

OPPORTUNITIES

Conservation Training Sessions for Developing-Country Professionals

Offered by the Conservation Training Consortium: A Consortium of The Field Museum, Chicago Zoological Society, University of Illinois at Chicago and John G. Shedd Aquarium. There are two courses 1) 1999 Terrestrial Conservation Training Session: 4 June to 14 Aug (10 weeks), 2) 1999 Aquatic Conservation Training Session: 20 Aug to 30 Oct (10 weeks)

The purpose of these Chicago-based sessions is to provide intensive training in conservation biology for young professionals from developing countries. By acquiring the tools necessary for assessing, analyzing and managing biological diversity, the participants will be better equipped to help establish conservation programs and direct biodiversity policies in their own countries.

The Curriculum is designed to provide the participants with a general understanding of the theoretical principles of conservation biology and to illustrate how these principles can be applied in on-the-ground or in-the-water conservation programs. Participants spend approximately half their time attending lectures, taking part in seminars, and engaging in discussions of relevant publications. During the remainder of their time, participants develop a conservation-related activity with their individual mentor at one of the four institutions. Examples of such activities include: analysis of patterns of endemism; population viability analysis; ecological risk assessment; ecology of fragmented populations and communities; design of national park systems; and management of economically important species.

To Apply: Submit the following items (please note it is not necessary to submit diplomas or certificates): 1) a three-page curriculum vitae, which should include a description of your current and past positions, relevant professional experience, and educational background (be sure to include your e-mail address and/or FAX number.) Also include the names, addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references.

2) A two-page statement of interest, discussing why you would like to attend the program, what aspects of conservation biology are of interest to you, and how you would implement your training when you return home after the program.

Applications for the Terrestrial Session must be received by 15 January 1999 and for the Aquatic Session must be received by 15 February 1999. Submissions by e-mail or FAX when possible are encouraged. If submitting application by e-mail, please use surname in the name of attached file(s).

Submit applications to: Dr. Wendy M. Jackson, Director, Conservation Training Consortium, c/o University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Biological Sciences M/C 066 845 W. Taylor St., Chicago, Illinois 60607-7060 USA Tel. & FAX (312) 355-0990. e-mail: ctc@uic.edu

M.Sc. in Wild Animal Health

Offered by the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) and The Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London) Application are invited from EC or overseas graduates in veterinary or relevant sciences for a twelve month taught MSc

course in wild animal health beginning in October 1999. The Course includes practical and theoretical instruction in the husbandry and nutrition of wild animals, taxonomy, population biology, conservation genetics, utilisation of wildlife, welfare and ethical aspects, epidemiology, immunology, infectious and non-infectious diseases, disease investigation, therapeutics, imaging and preventative medicine, and restraint, anaesthesia and aspects of surgery in various taxa, together with an individual research project. Training will be given by staff at The Royal Veterinary College and the Institute of Zoology as well as invited speakers from other veterinary and zoological centres.

Full particulars and an application form are available from: The Head of Registry or Dr. M.T. Fox, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU, United Kingdom Tel: +171 468 5000 or Fax: +171 388 2342

"Zoo News on the Web"

Peter of the United Kingdom performs a public service to zoo personnel by collecting all articles of interest to zoo personnel from the web and listing them in an email. If you are interested in being on his mailing list please request this from him at the following email address <Peter@elvinhow.prestel.co.uk>. His zoo news mailing list is now being mailed out to over 600 people in zoos around the world each week.

Herpetological Pen pal from Russia

A young Russian herpetologist who is a volunteer at the famous Russian Zoo Kaliningrad Zoo would like to be in communication with Indian herpetologists and zoo persons, either professional or volunteer. If you would like to write to him his address is Dmitri Grigoriev, Bagration Str. 160-32, Kaliningrad 236039, Russia

Vacancy for Database Officer

Wildlife Protection Society of India announces a vacancy of a wildlife trade database officer to be located at Delhi. While a background in field biology will be preferred, candidates without formal qualifications but with a good knowledge of species and wildlife conservation issues will also be considered. Preference will be given to candidates with experience of managing computerised databases or an aptitude to learn databases. Wildlife crime database maintained by WPSI records incidents of wildlife crimes, poaching and seizure cases. Such a database becomes an essential tool for combating wildlife crime and supporting prosecution of offenders. The position is based in Delhi but requires travel to several parts of India to collate information on wildlife crimes. The salary will be commensurate with qualifications at the level of other NGOs. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Ashok Kumar, Wildlife Protection Society of India, Thapar House, 124 Janpath, New Delhi 110 001. E-mail : wpsi@nde.vsnl.net.in

