



The Hum...

Las Galarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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FOUNDATION UPDATE BY TIM AND KATHERINE KRYNAK

We are so close to preserving the Santa Rosa River Valley! Everyone cross your fingers! With your help we can protect this habitat indefinitely. Just this past quarter we started the "Adopt An Acre" program. Some of our first "Adoptees" include the Incarnate Word Academy Nature Club, Craig Caldwell, Dave Lewis, and Laurie Boylan of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Incarnate word Academy adopted their acre in honor of Tim Krynak, thanking him for all he

has done for their Nature Club. For \$280 you too can adopt an acre of cloud forest! Please check out our newly updated web page at www.lasgalariasfoundation.org to find the donation form for the Adopt and Acre program. When you adopt an acre you will receive an adorable plush spectacled bear, an official LGF Adopt certificate suitable for framing and showing off to all of your friends, as well as name recognition on our website! Also check out our new "easy to download" newsletters!



Conservation Corner:

by guest author, s Laurie Boylan and Dave Lewis

Calendar of Events

- April 26, 2007 Tails and Cocktails, Cleveland Zoological Society, LGF display
- April 27 – 29, 2007 North Coast Nature Festival, Rocky River Nature Center
- May 14, 2007 Nature Club, Incarnate Word Academy "Adopt an Acre"
- May 16, 2007 ZKC dinner, Cleveland Zoological Society, LGF Display
- May 18, 2007 "Year of the Frog" Meeting Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- June 7, 2007 LGF Board Meeting
- June 28, 2007 Tails and Cocktails Cleveland Zoological Society, LGF Display



AN ACRE OF HAPPINESS

Yes, it's true, money can't buy even *one ounce* of

happiness, but it can buy an *acre* of happiness! Let me explain. Dave and I enjoyed a wonderful birding trip to Reserva Las Galarias and the nearby surrounding areas this past October, and we both fell in love with Ecuador. A stay at the Reserva Las Galarias is friendly, peaceful, beautiful, and teeming with birds. We saw firsthand the

beautiful adjoining cloud forest lands that are up for sale and at risk of being bulldozed. What an appalling thought. When we read in the last issue of "The Hum" that for a donation of \$280 we could save **one acre** of this beautiful cloud forest land, I knew immediately that would be the best \$280 we could ever spend. And Dave agreed! Now, when the warblers migrate through Ohio this Fall on their way back south, I can say to that cute little Blackburnian Warbler, "head towards the Reserva Las Galarias

in Ecuador, there is a beautiful one acre lot just waiting for you." And that makes us very happy!

By Laurie Boylan and Dave Lewis



Blackburnian warbler

Earthday Everyday by Katherine Krynak

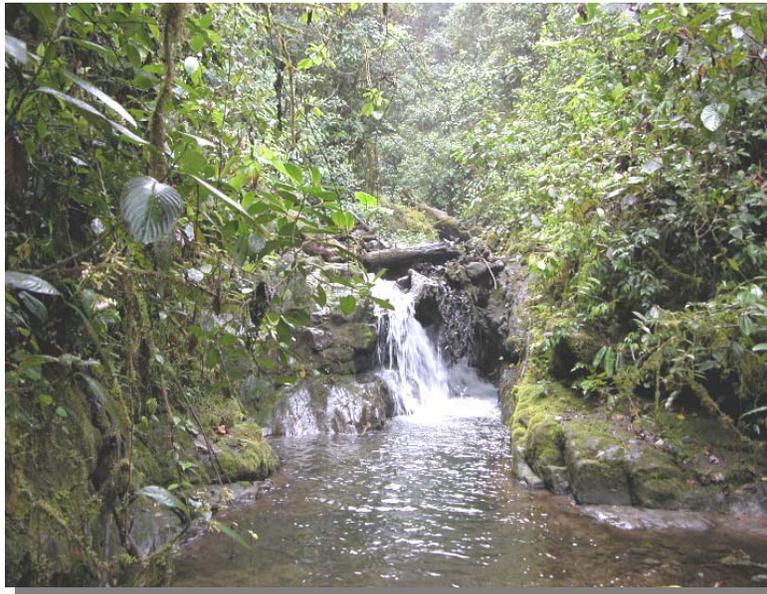


EarthFest on Earthday at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo had to be an attendance record. Las Galarías Foundation Inc. had a booth set up in the RainForest of the Zoo and there was a constant stream of people visiting and asking questions about our group and how to get more information. Many newsletters were taken and several people also took copies of the new LGF Adopt an Acre donation card. The Sierra Club of Cleveland also helped by handing out copies of our

newsletter and the "Adopt" donation cards. This was a great way to tell the community about our endeavors.

