

STRI newsletter

October 25, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 43

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Oct 29, noon seminar speaker will be Ann Oliver, Duke University.

*Sex Steroids as Regulators of Spawning Behavior in Hermaphroditic *Serranus spp.**

Next Week

Tuesday, Nov 5, noon seminar speaker will be Jerome Howard, University of Arizona.

Individual Diets of Polyphagous Insect Species: Who's Really a Generalist?

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- James Daniels, Alan Peckner and Robert Boyd, SI Office of Plant Services, Oct 28-Nov 1, to do general inspection on equipment, buildings and maintenance systems.

Departures

- Vielka Chang-Yau, Branch Librarian, Oct 30-Nov 12, to Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., for Library Fall Meetings and consultation.
- Elena Lombardo, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Oct 29-Nov 3, to Smithsonian Institution in Washington on official business.
- Leonor Motta, Executive Officer, Oct 27-Nov 3 to Smithsonian Institution in Washington on official business.
- Ira Rubinoff, Oct 28-31, to Quito, Ecuador, to attend meetings of the Charles Darwin Research Foundation.

Delegation of Authority

In the absence of Ira Rubinoff, John Christy, Assistant Director for Marine Research will be Acting Director from October 28 through October 31.

From the Director

It is a pleasure to welcome to STRI the distinguished biologists Llewellyn Hillis and Paul Colinvaux.



Milton Garcia (left to right) explains the effects of light on an Heliconia plant to Frank Hunkeler, from the Swiss Embassy, Olimpo Saez, Panamanian legislator and Jorge Schyu, Chinese Embassy representative, during the visit to BCI by the diplomatic corp on Oct 22. ••• Milton García (de iz. a der.) explica los efectos de la luz sobre una planta de Heliconia a Frank Hunkeler, de la Embajada de Suiza, Olimpo Saez, legislador panameño y a Jorge Schyu, representante de la Embajada de China, durante una visita del cuerpo diplomático a Barro Colorado el 22 de octubre.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Hillis obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Prior to coming to STRI, she was a professor at the Departments of Zoology, Botany and the School of Natural Resources at Ohio State University. She was also a senior research associate at that university's Byrd Polar Research Center. For several years, Dr. Hillis has been affiliated to the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory as an elected corporate member. Her studies at STRI will center on algae of coral reefs, with emphasis on the systematics, ecology, phylogeny and calcification of green macroalgae. She will be a welcome addition to our scientific community.

Paul Colinvaux obtained his Ph.D. in zoology from Duke University. He also comes to STRI from Ohio State University, where he served as professor since 1972 and was on several occasions the recipient of outstanding teacher awards.

Colinvaux is the author of numerous scholarly publications and books. His textbook *Ecology*, published in 1987, has been praised for being both a mix of cutting edge science and synthesis. He has also authored several books that explain questions of ecological interest to

the public. These publications have earned him distinction outside the scholarly community as "one of the premier popularizers of science in the English language."

Colinvaux's current research focuses on Central and South America, where he is reconstructing the late Quaternary history of the New World tropical forest. Through palynological, diatom, and other kinds of evidence, Colinvaux's team is weaving a detailed picture of changes in vegetation and climate that have occurred over the last several hundred years. He is providing the first record of this kind for such crucial regions as the central Amazon basin. Dr. Colinvaux will assume a pivotal role in the new Center for Paleocology at STRI.

November 3 Holiday ••• Feriado del 3 de Noviembre

Since this year Nov 3 falls on Sunday, Monday Nov 4 will be a STRI holiday. However, since it is a Panamanian holiday, payment of that day will be on a regular basis, and if someone works that Monday, the employee should take the time as "compensatory time." ••• *Al caer este año el 3 de noviembre en domingo, el lunes 4 de noviembre será un día libre en el STRI. Sin embargo, ya que esta es una fiesta panameña, el pago de ese día se hará de forma regular, de modo que si alguien trabaja el lunes, el empleado podrá tomar tiempo compensatorio por el día.*

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Reminder from Procurement

The APO mail has very specific regulations that must be followed: packages should be within the 70lb limit and 108" length plus girth, well-wrapped and with a custom declaration. Shipping must be specified: air mail, SAM, PAL, Surface, Insured. Your facility secretary has a guide for military postal services.

- Remember that the correct address for official mail is:

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Unit 0948
APO AA 34002-0948

and for personal mail is:

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
P.O. Box 2072
Balboa, Republic of Panama

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mellon Foundation Grant Fellowships

The following persons have been selected by the Smithsonian to receive Mellon senior fellowship awards and will be coming to STRI to conduct all or part of their projects: Martyn Caldwell, Utah State University; Park Nobel, University of California at Los Angeles; and Douglas Schemske, University of Washington.

Oportunidad de Trabajo

Se necesita persona para trabajar en posición de Operador/a de Central Telefónica/Recepcionista para reemplazar a América Staff, quien pasará a prestar sus servicios en el Departamento de Contabilidad.

