



The Hum...

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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Señor Tim's Tales

by Tim Krynak, President

Last Chance! We still have openings for our June 5 – 13 member's trip to Reserva Las Gralarias, but time is running out! For more information visit our website: www.lasgralariasfoundation.org and check out the "Member's Trip".

This is an opportunity to see and experience first hand the forest and their inhabitants. As we search the trails for birds, we will not pass up insects, amphibians, orchids or whatever crosses our path! This trip, as others through Mindo Bird Tours, provides funding for reserve operation and conservation efforts.



In other news, we have been very busy and continue with our mission:

1. We continue to search for possibilities to expand our current holdings and protect the watersheds and provide a forested corridor from the 1700 - 2400 meters.
2. We are moving forward on the construction of the Field Station to accommodate more and more researchers from Ecuador and around the world.
3. We are providing additional and new opportunities for members of the local community to be involved in operations of the reserve and ongoing biological research.

Everyone and anyone can make a difference in conservation, whether in Ecuador or your own backyard. You can help Las Gralarias Foundation by: sharing our newsletter, joining our Facebook



cause, joining us on a tour, providing links to our website, and by becoming a member of Las Gralarias Foundation.

Lastly, I leave you with a couple of images from my last visit to Ecuador where Ed Krynak joined me and with his interested in aquatic entomology we sampled the streams in a initial investigation for potential future research.

Hope to see you all on the trails!

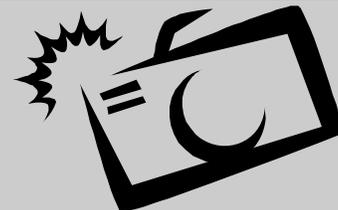


Calendar of Events

- * March 1—31 Amphibian Biodiversity Photo Exhibit at North Chagrin Nature Center
- * April 23 & 24 nNorth Coast Nature Festival, Rocky River Nature Center
- * April 23, Earth Day (40th Anniversary)
- * June 5—13, Members Trip to RLG

Foundation Update

by Katherine Krynak



This year has been off to a great start. Tim has had one photography show already this year, and another is approaching soon, LGF and RLG have also been the focus of a well attended presentation by President Tim Krynak as part of the Cleveland Metropark's Friday Nights with Nature series, and finally, the dream of the RLG Field station is rapidly becoming a reality!

The photography shows have been a great success. Held at Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center, this show featured the biodiversity of RLG and was viewed by more than 3,000 visitors! The next show begins March 1st and will feature amphibians as a part of the Cleveland Metroparks "Toadaly Awesome Amphibians" event. My favorite is always the Long-snouted cutin frog, but now Tim has some shots from his last visit this past January's visit that rival that one! Check out this glassfrog! Simply breathtaking!



Speaking of photos, if you join LGF Cause on Facebook, you will be of the elite club of supporters which have the opportunity to see the latest photos of the wonders of RLG! Those of you who have visited can also post your own images! Dave Lewis (LGF Star Volunteer) posted a link on Facebook to his blog (<http://burdzbuttz.blogspot.com>) on which he has highlighted many of the species found on RLG. Dave and Tim are simply amazing photographers and we are lucky to have such talent on the LGF Team working to spread awareness about the biodiversity at stake in this delicate region!

The final exciting news I'd like to share is the completion of the RLG Field Station Sign! One of the station buildings is nearing completion and with additional support we will be able to begin the main structure. To me, seeing that sign solidified the reality that the Field Station will be ready for students soon! That being said, LGF is currently working with Universities in Ecuador, the US, and the UK to bring students to RLG to study the flora and fauna there. It will be such a joyous occasion when RLG hosts the first official Tropical Biology class at the new RLG Field Station! So many wonderful opportunities are in front of us! Thank you all for your continued support!



Species Profile: A Star-gazer

by Katherine Krynak



This past January while scoping out the Santa Rosa River and Lucy's Creek, Tim and Ed caught this slippery little fish that has been dodging us on our prior visits. In the Order of naked-sucker mouthed catfish (Siluriformes), he has no scales, but he does have strong spiny pectoral fins used for climbing on the rocky bottom and even up small waterfalls of the clear fast flowing streams they inhabit in the Andes Mountains. Though we have not confirmed the identification, we believe that he is in the genus *Astroblepus*, meaning "star gazer", a fitting name for this nocturnal fish with upwards facing eyes and is potentially a unique new species. Since this fish is known to feed upon invertebrates, Ed may be seeing many more of these cute little suckers while he searches for aquatic insects.



