

STRI newsletter

MARCH 9, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 10

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

No noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 or 20. If interested in giving a seminar please contact Egbert Leigh or Argelis Román, or sign up with the Tupper secretary, Ana María Ford.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

■ Gerald Allen, Western Australian Museum, and Roger Steene, March 15 - June 15, to work with Ross Robertson on a book *Fishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific*.

■ Carlos Ossa, Editorial Presencia, Colombia, March 13-14, to work on final details of book "Ecología de un Bosque Tropical" with E. Leigh, A. Román, and G. de Alba.

Departures

■ Ira Rubinoff, STRI Director, March 10 - 24, to Kenya to visit the Mpala ranch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13 - The regular scientific staff meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Tupper Meeting Room.

March 30 - Deadline for submission of proposals for the Scholarly Studies Program to the STRI Director for signature. Proposals are due in the SI Office of Fellowships and Grants on April 1. For guidelines and cover sheets contact Audrey Smith, Director's Office. Twenty (20) copies and one original should be submitted.



El Día de la Tierra

(tomado del Boletín *Recursos*)

El 22 de abril de 1990 se iniciará una campaña mundial para atacar los problemas más críticos que amenazan nuestro planeta con el Día de la Tierra 1990.

El director mundial del evento, Denis Hayes, quien fuera director del 1er Día de la Tierra en 1970, afirma que ese día se lanzará a los 90 con la "Década del Ambiente".

Hayes explica en su invitación al mundo para este evento que los problemas de la tierra como la contaminación ambiental, la destrucción de los bosques tropicales, el calentamiento de la Tierra por el efecto de invernadero, la destrucción de la capa de ozono, la proliferación de desechos tóxicos, el avance de la desertificación, la sobrepoblación, los derrames de petróleo, la lluvia ácida y la contaminación de los mares, son amenazas que trascienden las fronteras y por lo tanto deben ser vistos como problemas de todos.

Las decisiones sobre cuál será la forma de participar en este evento *serán tomadas a nivel local*. Cada país, cada ciudad, cada barrio y cada escuela tendrá sus propios organizadores y su propia agenda. Lo que tendrán en común será el deseo de proteger la tierra de todas estas amenazas y de lograr mejores condiciones de vida.

Algunos temas que se espera poder coordinar a nivel mundial son:

- la plantación de mil millones de árboles;
- la suspensión de sesiones políticas por un día para concentrar a sus líderes en las preocupaciones ambientales de los constituyentes;
- la realización de encuentros urbanos, con desfiles y otras actividades;
- la realización de encuentros educativos en escuelas, colegios y universidades;
- la cobertura masiva del evento en los medios de comunicación;
- la realización de conciertos, eventos culturales y reuniones con celebridades para resaltar los valores ecológicos
- y la realización de eventos religiosos para promover el imperativo moral de restaurar la belleza y sostener toda forma de vida del Planeta.

Para mayores informes, escribir a Earth Day 1990, Box AA, Stanford University, CA 94309, USA.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Personnel News

Dr. Noris Salazar has been appointed to a part-time position as STRI scientist beginning March 11, 1990. Dr. Salazar has a Ph.D. in bryology from the University of Alberta, Canada, and is currently a botany professor at the University of Panama. She has just finished a postdoctoral fellowship with STRI on "A systematic revision of the neotropical species *Octoblepharum*, a pantropical moss genus.

Delegation of Authority

Mr. Carlos Urbina will be Acting Executive Officer during Ms. Motta's absence from March 7 - 23, 1990.

STRI Publications

G.C. Kite, J.M. Horn, J.T. Romeo, L.E. Fellows, D.C. Lees, A.M. Scofield and N.G. Smith. 1990. α -Homonojirimycin and 2,5-dihydroxymethyl-3,4-dihydroxy-pyrrolidine: alkaloidal glycosidase inhibitors in the moth *Urania fulgens*. *Phytochemistry* 29(1): 103-105.

