



February 2015
Newsletter



SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Ranger Training Course No. 2 Shulinab Village

SRCS EXEC. TEAM

Nicholas Fredericks, PRESIDENT
Leroy Ignacio, VICE PRESIDENT
Kayla de Freitas, TREASURER
Erin Earl, SECRETARY
Asaph Wilson, BIRD SPECIALIST

SRCS RANGERS

Harold Isaacs, POTARINAU
Jessline Alexander, POTARINAU
Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB
Perpetua Adolph, SHULINAB
Eion Gray, SHULINAB
Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAU
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAU
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB
Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB
Leon Baird, DADANAWA
Judah Kenyon, SADDLE MT.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Tessa Felix, SHULINAB
Leandrew Fredericks, SHULINAB
Louis Eusebio, SHULINAB
Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB
Terence Augustin, SHULINAB
Wayne Lewis, SHULINAB
Simon Peters, SHULINAB
Ivan Peters, SHULINAB
Griffith Fredericks, NAPPI
Berlinda Francis, KATOONARIB
Gordon Francis, KATOONARIB
Hilary St. Hill, KATOONARIB
Chung Liu, DADANAWA

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD S. ISAACS

It is with the deepest sorrow that we mourn the tragic death of Harold Sampson Isaacs, also known as Sammo, Samurai, Sugar, and Sweetness, of Potarinau Village, in a motorcycle accident on the 8th of February, 2015. Over the past year he trained and worked as an SRCS ranger in our ongoing Red Siskin research, and was a tireless and fearless conservationist who was also involved in the South Central People's Development Association (SCPDA) monitoring team, and the 2014 WWF Rapid Assessment Project. Sammo was a talented, skillful, and dedicated man, whose profound humour often kept the team in good spirits despite any circumstances otherwise. We mourn his untimely passing, and will miss him terribly. Our hearts and minds go out to his wife and children for losing a husband, a father, and a good man. Rest in peace, Sammo - we will never forget the light that you brought to our lives.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Shulinab Village, and especially Shulinab Women's Group, and Shulinab Guest-house for hosting our recent Ranger Training Course involving eco-tourism and first aid training between the 2nd and 8th of February, 2015. We would like to thank Mr. Mike Martin of Yupakari Village for leading the eco-tourism component, and Mr. De Vaughn Lewis and Ms. Melissa Lewis of the Guyana Red Cross Society, for running and certifying the First Aid component.

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



ECO-TOURISM



Left column, from top to bottom: (1) Mr. Mike Martin of Yupukari has worked with Rupununi Learners for almost a decade, and came to Shulinab to share his extensive experience in eco-tourism with rangers and interested village community members. (2) The eco-tourism component included detailed discussions on guest expectations, professional guide conduct, watching out for guest safety and comfort, designing package tours at the village level, and a range of further eco-tourism subjects. (3) The course included an overnight trip to Saurab Falls to spot the Red Siskin, where skills and topics covered were put into practice. For many Shulinab participants, especially youths, this was the first time they had seen the Red Siskin. The SRCS was very glad to be able to share such an experience with local community members.



GUYANA RED CROSS: FIRST AID

Right column, from top to bottom: The First Aid component of the course was run by the Guyana Red Cross Society. We would like to thank Mr. De Vaughn Lewis and Ms. Melissa Lewis for their professional and patient instruction in a wide range of medical emergencies including first aid responses to conscious and unconscious cases, broken bones, choking, poisoning, burns, and emergency childbirth. (1) De Vaughn Lewis teaching the correct response to a choking emergency, as ranger Nicholas Cyril learns through practice and the supervision of Ms. Melissa Lewis. (2) Kayla de Freitas, and rangers Asaph Wilson and Judah Kenyon, practicing CPR on medical dummies. (3) Berlinda Francis and Ms. Tracy Eusebio rescuing a baby from choking.



BIRDS OF THE RUPUNUNI

This section features photos and a short description of bird species found in the Rupununi taken by SRCS members during routine field activities, while guiding for bird-watching expeditions, and all sorts of other opportunities. This Newsletter includes the Great Egret, the Snail Kite, and the Blue Dacnis.

From left to right: (1) The **Great Egret (Wakara)** is a widely distributed heron with year-round ranges throughout South America and Africa, as well as seasonal ranges across North America and Europe. It can be found in shallow waters stalking fish, frogs, small mammals, reptiles, and insects, using its long beak to spear its prey. During the 19th century, it was hunted for its feathers and experienced population declines throughout North America; it has since been the focus of successful conservation efforts and is the enduring symbol of the National Audubon Society, which was formed in part to protect birds from being killed for their feathers. (2) The **Snail Kite (Owario-niki)** is a bird of prey, and mulluscivore, whose diet primarily consists of large snails - as evidenced by its curved hook beak that is well-suited for feeding on snails. It ranges from the Caribbean and Central America to southern Brazil, and is often found in wetland habitats. (3) The female **Blue Dacnis** is a very striking bird, with a turquoise head and green body. The male Blue Dacnis is completely black and turquoise, and is similarly beautiful in appearance.



Note: The endangered Red Siskin (*Sporagra cucullata*) is officially protected by the South Rupununi Conservation Society. The SRCS is currently researching its ranges in the South Rupununi, to be included as a proposed Important Birding Area (IBA). The South Rupununi Conservation Society is based at Dadanawa Ranch, South Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana. Contact via radio at 4-0 on 7900 or 5300, phone Kayla (+592) 668 8562 and Erin (+592) 680 8102, or email Erin (earl.erin@gmail.com) and Kayla (epiona04@yahoo.ca).