

STRI newsletter

June 16, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 24



Director Ira Rubinoff welcomed the participants of the United Nations Environmental Program's "Global Biodiversity Assessment Workshop" held at the Tupper Center this past week, on Monday, Jun 12 ••• Ira Rubinoff (derecha) dió palabras de bienvenida a los participantes del "Congreso sobre Evaluación de la Biodiversidad Global" del Programa Ambiental de las Naciones Unidas, llevado a cabo en el Centro Tupper durante esta última semana en el Centro Tupper, el lunes 12 de junio.

(Fotos: M.A. Guerra)

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Jun 20, noon seminar speaker will be Richard Cooke, STRI. *Excavations at Cerro Juan Diaz, a Precolumbian village on the Bay of Parita, Panama: Report on field work undertaken in 1992-1995 with comments on its relevance to the study of Precolumbian social complexity*

Abstract

Since 1992, I have been supervising excavations at Cerro Juan Diaz, a large Precolumbian village located at the mouth of the La Villa, on the southern edge of Parita Bay (Central Pacific Panama). This research is a joint project sponsored by the National Institute of Culture, Panama, the Smithsonian Institution, STRI, and the National Geographic Society. Archaeologists in charge are Luis Alberto Sanchez, Ilean Isaza, and Aguilaro Perez. I shall present a summary of research results to date. The first part of the talk will describe the most important features at the site, which consist of both domestic and funerary contexts. These correspond to three periods: AD 400-650; ca AD 800; and the contact period. In the second part, I will speculate about the relevance of Cerro Juan Diaz to the study of Precolumbian social complexity in tropical lowland America, emphasizing the impact of trade in exotic marine shells and metalwork upon social organization.

BAMBI SEMINAR

Thu, Jun 22, Bambi seminar speaker will be Ola Fincke, University of Oklahoma, 7:30pm, Barro Colorado Island
Obligate Siblicide and Population Regulation in a Treehole Damsel fly
Transportation and dinner reservations are essential.

NAOS LAB LUNCHEON

Fri, Jun 23, Naos Marine Lab Luncheon seminar speaker will be Bailey Kessing, STRI
Sequencer 3.0 version xyz

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Wayne Sousa, Betsy Mitchell, Daniel Hahn, Ausan Hammond and Ron Chisenhall, University of California, Jun 19-30 Sep, to conduct a study on the light gap regeneration in a Caribbean mangrove forest, at Galeta.



Eric Amado González rests on shoulders of one of his sisters looking at himself in a poster produced at STRI, that helped to collect the money for a kidney transplant. Eric will travel to Cali, Colombia on Mon, Jun 19, where he will receive the transplant at the Hospital Universitario del Valle ••• Eric Amado González, sobre los hombros de una de sus hermanas se mira a sí mismo en un "poster" producido en STRI, que ayudó a recoger fondos para su trasplante de riñón. Eric viajará a Cali, Colombia, el lunes 19 de junio donde se realizará la operación, en el Hospital Universitario del Valle.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Michael Allen, University of California, Jun 21-15 Sep, to work with Robert Percy in his integrative studies of photosynthesis and whole plant performance in the understory, on BCI.
- Barney Schlinger and Fritz Hertel, University of California, Jun 22-9 Jul, to study the neural basis for a sexually dimorphic behavior, at Gamboa.

Departures

- Jeremy Jackson, Jun 21-23, to Washington D.C., on official business at SL.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Jun 20 ■ Noon seminar by Richard Cooke, Auditorium
- Wed, Jun 21 ■ Communications System Committee Meeting, Small Meeting Room, 10am
- Fri, Jun 23 ■ Fellowships Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 1:30pm

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Jun 20 *Colegio Bilingüe Jesús de Praga*
- Wed, Jun 21 *Instituto Panamericano*
- Thu, Jun 22 *Air Force Spouses*
- Fri, Jun 23 *Instituto Panamericano*
- Sat, Jun 24 *Instituto Italiano Enrico Fermi*
- Sun, Jun 25 *Universidad Santa María La Antigua*

