



Eco-Char 2017: Next Level Briquettes

With every newsletter, NNF is proud to provide new updates about our ever-progressing eco-char program. Eco-char and eco-briquettes help wildlife by reducing the need to cut trees for firewood and charcoal production. To refresh your memory, NNF started making non-carbonized briquettes in 2011 and began carbonizing discarded eucalyptus bark and mixing with other agricultural waste to produce a product similar to charcoal in 2015. Production advanced from squeezing briquettes by hand, to a wooden lever press, to a hand-powered metal machine (which required a lot of force - as seen in the most recent video on the website). Finally, thanks to the support of generous donors, NNF has purchased an electric extruder machine! With electricity donated by McLeod Russel Tea, briquette production has increased nearly 300% in the first few weeks. We are still working out some kinks with the machine - trying to keep the mud floor level with bags of sand, installing an on/off switch was more difficult than expected, wiring, and even learning how to clean the machine properly was difficult, but with some very creative and hardworking staff, we have overcome these challenges and now make over 5,800 briquettes each week. With the hand powered machine, we were only producing ~2,000. This progress is so very exciting for everyone involved. With

customer's support, this aspect of the project will soon reach the goal of self-sustainability. Before long, we will have more than enough eco-char and now just need to continue to find all the right customers to keep buying. Those who do buy are very happy with the eco-char - complimenting how well it cooks, how long it lasts, and how great it is at helping conserve the forest. It's all very inspiring and we are so grateful for those who buy. Calling all Fort Portal and Kibale connections, please come to our Science Center and buy these briquettes - they are amazing!!!

Conservation Groupies!

NNF's Kanyawara Science Center has now been open for 11 years, and we've watched many of the young visitors grow up. We took some time on this last trip to get into the mind of a Science Center groupie, to see if we could find out why some people just keep coming back.

Kato has been coming to the science center for six years! He said he comes every weekend because he likes to see who is around and who came to visit - he likes to be around people. His favorite animal artifact in the museum in the Uganda Kob skull.

Isaac, 13 years old, says he comes so often just to read books and see what the staff are teaching that week. Though he loves the books, he shared that he would love to see both chimpanzees and lions in the wild someday even more.

Andrew, 12 years old, also comes to read books - "books with snakes and lions and elephants and baboons." He shared that his reading and English skills have really improved, and he's learned so much about animals. The lion is his favorite animal.



Brenda Nahaka (above, on left, with Judith), 12 years old, has been coming to the Center for almost seven years. She says that the best thing about the Science Center for her has been access to books. Having the opportunity to read so many different kinds of books has improved her reading skills and helped her learn to speak English. She actually helped translate for the other children in this interview.

Judith Kahunda, a 13 year old, also loves reading the books at the science center. She said the books have helped her and many other students prepare for exams.

THANK YOU to everyone who has bought books for NNF's five Kibale Science Centers on our Amazon Wishlist! Please keep on shopping - the conservation groupies in Kibale love it! Links to the wishlist at NewNatureFoundation.org, but please consider the list just an inspiration - feel free to add your personal touch with any purchases you think would be enjoyed. Send to 3410 Leahi Ave, #305, Honolulu, HI, 96815. Rebecca & Michael will bring to Uganda for you.

One-year Anniversary of Fort Portal Science Center

It has now been one year since NNF opened its fifth Science Center - time for a celebration!

This location has seen the highest attendance of all the museums, nearly 25,000 in the first year.

During the one hour school lunch break and after classes end each day, many students choose to continue learning and fill the museum. In between, visitors range from curious passers-by to teens no longer attending school to adults who regularly come in to enjoy the library, nature videos and natural history displays.

A group of women came in the other day with a baby, and we brought out a stuffed animal chimpanzee - the baby was terribly frightened! The next move was quite unexpected: the child's mother took out her breast and pretended to feed the chimpanzee, cradling it like a baby. Her own child immediately smiled and responded, and it was a very surprising and interesting interaction to witness.

The anniversary party hosted many of Fort Portal's environmental leaders in the hopes of future collaborations, and we were honored to have the Mayor of Fort Portal in attendance as well.

You can now find all the Science Centers on Google Maps: simply search for "Kibale Science Center" and have a look. Feel free to upload photos from your visit, too!



What's happening in Vietnam

NNF and Denver Zoo's collaboration continues in the Ha Giang province of Northern Vietnam. We are currently training new stove ambassadors in the areas we already work in and adding new hamlets where people have voiced interest in efficient stoves to the program. Unlike Uganda, many people are more interested in using the stove to cook for livestock, which is done twice daily for 5-20 animals or more. Since the average household has just 5 people, using an efficient stove for animals creates even greater wood savings. NNF is also organizing the first ever conservation competition in Ha Giang, planned for November 5th. As the first of its kind, significant pre-planning is needed, including some pre-competitions, which are designed to increase attendance at the event. We will follow our Ugandan model, with some significant adaptations: One change is adding a Ms. Rocket Stove contest, including speaking and traditional costume categories, to increase knowledge and get more people talking about conservation. Another change (being promoted by Vietnamese staff) is an after party with Karaoke. Though different, the rocket stove displays, educational games and song and dance competitions will remain, and we expect it will be a wonderful event - the first of many.

Staff Moving Onward and Upward

Two Science center staff, Patrick and Moses, will be leaving us this summer to begin working for the Kibale Chimpanzee Project Snare Removal Program, which aims to preserve the forest by reducing illegal activity in Kibale. They are the 4th and 5th NNF staff members moving on to other jobs working to protect the forest, and we are extremely proud to have supported the development of these smart, motivated conservationists. Both Patrick and Moses wanted to share their gratitude with NNF's global community because you have all helped them with this wonderful new opportunity. Patrick said, "at the interview, they asked about primates and I knew their importance because I have been studying them here at the Center. Before working for NNF, I could not answer questions about conservation, the environment, or the primates of Kibale, and that has been the best part of working at the Science Center."

Moses shared a similar sentiment: "I learned about teaching people who were taking wood from the park to plant trees, to teach the hunters the importance of animals to people and how we can all benefit from conserving the park. I have used the books at the Science Center to get this knowledge, and now I am more aware."

Moses said his advice to new staff is to "cooperate with your fellow workers, behave well, and keep teaching people about conservation."

Patrick added, "There is nowhere else where you can find this - and everything is free! So, everyone should come and enjoy."

Moses later added, privately, how "here in Uganda, when you are uneducated, you are green. So, I was green, but now I have become someone."

What a wonderful and inspiring moment. Best of luck to Patrick and Moses - and to the new members of the team at the Kanyawara Center.



The New Nature Foundation is a US 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

All donations are tax deductible.

Please mail donations to 3410 Leahi Avenue #305, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815.

Secure, on-line donations on the website: NewNatureFoundation.org

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/New-Nature-Foundation-298231283680409/

& Instagram: [new_nature_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/new_nature_foundation)

*All of New Nature Foundation's work
is made possible by generous people like YOU.*



Thank You!

Arcus Foundation
Beauval Zoo
Chester Zoo
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
Denver Zoo
Disney Conservation Fund
Fresno Chaffee Zoo
GoodShop/GoodSearch
Ibotta



International Foundation
International School of Uganda
Little Rock AAZK
Lush Charity Pot
New Mexico BioPark Society
Oakland Zoo
PayPal Giving Fund
Reid Park Zoo Teen Volunteers
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Sacramento Zoo
San Antonio Zoo
SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Sonata Medical Aesthetics
Taronga Zoo

and Many Private Donors

