

STRI newsletter

November 6, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 47

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Nov 10, noon seminar speaker will be Ian Cowan, senior scholar from the Australian National University. Title to be announced.

BAMBI

On Nov 12, at 7:45 pm, the Bambi speaker will be Raisa Ruiz, Dirección de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre de INRENARE:

Facilidades de Investigación en Areas Protegidas de INRENARE

For transportation arrangements please call BCI.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Gretchen North, Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Nov 9-15, to work on the hydraulic properties of epiphytic plants at BCI.
- Neil Davies, College Station, Puerto Rico, Nov 15-30, to work on the evolutionary genetics of rapidly subspeciating Caribbean butterflies.
- Hendrik Wolda, Nov 16-25, to continue research in Panama.

Departures

- Paul Colinvaux, staff scientist, Nov 9-13, to Manaus, Brazil, to attend the International Symposium on The Quaternary of Amazonia and present a paper.
- Ira Rubinoff, director, Nov 7-13, to Washington D.C. on official business.

On Leave

- Vielka Chang-Yau will be on leave from Nov 9-13.

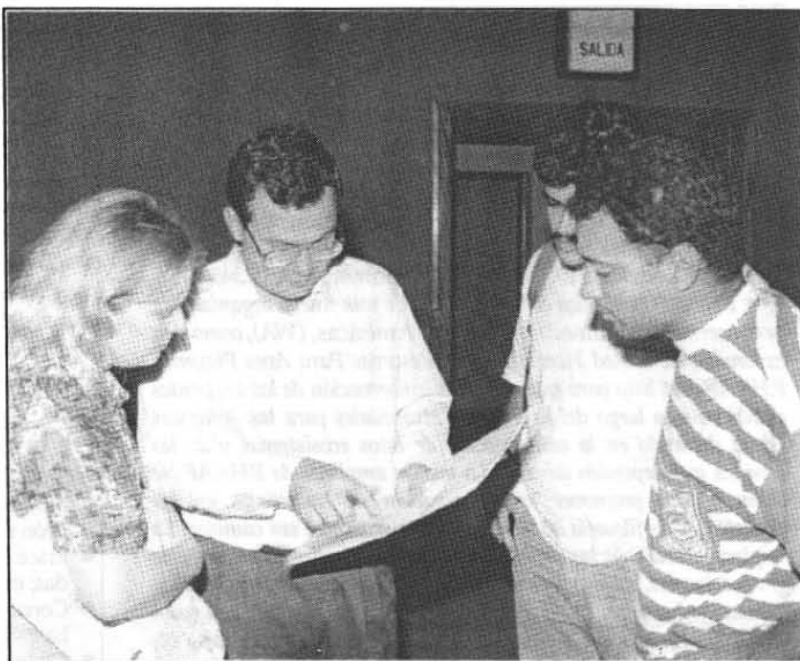
Agradecimiento

Everardo Curney, del Departamento de Compras, desea agradecer a todos aquellos que le expresaron su pesar ante la muerte de su madre y le ayudaron en este difícil momento.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Panama Audubon Society

The November Panama Audubon Society meeting will be on Thursday, Oct 12, at 7:30pm at the Panama Canal Training Center, Ancon. Guest speaker will be Neal G. Smith from STRI, who will talk on the greatest annual natural history event in Panama, the Oct-Nov flight of soaring turkey vul-



Prof. Eduardo Camacho, University of Panama (left), answers questions informally on sismotectonic activities in Panama, after his seminar on Thu, Oct 29, at Tupper Center Auditorium ••• El profesor Eduardo Camacho de la Universidad de Panamá, atiende preguntas informalmente sobre sismotectónica en Panamá, el 29 de octubre en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

tures, broad-winged and swainson's hawks from North America to South America over Panama City in the most impressive concentration of raptors in the world. Smith will describe the natural history of their passage and will indicate why this sort of soaring migration is rather peculiar and rare among birds. Everyone is invited.

