

ABOUT US



The Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF), Incorporated in Florida (1996), is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit publicly supported organization (EIN 59-3359549) dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the primates of Madagascar through captive breeding, non-invasive scientific research, education, and reintroduction. At LCF's 90-acre, non-public Myakka City Lemur Reserve the lemurs live naturally in pristine forest, yet are readily available for educational and research purposes. Together with the University of Miami and other universities, the LCF conducts the unique Field Training Program, which teaches students field techniques - how to observe animal behavior, and to collect and record data following scientific protocols.

The LCF has built an education center at the Tampolo Forest Station, its partner reserve in Madagascar, to promote collaborative research projects and a researcher exchange program.

Just a reminder:

Don't forget to check out our the Malagasy Lemur Shop online. Great gifts for the upcoming holidays. Just visit our web site, www.lemurreserve.org and click on the link "Malagasy Lemur Shop!"



Please send us your e-mail address so that we can keep you up-to-date on the latest and greatest at LCF. And of course, we will not release your e-mail address to any third parties - it will be used only by LCF staff to provide you with the latest in Lemur News. Send e-mail addresses to the following address: lcfservice@earthlink.net



LEMUR
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

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LEMUR LATITUDES

critters with attitude VOL. 2 #2

Bon Voyage, Adea & Alexandra!

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The Myakka City Lemur Reserve prepares to say good-bye to our female ring-tailed lemurs: Adea and Alexandra. Scheduled to arrive this fall, LCF will receive two different *Lemur catta* females with the exciting mandate to breed! Adea and Alexandra were originally donated by the Duke University Primate Center, who permanently contracepted them because their genes were already well represented in the captive population. Since female ring-tailed lemurs will not allow non-related females to join their troop, we had to find a new home for our current females before we could receive new breeding individuals.

While the Myakka City Lemur Reserve was ready for reproductive *L. catta*, another facility was looking for non-reproductive female ring-tailed lemurs for their new exhibit. Thanks to the hard work of the AZA's ring-tailed lemur studbook keeper, a perfect move was arranged. Adea and Alexandra are being loaned to Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, Georgia and will be living in another semi-free ranging enclosure.

A curator at Chehaw, Jan Thompson, learned about the Lemur Conservation Foundation



and our reserve in Myakka City from our web site, www.lemurreserve.org. Inspired by the pictures of the enclosure and the tales of our free-ranging lemurs, she decided to try a semi-free ranging exhibit at her zoo. Jan visited the reserve and consulted closely with then-LCF manager Brian Grossi about the plans for the exhibit at Chehaw. The site picked for this new enclosure is beautifully wooded and is bordered by a swiftly running creek on one side. A suspended bridge off to one side of the enclosure allows visitors to view the lemurs when they are high up in the canopy. Some trees had to be cleared to prevent curious lemurs from jumping over the fence but otherwise very little had to be changed within the forest. The new exhibit opened this summer and is called "Eyes in the Sky." Visit their web site, www.parksatchehaw.org, to find out more.

Although we'll all miss Adea and Alexandra - they were part of the original LCF colony- we are excited at the prospect of ring-tailed lemur babies. The staff at LCF is delighted to send our two lovely lemurs to stay in such a spectacular and innovative exhibit. If you are in the area, stop by to visit Alexandra and Adea in their new home.

by MONICA HOFFINE

HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN... & JEANNE!



What can we say about the hurricane season of 2004? It was crazy for everyone here in Florida, including all of us at the Myakka City Lemur Reserve. Hurricane Charley swept right over the reserve, hitting us with 90+ mph winds and buckets (about 5 ½ inches worth) of rain. The storm blew threw quickly, though, only harassing us for a couple of hours - which was long enough to bring down about a dozen trees and remove numerous shingles from the roof of the Fisher Caretaker's Cottage. Two large pine trees fell onto the enclosure fence, causing the chain link to sag and destroying sections of electronet. Thankfully, we had enough advanced warning of Hurricane Charley to secure all of the lemurs inside rooms at the Reed and Barbara Toomey Lemur Pavilion. The reserve was without power for 13 days, water for 5 days, and for almost 6 days the property was cut off from the rest of the world by a running river at the end of our dirt road. The intense rain and flooding really stirred up the wildlife, too. Twice, snakes had to be politely ushered out of the Guesthouse and both the President's and the manager's dogs were bitten by snakes. Fortunately, none of the people or lemurs were injured during any of the storms. But it took quite a while for Katie, the assitant program manager, and I to fix the fence. This made for a bunch of unhappy lemurs as they couldn't free-range while the electric fence was down.

