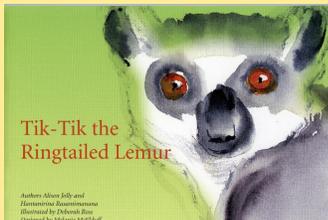




# LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

E-ulemur Latitudes  
e-newsletter March 2014  
[www.lemurreserve.org](http://www.lemurreserve.org)



[Click here to peek inside the Ako books and receive our special offer for the six book series.](#)



Class of 2013 - Dr. Jolly's Malagasy Students' Fund

## LCF TEAMS WITH DR. HANTA RASAMIMANANA IN BERENTY

Dr. Alison Jolly, who we sadly lost in January, left a legacy of science and inspiration along with her great gift of friendship and support for so many scientists, students, and organizations.

One project dear to her heart is the 'Malagasy Students' Fund,' established more than twenty four years ago. In 1989, while working on a World Bank project in Madagascar, Dr. Jolly learned about the students efforts to earn money for their field work. She began supporting the fund, and the participating fourth and fifth year Life Science students from the University of Antananarivo's Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) - a prestigious five year teaching college that graduates master's level education professionals. She realized her support was necessary to give these young Life Science education leaders an experience in field biology and lemur conservation.

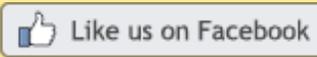
Each summer a cohort of ten students travels to the privately owned Berenty



[Organic Spices from Madagascar are available in our Amazon Store](#)



[children's puzzle available in our Amazon store](#)



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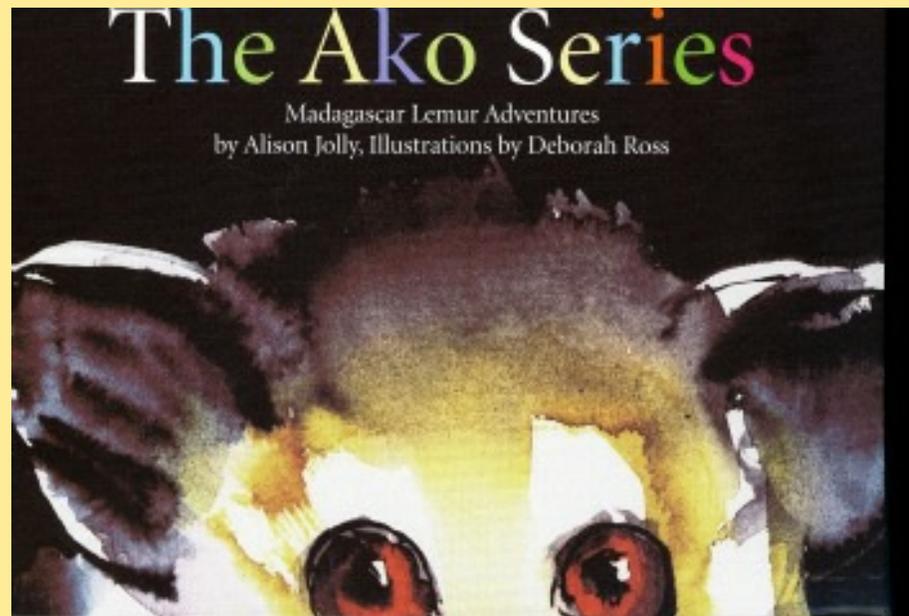
Special Reserve to participate in the ring-tail lemur and sifaka census, as well as in the plant phenology directed by Dr. Hanta Rasamimanana.

Dr. Rasamimanana began working with Dr. Jolly on her ring-tailed lemur study in 1983, and has directed the ENS Student project since it was founded. Dr. Jolly started the ring-tailed lemur census at Berenty in 1963. It is the longest continuing study of a lemur population in Madagascar. Today, the work students do with Dr. Rasamimanana help Berenty's owners make conservation decisions and manage the balance between local needs, tourism, and conservation. It is one of Madagascar's successful public / private conservation partnerships.

The students conduct field work at Berenty and also travel with their mentor to other parks, natural areas, and professional conferences to learn more about natural science, Madagascar's unique biodiversity, and form relationships with conservation professionals. Their master's thesis includes a summary of their field experience and recommendations about how aspects of their field work with Dr. Rasamimanana can be used as teaching tools in Malagasy classrooms. Graduates of the program have gone on to earn doctorate degrees and now hold key positions in Madagascar's education and conservation institutions. One graduate, Dr. Josia Rasafindramanana, won the prestigious [Whitley Award](#) in 2012. ([Watch her inspirational acceptance speech here](#))

In January of 2014 Dr. Jolly asked LCF to work with Dr. Rasamimanana and the Malagasy Students' Fund. We are honored to participate in this inspirational and effective project with Dr. Rasamimanana and to steward this part of Dr. Jolly's legacy.

If you would like to donate to the Malagasy Students' Fund please call Lee Nesler at 941-322-8494, or email to [leenesler@lemurreserve.org](mailto:leenesler@lemurreserve.org). If you prefer, you can donate by [CLICKING HERE](#). Please make a note of your interest in supporting the Malagasy Students' Fund.



### LCF'S EDUCATION DREAM TEAM!

Karen Malesky & Kris Whipple

Our education powerhouse is led by two talented professionals, Karen Malesky & Kris Whipple. Their expertise creates and delivers 'Ako Project' conservation education materials for teachers and home school families. The lessons are designed and produce by Kris, and delivered in classrooms, museums, community centers, and at LCF's Teacher's Institute. Each of the six Ako books has a set of lessons and activities which meets Florida and national standards. Ask your school to contact us about reviewing and approving materials for teachers

and students in your community.

