

SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, June 21, noon seminar speaker will be ROBERT SRYGLEY, University of Texas at Austin.

Palatability and Sun-Worshipping in Neotropical Butterflies.

Abstract: The palatability of brightly-colored butterflies to the jacamar is positively correlated with the mean body temperatures at which they are active. Changes in palatability are frequently associated with a divergence in body temperatures for closely related species, yet color mimicry has resulted in a convergence of thermal biologies of some more distantly related species. The mechanisms for body temperature elevation and their biological consequences will be discussed.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, June 28, no scheduled speaker for the noon seminar. Visitors are invited to sign up. If interested, contact Maria Luz Jimenez or Stanley Rand, Ancon.

That evening at 7:00 p.m., GILBERTO OCAÑA will give the scientific staff seminar.

The Need and Potential Basis for an Ecological Buffer Zone on the Southwest Side of the Barro Colorado Nature Monument.

ARRIVALS

June 15 - August 31, MARY GLEASON, University of California, Berkeley, to complete work with Jeremy Jackson on the ecology of Venezuelan cryptic reef communities. She will be at Naos.

REMINDER

All research project forms were due in the Director's Office (Attn: Audrey Smith) today. These materials will form part of the report STRI must send to the Panamanian Ministry of Health and it is important they be complete. The deadline has been extended until June 24, please try to comply.

NEWS FROM NAOS

Anibal Velarde, Jr., the son of ANIBAL VELARDE a biological technician at Naos, has been awarded an AID Central American Peace Scholarship. The scholarship covers 5 years of study, one at the Panama Canal College and four at George Washington University, studying systems engineering for computers. Congratulations to both father and son!

PUBLICATIONS BY STRI STAFF, FELLOWS & RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Valdespino, I. 1988. Estudio florístico de helechos en dos cuadrantes de Cerro Jefe, Provincia de Panamá. Tesis de Licenciatura, Universidad de Panamá.

Wolda, H. 1988. Seasonality and the community. pp. 69-95. IN: Organization of Communities Past and Present, eds. J.H.R. Gee and P.S. Giller. Blackwell Scientific Publications.

BENJAMIN CRUISE DATES

June 23 - July 5, Trip to Chiriqui with Dr. Peter Glynn.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Available, commercial artist with experience. If interested, contact Natalia Pichuguina de Lao (Tel: 24-1712/1365).

ASSISTANT AVAILABLE

SCOTT LANDRY (22 Berkshire Dr. Winchester, MA 01890, TEL: 617-729-2665) is looking for a field assistant position from August 31 through December 1988. At present a zoology freshman at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, he has had experience in data collection, 7 years as a bird-watcher and is conversant with Spanish. He can pay his own airfare but requires room and board.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Pan American Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) offers small grants for avian conservation projects in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Project proposals will be considered for research, habitat protection and management, and public education. All projects must have a clear conservation component. Next deadlines are September 1, 1988 and February 1, 1989.

Each year the ICBP Secretariat provides a \$1000 prize to the most worthy ornithological conservation research project proposal submitted by a team of university students from a Neotropical country. Deadline for WILLIAM BELTON PRIZE is August 15, 1988.

For more information on both see your bulletin board or write C. S. Luthin, PO Box 1369, Melrose, FL 32666.

Building No. 183, Gamboa

(from Elena Lombardo)

In 1984, increased demand for accommodations for scientists conducting research on the mainland (Pipeline Road, Parque Nacional Soberania and Gamboa) stimulated a search for additional housing facilities in Gamboa.

Efforts by the Panama Canal Commission, Panama's Housing and Foreign Ministries and STRI resulted in selection of Building 183, located on Comber Street. This convenient location provides ready access to public transportation and a hilltop area adjacent to forest. STRI, the Smithsonian's Office of Development and Construction, and the Panamanian engineering firm of Diaz y Guardia produced a design to convert the building from four to eight apartments. The fully equipped and furnished one bedroom apartment units have modern fire detection and sprinkler systems and laundry facilities. The eight garages below the building are being remodelled to provide laboratory space.

Building 183 is STRI's latest acquisition, another effort to provide the international scientific community with the best support for conducting research under STRI auspices in Panama.

The Office of the Special Assistant is in charge of the Housing Program and the establishment of its policies. Assignments are made by a committee which reviews applications by researchers and makes decisions depending on the proposed projects and space availability. Dr. A. S. Rand coordinates allocation of laboratory space and equipment.

