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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2 – Leah Schein looks for eye-shine

2 – Andy Pandy pudding and... Cats?

3 – Cardiff get their Wellies on

4 – Cardiff Students to stay

5 – Cambridge college clean up

6 – Photo Album

7 – Au Revoir Tibo!

8 – Jungle Fashion



New visitors on page 2



Cardiff students on page 3



Cambridge clean the river on page 5



Get the latest jungle looks on page

Leah Schein Looks for Eye-Shine

There once was a girl called Leah,
Nocturnal primates she wanted to see-ah,
She wandered at night,
Shining her light,
To spot the slow loris and tarsier!



DGFC has the pleasure of the company of nocturnal primate specialist Leah Schein for the following 6 months – yay! Leah, 26, from Chicago, has graduated with a Msc in Primate Conservation from Oxford Brookes, and so is an old friend of our loris enthusiast Rachel Munds. Leah is continuing the nocturnal primate project as a volunteer, collecting data from night surveys and may possibly continue on to complete a Phd should her data collection be successful. Apart from nocturnal primates, she's also into Talib Kweli, rugby, the L-word and belly dancing.

Andy Pandy Pudding and... Cats?

Andy Hearn is back at DG, this time for 6 months to take on the task of setting up 70 camera traps over around 140km² around the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary site to try and get some snaps of the elusive wild cat populations found in the Kinabatangan. With three years hard work combined with the next 6 months surveys he will be writing his Phd on *The ecology and conservation of a sympatric tropical forest felid guild*. To read more about wild cat conservation, the Darwin Project and what Andy's been getting up to, flick back to *Jungle Times* – issue 11 or head to <http://borneanwildcat.blogspot.com/>.



Cardiff Get Their Wellies On



DGFC has certainly been alive and kicking this month with the arrival of the 3rd Cardiff University field course on the 3rd of July. The field course, run as an option for the 2nd year Bioscience degree scheme gives Biology, Ecology and Zoology students the opportunity to experience field work in the rainforest first hand.

Once again, the timing of the wildlife of the rainforest couldn't have been better; the students were lucky enough to have several riverbank sightings of a large group of elephants (including the collared Benina), orang-utans, various other primates and forest creatures as well as the next to impossible sighting of a tarsier! The lucky things had the opportunity to try out mist netting for birds, small mammal trapping, primate surveys on the river, frog surveys, insect surveys, tree plotting and nocturnal primate surveys before they came up

with a project of their own to get stuck into.

The data collection the students undertake is designed to add to the continuous data set at DG to help with future conservation. After learning about their specific projects, the students all gave oral presentations on what they found out through the week, and will now crack on with the statistics for their field course project – good luck guys!

Cardiff students were also the first ever field course to climb the new 18-m viewing platform installed in May, and with the training of Rob and Rodi (the new PTYS-to-be) everyone was able to experience the bird's eye view over Danau Girang!

Thanks to Mike Bruford, Ian Vaughn and Bill Symondson for coming along from Cardiff to help the course run smoothly and successfully!

Cardiff Uni Students Hang Around

We didn't quite manage to get rid of *all* the Cardiff field course students; Nia and Jamie hung around to do some volunteer work here at DG, they were enslaved into nocturnal primate surveys, habitat analysis outings and providing entertainment for Ridzwan our resident 3 year old for the next 2 weeks.



Malaysian Cardiff student

Zalina, a Malaysian student from Cardiff University came to stay for one week to check out the DG centre after hearing so many good things about the place! She spent her week getting involved in all areas, helping out on frog walks, night walks and habitat analysis.

Happy Birthday Andy!

We got the cake and balloons out for a wee celebration for Andy turning the grand old age of 23!



Did They Really Say That?

Becky (Cardiff Uni Student): You probably find more butterflies here because they come out into the open to eat the caterpillars...

Iwan (Cardiff Uni Student): There's a monkey in that tree there.

Jenny: which one?

Iwan: the big green one.

Charlie (Linton College Student): Oh my God, that was the *most* exciting thing I've ever done!! (after going for a wee behind a tree)

Cambridge College Clean Up the Kinabatangan

The 4th field course of the year, a group of students age 15-16 from Linton Village College, Cambridge arrived at DGFC this month as Cardiff Uni left. The students, who have just sat their GCSE's were up to elbows and knees in smelly rubbish on their mission to clear up the Kinabatangan! The visit to DG was the trip which the students had been preparing for, for months as trainees of Wilderness Expertise, a UK based specialist personal development company. The aim of this trip was to undertake a conservation project, as well as to explore the wilderness of the Bornean Rainforest; in this case, their conservation project was clearing the

rubbish up and down river from Danau Girang as well as from the old "Uncle Tan Eco-Camp" site which was closed over a year ago.

