

NEWS FROM ACADEMY BAY

Donation Made in Memory of Last Grandchild of Ecuador's First President.—General Juan José Flores, the First President of Ecuador, established Ecuadorian sovereignty over the Galápagos Islands in 1832. The Island of Floreana was named for him.

A generous donation has been received from Mr. Marcello De Giorgis in memory of his mother, Amalia Flores De Giorgis, who died in the spring of 1990 in Rome at the age of 94. She was the last living grandchild of General Flores. Although she never visited Galápagos, Mrs. Flores De Giorgis followed with great interest her son's descriptions of Isla Floreana.

The donation will be used by the CDRS and Galápagos National Park Service to support the program for protection of the endangered Dark-rumped Petrel on Floreana. **Craig MacFarland, 836 Mabelle, Moscow, Idaho 83843, USA.**

Deaths of CDF Board Members.—The world conservation movement and the Galápagos Islands lost two avid supporters with the deaths in August 1989 of Sir Peter Scott and in December 1990 of Dr. Kai Curry-Lindhal.

Sir Peter Scott was an internationally acclaimed artist and naturalist. He was founder of the Wildfowl Trust in Great Britain, a founder of the World Wildlife Fund International (now known as the World Wide Fund for Nature) of which he was Chairman and also of its British National Appeal, and for 15 years Chairman of the Fauna Preservation Society in the United Kingdom. He was a tireless exponent, traveler, and worker for international conservation efforts and a member of the Charles Darwin Foundation Executive Council for many years. He visited the Islands numerous times, especially in the 1970s, and was instrumental in helping to raise considerable funds for conservation of the Galápagos via WWF-International.

Dr. Kai Curry-Lindhal, of Sweden, was an active member of the CDF Executive Council, especially during the early formative years of the Foundation. More recently, he worked for many years as a key professional at the United Nations Environmental Programme at its headquarters in Nairobi, as well as being involved in international conservation activi-

ties for several decades through participation in many organizations.

They will be sorely missed by the international conservation community, but the many young people they helped inspire will certainly continue the work which they were so instrumental in starting and nurturing. **Craig MacFarland.**

Major Gift by Mrs. Louise Van Straelen-Poirier.—Mrs. Van Straelen, who sadly passed away in early 1990, has donated via her last will 5 million Belgian Francs (= US \$140,000) to the Charles Darwin Foundation. Her will specifies the contribution to be "for conservation and science in the Galápagos Islands," and that it is "in remembrance of Dr. Victor Emile Van Straelen, Founder and First President of the Charles Darwin Foundation."

The donation was made via WWF-Belgium, which is in the process of transferring the funds to the Galápagos Darwin Trust-Europe, based in Luxembourg.

Three years ago Mrs. Van Straelen donated over US \$200,000 for Galápagos conservation and science through the World Wide Fund for Nature. This gift formed the core of the major debt swap arrangement between that organization, the Government of Ecuador, Fundación Natura (Ecuador), and the CDF.

Once again the CDF has benefited enormously from the dedication and generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Van Straelen, who will be remembered forever for their pioneering efforts on behalf of the Islands and the Foundation. **Craig MacFarland.**

Itasca to Galápagos.—Galápagos gained new friends and renewed old acquaintances as a result of a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daugherty of Omaha, Nebraska, USA, and by guests aboard their ship *Itasca* in March 1989. The group included Mr. and Mrs. Allen Jacobson and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hubbard. Generous donations from Mr. Jacobson, Chief Executive Officer of 3M Company, and Mr. Hubbard, President of Hubbard Broadcasting, helped purchase a fiberglass patrol boat for the Galápagos National Park Service. The 3M Company also made a large donation of their products for environmental education programs in the Islands.

Mr. Daugherty, President of Valmont Industries,

provided a large boost to the research and conservation programs of the Station by donating six computers with printers and battery backup units to the Smithsonian Institution for use in the Galápagos. This equipment brought the Station firmly into the computer age strengthening science and student training programs. The equipment is particularly applicable to the development of the biostatistics course to be taught periodically at the Station and in the establishment of a better data base for environmental monitoring.

The Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park Service are grateful to Messrs. Daugherty, Jacobson, and Hubbard for their generous support of conservation in the Galápagos. Their donations provided basic tools and resources needed for essential work. Daniel Evans, Charles Darwin Research Station, Isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador.

Station Research Vessel.—On 3 October 1990, the Charles Darwin Foundation acquired a new research vessel for the CDRS. The ship is a 42-ft fiberglass fishing vessel with a 20-ton capacity. It was built in Norway in 1978 and imported to Ecuador in 1979. The current sleeping capacity is for only four people; however, the cabin will be expanded to allow the ship to sleep at least eight. It is expected that the ship will operate at a speed of 9-10 knots, with a cruising range of over 1,000 miles. Due to its speed, size, cost, ample deck space, and range, this ship is ideally suited to fulfill the needs of the Station. It was decided to retain the name *Beagle*, without using a number.

The ship was found in Manta by Godfrey Merlen, who will be in charge of directing the necessary re-fitting prior to bringing the vessel to the Galápagos. Godfrey's assistance and knowledge have been invaluable in obtaining a suitable ship. Daniel Evans.

ERYTHRINA VELUTINA AND THE COLONIZATION OF REMOTE ISLANDS

By: Peter Grant, K. Thalia Grant, and B. Rosemary Grant

Erythrina velutina is a familiar tree at middle elevations on the south side of Isla Santa Cruz. Unlike most Galápagos trees it flowers when leafless in the dry season. The flowers are large, showy, red, and tubular, and are apparently adapted for pollination by long-tongued animals like hummingbirds (Faegri and van der Pijl 1971); yet hummingbirds have never been on the Galápagos as far as anyone knows.

It came as a surprise to us in April 1978 to find half a dozen large trees of this species on Isla Wolf. The Island is not very high: the maximum elevation is 253 m (Wiggins and Porter 1971). It is also remote. How did they get there? In November 1978 we had a further surprise in discovering one single tree on the west side of Isla Genovesa, probably no more than 20 m above sea level but an estimated 400 m inland. How did it arrive there?

Judging by the amount of colorful plastic to be found on uninhabited Genovesa and by the habit of Red-footed Boobies and frigate birds of carrying pieces of vegetation while flying around the coast,

we might surmise that the bright red seeds (beans) of *Erythrina* have been picked up from the sea or the shores on which they have been washed and dropped on the Island. Or a landbird, such as a dove or a mockingbird, might have picked up a seed from the beach and taken it inland before discarding it. Either way the seeds would have to float in seawater for several days to reach remote islands like Genovesa, Wolf, as well as Darwin (Wiggins and Porter 1971).

To test this idea we placed 30 seeds in a jar of seawater on Genovesa, stirred the water whenever we were back in camp, and recorded how many floated and how many sank. Four immediately sank, and in the next 72 hours five more did. Thus, after 3 days, 21 of the original 30 seeds were still afloat. Three days travel at sea under natural conditions would have carried them an unknown distance from their island of origin. If they travelled in the range of 1-5 m per minute they would be displaced somewhere between 4.5 and 22.0 km in that time.

The experiment was carried out in November 1978.