

Tupper seminar

Tue, Sep 21, noon seminar speaker will be Vernon Scholey, Achotines Laboratory, Las Tablas **Much more than Tuna on Azuero; Achotines Laboratory; summary of research activities and overview of facilities available to visiting researchers**

Bambi seminar

Please see GroupWise for information on the next Bambi

Arrivals

Kerstin Poltz, University of Wurzburg, Germany, Sep 18 - Oct 18, to work with Stefan Laube, on BCI.

Frank (Andy) Jones, Tupper postdoctoral fellow from the University of Georgia, Sep 20, to conduct a comparative study of directly measured seed dispersal in tropical trees: linking local and regional processes, on BCI.

Jamie Voyles, University of Colorado, Sep 23 - Oct 3, to study relative susceptibility of two tropical amphibians to *Batrachochytridium dendrobatidis*, at Tupper and El Copé.

Congratulations!

To Anabelle Arroyo and Luis Lezcano, for the birth of their son Daniel, on Sep 16. He weighed 7.1lb with 48 cm. And congratulations Grandma Mercedes!

Magic web exhibit

The Flint Public Library in Michigan will display STRI's exhibit *The Magic web: The tropical forests of Barro Colorado Island*, from Sep 21-Nov.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

September 17, 2004



Colombian president Alvaro Uribe, Gisele Didier



Cristián Samper

Samper awarded by *El Colombiano*

Colombian newspaper *El Colombiano* awarded 16 distinguished Colombian personalities and institutions on Thu, Sep 2nd, in Medellín, Colombia. STRI's Gisele Didier accepted the award in the name of Cristian Samper, director of SI's National Museum of Natural History and STRI's acting director until 2002 and deputy director until 2003. Samper was awarded for his work for the environment. He played a key role in biodiversity conservation, pushing scientific research in Colombia's conservation agenda. Co-founder of the Von Humboldt Institute created to promote conservation and biodiversity in Colombia and under his direction, the Institute produced a National Biodiversity Policy in conjunction with the government in 1997. On the international level Samper contributes to several environmental commissions and agencies. In the words of Colombian president Alvaro Uribe, it is love for their country what allows these special men and women do difficult things without difficulty and to accomplish major tasks and run the extra mile and never feeling tired. [More at www.elcolombiano.ejemplar.org](http://www.elcolombiano.ejemplar.org) Congratulations Cristián!

El periódico *El Colombiano* premió a 16 personalidades e instituciones colombianas el jueves, 2 de septiembre, en Medellín, Colombia. Gisele Didier, de STRI, recibió el premio de Cristián Samper, director del Museo de Historia Natural del Smithsonian, director encargado de STRI hasta 2002, y subdirector hasta 2003. Samper fue galardonado por su trabajo por el medio ambiente. Jugó un papel protagónico en la conservación de la biodiversidad en Colombia, introduciendo la investigación científica en la agenda conservacionista de Colombia. Co-fundador del Instituto Von Humboldt creado para promover la conservación y biodiversidad, y bajo su dirección, el Humboldt produjo las Políticas para la Biodiversidad Nacional junto con el gobierno colombiano, en 1997. En el campo internacional, Samper contribuye a varias comisiones y agencias ambientales. En palabras del presidente colombiano Alvaro Uribe, es el amor por su país lo que permite a estos hombres y mujeres hacer cosas difíciles sin dificultad, completar grandes logros y recorrer la milla adicional sin sentir cansancio. [Más en www.elcolombiano.ejemplar.org](http://www.elcolombiano.ejemplar.org) ¡Felicitaciones, Cristián!

New publications

Glynn, Peter William. 2004. "High complexity food webs in low diversity eastern Pacific reef-coral communities." *Ecosystems* 2004(7): 358-367.

Piperno, Dolores R. 2004. "Under the canopy: The archaeology of tropical rain forests. Edited by Julio Mercader. New Brunswick (New Jersey): Rutgers University Press [Book review]." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 79(3): 324-325.