WHSRN Becomes Wetlands for the Americas

RHRAP se Convierte en Humedales para las Américas

WHSRN announces the initiation of Wetlands for the Americas, (WA) an expansion of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Prepared to take on a broader challenge of wetlands conservation across the hemisphere, Wetlands for the Americas will implement conservation activities that advance the health of wetland ecosystems and the many species that depend upon them. WHSRN expanded mission now reads: "to promote the conservation of wetland ecosystems in the Americas". The operating philosophy behind the new mission remains unchanged. Program implementation will continue to enhance local capacity while maintaining international linkages. Consistent with this goal, priority projects will be instituted with substantial multiplicative effects-policy,

Reminder ••• Recorderis

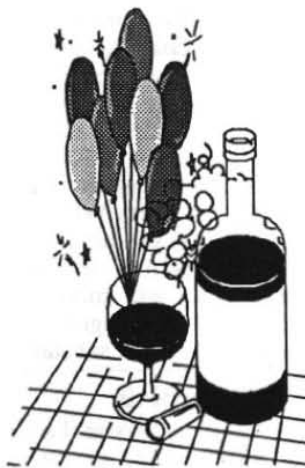
Wed, Nov 11, is Veteran's Day and a STRI Holiday ••• El miércoles 11 de noviembre se celebra el Día de Veteranos y no hay trabajo en STRI.

laws land regulations, conservation strategies, action plans, public education and on-site pilot programs. In North America, Wetlands for the Americas will continue concentrating on wetland management issues by promoting integrated wetland management to benefit biodiversity. In Latin America, emphasis will be on policy and habitat conservation. Finally, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network will continue to function as a program that illustrates the need for international cooperation to conserve migratory species • For more information write to Wetlands for the Americas, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345 USA

••• RHRAP comunica el lanzamiento de una nueva organización de conservación, Humedales para las Américas, (WA), como una expansión de la Red Hemisférica de Reservas Para Aves Playeras. RHRAP está listo para trabajar en la conservación de los ambientes acuáticos a lo largo del hemisferio. Humedales para las Américas estará dedicado en la conservación de estos ecosistemas y de las especies que dependen de ellos. La misión ampliada de RHRAP lee ahora: "para promover la conservación de humedales en las Américas". La filosofía de la institución permanece sin cambios. La implementación de los programas se seguirá haciendo a través de grupos locales, aunque manteniendo los vínculos internacionales. Consecuentemente, la prioridad se pondrá en proyectos con gran efecto multiplicador: política ambiental, leyes, regulaciones, estrategias de conservación y planes de acción, educación ambiental, y programas piloto de conservación y desarrollo sostenible. En América del Norte, Humedales para las Américas continuará concentrando sus esfuerzos en el manejo de humedales para el beneficio de la biodiversidad. En América Latina, el énfasis será en política ambiental y conservación de hábitats. Finalmente, la Red Hemisférica de Reservas Para Aves Playeras continúa funcionando como un programa dentro de Humedales para las Américas • Para mayor información escriba a Humedales para las Américas, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345 USA.

November Birthdays at STRI

Xenia Guerra	2
Carlos Urbina	6
María Morello	7
Olga Linares	10
Moises Troya	10
Milton García	11
Jeremy Jackson	13
Conrado Tapia	13
Vielka Vergel	13
Luis Cuevas	14
Leopoldo León	15
Zuleika Pinzón	20
Edmundo Rodríguez	22
Nelida Gómez	24
Erasmus Alvarado	25
Mercedes Arroyo	27
Basilio Mela	28
Saturnino Martínez	29



Lost • Perdido

Last March, my photo tripod was lost when some of my belongings were moved from Ancon to Birmingham's laboratory at Naos. It is an old, not fancy looking Linhof tripod; however it is a very good and expensive professional piece of equipment and I cannot afford to replace it. If you have seen it, please contact me: Gilles Seutin, laboratory: 28-4022, home: 62-3834 ••• El pasado marzo, se perdió el trípode de mi equipo fotográfico, cuando mis pertenencias fueron trasladadas de Ancon al laboratorio del Dr. Birmingham. Aunque este trípode Linhof no parece moderno, es una pieza profesional muy valiosa. Además no tengo el dinero para reemplazarlo. Si ustedes lo han visto por favor comuníquense conmigo: Gilles Seutin, laboratorio: 28-4022, casa: 62-3834.

