

Survival Wisdom Assess Rangers

a highly trained unit of rangers, as distinct from regular park wardens. This is due to the of our ranger force and to identify areas for challenges, sensitivity and dangerous nature of further training. Joining him was cameraman the situations faced along the western flank of the park. FCD has developed ongoing training for rangers and it is always seeking new partnerships to build our capabilities. This is a solid training for our rangers, moving them to where Richard Pyshorn, Managing Director of Survival Wisdom joins our enforcement efforts. Richard lives in Cornwall, South Wales of England and is an Ex Royal Air Force Regiment Protection Specialist in survival and training of British military personnel and assets throughout

It is well known that the Chiquibul deserves During the month of February he visited the Chiquibul primarily to see the capabilities and award winning film producer Simon Werry. FCD is pleased to have met and opened their interests for the Chiquibul, and looks forward to another level of professionalism.





FCD Youth Arm Install Bins

The FCD Environmental Youth Group (FCDYEG) continues working in the community of Succotz, just as its predecessor FCD did in the late 80's. Thanks to the British Embassy funds the FCDYEG installed eight garbage bins with the support of the Village Council. The insides of the drum were painted with an oil based paint and the logos were sprayed. The installation of the garbage bins was done on February 15th which was meant to compliment the cleanup campaigns. Two cleanup campaigns were done along the riverside and the George Price Highway in Succotz. The first cleanup campaign was done



in December of 2013 and the second in March of 2014 with the support of Std. V students from San Jose Succotz R.C. School. T-shirts were also obtained as part of the project for the members of FCDEYG.

All the activities were planned by members and there was full participation and support from them throughout the project titled. Promoting Bi-national Community Participation through Environmental Education Effort.

Congratulations for a job well done FCDYEG!!!



Training for Livestock Farmers

entire new set of training activities for farmers established to enable them to better improve their products while reducing the effects of wanton deforestation.

During the month of February, the first livestock workshop on "Establishment and Management of Pasture & Basic Animal Health" was facilitated to livestock farmers in

With support from the GIZ Selva Maya FCD's Extension Technician, Mr. Arnoldo Project, FCD started since November an Melendez welcomed the 9 participants while Mr. David Tzul taught the techniques and in the Vaca Forest Reserve. The training was systems for the establishment of a pasture, protein bank, live fences and the identification and control of disease.

> The Workshop ended by presenting and explaining a list of medications used in basic health management. A practical exercise was done on a 400 pound calf, where vitamins and a de-wormer were applied. This training forms part of the landscape management strategy for the Vaca Forest Reserve.

For more information contact:

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Internationalizing Chiquibul Employee of the Quarter relearly to obtain support for the conservation of the Chiquibul

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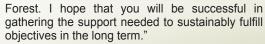
Training for Livestock Farmers

Union Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has found something in common with FCD. This relates to their BRIDGE initiative whose acronym stands for Building River Dialogue and Governance. With the aim of sharing experiences in river conservation across borders, FCD hosted Mrs. Rocio Cordoba on a three-day tour during the month of February. The familiarization trip took her to visit the Mountain Pine Ridge, the Chiquibul, Melchor de Mencos and the community of Los Encuentros in Peten,



comprehensive project, addressing issues with an integrated and

cross-border approach. The very good experience obtained with



the support of ACP-FLEGT/EU-FAO FLEGT Programme would be Indeed, our aim is to fulfill objectives in the long valuable in developing such a proposal. FAO would be willing to term. After the visit FCD efforts have been ongoing continue to support Belize in this regard, should its assistance be in exploring further collaborations and support with requested. Congratulations again for the achievements in Chiquibul the European Commission, FAO and IUCN.

BRIDGING with IUCN



Guatemala. During this trip she also met with community leaders from both Belize and Guatemala who are a part of the bi-national watershed alliance for the protection of the Chiquibul-Mopan-Macal Rivers. She came out highly impressed by the work being done by community leaders and felt that there are many lessons learnt that FCD can share with the BRIDGE initiative. FCD has been participating in BRIDGE forums through the involvement of the two FCD educators, Veronica Avila and

Wildlife Monitoring in Vaca

The Vaca Dam is located on the Macal in the Cayo District. The Vaca Dam was years. Having concluded the dry season survey, River downstream of the existing Mollejon commissioned in late 2010. As part of the FCD team used geo-referenced transects and