Wcislo, William T., Gonzalez, Victor H., and Arneson, L. 2004. "A review of deviant phenotypes in bees in relation to brood parasitism, and a gynandromorph of *Megalopta genalis* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae)." *Journal of Natural History* 38(11): 1443-1457.

STRI in the news

"Riqueza histórica en el Smithsonian de Panamá.." 2004, at <http://canal1.net>. August 11.

"Calidad del agua debe ser tema vital en la agenda" by Joel Gonzalez. 2004. *El Panamá América* at <http://elpanamaamerica.terra.com.pa/epa/> August 22.

"The Panama Canal as a natural biological invasion experiment", by SI. 2004. *Innovations Reports*, Germany, at www.innovations-report.de. Aug 23.

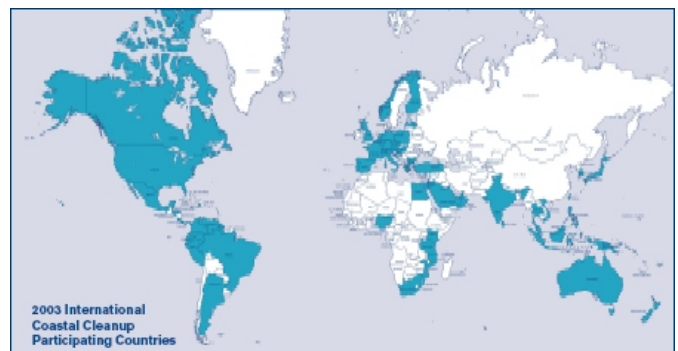
"Even small dirt road may threaten rainforest birds: many birds don't cross the road in the Amazon; 7,500 km of new roads are planned", by Society for Conservation Biology. 2004. August 31. SCB/ [Services http://www.conbio.org/scb/Services/tips/](http://www.conbio.org/scb/Services/tips/)



Celebrating ICC at Galeta

Ninety volunteers from Colon celebrated the 19th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) by tidying up the one kilometer of coral beaches at Galeta Point and gathering 400 pounds of trash, on Thursday, September 9. The ICC, established by The Ocean Conservancy 18 years ago, is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. In 2003, more than half a million volunteers participated in the ICC, including 5,212 in Panama, cleaning 16 miles of oceans and waterways, picking up 26,341 debris items, weighing in at 76,910 pounds. In addition to land based cleanups in Panama, 37 divers removed debris items from below the waters' surface. The volunteers at Galeta came from the University of Panama, Colon campus, the science club at Abel Bravo high school, the workers of the Manzanillo International Terminal Port, the staffs of STRI and ANAM in Galeta, and the Panama Canal Police. Manzanillo International Terminal and Agua Aseo provided lunch, transportation and cleaning supplies. STRI provided coordination and facilities, and presented talks on the environment and gave tours of the exhibits. Ninety-one countries participated in ICC, in 2003 (see map). [More information on the ICC at www.coastalcleanup.org](http://www.coastalcleanup.org).

Noventa voluntarios de Colón celebraron la Limpieza Internacional de Costas (ICC, por sus siglas en inglés), limpiando un kilómetro de las playas coralinas de Punta Galeta y recogiendo 400 libras de basura, el jueves, 9 de septiembre. El ICC, establecido por The Ocean Conservancy hace 18 años, es el esfuerzo de voluntarios más grande en un día, para limpiar los ambientes marinos. En 2003, más de medio millón de voluntarios participaron en el ICC, incluyendo 5,212 en Panamá, quienes limpiaron 16 millas de costa y vías acuáticas, recogiendo 26,341 artículos de basura que pesaron 76,910 libras. Además, 37 buzos sacaron basura del fondo del mar. Los voluntarios en Galeta vinieron de la Universidad de Panamá en Colón, el club de ciencias del Colegio Abel Bravo, los trabajadores del puerto de Manzanillo International Terminal, el personal de STRI y ANAM en Galeta, y la Policía Canalera. Manzanillo International Terminal y Agua Aseo suministraron los materiales y el almuerzo. STRI ofreció sus instalaciones y presentó charlas y guía para las exhibiciones. Noventa y un países participaron en el ICC 2003 (ver mapa) Para mayor información visite www.coastalcleanup.org



STRI in the news

“Laos defends dam project against environmental critics” by Darren Schuettler. 2004. *Reuters AlertNet* at www.alertnet.org August 31.