De la Oficina de Seguridad

Reglas de Seguridad Personal

- No dé la impresión de que lleva mucho dinero, ya que el ladrón siempre vigila las actividades de sus posibles víctimas.
- Trace la ruta directa a su destino: calles transitadas e iluminadas; evite terrenos baldíos, callejones y áreas de construcción.
- Conozca su barrio. Averigüe qué lugares permanecen abiertos hasta tarde y dónde están las Estaciones de Policía.
- Cuando una dama salga con su cartera, debe mantenerla apoyada a su cuerpo y caminar con serenidad y seguridad.
- Evite llevar muchas prendas, ya que inducen al robo, principalmente en fiestas y en lugares donde hay mucha gente.
- Cuando salga de compras, lleve el dinero necesario, no se exceda; no lleve billetes grandes pues llaman la atención.
- Camine de frente hacia el tránsito, de manera que pueda ver los automóviles que se aproximan.
- No se cargue de paquetes que dificulten reaccionar a tiempo.
- Tenga en las manos las llaves de su automóvil o de las puertas de su hogar cuando se aproxime a los mismos.
- Si sospecha que alguien lo sigue a pie, cruce la calle, corra a un área transitada e iluminada, y llame a la policía.
- Nunca le pida a un desconocido que la lleve en su auto.
- Trate de utilizar paradas transitadas y bien iluminadas.
- No se quede dormido. Manténgase Alerta!
- Si lo atacan verbal o físicamente, trate de llamar la atención.
- Esté al tanto de los se bajan del autobús con usted. Si se siente incómodo, diríjase hacia donde hayan otras personas.
- Tenga cuidado al manejar su dinero en público, mostrarlo abiertamente lo convierte en víctima del ladrón.
- No se resista a un delincuente cuando le arrebate el dinero, si no cuenta con experiencia en defensa personal.
- No camine por áreas apartadas y oscuras. Callejones y lotes baldíos, son lugares favoritos de los delincuentes.
- Siempre trate de ir acompañado en lugares solitarios.
- Cuando salga de noche de su trabajo, llame a alguien que la acompañe a donde haya mayor circulación de personas.
- Cuando viaje en transporte público y el mismo esté casi vacío, ubíquese en los puestos delanteros.
- Prefiera usar chequera que grandes sumas de dinero.
- Si necesita ayuda, llame a la Estación de Policía más cercana.

STRI FEATURE

**Panamanian Predoctoral Fellow
Initiates Archaeological Study***by Gretchen Sotomayor*

Spanish chronicles written almost 500 years ago talked of a frontier between the Cueva Amerindians and their neighbors to the west. That frontier was located at Chame, a place known to Panamanians today for its beaches, not its archaeology. The valley of Chame will be painstakingly explored this dry season by Panamanian archaeologist Carlos Fitzgerald.

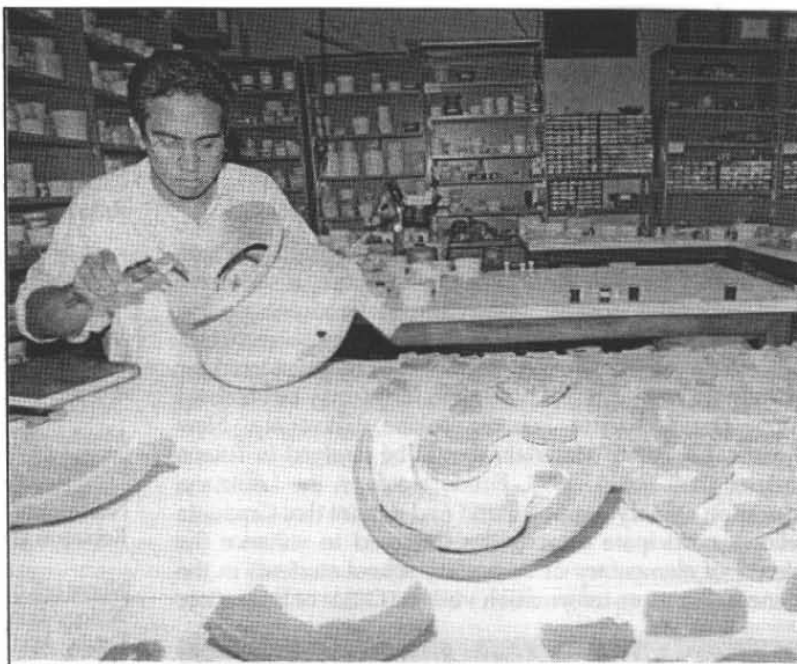
Fitzgerald, a doctoral candidate from the University of Pittsburgh, returned home to Panama a few weeks ago to begin a year of field work for his dissertation as a predoctoral fellow at STRI. When he completes his Ph.D. in archaeology, he will be only the third Panamanian with such a degree—the first being Olga Linares, a staff scientist at STRI.

