



Borneo - Biodiversity Beyond Belief

June of 2023 was a very hot month for Rand Rudland and his five globe trotting companions as they traversed the Sabah and Sarawak provinces of Malaysian Borneo to explore the immense diversity of flora and fauna found in this equatorial rainforest. Ranging from sea-level on the Kinabatangan River to the mid-elevations of Mt. Kinabalu, Malaysia's highest peak, he photographed such rare species as the Bornean Peacock pheasant & Dulit's Frogmouth, huge flowering Rafflesia plants & aerial pitcher plants, and the improbable-looking Common Imperial butterflies.

The list goes on, with over 300 bird species, 47 butterfly & moth species, 9 squirrel species, including flying squirrels amongst the 29 mammal species, snakes (poisonous and not), dragonflies, spiders, and even a few blood-sucking leeches that feasted on unwary hikers.

The diversity of plants, in particular the ferns, was confounding to say the least. It soon became an impossible task to document all the plants seen while birding at the same time, so representative samples of various plant families were taken, including 12 of the 127 fern species posted on iNaturalist for the island of Borneo, some with close relatives right here on the Sunshine Coast.

The food was great (heavy on the seafood), the roads varied from good to terrible (4-wheel drive only), the insects were tolerable (more bee stings than mosquito bites), the muddy trails were trying, the sun was hot (up to 36 deg C.) and the humidity (to 90%) was drenching. A perfect formula for a trip of a lifetime, at least for this group of avid naturalists.

Join us on September 25th, 2023 7pm, Seaside Centre, Sechelt for an evening of photo delights as Rand Rudland, nature photographer and butterfly enthusiast, brings us on a virtual adventure of the Borneo jungles and its wild inhabitants.

Refreshments will be served.
www.secheltgardenclub.com

Reinwardt's Pitcher-plant (*Nepenthes reinwardtiana*)



Diak's Trogon



Wallace's Flying Frog

