

STRI news

May 17, 1996

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21. If you wish to give a seminar, please contact Neal G. Smith, Tupper Center, ext. 300.

BAMBI SEMINAR



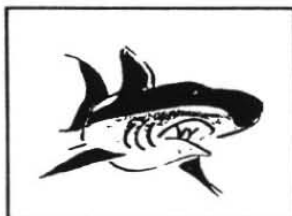
Thursday, May 16, Bambi seminar speaker will be Jan Sevenster, Leiden University, The Netherlands
The Rarity of Parasitism in a Tropical Drosophila Community

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Call BCI at 276-2124.

NAOS LABS LUNCHEON

Today, Friday May 17, Naos Marine Laboratories Luncheon seminar speaker is Michael McCartney

How reproductive Isolation Evolves in Sea Urchins: Cellular and Molecular Studies



PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Elaine Hooper, McGill University, May 18-31 Oct, to work with Catherine Potvin on studies of the natural regeneration of the tropical forest in the canal watershed, at Las Pavas.
- Liz Losos, May 19, to Panama, to accompany representatives from the Southern Company and press correspondents to learn about STRI projects.
- Stephn Yanoviak, University of Oklahoma, May 21-30 Aug, to study the ecology of animal communities in water filled tree holes on BCI.
- Nelida Gomez, Institute fuer Oharnazeutische, Biology, Braunschwcia, Germany, to conduct studies

on the host plants in the chemical defense of carsidine beetles from Panama.

- Evandro de Oliveira, University of Texas, May 20-20 Jul, to study butterfly migrations across the Caribbean Sea and Panama, at BCI.
- Jack McFarland, University of Oklahoma, May 20-1 Mar '97, to work with Ola Finke on the effects of male and female behavior of offspring survivorship in a tree-hole breeding damselfly, at BCI.
- Robert Stallard, U.S. Geological Survey, to meet with members of STRI and INRENARE Monitoring of Natural Resources in the Panama Canal Watershed Project. He is the coordinator of the "Soils and Hydrology Component".
- Elizabeth Beiring, University of Buffalo, May 21-5 Aug, to work on the fertilization success among broadcast spawning benthic invertebrates, at San Blas.
- Jerome Howard, May 21-28 Jun, to work with Walter Carson and Steve Hubbell on the project: Do mammal and insects control tropical forest diversity: a community level experimental test, on BCI and Gigante.
- Tamar Lieberman, STRI short-term fellow from the State University of New York, May 21-19 Aug, to study the host/algae selectivity during the of a gorgonian planulae (larvae) by their zooxanthellae symbionts, at San Blas.
- Cristina Campbell, University of California, May 22-22 Jun, to conduct a preliminary study of steroid hormones in fecal samples of spider monkeys *Ateles geoffroyi* on BCI.
- Scott Turner, University of California, May 22-24 Jun, to study the foraging patterns and spatial memory in three non-human primate species.
- Timothy Swain, State University of New York, May 23-19 Aug, to work with Tamar Lieberman, STRI short-term fellow, at San Blan.

Departures

- Haris Lessios, May 20-23, to Asilomar, California, to present a talk at the conference "Endless Forms: Species and Speciation."

Congratulations ••• Felicitaciones

To José and Teresa Barahona for the birth of their daughter Ana Gabriela, on May 15, at 11:03pm ••• A José y Teresa Barahona, por el nacimiento de su hija Ana Gabriela, el 15 de mayo a las 11:03pm. Pesó 6lb y 15 onzas.

