

# STRI newsletter

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SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

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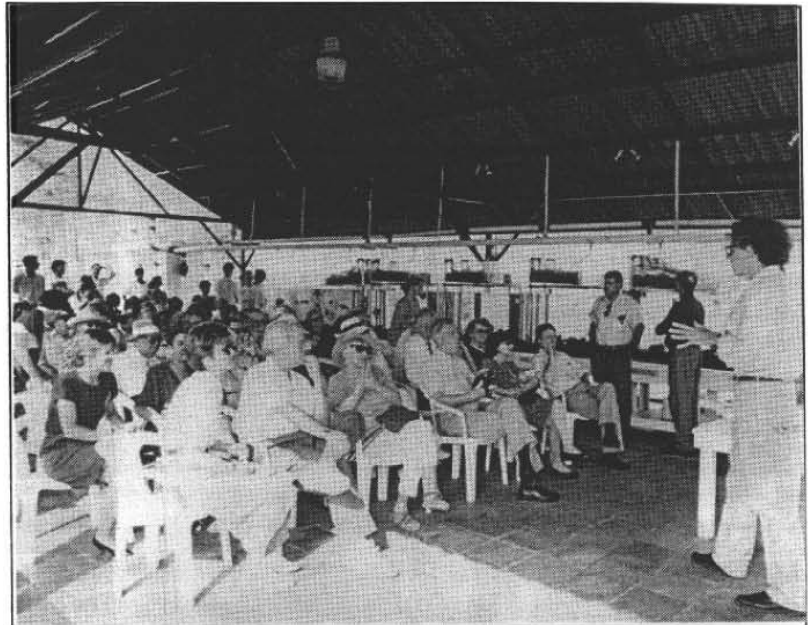


On Apr 2, the government of Panama presented Secretary Adams with one of its highest honors, the Great Cross of Vasco Núñez de Balboa for his "vision, interest and support" of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama ••• El día 2 de abril, el Gobierno de Panamá presentó al Secretario Adams con uno de sus más altos honores, la Gran Cruz de Vasco Núñez de Balboa, por su "visión, interés y apoyo" al Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales en Panamá.

## PEOPLE

### Departures

- Ross Robertson, Apr 11-24, to Corsica, France, to do research at the STARESO Marine Laboratory.
- Gloria Zelaya, Apr 11-21, to STRI D.C. office on official business.
- Richard Condit and Elena Lombardo, Apr 12-18, to Santa Fe de Bogotá, for the opening of *Parting the Green Curtain* at the Universidad de los Andes.
- Richard Cooke, Apr 14-22, to St. Louis, to attend the meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, and to Champaign, to give seminars at the University of Illinois.
- Ana Maria Ford, Apr 16-1 May, to Denver, CO, to attend the National Association of College Stores, the CAMEX book exposition market and then on vacation.



Jeremy B.C. Jackson introduced the geological and biological history of the Isthmus to members of the Smithsonian National Board during their tour to the Naos Island Laboratories and Culebra Point on Friday Apr 2. At the same site, Naos scientists and fellows, and marine education staff also briefed the visitors on current projects •• Jeremy B.C. Jackson ofreció una introducción sobre la historia geológica y biológica del Istmo de Panamá a miembros de la Junta de Síndicos del Smithsonian, durante su gira a los Laboratorios de Isla Naos y a Punta Culebra. En el mismo lugar, investigadores y becarios de Naos y el personal de educación marina hablaron sobre sus proyectos en curso.

(Fotos: A. Montaner)

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINAR

Tuesday, Apr 13, noon seminar speaker will be C.V.S. Gunatilleke, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

### *Seedling Ecology of Some Rain Forest Canopy Species in Sri Lanka*

#### *Abstract*

Eight species of the dipterocarp genus *Shorea* co-occur as important canopy trees in the lowland rainforests of South West Sri Lanka. The seminar will explore the postulate that competition among seedlings of the several species respond differently to local environmental differences. The growth of seedlings from soils of topographically different sites, from valley, midslope or ridge in a natural forest and from a pine plantation, will be assessed. How these eight closely-related species coexist in sympatry is of general importance to our understanding of the causes of high diversity in tropical rain forests. The data are also essential to conservation and production forestry in Sri Lankan rainforests.