

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 50  
Spring 1990**

1990 OBFS ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Please register by 15 August. We will be sending information packets to all advance registrants, and will ask you to provide us with travel plans at that time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

OBFS Station Member?       Yes       No

Station \_\_\_\_\_

OBFS Individual Member?       Yes       No

Accompanying family (please give names, relationship, ages of children. Thanks.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay when I register.

Return To: Ms. Dorothy K. Bromenshenkel  
Itasca Forestry and Biological Station  
Lake Itasca, MN 56460

## II. FIELD STATION DESCRIPTION

### CAPE TRIBULATION LOWLAND TROPICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Cape Tribulation Lowland Tropical Research Center has been recently established (mid 1988). It is a privately run, not-for-profit research station established to provide research facilities in the rapidly dwindling Australian lowland tropical forests and to encourage such research. In addition, it operates a rainforest interpretation service for the tourists to the area.

#### ACCESS

The Center is readily reached by car or bus from Cairns in far north Queensland, and is situated on the Cape Tribulation road, at Cape Tribulation, approximately 150 km north of Cairns.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The climate is tropical, with a pronounced wet period from November to May, with peak rainfall usually from February to April. Winter months, May to October, are usually clear and relatively mild. The area usually experiences an evening drop in temperature. Rainfall is approximately 4,000 mm per annum with most of this falling in the summer wet period.

The Research Center (16°S) is situated in a coastal basin backed by a coastal range (Mt. Sorrow, 760 m, Mt. Hemmant 1,065 m). It is surrounded by the Cape Tribulation National Park which includes all land from about 100 m in the basin, and all land to the sea shore elsewhere. The basin is a mix of old pastures, mostly regenerating, and patches of rainforest and has been extensively subdivided. Within a 10 km radius of the station is a great variety of habitats, from montane to coastal fringing coral reefs; coastal lagoon, extensive estuarine and mangrove environments; areas of primary and secondary lowland rainforest (mesophyll vine forest) and both permanent and intermittent streams.

The forests in the area are considered to be remnants of the widespread pre-pleistocene forests which have survived the climatic changes that have dried out much of the continent and they contain a large number of very primitive angiosperms. Plant diversity is high, while mammal diversity is surprisingly low. Bats (both mega- and micro) and rodents constitute the dominant mammalian groups in the area. Much of the natural history of organisms of the area has yet to be described. At the present time, the Center only occupies a 8.5 ha site and

most research is carried out in the surrounding National Parks and on adjacent private land. Negotiations are in progress for leasing a variety of nearby areas for long-term research (land prices in the area are exceeding high).

#### FACILITIES

At the present time, the facilities are limited. There is approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup> of laboratory space, and by the end of 1990, there will be accommodations available for 8-10 researchers in cabin-style facilities. Power (240 and 110 v) is presently provided by a generator and by inverters. There is no air-conditioning. The station has a range of equipment from microscopes, dual-beam spectrophotometer, Macintosh computer, limited black and white darkroom equipment, and environmental recording equipment, as well as workshop facilities. Advance notice must be given by those wanting to borrow equipment, because much of it is stored outside the area due to the destructive nature of the environment on equipment. Library facilities are presently very limited, but are growing. The adjacent Interpretation Center has projection (16 and 35 mm) and teaching facilities. The station has two 4WD vehicles.

#### RESEARCH

There are virtually unlimited opportunities for research in the area, almost no systematic research has been carried out on Australia's wet tropical lowland rainforest, and because of land clearing for farming for sugar cane, very little virgin forest remains. The forests offer an interesting comparison with those of the New World and Malesia. All research involving vertebrates is being carried out in the National Park and requires permits from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Research is presently being performed at the Center focuses on MegaChiroptera of the area; the phenology of some of their food plants, and biology of fig wasps.

#### EDUCATION

The nearest university campus is James Cook University in Townsville, 450 km to the south, and the Center has an informal affiliation with this university. At present the Center is not involved in tertiary or secondary education, but is deeply involved in public education through the Rainforest Interpretation Center (called the "Bat House" to emphasize the importance of mega-bats to

# CAPE TRIBULATION LOWLAND TROPICAL RESEARCH CENTER

the area's forests). This facility provides an interpretative service to visitors to the area. It is expected that in 1991 the Center will be making limited post-graduate scholarships available for those wishing to carry out research in the area.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Hugh Spencer, Director

Aus	STATE / PROVINCE	
	STATION #	
Cape Tribulation Lowland Tropical Research Center	NAME	
Private	AFFILIATION	
All Year	SEASON	
8.5	AREA (hectares)	
Rainforest	CONIFEROUS	BIOTIC COMMUNITIES
	DECIDUOUS	
	SHRUB	
	GRASSLAND	
	OLD FIELD	
	TUNDRA	
*	AQUATIC	
*	MARINE	FACILITIES
*	LABORATORY SPACE	
	DORMITORIES	
*	CABINS	
*	MEALS	
	KITCHENETTES	EMPHASIS
*	RESEARCH	
*	EDUCATION	
*	PRESERVATION	
2	# PERMANENT STAFF	
	UNIVERSITY-LEVEL CLASSES	
P.M.B.#5 Cape Tribulation via Mossman, Qld. 4873 Australia 61-70-980-068 980-063	MAILING ADDRESS & TELEPHONE #	
	SYNOPSIS (PAGE #)	

