

## Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, March 18, 4pm seminar speaker will be Hubert Herz, STRI

**Cultivating your garden: Decisions on compost quality and lessons from trash heaps in leaf-cutting ants**

## Paleo-Talk

No Paleo-talk is scheduled for Wed, March 19, at the CTPA.

## Bambi seminar

Thu, Mar 20, Bambi seminar speaker will be Andy Jones, STRI

**Evolutionary ecology of gene dispersal in tropical trees**

## Colón-Talk

Thursday, March 20, Colón-Talk speaker will be Henry Stockwell, entomologist and medical doctor, with assistant Marianne Akers

**Los insectos de la provincia de Colón: "los gorgojos"**

## Arrivals

Eva Kreiss, Rikard Frederiksen, Henrik Malm and Eric Warrant from Lund University, Sweden, and Richard Berry, Australian National University, to carry out the project: "Seeing in the dark: The neural basis for enhanced visual performance in nocturnal insects," on BCI.

## Departures

Carlos Jaramillo to Bogotá, Colombia, to give training on stratigraphy, at Ares Corporation.

Nelly Flores and Maria Stapf, to attend training at the New York Botanical Garden.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

March 14, 2008

## Rotenone: an essential but demonized tool for assessing marine fish diversity

"Coral reefs, one of the most biologically diverse and important ecosystems on Earth, are experiencing unprecedented and increasing ecological decline, yet the fish faunas of such reefs and other tropical shoreline habitats remain poorly known in many areas. Rotenone, a natural substance traditionally used by subsistence fishers, is a uniquely efficient tool for sampling reef and other shore fishes for marine research. Unfortunately, such sampling is perceived as being highly destructive, and increasing prohibitions against using rotenone in many countries will soon cripple essential research on reef-fish biodiversity worldwide."

In an article authored by STRI marine biologist D. Ross Robertson and William F. Smith-Vaniz, associated with the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville, they dispel common misconceptions about the environmental effects of small-scalerotenone sampling in marine research.

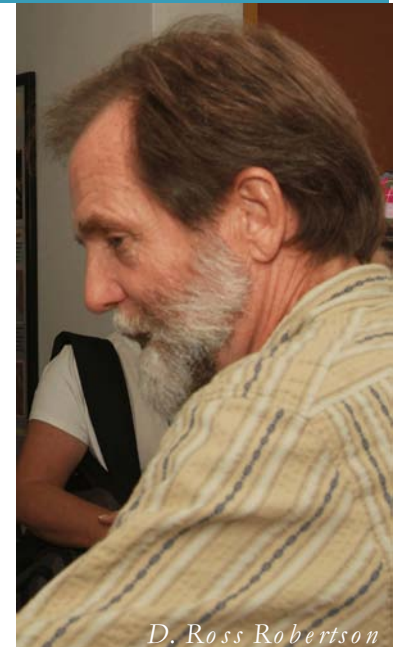
The article "Rotenone: an essential but demonized tool for assessing marine fish

diversity," was published this year in the February issue of *BioScience* 58(2): 165-170.

The article can be downloaded from <http://www.si.edu/marinescience/rotenone.htm>  
Or obtained from: [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu)

Los arrecifes coralinos, uno de los ecosistemas más diversos y biológicamente importantes de la Tierra, están experimentando una disminución cada vez mayor sin precedentes, mientras que las faunas de peces en estos arrecifes y otros hábitats de zonas costeras siguen sin conocerse en detalle. El rotenone, una sustancia natural que usan los pescadores de subsistencia, es una herramienta única y eficiente para coleccionar muestras de arrecifes y otras zonas costeras para la ciencias marinas. Desafortunadamente, este muestreo se percibe actualmente como altamente destructivo, y el aumento de las prohibiciones en contra del rotenone en muchos países pronto dejarán a las investigaciones sobre la biodiversidad sin este importante recurso.

En un artículo del biólogo marino D. Ross Robertson junto con William F. Smith-



Vaniz, quien trabaja con Florida Museum of Natural History en la Universidad de Florida en Gainesville, se presentan luces sobre ideas erradas y comunes sobre los efectos ambientales de los muestreos a pequeña escala con scalerotenone para estudios en biodiversidad marina.

El artículo "Rotenone: an essential but demonized tool for assessing marine fish diversity," [Rotenone: una herramienta esencial pero demonizada para medir la diversidad de peces marinos] se publicó en el número de febrero de *BioScience* 58(2): 165-170.

El estudio se puede descargar en <http://www.si.edu/marinescience/rotenone.htm>  
O pedirse a: [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu)

## STRI in the news

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, by Fernando Pascal. 2008. Papyrus 8(1): 14-15.

## New publications

Boyle, Sarah A. 2008. "Human impacts on primate conservation in central Amazonia." *Mongabay.com Open Access Journal - Tropical Conservation Science* 1(1): 6-17.

