

# STRI newsletter

February 19, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 8

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminar scheduled for Tue, Feb 23.

### Special Seminar

The behavioral Discussion Group will meet on Wed, in the Exhibit Hall, from 5-7 pm. Ernst Mayr will answer questions and discuss topics in evolutionary biology.

### Next Week

Tue, Mar 2, noon seminar speaker will be Robert W. Pearcy, U. of California, Davis.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Nicholas Brown, Short-term Fellow, Feb 22-May 22, to work on population dynamics of *Quassia amara* at BCI.
- Jorge Obando, Feb 25-Mar 3, to collaborate with Anthony Coates on paleoecological research.
- Robin Foster, staff scientist, Feb 24-end of May, to attend SI Fellowship Meeting and continue research at STRI.
- Rosa Aurora Murillo, Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo, Ecuador, Feb 25-May 25, to work as an assistant to James Dalling on soil disturbance and seed burial project on BCI.
- Bruno Ladrón de Guevara, Univ. Católica del Norte, Chile, Feb 24-May 25, to work as an assistant to Eldredge Bermingham in the molecular biology laboratory.

### Departures

- Alejandro Arze, Security Officer and Andres Ramos, Gamewarden, Feb 20-27, to DC to attend the National Security Conference and other official business at the SI Security Offices.

### On Leave

Gabriel Abrego	Feb 11- Mar 7
Mercedes Arosemena	Feb 22-24
Marcel Epailly	Feb 19-26
Isis Ivancic	Feb 22-24
Victor Perez	Feb 22-24
Luis Turner	Feb 22-26
Marcela Vargas	Feb 22-26
Vielka Vergel	Feb 22-26

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations and best wishes to Klaus Winter and Melanie Isabel Taylor who were married on Feb 16.



On Thu, Feb 11, Stan Rand gave an entertaining presentation on frog communication to the 80 Smithsonian Associates who visited STRI. ••• El jueves 11 de febrero, Stan Rand presentó una interesante charla sobre la comunicación de las ranas a los 80 Asociados de la Institución Smithsonian que visitaron STRI.

(Photo: A. Montaner)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Biodiversity Support Program

The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) - consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy and World Resources Institute - funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), is soliciting proposals for applied biodiversity research in selected A.I.D. assisted countries worldwide. Biological diversity research to be supported may be primarily ecological, economic, anthropological, or socio-political in focus. Projects contributing to knowledge in the following four topic will be considered for funding: Utilization and Management of Biological Resources, Cultural and Societal Influences on Biodiversity Conservation, Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity. Selection criteria: • Research must contribute to knowledge in one of the four topics areas listed above. • Research must be carried out in an A.I.D. assisted country. • Proposals will only be considered if the principal investigator is from a developing country. However, in certain cases, a portion of the project budget may support the collaborative efforts of a U.S. (or another developed country) researcher. • Projects should not exceed one year in duration and should run from Sep 1993.

unless supplemental funding from another source permits an earlier start to the project. • Individuals awards given by BSP will not exceed \$15,000. • Proposals must be received by BSP no later than Apr 30.

For more information on research topics, selection criteria and proposal format, contact Marissa Crespo at the Office of Education.

### **RENARM: Environmental M.S. Training for Central American Region**

USAID/ROCAP announced the start up of the RENARM - Funded Environmental Education Masters Degree Program. The deadline for submitting applications is Mar 1, 1993. This M.S. Training Activity will complement programs that strengthen Central American Institutions in the areas of wildlands and wildlife conservation, environmental education, and other priority areas. Based on ROCAP's review of potential participants work experience, academic training, and commitment to improving the natural environment of Central American fourteen (14) individuals will be recommended to enter the University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Wildlife and range sciences for a two year masters program. RENARM will fund through its contract with University of Idaho the costs of participants' education/training, allowances, travel, transportation and Insurance. Requirements for application are available in the Office of Education.

### **Vacancy ••• Se necesita**

This is a position for an ecological assistant to work for the 50 ha Forest Dynamics Project in Barro Colorado Island. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Forest Dynamics Research plot on the island. This will require extensive field work, checks of printed datasets, entry of data into computers, and interaction with other scientists working in the plot. Qualifications: Strong background in ecology and botany; considerable experience in lowland forests in Panama; background in the use of computer databases, and ability to work easily with scientists and other field workers at the island. Fluency in both English and Spanish is preferred. This is a full-time permanent position. Salary: \$14,603 per year (GS-404-3 Bio. Aid).

