



Queensland News

Rainforest Live

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LINKING CLASSROOMS AROUND THE WORLD TO RESEARCH SITES AROUND THE WORLD

Fascinating Careers Abound in Rainforest ...



Brian Goldberg Union College Careers Related to the Rainforest

There are hundreds of professions related to the rainforest that scientists can choose from. Jobs like an ornithologist, a person who studies birds, to a rainforest economist, a person who tries to value rainforest functions such as oxygen production and global climate control.

One of my favorite rainforest scientists is Mark, a forester who works for a tree planting group that designs and conducts plantings along treeless river banks. First, he has to contact the landowners along the targeted creek and convince them to agree to a tree planting on their property. Then he must analyze the land and decide which tree species to plant close to the river and higher up on the bank. Finally, Mark has to collect tree seedlings, shovels and School for Field Studies volunteers to help him

plant. In the words of Mark, "Awwwh mate, it's the best feeling in the world to stroll through a forest, where seven years earlier it was a dry, treeless hillside."

My second favorite rainforest scientist is Nigel, who works at the nearby Lake Eacham nursery. Nigel is the nursery manager in charge of producing the tiny tree seedlings used in Mark's tree planting projects. Before he can grow any trees he must collect the seeds from the forest. Last week, we helped break open the seed pods and separate the seeds to be planted and germinated in the greenhouse. After a few weeks of high humidity and water in the greenhouse, Nigel must ensure they are re-potted and set outside to grow. Finally, when the trees are one to two feet tall they are ready for Mark to plant along river banks.

My third favorite rainforest scientist is Tony, a tropical botanist. Tony spends his time identifying the hundreds of trees in the rainforest. He has taught us how to identify the trees by examining the color,

QUOTABLE QUOTE

*"In the end,
we will preserve only
what we love,
love only what we
understand,
understand only
what we are taught."*

B. Dioum
African Ecologist

texture, and shape of its leaves. His job is extremely important to us because Tony's identification tips have enabled us to compile a list of trees that grow well along creek edges, and trees that grow well in drier areas. This key information can be used by Mark and Nigel to increase the success of reforestation projects.

So, these are only a few of the many professions related to the rainforest. With so many animals, plants and functions of the rainforest, the number of different scientists it can support is practically unlimited. The rainforest might not survive if it wasn't for the work of scientists trying to understand and demonstrate its value. It is up to each and everyone of you who have learned about rainforests to teach someone else why it is important so that no more rainforests are destroyed. If all the rainforests disappear then Mark, Nigel, Tony and any one of you who dreams of working with the rainforest will be out of a job.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

- 12/05** Last day of field research. Participated in a planting at Ross Chapman's farm. As a group, we planted over 600 trees!
- 12/06** DR presentations today. The students will pick the best three for a presentation tomorrow night at our open house.
- 12/07** Center for Rainforest Studies Open House. People from the community who helped students with their DR projects are invited to have dinner—our way of saying thank you to the community.
- 12/08** Students work on their Direct Research projects all day.
- 12/10** Final draft for Directed Research Projects due today.
- 12/12** Students reluctantly say their goodbyes as they leave Australia.

Student Journals



**Noel Kemmerer
 Univ. of Vermont
 Snakes**

When I decided to live in the Australian rainforest, the first thing that came to my mind was ...SNAKES! I had heard that Australia had some of the world's most poisonous snakes and they were everywhere. I have a snake phobia and was very nervous about living in the "land of snakes." I decided it was time I get over this fear.

My first encounter with a snake was in my cabin. Katie and I heard a loud noise on the roof, we looked up at a crack in the ceiling and to our surprise saw a python! It slithered back and forth along the roof in the hot sun so we decided to name the snake Suntan Sam. The next time I saw a snake was on the steps to the cabin late at night. This one was small, black, and shiny. I almost stepped on him! I was amazed at how well I handled the situation.

Throughout my time here I have seen fourteen different snakes, more than any other student! I've seen a red-bellied black



snake, brown snakes, a scaly snake, and five different pythons. The most memorable snake encounter was the ten foot python I nearly stepped on in the middle of the night. It was huge! For Halloween I even dressed up as Suntan Sam. Now I'm fairly comfortable with snakes. Once I faced my greatest fear and lived through it, I realized it wasn't all that bad. I think I even like the critters now!



**Katie Reef
 Duke University
 An Exciting Week**

This past week has been one of the most exciting since we have been here. We have had a different schedule than normal because of several special events. We had a tree quiz a few days ago. We had to learn 20 or so trees and be able to identify them by sight, give scientific names, and uses. I loved learning all the various trees, and it has made me a much more knowledgeable viewer when I walk around the forest.

Other excitement included a visit from a fourth grade class. The Center manager, Dave, is married to a school teacher and she brought her class over to look at the rainforest. We were paired up and got to play all morning. The kids really seemed to enjoy it and we loved having them. My partner and I looked at our cabins and took a walk into the scrub. Then we all went into the shade-house and planted seedlings. Before they left, they sang us an Aussie folk song. They were so cute!



