

2011 RFRI Seminar Series: Green Mondays

Date	RFRI Member	Name of presenter	Title	Abstract
Feb 13	RFRI	For. Metchie Gay Arnaiz	Going Native with the National Greening Program	The National Greening Program is one of the incessant battles of the government to end the rampant deforestation in primary and secondary natural forests. This seminar will examine how <i>rainforestation</i> or the use of native species addresses different land use management goals, thus can be used as a strategy in the NGP. The discussion will include the costs and benefits of different approaches of forest restoration in terms of level of degradation (Kettle, 2010). This lecture will also highlight the tree species biodiversity model in the tropical forests and the pros and cons of cloning.
Jan 9	FPE	Cherylon Herzano	COMMUNITY – BASED RAINFORESTATION FARM ESTABLISHMENT: FPE's Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development	The Philippines has a long history of deforestation and degradation, leading to large-scale disturbance of forests' flora and fauna and watersheds critically impaired. FPE aims to reverse the rapid destruction of the Philippines' natural resources by initiating programs and activities that strengthen the role of NGOs, POs and local communities in the responsible management of the ecosystem. This lecture will focus on FPE's strategy and mechanisms of <i>rainforestation</i> efforts in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
Dec 5	PNPCSI	Arch. Patrick Gozon	Evaluation of selected Philippine native trees for landscape design use	The research aspires to explore the design viability of selected species of Philippine native trees and shrubs for landscape architecture use. It would attempt to enumerate some 70 pertinent native species and evaluate their physical attributes in terms of aesthetics and perceived landscape value. It would also try to document the cultural importance of the said species and utilize them as guidelines for use in Philippine landscape design. The result would be a documentation of the selected Philippine native trees and shrubs with their highlighted landscape material potential. The information would include distribution, physical attributes, cultural value and the translated landscape architecture application.

Nov 14	Haribon	Denise Fontanilla	The Forest Resources Bill:Legislative Advocacy for Forest Restoration	The 1975 Revised Forestry Code continues to be the basis of Philippines forest policy despite years of attempts to pass the Sustainable Forest Management Bill. This seminar will discuss civil society efforts to draft an alternative bill which aims to protect natural forests and promote rainforestation, among others. It will also discuss the experience of Haribon and its partners in lobbying for the enactment of the Forest Resources Bill.
Oct 3	NTFP	Benny Cumatang	Community-based NTFP management: The case of AGMIHICU's traditional forest management systems	The Philippine forest is home to diverse species of non-timber forest product (NTFP) resources. NTFPs are "all biological materials, other than timber, which are extracted from forests for human use." Non-Timber Forest Products- Task Force (NTFP-TF) believes that utilization of NTFPs provides an incentive for the conservation of natural forests. NTFP-TF works with different organizations, mostly indigenous communities, in the Philippines because most NTFPs are harvested by people from upland communities. The presentation will look at the knowledge systems and practices of indigenous communities in managing the forests, especially NTFPs. The long-standing ties between NTFPs and communities mean that continued NTFP use is also often linked to safeguarding their traditional lifestyles, spiritual beliefs and cultural identity. The Agtulanon Mintapod Higaonon Cumadon (AGMIHICU) of Bukidnon is one of the indigenous communities who are very rich with ecological knowledge and much adept with the traditional ways of managing their natural resources. AGMIHICU's management protocols will show their intimate understanding of the ecological functions of their forests. Though most members are committed to their traditional systems, various threats such as large-scale monoculture plantations, mining and logging are present in their ancestral domain. NTFP-related issues such as rattan permit processing as well as the presence of unsustainable harvesting practices among members also exist. AGMIHICU, through sustainable practices, has proven that the use of NTFPs can benefit communities without damaging the forests. Traditional systems should be recognized as effective means of ensuring NTFP sustainability.

Sept 5	CFNR	Dr Edwino Fernando	Seedling establishment in tropical rain forests: understanding the evolutionary strategies	How seeds and seedlings survive under natural conditions in the tropical rain forest and its implications for nursery management and logging operations will be examined in this lecture. Observations on the behaviour of forest tree seeds and seedlings indicate three areas that appear to have evolved of what we will refer to in this lecture as 'establishment strategies'. The term 'establishment strategy' is synonymous to the terms, probably more familiar to foresters, such as 'recruitment' or 'regeneration'. The approach of this presentation is mainly evolutionary or ecological, rather than physiological.
Aug 1	PTFCF	Atty. Jose Andres A. Canivel	Forest Conservation in the Philippines: Past Efforts and Emerging Approaches	Forests provide our basic resources and sustain recreational, aesthetic, spiritual and ethical values to mankind. Due to severe threat and pressure brought by forest conversion, illegal logging, mining, charcoal making and upland agriculture, the total forest cover declined from 70-80% in 1900 to 17.9% (5.39M has) in 2002 (DENR-2005). This seminar series will discuss about conservation efforts such as promoting the use of silviculture, protecting forest reserves, encouragement of contract reforestation and plantation establishment to address the drivers of deforestation.
July 4	PEF	Dennis Salvador	The Arakan Forest Corridor Development Program	The Arakan Forest Corridor Development Program (AFCDP) is a long-term, community-based habitat restoration program in Arakan, North Cotabato in Central Mindanao. The program's goal is to conserve the biodiversity of three forest remnants (Mt Sinaka, Mt Mahuson, KABIKU) while addressing upland poverty through sustainable livelihoods. The program employs the sustainable rural livelihoods framework in conserving biodiversity and addressing community well-being. To reclaim grasslands, AFCDP employs the "rainforestation" farming approach by engaging and providing incentives to land-owners who plant and maintain native forest species with each landowner managing at least 0.25 hectare (ha) of "rainforestation" plot. Since 2009, we partnered with four communities through their respective People's Organizations (POs). These POs were also provided with training on natural resource management and aspects of organization management. An Organizational Capacity Self-Assessment (OCSA) is held at the end of the project year to assess

				and monitor progress at building PO capacity. A total of 42 ha of seedlings out of 58 ha of reforestation plots survived (i.e. 74 % survival rate) at the end of 2010. In 2011, the program will reclaim 45 hectares more of grasslands. Additional incentives in the form of basic services, direct payments, and/or livelihood support are also provided by corporate partners through Conservation Agreements (CAs) with the POs and landowners. Restoration projects are not cheap and the benefits can be maximized if they are treated as local experiments on adaptive management.
June 27	VSU	Dr. Paciencia Milan	A Paradigm Shift in Forest Restoration	Reforestation efforts in the Philippines in the past focused on the use of tree species which have been introduced because they have been selected for their fast growth and easy germination. Most often the species composition of the original forest cover before logging were not taken into account. This had consequently lead to forest degradation and loss of biodiversity in forest flora as well as wildlife. This presentation attempts to explain efforts that have been proven to bring back the original forest cover as well as the return of some species of wildlife back to the newly established forest plantation. Rainforestation, as the new strategy is called, may help restore our watershed and its ecological services if we consciously promote the use of native trees in forest restoration.