

STRI newsletter

August 13, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 33

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Aug 17, noon seminar speaker will be Janie Wulff, Williams College, Massachusetts.

Mutualism Among Coral Reef Sponges

Abstract

Sponges in dense diverse assemblages often adhere tightly to sponges of other species. These intimate associations enhance growth and survivorship of particular sponges because each sponge species resists different environmental hazards.

BAMBI

Thu, Aug 19, Bambi speaker will be Silvia P. Bermeji G., Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, at 7:30pm.

Ecofisiología de Plántulas de Ephyllum phyllanthus en la Isla de Barro Colorado

Please arrange transportation with Vielka Liao, BCI.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Blinda McClellan, University of Texas at Austin, Aug 14-21, to conduct a study on the neural tuning and laryngeal morphology in 3 species of neotropical frogs, at Gamboa.
- Steffanie Rottenberg, Julius-von-Sachs Institut fuer Biowissenschaften, Germany, Aug 15-15 Nov, to work with W. Beyschlag in a study on the influence of leaf cutting ants on light interception and canopy photosynthesis in crowns of tropical trees, on BCI.
- Gaetan Lefebre, Université de Montréal, Canada, Aug 16-Jul 1995, to conduct a study on the spation and temporal behavior of migrant warblers, at Gamboa.



Herpetologist Carlos Pérez Santos of the Nature Sciences Museum at Spain presented A. Stanley Rand with the manuscript of his book "Serpientes de Panamá (Snakes of Panama), after an introduction of the book, to the STRI community, on Tuesday, Aug 3 ••• Carlos Pérez Santos, herpetólogo del Museo de Ciencias Naturales en España, hizo entrega del manuscrito de su libro "Serpientes de Panamá" a A. Stanley Rand, luego de hacer una presentación del libro, a la comunidad de STRI el martes 3 de agosto.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Brigitte Poulin, Université de Montréal, Canada, to conduct a study on the phenology and temporal feeding patterns of frugivorous and nectarivorous passerine birds, at Gamboa.

Departure

- Leonor Motta, Aug 18-18 Sep, to Washington D.C. on official business at SI, then to Charlottesville, VA, to attend a training course.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Travel Requests Reminder

The Visitors Service Office reminds all STRI staff that the deadline for submitting FY94 travel requests was August 9. Since many requests are still pending, please submit them as soon as possible if you wish to have the requests included.

New Address for Madeleine Jacobs

Starting Aug 16, Madeleine Jacobs can be reached at the American Chemical Society in Washington D.C. at (202) 872-6310. The address is 1155 16th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20036.

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá**At Tupper Center**

- Tue, Aug 17 ■ *Seminario Taller, Fundación Natura, Conference Hall, 8am.*
 ■ *Noon seminar by Janie Wulff, Auditorium.*
- Wed, Aug 18 ■ *Tupper Committee Meeting, Small Meeting Room, 9am.*
- Thu, Aug 19 ■ *Seminario Taller, Fundación Natura, Conference Hall, 8am.*

At the Culebra Marine Biological Reserve

- Tue, Aug 17 *Instituto Comercial Panamá, 8:30-11:30am.*
 Wed, Aug 18 *Instituto Comercial Panamá, 8:30-11:30am.*
 Thu, Aug 19 *Instituto Comercial Panamá, 8:30-11:30am.*
 Fri, Aug 20 *Ganadores del Concurso Parque Nacional Chagres para niños de 6-12 años, organizado por INRENARE.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Global Biodiversity Forum**

—IUCN Headquarters, Gland Switzerland—
 October 7-9, 1993

Call for Papers: A consortium of organizations including the World Conservation Union (WCU), The World Resources Institute (WRI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Center for Technology (ACTS), the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is organizing the *Global Biodiversity Forum* to be hosted by the IUCN at their headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, October 7-9 1993, immediately prior to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held in Geneva, October 11-15. The Global Biodiversity Forum is designed to provide an independent open process to foster analysis and dialogue to address key ecological, economic, institutional and social issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The October 1993 Forum, envisioned as the first in an ongoing series of meetings in different parts of the world and focussing on a variety of tropics, is the realization of a key recommendation in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP *Global Biodiversity Strategy* 1992. The Forum will focus on tools and methods for implementing the Convention on Biodiversity and one full day will be devoted to each of the following topics: a) Broadening Participation in Implementing the Biodiversity Convention; b) Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources: Technical, Social and Institutional Issues; c) Incorporating Biodiversity in a Public Policy and Law. For those interested in presenting research

papers, send abstracts of 300 words and curriculum vitae of the author(s) to Patrick Kurani before Aug 21, to be considered. The abstracts will be reviewed and those selected will be notified by Sep 1. The deadline for receipt of final papers of 5,000-10,000 words in length is Sep 21. These will be published and distributed worldwide. Travel and accommodation support is available for a limited number of participants selected to present papers, based on need, with preference given to presenters from developing countries. Abstract should be sent to: Patrick Kurani, Global Biodiversity Forum Call for Papers Coordinator, World Resources Institute, 1709 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006. USA Fax: (202)-638-0036.