A GOLDen Opportunity to help support LGF!

by Jane Rodwan (LGF Volunteer)



Here's a GOLDen opportunity to make money AND help protect the biodiversity of Ecuador.

Go through your jewelry box to find unwanted and broken gold jewelry, mismatched earrings, label pins, class rings, charms, bangles, coins, and even old gold dental fillings. We will examine and test your items, then make you an offer. If you accept our offer, we will write you a check on the spot and make a donation to Las Galarias Foundation in an amount equal to 10% of the value of your items. In addition, I will personally donate to Las Galarias Foundation 5% of my commission on your sale. It's a win-win for everyone! The average person receives \$100-\$300. Why not donate a portion of that to the cause as well!

Aurum Strategies doesn't pay for advertising which gives them the ability to pay top prices for your GOLD and contribute to worthy organizations like Las Galarias Foundation.

Aurum Strategies is rated A+ by the Better Business Bureau and has had no complaints filed with the BBB. Feel free to check out their website at www.aurumstrategiesllc.com.

To book a one-on-one consultation or to host a fundraising GOLD party, please contact:

Jane Rodwan (Master Assayer)

Aurum Strategies LLC

216-965-2309

rodwan1@ameritech.net



Wisps from the Cloud Forest

by Jane Lyons



“THE CHOCÓ BIOGEOGRAPHIC ZONE”

Sometimes visitors to Reserva Las Gralarias ask me, “What makes this area any different than all the other important wildlife reserves in the world?” The answer lies in its very special location: at mid-elevation in the tropical mountains on the equator facing west – in the heart of a region known as the Chocó.

The Chocó Biogeographic Zone is one of the world’s most endemic-rich areas. It harbors more endemic species of birds than any other area in the Western Hemisphere. It is home to untold numbers of species of orchids, frogs, trees, mosses, butterflies, moths, mammals, reptiles and some 700 species of birds including 50 species endemic to the zone.

Wedged between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, the Chocó is a narrow strip of land that ranges from sea level to some 4000 meters elevation. This combination of high mountains that descend steeply to the coast provides an astounding diversity of habitats and corresponding avian and other fauna and flora. The Chocó was formed when the Andes Mountains arose and separate this western sliver of land from the vast eastern Amazonian lowlands. Many species evolved away from their Amazonian ancestors and today are considered separate species.



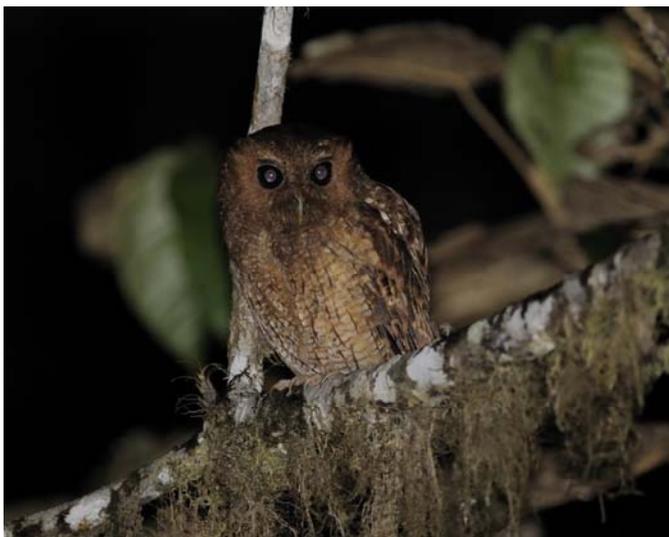
This area is considered one of the wettest places on earth. Dominated by Pacific Ocean currents the cloud forests of the Chocó receive moisture throughout the year, occasionally punctuated with strong El Niño systems. Ecuador sits at the junction of northern and southern oceans, astride what is called the neotropical convergence zone. With the southern drier cold Pacific currents come immense upwelling of fish as well as albatrosses and penguins and other amazing creatures found, for example, on Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands. With the northern warmer and wetter Pacific currents come the perfect conditions for the Chocó cloud forests.

These misty dense cloud forests are home to Chocó endemic bird species such as Dark-backed Wood-Quail, Rufescent Screech-Owl, Empress Brilliant, Brown Inca, Velvet-purple Coronet, Gorgeted Sunangel, Hoary Puffleg, Violet-tailed Sylph, Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Uniform Treehunter, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Nariño Tapaculo, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Club-winged Manakin, Black Solitaire, Dusky Bush-Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, and Beautiful Jay – all of which are found at Reserva Las Galarias.