**Ecy McIlvain
 Connecticut College
 Sleeping Out**

For the past few weeks a group of students have been sleeping out under the stars regularly. Along the access road, after it emerges from dense rainforest, but before you get to the Center is a grassy level area called the "heli-pad." I doubt that any helicopters have ever or will ever use it but it is a great spot for a campfire. It is here on the grass by the fire that we have been sleeping out at night. I haven't been as regular as some people, but I have spent a fair number of nights in my sleeping bag on the heli-pad.

The stars here are different from the northern hemisphere constellations, and it has been really neat to become familiar with the new shapes and arrangements. Watching the moon make its way across the sky makes me feel like I am part of something much bigger than we humans can imagine. Many people tend to be afraid of the night and what it holds, but I recommend that everyone take a night or two sometime (maybe next summer) to fall asleep listening to the crickets, wake up early with the sunrise, feel the dew on your sleeping bag and sit in the early morning sun listening to the birds wake up.



Q&A

Q. Are there as many female researchers as male at the Center for Rainforest Studies? Are your responsibilities the same?

Jennifer P., Sacramento, CA, USA

A. At CRS, research is done by professors, interns and students.



Unfortunately, there are huge differences in the percentage of male to female researchers at the various levels of study. All of the professors are male whereas all of the interns are female. At the student level, women outnumber the men at an approximate 2:1 ratio. It is definitely a goal at CRS to strive for equality between the sexes. Therefore, the responsibilities of the professors, interns and students do not differ depending upon their gender. In my opinion, research is done by any means whether it is done by male or female researchers. Fortunately, this concept holds true for the research being completed at our site.

Lisa Blair



Q. Now that the semester is coming to an end, what are you planning to do next? How are you going to keep in touch with all of your new friends?

Lynn H., Boynton Beach, FL, USA

A. After the program I am going back to Morristown, New Jersey



to see my family and celebrate my 22nd birthday. I am then going up to Burlington, Vermont to see my boyfriend and friends for a few days. Then its out to Jackson Hole, Wyoming with my family to ski and celebrate Christmas. After Christmas break I will move back up to the University of Vermont for the Spring semester. I will miss all of the people I met here, especially my closest friends Bekki Stevens and Katie Reefe.

To keep in touch we will exchange addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. I am already planning to see Bekki in February and will hopefully see Katie next summer.

Noel Kemmerer

Q. Who won the ping-pong tournament? Marc or Brian? Who organized it? How many people participated? Did you have fun?

Matt Darnall, USA

A. Funny you should ask about the ping-pong tournament. Actually, I organized it, and around twenty people participated. The final game was amazing between Marc and Brian. We had a light-show introduction for the players (just like the Chicago Bulls), programs and popcorn. The match was "an



intense mental battle," as Brian said. He had played fifteen straight games to get to the finals so he was really tired. Marc and Brian played to a tie in the first series and then were tied two games each when they stopped. Both of them were too tired to play anymore so they were crowned co-champions. We even made a trophy out of a log and a ping-pong paddle.

Pedro Marques

This is the last issue of **Queensland News** for Fall 1997. Join us again in February of 1998 when we begin a new semester of **Rainforest Live**.

For more information please call us at **800-890-3049** or e-mail us at **rain@sitalive.com**



Home Connection: What do you want to be?

Do you know what your parents do all day while you are at school? Are they at work? Have you ever thought about what they might be doing at work? Ask your mom, dad, or another adult if you can interview them about their career. Here are a few questions you might want to ask them: How did you decide on your career? How did you get your job? Do you need a college degree to do your job? What is your favorite thing about your work? After interviewing the person, think about what you might want to do when you grow up. Why are you interested in a particular job?



1. Who are Brian Goldberg's three favorite rainforest scientists and what are their jobs?
2. How many snakes has Noel seen during the semester? Name one type of snake she has seen.
3. How do scientists and science careers support the rainforest?
4. Do you think the students at the Center for Rainforest Studies have made a difference in the Queensland's rainforest? Why?

Glossary

biologist: a scientist who studies living organisms and life processes
ecologist: a scientist who studies the relationships of organisms and their environment
naturalist: someone who studies animals or plants, usually in their natural surroundings
ornithologist: someone who studies birds
taxonomist: a scientist who names and classifies animals or plants according to natural relationships

Fall 1997 Research Team: As the Fall semester of Rainforest Live comes to a close we would like to thank all of the students who participated by sending in questions. We learned a lot and hope you did too. We enjoyed sharing our adventure with you. Happy Holidays from The Center for Rainforest Studies in Queensland, Australia!



Site's Log 12/10/97

TIME: 11:00 p.m. AEST
 (Australian Eastern Standard Time)
AIR TEMP: 21° C
RAINFALL: 0 mm
WX: Another hot day, but cooler at night.

KEY:
 °C=degrees Celsius
 mm=millimeter

Answers to Quiz

1. Mark, a forester, Nigel, the Lake Eacham nursery manager and Tony, a tropical botanist.
 2. Noel has seen fourteen snakes. She has seen a red-bellied black snake, brown snakes, a scaly snake, and five different pythons.
 3. Answers will vary.
 4. Answers will vary.



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Send us your questions!

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