

SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, **March 21**, noon seminar speakers will be SCOTT WING and ROBYN BURNHAM, SI National Museum of Natural History, and GEOFFREY PARKER, SI Environmental Research Center.

Reconstruction of Ancient and Living Forest from Leaf Litter.

Abstract: We will discuss how the structure and composition of forests can be determined from the litter, and how this technique can be applied to fossil assemblages.

That Thursday, **March 23**, JOHN ENDLER, University of California, Santa Barbara, will give two seminars.

Noon
Natural and Sexual Selection in Natural Populations of Guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*).

6:30 p.m.
Variation in Ambient Light on the Forest Floor and its Implications to the Evolution of Animal Colour Patterns.

(There will be an informal reception at 5 p.m. before the evening talk and afterwards a special boat for BCI residents.)

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, **March 28**, noon seminar speaker will be TRACY MCLELLAN, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Comparative Development and Genetics of Leaf Shape in Begonias.

That evening at 6:30 p.m. JOHN ENDLER will speak on:

Sensory Biology and the Direction of Evolution.

ARRIVING

March 19 - April 14, EUGENE MORTON, National Zoological Park, to study the demography of the Kentucky warbler.

March 21 - 24, BRIAN FISHER, OWEN MCMILLAN, ANN BRUNEAU, O.T.S. course participants, to visit STRI.

March 21 - April 1, JAMES HAMRICK, University of Georgia, to study the breeding structure of three tropical tree species on BCI.

March 22 - April 2, JOHN ENDLER and TRACY MCLELLAN, University of California at Santa Barbara.

PUBLICATIONS REQUEST

All STRI staff and visitors please send a complete references and reprints of all 1988 publications of work done at STRI to Maria Luz Jimenez at Ancon, as soon as possible, for the STRI CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH.

REMINDERS

The scientific staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 21**, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ancon Conference Room.

Friday, **March 24**, is Good Friday, a national holiday, and STRI offices will be closed.

DEADLINES

Proposals for Scholarly Studies and the James Smithson Society should be sent to the Director's Office by Monday, **March 27**.

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY STRI STAFF, FELLOWS AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

D'Croz, Luis. 1988. Survey and monitoring of marine pollution in the Bay of Panama. Co-operation for environmental protection in the Pacific. UNEP Regional Seas Report and Studies No. 97: 115 - 123

FROM THE COMPUTER SPECIALIST

PC Connection informed us that version 4.5 of *Peter Norton's Utilities, Advanced Edition* has a bug that can be a potential problem. If you have a hard drive with a capacity of over 32 MB, and if you are using specialized partitioning software to access the extra capacity of that drive, there will be a discrepancy between what the Disk Doctor detects about the drive and the way it has been set up by the partitioning software. This discrepancy will be understood by the software as a flaw on the disk that the software will then try to fix, making that partition unusable. Write for a free upgrade from Peter Norton Computing that eliminates the problem.

ASSISTANTS AVAILABLE

CATALINA CASTELL has a licenciatura in biology from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, and is interested in working as a research assistant at STRI, particularly in the fields of plant biosystematics or plant taxonomy. (Apartado 62077-Chacao, Caracas 1060A, Venezuela, Tel: 02-357086)

JERRY HAJNY, master sergeant, US Air Force, would like to volunteer as a diving buddy for scientific research or photography, on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 5 p.m. and on weekends. If interested, call 84-5408 (w) or 23-7567 (h).

PAULA HOUHOU LIS graduates in May 1989 with a B.S. in marine science from Eckerd College, Florida. She has two years field experience in geochemistry, oceanography, aerial surveys and meteorology, and computer experience with the Geographic Information System. Ms. Houhoulis is interested in a research assistant position at STRI. (Box 544, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL 33733, Tel: 813-864-8772)

JOHN KOVACH is looking for a research assistant position at STRI. He has a B.A. in biology from Duke University and experience in ecology, marine science, SAS and scuba diving. (325 E. Trinity Ave, Durham, NC 27701, Tel: 919-688-5617)

SPECIAL VISITORS

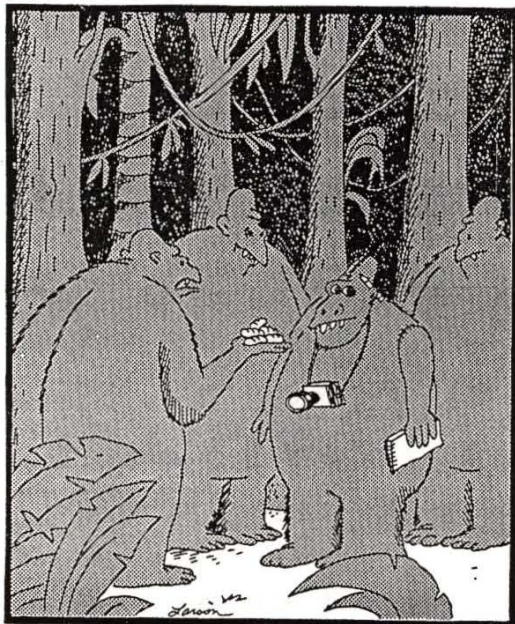
On March 11, a group of distinguished guests visited the Barro Colorado Nature Monument. The group included Ambassador Bernardo Sola of Argentina, and Mrs. Sola, Ambassador Hernán Saldes Irarrazabal of Chile, and Mrs. Saldes, Ambassador Tomás Lozano Escibano of Spain and Mrs. Lozano, and Ambassador Jaime Hernández López, from Colombia. They were accompanied by Gilberto Ocaña and Elena Lombardo, and briefed about on-going STRI programs by BCI scientific coordinator Raineldo Urriola. Presentations on the "Alternative to Destruction" projects by Drs. Ocaña and Smythe were very well received, and will undoubtedly result in further contacts and possible collaboration between STRI and research institutions and/or students from the countries represented.

