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Monthly
Newsletter

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PCS Celebrates 18th Year of Conservation

On June 14, 2012 PCS held its annual general membership meeting and PCS members, board members and families of founding members spent a joyful evening celebrating 18 years of conservation actions producing real changes in Palau's environment and communities. Dr. Caleb Otto the Chairman of the Board of Directors opened the meeting and the Chairman and the staff of PCS updated the members on PCS's activities and accomplishments in 2011. This update was shown in a video produced by the staff.

The meeting included an election for four expired board seats. Elected new members to the board were Ms. Lucy Sugiyama, Mr. Harper Skang and Mr. Jason Nolan. Expiring board member, Dr. Caleb Otto, was re-elected. Congratulations to the incoming new members, the re-elected board member who will now join the existing 7

members such as Mrs. Maura Gordon, Mr. Keobel Sakuma, Mrs. Sandra Pierantozzi, Mr. Umiich Sengenbau, Mr. Thomas Taro, Ms. Brengyei Katosang, and Mr. Clarence Kitalong, Sr., to make up the full board membership. Their next meeting will be held in July.

Throughout the evening the PCS 2011 Annual Report was projected on screen for preview and it is available for distribution in electronic format.



Ms. Lucy Sugiyama



Mr. Jason Nolan



Mr. Harper Skang

Ghost Fishing Net in Pulo Ana Removed

Ghost fishing is a problem in Pulo Ana in the Southwest Islands of Palau, an island 283 miles south-west of Koror. Ghost fishing is a term used to describe the phenomena of fish nets and traps lost at sea which trap and kill sea creatures indiscriminately—including billfish, turtles, corals, lobsters, birds, and even whales. These lost nets and traps are a form of marine debris, a worldwide problem. When the Klarissa II, a fishing vessel grounded at Pulo Ana on January 6, 2012 with a purse seine on board washed off the deck, tangled on the reef, and began ghost fishing. An interagency team went to Pulo Ana with Governor Jacob Yangilmau to

assess the extent of damage from the net and to plan for its removal. Fortunately, the weather was good and the tides favorable and the trip commenced on schedule. Teams from the Environmental Quality Protection Board and Palau Conservation Society removed the net from the reef. However, a part of the net remained on the deck. This will be removed in the future. The team was able to remove the section of the net in the water with fishing floats and dragged it to shore where it remains for future disposal. Unfortu-

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Klarissa II sitting on the reefs of Pulo Ana Island, Palau

Capacity Building for Kayangel and Peleliu States

Today it is vitally important for Palau's states to be able to effectively manage their forests, coastal areas and reefs as important ecosystems that are important for subsistence, economy and Palauan culture from now and into the future.

PCS is assisting Kayangel State Government creating a management plan for the established Kayangel Protected Areas Network. . There are 9 community members of Kayangel who are Jeffrey Titimel, Keizy Ermang, Stevenson Mokisang who are appointees from the Governor's office, Owens Otei, Baidong Ruloked and Rebechong Ruloked who represent the Council of Chiefs of Kayangel, and Esichang Moses, Asailee Yamada and Elmis Ruloked who represent Kayangel Legislature. These 9 appointees creates the Ngedebuul Conservation & Resource Committee. Through several meetings, planning and research, the committee has prepared a management plan. This plan will be handed over formally to Governor Edwin Chiokai in early July. . Once Governor Chiokai receives it, it will be formally handed over to the Kayangel State Legislature to be adopted legally, in order to be able to implemented with the newly created Natural Resources & Enforcement Services Office in Kayangel State Office.

The latest news from Peleliu State, the Management Planning Team, that is creating a management plan for the Teluleu Conservation Area had its fifth meeting. During this meeting, the members were able to discuss the SWOT analysis towards how to achieve the goal and objectives of the Teluleu Conservation Area of Peleliu State.

Palau Flycatcher

Palau has 12 endemic birds. One of them is the Palau Flycatcher, *Myiagra erythrops*. Its Palauan name is Charmelachull. The Palau Flycatcher is found only in Palau and nowhere else in the world. It is one of the most familiar endemic birds. It belongs to a genus of small insectivorous birds that are widespread on islands of the tropical pacific including the high islands of Guam, Chuuk and Pohnpei in Micronesia. When the Palau flycatcher sings, it is an indication of impending rain. It also likes to flutter its wings when singing in

Ghost Fishing continue...

nately, a section of the net remained outside the reef in waters 40 feet deep, draped over two coral ridges and two small canyons. This will require further work so that Pulo Ana's reefs and main food source—is protected.

These efforts included quick assessments to determine the extent of the damage of the ship grounding on the environment and the community.

