

STRI newsletter

February 7, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 6

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Feb 11, noon seminar speaker will be Martin Moynihan, STRI senior scientist.

Social strategies of Reeves' pheasants: problems of choice.

Next Week

Tuesday, Feb 18, noon seminar speaker will be Dieter Ebert, University of Baden.

*Social behavior and distribution of labor in the tropical spider *Anelosimus eximius*.*

GORGAS SEMINAR

Thomas Scott, Univ. of Maryland at College Park, will give a talk on Friday, Feb 14, 10 am, at the Gorgas Memorial Lab Conference Room.

Evolution of the mosquito-virus interaction among North American strains of Eastern equine encephalomyelitis virus

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Herve Cochard, Univ. of Vermont, Feb 12-Apr 6, to work with M. Tyree on research on the evolution and structure of terrestrial ecosystems on BCI.
- Peter Glynn, Univ. of Miami, with Susan Coley, Joshua Feingold, Mark Eakin and Fernando Rivera, Feb. 12-28, to carry out studies of the effects of the 1982-83 El Niño on tropical eastern Pacific coral reefs.
- Melvin Tyree, Univ. of Vermont, Feb 12-Apr 6, to continue research on the evolution and structure of terrestrial ecosystems on BCI.
- Jerry Franklin, Feb 14-19, Univ. of Washington, and President-Elect of the Ecological Society of America, with six others from the University of Washington, to visit the crane, consult on canopy biology and become familiarized with STRI terrestrial research programs and facilities.



Charles Schneider (left), Chief, Office of Project and Construction Management, ODC-Smithsonian and Fernando Pascal (right), Office of Design and Construction, STRI, review 1992 new construction and renovations plans for STRI. More details in page 3 ••• Charles Schneider (iz), Jefe de la Oficina de Administración de Proyectos y Construcciones de ODC-Smithsonian y Fernando Pascal (der), Oficina de Diseño y Construcción en STRI, examinan los planos para nuevas construcciones y renovaciones del STRI en 1992. Más detalles en página 3.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Departures

- Donald Windsor, STRI scientific staff, Feb 11-23, to Costa Rica, to participate as instructor in OTS course in Guanacaste.
- Hector Guzman, Feb 13-16, to New York, at the invitation of the Climate Institute, to make a presentation at the Symposium on Climate Change and the Future of Small Island and Low Lying Coastal Developing Countries, sponsored by the AOSIS and UNEP.
- Richard Condit and Georgina de Alba, to Caracas, Venezuela, to attend the IV World Parks Congress. Both will make presentations regarding research and conservation at STRI.
- George Angehr, Feb 12, returns to Washington, D.C.

On Leave

Feb 3-18	Raineldo Urriola
Feb. 3-28	Edmundo Rodríguez
Feb. 24-28	América Staff
Feb. 3-21	Leopoldo León

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

February Calendar

FEBRUARY						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- Feb 17-21 Visit from Oxford Scientific staff to film research at STRI.
- Feb 19-21 Scientific Congress at the University of Panama.
- Feb 19-23 Secretary McC. Adams and Smithsonian Regents to visit STRI facilities and staff.
- Feb 21-27 Eric Fischer and members of board of directors of the National Audubon Society to visit Panama and STRI.
- Feb 27 Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Review Meeting.
- Feb 24-28 Michael Robinson, National Zoo director, to visit STRI.

At Tupper Center

- Feb 11 STRI Scientific Staff Meeting, 9:30 am, Large Meeting Room.
- Feb 12 *Amigos de la Biblioteca* Meeting, 9 am, Small Meeting Room.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Diving Officer Position Open ••• *Se abre la Posición de Director de Buceo*

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is searching for a diving officer to oversee the Institute's scientific diving program. Duties include: coordination of diving scientists, both resident and visiting, and of their diving activities in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific; oversight of diving safety regulations; responsibility for the maintenance of diving equipment; representation of STRI in the Smithsonian Institution Diving Board in Washington, D.C.; monitoring of diving records; preparation of annual budget for diving program.

