

STRI newsletter

April 15, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 15

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, April 19.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Richard Hanlin, University of Georgia, Apr 19-29, to conduct taxonomic studies of tropical ascomycetes, on BCI.
- Anna Martin and Nancy Johnson, from the Office of the SI Under-Secretary, Apr 17-21, to visit STRI facilities.

Departures

- A. Stanley Rand, Apr 19-26, to Austin, TX, to consult with colleagues about frog research.
- Richard Cooke, Apr 20-24, to Anaheim, CA, to attend the meetings of the Society for American Archaeology.

Welcome Back! ••• ¡Bienvenidos!

The STRI community gives a warm welcome to Paul Colinvaux and Llewellya Hillis. We are glad to have them back ••• *La comunidad de STRI desea darle una cordial bienvenida a Paul Colinvaux y Llewellya Hillis. Nos alegramos de tenerlos de vuelta en casa.*

THINGS TO KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Apr 19 ■ Myers Briggs Type Indicator Session, Part 1, LMR, 8am.
- Thu, Apr 21 ■ Myers Briggs Type Indicator Session, Part 2, LMR, 8am.
- Slide Show for Ecotours, Auditorium, 3pm.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue - Fri Curundu Elementary School
- Apr 19-22
- Fri, Apr 22 Earthday special event for all STRI employees, 2-5pm
- Sat, Apr 23 The Tiger Cubs (Scouts)



The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's new research vessel, the *Urracá* has arrived in Panama. The R/V *Urracá* is a 96' x 22' x 8' (30 x 6.8 x 2.5 m) general purpose research vessel, equipped with a laboratory, dark-room, SCUBA diving equipment, boats and the latest communications and navigation equipment. Built in England in 1987, the *Urracá* can accommodate scientific parties of up to ten in comfort and has a crew of five. *Urracá's* special fiberglass hull, designed to be extremely strong, is corrosion proof, this will considerably reduce her maintenance costs. Her main propulsion is from a single 12 cylinder diesel engine which drives a variable pitch propeller, this very fuel-efficient system contributes to giving her a long range of up to 5,000 miles. Her maneuverability is enhanced by a bow-thruster. The R/V *Urracá* was recently acquired by STRI to replace the R/V *Benjamin*, which was retired 18 months ago. *Urracá's* arrival will permit STRI's marine scientists to continue their work on both sides of the Panamanian isthmus. However, *Urracá's* superior size capabilities and range will give them the opportunity of working much farther afield, with larger and more sophisticated equipment. Her first scheduled scientific cruise will be to take Eldredge Bermingham and his party to the San Blas region for biological collections in the rivers of the area for molecular evolution studies. Other cruises are still at the planning stage, including one to the Cape Verde Islands in the mid-Atlantic in 1995, and another to the Gulf of California in 1996. Although *Urracá* is primarily a facility for access to marine study sites, she is also ideal for access to remote areas for terrestrial research.

STRI recently became a member of the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS). UNOLS is the group responsible for setting the standards and coordinating schedules for the

U.S. federally funded academic research fleet, *Urracá* will be operated to UNOLS specifications and rules. In addition to STRI affiliated scientist *Urracá* will be available to any other research groups in or outside the Smithsonian and through UNOLS mechanisms any scientist with Federal grants can apply to use the *Urracá*, and have vessel operating cost charged directly to their funding agency without these costs appearing in the individual grant budget. **ADSSS news**

STRI Equipment Inventory

During the months of April and May accountable officers at all facilities will continue with the physical inventory of all STRI equipment. If personnel are not present in their offices at the time of the inventory, accountable officers will proceed with this yearly process. Equipment that has been moved to another location will be investigated later. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Please notify accountable officers at your facility when lending equipment to a co-worker or moving it from its original place, in writing. Follow the same procedure when sending equipment out for repair ••• *Favor de notificar a los encargados de inventario de su instalación de trabajo cuando mueve equipo de su sitio original, o cuando lo presta a un compañero de trabajo, por escrito. Haga lo mismo cuando mande a repararlo fuera de las instalaciones de STRI.*

For Tupper Residents

Para los Usuarios del Tupper

The Tupper Laboratory Building is being presently painted. Please be careful with the walls on the halls and stairways. Those who suffer from special reactions to paint fumes, please take the necessary precautions. We apologize for the inconveniences ••• *Los pasillos y las paredes de las escaleras del edificio de laboratorios de Tupper se están pintando. Favor de no tocar las paredes recién pintadas. Aquellos que sufran de reacciones especiales por los vapores de la pintura, favor de tomar las precauciones necesarias. Agradecemos su comprensión a cualquier inconveniente.*

Reminder from Personnel

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator sessions will take place on Tuesday, Apr 19 from 8-10am and Thursday, Apr 21, from 8am-12 noon.

