



SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SINCE 2002

In memory of Henry Murillo

Friends of the Rainforest is saddened to inform our readers that we lost a dear friend and valued colleague. Henry Murillo Rodriguez, one of the rangers who works to protect the rainforest on a daily basis, was involved in a tragic accident that took his life late last year. Without these dedicated employees to carry out our mission on the front lines, none of our efforts would be realized. Their dedication and selflessness are the backbone of our organization. Our hearts go out to Henry's family in this difficult time.

Executive Director Lindsay Stallcup of Monteverde Conservation League, our partner organization in Costa Rica, has shared the following with us:



This photo of Henry was taken in October 2015, on his 40th birthday.

On December 17, we gathered in La Tigra de San Carlos to say our final goodbyes to friend and coworker **Henry Murillo Rodriguez**. Henry died from complications following a serious accident while carrying out his duties in a remote area of the Children's Eternal Rainforest. Henry, whose nickname in Spanish means "rusty" (he was a redhead), was a beloved member of our Maintenance team for nearly 8 years. He was outgoing, always ready with a smile and a joke. Henry is survived by his wife, Marlene, and two daughters, Rachel (9) and Merelyn (17). He was 40 years old.

On December 3, Maintenance and Protection staff members were clearing property lines in Arancibia, a particularly steep and rugged part of the Children's Eternal Rainforest reserve. A large rock rolled down from about 30 meters above, crushing and breaking both of Henry's legs, including an exposed fracture in the left leg. Due to a combination of factors, primarily the remote location and difficult terrain, it was about 8 hours between the time of the accident and Henry's arrival at the nearest hospital. About 10 minutes from the hospital, Henry went into cardio-respiratory arrest. Henry fought for his life in the ICU at the Puntarenas hospital for nearly two weeks, where

he underwent the amputation of both legs, but he never regained consciousness. He passed away early on December 15.

I am so proud of the MCL staff for their response in the face of this tragic situation. I am certain that we did everything we could, under very unfavorable circumstances, to help Henry and get him medical care as quickly as possible. I was able to make it to the site of the accident, so I can personally attest to just how remote and challenging the conditions were. The men who were in the field with Henry at the time did everything they could to stabilize him, provide first aid (including a tourniquet and improvised splints), and seek a faster exit route.

However, the fact that we did everything we could to help Henry, doesn't do much to lessen the blow. He was in the prime of his life, with so much ahead of him. Although we as an organization do all we can to minimize risks, our Protection and Maintenance team members really do risk it all in their work to protect the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Thank you to our friends and supporters for keeping Henry's family and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers. I have been impressed by the outpouring of support from neighboring communities and organizations, as well as the solidarity of the MCL staff and board members.

We are taking things one step at a time. I am confident that the MCL family will pull through this together.

Best wishes,

Lindsay Stallcup
Executive Director

If you would like to send a tribute to the Murrillo Family, please make checks payable to **Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde** with "Henry Murillo" in the memo line.

Monteverde Conservation League
Attn: Family of Henry Murillo
P.O. Box 124-5655
Santa Elena de Monteverde
Puntarenas, Costa Rica



Spotlight on Olivia Votava



Olivia hard at work fundraising for the rainforest

We recently spoke with one of our enthusiastic young rainforest supporters, Olivia Votava, to find out what drove her passion into action. After learning about the Children’s Eternal Rainforest in Spanish class and visiting the Monteverde region in Summer of 2015, Olivia decided to dedicate her middle years program culmination project to fundraising for the rainforest.

Friends of the Rainforest: What caused you to decide to begin fundraising?

Olivia Votava: As a culminating project for the Middle Years Program, students are required to complete a personal project which can be almost anything that interests you personally over the summer. I was originally going to do a project supporting another charity; however, right after school ended for the year, I went on a two week community service trip to Costa Rica through National Geographic Student Expeditions. During that trip I was able to view Guanacaste, Arenal, and Monteverde. After traveling, hiking, and horseback riding through various locations in western Costa Rica, I knew what I wanted to do for my personal project. I had previously

heard about El Bosque Eterno de los Niños and I decided that fundraising for an organization that helps promote the preservation of an exceptional place with such high biodiversity and increases the amount of education provided to students who will soon be running this planet would be the best option and one I would be the most passionate about.

FOTR: Tells us about your fundraising project(s).

OV: My fundraising project consisted of four parts. The first part was a website that focused on educating the public on conservation with a page dedicated to Costa Rica. This also has a link to different ways to donate for Friends of the Rainforest. The website is <http://www.conservationcostarica.weebly.com>. The second part was a GoFundMe account entitled Rainforest Protection: PP (BEN) which I sent links out through letters and social media encouraging people to donate. The third part was typing up formal letters explaining my fundraiser and project to family members and friends and asking them to donate online or send in donations along. I also made stickers encouraging donations and sent those out with the letters. The fourth part was a bake sale in which I organized and implemented. As a result of this bake sale, I raised over \$80; however, this is a small portion of the total amount of funds raised. This involved setting up at the front of my neighborhood and fundraising for about 4 hours and baking, bagging, and selling coffee cake, sugar cookies, and chocolate chip cookies.

Olivia’s dedication raised over \$750 for the rainforest. We are thankful for your thoughtful action on behalf of this special region. Well done Olivia!

Friends of the Rainforest

Our mission is to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica and beyond.

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Rainforest Read-a-thon!

Help us meet the needs of the rainforest with every page you read!!

