



TREE Foundation

Annual Report 2017

Compiled by Meg Lowman, Director

Annual Meeting Nov 17, 2017 - Sarasota FL

(cover: New “Myakka” walkway in Malaysia)



TREE FOUNDATION

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, President, The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment
Honorary Board Chairman

Dear TREE Foundation Supporters,

November 2017

I wrote the 2017 mid-year report on an auspicious day this past July. Our grandchildren will undoubtedly say to us someday, “What were you thinking on July 12, 2017? And what did you do to fix it?” On this date, scientists announced that an iceberg as big as the state of Delaware had broken away from Antarctica. Regardless of the alleged causes of a warming planet, this significant event confirms the increasing extremes of our global climate. It is, admittedly, a tipping point for inevitable changes in our near future. But the good news is that forests are the most resilient counter-action for climate extremes. Forests are a buffer that provide climate control, and resilient forests are our grandchildren’s best hope. TREE Foundation flourishes with our mission of forest conservation as we head to our 20th anniversary, and we thank you for supporting the solutions of climate uncertainty. Your grandchildren will also thank you!

This past year has advanced our mission for “Tree Research, Education and Exploration.” Thank you on behalf of our board, research associates, and indirectly from the next generation whose lives are enhanced by your dedication, enthusiasm, and generosity. As global change accelerates on many fronts, our mission is more important than ever, because healthy forests are essential for healthy humans.

Highlights of this past year are described in four portfolios: educate, connect, conserve, and research. We are humming on all fronts, and look forward to ramping up as we approach our 20th anniversary. Big successes this year include: enormous virtual connectivity around the world through our website and also the upcoming virtual Jason expedition for middle schools broadcast from Malaysian rain forests; achievement of 50% forest conservation in Ethiopia; more innovative programs for environmental education to youths, especially girls; international canopy walkway projects in 3 new sites; special activities planned in Southwest Florida to expand science education; continued success of our Myakka walkway; and new local Florida partnerships with Conservation Foundation, Spanish Point, and Ringling School of Art and Design.

1. EDUCATE

- a. K-12 Education Outreach: JASON LEARNING Returns – Dr. Lowman presented a keynote talk to the Jason Learning Conference in Washington DC during summer 2016. This highly successful distance learning science program for middle schools has been re-born after its original success when Dr. Bob Ballard hosted it during the 1990s (> 10 million student participants) and CanopyMeg served as chief scientist. In the new “Jason Learning” (as it is called), TREE is funding its revived international, virtual

expedition for middle schools around the world. A huge thanks to the Spurlino Foundation for making this possible! The Jason expedition heads to Malaysia in October, with live-streaming and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards, which is America's science curriculum) activities throughout all broadcasts. TREE Foundation website will be a major host of all activities with Jason Learning, as will National Geographic and media outlets in many states as well as Malaysia and other global partners.

- b. Florida Forest Education** - TREE Foundation continues to attract thousands of visitors to southwest Florida with two outdoor educational destinations: the nationally-acclaimed canopy walkway in Myakka River State Park of southwest Florida, and the TREE Treehouse at Spanish Point historical site in Osprey, Florida. Visitors to Florida can now explore the treetops in Myakka, and then enjoy a lovely waterfront picnic at Spanish Point in our thatched chickee hut on stilts along the gorgeous edge of Sarasota Bay! Using the Myakka walkway as a flagship achievement, TREE has launched a YouTube video series of the "World's Ten Best Canopy Walkways" with Myakka as the Number One video. Check it out on www.treefoundation.org. We plan to ramp up some local events surrounding our 20th anniversary in 2020, so stay tuned!
- c. Citizen Science Expedition to the Amazon Canopy** – TREE will co-host our 26th annual citizen science expedition to the Amazon forest canopy during summer 2017, taking enthusiastic teachers, students, and families to conduct research and assimilate the culture of this amazing region. In addition, our groups generate local revenues for villagers who find employment in ecotourism (instead of logging). Everyone is blessed by a shaman, and contributes to research on tropical rain forest health by measuring insect damage to the canopies. Our team includes additional new research projects: mapping the canopy with drones; studies of insect disease vectors in the canopy; and some expanded environmental education programs in Amazon villages, partnering with Jason Learning (whose teachers will train with CanopyMeg in the Amazon before heading to Malaysia in October).
- d. TREE environmental lecture series in Florida** – After the passing of Joel Fedder, our sponsor of annual lectures, TREE created a new partnership with Conservation Foundation (of Florida). We hosted our first lecture at their beautiful Bayfront preserve site in Osprey, Florida to a standing-room only crowd. Director Lowman talked about "The Money Tree" in a lively session about the value of forests. (You can hear this lecture on our website at www.treefoundation.org). We hope this will be the first or many partnerships with local groups that benefit from our important message about forests.