The cloud forests and the steep mountains also provide the perfect mountain streams for many species of frogs, most of which have barely been studied. At Las Galarias we have an ongoing frog research program which has to date found 7 species of Glass Frog and at least another 10 species of *Pristimantis* or Robber Frog, including some very rare and critically endangered species.

Unfortunately the Chocó has become increasingly fragmented and its many endemic species must vie for habitat in ever smaller patches. Birding tourism and other forms of compatible ecotourism as well as private conservation reserves are exceedingly important to help provide an alternative to slash-and-burn development. Research into the many rare and endemic species found in this zone is just beginning.

Located within the Chocó zone, the 1063-acre Reserva Las Galarias provides an important haven and altitudinal corridor for many Chocó species. It also serves as a source of employment for local people and a base for birding tourism throughout much of northwest Ecuador. And our fledgling research projects have already provided amazing results: in January 2009 the first-ever nest of the endemic Yellow-breasted Antpitta was found at and described from Las Galarias; at least two species of moth have been discovered and described from Las Galarias; our trail cameras have documented little-known mammal behavior, and our frog researchers are documenting new species, songs and behavior of these Chocó amphibians. We encourage you to visit this area to see for yourself the interesting diversity found in the Chocó. We also encourage you to help protect this unique and amazing part of the world.





Foundation Wish List

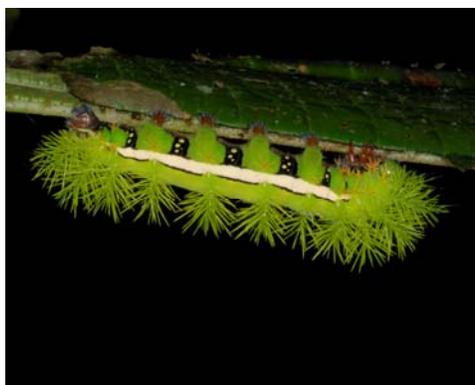
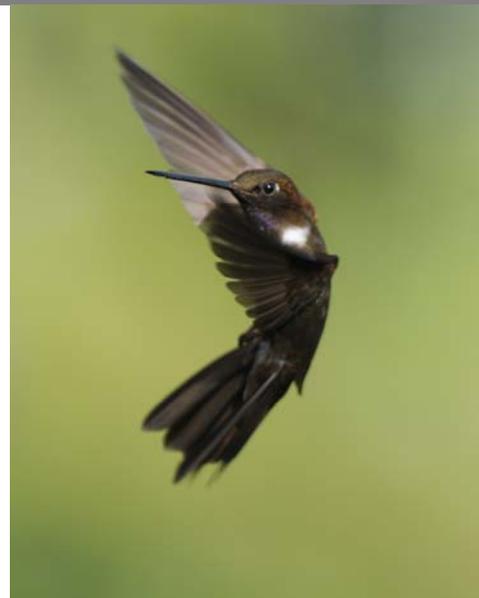


- * pH meter
- * LCD projector
- * Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- * Photos from Reserva Las Galarias
- * Latex Gloves
- * Fish Bags
- * "Write in the Rain" Paper
- * Flora/Fauna Field Guides/books of Ecuador (in Spanish and English)
- * Biology and natural science children's books for Los Exploradores (in Spanish)
- * Generator for Research Station
- * Funds for production of LGF T-shirts
- * Volunteers to present at programs/festivals on behalf of LGF
- * Grant writer/Grant Opportunities
- * Small packable gifts for the Children of Escuela Rio Tumbez

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

Fundraising/Volunteer Opportunities

- * Throw a gold party! See Page 2 for more information. Contact Jane Rodwan at to schedule your party today!
- * 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!

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, members, and volunteers!

Nancy Charbeneau, Mike & Sue Clark, Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach, Terry and Joanne Gorges, Naomi Honeth, Dave Lewis, Laurie Boylan, Deb Marcinski, Karen Micheli, Margaret Robinson, Jane Rodwan, Sandra and Kenneth Ksenyak, and Catherine Shambaugh

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.

24140 Gessner Rd.

North Olmsted, Ohio 44070



The goal of Las Galarías Foundation Inc. is to raise funds for projects and programs of Reserva Las Galarías, 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 GRALARÍAS
FOUNDATION INC.

501 (c)(3) organization

www.lasgalaríasfoundation.org



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Las Galarías Foundation Inc. Newsletter

Las Galarías Foundation Inc.

Board Members

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Mary Ann Beauchemin (Texas)

Web Master: Marty Calabrese (Ohio)

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