Volunteer biologist available for Indian field projects

Chuck Newyar is interested in volunteering on any wildlife projects in South Asia. He travels to India/Pakistan/Nepal within the next three months, and could stay well into 1999. He has a BSc. in Ecology / Zoology, and several years of field experience with mammals (large and small carnivores, ungulates, rodents, bats), insects, birds and marine animals, vegetation, wildlife habitat and environmental impact assessment work. The majority of his experience is with grizzly bears, wolves, lynx, and seabirds (in Canada). His resume and excellent references are available upon request. He expects to pay my own expenses. If anyone can utilise his services please contact him at email address cnewyar@hotmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES -- FOR HELPING

FIELD ASSISTANT NEEDS HELP

Poovendran, 28, is a Malasar tribal who was born and grew up in the elephant camp near Top Slip, Anamalai. His life-long exposure to nature and his keen interest in wildlife has made him one of the most experienced field 'biologists' in the southern Western Ghats. This has earned him respect and acclaim from a large number of scientists and naturalists who have had the opportunity to roam the jungles with him. During the last five years, Poovan, as he is fondly called, has worked as a field assistant on a number of wildlife conservation projects. Today, he is a rare individual who can identify over one hundred tree species at a glance and has an intimate knowledge of rainforest animals.

Tragically for him, Poovan was recently diagnosed with a failure in both kidneys, and is now hospitalised at Tirunelveli awaiting dialysis as a prelude to a kidney transplant, which is his only hope for survival. Married just two months ago to Lakshmi, 22, Poovan is the only source of monetary support to his family, and the couple's aged parents.

Please extend your help to Poovan by contributing generously towards his medical treatment and supporting his family through this period of crisis. Contributions may be sent as crossed cheques/ drafts in the name of:

Ms. Divya Mudappa
Research Scholar
WII Field Station, Sengaltheri
Kalakad 627 501
Tirunelveli Distt. T. N.



BOOKS & CDs

Sri Lanka Books

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF SRI LANKA by John Harrison is a truly comprehensive, up-to-date, modern field guide to Sri Lanka's abundant avifauna. Contains 48 stunning new colour plates by Tim Worfolk, one of Britain's leading bird artists. All 426 species on the official Sri Lankan list are described in detail, and the birds are depicted perched, and in flight where relevant to their identification. Plumage variations according to age, sex, season and race are depicted. An introduction to the guide describes briefly some of the best sites for watching Sri Lanka's abundant avifauna, and provides useful contact addresses for the prospective traveller. 464 pages, 72 plates, 3 line figs. Price: GBP55 Due February 1999 NHBS Stock Code: #83308A hardback Price: GBP29.95 Due February 1999 NHBS Stock Code: #83310A paperback OUP

A CONSERVATION REVIEW OF THREE FORESTS IN WET ZONE SRI LANKA JPG Jones. These are CSB Conservation Reports. c. 160 pages, illus. Price: GBP13.95 Due October 1998 NHBS Stock Code: #83529A spiralbound

Animal books from AMAZON.com

"If a Lion Could Talk" by Stephen Budiansky can be viewed at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0684837102/ref=ad_sn1>. Are humans the smartest animals? What is your cat thinking? Do you ever wonder how bees find their way back home? Most animals exhibit cognitive abilities quite different from—and often superior to—those of humans. Stephen Budiansky examines what animals do from a behaviorist perspective in "If a Lion Could Talk" and comes to some fascinating conclusions.

"Civilization and the Limpet" by Martin Wells at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0738200174/ref=ad_sn1> "Limpets sit about, doing nothing much, most of the time," writes zoologist Martin Wells in "Civilization and the Limpet." This pithy collection looks at some of nature's unappreciated beauties. Wells's essays are elegant and funny, inviting readers to share his love of sea urchins, lugworms, and other denizens of the briny deeps.

Edible entomology

Eat a bug? Yuck! But what about delicacies like Fried Green Tomato Hornworm, or Tarantula Kebabs? If you'd rather eat Boiled Okra and Liver Surprise than contemplate crunching a cockroach, maybe it's time you took a second look at chitinous cuisine. Check out these deliciously creepy books about making meals out of mealworms. <http://www.amazon.com/eat-bugs-booklistnnel>

CD on Indian Bird Calls

Dr. Erach Bharucha has prepared a complete CD on Calls of Indian birds. Dr. Bharucha's CD is the one made on behalf of the BNHS as part of the Society's commitment made to the Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi during the BNHS Centenary in 1983 by the Late Dr Salim Ali. Most of the calls are recorded by the Late Bro Navarro who was legendary in birding in the Bombay Pune region. For more information about this CD contact Bharat Bhushan email harini_pritvi@hotmail.com or BNHS.