Chave, Jerome, Condit, Richard S., Muller-Landau, Helene C., Thomas, Sean C., Ashton, Peter S., Bunyavejchewin, Sarayudh, Co, Leonardo L., Dattaraja, Handanakere S., Davies, Stuart James, Esufali, Shameema, Ewango, Corneille E.N., Feeley, Kenneth J., Foster, Robin B., Gunatilleke, C.V. Savitri, Hall, Pamela, Hart, Terese B., Hernandez, Consuelo, Hubbell, Stephen P., Itoh, Akira, Kiratiprayoon, Somboon, LaFrankie, Jr., James V., Loo de Lao, Suzanne, Makana, Jean-Remy, Supardi Md. Nor, Noor, Kassim, Abdul Rahman, Samper, Cristian, Sukumar, Raman, Suresh, Hebbalalu Satyanarayana, Tan, Sylvester, Thompson, Jill, Tong, Maria Dolores C., Valencia, Renato, Vallejo, Martha Isabel, Villa, Gorky, Yamakura, Takuo, Zimmerman, Jess K., and Losos, Elizabeth C. 2008. "Assessing evidence for a pervasive alteration in tropical tree communities." *PLoS Biology* 6(3): e45.



## Princeton and McGill get together at STRI's Tupper campus

The traditional "get together" among students and instructors from Princeton University, McGill University, STRI scientific and educational staff, and special events personnel was held on Wednesday, March 5, at the Corotu Plaza (in the back is a small emerging Corotu tree representing the old Tivoli Site reigning tree, cut off in 2006).

Acting deputy director Haris Lessios welcomed the visitors to the event, designed for foreign students of similar semester programs in the tropics, to share their experiences before going back to their countries of origin.

We use this opportunity to congratulate McGill. In the most recent *Times* rating of the world universities (November 8, 2007) McGill was classified as the best Canadian university,

best public university in North America and the 12th best university in the world. McGill is an international university located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, whose main language of instruction is English. It has 21 faculties and professional schools offering over 300 programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

La reunión tradicional entre estudiantes e instructores de las universidades de Princeton y McGill, y personal científico, educativo y de eventos especiales de STRI, se llevó a cabo el miércoles 5 de marzo en la Plaza Corotú (atrás hay un pequeño árbol Corotú juvenil en representación del árbol reinante del antiguo Sitio Tivoli, cortado en 2006).

El subdirector interino de STRI, Haris Lessios, dió las palabras de bienvenida a los

visitantes durante el evento, diseñado para que estudiantes extranjeros de programas de semestre similares en los trópicos, compartan sus experiencias antes de regresar a sus países de origen.

Queremos aprovechar la oportunidad para felicitar a McGill. En la calificación más reciente de *Times* sobre las universidades del mundo (8 de noviembre de 2007) McGill fue calificada como la mejor universidad de Canadá, la mejor universidad pública de Norteamérica y la número 12 en el mundo. McGill es una universidad internacional localizada en Montreal, Quebec, Canada, cuyo idioma principal de enseñanza es el inglés. Tiene 21 facultades y escuelas profesionales y más de 300 programas en los niveles de licenciatura y posgrado.

## Jeremy B.C. Jackson to receive Roger Tory Peterson Medal

Jeremy B.C. Jackson, renowned marine ecologist of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, has been selected to receive the 11th annual Roger Tory Peterson Medal presented by the Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH). Jackson will

deliver the Roger Tory Peterson Memorial Lecture on April 6 at 3 p.m. in the Science Center, 1 Oxford St.

Jeremy B.C. Jackson, reconocido ecólogo marino de la Institución Scripps de Oceanografía y el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones

Tropicales, será galardonado con la medalla Roger Tory Peterson del Museo de Historia Natural de Harvard. Jackson presentará la conferencia "Roger Tony Peterson Memorial" el 6 de abril a las 3pm en el Centro de Ciencias, 1 Calle Oxford.

## New publications

Dacosta, Jeffrey M., and Klicka, John. 2008. "The Great American interchange in birds: a phylogenetic perspective with the genus *Trogon*." *Molecular Ecology* 17(5): 1328-1343.

Descampe, A., Meskens, Christophe, Pasteels, Jacques M., Windsor, Donald M., and Hance, T. 2008. "Potential and realized feeding niches of Neotropical Hispine beetles (Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae, Cephaloleiini)." *Environmental Entomology* 37(1): 224-229.

Frederiksen, Rikard, Wcislo, William T., and Warrant, Eric J. 2008. "Visual reliability and information rate in the retina of a nocturnal bee." *Current Biology* 18: 349-353.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2008a. "Explorando los suelos de la costa abajo y Lago Gatún, 1923." *"Epocas" Segunda Era* (Supplement to *El Panamá América*) 23(1): 2-3.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2008b. "Puerto Armuelles en 1928." *"Epocas" Segunda Era* (Supplement to *El Panamá América*) 23(2): 1-2.

Herrera Cubilla, Amalia, Dick, Mathew H., Sanner, Joann, and Jackson, Jeremy B.C. 2008. "Neogene Cupuladriidae of tropical America. II: Taxonomy of recent *Discoporella* from opposite sides of the Isthmus of Panama." *Journal of Paleontology* 82(2): 279-298.

Herz, Hubert, Holldobler, Berthold, and Roces, Flavio. 2008. "Delayed rejection in a leaf-cutting ant after foraging on plants unsuitable for the symbiotic fungus." *Behavioral Biology* Online.