“Asia’s tropical forests are unlike ours” by Eric Jackson. 2004. *The Panama News* at www.thepanamanews.com 10(17): Sep 5-18.

“Do changes in the New World tropical forests reflect a shift in global climate? By Eric Jackson. 2004. *The Panama News* at www.thepanama.com 10(17): Sep 5-18.

“Naturalists on the Isthmus of Panama: Yet another reason to visit STRI’s bookstore” by Eric Jackson. 2004. *The Panama News* at www.thepanama.com 10(17), Sep 5-18.

These articles can be seen at OCAPP office #330, Tupper Center.

Fellowships

STRI advances a research initiative in Neurobiology and Behavior. Two research fellowships are available to study brain miniaturization and behavior in tropical invertebrates. More information at www.stri.org

Miscellaneous

Translation needed: Three to four chapters of book *Uso de la tierra y biodiversidad en las montañas* in Spanish must be translated into English. Must have background in Biology. Total of 20 pages (DIN A4). Interested please contact Nélida Gómez at 212-8059.

Laurance awarded an Erskine fellowship

STRI’s William F. Laurance was recently awarded an Erskine Fellowship from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. One of the purposes of the Erskine Fellowship is to bring to Canterbury international renowned visitors considered specialists in their fields to assist with teaching and research within different departments. Laurance will spend two months with his family at the University to give 12 seminars, from May to April, 2005. He is an international authority in assessing the impacts of intensive land-use in the tropics, tropical ecosystems, tropical plant and vegetation ecology, ecosystem science, carbon storage in tropical forests, effects of global-change phenomena on tropical communities, and land-use and conservation policy. The photo shows Laurance during a seminar presented at the Third International Congress on Experimento de Grande Escala da Biosfera-Atmosfera da Amazônia [Long Term Experiment on the Amazonian Biosphere-Atmosphere] held from Jul 27 - 29, in Brasilia.



El científico William F. Laurance de STRI fue galardonado con una beca Erskine de la Universidad de Canterbury, en Nueva Zelanda. Uno de los objetivos de la Beca Erskine es lograr que visitantes internacionalmente reconocidos como especialistas en su área visiten Canterbury para asistir con la enseñanza e investigación dentro de diferentes departamentos. Laurance pasará dos meses con su familia en dicha Universidad, para dar 12 seminarios, entre mayo y abril, 2005. El es una autoridad internacional en las mediciones de los impactos del uso intensivo de la tierra en los trópicos, los ecosistemas tropicales, la ecología de plantas tropicales y vegetación, ciencias de ecosistemas, almacenamiento de dióxido de carbono en bosques tropicales, efectos del fenómeno de los cambios globales en comunidades tropicales, y en política de conservación y uso de la tierra. La foto muestra a Laurance durante un seminario dictado en el Tercer Congreso Internacional del Experimento a Gran Escala de la Biosfera-Atmósfera del Amazonas, celebrado del 27 al 29 de julio en Brasilia.



New generator for BCI

STRI’s assistant director for Facilities Carlos Tejada (second from the left) and members of his staff transport a new electricity transformer to BCI, on September 13. The new transformer of 500KVA replaces old facilities of 300KVA providing the Island with more capacity and a safer environment. It will start running on Tuesday, September 21st. (Information and photo courtesy of Erick Lam)

El director adjunto para Instalaciones de STRI, Carlos Tejada y otros miembros de su personal transportan un nuevo transformador eléctrico para BCI, el 13 de septiembre. El nuevo transformador (de 500 KVA) reemplaza una instalación de 300 KVA, suministrando a la Isla con más capacidad y un ambiente más seguro. El nuevo transformador empezará a funcionar el martes, 21 de septiembre. (Información y foto cortesía de Erick Lam)