Applicant should have certification and experience as a SCUBA instructor, scientific training at the university level, management experience, CPR and first aid instructor certificate, certifications in the maintenance and repair of diving equipment including compressors. Ability to speak and write in Spanish and English is indispensable. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please submit curriculum vitae, names, addresses

and telephone numbers of three persons familiar with your previous work, and a statement of salary expectations to:

Dive Officer Position, c/o Office of Human Resources Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Unit 0948, APO AA 34002-0948 or Apartado 3353, Balboa, Panama

The position will remain open until a qualified candidate becomes available. The Smithsonian Institution is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This is a federal full-time position.

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El Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales busca un director de buceo para encargarse de supervisar el programa de buceo científico del Instituto. Las funciones incluyen: atender la coordinación con los científicos residentes y visitantes que bucean tanto en el Caribe como en el Pacífico; supervisión de las reglamentaciones que rigen la seguridad en el buceo; responsabilidad por el mantenimiento del equipo de buceo; representación del Instituto ante la Junta de Buceo del Smithsonian Institution en Washington, D.C.; mantenimiento de archivos y documentos; preparación del presupuesto anual del programa de buceo.

El/la aplicante debe tener certificado y experiencia como instructor de SCUBA, entrenamiento científico a nivel universitario, experiencia en administración, certificado como instructor de CPR y primeros auxilios, y conocimientos sobre mantenimiento y reparación del equipo de buceo, incluyendo compresores. Indispensable hablar y escribir correctamente en español e inglés. Salario de acuerdo con la experiencia.

Enviar curriculum vitae incluyendo nombre, direcciones y teléfonos de tres personas que puedan dar fe de sus trabajos anteriores, lo mismo que las expectativas de salario, a: Director de Buceo, a/c Oficina de Recursos Humanos, Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales, Apartado 3353, Balboa, Ancón, Rep. de Panamá.

Esta posición se mantendrá abierta hasta conseguir un candidato calificado. La Institución Smithsonian es un "Equal Opportunity Employer". Esta es una posición federal de tiempo completo.

Wanted

Illustrator or cartoonist. Simple illustration related to global change research at STRI. Contact Director's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRI Mini-Bookstore

New Book: *Legislación Amerindia de Panama*, by Françoise G. Sinclair - 1991. \$9.00.

Office of Design and Construction Corner



During 1991 four new major construction projects were initiated at STRI, three of them were completed by the end of the year.

Our first completion was a new concrete pier at Galeta, 100 m. long and 1.5/2.0 meters wide. Also completed were the new Ancon Apartments, that provide much needed dormitory space for short-term visitors.

The third project completed in 1991 was the new sewage collection and treatment plant at Naos. All non-chemical effluents from STRI buildings here are now treated and discharged in the Panama Canal side of the causeway.

During 1992 ODC will work in various projects.

The contract for the installation of a new backup electrical generator at Naos will be completed shortly. All systems and buildings at Naos will be provided with automatic backup power in the event of either blackouts or burnouts.

The contract for the renovation of building 401 (Tivoli) and the Pastors's House, awarded last Decem-

ber, is scheduled to begin by the end of this month. ODC and Facilities Management offices will be relocated to the Pastor's House with minor renovation work to the Tivoli offices. Both buildings will be provided with fire protection and suppression systems.

Other major projects scheduled to begin this year are:

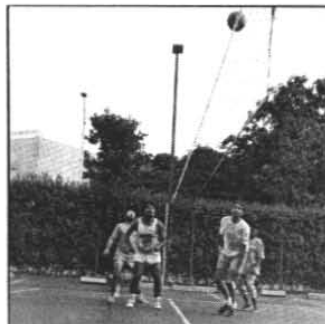
- The new BCI laboratory building, new pier, workers' house, one 2-unit dormitory building for scientists, May 1992.
- New laboratory building, maintenance shop, dormitory building, and backup generator at Galeta, Jun 1992.
- A new research vessel to replace the R/V Benjamin, Jul 1992.
- Renovation of the 2nd floor of Surfside, Jun 1992.
- Tivoli Library expansion and renovation, Aug 1992.
- Ancon Building renovation, Nov 1992.
- Installation of a new electrical submarine cable from Frijoles to BCI, Jul 1992.
- Increase of electrical transformer and backup generating capacity at BCI, Oct 1992.
- Tivoli/Tupper electrical backup generator, Dec 1992.