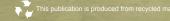


Hydroelectric Facility and the Chalillo Dam Vaca Hydroelectric Project environmental wildlife populations and to document the fish species. alteration and adjustment of existing habitats and ecosystems.

this field work for a fifth time over the last six January 2015.

pre-determined monitoring sites to document compliance plan (ECP) approved by the birds and mammals. River and creek transects Government of Belize, the Belize Electricity were used to adequately sample reptiles and Company Limited (BECOL) has been amphibians. Nocturnal surveys on the river required to conduct surveys of wildlife in the and creeks were made to study the morelets area impacted. The objective is to examine crocodile and amphibian species, and cast net and evaluate any change over time in present sampling methodology was used to monitor for

Final results of the third overall study will be submitted to BECOL, the Forest Department FCD has had its research team engaged on and the Department of the Environment by





Employee of The Quarter

Mrs. Amparito Balan Itza has been at FCD Unfortunately, she relocated with her family further away from the Office, thus limiting started our program of core conservation in the Chiquibul/Maya Mountains. She has worked Administrative Assistant and has also served as the Human Resource Manager, and a strong shoulder to the ED in difficult times. Over her tenure Amparito has conducted her work with diligence and open mind to learning and personal growth. Her character has help build a strong team of managers at FCD.

her to remain full time at FCD. Presently she serves as the Accountant at FCD on a part time closely with the Executive Director (ED) as the basis. It has been difficult for us to let her go and eventhough her time is limited we still very much consider her an integral part of FCD. She is selected as the Employee of the Quarter due to her commitment to the organization and enthusiasm to spare time to FCD even under strenuous circumstances. FCD is where we are thanks to Amparito's diligence and honesty. We are extremely thankful.

Field Notes from the Board

Miss Nidia Panti has been serving at the FCD Board since 2013. Her primary Sea Turtle Conservation. This Community role at FCD is to strengthen the FCD Youth Environmental Group which is comprised of over 23 young boys and girls, primarily from the village of San Jose Succotz.

During the first week of April, Nidia participated on a study tour organized with the Projecto TAMAR team at Praia do Forte, Bahia, Brazil. She joined other Belizean organizations such as PACT, TIDE, and BTB who were exposed to different strategies on how to partially subsidize their annual budgets and take a step further in becoming more self-reliant.

Based Organization (CBO) promotes marine



conservation in Brazilian coasts and has identified five flagship species for protection. Projecto TAMAR works in conjunction with the government and the bordering communities and has developed strategic agreements for the wise use and protection of these marine

On her back to office report, Miss Panti provided several recommendations to FCD, including the need for Belizean NGOs to diversify their alternatives for captivating people's interest and considered that capacity building strategies should be developed. FCD thanks Oak Foundation for financing her trip to Brazil.

given to FCD's effort.

Partner's Spotlight - SEWANEE

Sewanee, is a private, coeducational liberal arts college located in Sewanee, Tennessee, United States. It is owned by 28 southern dioceses of the Episcopal Church, and its School of Theology is an official seminary of the church. The campus consists of 13,000 acres of scenic mountain property atop the Cumberland

CD is proud to name Sewanee: The As a class project in Professor Jonathan Evans' University of the South as the Partner of Conservation Biology course this semester, the Quarter due to its confidence and support students are studying how the demand for palm leaves by churches on Palm Sunday has

created a market for illegally harvested palm leaves from the rain forests of Belize. The class was also involved on a successful fundraising event that will enable FCD to improve its infrastructure at Las Cuevas Research Station, support outreach education and help farmers in the Vaca Forest Reserve. FCD is extremely grateful for the support given and welcome students from Sewanee to visit us and join us on the multifaceted efforts ongoing in the Chiquibul/Maya Mountains.

Review of Environmental Law

duty to detain those abusing the environmental laws, however, only a small percentage of At FCD, we consider that the environmental law must be more stringent so as to help deter people from continuously committing the same offences such as illegal logging, gold panning and poaching in the Chiquibul.

On a daily basis there are a steady number To address and explore a way forward, FCD of illegal activities taking place in the areas convened a session with Mrs. Cheryl Ann Vidal, that FCD operates. Our field rangers have the Director of Public Prosecution; Mr. Godfrey Smith, Attorney at Law: Mrs. Anne Marie Smith. Chief Magistrate; Ms. Griffith, Magistrate of San those caught eventually are successfully Ignacio and Mr. George Gomez, Prosecutor of prosecuted. But with such small fines ranging San Ignacio Court. The group considered that a from \$500 to a \$1,000, those prosecuted in review of the National Park Systems Act would most cases can readily pay and leave the court. need to be explored and recommendations made for strengthening the penalties. FCD through the EC FAO/FLEGT programme support will continue pursuing this action.



