

STRI news '99

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter • Panama Oct. 22, 1999

Tupper Seminar

Tuesday, October 26, noon seminar speaker will be John Griggs, University of Texas
Precolumbian settlement of the Caribbean Coast of Panama: New data and new hypotheses

The ability of archaeologists to fully understand the nature, chronology, and development of Precolumbian societies in Panama has been significantly impeded by large gaps in the archaeological database and conflicting models of settlement and adaptation within the Caribbean watershed. This presentation addresses these problems with field and laboratory data from recent research on the central Caribbean slopes. Issues discussed include the timing and direction of settlement, subsistence pursuits, and socioeconomic integration of Pacific and Caribbean polities.

Bambi Seminar

Thursday, October 28, Bambi seminar speaker will be Carmi Korine, STRI fellow

Asymptotic Height and a Continuum of Responses to Light

Reservations are essential. Call BCI at 272-2124.

Arrivals

- Thomas Roslin, University of Helsinki, Finland, to conduct studies of spatial population structure of tropical canopy insects.

Successful Mooring of Oceanographical Buoy

Ten minutes to 5pm on Saturday 16th the *RV Urracá* successfully moored the waverider oceanographic buoy donated by the "Institute fur Gewasserphysik" (GKSS) to STRI as part of a joint scientific program to be developed from Galeta Island, on the Caribbean entrance to the Canal. The bright yellow and red buoy with its antenna, was placed 450 meters from the lab at a depth of 15 meters. Its position will be constantly tracked by the French "Argos" satellite that monitors all scientific buoys used by GKSS to monitor oceanographic conditions globally. The signal from the buoy's radio transmitter was strong. In the near future all oceanographic parameters—wave height and frequency, direction, water temperature at different depths and turbidity will appear in the web pages of GKSS and STRI. It is the first time that such a sophisticated equipment is installed in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The *Urracá* and its crew performed flawlessly. The sea was calm and the weather sunny. The Texaco refinery was extremely helpful in allowing us the use of their private port and radio communication between ship and shore to test the buoy's signal.

The buoy was embarked quickly and secured on the *Urracá* which sailed at 2pm. By 3pm an excellent mooring location was found. The buoy was prepared, activated, lowered and moored. The German visitors, Wolfgang Rosenthal and Peter Perthun, were extremely happy with the professional performance of the *Urracá* and its crew.

I think we can all be pleased and happy that such a complex task, involving many people, skills, organizations and equipment was assembled at the right time and place to make the mission a success. It opens the way for a broader scientific cooperation program with the GKSS.

Stanley Heckadon

Presentación de Libro y CD a la Comunidad

Directivos de STRI, la Fundación Natura y el Círculo Herpetológico de Panamá presentaron a la comunidad el libro *Los anfibios del Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado, Parque Nacional Soberanía y áreas adyacentes* de Roberto Ibáñez, A. Stanley Rand y César Jaramillo, el jueves 20 de octubre en el Salón de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper. La obra está acompañada de un disco compacto con vocalizaciones de ranas y sapos, de Ibáñez, Rand y Jaramillo, de STRI, y Michael Ryan, de la Universidad de Texas. Tanto el libro como el CD fueron posibles gracias a los fondos de Fundación Natura y la Fundación Filantrópica Fidanque.

From the Director ••• Del Director

Mónica Alvarado has been designated Coordinator of Transition Issues from October 1, 1999, until further notice. She will coordinate all aspects of the STRI transition process in close cooperation with the Assistant Director for Finance,

Charla en Culebra

El domingo 24 de octubre a las 4pm, Juan Maté, de STRI, presentará una charla en el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas, abierta al público

Corales y Arrecifes de Panamá

Reminder

All government offices in Panama will close during independence festivities from Wed, Nov 3 through Fri, Nov 5. Wed, Nov 10 and Sun, Nov 28 are also holidays (check for possible celebration on Mon, Nov 8 and Mon, Nov 29). STRI celebrates the Panamanian independence day on Wed, Nov 3. Thu, Nov 11, is Veterans Day, and Thu, Nov 25, is Thanksgiving.

