

# STRI newsletter

December 13, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 50

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, December 17, noon seminar speaker will be Ivan Valdespino, New York Botanical Garden.

*Is the Genus Selaginella (Spike Mosses) Monophyletic?*

### Abstract

The genus *Selaginella* (Selaginellaceae) as traditionally defined contains perhaps over 700 species worldwide, mostly in tropical regions of the world. The taxonomy of the family is still a matter of controversy. Traditionally only a single genus is recognized, however, some taxonomists recognize more than one genus within the family. A reevaluation of the distinguishing characters of the subgenera recognized by Jermy (1990), as well as a preliminary cladistic analysis, support the reassessment of the Selaginellaceae, and the recognition of at least four genera.

No noon seminars scheduled for December 24 and 31.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Ed Smith and Paul Pilon, National Zoological Park, Dec 14-22, for a short visit to observe the habitat of Barro Colorado Island for ideas for a neotropical exhibit entitled: Amazonia.
- Jose L. Machado, Univ. of Vermont, Dec 16-Jan 15, to continue research on BCI.
- Diane De Stevens, Univ. of Wisconsin, Dec 18-Jan 15, to work on the dynamics of tropical tree seed production and seedling recruitment on BCI.
- Wayne Sousa and Betsy Mitchell, Univ. of California at Berkeley, Dec 18-Jan 14, to work on light gap regeneration in a Caribbean Mangrove Forest.

### Departures

- Stanley Rand, Dec 20-Jan 10, for Christmas vacation and to Austin, Texas, to consult with Michael Ryan at the University of Texas.



*Arcadio Rodaniche describes organisms from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the aquaria at the Naos Marine Laboratory to Exxon fellows and interns. This was part of the Extension Program held earlier this month to introduce fellows and interns to some of the ongoing research at the Naos Marine Laboratories and at the Culebra Beach ••• Arcadio Rodaniche describe organismos de los océanos Atlántico y Pacífico en los acuarios del Laboratorio Marino de Naos a becarios y asistentes del programa Exxon. Esto es parte del Programa de Extensión que se llevó a cabo a principios de este mes para familiarizar a los becarios con algunas de las investigaciones que se llevan a cabo en los Laboratorios Marinos de Naos y en la playa de Culebra.*

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Donald Windsor, Dec 18-Jan 3, to Indiana.
- Paul Colinvaux, Dec 18-Jan 8, to Marine Biology Lab at Woodshole.
- Norman Duke, Dec 19-Jan 19, to Australia on vacation.

### On Leave

Gloria Maggiori	Dec 16-27
Maria Morello	Dec 30-Jan 3
Vielka Vergel	Dec 23-Jan 3
Alan Smith	Dec 18-31
John Christy	Dec 23-Jan 6
Angel Aguirre	Dec 12-19
Nicolas Almanza	Dec 16-Jan 14
Leonor Motta	Dec 26-Jan 3
Ira Rubinoff	Dec 23-Jan 10

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### New Receptionist ••• Nueva Recepcionista

Beginning Monday, December 16, Marcela de Vargas will be the new receptionist at the Tupper Center. Mrs. Vargas attended Burlington County College and the University of Panama where she received an Executive Secretary degree. Before coming to STRI, she worked as secretary to the technical administration department at Pinturas Glidden S.A. She has also worked in Rodelag, United International Pictures and Becton Dickenson and Co. We welcome Marcela and wish her the best of luck in her new position at STRI ••• *A partir del 16 de diciembre, Marcela de Vargas comenzará a trabajar como recepcionista en el Centro Tupper. La Sra. de Vargas hizo estudios universitarios en Burlington County College y en la Universidad de Panamá donde se graduó como Secretaria Ejecutiva. Anteriormente, trabajó en la Fábrica de Pinturas Glidden, S.A. como secretaria de la gerencia técnica, en Rodelag, S.A., en la United International Pictures y en Becton Dickenson and Company. Le damos la bienvenida y le deseamos la mejor de las suertes en su nueva posición en STRI.*

### "Parting the Green Curtain" Exhibit Departs



The exhibit *Parting the Green Curtain* will be open at STRI only until December 31, when it will be shipped to Ecuador to begin its tour to Latin America. School groups and the general public are invited to visit until the end of the month.

La exhibición *Descorriendo la Cortina Verde* estará abierta en el STRI hasta el 31 de diciembre solamente, cuando será enviada al Ecuador, iniciando su viaje por Latinoamérica. Grupos escolares y el público en general están invitados a visitarla hasta finales de este mes.