2. CONNECT

- a. **Virtual nature education** – Our website has been expanded to offer educational opportunities about forests and forest canopies to diverse audiences both local and global in English, Amharic, Spanish and most recently, some segments of Chinese language. We have exceeded 3 million hits per year with both of our canopy websites. An increasing number of students, schools and teachers continue to write emails to TREE seeking information about forests and conservation! Part of this national school outreach has been inspired because many states are now required to read The Most Beautiful Roof (by Kathryn Lasky), a children's book about Lowman's work in forest canopies, for NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). Some of these classes and student artwork are featured on our website, with several 5th graders from rural schools commenting, "Speaking by Skype to a real scientist was the most exciting day of my entire school experience!"
- b. **Education outreach** – The children's book, "Beza – Saving the Forests of Ethiopia, One Church at a Time," continues to sell briskly in the USA. Every copy sold in English funds a copy in Amharic to be distributed FREE to an Ethiopian child. This colorful volume tells the story of a young Ethiopian girl who starts a forest conservation program in her village. We have shipped hundreds of books to Ethiopian schools and will continue to do this, as a means of both educating children about the values of the forests, but also empowering girls in science. Over 500 books were distributed in Ethiopia this year, thanks to a generous contribution from the Brethren Foundation. Please purchase this book, and you will be educating Ethiopian children as well as buying a great gift! We hope to repeat the book distribution next year.
- c. **Training the next generation** - TREE Research Associate, Bryson Voirin (who also received TREE's first-ever student scholarship), has broadcast about his canopy research to over 50 million viewers through programs on BBC and Japanese TV. Bryson is a part of TREE's succession plan to insure that forest canopies are part of the next generation's focus. In addition, TREE Research Associate and educator, DC Randle, has retired from public school science teaching in order to focus full-time on recruiting underserved K-12 classrooms to undertake Amazon expeditions and embrace the mission of TREE. DC continues to teach the local Peruvians at our Amazon canopy walkway site about rain forest ecology and wildlife management, and TREE continues to donate science books to Amazon teachers and schools. Our newest Research Associate, Dr. Anthony Ambrose, from University of California – Berkeley is an expert on tall trees, especially redwoods. He has not only climbed these enormous canopies, but also demystified the secrets of their amazing hydraulics that move water from the roots up to the 200-foot high upper canopy, transporting over 800 gallons of water per day into the atmosphere. Anthony is working closely with our CanopyMeg as another element of her Next Generation succession plan, partnering with some of

our canopy projects around the world to insure the long-term future of important forest conservation activities. Our newest partner, Ringling School of Art and Design, is sending a videographer student to the Amazon with CanopyMeg, to make a film about women in science. A big thanks to several TREE donors for their sponsorship of Ringling's top awarded film student Puja Koluru and the upcoming opportunity to advance her career, filming in the Amazon tropical forests!

3. CONSERVE

- a. International Conservation** – Forest canopies have become “the flavor of the year” in many countries, with canopy research and ecotourism providing a recognized economic as well as ecological value for planetary health. TREE is in a unique position as one of the world's only nonprofits dedicated to this type of expertise and mission. TREE has expanded its international reach, with three new canopy projects that provide critical conservation and education value at a global scale. These new projects include:
1. **BHUTAN** – Funded by the King of Bhutan, TREE will be providing scientific expertise for a new canopy walkway in the Royal Manas National Park in southeastern Bhutan. This region has the world's largest tiger population, as well as elephants and other endangered species. The King envisions a sustainable project with a long canopy walkway, field station for visiting scientists, and K-12 school for local villagers to insure that visiting scientists will inspire the local kids. This type of visionary project is a global first, fully embracing the economics of ecotourism and conservation using the treetops.
 2. **PENANG** – The UNESCO World-Heritage region of Penang will soon have its own canopy walkway and environmental education center on Penang Hill, a unique primary tropical rain forest reserve within a 15 minute drive of 1.5 million people. Lowman is working with a Malaysian team to design the walkway as well as a field station that will house international researchers to work at this site. Part of the program involves creating a healthy partnership with the University of Malaysia and the international canopy science community. Thanks to several partners, the Flagstaff Corporation of Hong Kong will fund an international biodiversity survey of Penang Hill this October. Over 40 scientists, both local to Malaysia and international, will come together for this blitz to survey all the creatures in this precious tropical rain forest under Lowman's leadership. The results will be used to nominate this site as a UNESCO World Heritage site; Jason Learning will work side-by-side with the scientists, broadcasting to schools around the world (thanks to TREE!).
 3. **NATIVE AMERICANS** – The Yurok Indians of northern California have requested advice for a planned canopy walkway and environmental education center in their forest reserve near Arcata,

California. Using proceeds from their successful casino, the Yurok leaders would like to give back to their next generation, by providing this link to the natural world.

b. International Canopy Conference - TREE Foundation co-hosted the 7th International Canopy Conference at Roehampton University campus, outside London, last August 2016. TREE co-sponsored a session called Lightning Talks – Advances in Canopy Science, as part of the program, working with our partners in Ethiopia and India. TREE also provided a partial scholarship to Sky Lan, our Taiwanese graduate student, to present her thesis results; and distributed canopy books to students from developing countries at the conference.

c. Ethiopian forest conservation – TREE continues to be a global force in the conservation of the last remaining forests of Ethiopia, called church forests because they surround the Coptic churches. Thanks greatly to the Spurlino Foundation and small donations from hundreds of school students, TREE has now exceeded the half-way point in conserving the 28 most critical forests of northern Ethiopia. We need \$200,000 to complete our goal. These church forests now have beautiful stone walls built by the local church community, meaning that cattle are excluded from eating the seedlings and farmers' plows will not ring-bark and stress the edge trees, leading to their demise and ultimate shrinkage of the church forests. These small plots house the last remaining biodiversity library for Ethiopia, fresh water springs, medicinal plants, honey, pollinators, shade, tree roots that conserve soil, and an important spiritual site. Colby College and Colgate University are both partnering with TREE, to collect information on both the ecology of the forest patches, and the social science aspects of forest conservation in rural Ethiopia. National Science Foundation funded groups of undergraduate students to undertake research in the forests during summers of 2016 and 2017, and to help design an environmental education center near Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. This federally-funded grant is a wonderful indicator of the credibility of this project. Check out the new video on our website that shares our Ethiopia project with the world, funded by National Science Foundation.