Accountant Day ••• Día del Contador

by Carlos Urbina

The accounting department celebrated the Accountant Day on May 16. As supervisor, I congratulate my team for the great efforts done to support staff scientists and visitors. I came on board on 1986 and have been involved in major achievements benefiting STRI and its people, such as starting a new system in 1987, which was upgraded in 1991. Due to these changes, our auditors certified STRI as a sub-system of the Smithsonian Institution. Also, new procedures were improvised in 1988 to pay our bills in cash during the banking crisis: more than two million dollars were handled to meet the needs of personnel and vendors. Summarized reports were the result of new procedures saving time and effort to STRI and SI personnel. Decree #154 was implemented in 1994 to allow us to reimburse tax credits directly to employees. All these achievements have been possible due to the great dedication of the accounting team and the support of our superiors. I encourage all accountants to keep up their loyalty and hard work in spite of adverse circumstances. I ask you all never to be disappointed, because our efforts have never been ignore ••• *El Departamento de Contabilidad celebró el Día del Contador el 16 de mayo. Como supervisor, quiero felicitar mi equipo por los grandes esfuerzos realizados para apoyar a nuestros científicos y visitantes. Yo entré a trabajar en 1986 y he estado relacionado con muchos logros que han beneficiado a STRI y a su gente, como un nuevo sistema que empezó en 1987, mejorado en 1991. Gracias a estos cambios nuestros auditores certificaron a STRI como un sub-sistema de SI. También, en 1988 se improvisaron fórmulas para pagar nuestros compromisos en efectivo: más de dos millones de dólares se entregaron para responder a las necesidades de nuestro personal y acreedores. Se realizaron nuevos procedimientos para preparar reportes resumidos que economizaron tiempo y esfuerzos del personal de STRI y SI. El decreto 154 se ejecutó en 1994 para que el personal recibiera los créditos de sus impuestos directamente. Todos estos logros han sido posibles gracias a la gran dedicación del grupo de contadores y el apoyo de nuestros superiores. Quiero animar a todos los contadores a que mantengan su lealtad y trabajo duro a pesar de circunstancias adversas. Les pido que nunca se sientan decepcionados, ya que nuestro trabajo nunca ha sido ignorado.*

Capítulo de Honor

Magnolia Calderón y Milton García serán admitidos en el Capítulo de Honor de la Universidad Santa María La Antigua, por sus altos índices en el nuevo programa de Maestría en Ecología y Conservación. El acto de ceremonia será en el Aula Magna de la Universidad, el 22 de mayo.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

From the Visitor Services Office

As most of you know, STRI will be co-hosting the VIII Coral Reef Symposium to be held in Panama from Jun 23-29. This event involves many at STRI and the Visitor Services Office, so we need to plan ahead of this date to be able to provide our routine services.

- Official travel: Any staff member anticipating need for travel arrangements from Jun 15-Jul 15 must send this information no later than May 30.
- INRENARE permits: For INRENARE permits from Jun 15-15 Jul, please contact Maria Leone by May 30.
- Immigration: Celideth de León, from the Office of External Affairs, must be contacted regarding any immigration requirements (exit permits, paz y salvos, etc.) before June 19 if travelling from Jun 20-Jul 4.
- I.D. Cards: No I.D. cards will be processed during the week of June 23-29. New I.D.'s will be processed on Jul 2. Everyone's cooperation during this very busy time at STRI will be very much appreciated.

OPENING AT STRI

Manager, Molecular Biology Multi-Users Lab

The Office of Human Resources is accepting applications for a Manager, Molecular Biology Multi-Users Lab to work at Naos. The candidates must be responsible to insure that a laboratory is a productive research environment for scientists. The selected candidate will supervise and train users of both the lab and equipment. Will assist in planning of annual budgets, be responsible for control of funds, procurement of supplies, maintenance and service. Will also be responsible for scheduling activities in the lab in collaboration with the Assistant Director for Scientific Support Services and the Molecular Users Advisory Committee. Candidates must be bilingual, have a biology degree and experience in lab practice. This is a one-year contract, and experience in molecular techniques is desirable. The salary will be from \$16,000-18,000 per year, according to qualifications. Interested please send curriculum vitae, recent references and a letter detailing relevant past experience to the Office of Human Resources, STRI, P.O. Box 3353, Ancón, Panamá.

ANNUAL DERBY DAY PARTY ON BCI!

Derby Day on Saturday! We will have the usual races, a BBQ dinner (\$5.00). Visitors make reservations with the Visitor Services Office now!