If you are in the Ft. Lauderdale area on 5 April, visit the IMAX theater for the premier weekend of the new Lemurs movie and meet Karen and Lee Nesler, our Executive Director and CEO.



**Karen Malesky**

### **Karen Malesky -**

Museum Educator at GWIZ the Science Museum in Sarasota! A Manatee county native, she holds a B.A. in Anthropology (Archaeology) from the University of Florida. 31 years were spent teaching Science in Manatee County schools. A member of The Florida Association of Science Teachers she served as President in 2006-2007. Other S.T.E.M. activities include serving as an N.A.S.A. Resource Teacher, Board member of the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (State Science and Engineering Fair), and committee member -Committee on Pre College Education for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Florida DOE has had Karen work on various teams for Science curriculum and standards.

### **Kris Whipple, CIP, CIT, CIG Interpretive Consultant**

Kris's professional background includes over twenty-five years as a curator, education specialist and naturalist for parks, museums, zoos and aquariums. Most recently, Kris served for fourteen years as the education curator for Walt Disney World Animal Programs and was responsible for the development of student and visitor programs, activities, presentations and educational materials for visiting students and adults and interpretive training at Disney's Animal Kingdom, The Seas, Disney's Wilderness Adventures and Disney's Discovery Island. Her education background includes a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Natural Resource Management.



**KrisWhipple**

With clients ranging from government agencies and non-profit organizations to private institutions, Kris's project sites include visitor centers, botanical gardens, zoological parks, aquariums, museums, parks and nature centers.

Recent projects include:

- DisneyNature Workbooks for the following nature series: African Cats, Chimpanzee and Bears as well as Pixar's Finding Nemo 3-D.
- Interpretive planning and media development for Garvan Botanical Gardens in Arkansas.
- Interpretive graphics and children's activity guides for the Naples Botanical Garden.
- Developing interpretive graphics for the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy and Wildlife Care Center (CA)
- Developing live and on-line interpretive training programs for The San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Kris is certified as an interpretive planner, trainer, interpretive guide instructor and guide with the National Association for Interpretation. As an interpretive guide instructor she facilitates Certified Interpretive Guide Courses around the U.S. that focus on interpretive foundations, techniques and exceptional visitor service. Kris is also a member of the NAI Certification Review Team and Professional Standards and Practices Committee. Her In Training column is regularly featured in NAI's Legacy magazine.

Kris has presented workshops and presentations at international, national and state conferences including The International Zoo Educators Association, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, The American Zoo and Aquarium Association, National Association for Interpretation, National Science Teachers Association, Association for Science and Technology Centers,

Florida Association of Science Teachers, League of Environmental Educators of Florida, NASA Teacher of the Year Awards and the Disney American Teacher Awards.

**NIKI FISK 'VANISHING LEMUR' JEWELRY -  
Just In Time For Mother's Day!**



New Orleans Jewelry designer Niki Fisk created this unique lemur design just for Lemur Conservation Foundation! Each necklace is hand crafted in sterling silver and features a lemur, the most endangered primate species in the world.

Choose from the three frame styles: a large, ornate shadow box like the necklace pictured above in the center, or the small and medium vanishing lemur shown on the left and right respectively.

Your purchase supports our conservation efforts and our lemur colony in Myakka



Meet the model! image by Phil Sironis

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Studying the Fat-Tailed Dwarf Lemurs of Marojejy
- School and Bridge Finished!
- DLC's Britt Keith visits SAVA Conservation and Marojejy



FEBRUARY 2014  
Vol. 3, No. 1

Conservation news from the Sambava, Andapa, Tohaman, and Itaha region of NE Madagascar

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## Studying the Fat-Tailed Dwarf Lemurs of Marojejy

By Marina B. Blanco, Ph.D.

I first met Erik Patel almost ten years ago in Ranomafana when we were conducting field work for our respective dissertations. We recently encountered each other, again at Ranomafana, when we were attending the International Prosimian Congress held in August 2013. By chance, we were now working at the same Institution as Postdoctoral Associates of the Duke Lemur Center. Erik became the SAVA Conservation Project director, while my research was on the ecophysiology of dwarf lemur hibernation. Before saying goodbye at the Congress' party, we talked about our work, our plans and the possibility I would visit Marojejy in the near future.

Logistics in Madagascar are sometimes challenging and organizing a trip can be a slow process, but with Erik's resolution and expertise arranging expeditions and facilitating research, along with the help of Lanto, SAVA Project Manager, and Manitra, a student from the University of Antananarivo, I was set to visit the forest of the "many mountains", "lots of rain", "lots of spirits" (that is, Marojejy) in October 2013, only a couple of months after our meeting at the Congress in Ranomafana!

After studying dwarf lemurs for several years at Tsinjoarivo, a high-altitude site in eastern Madagascar, Marojejy presented itself as a great research opportunity, not only to expand my ongoing work by adding a new rainforest location, but more importantly, to be able to explore the ecological flexibility of dwarf lemur hibernation in a single site. An additional incentive was the possibility to discover more than one dwarf lemur species living at Marojejy, because no trapping had yet been conducted at this forest.



Marina with a dwarf lemur captured in the Camp 2 area.



### ENJOY THE LATEST SAVA PROJECT NEWSLETTER!

This edition features an article about Dr. Marina Blanco's work with fat tailed dwarf lemurs in Marojejy and other important news and updates.

" After studying dwarf lemurs for several years at Tsinjoarivo, a high-altitude site in eastern Madagascar, Marojeje presented itself as a great research opportunity, not only to expand my ongoing work by adding a new rain forest location, but more importantly, to be able to explore the ecological flexibility of dwarf lemur hibernation in a single site. An additional incentive was the possibility to discover more than one dwarf lemur species living at Marojeje..."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the newsletter on line, or to download you copy.

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