Another outstanding endorsement of TREE's Ethiopia project came from internationally acclaimed biodiversity expert, EO Wilson of Harvard University. In his latest book, *Half Earth*, Wilson made a special plea for preservation of a handful of critical, special forests around the world. He included the church forests of Ethiopia, and cites our work toward this effort. Both Wilson's endorsement and our funding from National Science Foundation give credibility to our efforts. Thank you all for this visionary conservation!

4. RESEARCH

a. Scholarships – Thanks to individual TREE donors, we now have 2 women-in-science scholars from developing countries who will finish their degrees in early 2017. Tizezew Sisay from Ethiopia just passed her exams for her Master's degree

in Women and Environmental Science at University of Maine as a TREE Scholar; and Sky Lan from Taiwan is working toward her PhD in Canopy Science at Oregon State University. Congratulations to these young pioneers who will return to their countries and become role models for many other young women. Our newest TREE scholar, Puja Koluru from Ringling School of Art and Design, is funded to produce a film about women in science during our TREE citizen science expedition to the Amazon this summer.

- b. **Mobility-limited students** – Another federal grant from National Science Foundation funded the last 5 summers of training wheelchair-bound students to climb trees and conduct research on micro-arthropods including tardigrades, otherwise known as water bears. Eight students in 2014 sampled over 4000 water bears of which 4 were new species! Eight additional new species were discovered in 2015! Over 5 years, our mobility-limited student teams collected over 40,000 water bears in temperate forests. Students presented at several national conferences, and generously donated the naming opportunity of three of the water bears as fund-raisers for TREE, generating funds for forest conservation. Another six students will wrap up this summer's activities. Go team!
- c. **Research Findings** -- TREE shares the joy of sharing new scientific findings with the world – a new book by CEO Lowman called Muddy Boots – essays of a field biologist; publications of new species of water bears by summer college students; new insights to sacred forests through our Ethiopian church forest work; education curricula for K-12 science students through our charismatic canopy theme; and distribution of tree books to students (especially girls) in our countries where conservation activities exist.

These are some of our 2017 highlights for TREE Foundation. Thank you for your ideas, support and contributions. As we approach our 20th anniversary, please consider doubling your donation in honor of a loved one, or just for the sake of trees and children everywhere! We will be gearing up for the 20th anniversary of our beloved Myakka canopy walkway, so please send in your program ideas, or purchase a plank (\$100 for engraved floor planks, and \$1000 for uprights). TREE aspires to expand our global walkway network with new sites, new virtual school programs about forests, social media including YouTube videos and Jason Learning to educate youth about forests, activities to inspire girls in science, and expanded local environmental education. We look forward to making the world a better place for the next generation.