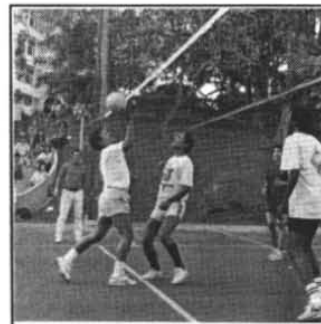
STRI vs. ANCON • Volleybol, enero 31



Dalys Ochoa, Naos



Jugadores de ANCON (iz) y Marco Díaz (der), Tupper



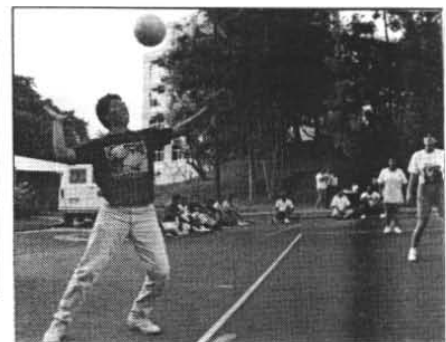
Angel Aguirre, Biblioteca



La barra de STRI



El equipo de ANCON



Juan Barría, BCI

Y los ganadores son: ¡el equipo de STRI!

From the Personnel Office ••• *De la Oficina de Personal*

*To get the full value of a joy
you must have somebody to divide it with.*

Mark Twain

*Para recibir el valor total de la dicha
hay que tener a alguien con quien compartirla.*

Mark Twain

Peace of Mind

What makes one person happy and productive, another unhappy and frustrated?

Years ago the sociology department of Duke University did a study on "peace of mind". Hundreds of people, both happy and unhappy, were studied. Nine factors were found most likely to contribute to emotional and mental stability. They were:

- The absence of suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge was a major factor in unhappiness.
- Living in the present and the future. Much unhappiness stems from an unwholesome preoccupation with past mistakes and failures.
- Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change.
- Cooperating with life, instead of trying to either demolish it or run away from it.
- Forcing yourself to be outgoing with others —instead of retreating within— during periods of emotional stress.
- Refusing to pity yourself or seek self-justification in easy alibis that make you appear "noble" to yourself and others.
- Cultivating the old-fashioned virtues of love, honor, loyalty, thrift.
- Not expecting too much of yourself. When there is a wide gap between the standards you set for yourself and your actual achievement, unhappiness is inevitable. If you cannot improve your performance, try lowering the demands instead.
- Finding something bigger than yourself in which to believe. Self-centered, egotistical, materialistic people score lowest of all in any test for measuring happiness.

*Peace comes not from the absence of conflict
in life but from the ability to cope with it.*

Anonymous

Hasta la próxima, *Carmen*

Paz Mental

¿Qué es lo que hace que una persona sea feliz y productiva, y a otra infeliz y frustrada?

Hace algunos años, el departamento de sociología de la Universidad de Duke hizo un estudio sobre la "paz mental". Estudiaron a cientos de personas, tanto dichas como tristes. Encontraron que hay nueve factores que contribuyen mayormente a la estabilidad emocional y mental. Estos fueron:

- La ausencia de suspicacias y resentimientos. Rumiar rencores fue uno de los factores más importantes causantes de infelicidad.
- Vivir en el presente y el futuro. Mucha infelicidad viene de la preocupación enfermiza por errores y fracasos pasados.
- No perder tiempo ni energías luchando contra condiciones que uno no puede cambiar.
- Colaborar con la vida, en vez de demolerla o escapar de ella.
- Forzarse uno mismo a ser abierto con los demás —en vez de retraerse —durante los períodos de tensión emocional.
- Rehusarse a sentir lástima de uno mismo o buscar auto-justificaciones con fáciles coartadas que lo hacen aparecer a uno como "noble" ante uno mismo y ante los demás.
- Cultivar las viejas virtudes del amor, el honor, la lealtad, el ahorro.
- No esperar demasiado de uno mismo. Cuando existe una marcada separación entre los estándares que uno mismo se pone y lo que realmente logramos, la infelicidad es inevitable. Si uno no puede mejorar el propio rendimiento, se debe tratar de disminuir las demandas.
- Encontrar algo más grande que uno mismo en que creer. Las personas egocéntricas, egoístas y materialistas, son las que más bajo puntaje obtienen en cualquier prueba para medir la felicidad.

*La paz viene no por la ausencia de conflictos en la vida,
sino por la habilidad con que éstos se manejen.*

Anónimo