### At Tupper Center

- Dec 16 Statistics Course, Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30pm  
 Dec 17 Academic Board Meeting, Meeting Room, 8:30 am-12 m.  
 STRI Christmas Party, Exhibit Hall, 1:30 pm.  
 Statistics Course, Auditorium, 5:30-7:30 pm.  
 Dec 18 Statistics Course, Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30 pm.  
 Dec 19 Carl Hansen, Farewell Party, Exhibit Hall, 4-6 pm.  
 Statistics Course, Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30 pm.  
 Dec 20 Statistics Course, Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30 pm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gorgas Memorial Institute Foundation ••• Fundación Instituto Gorgas

The Gorgas Memorial Institute Foundation was recently created with the objective of developing activities that will promote research in the biomedical sciences, hygiene, and in the control, prevention, and treatment, of diseases, especially tropical diseases. Another of its objectives is to increase knowledge about these subjects through its publications, and to establish programs that will contribute to the intellectual and scientific progress of humans. Thus the work of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory will be continued ••• *Se ha creado la Fundación Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas con el propósito de desarrollar actividades que promuevan investigaciones en las ciencias biomédicas, la higiene y medicina, y en la naturaleza, causa, prevención, control y tratamiento de las enfermedades particularmente tropicales. Otro de sus objetivos es el de aumentar el conocimiento relacionado con estas materias a través de publicaciones, educación, establecimiento y mantenimiento de planes y programas que contribuyan al mejoramiento intelectual y científico del ser humano. De esta forma se continua con la labor del Laboratorio Gorgas.*

### Christmas Party in Las Pavas ••• Fiesta de Navidad en Las Pavas

With STRI's cooperation, on Monday, December 16 there will be a Christmas party for the children of Las Pavas, the neighboring community to the Barro Colorado Nature Monument where Gilberto Ocaña conducts his agroforestry research. The party was organized by Alejandro Arze and Nilce de Cerezo with cooperation from Dr. Ocaña and his collaborators who work at Las Pavas. Staff from INRENARE and representatives from the STRI administration, and the Office of Security and Education will also attend ••• *Con la cooperación del STRI se realizará una fiesta de Navidad en beneficio de los niños de la comunidad de Las Pavas el lunes 16 de diciembre a las 10 am. Esta es la comunidad vecina al Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado donde el Dr. Ocaña mantiene sus investigaciones. La fiesta fue organizada por Alejandro Arze y Nilce Cerezo en colaboración con el Dr. Gilberto Ocaña. A la fiesta asistirán autoridades locales del INRENARE, y contará con la presencia de un comité de las Oficinas de Administración, Seguridad y Educación del STRI.*

### Self Defense Course ••• Curso de Defensa Personal

Employees, their families and visitors are invited to participate in the self-defense course, taught by Carmelina Morello Leone, second degree black belt, Taekwondo. The course will be held on Saturdays beginning January

11, for six weeks at the Tupper Center parking lot from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Contact Maria Morello at 60-6552 for reservations ••• *Carmelina Morello Leone, cinturón negro, segundo dan, del arte marcial coreano Taekwondo, ofrecerá un curso de defensa personal por 6 sábados consecutivos, a partir del 11 de enero en el estacionamiento del Tupper de 8:30-10:30 am. Empleados, sus familiares y visitantes, están invitados a participar. Para inscripción llamar a Maria Morello al 60-6552.*

### Naos Sporting Event Report

Last Friday afternoon the Naos Causeway was the scene of an exciting and entertaining sports competition. A total of 45 participants, coming from all STRI facilities, were cheered by a crowd of 10,000 (approx.) supporters as they walked, ran and bicycled along the causeway. The competition was followed by an informal award ceremony at the Naos Bohio, where winners were presented with medals and certificates. The organizers of this event once again want to thank all volunteers, the PCC Employee Fitness Branch, the STRI Procurement Department, John Christy and Leonor Motta for their help and support.

Based on the many positive and encouraging comments and the good turn-out of participants, we hope to have another STRI fitness event, including two new categories "over 40" (*Viejos Verdes*) and children (*Ankle Biters*), in about six months. By popular demand a new event will be added, the Naos to Contadora swim (round-trip).



