

Tupper Seminar

Tue, Mar 21, noon seminar speaker will be Joseph Yavitt, Cornell University
Soil processes and fine root dynamics on BCI

Bambi seminar

Thu, Mar 23, Bambi seminar speaker will be Adam Smith, STRI short-term fellow
Social flexibility in the bee Megalopta

Arrivals

Daniel Fromm, AT&T Laboratories, New Jersey, Mar 12-30, to study the phylogeny and zoogeography of Cyprinodontiform fishes in southern Central America, at Naos.

Fiammetta Santucci, post-doctoral fellow from the University of East Anglia, U.K., Mar 15 - Mar 15, 2001, to work on comparative mitochondrial DNA phylogeography of neotropical freshwater fishes, at Naos.

Stephen Hubbell, STRI's research associate from the University of Georgia, Mar 15 - Apr 8, to continue research on BCI and Gigante.

Jeffrey Brawn and Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey, Mar 15-31, to continue with monitoring project in central Panama.

Jessica Eberhard, Princeton University, Mar 15 - May 15, to participate as instructor in the Princeton semester program in Gamboa, and continue research project with Biff Birmingham, at Naos.

Michael Blum, Duke University, Mar 15 - May 2, to study the evolutionary genetics of *Heliconius erato*, at Naos.

STRI news 2000

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute



Photo: Alejandro Hernández

March 17, 2000

Mercedes Denis and Elena Lombardo greet President Mireya Moscoso during the dedication of the new Interamerican Tropical Tuna Commission laboratories in Achiotines, on Monday, February 14, Las Tablas, Los Santos province

Mercedes Denis y Elena Lombardo saludan a la Presidenta Mireya Moscoso durante la re-inauguración de los Laboratorios de la Comisión Interamericana de Atún Tropical en Achiotines, el lunes 14 de febrero en Las Tablas, Provincia de Los Santos.

Transition Update

Mary R. Tanner, SI executive officer for Administration and James B. Weilepp, SI Personnel Management specialist, visited STRI this past week, to learn about new policies adopted by the Institute concerning STRI 2000 employment system, financial and accounting procedures, and security and legal matters.

Mary R. Tanner, directora ejecutiva de SI para Administración, y James B. Weilepp, especialista de Manejo de Personal en SI, visitaron STRI durante esta semana, para ponerse al día de las nuevas políticas adoptadas por el Instituto en asuntos relacionados con el sistema laboral STRI 2000, procedimientos financieros y de contabilidad, y asuntos legales y de seguridad.

Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá

STRI staff scientist Stanley Heckadon, and Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá offered a public talk on the results of a 3-year study (1996-1999) supported by STRI, ANAM (Environment National Authority) and USAID on the state of forest cover, hydrology and soils, vertebrate and human populations in the Panama Canal watershed, on Tuesday, March 14, at the Tupper Center Auditorium. These results were recently published by Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, Roberto Ibáñez and Richard Condit in the book *La Cuenca del Canal: deforestación, urbanización y contaminación* (Panama Canal watershed: deforestation, development and pollution).

Stanley Heckadon, científico residente de STRI, y la Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá ofrecieron una conferencia abierta al público sobre los resultados de un estudio sobre bosques, aguas y suelos, y vertebrados y poblaciones humanas en la Cuenca del Canal, el lunes 14 de marzo en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper. Los resultados de este estudio —patrocinado por STRI, ANAM (Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente) y USAID (Agencia Internacional para el Desarrollo de los Estados Unidos)— fueron publicados en 1999 Heckadon, Roberto Ibáñez y Richard Condit en *La Cuenca del Canal deforestación, urbanización y contaminación*.

Andrea Gager, Princeton University, Mar 19 - 20, to study blood and intestinal parasites of Emberizine finches of Panama, in Gamboa.

Herta Westerman, University of Würzburg, Mar 21 - May 12, to study the ecophysiological research of non-vascular organisms in the tropical rainforests, on BCI and Fortuna.

Tara and Douglas Robinson, Auburn University, Mar 22 - Aug 31, to work on the avian community dynamics project with ESP, in Gamboa.

Noel Holbrook, Harvard University, Mar 23 - Apr 1, to work with Frederick Meinzer and Guillermo Goldstein's projects, on BCI and Tupper.