Assistant Available

Kyra L. Mills is interested in working as an assistant at STRI during the 1990 northern summer months. Ms. Mills will receive a B.S. degree in systematics and ecology from the University of Kansas in May 1990, and has experience as an assistant in herpetology and in the greenhouse. She is fluent in Spanish, WordPerfect, Dbase and Lotus 1-2-3. Highly recommended by M.J. West-Eberhard. (1509 Lynch Ct., Apt. 5, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, 913-843-7767.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cursos de la OET (CTS)

La Organización para Estudios Tropicales (OET) organiza todos los años varios cursos en Costa Rica que se imparten tanto en español como en inglés, con sus respectivos créditos de la Universidad de Costa Rica. Los cursos en inglés están abiertos a latinoamericanos, siempre que cumplan con los requisitos de admisión y que dominen el lenguaje. Dos cursos en inglés se ofrecerán a mediados de este año; la OET dispone de algunas becas para latinoamericanos.

Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach #90-3

La sesión será del 14 junio - 7 agosto 1990. Fecha tope para recibo de solicitudes es marzo 15.

Tropical Managed Ecosystems #90-4

La sesión será de 8 semanas, comenzando a mediados de junio 1990. Fecha tope para recibo de solicitudes es marzo 23.

Los interesados pueden pedir formularios y mayor información en la Oficina de Educación y Conservación de STRI.

Nueva Revista Internacional

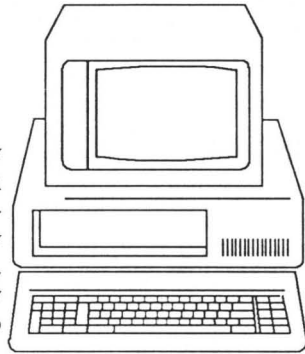
Agroecología Neotropical es una revista internacional dedicada al estudio ecológico de agroecosistemas en los neotrópicos. Este es "un intento de establecer una revista científica que pueda servir como vehículo de publicación para científicos latinoamericanos que tengan interés en los aspectos ecológicos de la agricultura. Esta nueva publicación (que sacó su primer número en enero 1990) invita a todos los interesados a enviar manuscritos **en español**, avisar a sus colegas sobre su disponibilidad y comprar una suscripción. (John Vandermeer, Department of Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.)

La Oficina de Educación y Conservación de STRI tiene copia del primer número.

Computer Tips

from Una Smith

I have a number of nifty software demonstration disks, plus a little shareware which I think may interest STRI personnel, and I would be happy to loan the disks to anyone who asks.



Mathematics/equation-solving packages

MATHEMATICA demo: I have 2 versions, one for a Mac, the other for a PC with a VGA graphics card. Mathematica will run on other computers, but the demo needs a VGA. This software has the most polished user interface of all the equation-solving packages on the market today; to get the results to a manuscript, you can save a record of your work session in a text file, and then edit that file later using your favorite word processor.

MATHCAD demo: I have a demo of the PC version. Special features shown in the demo are Fast Fourier Transforms and powerful, intuitive matrix manipulations. It places an emphasis on mixing 'live' equations and manuscript text in the same document, and is an impressive tool for anyone who writes highly mathematical papers. The manuscript can be exported to a word processing package for the final touches.

TRYAPL demo: This is a demo of a true-blue IBM version of APL for the PC. IBM's APL is the Cadillac of APL's, and the demo is also excellent. The demo disk has a 'student' version of the full package, so you can actually use the demo as a tool. All APL's are alike in that they use a special character set instead of long function names, so a small printed manual comes with the demo disk. APL is extremely powerful, fast and general purpose. It is a true programming language, which neither Mathematica nor MathCad are, so if what you want is not built in to either of those, consider exploring TryAPL.

Shareware

PKZIP: This is the most popular file compression/archive utility available, shareware or not. It will compress a typical file to 40% of its original size, and decompress the file back exactly as it was whenever you need it. PKZip will even archive an entire hard disk into a single file, preserving all directory structures and time stamps. If you have trouble with over-stuffed hard disks, or you just want a cheap way to backup data, or to de-fragment your hard disk, PKZip is just the thing to use. The software comes with a detailed instruction manual on the disk.