### III. NEW MEMBERS TO OBFS

Mary C. Garvin  
J.H. Barrow Field Station  
Department of Biology  
Hiram College, Hiram, OH 44234

Paul C. Huth  
Mohonk Preserve, Inc.  
Mohonk Lake  
New Paltz, NY 12561

Ron Lawrenz  
St. Croix Watershed Research Center  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

Carl T. Meadors  
University of Charleston  
Charleston, WVA 25304

Allan Muth  
Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center  
P.O. Box 1738  
Palm Desert, CA 92261-1738

W. Leon Neel  
Tall Timbers Research Station  
Rt. 1, Box 678  
Tallahassee, FL 31312

Richard Orkand  
University of Puerto Rico  
Blvd. Del Valle 201  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Robert R. Parmenter  
University of New Mexico  
Sevilleta Field Station  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

## IV. NEW DIRECTORS OF FIELD STATIONS

Dr. Kenneth Cummins  
Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology  
University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Elmer J. Finck  
Ross Natural History Reservation  
Emporia State University

Dr. Ross Lein  
Kananaskis Centre  
University of Calgary

Dr. Patrick J. Webber  
W.K. Kellogg Biological Station  
Michigan State University

V. A NEW BOOK

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# RAINFORESTS

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A GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND TOURIST  
FACILITIES AT SELECTED TROPICAL FOREST  
SITES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

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By James L. Castner



With Foreword by Dr. Peter Raven

*(Complete Information on the Back)*



Tropical rainforests are being destroyed at the rate of approximately 100 acres per minute. Each day more of the irreplaceable flora and fauna that lives within these complex ecosystems disappears forever. Global concern for rainforests has prompted government support of tropical forest conservation and encouraged biologists to conduct research in those rainforests remaining. Yet to date, there have been no references available evaluating and describing specific sites and facilities for those interested in conducting research, or for those merely visiting rainforests to enjoy their beauty and biological diversity. The book RAINFORESTS: A GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND TOURIST FACILITIES AT SELECTED TROPICAL FOREST SITES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA attempts to fill that empty 'literary niche'.

RAINFORESTS deals strictly with the New World tropics, treating sites in seven of the most accessible countries. The author methodically describes and evaluates select locations in each country. Data are provided on location, logistics, seasonality, forest types, trail systems, and costs. Additional information allows readers to contact lodge owners and field station directors or their representatives directly. Following the description of sites evaluated in each country is information regarding books, maps, tourist information sources, conservation organizations, and scientific organizations/institutions.

In addition, RAINFORESTS contains a partially annotated bibliography of over 200 titles dealing with tropical jungles and the plant and animal life within them. These books are conveniently classified into sections for laymen, biologists, adventure and travel books, flora and fauna guides, and regional guides. Another chapter discusses 'Hands-On' Organizations that allow laymen and biologists to work and study in the field together. The final chapter discusses Sources of Funding available to biologists and other individuals interested in conducting research in rainforest habitats. Appendices contain information about traveling in Latin America, provide a useful list of specialized vocabulary in Spanish and English, and also present a list of the major companies, organizations, and institutions that offer natural history tours.

**"RAINFORESTS serves a useful purpose as a reference book for anyone interested in New World tropical forests."  
Dr. Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden**

**"... an outstanding resource which will be invaluable to naturalists, scientists, and tourists who wish to learn more about the fascinating world of the tropical rainforest and other tropical habitats in the New World." Dr. Thomas C. Emmel, Director, Division of Lepidoptera Research, University of Florida**

**"This book will be an essential volume on the desk of all neotropical rainforest specialists ..." Dr. Ghilleen T. Prance, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Great Britain**

**"... RAINFORESTS becomes more than a guide to remote places; it becomes an unusual primer for the enlightened traveler, who wishes not just to see but to help save the rain forests of the hemisphere." Dr. Archie Carr III, Regional Coordinator, Mesoamerican and Caribbean Program, Wildlife Conservation International**

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**RAINFORESTS: A GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND TOURIST FACILITIES AT SELECTED TROPICAL FOREST SITES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA (ISBN 0-9625150-2-7, LC 89-81847)**

A book by James L. Castner, Ph.D. with foreword by Dr. Peter H. Raven

Available in Spring 1990 through: FELINE PRESS  
P.O. Box 7219- PNR  
Gainesville, FL 32605

Price: \$21.95 (Florida residents please add \$1.32 sales tax) plus \$1.50 shipping\* within the U.S. (please add .30 for each additional book). Please send payment with order in the form of a check or money order that can be collected at a U.S. bank.

\* Orders to Canada add \$2.50 shipping. Orders to the United Kingdom and Europe add \$3.50 shipping.

RAINFORESTS will contain approximately 400 pages, 30 black and white photos, 20 line drawings, and 9 maps.