The spring 2016 Read-a-thon is a fun way for children of all ages to raise money while also reinforcing their reading skills. Our 2016 read-a-thon is looking for individuals, classrooms, student groups or schools to dedicate two weeks or one month to reading and raising funds for Friends of the Rainforest. Send in your completed read-a-thon forms and funds by Friday April 8th to be featured as a top reader on our website or in an upcoming newsletter! Find out more at www.friendsoftherainforest.org/read.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The first thing you need to decide as a group or as an individual is whether you want to complete a two week read-a-thon or a month long read-a-thon. Use the attached reading record and sponsor form to keep track of your reading and sponsors.

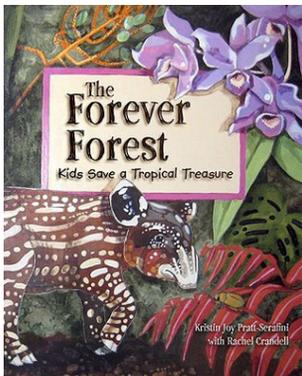
READING THAT COUNTS

1. Reading before and after school and during recess.
2. Free time reading in the classroom counts.
3. Other people reading aloud to you counts.
4. Reading aloud to other people counts. If you read to your friend or your brother or sister, it counts for both of you!
5. Reading aloud to a cat, a dog, or a monkey counts.
6. Reading in a tree, on the bus, in the car, on an airplane, in a hotel and under the bed covers with a flashlight counts.
7. Assigned reading for homework and book report reading counts.
8. Reading comic books, newspapers, or a magazine counts.
9. Reading in another language counts.

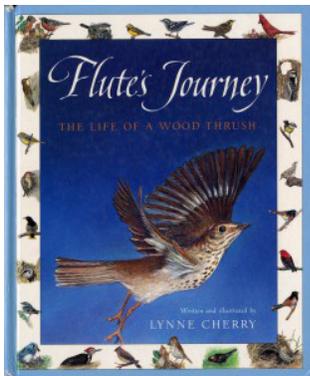
READING THAT DOESN'T COUNT

1. Reading before the official beginning of your Read-A-Thon doesn't count.
2. Reading after the official ending of your Read-A-Thon doesn't count.
3. Assigned reading during class time does not count.
4. Reading that you think you will do in the future if you have extra time does not count.

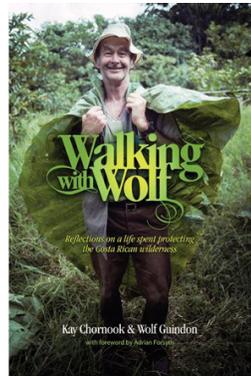
HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE RAINFOREST THEMED SELECTIONS:



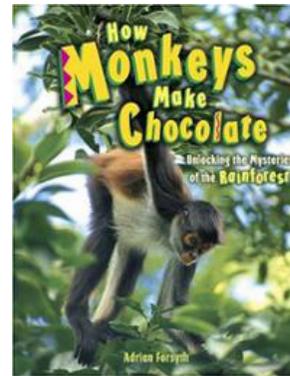
The Forever Forest:
Kids Save a Tropical
Treasure
By Rachel Crandell and
Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini



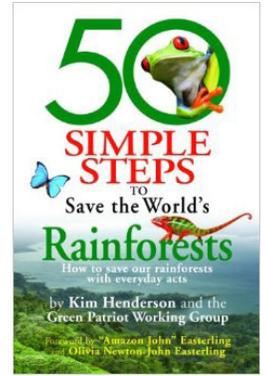
Flute's Journey:
The Life of a
Woodthrush
By Lynne Cherry



Walking with Wolf:
Reflections on a Life
Spent Protecting the
Costa Rican Wilderness
By Kay Chornook &
Wolf Guindon



How Monkeys Make
Chocolate: Unlocking
the Mysteries of the
Rain Forest
By Adrian Forsyth



50 Simple Steps to
Save the World's
Rainforests: how to
Save Our Rainforests
with Everyday Acts
By Kim Hendersen



— Friends of the —
RAINFOREST[™]
 Monteverde, Costa Rica

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Visit Paradise!

Travel with us to Costa Rica for an experience of a lifetime. Your group can have a variety of unique and magical experiences in the rainforest. From spending a morning at InBio Parque where you have the opportunity to photograph much of the iconic wildlife and gorgeous flowering plants of Costa Rica, to a hike up the Arenal Volcano, a chance to zipline in the canopy, and a pleasurable soak in hot springs, our trips have something for everyone!



Our trips are organized by Dr. Jeffery Norris, an expert in leading natural history tours in Costa Rica as well as an educator and ecological researcher with over 20+ years of experience. If you're looking for an experience that is both epic and educational, rousing and restorative, this is the trip for you!

Contact us today to organize a trip for your group! trips@friendsoftherainforest.org

*"I wanted to choose a highlight, but as each day ended I remember thinking, **"This was the best day ever!"** How could I decide on a highlight when I'd have to choose among experiencing the peacefulness and power of a waterfall pool, the brilliant iridescence of the morpho butterfly's wings, the frisson of delight at catching sight of an agouti or coati at the station, the primal wonder at*

playful monkeys in the branches overhead, the silent grace of a swallowtail kite soaring overhead, the exquisite delicacy of the tiniest orchids and hummingbirds, the spiritual connection I felt during my solo time on the trail - I think you get my drift! The rainforests of Monteverde are like no where else on earth!" - Janet

Founded in 1986 by the efforts of school children from around the world, the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica is a 55,000 acre reserve that protects some of our planet's most biodiverse habitat and endangered species. Friends of the Rainforest is a US non-profit dedicated to raising awareness about rainforest conservation issues, providing youth and adult education opportunities, and buying and protecting land as part of the reserve.