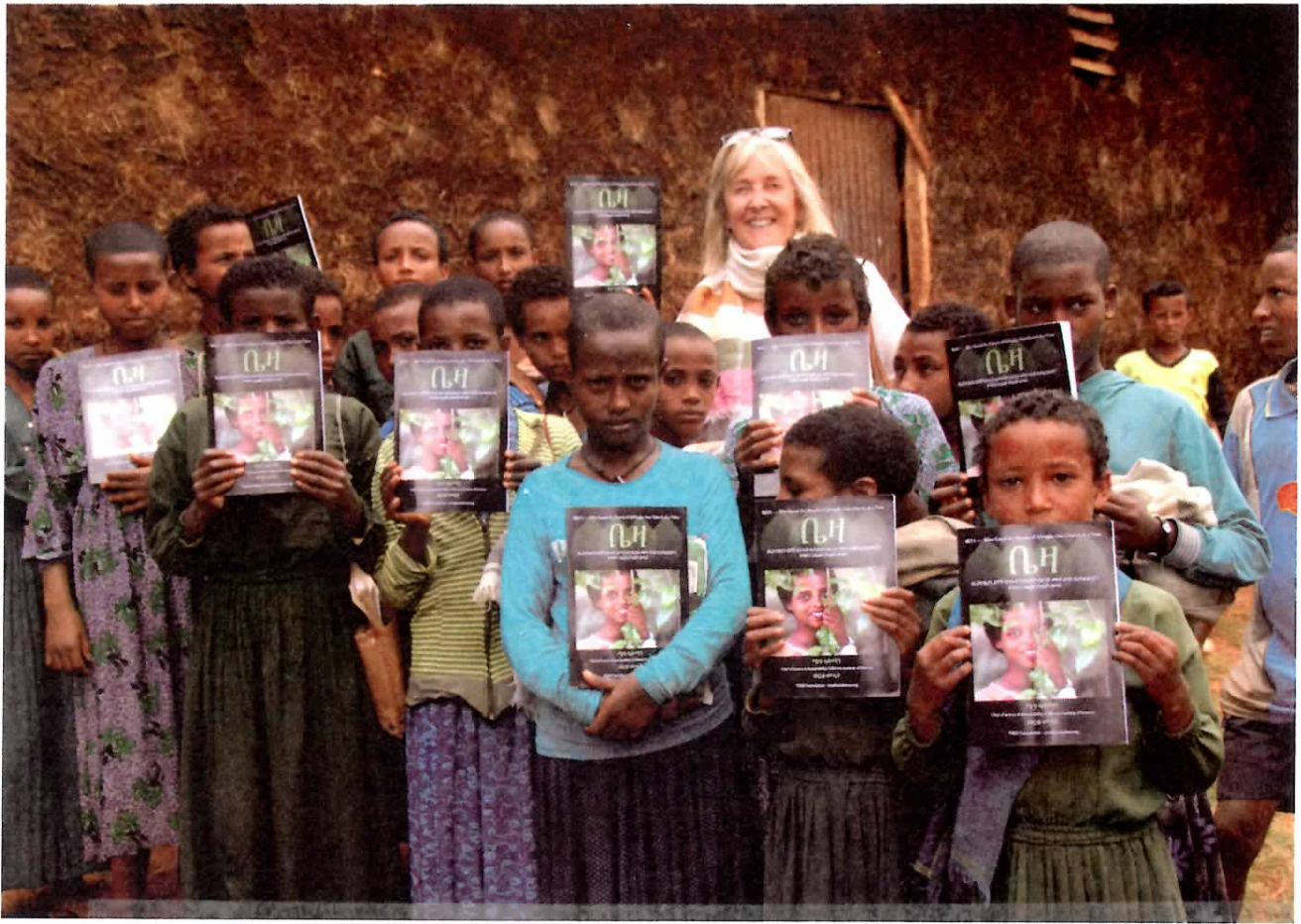
Yours gratefully,

Meg Lowman

Meg Lowman, PhD
Executive Director

Gerrí

Gerri Aaron
Board President



Our forest conservation work in Ethiopia is past the halfway point, with 14 forests now safely bounded by stone walls, and with over 500 priests educated about the value of trees. We continue to inspire stewardship in the next generation of Ethiopians, by distributing books to school children. Beza – who saved the forests of Ethiopia one church at a time is almost always the FIRST book that these youth have ever owned. It is a joy to distribute them, and the book's message explains the importance of trees through the perspective of a young girl.

(The next 2 pages show the completion of a new wall around Goha church in northern Ethiopia, and a fourth priest workshop with the top clergy in attendance.)





Table1. Church Forests Fenced and to be fenced (The 28 Phd Sites of A. Wassie).

No	Name of the site	Area/ha	Perimeter Km	No woody Species estimated	Total Cost of Fencing (stone wall) USD	Name of District/Woreda	GPS location
1	Deder	14.4	2.2	30	12,500	Simada	N11° 32' & E38° 14'
2	Ascha	1.6	0.4	7	1,500	Laygaynt	N11° 43' & E38° 28'
3	Dedim	36.6	3	26	20,000	Farta	N11° 47' & E38° 12'
4	Asolit	7.7	1.3	21	9,300	Tachgaynt	N11° 41' & E38° 35'
5	Abegeldi	14	2.1	34	12,000	Ibinat	N12° 09' & E38° 07'
6	Debresena	11.5	1.9	40	Already fenced	Farta	N11° 51' & E37° 59'
7	Zagua	6.8	1.2	17	8,000	Farta	N11° 42' & E38° 02'
8	Wuahir	8.4	1.4	22	9,400	Farta	N11° 51' & E38° 05'
9	Hiruy	4	0.8	14	Already fenced	Farta	N11° 51' & E38° 03'
10	Enshet Kuskuam	6.3	0.98	21	7,500	Tachgaynt	N11° 37' & E38° 32'
11	Gelawdios	100	6	48	40,000	Dera	N11° 38' & E37° 48'
12	Mosha	13	2.8	53	Already fenced	Estie	N11° 26' & E37° 56'
13	Dengolt	25	2.6	54	17,400	Estie	N11° 36' & E38° 04'
14	Mekedese mariam	4.7	1.1	18	12,000	Simada	N11° 19' & E38° 12'
15	Gunaguna	6.9	1.2	21	8,000	Ibinat	N12° 03' & E38° 06'
16	Wonberoch	35	3.5	48	20,000	Ibinat	N12° 11' & E38° 00'
17	Gibstawit	8.7	1.7	52	11,400	Ibinat	N12° 07' & E38° 05'
18	Shamo	10	1.9	24	12,000	Libo	N12° 07' & E37° 53'
19	Amstya	22.8	2	57	13,500	Ibinat	N12° 01' & E38° 04'
20	Mantogera	5	0.89	18	6,000	Libo	N12° 09' & E37° 47'
21	Gedamselase	15	1.9	45	12,700	Simada	N11° 21' & E38° 10'
22	Alember	14.5	2.3	34	15,000	Fogera	N11° 54' & E37° 53'
23	Emashenkor	3.4	1.1	16	Already fenced	Dera	N11° 42' & E37° 37'
24	Woji	22.5	2.3	46	10,000(started)	Fogera	N11° 55' & E37° 48'
25	Zhara	8	1.6	46	Already fenced	Dera	N11° 48' & E37° 34'
26	Quar	3	.9	13	10,000	Fogera	N11° 51' & E37° 40'
27	Wonkesht	50	3.8	56	25,500	Dera	N11° 30' & E37° 37'
28	Qorata	48	2.8	69	18,700	Dera	N11° 45' & E37° 26'
Total					312,400		