Visitor Center Launched

arthday was celebrated on the 22nd of April around the world, but for FCD the big event was held on the 23rd on the occasion of the inauguration of the Chiquibul National Park Visitor Center. Thanks to the financial support from the Global Environmental Facility-United Nations Development Programme (GEF UNDP), Bull Ridge Company Limited and the National Protected Areas Secretariat, FCD was able to construct and make operational the Visitor Center.

this infrastructure we are beginning a new generating mechanism inside the park.



This new development comes at a time when program of visitation services in the area with the park management plan recommends the the objective of promoting the importance of the activation of public use in the area. With Chiquibul forest, and setting in place a financial

The opening address was provided by Miss Giselle Martinez of the Cavo Tour Guide Association, while the objectives were described by Mr. Daniel Alemu of the GEF UNDP Office. Representing Honourable Lisel Alamilla, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development was her Acting CEO in the Ministry, Mr. Alfredo Cruz, who gave the official remarks and inaugurated the building. In his speech he said, "I am committed to encouraging our partners and our Government to continue to make significant investments into the Chiquibul to ensure that we manage this area for the benefit of the people."

Sewanee Fundraising Drive

_visited Sewanee. University of the South in Tennessee and met with Dr. Jonathan Evans, Assistant Provost for environmental stewardship and sustainability. Since then FCD has embarked with Dr. Evans on various ideas that can potentially solidify a partnership between both institutions. An avid researcher and naturalist himself, Dr. Evan had been following the stories of Chiquibul over the last few years and understood the challenges and opportunities of the Chiquibul.

ast year FCD's Executive Director In January, 2014 Dr. Evans visited Las Cuevas Research Station and on his return back home, started a fundraising drive with his students from Sewanee. Using the INDIEGOGO mechanism the students developed a compilation of incredible short video footage that gives a comprehensive idea of FCD's challenges and interventions. You can watch these on the link: http://sustain.sewanee.edu/belize FCD takes this opportunity to thank Dr. Evans, the University of the South and his students who coordinated the fundraising event. A big thank you also goes to all those that made donations and made the event a success



Adventure Racing in The Maya Mountains



It took two years in the planning and finally it came to happen. Over 45 athletes from close to home to many sport enthusiasts.

comprised of Chief Ranger Jose Sierra and 2016. Ranger Hilberto Rash, who came in first on

the United States. Denmark and Ecuador the two person team category, whilst the overall competed in the Maya Mountain Adventure champion was the four person team Yoga Race and experienced the beauty of the Slackers / Gear Junkies who finished the race Chiquibul/Maya Mountains. Doug Crytzer, at an impressive 53 hours 42 minutes. To do this Director of the American Adventure Sport mark, the team traversed the jungle at day and tagged with FCD to raise awareness of this night and barely slept. The racers hiked, biked, beautiful area west of the Maya Mountains canoed and rappelled through several protected and by doing so brought these mountains areas including the Chiquibul National Park, Caracol and Mountain Pine Ridge. You can learn about the entire race by visiting the website: The race took place from the 12th to 16th of www.mayamountainadventurechallenge.com February Seventeen groups registered for the Athletes are now getting ready for the second race including FCD's team Chiquibul Grisons Maya Mountains Adventure Race scheduled for

Visit Us at Las Cuevas Research Station

as Cuevas Research Station (LCRS) studies in Tropical Forest Ecology, Protected We support research and education, and Conservation. welcome visitors wishing to experience this remote and important part of the world. In 2013, LCRS welcomed over 100 Towering trees, spectacular jungle streams, international students who spent between amazing underground caves and encounters 3 and 21 days, studying the rich biological with numerous endangered animals such biodiversity and cultural history of the as Jaguars and Scarlet Macaws will make Chiquibul Forest. We invite you to come and your visit to LCRS a fascinating and life long experience wilderness at its best. Write us at experience. This is a true gem for conducting fcd.lcrs@gmail.com or fcd@btl.net

Lis located in the heart of the Chiquibul Areas Management, Tropical Forest Field Forest in the Maya Mountains of Belize, Methods, Botany, Birdlife Biology and

