Episode Forty Three: Waxy Monkey Tree Frog | Week of February 28th

[LILLY BY BOQEH PLAYS THROUGHOUT]

KIM

Hark! It's February 28th, 2022, I'm Kim, and the frog of the week is the Waxy Monkey Tree Frog.

This frog is another denizen of the Gran Chaco, an arid lowland region that spans across parts of Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. As you can probably tell from its name, this is an arboreal species. It is generally red-brown to bright green in color.

Look out, Madame Tussaud, because the Waxy Monkey Tree Frog is literally waxy! Its skin secretes a fatty substance that protects it from water loss. It uses its back legs to spread this substance all over its skin, similar to how we humans apply sunblock. It can then bask in the hot Gran Chaco sun as much as it pleases.

During mating season, male frogs seek out temporary lagoons and flooded fields and call to females.

[WAXY MONKEY TREE FROG CALL PLAYS]

KIM

The male and female frogs will make their nests together before they mate. These nests are made of folded leaves and are designed to prevent the eggs from desiccating, or drying out. The nests are then suspended on something like a branch over the water. When they hatch, the tadpoles simply drop into the water below

I like this frog because while it enjoys its fun in the sun, it also knows the importance of protecting one's skin from harmful UV rays. The Waxy Monkey Tree Frog is here to remind you to always wear your sunblock.

And that's the frog of the week. Thank you to Frankie for recommending the Waxy Monkey Tree Frog. If you'd like to submit a frog, you can do that on our website <u>frogpod.online</u>. Our Twitter is @WeeklyFrogPod.

Thanks for joining us. See you next week.

[LILLY BY BOQEH FADES OUT]