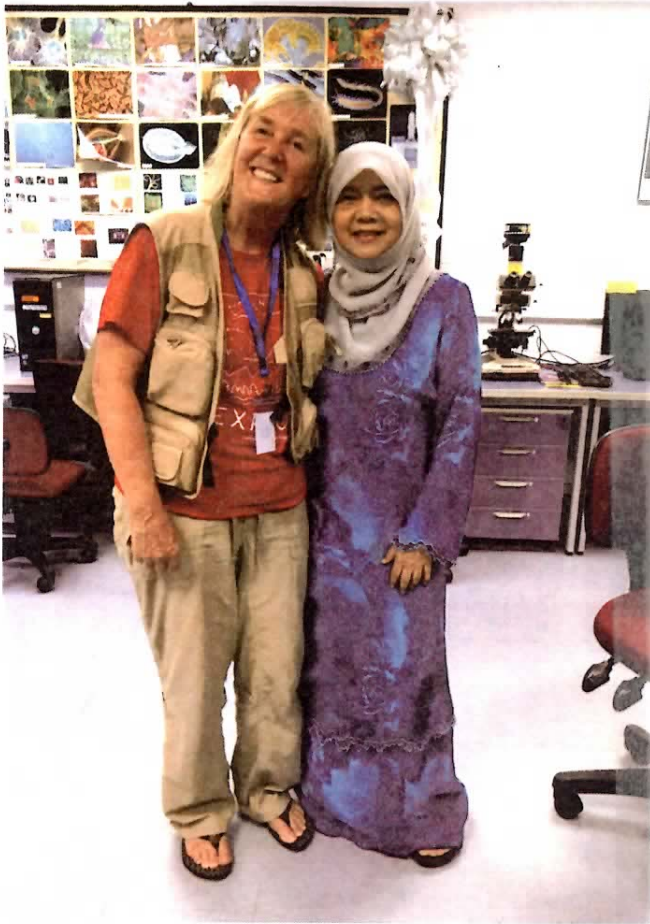
Table2. Church Forests Fenced and under fencing out side the 28 Phd Sites of A. Wassie till May 2017.

Ser No	Name of the site	Area Ha	Perimeter Km	No woody Species estimated	Status Of Fencing	Name of District/ Woreda	GPS Location
1	Goha	7	1.5	38	Finished	Dera	
2	Bata (Bahirdar)				Finished	Bahirdar	
3	Geregera	5	1.4	35	Finished	Dera	
4	West Gojam Diocese office	1	0.25	12	Finished	Bahirdar	
5	Wonchet	6.5	1.5	41	80%	Dera	
6	Quar Giorg.	4	1.1	36	90%	Fogera	
7	Zigora Medh.	22.5	2.3	46	50%	Estie	
8	Zajor	8	1.6	42	70%	Dera	
9	Mesi	32	3.2	44	70%	W/Estie	
10	Robit Bata	5	1.2	34	30%	Bahirdar	



The BIO BLITZ in Malaysia was a huge success. Led by Dr. Lowman, over 117 scientists contributed their expertise to survey the biodiversity of a unique tropical rain forest in Penang, Malaysia. This site has a new canopy walkway and aspires to be a global center for canopy science. Over 1600 records of species were tallied over a ten-day period, and the results will be submitted for a UNESCO World Heritage site nomination. The next 4 pages illustrate the scientists and site for this expedition, including the presence of Jason Learning! Thanks to a grant from TREE, the Jason team brought over ten students and ten teachers to broadcast virtually around the world! In addition, student teams from Hong Kong and Penang joined the USA Jason Argonauts. Check out the videos on www.treefoundation.org











Education through Exploration

October 9, 2017

Margaret Lowman, Ph.D.
Executive Director
TREE Foundation
P.O. Box 48839
Sarasota, FL 34230-5839

Dear Meg,

As our Penang Hill BioBlitz expedition is fast approaching, I thought it would be good to provide you and your Tree Foundation supporters with a quick update on all of the progress and preparations JASON Learning has made over the last several months.

By way of a quick review, here are the goals we had set together back in March when first scoping out the opportunity to get JASON involved in the project:

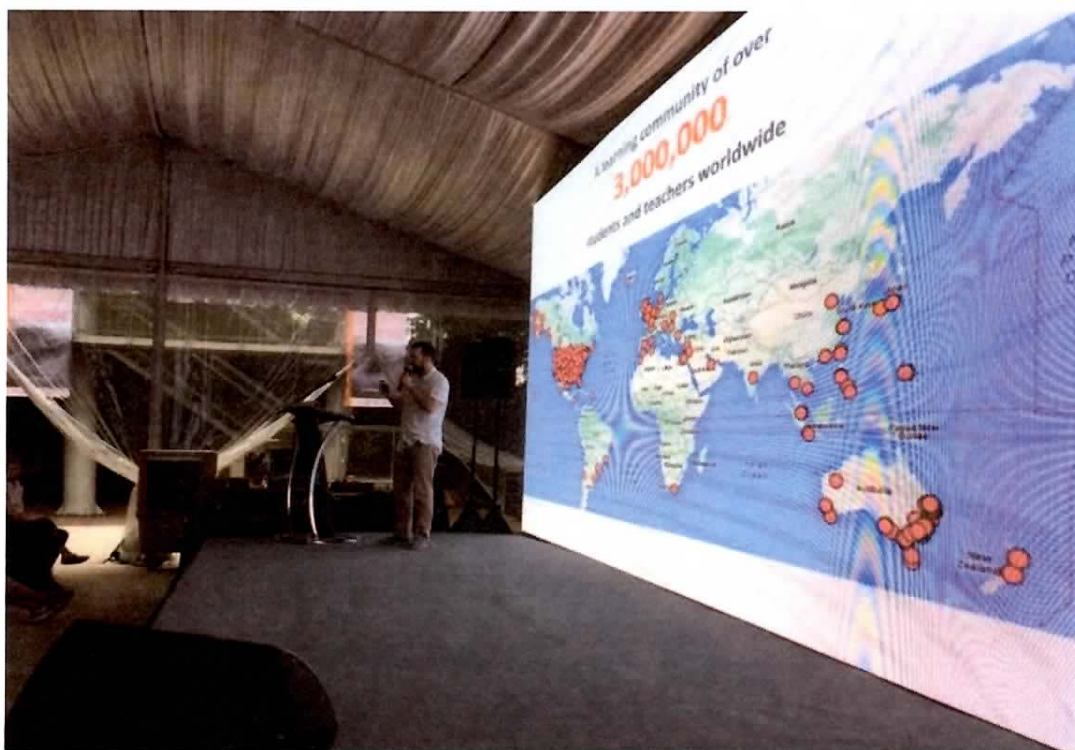
- Boost public awareness of the Penang Hill BioBlitz expedition, with a particular focus on engaging K12 students in the US and around the world
- Document the BioBlitz scientific survey efforts and translate them for general public consumption through daily production and delivery of edited videos, live and interactive webcasts, photos, blog articles, and social media posts
- Provide an opportunity for JASON Student and Teacher "Argonauts" from the United States to join and contribute to the international BioBlitz science team

Here's how we've been working toward those targets since March:

1. April Symposium & expedition site survey

From April 11th through 18th, 2017 I joined you, our local partners, and several of the BioBlitz scientists for the BioBlitz symposium. I spent most of the week researching the field locations and required supporting logistics (including lodging, ground transportation, food, internet access & other communications needs, emergency medical access, etc.) to prepare for a successful October expedition experience for the JASON Argonaut and production teams. I was honored to be a featured speaker during the symposium event, and received amazing feedback from the audience on JASON's concept and BioBlitz plans. I was also able to make essential connections to the local partners and the symposium scientists and build personal relationships that have proven to be absolutely indispensable as planning unfolded throughout the spring and summer months.

17.



*Patrick Shea presenting on JASON Learning's plans for the BioBlitz during the April Symposium.
Good news: that number on the slide is now up to 3.5 million!*

2. Forming the JASON Argonaut Team

Our original plan (and budget!) had us fielding a very modest team of Argonauts—just one US student and one teacher for each week of the two week BioBlitz, for a total of **four**. Once word spread about the expedition and the opportunity to work with you and a huge team of world-renowned scientists, interest from participating school districts and other funding partners convinced us to accommodate more Argonaut participants. As a result, we've been able to extend an invitation to **five additional** Student and Teacher Argonauts, and now have a grand total of **nine** traveling to Malaysia over the course of the two-week expedition.

Student Argonauts



Alexa Borden, 16
Boise, ID



Travis McCoy, 16
Littleton, WV



Hannah Heaster, 16
Salem, WV

Teacher Argonauts



Candace Miller
Brooklyn, NY



Sharon Snider
Metz, WV



Brittany Mason
New Martinsville, WV



Tabitha Jones
Pennsboro, WV



Carly Imhoff
Coventry, CT



Hannah Cotton
Austin, TX

3. WWF Hong Kong Team

The Habitat Foundation (one of the hosting Penang organizations) introduced us to the World Wildlife Fund in Hong Kong, who enthusiastically offered to send a contingent of high school students to participate in the BioBlitz as “International JASON Argonauts.” Four students and two adult facilitators from WWF Hong Kong will be joining us in week two:

The WWF Hong Kong students are:

Sun Pui Kwan
Ling Nok Ping
Kong Wong
Wong Cheuk Yin

Tang Ching Ching and Lee Yiu Lung, WWF HK staff, will be along as facilitators.



This is an exciting new model of international engagement and partnership for JASON, and we would not have had the opportunity to explore this arrangement with WWF if it were not for TREE Foundation providing the baseline support for our participation in the BioBlitz.

4. Local students from Penang

Rounding out our student and teacher field team will be two groups of local students from schools around the island of Penang. Final numbers and names are in the works this week, but we are anticipating integrating 5-10 local students per week into our Argonaut teams.

5. JASON Staff & Production Team

The JASON staff and production team members previously identified in our communications are all confirmed. Names and roles are as follows:

Producer/Director - Patrick Shea, JASON's EVP and Digital Media Producer with 20 years of field production experience, will manage all aspects of the production team and the deliverables they will create and distribute pre-expedition, on-location, and post-expedition.