At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Jun 17 *Colegio Pedro Pablo Sánchez, La Chorrera, and Grupo Conservacionista de Penonomé*
- Sun, Jun 18 *University of Columbus medical students*
- Sat, Jun 24 *Biology students from the University of Panama and Instituto Bolívar*
- Sun, Jun 25 *Grupo Conservacionista del Colegio José Ramón Cantera*

NEW FELLOWS AT STRI

SI Molecular Evolution Fellow

- Stephen Rehner, USDA Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory: *Molecular Phylogenetic Analysis of Attine fungi and Neotropical Leptotaceae.*

SI Senior Postdoctoral Fellow

- John Werren, University of Rochester: *Parthenogeneses and Incompatibility Microorganisms in Neotropical Insects.*

SI Predoctoral Fellows

- Nigel Asquith, Duke University: *Abiotic and Biotic Control of Tree Regeneration: An Experimental Comparison of Sites Around Gatun Lake, Panama.*
- Andrew Baker, University of Miami: *Symbiotic Ecology of Reef-Building Corals Along the Pacific Coast of Panama.*
- Mairi Best, University of Chicago: *Taphonomy of Tropical Molluscan assemblages: Comparative of Carbonate and Siliciclastic Marine Environments of the San Blas Archipelago, Caribbean Coast of Panama.*
- Roland Kays, University of Tennessee: *Ecological Influences of Social Structure: A Study of Two Primate-Like Carnivores.*

- Jeanne Zeh, Rice University, Houston: Female Promiscuity Meets Genomic Anarchy in the Hybrid Zone.

SI 10-Week Fellows

- Heidi Banford, College of William and Mary, VA: *Historical Zoogeography of Scomberomorus (Teleostei: Scombridae) from the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific: A Molecular Approach.*
- David Chalcraft, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: *Predation of Lizard Eggs by Ants: Interaction Modifications in an Unstable Physical Environment.*
- Deborah Olander, University of Missouri, St. Louis: *Late Second Growth Forest Light Environments: Implications for Forest Regeneration.*

Earl S. Tupper 3-Year Postdoctoral Fellow

- Ulrich Mueller, Neurobiology and Behavior Department, Cornell University: *The Evolution and Ecology of the Attine Fungus Symbiosis (Attini: Formicidae)*

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Piperno, Dolores R. 1995. "Plant Microfossils and their Application in the New World Tropics." In: *Archaeology in the Lowland American Tropics*: 130-153, edited by Peter W. Stahl. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Radetsky, Peter. 1995. "Gut". *Discover* 1995(May): 76-81.
- Romero, Luz María. 1995. "Gira al Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales e Isla de Barro Colorado." *Rothschildia* 2(1): 18
- Seutin, Gilles, Franz Lang, B., Mindell, David P. and Morais, Réjean. 1994. "Evolution of the WANCY Region in amniote Mitochondrial DNA." *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 11(3): 329-340.

Recorderis

Hay un número plural de copias de la nueva revista *Camptur Guide* para aquellos interesados en publicar artículos de interés para el ecoturismo en Panamá en la oficina 340 del Centro Tupper.



On Thursday, Jun 8, Rainer Wirth, from the Julius-von-Sachs Institut fuer Biowissenschaften, Germany, gave a Bambi seminar at BCI, on the influence of leaf-cutter ants on the canopy of the tropical forests. Wirth is working with Wolfram Beyschlag, B. Holldobler, Alexandra Weigelt and Jurger Berger from the same Institute, on this project ••• El jueves 8 de junio, Rainer Wirth, del Instituto "Julius-von-Sachs fuer Biowissenschaften", Alemania, dictó un seminario Bambi en Barro Colorado sobre la influencia de las hormigas que se comen las hojas del dosel del bosque tropical. Wirth trabaja con W. Beyschlag, B. Holldobler, A. Weigelt y J. Berger del mismo instituto alemán, en este proyecto.

