



STRI NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 6, 1984

REMINDERS

Monday, January 9 (DIA DE LOS MARTIRES) is an official holiday in Panama. STRI offices will be open, but banks, business establishments, etc. will be closed.

There will be a scientific staff meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ancon Conference Room.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

RALPH RILEY arrived this past week to work in the San Blas. He will be at STRI until April 10.

January 7 - Arriving, GREG DE NEVERS to assist H. Churchill, Missouri Botanical Garden Curator, with floral biology studies. He will be in Panama until the end of February.

January 8 - Arriving, DANIEL WUYEK, Central Michigan University, to conduct studies on the algae that inhabit the hair of the two and three-toed sloth. He will be at BCI until January 30th.

January 9 - Arriving, DONALD FEENER, University of Iowa to study interactions between ants and parasitic flies on BCI. He will be at STRI until February 5.

Leaving this weekend is ROSS ROBERTSON, who will be traveling to Australia to carry out studies on "The influence of mass coral mortality (produced by the crown-of-thorns star fish) on the population of reef fishes". The study will be funded by a Scholarly Studies grant. He will return to STRI in late April.

HARIS LESSON will be leaving on January 12 for St. Thomas to collect samples of diseased Diadema urchins. He will be returning on the weekend.

LIBRARY NEWS

New faces at the library:

PAT BENNETT, is the new temporary staff member working Monday - Friday mornings. She is a professional librarian whose past experience includes work at Informatics in Washington, D.C. and the directorship of military libraries in Saudi Arabia.

VIOLET ERSKINE will be working on Tuesday evenings and on Saturdays. She was previously employed at the Panama Canal Library.

We welcome them to STRI.

JACOBS WINS AWARD FOR STRI BROCHURE

At the annual writing contest sponsored by the Washington Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, MADELEINE JACOBS, assistant director and science writer of the Smithsonian Office of Public Affairs, won one of two "Best in Show" awards for the STRI Brochure "Research Opportunities in the Tropics". The STRI brochure also received an Award of Distinction (the top award) in the brochure category. The brochure includes photos by N. Smythe and M. Robinson and was designed by Steve Kraft of the SI Press. In her acceptance "speech" for the Best in the Show award, Madeleine thanked the people who made the brochure possible---the outstanding scientists at STRI. And from us to Madeleine, our thanks and congratulations for having produced such an impressive brochure.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN

During the next two months, iguanas will be more conspicuous than they are at any other time of the year. Females migrate to nesting sites and males also seem to come to the ground more frequently. STAN RAND would appreciate receiving any road kills that are found; these will be used to continue studies of size, bone growth rings, number of eggs, and stomach contents. Live animals will be used to increase the colony of captive animals at Summit Gardens for the iguana management project.

Anyone finding a road kill or catching a live iguana should call S. Rand at Ancon or BCI, D. Werner at Ancon or anyone else on the iguana project.

NOTES OF INTEREST

IRA RUBINOFF will be the speaker at the seminar for the administrative staff on Thursday, January 12 at 12 noon in the Tivoli Conference Room. Dr. Rubinoff will speak on the biology of sea snakes.

AIDA VELASQUEZ will be on sick leave for the next six weeks and ROXANNA DURAN will be replacing her during this time in the Office of the Director.

OBITUARY

CATHERINE MONTGOMERY, who was awarded a STRI Short-term Fellowship to come to Panama at the end of this month and conduct archaeological studies in the Cocle Province of Panama, was killed in an automobile accident in New York on New Year's Eve. A senior at Vassar College and a promising young archaeologist, Catherine was a team member of the Santa Maria Project during the 1983 field season.