On-Camera Host & Writer - Haley Nelson, Series Producer and Host at Untamed Science, an educational film production company, has been "the face of JASON" for the past two years as host of our long-running live STEM role model webcast series. She will continue in that role on-location during the Penang expedition, working in front of and behind the camera to capture, interpret and convey the work of the science team and the experiences of the JASON Argonauts as they work alongside the scientists.



jasonlearning Following

jasonlearning Hey there! It's Haley Nelson from JASON Live! We are heading to Malaysia to meet up with a truckload of scientists for the 2017 Penang Bioblitz - and you get to virtually come along for the ride. Follow here and link in bio for more ways to connect! #womeninscience #scicomm

22 likes

Haley's already been leading the BioBlitz charge on JASON's brand new Instagram account

Videographer/Editor - Melissa Salpietra is a seasoned freelance Multimedia Producer with over 5 years of experience working with both JASON and Untamed Science on a variety of live event and produced video projects. Melissa will be our primary videographer and video editor as we document the combined teams' efforts over the course of the week on-location in Penang.

JASON Argonaut Coordinator - Jude Kesi, a former middle school science teacher and former JASON Teacher Argonaut with over 20 years of JASON Argo expedition experience, will manage the complete Student and Teacher Argonaut experience beginning with pre-expedition preparation, continuing with on-location logistics, and following through post-expedition to include ongoing communications and outreach after the team has returned to their home communities.

6. Promotion & outreach to date

As planned, JASON has been sharing the story of the BioBlitz over the past several months, with efforts ramping up significantly at the beginning of the new school year. Some highlights to date:

- The landing page for the BioBlitz on the JASON website has been served to over 2,500 unique visitors (<http://www.jason.org/bioblitz>)
- The 1 minute, 30 second promo video JASON produced has been viewed almost 5,000 times between versions served on the JASON website, JASON's Facebook page, and JASON's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1Pjdt02GeY>)
- Over 1,000 teachers have heard about our BioBlitz expedition plans through JASON teacher training workshops that have taken place between June and September, 2017, starting with our annual National Educators' Conference and continuing through large, multi-day regional trainings in Houston, Austin, and Midland, Texas
- JASON's email blast promoting our full fall live event season, including the BioBlitz, was sent out to 50,000 newsletter subscribers
- Collaboration with other BioBlitz partners, most notably California Academy of Sciences, to promote as widely as possible
- Facebook posts promoting the BioBlitz have been viewed over 7,100 times
- Our first live event of fall season—an hour-long Q&A session with environmental scientist Dr. Virginia Dale—had over 2,700 students and teachers viewing live. We always end each event with a quick promo of the next upcoming events, which in this case is the BioBlitz (<http://www.jason.org/virginia-dale>)

Needless to say, everybody involved from the JASON side, from Argonauts to staff to our classroom participants, are all super excited to get out there and get to work in Penang. I'm off to start packing right now, as a matter of fact! See you in a few days on the other side of the world.

Cheers,



Patrick Shea
Executive Vice President, JASON Learning



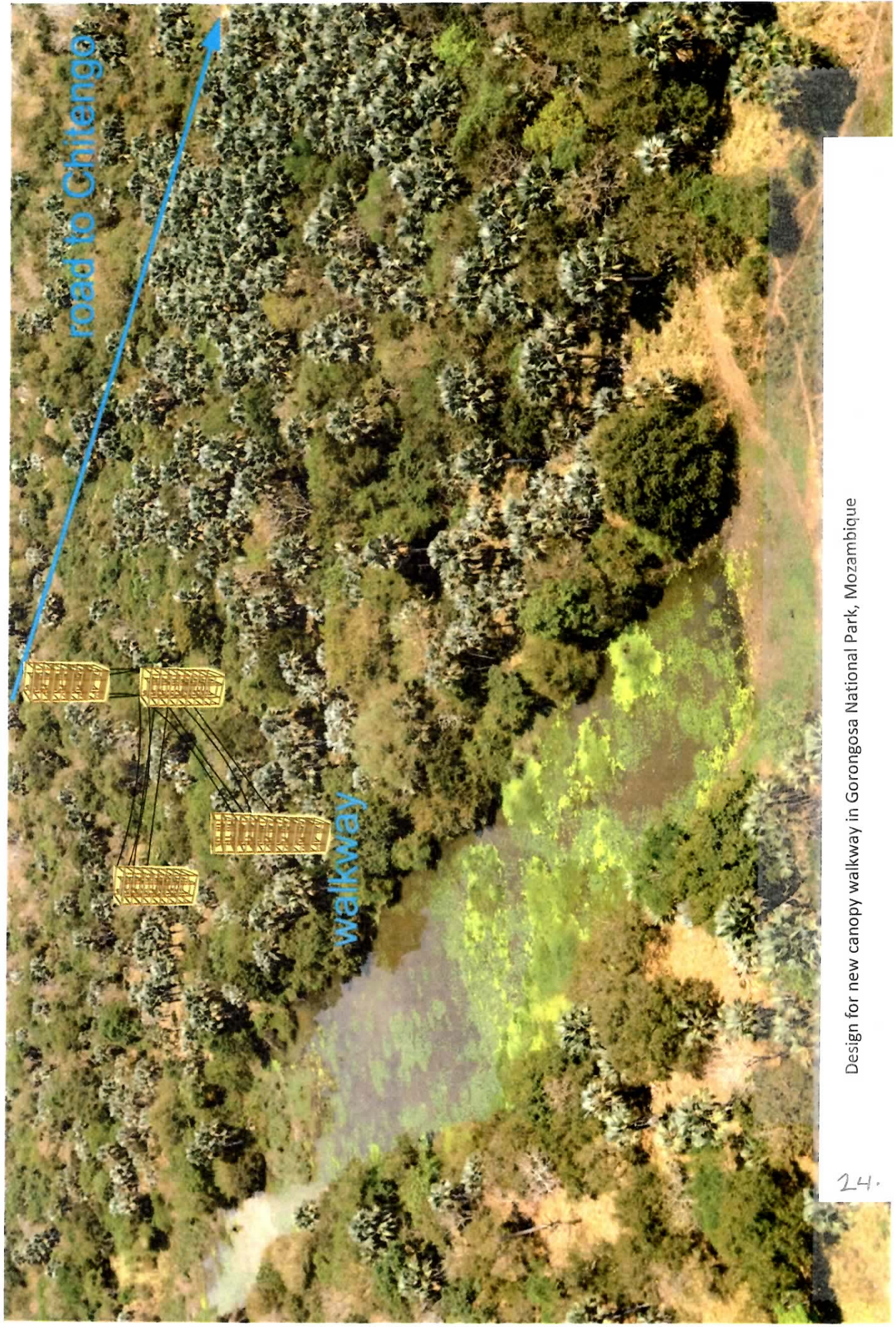
TREE research associate Anthony Ambrose found that redwoods transpire ~800 liters water/day!





