



The Hum...

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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Señor Tim's Tales

by Tim Krynak, President

It is amazing how technology has changed our communications. I remember when I first started using email at work and today this is a major form of communications. This has also allowed us to become connected with our friends, family and co-workers around the world. This technology has definitely made our work in Ecuador much easier, cheaper and more enjoyable as I can share information quickly and easily. One item I enjoy is when Jane shares recent sightings or activity from the reserve. Recently, she told me about the Plate-billed mountain Toucan that was drinking from a bromeliad right next to the guest house. She said it was a glorious morning and the numerous birds have been becoming more common around the buildings as the area continues to regenerate (both passively and actively). I look forward to every visit to observe the changes and continue to pass along our success with our followers.

LGF is sponsoring a trip to the reserve so that our supporters can see our progress and the amazing biodiversity that we are protecting. There are still some spaces available for anyone that may be interested. It is scheduled from June 5—14 and more information can be found at www.lasgralariasfoundation.org listed under "Members Trip2010". If you are interested please let me know soon as possible so we can start making the necessary arrangements. By joining us, you not only will be enjoying the biodiversity, but will get a taste of the culture and will be supporting the reserve, the local community members that work on the reserve and the conservation efforts that are underway in this spectacular corner of the world.

Lastly, we are initiating our membership drive with this newsletter. By becoming a member your donation goes directly to fulfilling our mission of the organization. All the operations of this organization are absorbed by the board so that your donations can go directly to our conservation efforts.

Hope to see you all in Ecuador!

Calendar of Events

- * Jan - Feb, 2010 RLG Photo Exhibit at Rocky River Nature Center.
- * Feb 12 Friday Night With Nature at Rocky River Nature Center.



Connor and Hoover Stop Global Warming!

by Katherine Krynak



Recently a friend of mine sent me a video she found on *You Tube* from **Moms Against Global Warming**. (<http://www.takeactiononclimatechange.com>) The video depicts a large group of children protesting the resistance of adults to act on the knowledge we have about our impact on the environment and the resultant climate change. The main message of the video is that if the children of the world knew what we know, they'd want us to do everything we could to change the course. After watching the video, and drying my eyes, I immediately thought of my friend's little 3 year old boy, Connor. Connor is a serious nature enthusiast and daily helps his Mom with chores which "lighten the load on mother nature". Connor helps by putting the cooking scraps in the compost bins, watering the garden using rainwater they collect in rain barrels, and by caring for native plants they have chosen for their garden. Jack in the Pulpit is one of Connor's favorites, because if you open the 'lid', "you can see it's uvula!" He cracks me up. One of Connor's other favorite pastimes is telling stories about his adventures with his best friend, Hoover the Aardvark. This morning I asked Connor to tell me a story about him and Hoover. This is what this three year old tells me: "Once upon a time Connor and Hoover found a polar bear with a boo boo. Connor says "what's wrong polar bear?" and the polar bear says "the water is too hot!" and the bear shows them his burn on his foot. Connor and Hoover decide that they will help the polar bear by putting ice in the water. Connor and Hoover go to Mom's refrigerator and get all of the ice cubes and dump them in the polar bear's water." To make a long and VERY imaginative story a little shorter for this article, after making A LOT of ice cubes, and giving the polar bear a bowl of ice cream to make him feel better (which I think was a hint to his mom that they should have ice cream), Connor and Hoover saved the polar bear and all the polar bear's friends by cooling the water. Now tell me that kids don't know that we have a serious problem on our hands. A three year old might not know how to really stop global warming, but we know that our actions and the way we live on this earth adds to the problem. We know ways we can help to change the course.

In addition to making small changes in your daily lives, please consider helping organizations like Las Galarias Foundation. Our mission is to preserve an area of the world which is amazingly rich in biodiversity and is an integral part of the last remaining forests of the planet which act as the lungs of the earth. Thank you for your support of our efforts!



Foundation Update

by Tim and Katherine Krynak



Happy Holidays Las Galarias Foundation Supporters!

The year may be winding down, but things are moving along full speed here at LGF. Tim has several photography shows lined up for the next several months highlighting many of the beautiful species seen at RLG, and Jane and Tim have planned a spectacular trip for those interested in seeing first hand where the LGF dollars go. Be sure to check out the details on our website under the heading "Membership Trip 2010". Be sure to sign up soon, for space is limited! In other news, the Reserva Las Galarias Field Station is coming along nicely. Even with the state of the global economy, many have donated to help our efforts and things are still moving forward on the project. Just last month, new gates were installed at the RLG Field Station and Jane's team has been working hard on the housing on this new property. Even though there is much work still to be done, I must say, I stayed at several different research stations in the US and in Central America, but this one is by far the nicest. This will be such a wonderful place for researchers, students and classes to visit and learn more about this amazing habitat. Thanks to all who have donated directly to this LGF effort.

Finally, during this holiday "Season of Giving" we have created a simple way to incorporate conservation into your holiday traditions by starting the first annual Las Galarias Foundation Membership Campaign. This is a way to commit to a small annual donation to support our efforts of preserving the beauty and biodiversity of this fragile ecosystem in the cloud forest. As Tim mentioned in his article (Senor Tim's Tales page 1), all operational costs of LGF are absorbed personally by our board, which means ALL of the money you donate goes directly to the programs which make this conservation project work. Programs such as land acquisition, environmental education, and biological research at Reserva Las Galarias are not only protecting the flora and fauna of this region today, but through our educational programming we are preserving the future of the region by instilling not only respect for the environment in the children, but also providing job opportunities at the reserve for local community members as well as career possibilities in the field of ecotourism for a sustainable future for all. So "Join the Flock" and become a member today! By adding 10\$ to your membership donation by Dec. 10th, LGF will send you a Certificate of Membership and a plush Spectacled Bear toy as a token our appreciation, making a perfect holiday gift. Be sure to include the name(s) you would like to have displayed on the certificate written on the membership form. Please contact Kathy Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com if you have any questions regarding the campaign!

