

CURRICULUM VITAE

CHRISTOPHER MONTERO

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EDUCATION

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA B.A. Environmental Studies 2006-2007

- Internship with the University of Washington on visitor impacts at Mount Rainier National Park.
- Studied Natural History of the Pacific Northwest, including local ecosystems, flora and avifauna.

Universidad Estatal a Distancia, Costa Rica Natural Resources Mgmt 1999-2003

- Coursework in conservation biology, zoology, animal anatomy and physiology, botany, natural history, and ecology.
- Conducted an independent study on the species density of a tropical secondary forest. Set up transects and took forest measurements including species identification, and basal area.

Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica Psychology 1991-1992

- Coursework in psychology, visual arts, sociology, and environmental issues.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Trip Leader

Broadreach Academic Treks, Raleigh, NC Summer 2009

- Co-led the program “Wilderness and Traditional Medicine” for American teenagers in Belize.
- Guided diverse activities like spelunking, canoeing, jungle and night walks.
- Coordinated field logistics and finances.
- Supervised safety and health of students.
- Mentored and supported the academic component of the course.

Instructor

Sierra Institute / Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA Winter 2007 & 2008 – current

- Co-instructed the interdisciplinary college-level course *Rainforest Field Studies: Belize and Guatemala*.
- Designed and led teaching activities in diverse tropical ecosystems.
- L lectured about reptiles, entomology, ornithology, ancient Mayans, conservation biology, and evolution.
- Organized and coordinated logistics, academic projects, backpacking trips, and outdoor activities.
- Responded to backcountry medical emergencies.

Natural Resources Research Technician

Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA 2005 – current

- Conducted radio-telemetry surveys, tracking several individuals of two species of owls and collected data on their diet, movements and roosting places.
- Carried out northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) habitat effectiveness monitoring on timber sales under the DNR Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Took pre- and post-harvest measurements for variable density thinning timber sales and on experimental forest regeneration plots. Installed fixed radius plots for vegetation sampling; identified and measured live trees, snags, and down woody debris.

- Estimated canopy closure using Gap Light Analyzer 2.0.
- Assisted a riparian thinning experiment to determine appropriate stream buffer widths. Marked leave-trees in buffers at various relative densities, delineated boundaries for study areas

Naturalist

Organization for Tropical Studies: La Selva and Las Cruces Biological Stations 2003–2005

- Led tours and gave educational talks about the flora and fauna of Costa Rica for tourists, students, and biologists.
- Updated species lists (mammals, herpetofauna, and birds), wrote and illustrated articles on ecology, and served as a local consult for researchers.

Naturalist Guide

The Biomimicry Guild, Helena, MT 2005– current

- Guide annual 8-day Biomimicry trainings in Costa Rica for product designers and architects.
- Lead and educate participants through lowland tropical moist forests, coral reefs, cloud forests and mangroves, focusing functions, adaptations and biological principles.

2D Animator

Martestudio, San José, Costa Rica 2000–2003

- Cell (2-D) animator for TV commercials including campaigns for InBio, Fanta, Halls, Quaker Oat Cereals, Captain Crunch, and Milka.
- Conceptual artist and designer of animated characters.
- Story board artist.
- Worked with programs like Adobe After Effects and 3D Studio Max.

Tour Guide and Manager

The Butterfly Farm, La Guácima, Costa Rica 1999–2000

- Guided tourists and film crews through a garden of 50+ species of butterflies.
- Gained a commanding knowledge of butterfly species identification, taxonomy, and ecology.
- Coordinated group logistics, created brochures and artwork for promotional materials
- Appeared in “*Animal Adventures*” (Animal Planet Channel) and guided Jack Hanna through an episode on the butterflies of Costa Rica (#2195, “Winging It”).

Speaker, Illustrator and Writer

1994– current

- Gave enthusiastic presentations on Costa Rican natural history, snakes, bats, sea turtles, amphibian extinctions, biodiversity, conservation, and the ecological impacts of waste management and recycling to various organizations including the Organization for Tropical Studies, Fundación Neotrópica, and Costa Rican Scouts.
- Created posters, educational banners, for and environmental campaigns (CR).
- Designed covers and illustrations for books including *Lets help the endangered animals of Costa Rica* and *Common amphibians of Costa Rica* (CR).
- Co-author of the environmental educational comic strips *Natura*, *Dr. Barbachele* and *Tropical Trivia* for the Tico Times newspaper (CR).

Books and papers

- Co-authored two books on Costa Rican natural reserves: *Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Gandoca Manzanillo* (ADECOMAGA, 2003) and *Chirripó: A Journey to the Magical Mountain* (Fundación Neotrópica, 2002).
- Co-authored the article *Tropical Trivia*, published at Ranger Rick Magazine, February 1998 Vol.32 No2 (38-39)

- Logan, C. J., and Montero, C. 2009. Bothrops asper (Terciopelo) scavenging behavior. Herpetological Review 40(3):352.c.

SKILLS

- Expertise in Neotropical wildlife and natural history, particularly herpetofauna (snakes, frogs, and sea turtles), ornithology, lepidopterans (moths and butterflies), tropical ecosystems, conservation, and ecology.
- Skilled handler of venomous snakes and amphibians.
- Outstanding environmental educator and wilderness group facilitator.
- Comprehensive knowledge of Washington's natural history, botany, and ornithology.
- Proficiency with the scientific method and field research methods.
- Training in first aid, mountaineering, outdoor survival, and environmental interpretation.
- Exceptional artistic skills (drawing, painting, and scientific illustration) and great understanding on anatomy, structural drawing, and animation dynamics.
- General computer knowledge, including programs such as Adobe Photoshop.
- Energetic and physically fit; excellent communication skills
- Fluent in Spanish (native) and English.

SPECIAL TRAININGS

- Wilderness First Responder – Wilderness Medicine Institute, NOLS, Bend (OR) September 2008
- Wilderness first aid certification (32 hours) – Sarapiquí's Red Cross, Costa Rica, September 2004
- Black belt - First Dan – Shotokan Karate Do International Federation, SKIF -CR, July 2002
- Brigade of first aid and mountaineering – ULACIT –San José -CR, July 1995

INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE

- Traveled in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panamá, Perú and Costa Rica

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Research Technician

For various researchers at La Selva and Las Cruces Biological Stations 2003-2005

- Caught and identified reptiles and amphibians for a herpetofauna survey (University of Florida)
- Collected field data and gathered natural history information for a study on the play behavior of coatis (The Evergreen State College)
- Conducted nocturnal surveys for venomous snakes with leading Costa Rican herpetologist, Alejandro Solórzano (Costa Rica National Serpentarium).