieldwork and educational programs for Project Golden Frog in Panama and in the States, and she is always looking for ways to get people excited about the "cold and slimeys". Her other interests include paddling, hiking, wildlife art, and recently...birding of course. She also spends a great deal

of time caring for her animals at home including her step puppy Caesar, two kitties Shelby and Timber, desert iguana, water dragon, many fish, newts, frogs, toads, salamanders, a dove named Chicken, as well as the family bats: Henryetta, Stinky, and BB. She has completely fallen in love with Ecuador after just her first visit (right after falling in love with her now husband Tim) and looks forward to surveying the amphibians of the reserve as well as helping with the other exciting ongoing work. Kathy and Tim were just married this past September and the newlyweds couldn't be more excited about the future of LGF.



Kathy removing a Russet-crowned Warbler from the mist net

Wisps from the Cloud Forest

by Jane A. Lyons



Classic Cloud Forest

The past trimester has brought us a number of visiting researchers and volunteers. In October 2006 University of Washington doctoral student Melanie Colon added one new bird species to the reserve, a Red-headed Barbet seen at the lower end of Puma Trail, plus a nest of Smoky-brown Woodpecker with nestlings heard inside. In November German moth researcher Volker Pelz returned to Reserva Las Gralarias to continue his work on the micro-moth family *Tortricidae*, finding over 450 individuals in three nights. According to Volker this was the highest count he had ever recorded at any site in the Andes or Amazonia. No doubt there will be some interesting results from his analysis. In December Tim and Kathy Krynak from Ohio spent a week banding birds and searching for frogs at the reserve (even finding 3 probable new



Dendropsophus carnifex

species of frogs!). The frog surveys are generously supported by the Cleveland Zoo as part of their efforts to address the global amphibian crisis. In December Dr. Carl Gerhardt from the University of Missouri and author of the book *Acoustic Communication in Insects and Anurans* plus his two assistants studied the vocalizations of certain species of frogs found at the reserve, while Dr. Lilach Hadany and Dr. Tuvick Beker from the University of Iowa studied one of nature's fanciest hummingbirds, the Violet-tailed Sylph. We look forward to hearing the results of all these efforts.

Also in November we inaugurated the new guest house. We now have a total of 5 double rooms for guests plus rooms for guides, drivers and workers. We have been heavily booked with many guests, even from as far away as Auckland, New Zealand. In January we hosted noted wildlife artists John Lofgreen and Gary Lyon from Alaska, as well as birding groups from Canada, the U.K. and the U.S.A. The income from the guest houses currently covers about 85% of the ongoing maintenance expenses of the reserve.



New Guest House

On 16 December we held our annual Christmas Bird Count on the reserve. With 8 volunteers working in 3 teams, we managed a cumulative effort of 25 hours and 9.9 kilometers of trails hiked. Results were 124 species recorded, including 14 species of hummingbirds, 11 species of ovenbirds, 18 species of flycatchers and 19 species of tanagers!!! Other highlights were 1 immature Black-and-chestnut Eagle flying at eye level over Nunbird Ridge Trail, 3 Orange-breasted Fruiteater seen on Parrot Hill Trail, including a stunning male, plus 2 more heard on the Lower Trail, 4 Scaled Fruiteater, plus a new species for the reserve found by Alaska native Lureta Whitewing – an Olive-sided Flycatcher (which could have actually come from Lureta's backyard in Alaska!). We celebrated at the end of the count with champagne and pizza and chocolate cake. ☺ Thanks to Tim and Kathy Krynak from Ohio, Ruby Apsler from Oregon, Frank Bills and Sharon Bostick from Tennessee, Lureta Whitewing from Alaska, Edison Buenaño from Quito, and Mike Dobbings from North Carolina.

Another important species was added to our reserve list on 19 January 2007 when a Cerulean Warbler was spotted along Entry Trail. There are only a handful of records on the west slope of this rare and declining northern migratory species, and we are delighted to be able to help in its conservation.

Other interesting bird news includes regularly seen White-faced Nunbird at the top of Puma Trail, Beautiful Jay, and Oilbird, periodic views of Mottled Owl at the guest house, and a new territory of Orange-breasted Fruiteater on the upper trails.



Powerful Woodpecker

* Visit www.lasgralariasfoundation.org to view the trail map of RLG

Los Exploradores by Tim Krynak

We have made two visits to Escuela Rio Tumbes since the last update. During the first visit, Ed Krynak, Jo Ann Kubicki and I, delivered numerous donated items including books, magnifying glasses, school supplies and more. We had a wonderful bird walk and the children are now teaching me the birds of the school grounds. Pretty cool!



Crimson-rumped Toucanet often seen in the schoolyard.

The next visit, Kathy and I were invited to

their Christmas celebration. It was a great experience as we watched skits, listened to some wonderful Christmas carols, and listened to a minister remind everyone that money is not the most important thing in the world, but family is much more valuable.

