



# 100 years of science in Panama



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

STRI news

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August 13, 2010

## Gamboa seminar

Monday, August 16, Gamboa seminar speaker will be Justin Touchon, STRI, at 12pm  
**Effects of hatching plasticity, resources, and predation on red-eyed treefrog phenotype and recruitment**

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, August 17, Tupper seminar speaker will be Elisabeth Kalko, STRI and University of Ulm, Germany  
**Bat diversity, dynamics and disease: A synopsis of (almost) twenty years of research on and around BCI**

## Bambi specials

Thursday, August 19 at 4pm, Bambi special speaker will be Marco Visser, Radboud University Nijmegen  
**Learning how to speak R; a crash course on data analyses in R.**  
For those interested in attending please send an e-mail to [marco.d.visser@gmail.com](mailto:marco.d.visser@gmail.com)  
Visser will also be the speaker at the regular Bambi that night:  
**Negative density dependence in a Neotropical palm; the role of dispersal, seed predation and trophic interactions**

## Heckadon invited to 'FILGUA 2010' to represent Panamanian writers

STRI's director for Communications and Public Programs Stanley Heckadon-Moreno was invited to represent all Panamanian writers at the VII International Book Fair/Guatemala (FILGUA 2010) from July 16-25. The organizers invited one distinguished writer per country. Jorgelina Carritos represented El Salvador, Enrique Noriega, Guatemala, Bernardo Corrales, Costa Rica, Jessica Sánchez, Honduras and Eric Aguirre Aragón, Nicaragua.

As senior writer in Central America, Heckadon was also the designated keynote speaker at the event. His conference focused on the social implications of climate change in the region. He explained STRI's scientific and educational programs on the Isthmus of Panama and abroad, and presented bibliographic material to the audience. According to Heckadon, "this was an excellent moment to assess the literary production in the region after the end of civil wars experienced until the '90s." Heckadon noticed great

interest in information on environmental issues in readers of all ages.

Stanley Heckadon Moreno, director de la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Programas

Públicos de STRI fue invitado para representar a todos los escritores panameños, en la VII Feria Internacional del Libro de Guatemala (FILGUA, 2010), del 16 al 25 de julio. Los organizadores invitaron a un escritor distinguido de cada país. Jorgelina Carritos representó a El Salvador, Enrique Noriega a Guatemala, Bernardo Corrales a Costa Rica, Jessica Sánchez a Honduras y Eric Aguirre Aragón, a Nicaragua.

Como escritor "senior" de Centroamérica, Heckadon fue el llamado a presentar la conferencia magistral del evento. Su charla se centró en



las implicaciones sociales del cambio climático en la región. Este tema le permitió explicar los programas de investigación y educación de STRI en el Istmo de Panamá y otros países, así como presentar material bibliográfico entre la audiencia. De acuerdo a Heckadon, "esta fue una excelente ocasión para palpar la producción literaria de la región, luego del final de las guerras civiles que se experimentaron en hasta la década de los 90s." Heckadon notó gran interés en información sobre temas ambientales en lectores de todas las edades.

## Arrivals

Delicia Pino Garay, University of Bayreuth, Germany, to study regional distribution patterns in tropical forest: direct and indirect consequences of drought periods, in Gamboa.

Amandine Vaslet, Smithsonian Marine Station in Florida, to study the use of isotopic signatures to assess the relative importance of mangroves and seagrass meadows as fish feeding areas, on Bocas del Toro.

Aditi Rosegger, University of Postdam, Germany, to join the Agua Salud Hydrological Studies.

Alisha Wainwright, University of Florida, to study plant reproductive biology and seedling recruitment, on Barro Colorado Island.

Karin Steijven, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Netherlands, to study density-dependent reproduction and pollen flow in a common Neotropical tree, on Barro Colorado Island.

Ivan Fernando Calixto Botía, Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, to study reproductive isolation between two Caribbean sea urchins, at Naos Island Laboratories.

Zoltan Takacs, University of Chicago, to study natural resistance to snake venom.

Paula Liliana Narváez, CONICET, Argentina, to participate in the Panama Canal Salvage Paleontology/Geology Project, at the CTPA.

## Carlos Tejada to retire

Facilities Management Office director Carlos Tejada, 63, retired this week after 22 years at STRI. He joined the Institute in 1988, serving as Equipment Management engineer until 1998, when he was promoted to assistant director for Plant Services. Following the reorganization of the Office of Facilities Operations, Tejada served as director of Facilities Management, in charge of maintenance.

Carlos obtained his degree in mechanical engineering from L'Ecole Technique Superieure of Geneva, Switzerland. He brought ample experience from the private sectors in Panama and Sweden. In November, 2008, when Carlos received a 20-year service pin, director emeritus Ira Rubinoff expressed his gratitude to Tejada, saying that he was one of his favorite colleagues at STRI. "He is the person you want to have beside you when there is an emergency. His resources have kept us from many difficult situations. It has been a pleasure working with

him for the past 20 years." We wish Carlos the best in this new phase of his life.

Fernando Pascal will be responsible for the Maintenance operation until a replacement is found.

Carlos Tejada, 63, director de la Oficina de Mantenimiento de Instalaciones, se jubiló esta semana luego de 22 años en STRI. Se unió al Instituto en 1988 como ingeniero de Operaciones de Equipo hasta 1998 cuando fue promovido a Director Asistente de Servicios. Luego de la reorganización de la Oficina de Operaciones e Instalaciones, Tejada ha fungido en su posición actual hasta hoy.

Carlos obtuvo su título de ingeniero mecánico en la Facultad Técnica Superior de Ginebra en Suiza. Trajo amplia experiencia del sector privado de Panamá y Suecia.