Departures

Héctor Guzmán, Mar 13-29, to Venezuela, to do coral drilling in Puerto La Cruz and to work on a manuscript and proposals with colleagues at the Universidad Simón Bolívar.

Egbert Leigh, Mar 18 - May 20, to the United States on a tour to several universities and institutions where he will be presenting seminars.

Fernando Santos-Granero, Mar 19 - Apr 8, to Perú, to continue reference research on the Arawak peoples of Central Perú.

Ira Rubinoff, Mar 21-24, to Washington, D.C., to attend the meeting "Biology: challenges for the new millennium".

E-mail system improvements

■ In order to improve electronic communications and minimize GroupWise delays, a new Internet Gateway will be installed to handle Internet traffic. Messages will go directly from the STRI network to the Internet. This will give us more control over the Internet traffic. The Gateway will be installed by March 31.

■ Our urgent e-mail system is not suitable for sending large attached files, such as graphs or photos. Users should use other programs such as FTP (File Transfer Protocol). OIT is configuring the servers necessary to have this kind of service available for the STRI community by April.

If you would like to use these services or if you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact Francisco Rivera or Fernando Bouche, at the Information Technology Office.

New at STRI

We welcome Wendy de Vásquez, new administrative aide at the Visitor Services Office, who started working for STRI on Monday, March 13. Wendy is an air traffic controller certified by the Federal Aviation Administration in the U.S. and the Civil Aeronautics School in Panama. Before coming to STRI, she was working at the Howard Child Development Center.

Nueva en STRI

Le damos la bienvenida a Wendy de Vásquez, nueva oficinista de la Oficina de Visitantes, quien empezó a trabajar en STRI el lunes 13 de marzo. Wendy es controladora de tráfico aéreo, certificada de Federal Aviation Administration de los Estados Unidos y la Escuela Civil Aeronáutica de Panamá. Antes de venir a trabajar a STRI, laboraba en el Centro Infantil de Desarrollo en Howard.

María Josefa Villar left STRI

Maria Josefa Villar, project manager at the ICBG, left STRI on Friday, March 10, after fourteen years with the Institute. She started at STRI in 1986 with the team of the Green Iguana project, as part of the program "Alternatives to Destructions". We wish her the best in her new career.

María Josefa Villar, coordinadora del Proyecto de Bioprospección Ecológicamente Guiada en Panamá, dejó STRI el viernes 10 de marzo después de 14 años en el Instituto. María Josefa empezó a trabajar en STRI en 1986 con el equipo del proyecto de la iguana verde, dentro del programa "Alternativas a la Destrucción". Le deseamos lo mejor en su nueva carrera.

Thank you note

Nereida Hernández and her family thanks all of those co-workers who paid their condolences to them after the recent loss of her father, Ricardo Joaquín Ying.

Agradecimiento

Nereida Hernández y su familia desea extender un agradecimiento a todos aquellos que se han acercado para demostrar su pesar ante la muerte de su padre, Ricardo Joaquín Ying.

New baby girl

Congratulations to Oris Sanjur and Cecilio Puga, for the birth of their daughter Patricia Marie, on March 4. She weighed 7lb, 4oz and measured 50cm.

Felicidades a Oris Sanjur y Cecilio Puga por el nacimiento de su hija Patricia Marie, el 4 de marzo. Pesó 7lb, 4oz y midió 50cm.

Condolences

To Nereida Hernández and her family, for the recent loss of her father, Ricardo Joaquín Ying.

Nuestro pésame a Nereida Hernández y a su familia, por la reciente pérdida de su padre, Ricardo Joaquín Ying.

Miscellaneous

Se vende auto: Volkswagen Vento 1996 motor:1,800cc, A/C, timón hidráulico, cierre central, alarma, 45,000km. Excelentes condiciones \$6,800.

Interesado favor llamar a Conrado Tapia al 260-1797, después de horas de trabajo.

Apartment for rent:: two bedroom, fully furnished, near new Marriott Hotel, \$650 per month. Interested please contact Fernando Pascal. at: 262-1686.

Se alquila apartamento: de 2 recamaras totalmente amueblado cerca del nuevo Hotel Marriott - \$650 por mes. Interesados favor de ponerse en contacto con Fernando Pascal al teléfono 262-1686