New Head of U.N. Development Programme

James Gustave Speth was confirmed by the UN General Assembly as the new administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) following his nomination by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali. Speth replaced William H. Draper III, who was appointed as Administrator in 1986 and resigned on July 15. Speth founded the World Resources Institute in 1982 and served as its president until January 1993. He was a senior advisor to President Clinton's transition team, heading the group that examined the U.S. role in natural resources, energy and the environment. After his appointment as administrator, Speth said that "We can begin by putting our full weight behind a new model of development, one where the benefits of economic growth are distributed equitably, where resources are sustained for future production and where people are empowered to participate in the economy and the decisions that affect their lives."

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**Mpala Research Center**

Likipia Plateau, Kenya

Africa, the cradle of human evolution, is at a critical juncture. The increasing interaction among wildlife, livestock and humans on this fragile land is jeopardizing the entire ecosystem. Developing innovative scientific research and educating a new generation of skilled conservationists to manage and protect this ecosystem represents hope for the future of Kenya—and the world. Launched in 1992 by a unique collaboration of five leading Kenyan and U.S. institutions, Mpala Research Center in Kenya provides such hope. Scientists at Mpala collaborate with colleagues elsewhere in Africa to use and establish standardized research protocols. Findings of the Center's work will be available to

conservation and resource management organizations worldwide, through the coordinating efforts of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The Mpala Research Center offers exceptional educational opportunities. A top priority is training young scientists in ecology, evolution, conservation biology, natural resource management and related disciplines. Mpala is open to scientists at all levels starting in college, and from all regions of the world. Princeton University conducts regular field courses at Mpala for graduate and undergraduate students. These courses, open to students from Kenya and other developing countries, provide critical "hands on" experience. Mpala also supports graduate students from developing countries via fellowships to study at Princeton and other U.S. universities and do fieldwork at Mpala. To learn more about Mpala Research Center, please write or call: Lucy Dorick, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, 900 Jefferson Drive, Suite 2207, Washington D.C. 20560, Tel. (202) 786-2817; Fax (202) 786-2819.



Argelia Ruiz Guevara de la Oficina de Educación y Conservación de STRI, explica el proceso de anidación y eclosión de los huevos de las tortugas, utilizando una imitación de una tortuga recién emergida del nido, en Cayo Zapatilla, Bocas del Toro.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Augspurger, Carol K. and Kitajima, Kaoru. 1992. "Experimental Studies of Seedling Recruitment from Contrasting Seed Distributions." *Ecology* 73(4): 1270-1284.
- Coley, Phyllis D., Kursar, Thomas A. and Machado, Jose Luis. 1993. "Colonization of Tropical Rain Forest Leaves by *Epiphyllis*: Effects of Site and Host Plant Leaf Lifetime." *Ecology* 74(2): 619-623.
- DeVries, Philip J. 1992. "Singing Caterpillars, Ants and Symbiosis." *Scientific American* 267(4): 76-82.
- Guzmán, Héctor M. and Cortés, Jorge. 1992. "Cocos Island (Pacific of Costa Rica) Coral Reefs after the 1982-83 El Niño Disturbance." *Revista de Biología Tropical* 40(3): 309-324.
- Kursar, Thomas A. and Coley, Phyllis D. 1993. "Photosynthetic Induction Times in Shade-Tolerant Species with Long and Short-Lived Leaves." *Oecologia* 93: 165-170.

ACTIVIDADES DE EDUCACION

La Conservación de la Naturaleza Mediante la Educación: el Programa de Educación Ambiental Formal para las Islas de Bocas del Toro

por María Majela Brenes P.

(enviado para su publicación en el Panamá América)



Las islas de Bocas del Toro se destacan a nivel mundial por su biodiversidad. Cada isla es particular en cuanto a su flora y su fauna, y los estudios científicos revelan que su formación es relativamente reciente, unos 10,000 años, producto del deshielo de la última glaciación. A pesar de estar cerca de la costa, las plantas y los animales de estas islas se desarrollaron independientemente de los de tierra firme, evolucionando con características propias y formando nuevas variedades que constituyen un tesoro biológico que es imperante conservar.