The most rewarding part of these visits is seeing the children excited to spend some time with us learning about nature. As we were walking back to the reserve, a truck passed with many of the students in the truck's bed. As they passed, a young man waved and yelled "Hasta Luego Sr. Tim."

We are looking forward to our next visit as we promised them another bird walk!



Some of the school children at the Christmas Celebration

Everyone can help save the cloud forest! Here's How!!!!

What if someone offered to pay you one cent, then double each amount daily for thirty days. It does not sound like much, but if you do the math in 30 days you would be paid almost 5.4 million dollars. It adds up fast! Every donation, no matter the size, together adds up quickly. We are looking to raise \$21,000 as soon as possible to purchase the Santa Rosa River Valley parcel. We are looking at donor's to sponsor one acre of cloud forest for \$280 and looking for individuals to match donations. At \$280 we just need 75 individuals to accomplish this goal. You can count on Kathy and I, so now only 73 more individuals are needed! Even if you can't sponsor an entire acre, any donation is greatly appreciated and they add up fast. If you have donated before we sure could use your help again. We are so close...

We have just received the good news from the IRS that our tax exempt application has been approved! We are officially a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations for this project are tax deductible!



The clean cool water of the Santa Rosa River

The Santa Rosa River Valley parcel is prime cloud forest and is home to numerous endangered plants and animals. The wealth of this property lies in its biodiversity and has many more riches to discover. This parcel contains the upper section of the Santa Rosa River and will protect the entire watershed.



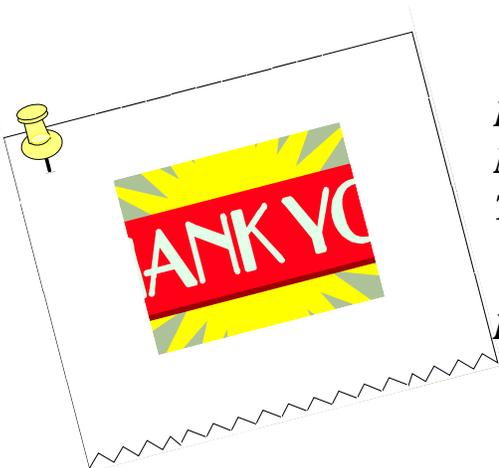
Foundation Wish List

- * **Weather Station**
- * Digital Scales
- * pH meter
- * Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- * Photos from Reserva Las Gralarias
- * Microphone for bird and frog calls
- * Headlamps/flash lights
- * Bird/Bat netting equipment
- * Biology/natural science children's books for Los Exploradores (in Spanish)
- * Flora/Fauna Field Guides/books of Ecuador (in Spanish and English)
- * Night vision camera
- * Insect nets/dip nets
- * Hummingbird feeders
- * Rechargeable batteries and charger
- * Laptop computer
- * Emergency chair

For more information contact Kathy Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com

Fundraising/Volunteer Opportunities

- * We are still looking for potential donors to be added to our mailing list. Please send contact information to Jo Ann Kubicki at jak1@clevelandmetroparks.com
- * Matted Prints of photographs from the reserve are needed for donation gifts. Email Tim Krynak at tkrynak@aol.com for more information.
- * Volunteer(s) needed to create, print and coordinate sales of T-shirts for Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. as well as other promotional items. We need your creativity!
- * Volunteers needed to present programs within their communities to raise money for the Foundation and spread the word about our wonderful conservation initiatives of RLG and LGF.
- * Volunteer needed to translate the newsletter into Spanish to be posted on the website.
- * If you have anyone interested in being on the distribution list to receive *The Hum...* please contact Katherine Krynak at



A big thank you to all of our recent donors!

Ruby Eplser, Delores Coles, Dave Lewis, Laurie Boylan, Mike and Sue Clark, Malanie Colon, Frances Topping and The Cleveland Chapter AAZK.

Donations can be made to :

**Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.
24140 Gessner Rd.
North Olmsted Ohio, 44070**



The goal of Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. is to raise funds for projects and programs of Reserva Las Gralarias, located in the parish of Mindo, Ecuador, including the purchase of adjacent and nearby lands that will enhance protection for rare endemic birds, plants and other animals as well as supports reserve management, reforestation efforts, biological research, environmental education projects, scholarships, and appropriate tourism programs.

LAS GRALARIAS
FOUNDATION INC.

501 (c)(3) organization

www.lasgralariasfoundation.org



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Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Board Members

- President:** Tim Krynak (*Ohio*)
- Vice President:** Jane Lyons Ph.D. (*Ecuador*)
- Secretary:** Katherine Krynak (*Ohio*)
- Treasurer:** Jo Ann Kubicki (*Ohio*)
- Bob Barth Ph.D. (*Texas*)
- Nancy Charbeneau (*Texas*)
- Noreen Damude (*Texas*)
- Jeffrey Miller Ph.D. (*Oregon*)
- Shamus Terry (*Wisconsin*)

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North Olmsted, OH 44070