Hurricane Frances was less intense - but decided to stay a lot longer - bringing pounding rain and wind once again. Miraculously, we didn't lose power dur-

ing Hurricane Frances but our telephones went dead. We watched even more shingles fly through the air and some water seeped through windows and doors. Hurricane Ivan missed us completely (my condolences to all those who had to deal with Ivan the Terrible).

Then Hurricane Jeanne, a much weaker but much longer storm, hit us. She caused the most anxiety because two of our lemurs were out in the forest when she hit. We had just finished fixing the fence the day before and decided to let the lemurs free range because the hurricane center had predicted that Jeanne would miss Florida. Later that day, however, the projected path changed to one that went right over central Florida. Most of the lemurs were willing to trade the forest for some delicious grapes, but not Hale and Bopp, our female red ruffed lemurs. Instead these two girls spent a very wet night and day in the forest while Hurricane (by then only Tropical Storm) Jeanne passed overhead. Much to our relief, they weathered the storm just fine and were cozy and dry only an hour after the storm passed! Which is to say that they did slightly better than the Fisher Caretaker's Cottage. Whereas the lemurs were unscathed, the poor house lost more shingles and had one window broken by the heavy winds, and, of course, our dirt road flooded once again. Happily, for the inhabitants, no one was hurt and only a little more than 24 hours passed before the electricity was back on at the reserve again. All the storms added up to one big mess. As Katie said "We're picking the roof out of the yard and the window out of our beds!"

by MONICA HOFFINE



Special Thanks

We are especially grateful to Mack Goode and John Mogilewsky for weathering the storms out here with the staff. Special thanks to all of those who called or e-mailed to express their concern, offer their help, and wish us well. A big thanks, too, to Luke and Andy of the Bradenton Tree Service, Inc. and Darren and Peter of Natural Builders, Inc. for volunteering to remove the trees from the fence and from the pathways. Thanks to the Mogilewskies for the food and bottled water. Thanks to Anne Bladstrom for her gifts of chocolate, water, and good company.

Call for volunteers:

If you are within driving distance of MCLR, gather a group of friends, pick a weekend, & volunteer to help LCF clean up the hurricane mess. We'll provide food and housing and guarantee enough fun, work, and lemurs to go around! Call Monica at (941) 322-8494

AMAZING GRACE Grace Merrifield Pease - LCF's Youngest Fundraiser



The Lemur Conservation Foundation is fueled by a hope and belief that the peoples of the world will unite in protecting vanishing species and the ecosystems in which they live. While it sometimes seems to be an impossible assignment, occasionally a young spirit bursts into our lives who fills us with confidence that everything will work out. Such is 12-year-old Grace Merrifield Pease.

Grace is on a mission. Home-schooled in Maine, she first conceived of a plan almost five years ago to visit Madagascar with her mother in 2005. Her task since then has been to raise \$4000 for her trip (already accomplished) and raise matching funds to donate to organizations dedicated to the protection of lemurs. Grace's entrepreneurial endeavors include growing pumpkins and petunias for sale and caring for two cows she intends to sell to an organic milk farm for breeding. She is currently raising money to purchase land with her sister to expand her enterprise.

While displaying her pumpkins and hanging baskets of flowers at the local farmer's market, Grace sets up a table display about lemurs and their plight - with a prominent can for donations. She has raised several thousands of dollars for in-situ conservation efforts in Madagascar, including almost \$800 for LCF's sister reserve, Tampolo Forest Station. These much needed funds will buy boots and rain gear for Tampolo's foresters. Next year, Grace herself will visit Tampolo as a volunteer, helping to clean the station, construct trails in the forest, and prepare food, among other tasks. Grace will also visit the school at Tampolo village to discuss with the Malagasy children her work and passion for the biological riches they have in their own backyard.

Besides being a little house-on-fire for conservation, Grace is a thoroughly delightful and typical 12-year-old who loves to read, write & draw, attend summer camp and go for walks in the woods with her best friend, Pigga (her overweight pug dog). She declares that if she were a lemur she would prefer to be a sifaka so she could run sideways.

Grace, whose dedication, energy and persistence are an inspiration to us all, gives us reason to believe that with young conservationists like her out there we can be confident that the lemurs will have a future after all.

by PENELOPE BODRY-SANDERS