## Funds to Galeta to continue educational program

Recently, Manzanillo International Terminal (MIT) visited Galeta to present a check for \$4,000 to support the environmental educational program at the Galeta Point Marine Laboratory for four months. MIT makes quarterly donations to Galeta, as part of its commitment to the lab, to give one thousand dollars every month. The photo shows, from the left José Iribarren, representative from MIT, and Galeta personnel Gabriel Thomas, Alfredo Lanuza, Celso Hernández and Jairo Castillo.

The International Community Foundation granted Galeta with \$20,471, to continue with its environmental educational program, for the training of science teachers from Colón during 2008. This training is a joint effort between STRI and Panamá's Ministry of Education.

Recientemente, Manzanillo International Terminal (MIT) visitó Galeta para hacer entrega de un cheque de \$4,000 para apoyar el programa de educación ambiental en el Laboratorio de Punta Galeta. MIT hace donaciones a Galeta cada cuatro meses, como parte de su compromiso con el

laboratorio de dar mil dólares cada mes. En la foto aparecen (desde la izquierda) José Iribarren, representante de MIT, y el personal de Galeta Gabriel Thomas, Alfredo Lanuza, Celso Hernández y Jairo Castillo.

International Community Foundation donó \$20,471 para el Programa de Educación Ambiental en Galeta para entrenar maestros de ciencias de Colón durante 2008. Este entrenamiento es un esfuerzo conjunto entre STRI y el Ministerio de Educación de Panamá.



## More publications

Johnson, Kenneth G., Jackson, Jeremy B.C., and Budd, Ann F. 2008. "Caribbean reef development was independent of coral diversity over 28 million years." *Science* 319(5869): 1521-1523.

Matsubara, Shizue, Krause, G. Heinrich, Seltmann, Martin, Virgo, Aurelio, Kursar, Thomas A., Jahns, Peter, and Winter, Klaus. 2008. "Lutein epoxide cycle, light harvesting and photoprotection in species of the tropical tree genus *Inga*." *Plant, Cell & Environment* 31(4): 548-561.

Mendoza-Franco, Edgar F., Gonzalez, Juan Violante, and Vidal-Martinez, Victor M. 2008. "New species of *Rhabdosynochus mizelle* and Blatz 1941 (Monogeneoidea: Diplectanidae) from the gills of centropomid fishes (Teleostei) off the Pacific coast of Mexico." *Journal of Parasitology* 04(1): 28-35.

Miller, Matthew J., Bermingham, Eldredge, Klicka, John, Escalanta, Patricia, Raposo do Amarals, Fabio S., Weir, Jason T., and Winker, Kevin. 2008. "Out of Amazonia again and again: episodic crossing of the Andes promotes diversification in a lowland forest flycatcher." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London)* B Online.

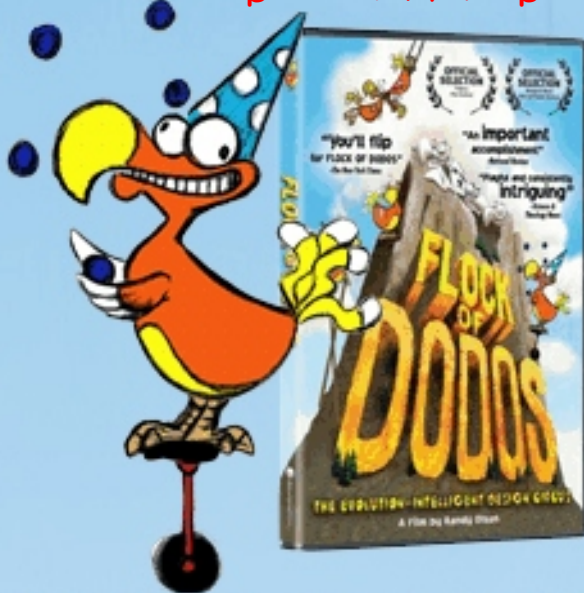
Park, Andrew, and Cameron, Jessie Lee. 2008. "The influence of canopy traits on throughfall and stemflow in five tropical trees growing in a Panamanian plantation." *Forest Ecology and Management* 255(5-6): 1915.



# Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

presents

Scientist/filmmaker Dr. Randy Olson  
Seminar, Film Screening, and Panel Discussion



## ALL EVENTS AT THE TUPPER CONFERENCE CENTER

### Tuesday, March 25

- 4pm SEMINAR: "Don't be such a scientist: Talking substance in an age of style" by Randy Olson
- 6pm "Flock of Dodos: The evolution-intelligent design circus" (85 minutes)
- 7:30pm Reception and panel discussion of "Flock of Dodos"

### Wednesday, March 26

- 3pm "Flock of Dodos" screening for staff who missed it on Tuesday

### Thursday, March 27

- 3:30pm "Sizzle: A global warming comedy" (85 minute movie). Followed by reception and chance to meet the filmmaker
- 6pm "Sizzle: A global warming comedy" (85 minute movie)

for more info on the movies, visit [www.flockofdodos.com](http://www.flockofdodos.com)