••• *Asistente ecológico para trabajar en el proyecto de las 50 hectáreas del proyecto de "Dinámica del Bosque Tropical" en la Isla de Barro Colorado. La persona escogida será responsable por el manejo cotidiano del lote de investigación del proyecto en la isla. La posición requiere mucho trabajo de campo, verificación de hojas de datos, entrada de datos en la computadora, e interacción con los*

*científicos que trabajan en el proyecto. Requisitos: Conocimientos de ecología y botánica; considerable experiencia de trabajo en las tierras bajas boscosas de Panamá; conocimientos de bases de datos en computadoras, y habilidad para trabajar con facilidad con científicos y otros trabajadores de campo en la isla. Preferiblemente fluidez en español e inglés. Posición permanente de tiempo completo. Salario \$14,603 al año (GS-404-3 Bio. Aid).*

### **Position Advertisement**

The Organization for Tropical Studies, Inc. (OTS) is opening a new position in Costa Rica that will operate out of the office in San Jose and report to the Associate Executive Director. The position is seen as an opportunity for a creative self-starter to develop a range of forestry projects that serve the 50-institution consortium in its quest to enhance natural resource management and sustainable development in Latin America. The program as currently structured is limited to investigations on native timber species for the reforestation of abandoned pastures. The applicant should hold a doctorate in forestry or a related natural resource field and have relevant experience with tropical systems that has involved project formulation and management, experimental design, and analysis. A publication record, proven ability to write proposals, and experience in developing educational programs are desirable. The candidate must be able to function in both English and Spanish. Two year renewable contract, contingent on funding; position available in mid-1993. Salary range \$20,000 - \$26,000, depending on qualifications and history; standard university fringe benefits. Applicants must submit: (1) a full resume; and (2) three letters of recommendation (to be sent directly from the recommenders to OTS). Completed applications are due (absolute deadline) by Mar 15, 1993. Send materials to: Dr. Donald E. Stone, OTS, P. O. Box DM, Duke Station, Durham, NC 27706. Tel: (919) 684-5774, Fax: (919) 684-5661. For more information contact the Office of Education.

### **Possible lost mail**

An important contract letter was sent to Richard Cooke from National Geographic on Jan 18th. It has not appeared. Could you please check "junk mail" to see whether correspondence that may look like a "form letter" has been left unopened? Contact R. Cooke if you can help.

### **For sale**

Outboard motor 35 hp Evinrude short leg \$600; aluminum trailer for small boat \$500; dining table and 6 chairs \$700. If interested please call Leonor Motta, 26-1182.

### **Clases de Aeróbicos**

Lunes, martes y jueves, de 5 a 6 pm, en el Salón de Exhibiciones. Inicio en Marzo. Costo: B/ 20.00 mensuales.

**STRI UPDATE**

**International Activities**

During the second week of April, STRI scientist Richard Condit and Elena Lombardo, assistant director for external affairs, will attend the opening of the STRI exhibition "Parting the Green Curtain" in Bogota, Colombia. The exhibition will be on display at the Universidad de Los Andes, where Condit has been invited to present a talk about the 50-hectare plot on Barro Colorado Island.

Traveling in Latin America as the first bilingual exhibition, "Parting the Green Curtain" was inaugurated at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) in Quito in May 1992. From Quito, the exhibition traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador, and reports showed an impressive attendance of students and professionals. Following its display in Bogota, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to Caracas, Venezuela, in July.

Currently, STRI is negotiating a collaborative scientific agreement with the National Institute for Research of the Amazon (INPA) in Brazil, on behalf of Paul Colinvaux's paleontological research projects and STRI's CTF's 50-hectare plot project at Manaus.

On February 11, as a STRI representative, Ms. Elena Lombardo presented a paper at a forum organized by Panama's Association of Architects and Engineers (SPIA) focusing on the plans for future use of reverted lands. Panelists also presenting papers were architect Jorge Riva, from the Ad Hoc Advisory Council for Reverted Lands; architect Marta Alvarez, from the Ministry of Housing (MIVI); engineer Alfredo Arias, Minister of Public Works (MOP); and architect Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, from Panama's Business Executives Association (APEDE).

