

VIEW FROM THE CANOPY



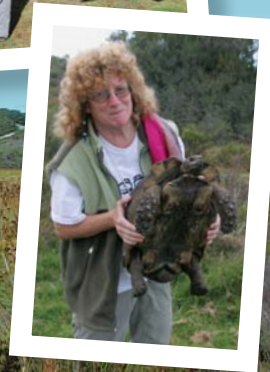
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A FOND FAREWELL TO

DR. DEEDRA MCCLEARN

Dr. Deedra McClearn, Director of the La Selva Biological Station for the past six years has decided to pursue projects in the United States. Dr. McClearn has been a valued asset to the organization during her six-year tenure as Station Director and for nine years before that in our educational programs in Costa Rica and South Africa. Given her history with OTS, we could not lose the opportunity to have her share her thoughts about her OTS years.



Looking back at your six and a half years as the La Selva station director, of what accomplishments are you most proud?

We built a good working team among the staff. We put our “house” in order—upgrading buildings, streamlining policies, and updating information and databases. We made important advances in greening the station, and we continued the long La Selva tradition of offering an excellent site for research and teaching.

What advice would you give the next director?

Three pieces of advice—one that I inherited from a previous director:

You cannot do everything so choose your priorities.

Cherish your staff and your databases.

Study what other field stations do, go to the annual OBFS (Organization of Biological Field Stations) meetings, and learn from the collective wisdom.

What are your own plans for the future?

I’m going to give myself a brief sabbatical. My plans are to move to Pennsylvania, where my parents live, take some courses at Penn State University (advanced Spanish and web site design), and continue for

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PLANNED GIVING IN ACTION



Dr. Ernest P. "Buck" Edwards, died on September 27, 2011 in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was friend and modest donor to the Las Cruces Biological Station which he visited as a young researcher studying hummingbirds. Over his lifetime he was an ornithologist with wide experience in teaching, research, administration, and publication. He grew up on the campus of Sweet Briar College in Virginia where his father was a physics professor. He went to college at the University of Virginia (B.A. in Biology, 1940) and Cornell University (M.A., 1941; Ph.D., 1949), and he served in the US Army during World War II and the Korean War. Early in his career, Dr. Edwards taught at the University of Kentucky and the University

of the Pacific, served as Associate Director of the Houston Museum of Natural History, lectured for the National Audubon Society, and led bird-watching tours to Mexico — the last activity leading to the publication of his first book *Finding Birds in Mexico*, in 1955. In 1965, Dr. Edwards returned to the East Coast when he joined the faculty at Sweet Briar College during which time he taught many courses in the natural sciences and wrote and published several books on ornithology. Since his retirement from Sweet Briar in 1990 as Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology, Dr. Edwards remained active in travel, research, and writing.

We met Buck Edwards when he decided to use some of his retirement funds to establish a gift annuity for the Las Cruces Land Campaign. Though Buck had contributed modestly to Las Cruces for years and had no other relationship with OTS or Duke University, he contacted us to establish a gift annuity with some of the excess funds he had accumulated. It was a pleasure to work with him on this annuity and subsequently we visited him in Lynchburg on many occasions. He gave us numerous pamphlets on the hummingbirds of Costa Rica to distribute at our stations and promised to travel with us on one of our BioCursos trips. Though he never was able to take the trip, we would spend an afternoon telling him all about it. Buck Edwards had last traveled to Panama and Costa Rica in the 1950s and had many wonderful experiences. He was a modest man but even at 92 someone who had a strong vision of how he would like to see his retirement funds used.

With Buck Edwards' first gift, he received an immediate tax deduction of over 50% of his contribution and a payment from Duke at the end of that year. As it turns out, over seven years, due to Duke's investment performance, he actually received almost 60% of his original contribution back in income payments and at his death almost 100% of his contribution remained to benefit Las Cruces. Buck was so pleased with how the gift annuity worked that over a seven-year period he acquired five additional annuities, earmarking all of the remainder funds to go to the Las Cruces Land Campaign. He

told me many times how much he appreciated how Duke's Office of Gift Planning worked with him every step along the way, including sending him his payments like clockwork. Most importantly, he liked knowing he could "make a difference" in a way that simply was not possible during his career. Though we mourn his passing, I take comfort and joy in the fact that we are fulfilling his wishes. Thanks to his generous and thoughtful planning, more than 80% of his original contributions will help acquire land near the station.

Jonathan Giles, OTS
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END OF YEAR GIVING

If you plan to make a donation to support our incredibly dedicated students and hard-working researchers in the 2011 tax year, you must do so before Dec. 31 to receive a 2011 income tax receipt. Tax receipts for 2011 can be issued if one of the following conditions has been met:

Online

Your donation must be processed online before by 11:59pm EST on December 31, 2011 through our online giving webpage: [www. https://www.gifts.duke.edu/ots](https://www.gifts.duke.edu/ots).

By Mail

Checks Your donation must be received in our office before noon on January 4, 2012 with a postmark on the envelope indicating Dec. 31, 2011 or prior.

Credit Cards Your donation must be received in our office before December 29, 2011. Our offices are closed on December 30.