The event was nicely focused on what YOU can do to help the environment and how everyone must do their part. One organization was handing out free, energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs to help people get off on the right green foot, another reusable grocery bags, many booths gave samples of organic produce and granola treats, and all had ways everyone can help make a difference. I think that is the most important message we can get across to the general public right now....EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Individual actions add up and can change the world, and we need to change the world.

Last year my colleges and I held an aluminum can drive, and will be doing another this June. This simple grassroots fundraising event (which raises money for amphibian conservation) gave people the opportunity to directly contribute to conservation. Girl scout troops, Cub Scouts, Church groups, families, and individuals all came out with bags of cans in hand. As cans were dropped off we had the opportunity to explain how they had helped preserve their own backyard by recycling, and how it saved forests from the need for mining the aluminum and how they had also contributed to saving the amphibians by making their aluminum donation.



The clean cool water of the Santa Rosa River

People generally want to help, but might not know how easy being green can be and how much of a difference little changes in ones' lifestyle can make. I would like to end this article with little challenge from Mohammad Gandhi "Be the change you want to see in the world." Start your own green revolution in your own community. Have your own can drive, bird-a-thon, or stream clean up. Make it fun and make it matter, and of course any funds that can be generated to help conservation efforts like the Santa Rosa River Valley Project of the LGF Inc. are always greatly appreciated. Just think of how many acres of cloud forest your community could adopt!

What can YOU do?

- * Buy recycled paper products. If every US household replaced 1 roll of paper towels with 100% recycled ones, we could save 544,000 trees!
- * Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Replace the 5 most frequently used bulbs with the CFBs and save 60\$ a year in energy costs!



- * Clean green! Simple basics: baking soda, white vinegar, lemon juice, borax, vegetable based liquid soap, and washing soda... no secret formulas needed!
- * Say no to disposables! Disposable grocery bags account for 80% of the plastic trash in the US, and only 3.2% get recycled. Buy or make reusable natural cloth bags!
- * Go organic with your lawn care. Pesticides and Herbicides present serious health concerns for the environment and YOU.

Excerpts taken from Living Green by Greg Horn.



Species Profile: Spectacled Bear

by Katherine Krynak

This nocturnal bear has been named for the yellow fur around his eyes which forms spectacles which are unique to individuals of the species and can be used for identification. The spectacled bear is the largest carnivore of South America and is found within the Andes mountains of Ecuador, Venezuela, Columbia, Bolivia, and Peru. It is listed as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN Redlist primarily due to habitat loss and illegal hunting for his fur and meat.

Also known as Jukamari by tribes of Ecuador, this agile tree dwelling bear has held a very important place in religious beliefs of the Inca, regarded as the link between the earth and the gods. In other cultures it is seen as the protector of the forest. Though few are fortunate enough to have seen this noble creature, he has been seen on the land of the Santa Rosa River Valley. Let's help the spectacled bear continue to protect the Santa Rosa River Valley, Adopt an Acre today!



Spectacled Bear



Help Save the Cloud Forest!

Adopt an Acre of the Santa Rosa Valley

www.lasgalariasfoundation.org
LGF Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 organization

Please send this card and donation to:
(checks only please)

Las Galarias Foundation Inc.
24140 Gessner Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-777-6353

I would like to help the Las Galarias Foundation Inc. preserve The Santa Rosa River Valley of Ecuador by:

Adopt an Acre: (\$280) (package includes certificate of appreciation, recognition on LGF Inc. Website, and a Spectacled bear plush toy)

Making an annual donation to LGF Inc. (\$500) (\$100) (\$50) (other: _____)

Making a single donation to LGF Inc. (\$500) (\$100) (\$50) (other: _____)

Donor information (Please print)

Name:

Address:

This donation is made: In Honor of In Memory of

Name:

I would like to be contacted with LGF Inc.'s Newsletter "The Hum..." via email:

Email address:

The goal of Las Galarias Foundation Inc. is to raise funds for projects and programs of Reserva Las Galarias, 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.

Wisps from the Cloud Forest

by Jane A. Lyons



Swallow-tailed Kite

February is always a hectic month at the Reserve. The birds and other animals are in peak breeding season and our guest houses are filled with visitors from many parts of the world (mostly fleeing from frigid northern climes!). Highlights of February 2007 included the return on 2 February of a large population of Green Violetear, beautiful migrant hummingbirds which make themselves at home in our forests and at the feeders, setting up breeding territories and filling the air with their constant “ch-ching” call. Another migrant seen during February is the elegant Swallow-tailed Kite, which probably nests nearby as a pair is seen daily gracefully plying the skies above the Reserve. Both of these migrant species disappear by mid-summer. Their full-year migratory patterns are not known. Other good February records included sightings of Andean Cock-of-the-rock and very vocal Rufescent Screech-Owl and Tyrannine Woodcreeper.