Main Cashier Reminder

As was established last year the schedule of duties of the main cashier, America Staff, at the Tivoli administrative offices is the following:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8am-12pm | To make reimbursements, receive collections, give cash advances, and stamp checks from AFCU, Pentagon and other American banks. |
| & | |
| 1pm-2pm | |
| 2pm-4pm | Closed to users, to balance STRI petty cash, enter data, and prepare accounting reports. |
| 4pm-4:45pm | To receive cash advances from messengers, and special transactions that could not be made from 8am to 2pm. |

Special cases may only be approved by Carlos Urbina, Accounting Officer.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

3-Year Postdoctoral Fellowship

STRI invites applications for a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship for research based at one of the Institute's facilities. Disciplines may include ecology, anthropology, paleontology, evolution, behavior and physiology of tropical plants or animals. Proposals that include comparative research in other tropical countries will be considered.

Applications should include a research proposal (less than 10 pages), curriculum vitae, two letters of reference, names and telephone numbers of three additional references and reprints of most important papers. Annual beginning stipend is \$28,000 with yearly travel and research allotments. Send application by June 1, 1994, to:

Tropical Research Fellow, STRI
Unit 0948, APO AA 34002-0948
Tel. (507)27-6022 • Fax (507)32-5978
E-Mail STREM015@SIVM.SLEU

*Smithsonian
Tropical Research
Institute*

Postdoctoral Research Associate*Tropical Forest Regeneration*

A postdoctoral position is available beginning 1 July, 1994, to investigate seedling establishment, growth, microenvironmental conditions and ecophysiology in young secondary forests in the vicinity of La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica for 1-2 years. The postdoctoral associate will work in collaboration with co-P.I.'s Robin Chazdon and Julie Denslow, to supervise in primary, secondary, and selectively-logged stands. Spanish necessary, and, preferably, tropical research experience. Application deadline is May 1. To apply, please submit a cover letter, c.v., and list of 3 references to: Dr. Robin L. Chazdon, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-3042. Tel. (203) 486-4057 • Fax (203)486-4320 • E-mail Chazdon@UCONNVM.UCONN.EDU



University of Panama and other local institutions took part in the 1994 STRI-U of Panama "Introduction to Field Biology Course" held at Gigante from Apr 9-18. In the photo are the students with course coordinators, Greg Gilbert, Milton Garcia and Beth King, and instructors who were at Gigante on Apr 11: Héctor Barrios, Humberto Garcés, Sandra Patiño, Don Windsor and Gerhard Zotz. (Photo: M.A. Guerra)

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Library Catalog in CD Rom**

The SIL announce the edition of the entire libraries catalog up to June, 1993 on a CD Rom format, with over 400,000 references. This back-up to the STRI Library Catalog will enable users to consult the catalog when the on-line catalog is down. In the near future, this catalog will be available for BCI and Naos. If an individual is interested in purchasing the catalog, it is available from GK Hall for \$995.00. Updates will be sold for \$450. It comes with user-friendly instructions, and searches can be saved and downloaded to a floppy or hard disk. For more information, please consult Vielka Chang-Yau, at the STRI Library.

POSITION AVAILABLE**Education Technician**

The selected candidate will provide technical and specialized support to the fellowship, internship, volunteer and educational programs at STRI. This requires ability to answer correspondence in English and Spanish, make drafts of translations, and miscellaneous OEC documents, maintain office files, and follow up matters and problems related to fellows and interns. Requirements: Bilingual (Spanish/English

