The Instructors:

Mark Wainwright works independently as an illustrator, writer, instructor for tropical ecology courses, and naturalist guide. He has also worked as a field assistant for research projects on amphibians and butterflies. Mark has written and illustrated multiple publications ranging from field guides to children’s books. He is currently working on a compact disc of Costa Rican frog calls.

Chery Gibson retired at the end of the 2011-12 school year after 32 years of teaching at Woodward Academy. During her tenure, in addition to teaching Honors and AP Biology, Ms. Gibson designed and implemented the Biology field trip programs for all Upper School Biology students.

After visiting Costa Rica 7 years ago and meeting Mark Wainwright, she became enthusiastic about the opportunity to broaden the scope of Woodward students’ field experiences, especially with the support of an expert such as Mark Wainwright. In this age of global communication and education this course offers a multidisciplinary experience that no classroom experience can duplicate. The historical, cultural, ecological experiences are nonpareil.

Elaine Carroll joined the Woodward faculty after receiving her B.S. in Biology from Rhodes College. She taught biology for many years before moving into Administration—Dean of Students, Academic Dean and Registrar, and Lower School Assistant Principal.

Timeline for trip

January TBA: Lunch and Learn Moss Hall Lecture Room

Feb 19: Deadline for signup and initial payment

March 18: Submit copy of passport, completed health information, and all other paperwork

May TBA: Parent/student meeting

June 21—July 1: Depart for Costa Rica !!!

For additional information contact Elaine Carroll:
elaine.carroll@woodward.edu

To sign up for the course, go to:
http://www.woodward.edu/summer/school/index.aspx

Tropical Ecology Field Study in Costa Rica

>> June 21 - July 1, 2016 >>

Experience Costa Rica in a field-based 11-day course.

Through hands-on investigations, you will discover some of the richest ecosystems on earth—lowland Caribbean rainforest, highland cloud forest, coastal Pacific rainforest, mangroves, and even caves.
Tropical Ecology Field Study in Costa Rica:

This course provides an unique opportunity to explore and learn about some of the richest ecosystems on earth, some of the fascinating Costa Rican history and culture that surrounds them, and the connection between the two. A **Typical** itinerary for the course:

**Day 1:** Leave Atlanta on Delta Flight # 900 and fly into Juan Santamaria Airport.

**Day 2:** Travel to the Children’s Eternal Rain Forest with several stops along the way to “taste” what Costa Rica has to offer. Lodging: Pocosol Field Station (Children’s Eternal Rainforest).

**Day 3:** Experience the Children’s Eternal Rainforest first hand by exploring the wonders the forest holds.

**Days 4 and 5:** Travel to the region of Arenal Volcano, making several stops along the way. Stop #1 is Vendo Caves. We will do some spelunking to explore the home of bats, blind crickets, and tailless (and harmless) whip scorpions. Stop #2 is in one of the small towns to allow students to “experience” a Costa Rican city by having them gather information and make observations in a “lab” activity. Home for these days will be “The Farm.” Lodging: Rancho Margot.

**Day 6:** Travel to Monteverde. We will participate in activities and work with individuals from the Fundacion Conservacionista Costarricense, an organization that has pioneered protection and reforestation of the critically endangered habitat on the Pacific slope of Monteverde. Lodging: La Calandria Field Station

**Day 7:** We will explore the Cloud Forest beginning first with the Hummingbird Gallery then hiking out to the Continental Divide. After dinner, participate in a bat mist-net capturing activity with Dr. Richard Laval who is one of the world’s leading authorities on bats.

**Day 8:** Students will begin their independent field research projects (under the direction of the instructors), in which they will be asked to design an experiment, collect, analyze, and consolidate data. Each student will present their findings to the group. After a full day of data collection, we will cook our own dinner (under the guidance of Maricela Solis) in “la cocina tica.”

**Day 9:** Before leaving Monteverde, we will experience the Cloud Forest “from above” by zip lining through the forest canopy. Then off to the Pacific coast for the final destination, Manuel Antonio National Park.

**Day 10:** We will begin the day in an ecosystem very different from the ones we have seen so far on the trip - the mangroves. As we float through the mangroves in a boat, we will learn about the trees’ unique adaptations for living in salty-tide-washed, oxygen-poor silt, and about the importance of mangroves for wildlife and humans alike.

From the mangroves we head to Manuel Antonio National Park, for a visit to the Pacific lowland rainforest. Lodging: Hotel Mono Azul.

**Day 11:** Head for home on Delta Flight # 903