Columbus Scholars

The United States Columbus' Quincentennial Commission has approved a draft plan for its Columbus Scholars Program which is intended to serve as "a lasting memorial to the spirit of learning and daring with which the name of Columbus is associated." Each year until 1992, 500 highschool juniors, chosen from each of the 435 congressional districts in the United States and from other countries, will be selected to attend the New World Summer Session, a series of seminars at a yet-to-be-chosen university in the United States. Approximately 100 of these students will be awarded full four-year scholarships for undergraduate study at the United States college or university of their choice. "The goal is to create a cadre of talented, accomplished individuals capable of leading the nation in conquering the challenges of the 21st century." For more information, write Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, 1801 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

STRI Employee in the Limelight

Panamá América MIERCOLES 7 DE MARZO DE 1990



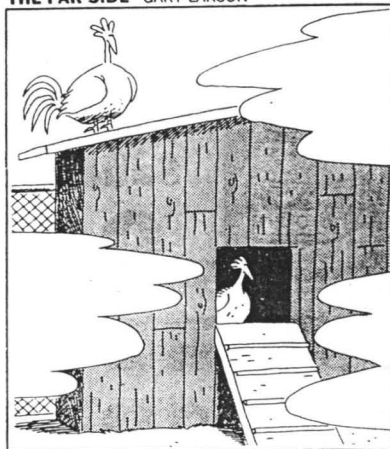
Abierto de Tenis

Fernando Pascal, cabeza de serie, por su destacada actuación en torneos locales de tenis, representará el área canalera en el torneo abierto de tenis de beneficencia, que se escenificará este fin de semana en las canchas de

Diablo. Este torneo abierto de tenis forma parte de 5 eventos con propósitos benéficos que cuentan con el apoyo de los productos "MILO". (Foto Roberto Vaca).

Humor

THE FAR SIDE GARY LARSON



The rooster stared back at me, his power and confidence almost overwhelming. Down below, a female paused warily at the coop's entrance. I kept the camera running. They were beautiful, these "Chickens in the Mist."

STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

OBSOLETE ENGLISH NAMES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS AND THEIR MODERN EQUIVALENTS (RC Banks, 1988) **QL681.B219 1988 STRI.**

ORCHIDS OF CENTRAL AMERICA : an illustrated field guide = Orquideas de Centroamerica : una guía ilustrada (F. Hamer, 1988) **QK495.O64H214 1988 STRI.**

PEACEMAKING AMONG PRIMATES (F. Waal, 1989) **QL737.P9W28 1989X STRI.**

PLANT POPULATION GENETICS, BREEDING, AND GENETIC RESOURCES (AHD Brown et al, eds., 1990) **SB123.P564 1990X STRI.**

THE POLITICS OF THE PAST (P. Gathercole & D. Lowenthal, eds., 1990) **CC175.P65.1990X STRI.**

PROTOZOA AND OTHER PROTISTS 2nd ed. (MA Sleigh, 1989) **QL366.S53 1989 STRI.**

LOS RECURSOS BIOTICOS DE MEXICO : reflexiones (A. Gomez-Pompa, 1985) **QH705.G66 1985X STRI.**

THE RIGHTS OF NATURE : a history of environmental ethics (RF Nash, 1989) **GF80.N36 1989X STRI.**

RUWENZORI EXPEDITION, 1934-5... (British Museum (Natural History), 1939-) **QH195.R9B72X STRI.**

SIGNIFYING ANIMALS : human meaning in the natural world (R. Willis, ed., 1990) **GR705.S57 1990X STRI.**

TRANSPORT OF PHOTOASSIMILATES (DA Baker & JA Milburn, eds., 1989) **QK871.T725 1989X STRI.**

VARIATIONS IN WEB STRUCTURE IN THE ORB-WEAVING SPIDER *Nephila clavipes* AND CORRELATED CHANGES IN LIFE HISTORY (LE Higgins, 1988) **QL458.42.A7H63 1988 STRI.**

VASCULAR PLANTS AS EPIPHYTES : evolution and ecophysiology (U. Lttge, ed., 1989) **QK922.V37 1989X STRI.**