ish-English), good communication skills, knowledge about STRI activities and programs, knowledge of PC's and word processors, particularly Word-Perfect. This is a permanent position, funded by private funds of the institution. Salary \$16,393 per year (IS-4). Bring C.V. with recent references addressed to Education Technician, Office of Human Resources, STRI, no later than Friday, April 22, 1994. ••• *La persona seleccionada deberá proporcionar apoyo técnico y especializado a los programas de becas, internados, voluntarios y otros, relacionados con educación. Esto requiere capacidad para redactar correspondencia en español e inglés, hacer borradores de traducciones, preparar propuestas e informes de la Oficina de Educación, mantener un sistema de archivos y darle seguimiento a los problemas y asuntos de los becarios e internos. Requisitos: Bilingüe (español/inglés), habilidad para comunicarse, conocimientos sobre las actividades de STRI. Conocimiento de PC y Word Perfect 5.1. Posición permanente, de tiempo completo, de fondos privados. Salario \$16,393 anual (IS-4). Traer curriculum vitae con referencias recientes dirigido a Education Technician, Oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tívoli, a más tardar el viernes 22 de mayo.*


MISCELLANEOUS**4x4 Pick-Up Needed ••• Se Necesita Pick-up de Doble Tracción**

Eladio González, gamewarden at BCI needs to buy a 4x4 pick-up in good conditions for no more than \$4,500. Please leave message at 52-1022 ••• Eladio González, de BCI desea comprar un "pick-up" de doble tracción en buenas condiciones que no pase de \$4,500. Favor de dejar mensaje en el Tel. 52-1022.



NEW STRI BOOKLIST

- Agenda ecológica y social para Bocas del Toro / editado por Stanley Heckadon Moreno. S934.P2A26 1993 STRI.
- Biosédimentologie du Grand Lagon Nord de la Nouvelle-Calédonie / GB2201.S3C52 1992 STRI.
- Dry coastal ecosystems / edited by Eddy van der Maarel. QH541.5.C65D79 1993 STRI.
- Estudio de balance hídrico mensual para la provincia de Chiriquí / preparado por Aristides Lorlesse Gómez y César Castillo. Ref S594.L87 1992 STRI.
- Ethology of the endangered black-footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) / by BJ Miller & H. Anderson. QL737.C25M64 1993 STRI.
- The Evolution of defense in a neotropical shrub / by Cynthia Louise Sagers. QK495.R85S22 1993 STRI.
- The Mangoes: their botany, nomenclature, horticulture and utilization / AJGH Kostermans & J-M Bompard. SB379.M2K86 1993 STRI.
- Manual para la interpretación ambiental en áreas silvestres protegidas / preparado por Jorge Morales Miranda. SD414.S63M82 1992 STRI.
- Phylogenetic and biochemical perspectives / PW Hochachka & TP Mommsen, editors. QP514.2.P479 1991X STRI.
- Die Tropische pflanzenwelt Sudamerikas-Fakten und eindrucke / Wilfried Morawetz. QK241.M83 1993 STRI.
- Use of hemispherical photographs in forest ecology / PL Mitchell & TC Whitmore. QC912.M682 1993 STRI.
- The Vanda reference book: consisting of Sanders one-table hybrid list complete through 1990 and AOS awarded plants with Vanda in their background complete through 1991 / compiled by the American Orchid Society's Department of Information Services. Ref SB409.8.V35A512 1992 STRI.
- Vocal communication in the timber wolf, *Canis lupus*, Linnaeus: structure, motivation, and ontogeny / RM Schassburger. QL737.C22S311 1993 STRI.
- Zapotec struggles: histories, politics, and representations from Juchitán, Oaxaca. F1221.Z3Z36 1993X STRI.
- New Journal
Ciencias de la Tierra y del Espacio (Academia de Ciencias de Cuba), Año 1992, 19, 20.

STRI's Earthday Celebration at Culebra



Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day worldwide. The Office of Education, with the support of the Director's Office, is planning to celebrate it by having a special event at Culebra for all STRI employees. We encourage all supervisors to allow everybody to participate and join us and learn about Panama's marine environments, resources, beauties, and participate in a beach clean-up in honor of Earth Day. Don't miss it!

El viernes 22 de abril se celebra el Día de la Tierra en todo el mundo. La Oficina de Educación, con el apoyo de la Oficina del Director, está organizando un evento para celebrar el Día de la Tierra para todos los empleados. Pedimos a todos los supervisores a que permitan a todos a participar y unirse a nosotros para aprender sobre los ambientes marinos de Panamá, sus recursos y bellezas, y participar en una limpieza de la playita de Culebra en honor del Día de la Tierra. ¡No se lo pierda!