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!



Wisps from the Cloud Forest

"The Pumas of RLG" by Jane Lyons



The variety of mammals at Reserva Las Galarias is quite amazing. Various visitors have caught a glimpse of a tayra or a coati or a kinkajou, and our workers regularly find tracks, diggings and even bones of mammals while cleaning the trails throughout the reserve. However, we really had no idea of the extent of our mammalian fauna until we began installing a series of infrared trail cameras provided by our generous donors.

We knew we had large cats on the reserve as we had found prints and carcasses that we suspected were mountain lion kills. Nevertheless it has been astounding to get so many photos of these predators. Mountain lions, or pumas *Puma concolor*, are very widespread throughout North and South America but are rarely actually observed. A male puma can measure up to 1.7 meters, or over 5 feet, in length and can weigh up to 50 kilograms, or 110 pounds, basically being the same size as a small human. They are known to range from sea level to over 5000 meters, or 15,000 feet, elevation. It is truly an amazingly successful species.

The pumas of northwest Ecuador represent a separate subspecies *Puma Concolor soderstromii*, described in 1913 from the town of Nono which is about 20 kilometers, or 12 miles, from Reserva Las Galarias. Pumas from our humid cloud forest zone have a more reddish color to their fur than those from more arid zones.

Our first photo of a puma at Las Galarias was taken on 23 June 2008 at 5.24am. Since then our trail cameras have snapped photos of pumas on various trails at all hours of the day and night. We think we have at least two different individual pumas based on ear shape. One we know is a female (rounded ears) and another looks as if it is probably a male (more pointed ears). Pumas are known to have large territories so we have no way of knowing if "our" pumas stay on the reserve or meander throughout the wider Mindo area. Even with the various photos of pumas at the reserve, no visitor here has ever actually seen one of these elusive cats.



In Ecuador the puma is listed as a vulnerable species. The main reasons for its decline are habitat loss and hunting pressure. Even though it has been protected by law in Ecuador since the year 2000, parts of this magnificent animal, such as its fur, teeth and claws, are sold at markets in some areas of the country, and in most areas it is killed on sight by anyone with the means to kill it. Ranchers often offer a bounty for the head of a puma. In addition, habitat loss results in a decline

in the populations of the wild animals that pumas prey on, such as deer, sloths, coatis, armadillos, porcupines, pacas, agoutis, peccaries, etc. Fortunately in our area there appear to be enough prey items to keep our pumas well-fed, and there have been no cases reported of humans or domestic animals being attacked by pumas.

According to all accounts pumas prey especially on deer. At Las Gralarias we have two species of deer, the Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama americana*) and the White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Our most recent puma photo shows a female puma having subdued a full-grown White-tailed Deer. It is an amazing photo.

With continued support from our generous members and donors we hope to expand our reserve and provide additional quality habitat for the magnificent puma as well as for the smaller species of mammals that share its habitat and occasionally serve as its prey.





Dear Santa, Foundation Holiday Wish List



- * HOBO Weather Station
- * pH meter
- * Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- * Photos from Reserva Las Galarias
- * Recording-analyzing equipment/software for bird and frog calls
- * Latex Gloves
- * Fish Bags
- * Flora/Fauna Field Guides/books of Ecuador (in Spanish and English)
- * Biology and natural science children's books for Los Exploradores (in Spanish)
- * Generator for Research Station
- * Funds for production of LGF T-shirts
- * Write in the Rain Paper
- * LCD projector
- * Volunteers to present at programs/festivals on behalf of LGF
- * Grant writer/Grant Opportunities

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 electronic 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. Black mats to be used for Tim's photos are also always appreciated.
- * Volunteers needed to present programs within their communities to raise money for LGF and spread the word about our wonderful conservation initiatives.
- * LGF is looking for a grant writer to help raise funds for the foundation's mission.
- * If you have anyone interested in being on the distribution list to receive *The Hum...* please contact Katherine Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com
- * If you have questions or would like to contribute to LGF Inc. please send us an email.





Join the flock!

Become an official LGF Member!

(..This makes a Perfect Holiday Gift)

www.lasgralariasfoundation.org

LGF Inc. is a 501 (c) (3)organization

Please send this card and check to:

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.

24140 Gessner Road

North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Or visit www.justgive.org

I would like to join Team LGF in the following membership category:

Corporate Membership "El Oso": \$200

Professional Membership "El Buho" \$100

Family membership "Las Coatis" \$50

Single Membership "El Tigre" \$25

Membership information *(Please print)*

Name:

Address:

This Membership is a special gift: In Honor of In Memory of

Name:

I would like to receive LGF Newsletter "The Hum..." via email: Yes No

Email address:

What would you like to read about in The Hum...? Give us your suggestions!

Muchas Gracias!

Thank you to our recent donors and volunteers!
MetroParks Serving Summit County, Daniel and
Vilma McMonigle, Bruce Fraley, Cleveland
Aquarium Society, Paul Gobel and Southwest
Camera Club

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.

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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.

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