PANAMA CITY'S NATURE FAIR

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Nature Park is organizing its First Conservation Fair during the weekend of April 14 - 16. STRI is a member of the Patronato's board of directors, regularly represented by Elena Lombardo and/or Argelis Roman. The three objectives of the Fair are (1) to inform the public of its existence and on-going programs, (2) to provide non-governmental conservation organizations and public sector agencies with responsibilities in environmental management the opportunity to publicize their activities, and (3) to generate additional funds for the maintenance and operation of the Park.

Approximately 20 environmental public and private organizations will have booths. The Fair will have an entertainment and educational program, that will include exhibits, films, tours to a lookout point, sale of arts and crafts, folklore presentations and an equestrian and dog show.

Everyone is invited to attend and/or offer their time as a volunteer to help with the sale of refreshments, guiding groups through the trails, etc. Contact Leticia de Polo of INRENARE (32-4898) if interested in being a volunteer. Do not miss the opportunity to learn more about this protected area so close to the city!



"So, you're a real gorilla, are you?
Well, guess you wouldn't mind munchin' down
a few beetle grubs, would you? ... In fact,
we wanna see you chug 'em!"

VISITANTES ESPECIALES

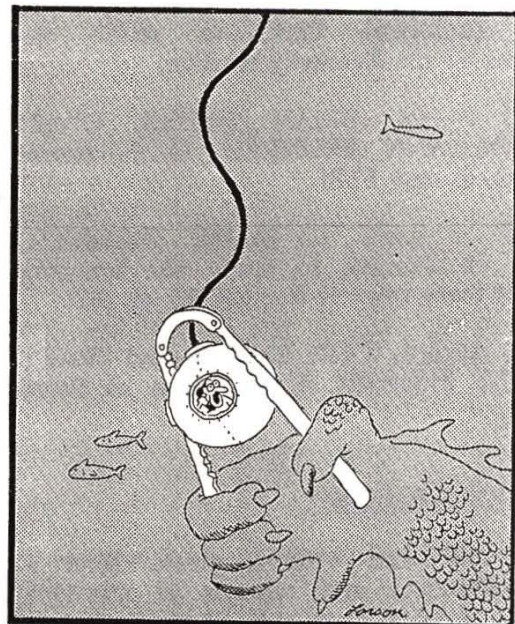
El 11 de marzo un grupo de distinguidos invitados visitó el Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado. El grupo incluyó al H.E. Bernardo Sola, Embajador de Argentina, y la Sra. de Sola, al H.E. Hernán Saldes Irarrazabal, Embajador de Chile, y la Sra. de Saldes, al H.E. Tomás Lozano Escibano, Embajador de España, y la Sra. de Lozano, y H.E. Jaime Hernández López, Embajador de Colombia. Fueron acompañados por Gilberto Ocaña y Elena Lombardo, y Raineldo Urriola, el coordinador científico de BCI, les habló sobre los diversos programas del STRI. Tuvieron también muy buena acogida la presentaciones que hicieron los doctores Ocaña y Smythe sobre el programa de "Alternativas a la Destrucción", y se espera que esta visita resulte en contactos y colaboración futura entre STRI e instituciones y/o estudiantes de los países representados.

FERIA AMBIENTAL DE LA CIUDAD DE PANAMA

El Patronato del Parque Natural Metropolitano está organizando su Primera Feria Conservacionista en esta ciudad, durante el fin de semana del 14 al 16 de abril. STRI es miembro del Patronato, usualmente representado por Elena Lombardo y/o Argelis Román. La Feria tiene tres objetivos: (1) informar al público de la existencia del parque y sus programas, (2) ofrecer a organizaciones conservacionistas gubernamentales y no gubernamentales la oportunidad de informar al público de sus actividades y (3) generar fondos adicionales para el mantenimiento y la operación del parque.

Aproximadamente 20 organizaciones públicas y privadas del medio ambiente tendrán exhibiciones. El programa recreativo y educativo de la Feria incluirá, además de exhibiciones, películas, giras, venta de artículos, presentaciones folklóricas y un programa ecuestre y canino.

Todos están invitados a visitar la Feria y/o ofrecer sus servicios como voluntarios para ayudar en la venta de refrescos, como guías naturalistas, etc. Si está interesado(a) en ofrecerse como voluntario, puede comunicarse con Leticia de Polo de INRENARE (32-4898). No pierda la oportunidad de conocer más sobre esta área protegida tan cerca de la ciudad!



"Up! Up! Take me up!"