March and April signal the beginning of the main rainy season and the end of the breeding season for most of our resident species. The 7 species of parrot on the Reserve begin to gather again in large noisy flocks, apparently finished with their nesting duties. Northern migrant species begin to disappear from our weekly bird lists as they depart our area to return to their breeding grounds in North America. The “smartest” of the migrants must be the Blackburnian Warbler which stayed on the Reserve until mid-April and thus missed the late season snows that blanketed much of the US and Canada!

In March we were fortunate to have a month-long volunteer, José Gagnon from Québec, Canada, who helped document bird and animal activity throughout the Reserve, including weekly bird records and hummingbird counts. In fact, José photographed a new mammal species for the reserve – an amazing photo of a Rothschild’s Porcupine, *Coendou rothschildi*, feeding on tender tree leaves along Puma Trail. This species of prehensile-tailed porcupine is the western Andean version of the Bicolored Porcupine, *Coendou bicolor*. Rothschild’s Porcupine is considered an endangered species in Ecuador and practically nothing is known about it. In fact, all published records describe it as nocturnal, which, at least according to José’s photo, does not appear to be the case.



Rothschild's Porcupine

In addition to the porcupine, José also observed a Masked Trogon gulping down a large walkingstick, an insect of the Order Phasmatodea. This feeding behavior in the normally frugivorous trogon is apparently not documented. MBT birding guide Pablo Andrade tape-recorded an unidentified bird(?) call that no one has yet been able to figure out. MBT birding guide Alejandro Solano documented a new bird species for the Reserve, Rufous Spinetail, and a Canadian birder had a first-record of Mourning Warbler near the Entry Trail. Also, first records of Green Honeycreeper and Saffron-crowned Tanager were reported but require further confirmation.

Another volunteer, Tuomas Seimola from Finland, photographed a superb and very rare black morph Collared Forest -Falcon. Unfortunately we also found feathers of the various birds it preyed upon during the month, including probable White-throated Quail-Dove and Streaked Tuftedcheek.

We now have at least two territories of the rare and little-known White-faced Nunbird, three territories of the very habitat-restricted Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl, two new territories of the practically-unknown Olivaceous Piha, a new territory of a pair of Ochre-breasted Antpitta, and additional sightings of the rare Plumbeous Forest-Falcon with one individual observed preening along Puma Trail and two recorded along the Santa Rosa River Trail. We also had nice sightings of several Caecilia, Giant Earthworms, and an astounding assortment of moths and other insects which always appear during the rainy season. By mid-April, after such a long breeding season, our (exhausted?) frogs became quiet again. By late April, the Blue-and-white Swallows were busy feeding young in their nest boxes and summertime birds such as Yellow-bellied Seedeater and various flycatchers were making brief appearances.

With the good rains we have had since August the growing season has been the best since the Reserve was first purchased. Recently-planted seedlings are now actual trees and the previously pastured areas are quickly disappearing under new ferns, tall shrubs and young trees. As a result more and more forest species are being observed in the previously pastured areas and close to the guest houses.

One of our projects is coming to fruition – replacing our ever-rotting wooden boundary fence posts with concrete posts. Although not as visually attractive, the concrete posts do not cause trees to be felled and do not require replacement for many many years, if ever. Wooden fence posts rot very quickly in our humid environment and they require replacement every 2-3 years. It would save a lot of trees if all farmers and landowners would, slowly but surely, change out their wooden fence posts for concrete posts, thus avoiding the need to fell new trees every few years just to make fence posts. Concrete posts do initially cost more, but in the long-term the costs are much less than chopping down more trees every few years to make more wooden posts. We also have planted numerous trees along our boundaries which will eventually also make good boundary markers.





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 Katherine 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.
- * If you have anyone interested in being on the distribution list to receive *The Hum...* please contact Katherine Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com



A big thank you to all of our recent donors!

Dave Lewis, Laurie Boylan, Bob Stnad, Craig Caldwell, Denise & David Treadway, Carl Gearhart, Frances Topping, Jeffery Gueulette, Incarnate Word Academy and a special thanks to Adeline Machado who is translating the newsletters into Spanish!

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.

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www.lasgralariasfoundation.org



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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*)
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Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.
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