Requisitos: Conocimientos sobre procedimientos, sistemas y redes telefónicas; conocimientos básicos sobre la misión del Instituto; cortesía y tacto; buen oído y buena modulación de la voz; capacidad para trabajar bajo presión. Buen inglés **indispensable**. Esta es una posición federal, permanente. Recibiremos aplicaciones en la Oficina de Recursos Humanos hasta el viernes 8 de noviembre.

Departure ••• Despedida

Flor Carvallo who has worked as accounting assistant/cashier at STRI since July 1989, has accepted a position as assistant manager at Danté in Panama City. Best of luck to Flor in her new position ••• *Flor Carvallo, quien ha trabajado en la posición de asistente de contabilidad y cajera en el STRI desde julio de 1989, ha aceptado la posición de sub-gerente en la Mansión Danté. Le deseamos la mejor de las suertes a Flor en su nueva posición.*

From Photo Department

The following list of photographic supplies are no longer needed by the Photo Department and will be disposed of. If you can use any of these supplies contact Carl Hansen before November 15.

Kodak D-19 developer, Kodak D-8 developer, Kodak C-41 hobby-pac, Kodak Technidol LC, Kodak Microdol-X, Kodak Selectol-Soft, Kodak print flattering solution. HC136-36 Ektagraphic copy film, TP-651 Technical Pan 2415, DP402 Dir positive, Ekta Pan 4162 4x5, ProCopy 4125 4x5, Cont Proc Pan 4155 4x5, Cont Proc Ortho 4154 4x5, Tech Pan 2415 4x5, Tri-X 4164 4x5 and Super XX 4142 4x5.

Reminder About Recycling Paper ••• Recorderis Sobre el Papel Reciclado

In our last batch of recycling paper we found that color paper, paper clips, stapled paper, paper towel and inter-departmental envelopes were sent for recycling. Please remember that only white paper without paper clips and staples is accepted. Your cooperation will be appreciated ••• *La última vez que recogimos papel para ser reciclado, se encontraron papeles de colores, papel engrapado, papel de toalla y sobres inter-departamentales. Debemos recordar que solamente papel blanco sin grapas es aceptable para reciclar. Agradeceremos su cooperación.*

ENTRENAMIENTO ••• TRAINING

La Universidad para la Paz anuncia los siguientes cursos cortos regulares del Area de Recursos Naturales y Promoción de la Paz, programados para 1992 en Costa Rica: **Agroforestería: Sistemas Sostenibles de Uso de la Tierra en los Trópicos.** Fecha: del 23 de marzo al 11 de abril de 1992. Director del curso: Rolain Borel. Costo total (sin pasajes aéreos) \$2500.

Manejo de Zonas de Amortiguamiento de Areas Protegidas. Fecha: del 27 de abril al 16 de mayo de 1992. Director del curso: James R. Barborak. Costo total sin pasajes aéreos \$2200.

Valorización de Recursos Forestales No-Maderables para Uso de Comunidades Locales. Fecha: 3 al 22 de agosto de 1992. Director del curso: Gerardo Budowski. Costo total (sin pasajes aéreos) \$2200.

Los cursos serán en español, para personal profesional de proyectos de desarrollo, profesores universitarios y de escuelas técnicas, conservacionistas, planificadores de recursos naturales y otros campos afines. Los interesados deberán ponerse en contacto con el respectivo director del curso: Universidad para la Paz, Apdo. 199, 1250 ESCAZU, Costa Rica. Fax (506) 49-1929/53-4227.

World Wildlife Fund Scholarship

The Garden Club of America and World Wildlife Fund offer two \$5,000 scholarships for students working in tropical botany to encourage students pursuing botanical research in the tropics and to promote its conservation. The awards are specifically intended to help students with field research expenses. There is no application form, however, students must include a CV with graduate and undergraduate transcripts, evidence of foreign language capability if necessary for country of research, a two-page outline of the proposed research, a letter stating plans for the future and a letter of recommendation. For more information please visit the Office of Education's display shelving.

Realmente Tú Image Consulting

Look good and feel good. People everywhere are realizing the importance of reshaping their image. Let *Realmente Tú* bring out the best in you and create the personal image best suited for you and your lifestyle. Introductory seminar on Oct 31 at the Tupper Center Exhibit Hall by Soraya Sheppard. Please R.S.V.P. to Gloria Zelaya, Tivoli, Ext 203.

Photographic Exhibition

Stuart G.R. Warner invites the STRI community to his photographic exhibition *Duos* at the Bernheim Gallery, Edificio Tronlap, Calle 50, from Oct 29, 7pm to Nov 11.

SUPPLY STOCKROOM AT PROCUREMENT

by Gretchen Sotomayor

It's a windowless room filled with shelves of neatly catalogued merchandise—it's the room that makes the lives of STRI employees easier.

STRI's procurement department stocks pencils and pens, paper, parts for air conditioners and computers, lab supplies our outboard boat motors. And during the last two years, procurement has taken quick steps to keep up with fast-paced growth at STRI.

"Sometimes you don't have time for a messenger or... a memo," said supply clerk Roberto Borrell(*).

Since 1989, the department's stockroom inventory has mushroomed from an office-supply stock of 25 items to a broadranged supply of more than 1,000 items accommodating offices, scientists and soon, plumbers and electricians as well.