(Photo: M.A. Guerra)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Texas College —Panama

The Central Texas College —offering associates degrees throughout the world— will now offer courses on Fort Clayton, Fort Kobbe, Panama, and Howard AFB. The Central Texas College is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees and certificates of completion in a wide variety of programs. Academic classes will begin August 14, 1995. Registration begins August 1. Interested most contact Peter Hershfield, site director, at 287-3773, for more information on courses and how and when to register. Also, for STRI, the Central Texas College offers the opportunity to teach at the college level. They need qualified college level instructors for courses after working hours with M.A./M.S's in Philosophy, Psychology, English, Mathematics, Criminology, Sciences, Economy, History, and Government Speech. Their office is located at Fort Clayton Education Center, Building 128, 3rd. Floor, Room 304.

At the Office of Education

You find information on courses, congresses, fellowships, internships, etc., that is impossible to publish in the Newsletter due to the lack of space. Some of that information concerns:

- ITC Workshop: Information Management for Natural Resource Development 1996
- VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciencias del Mar, Octubre de 1995
- Curso Intensivo de Campo *Ecología Tropical y Conservación* 96-2 de la OET, San José, Costa Rica
- VI Congreso Nacional de Botánica: Primer Simposio Internacional de Flora Peruana "Dr. Alwyn Howard Gentry"... and more

Gamboa Museum Shop

The Gamboa Museum Shop is open Saturdays and Sundays from 3:30-5pm with Waunaan and Embera baskets and carvings (tagua and cocobolo) you can buy directly from the makers. It is located in Building 65, the Audubon room, under the theater, by the post office.

Seventy five specialists from around the world gathered at the Tupper Center Corotú Plaza for the official group photograph of the UNEP's Global Biodiversity Assessment Workshop, held at STRI from Mon, Jun 12 through Fri, Jun 16. The objective of this congress was to examine the Phase II drafts of 13 different sections of this assessment, as well as the drafts of its executive summary and the summary for policy makers ••• Setenta y cinco especialistas de todo el mundo se reunieron en la Plaza Corotú del Centro Tupper para la foto oficial del Congreso sobre la Evaluación de la Biodiversidad Global del Programa Ambiental de las Naciones Unidas, que tuvo lugar en STRI, esta última semana. El objetivo del congreso fue el de examinar la Fase II de borradores de documentos de esta evaluación, incluyendo su sumario ejecutivo y el del sumario para quienes establecen políticas en países signatarios del programa.

(Foto: Cristina Arias De Roux)

MISCELLANEOUS**Lost or Misplaced? ••• ¿Perdido o Extraviado?**

A package was received in the Tupper Mail Room on April 11, 1995, addressed to Diomedes Quintero. The package contained a "line conditioner/voltage regulator". If anyone has information regarding the whereabouts of this package please call ext. 250 or 212. Thank you ••• *En Tupper se recibió y fue visto en el salón de correo un paquete dirigido a Diomedes Quintero el 11 de abril. El paquete contenía un regulador de voltage "line conditioner". Si alguien tiene alguna información sobre este paquete, se le agradecerá llamar a la extensión 250 ó 212.*

Neurobiology of Learning and Memory Journal

The STRI Library received a copy of issue no. 3, volume 63 (May 1995) of the journal *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, addressed to STRI. If someone is subscribed to this journal and hasn't receive May's issue, please contact Ricardo Beteta. Otherwise, the Library will consider it as a complimentary copy.

National Arts and Crafts Fair ••• Feria Nacional de Artesanías

The Panamanian National Arts and Crafts Fair will be open to the public until Sunday, June 18 at ATLAPA Convention Center. The Fair displays a wide variety of crafts from every region of the country ••• *Se les recuerda a todos que la Feria Nacional de Artesanías, que expone una amplia diversidad de artículos traídos de todas las provincias de Panamá, se mantendrá abierta al público hasta el domingo 18 de junio, en el Centro de Convenciones ATLAPA.*

