

TAPIR TRACKS

The newsletter of the Monteverde Conservation League & Children's Eternal Rainforest

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

MAY 2018

News from the Bosque Eterno de los Niños (BEN)



The month of May typically welcomes the rainy season in Costa Rica. We wait for the rains along with the birds, which are especially active this time of year. Costa Rica's national bird, the Clay-colored Thrush, sings to bring the rains, beautifully and also incessantly. Alongside it, the Three-wattled Bellbird (left) chimes in with its characteristic metallic "BONK", which we've heard consistently in Bajo del Tigre and Pocosol in recent days.

The past few months have been full of adventures and challenges, with important repairs at both San Gerardo and Pocosol stations, new personnel, and lots of visitors at Bajo del Tigre. We look forward to the rainy season and the rejuvenation it brings—and most especially to the reopening of Pocosol later this month.

Thanks for reading, and see you in the BEN!

—[Lindsay Stallcup](#), Executive Director

Pocosol Reopens!



We are delighted to report the **reopening of our Pocosol field station**. Trails opened to the public on May 1, and we welcome our first group of students on May 18. We were able to complete the necessary repairs to the station and adjacent slope thanks to a generous donation from [Friends of the Rainforest](#).

We are also grateful to the many local volunteers who helped prepare the buildings and trails for the station's reopening. We couldn't have done it without you!

For reservations at Pocosol, [contact us](#) or [visit our website](#).

Environmental Education



Our Environmental Education Program is in full swing! We are about halfway through a new program on **watershed conservation and aquatic ecosystems**. The program, led by environmental educator María Fernanda Rojas, includes talks, workshops, and field trips for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students at 10 elementary schools on the eastern border of the BEN. The students are finishing up the classroom component and are ready for field trips to local streams!

The watershed conservation program has been made possible in part by a grant from [Bosqueterno S.A. \(BESA\)](#), the steward of 554 hectares (~1370 acres) of forested land on the Continental Divide in Monteverde. The "Bosque Eterno", which means Eternal Forest (not to be confused with the Children's Eternal Rainforest!) has been protected since 1951, when the land was set aside by the Quakers who owned it as a watershed reserve for their newly established community. Today, BESA offers small grants for projects specifically related to watershed conservation.

Meet Our Staff: Giselle Rodríguez



Monteverde native Giselle Rodríguez was first introduced to the idea of conservation as a high school student, when she worked as a research assistant for several biologists visiting Monteverde. She has never looked back. Giselle joined the MCL team in 1991, first working in the League's Information Center, then as a receptionist, and later as Executive Secretary (her current position).

Giselle represents the MCL in a variety of community-wide committees, including the Monteverde Environmental Education Commission and Monteverde Emergency Commission, and is a founding member of the MCL's Employee's Association.

One of the challenges of managing an organization with 32 years of history under its belt—and a vibrant history at that—is keeping track of the institutional history. As a long-time employee (27 years!), Giselle is the person who helps us keep all the details straight. We are grateful for Giselle's leadership and organization!

Species Spotlight: Collared Peccary



Collared peccaries (*Tayassu tajacu*) are found in most of Costa Rica and throughout the BEN. They get their name from the pale tan collar that extends from the top of the shoulder to the back of the cheek. Peccaries, sometimes called javelinás or *sainos*, resemble and are distantly related to pigs.

Collared peccaries are important prey for jaguars and mountain lions, making them a key part of the rainforest food web. They are also one of the main targets of poachers, who hunt them primarily for their meat. Though seemingly abundant, collared peccaries give birth to an average of just 2 babies per litter, which means that population recovery can be slow. Their close relative, the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), has been driven to near extinction in Costa Rica by habitat loss and hunting. Our forest rangers work hard to make sure that collared peccaries remain protected in the BEN and surrounding areas!

Making a Difference



High school students from [The European School](#) in Heredia, Costa Rica, participated in volunteer work during their recent stay at our San Gerardo field station. The students helped us complete repairs to the main road (caused by damage from Tropical Storm Nate in October 2017), perform important trail maintenance, and begin a native plant garden at the station.

Want to get involved? Your student group (or really any group!) can participate in volunteer work with the BEN. For more information, contact us at info@acmcr.org.

You can also support the BEN by [making a donation](#). 100% of contributions support conservation, protection, and environmental education efforts in the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Monteverde Conservation League & Children's Eternal Rainforest

www.acmcr.org / info@acmcr.org

P.O. Box 124-5655, Santa Elena de Monteverde, Costa Rica

(+001 506) 2645-5200 / 2645-5003