As a result of the changes that began in 1989, money is being saved on supplies bought in bulk quantity and employees are spending less time purchasing basic items, Borrell said.

Offering a wider selection of office and computer supplies were some of the first expansion steps taken by the department two years ago. During 1990-91, the department added outboard boat motors and basic supplies for air conditioners and scientific labs to its inventory.

Goals of the department include stocking basic electrical and plumbing supplies by March of 1992, and within the next year finding vendors who will provide supplies at lower cost, Borrell said.

The department is managed by procurement agent Mercedes Ng Arroyo. Other employees include procurement clerks Mirna Fernandez and Luis Turner, follow-up clerk Gabriel Martinez and secretary Lydia Mann. The department's four messengers are Marcel Epailly, Everardo Curtney, Wilbert Forde and Ricardo Gomez.

* Borrell left on Oct 18 for a 5-month leave. He is being replaced by Luis A. Quinzada.

STRI NEW BOOKLIST

Air pollution and acid rain: the biological impact / Alan Wellburn. QH545.A3W45 1988X STRI.

Cell biology: a comprehensive treatise / edited by Lester Goldstein, David M. Prescott. QH574.C43X v.1-4 STRI.

Columbian consequences. F799.C66 1989X v.2 STRI.

Current topics in animal learning: brain, emotion, and cognition / edited by Lawrence Dachowski, Charles F. Flaherty; technical editor, Alison Hartman. QL785.C87 1990X STRI.

Cytherissa (Ostracoda): the Drosophila of paleolimnology = *Cytherissa* (Ostracoda): la drosophile de la paleolimnology / D.L. Danielopol, P. Carbonel, J.P. Colin, editors. QE817.O8C99 1990 STRI.

Ecology in the 20th century: a history / Anna Bramwell. QH541.B7 1989X STRI.

The Ecosystem approach in anthropology: from concept to practice / Emilio F. Moran, editor. GN33.E27 1990X STRI.

Fishes of the Pacific Coast: Alaska to Peru, including the Gulf of California and the Galapagos Islands / Gar Goods-on; illustrated by Phillip J. Weisgerber. QL623.4.G65 1988X STRI.

Gravity, posture and locomotion in primates / by F.K. Jouffroy, M.H. Stack, C. Niemitz. QL737.P9J862 1990 STRI.

Hormones and metabolism in insect stress / editors Jelisa-veta Ivanovic, Miroslava Jankovic-Hladni. QL495.H64 1991X STRI.

National Geographic atlas of the world. G1021.N38 1990X STRI.

New perspectives on evolution: proceedings of a multidisciplinary symposium designed to interrelate recent discoveries and new insights in the field of evolution held at the University of Pennsylvania, April 18 and 19, 1990 / sponsored by the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; editors, Leonar Warren, Hillary Koprowski. QH359.N48 1991X STRI.

Ninety-nine gnats, nits, and nibblers / May R. Berenbaum; with illustrations by John Parker Sherrod. QL467.B47 1989X STRI.

The Oceans, their physics, chemistry, and general biology, by H.U. Sverdrup, Martin W. Johnson and Richard H. Fleming. GC11.S96X STRI.

The Organization of learning / C.R. Gallistel. QL785.G22 1990X STRI.

Periódicos y revistas españolas e hispanoamericanas. Z6956.S7P47 1991X v.1-2 STRI.

Plant aging: basic and applied approaches / edited by Roberto Rodriguez and R. Sánchez Tams, and D.J. Durzan. QK762.5.N37 1990X STRI.

Plant resistance to insects: a fundamental approach / C. Michael Smith. SB933.2.S64 1991X STRI.

Plant tissue and cell culture. Edited by H.E. Street. QK725.S789X STRI.

Proceedings of the expert consultation to examine changes in abundance and species composition of neritic fish resources San Jose, Costa Rica, 18-29 April 1983: a preparatory meeting for the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development = Actas de la consulta de expertos para examinar los cambios en la abundancia y composición por especies de recursos de peces neriticos San José, Costa Rica, 18-29 Abril 1983; una reunión preparatoria para la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros / edited by G.D. Sharp and J. Csirke. SH328.P96 1983 v.2 STRI.

Promoting environmentally sound economic progress: what the North can do / Roberto Repetto. HC79.E5R42 1990 STRI.

Rabbits, hares and pikas: status survey and conservation action plan / compiled and edited by Joseph A. Chapman and John E.C. Flux. QL737.L3R113 1990 STRI.

Sarapiqui chronicle: a naturalist in Costa Rica / Alle M. Young. QH108.C6Y68 1991X STRI.

Taking stock: the Tropical Forestry Action Plan after five years / Robert Winterbottom. SD247.W55 1990X STRI.

Techniques and approaches in forest tree ecophysiology / editors, James P. Lassoie, Thomas M. Hinckley. QK938.F6T43 1991X STRI.

From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet
• Page-a-Day Calendar •

Discussions with children about environmental matters are likely to produce curiosity and indignation. Encourage them to write for information or to express an opinion. Letters from young correspondents often get special attention from legislators and corporations.