Las islas poseen también una gran diversidad cultural debido a los diferentes grupos étnicos que las pueblan: indígenas ngóbe, teribes, afroantillanos, colonos santeños y chiricanos. Cada uno de estos grupos practican actividades que ejercen presión sobre los recursos naturales y que provocan cambios que están afectando este tesoro biológico.

Para enfrentar este proceso, en 1991 se constituyó un grupo de trabajo con la finalidad de desarrollar un proyecto que brindase alternativas y promoviera el uso sustentable y la conservación de los

recursos naturales de las islas. El grupo está constituido por el Ministerio de Educación, INRENARE, organizaciones no gubernamentales de Panamá y de Bocas del Toro y el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales.

Como primer esfuerzo del grupo se decidió desarrollar un proyecto de Educación Ambiental Formal y poner en práctica en las Islas de Bocas del Toro la Ley 10 de 1992, que hace necesario incluir la enseñanza de la educación ambiental en los planes de estudio. Un equipo multidisciplinario trabajó en la elaboración del proyecto, con el apoyo de la entidad conservacionista "Wildlife Conservation International".

La propuesta de educación ambiental es hoy una realidad. Del lunes 26 al viernes 30 de julio, se dictó el primer seminario de capacitación en Educación Ambiental Formal con la participación de 21 maestros de primaria y supervisores de las islas y áreas costeras de Bocas del Toro. El objetivo del seminario ha sido familiarizar a los docentes con la realidad ambiental de las islas y áreas costeras de Bocas para incentivar el manejo sustentable de sus recursos naturales. Se llevó a cabo en el Centro de Educación Ambiental de ANCON en Isla Colón y se complementó con giras al campo utilizando la propia naturaleza como aula de clases.

El seminario fue dictado por instructores del departamento de Educación Ambiental del Ministerio de Educación, del departamento de Ecología Humana del INRENARE y personal científico y de la Oficina de Educación y Conservación del Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales.

Con este seminario se dio inicio a la primera fase de un ambicioso proyecto de 5 años de duración cuya meta es elaborar materiales educativos adaptados a los problemas ambientales y a la diversidad cultural de Bocas del Toro. El Programa de Extensión Educativa de la Institución Smithsonian de Washington, por medio de la Oficina de Educación del Instituto Smithsonian en Panamá, aportó los fondos iniciales para la primera fase del proyecto. Se espera poder continuar las fases siguientes con aportes nacionales e internacionales, ya que el patrimonio natural de Bocas del Toro debe ser causa de orgullo y preocupación de todos los panameños.

Este proyecto también responde a la idea expresada por el conservacionista de Senegal, Baba Dioum: "sólo conservamos lo que amamos, sólo amamos lo que conocemos y sólo conocemos lo que nos enseñan."

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Missouri Botanical Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden is seeking qualified applicants for the position of assistant curator. The selected candidate will work with local botanists in Central Africa to conduct botanical inventories, often in difficult conditions. Advise and assist staff of local herbaria to organize collecting expeditions, improve herbarium techniques, and conduct research in plant systematics. Train and supervise local botanists. Write progress reports. Collaborate with other local and foreign botanists. Position based in Central Africa. Preferred qualifications include a Ph.D. in systematic botany or related field. Up to seven years specialized experience in the tropics. Ability to prepare proposals and obtain grants from outside funding agencies. Good command of French language required. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. However, interested individuals with the specified position qualifications should apply immediately and submit a resume and three references to: Assistant Curator #47-F21.E, Missouri Botanical Garden, Human Resource Management, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. The MBG is an equal opportunity employer.

Consejo Mundial de Manejo Forestal

El Consejo Mundial Forestal, FSC, será establecido de manera oficial a finales del presente año. El Comité Directivo Interino, que ha conducido este proceso de constitución, invita a quienes se encuentren interesados en presentar su colaboración como Director Ejecutivo del Consejo, a presentar su candidatura (hasta el 20 de septiembre) y enviar su curriculum vitae a: Jamie Ervin, Forest Stewardship Council, R.R. 1, Box 188, Richomond, Vermont 05477, U.S.A. Tel (802) 424-3101 Fax: (802) 434-3171. La persona quien asuma esta posición debe tener buen conocimiento en el campo y experiencia en administración de organismos con responsabilidades internacionales. El director ejecutivo deberá tener facilidad de expresarse en forma oral y escrita y ser bilingüe. (español e inglés). El candidato deberá trabajar tiempo completo y deberá elaborar el plan de trabajo para el Consejo, que deberá ser aprobado por el Director. Coordina: Fundación Natura del Ecuador.

Enberá Baskets and Carvings

Open house Saturday morning (when the artisans arrive) at Lizzie Leigh's in Gamboa. Or call Lizzie at 56-6331 to confirm when she will be at home.