"We are very few in Panama with archaeological degrees, so it's very important for Panamanians to have training at a high level. My intention is to do my work here, there's no question about that... there is plenty of work," he said.

Though his family is originally from the Bocas del Toro region, Fitzgerald spent his earlier school years in Panama City. He went on to undergraduate school at City University of New York where he discovered his love for anthropology and archaeology in his first anthropology course.

"My love for archaeology is its relation to anthropology—the study of why we are the way we are," he said. However, the two disciplines differ in methods—anthropologists study the people of today and archaeologists the people of the past. "The object of our study is people, but we look at things to understand people."

The focus of Fitzgerald's research in Panama is to study a society that lived on a frontier that separated different cultures. He's interested in how the frontier developed and what role it played, if any, in the evolution of society from simple, egalitarian organizations to more complex forms of society found by the Europeans.



Carlos Fitzgerald, STRI predoctoral fellow working with Richard Cooke at Naos, measures an archaeological artifact in his laboratory •••

Carlos Fitzgerald, becario predoctoral panameño que trabaja con Richard Cooke en Naos, mide una pieza arqueológica en su laboratorio. (Foto: A. Montaner)

"What happened in the past?" That's the basic question that we ask... and the answer is essential for understanding the relationships between the different human groups that inhabited the isthmus in ancient times," Fitzgerald said.

When the Spaniards arrived in the 16th century, they described scores of "chiefdoms," a type of sociopolitical organization that appears to have been somewhere in between simple and complex. Fitzgerald is focusing on the Pacific coastal chiefdom of Chame, which was a small polity located in a frontier situation. The people of eastern Panama, known as the *Cueva*, became extinct after the arrival of the Spanish. The descendants of the Central Panamanians, the Guaymí, fortunately still survive.

"So we don't have the actual peoples here today to investigate, but with archaeology we can find out whether or not there was really a frontier, if so, find out the nature of the frontier and we can also find out when in time that frontier was established," he explained.

To gather the evidence, Fitzgerald and a team of surveyors will systematically comb the valley's grasslands on foot, looking for anything unusual—concentrations of ceramic fragments, stone artifacts (lithics), or even earthen mounds. Some sites will be test-excavated to refine the chronological sequence and to obtain materials for carbon-14 dating.

"It's possible that I may not find what I expect, so I need to be flexible," Fitzgerald said. "There are many variables that can make the work go in a different direction than I expect, but that's what is fascinating about archaeology."

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology of Tulane University announces three Four-Year Graduate Fellowships in the fields of Ecology, Systematics, and Plant and Animal Physiology. Stipends for 1993-1994 are \$15,000 (12 months). Fellowships carry tuition waivers. **To apply:** Submit regular Graduate School application, undergraduate transcripts, at least three supporting letters from faculty familiar with your qualifications, a statement as to proposed area of research, and Graduate Record Examination scores (General Test and Biology Subject Test). Indicate on application that you wish to be considered for a Graduate Fellowship. Application forms may be obtained from: The Graduate School, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118. Materials should be received in Tulane no later than Feb 1, 1993. Funds are from the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund and require that Graduate Fellows participate in activities designed to enhance the interest of elementary or secondary school students in the sciences. For more information visit the Office of Education.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Aquí Panamá.** 1992. "¿Está en Panamá el Remedio del Sida?" (Entrevista a Neal G. Smith). *Aquí Panamá*, Año 1, No. 2, Panamá, Lunes 26 de octubre: 12.
- Roisin, Yves.** 1992. "Development of Non-Reproductive Castes in the Neotropical Termite Genera *Cornitermes*, *Embiratermes* and *Rhynchoterms* (Isoptera, Nasutitermitinae)." *Insect Socioux* 39: 313-324.