If you will need a permit of any kind, or "paz y salvo" to travel, please submit your requests in time ••• Todas las oficinas gubernamentales en Panamá estarán cerradas durante las fiestas de independencia desde el miércoles 3 de noviembre hasta el viernes 5 de noviembre. Los días miércoles 10 y domingo 28 de noviembre también son feriados (es posible que estas fiestas se celebren el lunes 8 y el lunes 29 de noviembre). Si usted necesita algún tipo de permiso o un "paz y salvo" para viajar, haga sus solicitudes a tiempo.

Miscellaneous

Se vende apartamento en San Francisco, cerca del Hotel Ceasar Park. Tres recámaras y dos baños, 100m2. Cinco años de construcción. Seguridad nocturna. \$63,500 negociable. Para mayor información llame a Gabriela Etchelecu al tel 226-2491 después de horas de trabajo.

Send your news for the STRI

Legal Counsel, and the Office of Human Resources. She will report directly to the Director and Deputy Director. Alvarado has been actively involved, since its inception, in STRI's transition process to implement all labor changes mandated by Panamanian law and in compliance with SI guidelines. Please give her and her transition team your fullest cooperation ••• Mónica Alvarado ha sido designada Coordinadora de Asuntos relacionados a la Transición a partir del 1ro de octubre hasta nuevo aviso. Coordinará todos los aspectos de la transición en colaboración con el Director Adjunto para Finanzas, la Consejera Legal y la Oficina de Recursos Humanos y reportará directamente al Director y Subdirector. Alvarado ha participado activamente desde el principio en el proceso de transición para poner en ejecución los cambios laborales estipulados por la ley panameña y los principios del Smithsonian. Agradeceré brinden toda su cooperación a Mónica Alvarado y a su equipo de transición.

Anthony Coates

New at the Photo-Department

Adquisición del Departamento de Fotografía

A high quality film processor was purchased at STRI for \$15,000 and set up at the Photo Department at Tupper this past week. It processes all types of negatives and slides, including black and white. The purpose of this new resource is to provide in-house service for the STRI community. It will be available for use on starting Wednesday, October 27. For more information please contact Marcos Guerra or Raineldo Urriola ••• STRI adquirió un nuevo procesador de películas de alta calidad por \$15,000, e instalado en el laboratorio de fotografía en Tupper la semana pasada. Procesa todo tipo de negativos y diapositivas, incluyendo blanco y negro. El propósito de este nuevo recurso es suministrar el servicio de revelado a la comunidad de STRI dentro del Institute. La máquina se pondrá en funcionamiento a partir del miércoles 27 de octubre. Para mayor información favor ponerse en contacto con Marcos Guerra o Raineldo Urriola.

New STRI Publications

Díaz P., Claudia P. 1999. Estudio Bioantropológico de Rasgos Mortuarios de la 'Operación 4' del Sitio Arqueológico Cerro Juan Díaz, Panamá Central. Tesis de licencitatura. Santafé de Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, Departamento de Ciencias Sociales, Departamento de Antropología.

Goldstein, Guillermo, Andrade, José Luis, Meinzer, Frederick C., Holbrook, N.Michele, Cavelier, Jaime, Jackson, P. and Celis, A. 1998. "Stem water storage and diurnal patterns of water use in tropical forest canopy trees." *Plant, Cell and Environment* 21: 397-406

Matuse, I.T., Lim, Y.a., Hattori, M., Correa, Mireya and Gupta, Mahabir P. 1999. "A search for anti-viral properties in Panamanian medicinal plants. The effects on HIV and its essential enzymes." *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 64: 15-22.

Padlock on Pipeline Road

Cerradura en el Camino del Oleoducto

A padlock will be installed at the main gate on Pipeline Road, Parque Nacional Soberanía, on Monday, October 25. The key to open the padlock is the same used before. Researchers that need a key to access the Pipeline Road can obtain one for \$5 deposit with Maria Leone, Visitor's Office. Please remember to always carry your collecting/research permit in the field, as the ANAM game wardens will request it

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at any time ••• Una nueva cerradura se instaló en la entrada principal del Camino del Oleoducto en el Parque Nacional Soberanía, el lunes 25 de octubre. La llave para abrir esta cerradura es la misma que se usaba antes. Los investigadores que necesiten llave pueden obtenerla por \$5 de depósito con María Leone, Oficina de Visitantes. Recuerden portar consigo siempre su permiso de colecta e investigación de la ANAM, ya que los guardaparques se lo pueden pedir en cualquier momento.