Stocks Securities delivered via Depository Trust Company (DTC) must be in the Duke University account before the close of business on Friday, 12/30/11. Donors should be careful to give their brokers time to complete the transaction. This usually requires a minimum of three business days, but may take longer if volumes are high. Please notify Duke via the online stock transfer form — www.stockgifts.duke.edu — or by calling 919.684.2338. You can notify OTS by calling (919) 684-6188 or (919) 684-6969 or by email at jgiles@duke.edu or cathleen.lemoine@duke.edu. Notification of your intention to deliver securities allows the donation to be identified and recorded in a timely manner.



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DR. DEEDRA MCCLEARN

continued from front cover

a while as a free-lance person with some OTS projects. I'm thinking of leading a tour to Botswana next year, working with some friends who have a nature tour enterprise—Okavango Delta, Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Chobe National Park. Does that sound like fun?

Will you remain involved at the station or in OTS?

I'll keep doing my long-term fern and tree projects at La Selva, coming to Costa Rica once or twice a year. It would be great to keep involved with OTS. I would like to design some online tropical ecology courses. Who knows...we'll have to see how that develops.

Given your history with OTS, which job did you enjoy the best?

Fifteen years with OTS in three different jobs—it has been quite a ride! All those years as graduate course coordinator in Costa Rica gave me the chance to meet, work with, and become friends with many amazing people. After all my years in Central America, living in South Africa (in Kruger National Park) was a complete revelation. Working as the La Selva station director has given me an insight into administration and management that

I never had before. I can't really say which job I liked best, but each job definitely gave me a new perspective, new challenges, and new opportunities. That sounds a bit hokey, but it's true.

Given the diversity of positions you have had within OTS, where do you think research in the tropics is heading?

Probably the real hard-core researchers can answer that better than I can. I think the future of tropical research will depend on what global funding sources are like and what happens at the intersection of science, government policy, and economics. I know what I would like to see with respect to research in the tropics: **a)** international, cross-disciplinary research, **b)** more opportunities

for women and underrepresented groups, **c)** K-12 and citizen science involvement, **d)** and an increase in awareness and enthusiasm about science among the general population. And better funding. I sound like someone from NSF, don't I?

What do you see as the most significant issues to keeping La Selva a viable research station?

Two issues come to mind: balancing competing demands (science, budget, ecotourism, outreach, OTS management, change in local land use) and keeping up with advances that the scientists need (internet bandwidth, instrumentation, modern lab facilities). There are plenty of other issues but those are the first two that come to me.

Though she will be leaving the employment of OTS, we hope to keep her actively engaged in La Selva with her research and in our educational programs. The entire organization extends our sincere gratitude for her years of service, strong character, and enthusiasm. We wish her great success in her future endeavors!





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A Newsletter of the Organization for Tropical Studies

About OTS OTS is a non-profit consortium of over 50 research institutions, colleges and universities from the United States, Latin America, Africa and Australia. OTS' mission is to promote education, research, and the responsible use of natural resources in the tropics.

The View from the Canopy is produced by the OTS Development Office. To submit comments or news items, please contact Cathleen Lemoine at 919-684-6969 or via e-mail at cathleen.lemoine@duke.edu.



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PHOTO BY ADAM MICHAEL WILSON

OTS GRADUATE COURSES IN COSTA RICA 2012-2013



Nothing can replace the hands-on experience of a field-based course in the tropics! This is what OTS offers through its broad range of Tropical Biology and Ecology graduate level courses in Spanish or English in Costa Rica. OTS graduate courses are open to students enrolled in graduate degree programs, with preference given to students at OTS member institutions.

Traditional Courses 2012 and 2013 (5-8 week courses)

Ecología Tropical y Conservación (in Spanish)
January 12 – February 21, 2012
*Application Deadline: June 30, 2011
January 10 – February 19, 2013
*Application Deadline: June 15, 2012

Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach
January 23 – March 12, 2012
*Application Deadline: October 7, 2011
June 7 – July 29, 2013
*Application Deadline: March 1, 2013

Tropical Plant Systematics
June 6 – July 9, 2012
*Application Deadline: March 1, 2012

Sistemática de Plantas Tropicales (in Spanish)
June 28 – July 31, 2013
*Application Deadline: November 1, 2012

Specialty Courses 2012 (2 week courses)

Behavior, Ecology and Diversity of Neotropical Social Insects
March 17 – 31, 2012
*Application Deadline: October 15, 2011†

Tropical Lichens and Forest Health: a Multidisciplinary Approach
May 21 – June 1, 2012
*Application Deadline: February 1, 2012†

Diversity and Systematics of Coleoptera (Beetles)
June 6 – 19, 2012
*Application Deadline: February 13, 2012†

Inquiry in Rainforests: an in-service program for teachers
July 11 – 24, 2012
*Application Deadline: April 12, 2012†

Tropical Fungi and Fungal-likes
August 3 – 13, 2012
*Application Deadline: March 9, 2012†

* Notification date is within 30-45 days after the application deadline

† Rolling Admissions

All courses will maintain open enrollment past the original deadline date until filled

For more information, please visit us online at www.ots.duke.edu.

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