STRI NEW BOOKLIST

- Biohistory: the interplay between human society and the biosphere** / S. Boyden: illustrations by Jorge Bontes.
GF50.B67 1992X STRI.
- The Birds of Africa, v.IV, Broadbills to chats** / Stuart Keith, Emil K. Urban, C. Hilary Fry; illustrated by Martin Wooncock.
QL692.A1B87 v.4 STRI.
- Conservación de los ecosistemas forestales de Guinea ecuatorial.** John E. Fa.
SD414.G92F11 1991 STRI.
- DNA systematics, v.3. Human and higher primates** / editor, S.K. Dutta.
QP624.D19 1986X v.3 STRI.
- Desertified grasslands: their biology and management** / editor, G.P. Chapman.
QH541.5.P7D45 1991 STRI.
- Evolutionary biology of aging** / Michael R. Rose.
QP86.R59 1991X STRI.
- Fire in South African mountain fynbos: ecosystem, community, and species response at Swarboskloof** / B.W. van Wilgen... [et al.], eds.
QK396.F47 1992X STRI.

Foundations of ecology: classic papers with commentaries / editors, Leslie A. Real and James H. Brown.

QH541.145.F68 1991X STRI.

The Genetic basis of plant physiological processes / John King.

QK711.2.k57 1991X STRI.

Genetics and conservation of rare plants / edited by Donald A. Falk, Kent E. Holsinger; Center for Plant Conservation.

QK86.A1G45 1991X STRI.

Inventory of Caribbean marine and coastal protected areas.

QH91.75.C27I58 1988X STRI.

Larval stages of North Eastern Atlantic crabs: an illustrated key / Ray Ingle.

QL444.M33I36 1992 STRI.

Marchantia L.: the Asiatic and Oceanic taxa / by Helene Bischler-Causse.

QK555.M2B62 1989 STRI.

Neotropical wildlife use and conservation / edited by John G. Robinson and Kent H. Redford.

SK159.N46 1991X STRI.

Nerve cell biology: proceedings of the joint British Society for Cell Biology-British Society for Developmental Biology Symposium, Leeds, April 1991 / organized and edited by Dennis Bray... [et al.]

QP361.N86 1991 STRI.

Orfebrería y chamanismo: un estudio iconográfico del Museo del Oro / Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff; fotografía, Jorge Mario Munera.

F2270.1.A7R34 1990 STRI.

Los Parques nacionales de la República Dominicana. The National Parks of the Dominican Republic. Jürgen Hoppe.

SB484.D6H67 1989X STRI.

Rainforest buffer zones: guidelines for protected area managers / Jeffrey Sayer.

SD414.T73S27 1991 STRI.

The Response of western forests to air pollution / R.K. Olson, D. Binkley, M. Bjm, editors.

SB745.R48 1992X STRI.

Taphonomy: releasing the data locked in the fossil record / edited by Peter A. Allison and Derek E.G. Briggs.

QE721.2.F6T37 1991X STRI.

Type specimens of algae in the Herbarium of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County / Valerie L. Anderson.

QK567.5.A55 1991 STRI.

Fiesta de Navidad en Las Pavas

El lunes 7 de diciembre se realizará la Fiesta de Navidad que tradicionalmente organiza el STRI para los niños de la comunidad de las Pavas. Los interesados en colaborar con juguetes, dulces, dinero en efectivo u otra forma de ayuda, pueden comunicarse con Oris Acevedo en BCI o Jorge Ventocilla en el Centro Tupper.