



— Friends of the —
RAINFOREST[™]
Monteverde, Costa Rica

FOREST FIELD
NEWS & NOTES
Summer 2019

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SINCE 2002

News from the Rainforest Donor Contributions at Work

By: Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director- Monteverde Conservation League



Scenic waterfall overlook made possible by you!



CAN fieldtrip to Finca Stellar

We are delighted to report steady visitation at our Pocosal field station, by international and local visitors alike. Nature lovers at Pocosal are enjoying spectacular birdwatching, as well as the new and improved scenic lookout ("mirador") at the Pocosal waterfall. The mirador was rebuilt in galvanized steel in 2016 thanks to a grant from Friends of the Rainforest in 2016. In February 2019, we moved the mirador back from the edge of the bluff and raised it further, permitting a better view of the waterfall while also ensuring security for visitors.

An important part of protecting the CER is maintaining clear boundaries with neighboring properties. Our maintenance staff has been hard at work marking property limits and clearing internal trails used for forest patrols.

Rangers aren't the only ones on the trails, which are also used by wildlife including tapirs!

Our environmental education program is in full swing. In addition to talks, workshops, and field trips with local elementary schools, this semester we launched an environmental club for girls ("CAN", after the Spanish Club Ambiental para Niñas). CAN aims to promote interest in the natural sciences and develop leadership skills among participants.



Erick Barquero with GPS unit

EDUCATION CORNER:

Find out how we have been spreading our mission



GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK:

Protect-A-Pal Program & Wear Your Cause

On a Mission

By: Carrie Herndon, Education & Outreach Coordinator

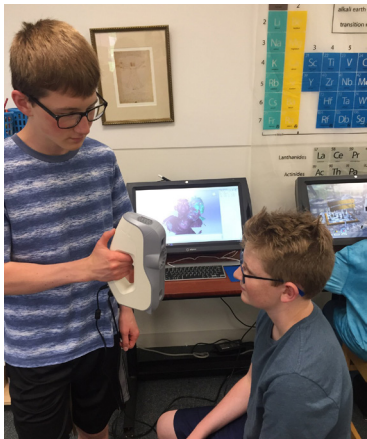
Through generous donations, we have reached and inspired over 360 students in the St. Louis area since January. By instilling an appreciation and understanding of the delicate biodiversity of the rainforest, we are able to plant seeds of understanding in today's youth. Students that understand the importance of preserving the rainforest will be more likely to grow into adults that actively protect it. We know teachers often lack the resources and time to educate students on the importance of the rainforest. Some school districts have even opted out of having rainforest lessons in their curriculum guides, so the only time students hear about the rainforest is the time we spend with them.



Fulton School students bioengineering bird beaks to learn about animal adaptations in the rainforest.

We have been implementing innovative ideas allowing us to pool our resources and reach more students. In April, we partnered with The Fulton School, and won a grant with the Innovative Technology Education Fund (ITEF). Funding from the ITEF grant will allow students to partner with us while manufacturing educational materials for rainforest lessons. Using a 3D scanner, students are rendering and printing models of rainforest animals to distribute to classrooms that participate in our educational outreach programs. This cutting edge technology will allow us to provide students a hands-on, experience with rainforest animals without ever leaving their classroom

In April alone, we hosted a booth at the National Science Teachers Association national conference, the Mastodon Science Fair and STEM Exposition, the St. Louis Science Center's Animal Exposition, and Earth Day 365 festival in St. Louis. We have found that hosting booths at events like this help get the word out about protecting our rainforests as they are valuable ecosystems that support biodiversity and act as important filters to some of our planet's largest watersheds.



Students learning how to use the 3D scanner funded by the ITEF grant

Through partnerships from generous donors, we have been able to continue our mission of presenting in classrooms in the St. Louis area. We have been able to reach students while using our STEM activities kits. With all the educational booths we have hosted, we are getting requests to travel to places from Chicago to Memphis, from Maryland to California! With continued funding, we hope to reach and present to classrooms near and far.

Friends of the Rainforest

Our mission is to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica and beyond.

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Friends of the Rainforest

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Protect-A-Pal Program

Keep them for yourself or give the gift that keeps on giving! Donating to protect a species is a great way to show your support for the Rainforest. We currently have Sal, the Three-Toed Sloth, and Rosa, the Red Eyed Tree Frog, available for protection. Half of the proceeds goes directly to the Children's Eternal Rainforest to help protect these species and the wild places they call home. The other half goes towards our global tropical conservation education program. Your donation includes an adorable plush animal to love, certificate of action, species information postcard and more. To learn more, you can call 314-941-1257 or go to www.friendsoftherainforest.org.



Wear Your Cause

Don't underestimate the power of a T-shirt! Wearing and sharing the cause helps spread our mission and supports our efforts to protect the rainforest. To kick off the year, we launched our Pura Vida shirt. For Earth Day, we introduced our See The Rainforest *while supplies last T-shirt. Our upcoming summer shirt available now, is My Heart is in Costa Rica. To learn more, please go to our store.



Getting Inspired

How amazing that Elaine Fiore, from Beachside Montessori, has taken her students to the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica for the past 3 years! After returning this January, she asked her students to describe their experience. This is what Kylie K., age 14, explained:

"The Friends of the Rainforest ecotour trip is an in-depth, interactive program that leads to an understanding and appreciation of the unique rainforest environment. Hands-on hikes through the jungle and learning in the classroom all tie together to create a sense of protection for the threatened forests of Costa Rica, all while entertaining and inspiring students and adults alike. While residing in a remote lodge high in the mountains, you will find interesting wildlife, learn new things, and find a deeper connection with the amazing world around you. On this adventure, you are always on your feet, never a dull moment. This is an experience of a lifetime I will never forget, and one that will leave you stunned and excited for whatever's coming next!"





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Meet Our New Board Member



We are proud to present our new board member, Cara Murphy-Smith. She is also an outdoor educator and founder of *In The Field*, which provides outdoor nature classes for children. Cara believes by observing and learning facts about wildlife in parks and other natural areas, students are more likely to appreciate the nature that exists where they live. After studying art therapy in college in Austin, she taught families how to camp in the Texas wilderness and then worked as an interpreter at the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Garden. While she enjoyed talking to visitors about the environment, Murphy-Smith said she felt limited. She wanted to teach more subjects and have the freedom to educate people throughout different parks in the St. Louis area.

In The Field is almost entirely run by Murphy-Smith and her husband. As she teaches more classes this year, she hopes more schools in the St. Louis area will be interested in hiring her to teach outdoor nature classes. With advanced technologies and children spending more time inside in front of a computer or screens, Cara was concerned and created *In The Field* to help children develop a lifelong appreciation for nature. "If they have that, they will want to take care of the environment when they get older," she stated. Go online to see the recent NPR feature on Cara and her budding business.

After a 1989 visit to Costa Rica dedicated environmentalists, Rachel and Dwight Crandell were inspired by the example of the Swedish second grade class that took the initiative to support the Children's Eternal Rainforest. The efforts of the Crandells over 17 years ago have inspired thousands of people world wide to take action to support and protect Rainforest land.