Suspension bridges foot treads at 30 ft

1 - 60ft tower with stairs, 2 - 40 ft towers no stairs, 1 - 40 ft tower with stairs





Wildlife of Gorongosa National Park





Close-up of the walkway site

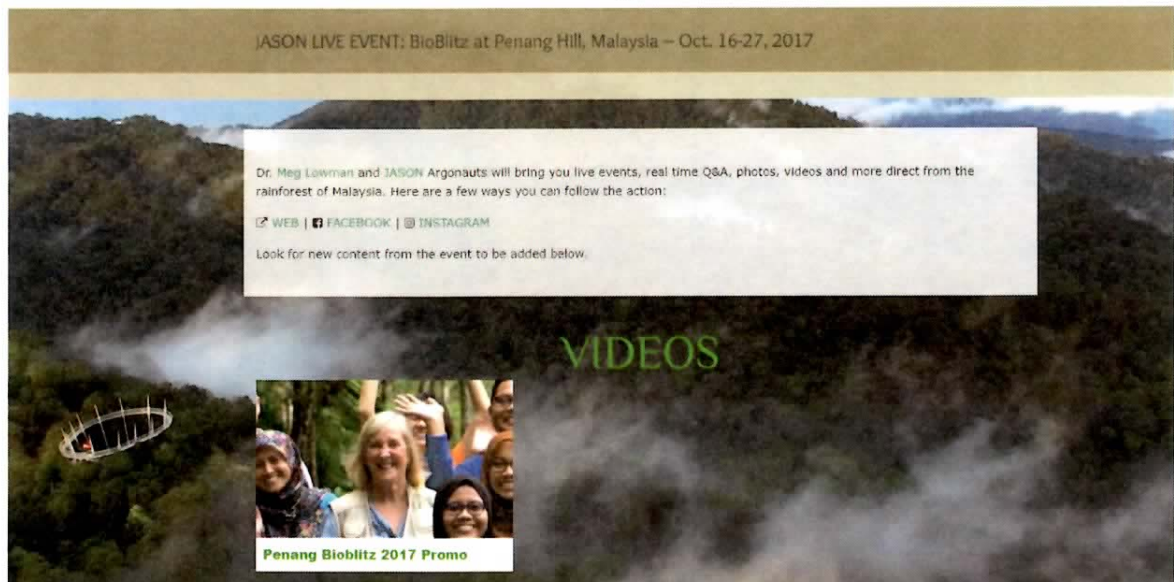


TREE Foundation Highlights for 2017

- New TREE Foundation Homepage with focus on imagery and videos



- JASON LIVE EVENT: BioBlitz at Penang Hill



- Ethiopian Church Forest Updates



- NSF-REU Project



- Summer Amazon Expedition



Amazon Rainforest Workshops



EXPLORE THE AMAZON RAINFOREST!

Travel as a Citizen Scientist with California Academy of Sciences
and **Dr. Meg Lowman**, Director of Global Initiatives & Senior Scientist in Plant Conservation
& **Michelle Trautwein**, Assistant Curator, Entomology

AMAZON
Jul. 24 to Aug. 3, 2017



+ Machu Picchu!

"This is a non-stop workshop full of once-in-a-lifetime experiences."



CURRENT PROJECTS



MALAYSIA



REU CANOPY EXPLORERS



CHURCH FORESTS OF ETHIOPIA



MYAKKA WALKWAY



SLOTHS

RECOMMENDED BOOKS



FEATURED VIDEOS



A Millennial Visits The Habitat, Penang Hill



Penang Bioblitz 2017 Promo



The Habitat Launch



WALKWAYS OF THE WORLD - ACTS Canopy Walkway, Peru



Myakka River State Park - Canopy Walkway



Zhara Church Forest Wall Tour

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TREE Foundation Website Metrics

Annual Combined Stats - 5 Year Period

Year	Hits
2017	3,626,664
2016	3,558,557
2015	3,431,730
2014	3,401,508
2013	2,775,861