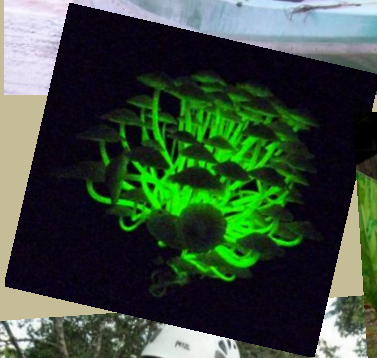
The group were greeted on the journey to DG by a herd of elephants on the river bank, and managed to see most of the amazing wildlife on offer throughout their stay. Their conservation project was a great success with around a ¼ of a ton of rubbish in total being collected from the river and the Uncle Tan site, ranging from plastics bottles and bags, tin cans, flip-flops, a tyre and even an old TV! Well done to all the students and staff for their hard work and effort!



Rubbish was collected (left), sorted (middle) and weighed (right)!



From top left clockwise:
Climbing the mighty tower; wise old elephant; elephants making babies!; elephant moth; orangutan and baby; Ben cruising at sunset; massive amounts of washing for the field course season; Tim from Linton enjoying the canopy platform; glow in the dark mushrooms!; Cardiff enjoying a boat cruise



Au revoir Thibaut! ☹️

Our lovely French volunteer, Thibaut Foch has finished his time at DG this month, and everyone was sad to see him depart! Thibaut has spent around 6 months in DG as well as time in Sukau as a volunteer and as part of his degree in Forest Management, undertaking the mammoth task of establishing *sixteen* new tree plots in total! *Jungle Times* caught up with him to find out what he thought about his adventure in the Kinabatangan:

We're all really going to miss you at DG Thibaut! What is it that you will miss most about being here? (apart from us obviously)

Apart from you guys (Jen's picture courses, Alice's melodious songs, Andy's "that fish is so tasty!", Béné's videos, Leah's Loris finding, Budin's jokes, little Ridzwan dances, Emma's fish catching, Samsir's "good morning"). I'll also miss waiting for the elephants, meeting the friendly orang-utans living around DG, I'll miss the couple of white-crowned hornbills knocking on our window every early morning (even if, at that time, I wanted to sleep a little bit longer), the night noises of the jungle, the glowing mushrooms, the possibility to discover a new creature everyday... and I will miss tree tagging (kidding!).

How do you think the field centre shapes up as a base for people doing work placements like yours?

Having so many facilities in the middle of the forest is something incredible. Spending the day in the forest knowing that a shower, a bed, internet and a meal are waiting for you, makes the jungle life really comfortable! The richness of this forest also permits so many different studies. For these reasons, I see DG like a really nice place to do a work-placement, to discover the Bornean forest and wildlife and improve knowledge for conservation.

What do you think you've gained from this year? (apart from learning a lot of English slang...)

This experience has been enriching for me in many ways. First I learnt a lot from the different people that I met: DG employees, scientists, Sukau villagers, English students. Thanks to them my English got better (yes, with a lot of slang!) and my Malay too (it's not difficult starting from nothing!!) It's also always interesting to discover and live with new cultures! Of course I learnt a lot about the Bornean forest and wildlife diversity. It's difficult to imagine how amazing these ecosystems are without seeing it: monkeys, huge dipterocarps, red apes, snakes, hornbills, tree frogs, flying lizards, spiny lianas, giant squirrels, bleeding and crying trees, pythons, crocs, elephants and you discover more every day.

I realized a little bit more about the problems threatening this amazing Kinabatangan jungle like forest fragmentation. But I also discovered many projects and a real intention to protect and manage this area from scientists but also from the local community.

I'm quite sure now that I want to work on this kind of issue.

JUNGLE FASHION

The beauty of the jungle and its creatures is inspirational for photographers, artists and nature lovers alike, so why not for fashion too? The Jungle Times presents JUNGLE FASHION, for the latest looks inspired by the Kinabatangan



This month's JUNGLE FASHION is inspired by the trees of the rainforest, the most important thing! After our forestry student Thibaut left this month, we celebrate the beauty of trees, from buttress roots to stranglers, the shapes and patterns of the forest are art themselves.

Danau Girang Field Centre

*Danau Girang Field Centre was opened in July 2008.
It is located in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary,
Sabah, Malaysia.*

*Danau Girang is owned by the Sabah Wildlife Department
and supported by Cardiff University. Its purpose is to further
scientific research with the aim of contributing to long-term
conservation projects in the area, and develop a better
understanding of our environment and the living things we
share it with.*

Danau Girang Field Centre

Lot 6

The Jungle

Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary

Sabah

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The opinions expressed in this
newsletter do not necessarily reflect the
views or policies of Cardiff University.



**Danau
Girang Field
Centre**