

Team Prasmodon flies the barcode banner at 'the toughest 48 hours in sport'

Team Prasmodon, jerseys emblazoned with the iBOL logo and the iBOL-barcode *Prasmodon eminens* namesake of a tropical parasitic wasp species, pedalled to an impressive finish in the 36th edition of the Furnace Creek 508 Bicycle Race in October.

Proudly displaying the emblems of Costa Rica's Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF) and Guanacaste Conservation Area, which they enthusiastically support, John McAllister, Jeff Davis, Bradley Zlotnick and Barcode of Life artist Joseph Rossano (Barcode Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2010) finished 22nd among 120 solo and team entries in the race known as "The Toughest 48 Hours in Sport" (www.the508.com). Their time of 34 hours 39 minutes 4 seconds was within a few minutes (exactly the 15-minute penalty for missing a stop sign in the middle of the Mohave desert, in fact) of second place in their highly competitive 40-plus four-man team division.



Zlotnick, a San Diego emergency physician, recruited Team Prasmodon to support GDFCF's path-breaking Parataxonomist endowment programs. Dr. Daniel Janzen leads the parataxonomists, among the first and still the most prolific specimen contributors to iBOL.

A Janzen student for over 20 years, Zlotnick engaged Seattle artist and cyclist Rossano last year to create a DNA barcoding art exhibition in collaboration with Janzen and the Ontario Genomics Institute. McAllister is Rossano's former LSU cycling teammate and Davis is a San Diego educator and four-time veteran of the 508.

The non-stop 508-mile race is known throughout the cycling fraternity for its epic mountain climbs, stark desert scenery, desolate roads and a reputation as one of the toughest but most gratifying endurance challenges available.

Team Prasmodon coordinated invitations with Janzen's public lecture and Parataxonomist Endowment dinner with Harvard ecologist E.O. Wilson in Cambridge, MA the evening before the California race. With the help of the recently announced World Bank one-for-one match for Costa Rica parataxonomist barcoding efforts, the two events raised over \$200,000 for GDFCF, funds that will support ongoing iBOL specimen collection and ecological study.

Barcode Bulletin readers who are interested in supporting a GDFCF parataxonomists barcoding endowment and obtaining a Team Prasmodon cycling jersey can contact Brad Zlotnick by emailing bulletin@iBOL.org.

Team Prasmodon also submitted their entry to the 508's "Green Team" program that supports environmental efforts. In addition to iBOL, other Prasmodon sponsors include Google Labs; Fusion Tables; Ontario Genomics Institute; Profisee.com; StationFilms.com; JosephRossano.com; SDJA.com; ecomagic.org; Kyoto Prize Symposium; Stanford Medical Center Alumni Association; Sharp Triathlon Team; Vermarc USA; and RiverCity Screenprinting Inc.



Team Prasmodon jersey features Area Conservación Guanacaste, GDFCF and iBOL logos.

Feeling great after 508 miles, Team Prasmodon is (from left): Jeff Davis, John McAllister, Brad Zlotnick and Joe Rossano.



Joe Rossano around the 440-mile mark, powering straight through the Mohave reserve with the temperature at 100 degrees F (38 C).

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