### List of winners:

#### Race (2.5km):

*Ginger Gier ♀*  
*Gely Abrego ♂*

#### Walking (2.5km):

*Mercedes Arosemena ♀*  
*Richard Cooke ♂*

#### Bicycling (3.5km)

*Ursula Schober ♀*  
*Lee Weigt ♂*

### The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Mary Leigh and Andrew Rodaniche play Imogene and Ralph, who play Mary and Joseph in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Cristi Roubik is an angel and John Leigh plays as shepherd. Pacific Theatre Arts Center, Curundu, Dec 12-22, Thursday and Friday at 8, Sat and Sun at 2.

## CONGRESO

### Octavo Congreso Científico Nacional

La Universidad de Panamá organiza el Octavo Congreso Científico Nacional que se celebrará del 19 al 21 de febrero de 1992. La fecha tope para la entrega de un resumen de su presentación será el 13 de enero. Los interesados en participar en este importante evento favor solicitar formulario de inscripción a Marissa Crespo en la Oficina de Educación.

## TRAINING

### Biology Program

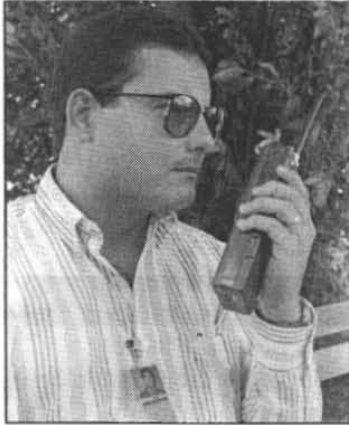
The Program Ecology of the Rainforest: Tropical Biology and Conservation at the Monteverde Institute, Costa Rica provides students with credit for three courses: Tropical Biology, Spanish language Agroecology, and Independant Study. It will be held from June 18 to August 6, 1992. Sponsored by a consortium of U.S. colleges and universities and administered by the Council on International Education Exchange, the program is designed both to introduce students to the biology of the Neotropics and to Costa Rican culture. The Orientation site will be San José, Costa Rica. 10 semester credit hours are the recommended credits. Eligibility requirements are two semesters of college-level biology, environmental studies, or equivalent and a 2.75 overall GPA. The cost of the course for the Summer of 1992 is \$3,450. Applications: students from sponsoring institutions through home campus. Students from nonsponsoring institutions through Northern Illinois University. Application deadline is March 15. If interested contact Marcia Maack at the Council on International Education Exchange, Attn: University Programs Department, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017. Tel. 212-661-1414, ext. 1236.

### From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet

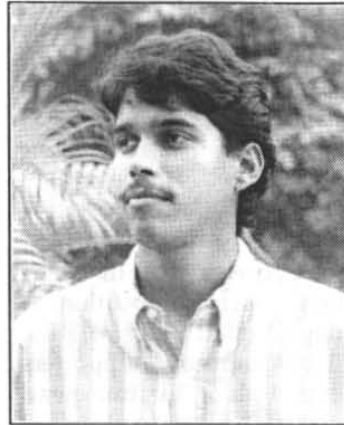
#### • Page-a-Day Calendar •

If you think you'll be held up in your car more than a minute, waiting for someone or stuck in the traffic, turn the engine off. You'll burn more gas in 60 seconds than it takes to restart your car. If you wait longer, you're saving gas every minute the engine's off.

### New Faces at STRI



*Pablo Amaris, Security Specialist, Tivoli*  
(Photo: M.A. Guerra)



*Luis Quinzada, Supply Clerk, Procurement Department, Tupper Center.*  
(Photo: M.A. Guerra).



*Miguel Angel Briceño, Naturalist Guide at BCI.*  
(Foto: Néida Gómez)



*Adalberto Gómez, Naturalist Guide at BCI.*  
(Photo: Néida Gómez)

### *STRI Christmas Party La Fiesta de Navidad del STRI*

After 1:30pm on Tuesday Dec 17th STRI personnel, fellows and visitors are expected at the Tupper Center Exhibit Hall for the annual Christmas Party. Food and music for everyone!

*A partir de la 1 de la tarde del martes 17 de diciembre, todo el personal del STRI, becarios y visitantes están invitados a la Fiesta de Navidad anual en el Salón de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper, donde habrá comida y música para todos.*



### *Naos Christmas Party La Fiesta de Navidad de Naos*

Naos Coffee Club invites the STRI community to their annual Christmas Party at the Naos Shop on Friday Dec 20, after 4pm. Bar-BQ and Music. \$5 per person.

*Naos invita a toda la comunidad del STRI a su fiesta navideña anual en el Taller de Naos el 20 de diciembre a partir de las 4pm. Asado y música. \$5 por persona.*