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**At Tupper**

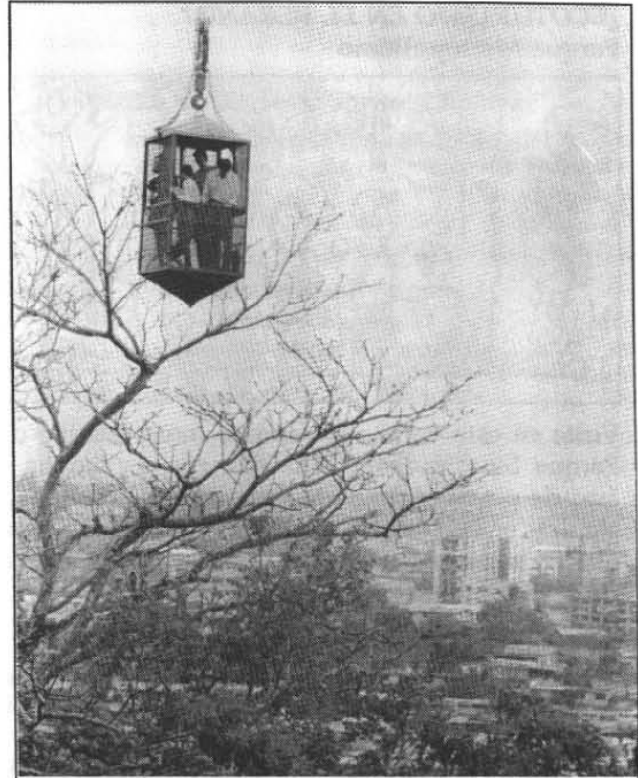
- Wed, Feb 24 Behavioral Discussion Group, Exhibit Hall, 5-7 pm.
- Thu, Feb 25 SI Fellowship Review Meeting, Exhibit Hall, 9-5 pm.
- Fri, Feb 26 Farewell for Gilberto Ocaña.

**From Security**

Pablo Amaris will serve as acting security officer of the STRI from February 20 - 28.

**From Director Office**

Leonor Motta will serve as acting director of the STRI from February 17 - 22. Outgoing correspondence should be prepared for her signature.



*From the gondola that is part of the canopy access system, in the Metropolitan Park, Joe Wright describes research in progress to Lisa Barnett, assistant development officer, and Jim Conaway, writer, accompanied by his daughter Susanna. ••• De la góndola que es parte del sistema de acceso al dosel del Parque Metropolitano, Joe Wright describe la investigación que se está llevando a cabo, a Lisa Barnett, asistente de la oficina de desarrollo, y a Jim Conaway, escritor, acompañado de su hija Susanna. (Photo: A. Montaner)*

**SAS users ••• Usuarios del SAS**

The new password for SAS from Feb 1993 -Feb 1994 has been sent to the scientific coordinator at each STRI facility. If you are a STRI SAS user, you can contact your scientific coordinator or call Raineldo Urriola. ••• El nuevo pase para SAS de febrero de 1993 a febrero de 1994, ha sido enviado al coordinador científico de cada sitio de trabajo. Si usted es usuario del SAS STRI, debe contactar al coordinador científico correspondiente o llamar a Raineldo Urriola.

**From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet**

**•Page-a-Day Calendar•**

The supreme reality of our time is . . . the vulnerability of our planet. *President John F. Kennedy (1963)*

## ¿ECOTURISMO EN EL VERANO? Parque Metropolitano



Visite en este verano el sendero interpretativo del Parque Metropolitano. Disfrute con su familia el área de picnic. Aprecié la vista de la ciudad desde el mirador del parque. Adquiera literatura y artesanías en su tienda ecológica. Para mayores informaciones llamar a los teléfonos: 32-5516/32-5552.

### Podemos aprender de las flores

En el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales se está llevando a cabo una exposición fotográfica titulada: "Flores Silvestres del Parque Nacional Soberanía."