The team from EQPB interviewed the residents of Pulo Ana to see if fuel from the ship leaked to the reef, which fortunately it did not. The team from PCS conducted a quick ecological assessment and concluded that significant damage to coral and coral head in the surrounding area occurred as a result of the ship grounding and subsequent ghost fishing. The purse seine fishing net had a mesh size of 2 x 2 inches, which was made of nylon and very hard to break. To date a representative from EQPB has visited the ship four times to inspect the possible leakage of oil into the reef. Transportation to Pulo Ana on board the HI Remeliik Patrol Boat, the Surangel Tug Boat, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel and now with the Sea Bird have ensured that Pulo Ana's reef can be protected.

This incident of grounded vessel on a reef is a good wake-up call to the people of Palau and Micronesia toto have a response system to address issues such as ship groundings so that valuable biological resources are not degraded or harmed.

Palau Flycatcher continue...

the rain. All *Myiagra* flycatchers have whistled songs and raspy call notes.

When walking in the forest, look closely and you will most certainly see the Palau Flycatcher. It is a handsome little bird with a blue top and white underpants and salmon red on the forehead to the neck and chest. The Palau flycatcher likes to eat spiders and other insects. Its role in nature is to control insect population.



Youth Summer Interns 2012

This year Palau Conservation Society is proud to host ten youth summer interns. These student interns comes from various agencies.

Emma Salii and Chance Douglas comes through the College Internship Program from



the Palau Community College. Both Chance and Emma are second year college students. Both of them are liberal arts science majors.



Chance Douglas

Last but not least, is Genevieve Roland. Genn for short, comes from St. John's School in Guam. When Genn leaves Palau, she will be going to Hotchkiss Boarding School in Connecticut, USA, to begin her junior year in high school.



Shayna Shiro



Genevieve Roland

Thank You Bank of Guam

The board and management of Palau Conservation Society thank Bank of Guam for donating \$5,000 for conservation work in Palau. This donation was made on June 26, 2012. Bank of Guam is a Partner for Conservation with PCS. Thank you very much, indeed, Bank of Guam!

Thank You Palau Royal Resort

The board and management of Palau Conservation Society also thank the Palau Royal Resort for its continued support through cash donation. On June ?, 2012, PRR presented a check in the amount of _____ to PCS. This donation is through donations from guest of the Palau Royal Resort. Thank you PRR!

Membership Drive

Together with the Youth Summer Interns 2012, the Administration and Development Dept. of PCS was able to conduct a membership drive. All day, on June 13th, at the parking lot of the Palau Community College, along the side of the main road of Koror, the student interns and staff along with family members held signs recruiting new members. The Eco-Paradise Radio Station 87.9 FM was able to broadcast live from inside the tent with the student interns. They all had a chance to talk on the radio, relaying conservation messages to the public and friends.

Thank you to all new members and all the supporters and student interns for a successful membership drive!



Gayleen Basilio

Gayleen Basilio is also a PCC student. Both she and Umerei Andres comes through the office of the Workforce Investment Act. Gayleen is a second year student



Umerei Andres



Dillon Meriang

Dillon Meriang and Karly Madrengchar come through the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP). Both Dillon and Karly will be juniors at Mindszent High School this coming fall.



Karly Madrengchar

Diliaur Kumaichi, Dilrae Mechol and Shayna Shiro will be seniors at Palau High School next



Diliaur Kumaichi

school year. All three young women comes from the Upward Bound Summer Program from the Palau Community College.



Dilrae Mechol

Membership & Renewable Form

Our Mission
The mission of the Palau Conservation Society is to work with the community to preserve the nation's unique natural environment and perpetuate its conservation ethic for the economic and social benefit of present and future generations of Palauans and for the enjoyment and education of all.

Our Vision
Healthy Islands
Healthy Communities

Board of Directors

- OFFICERS:
 Chairman,
 Dr. Caleb Otto
 Vice Chairman,
 U.F. Sengebaw
 Treasurer,
 Keobel Sakuma
 Secretary,
 Sandra S. Pierantozzi
- MEMBERS:
 Clarence Kitalong, Sr.
 Noah Idechong
 Brengyei Katosang
 Surangel Whipps, Sr.
 Thomas Taro
 Maura Gordon
 Kaleb Udui, Jr.

Yes! I want to help Palau grow wisely in the years ahead.

I want to renew as a new member_____

I am renewing my membership_____

Annual membership fee:

\$5 Student Member \$10 Regular Member \$25 Family Member

Name:_____

Date:_____

Organization:_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

Fax:_____ Cell:_____

Email:_____

Please fill out this form and send to:

Palau Conservation Society
P.O. Box 1811
Koror, Palau 96940

Contacts: Tel: (680) 488-3993/4716, Fax: (680) 488-3990

Email: pcs@palaunet.com

Donate to PCS and help protect our environment.

We're on the Web!
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www.palauconservation.org