El Parque constituye quizás la franja de bosque tropical más accesible de Latinoamérica, y de sus 1300 especies de plantas, menos del 10% bastarán para asombrarnos, entretenernos y educarnos.

Al recorrer los paneles aprenderemos el lenguaje de las flores. Su forma, color, tamaño y aroma son las letras a combinar para entender algo acerca de su vida.

¿Sabía Ud. que las flores llevan dibujadas guías ultravioletas hacia el néctar? Claro que Ud. no las ve, pero para una abeja son igual a una sofisticada pista de aterrizaje.

¿Sabía acaso que una flor maloliente puede ser adorable para las moscas, y que ciertas abejas macho utilizan las fragancias de las orquídeas posiblemente como un perfume para atraer la hembra?

La exuberante variedad de la flora tropical nos habla de complejas relaciones entre plantas y animales que llevan millones de años dependiendo unos de otros.

El polen tiene que viajar a otras flores para perpetuar la especie.

¿Sabía Ud. que algunos murciélagos pueden ser polinizadores? Pues entonces, la flor deberá ser grande, blanca y accesible para que el murciélago alcance el polen.

¿Cómo será una flor cuyo polen viaja en el viento? Pues, no necesitará ni aroma ni color.

Conocer un poco más de lo que tenemos es imprescindible para poder cuidarlo. La presente exhibición

forma parte del programa de Educación Ambiental del Smithsonian, diseñado tanto para visitantes independientes como para grupos escolares, institucionales y demás. Siempre hay un guía a su disposición. Además se proyectan videos, se realizan juegos especiales para grupos escolares y si se quedó con deseos de seguir, en los jardines de la institución se desarrolló un arboreto, donde algunos árboles están identificados. Mediante un folleto con un pequeño mapa incluido, podrá pasear entre los árboles, y conocer un poco más acerca de las plantas.

Abrirá en horario especial de verano, los domingos 28 de febrero y el 7 de marzo, de 2 a 6 pm, para que Ud. pueda disfrutar con su familia.

### STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

Aide, T.M. 1992. "Dry Season Leaf Production: an Escape from Herbivory." *Biotropica* 24(4): 532-537.

Bush, M.B., Piperno, D.R., Colinvaux, P.A., Oliveira, P.E., Krissek, L.A., Miller, M.C., and Rowe, W.E. 1992. "A 14 300-yr Paleocological Profile of a Lowland Tropical Lake in Panama." *Ecological Monographs* 62(2): 251-275.

Cooke, R.G. 1992. "Preliminary Observations on Vertebrate Food Avoidance by the Precolumbian Amerinds of Panama, with Comments on the Relevance of this Behaviour to Archaeozoology and Palaeoenvironmental Reconstruction." In: *Archaeology and environment in Latin America*: 59-107. Edited by Omar R. Ortiz-Troncoso and Thomas van Der Hammen, Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Guzman, H.M. and Jimenez, C.E. 1992. "Contamination of Coral Reefs by Heavy-Metals Along the Caribbean Coast of Central-America (Costa Rica and Panama)." *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 24(11): 554-561.

Ibáñez D., R., Jaramillo, C.A., Solis, F.A. and Jaramillo, F.E. 1992. "Geographic Distribution: *Hemidactylus brookii*" *SSAR Herpetological Review* 23(4): 123.

Sieving, K.E. 1992. "Next Predation and Differential Insular Extinction Among Selected Forest Birds of Central Panama." *Ecology* 73(6): 2310-2328.

Summers, K. 1992. "Dart-poison Frogs and the Control of Sexual Selection." *Ethology* 91: 89-107.

Wcislo, W.T. 1992. "Nest Localization and Recognition in a Solitary Bee, *Lasioglossum (Dialictus) figueresi* Wcislo (Hymenoptera: Halictidae), in Relation to Sociality." *Ethology* 92: 108-123.

#### Reminder ••• Recorderis

Tuesday, Feb 23 is the celebration of Carnival and a Panamanian holiday. STRI will observe a liberal leave policy. Government offices and banks will close Feb. 22-24. ••• El martes, 23 de febrero se celebra el Carnaval y es día feriado panameño. STRI observará su política de "liberal leave". Los bancos y oficinas gubernamental estarán cerradas del 22-24.