Ira Rubinoff & Carlos Tejada, 2008

En noviembre de 2008, cuando Tejada celebró sus 20 años en STRI, el director emérito Ira Rubinoff expresó su agradecimiento a Carlos diciendo que él ha sido uno de sus colegas favoritos en STRI, "Él es la persona que quieres tener a tu lado cuando hay una emergencia. Sus recursos nos han sacado de muchas situaciones difíciles durante los últimos 20 años." Le deseamos todo lo mejor en esta nueva etapa de su vida.

Fernando Pascal será el responsable del Departamento de Mantenimiento mientras se encuentra un reemplazo para Tejada.

## Guide's Day celebration at STRI

by Georgina de Alba

Our public program guides are the public face of the Institute. Recently, STRI celebrated "Guide's Day" to highlight the work of our guides with a gathering at STRI's Punta Culebra Nature Center. Guides from our four public programs participated, namely those of Barro Colorado, Galeta, Bocas del Toro and Punta Culebra.

Dr. Fernando Santos-Granero was the keynote speaker with his talk on the "Biological Survey of the Panama Canal Zone (1910-1912): the beginning of 100 years of friendship between Panama

and the Smithsonian." The event provided the opportunity to inform the guides about what we are celebrating in the upcoming months.

Representatives from each of the public programs displayed great enthusiasm for their work as they spoke briefly about their activities and target audiences. Wendy Almillategui described her experience at the Smithsonian Inside-Out held the beginning of July in Washington DC, telling how the work of STRI and other Smithsonian centers and museums was explained to the

public in order to convey the vision of the new strategic plan: to learn about and achieve the sustainability of a diverse planet and value its many cultures.

The presentations demonstrated that although the public programs are in different phases of development, they have certain common features.

There is a great similarity between the programs on Bocas and Colón, both of which strive to educate neighboring communities on the importance of local ecosystems as well as

## More arrivals

Geoffrey Morse, University of San Diego, to study the diversity of armored scale insects in Neotropical rainforest canopies, at the Tupper Center.

Mélida Ruiz, University of Michigan, to study the population genetic structure and phylogeography of widespread tropical forest trees, in Gamboa.

## Departures

Ira Rubinoff on an extended trip to Washington DC, to work on a book. He can be contacted at his office, tel. 202-633-4014, or his mobile, 202-374-7414.

Luis Turner to Arlington, Virginia, to meet with Office of Contracting's Emanuel Brown, to discuss issues related to ALFA contract for FY2011 and to attend the Advanced Simplified Acquisitions training.

## New publications

Garrish, Valerie, Cernusak, Lucas A., Winter, Klaus, and Turner, Benjamin L. 2010. "Nitrogen to phosphorus ratio of plant biomass versus soil solution in a tropical pioneer tree, *Ficus insipida*." *Journal of Experimental Botany* 61(13): 3735-3748.

Hiller, Alexandra, Viviani, Carlos A., and Werding, Bernd. 2010.

"Hypercarcinisation: An evolutionary novelty in the commensal porcellanid *Allopetrolisthes spinifrons* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Porcellanidae)." *Nauplius* 18(1): 95-102.



communicate research done by STRI in their region through lectures and special celebrations.

Our congratulations go out to all of the guides for their invaluable efforts as the Institute's voice in the community, and also to Belkys Jiménez and Vilma Vernández for the organization of the event. After listening to the guides, I felt very proud of what they are doing to spread the word about the work done by STRI and the ecosystems in which we work.

Los guías de nuestros programas públicos son la cara de STRI ante el público. Hace poco, celebramos el "Día del Guía" para destacar su labor mediante un convivio que se llevó a cabo en el Centro Natural Punta Culebra. Se contó con la participación de guías de los cuatro programas públicos: Barro Colorado, Galeta, Bocas del Toro y Punta Culebra.

Como tema de fondo, Fernando Santos Granero dio su charla magistral: "El Estudio Biológico de la Zona del Canal (1910-1912): el comienzo de 100 años de amistad entre Panamá y el Smithsonian". Se aprovechó la oportunidad para informar a los guías sobre lo que estaremos celebrando en los próximos meses.

Un representante de cada programa público hizo una breve exposición de las actividades y sus audiencias principales mediante las cuales transmitieron su gran entusiasmo por lo que están haciendo. Wendy Almillategui describió su experiencia en la actividad *Smithsonian Inside-Out* realizada en Washington, DC en julio y cómo se explicó al público lo que se hace en STRI y otros centros y museos del Smithsonian, para realizar la visión del nuevo plan estratégico: Conocer y lograr la sostenibilidad de un planeta diverso y valorar sus muchas culturas.

En las presentaciones se hizo evidente que los programas están en diversas etapas de desarrollo pero comparten aspectos en común. Hay una gran similitud entre los programas de Bocas y Colón que trabajan para educar a las comunidades vecinas sobre la importancia de los ecosistemas del área y también comunican nuestras investigaciones a la comunidad mediante programas de charlas y celebraciones.

Felicitemos a todos los guías por su loable esfuerzo como voceros del Instituto hacia la comunidad y también a Belkys Jiménez y Vilma Fernández por la organización del evento.

Después de escucharlos a todos me sentí muy orgullosa de lo que están haciendo nuestros guías para comunicar la labor de nuestro instituto y la importancia de los ecosistemas donde trabajamos.

### STRI's public programs in numbers: January to July, 2010

### Programas públicos en cifras: enero a julio de 2010

	Total visitors	Total de visitantes	Students	Estudiantes
Barro Colorado Island	3,877		1,210	
Galeta Marine Laboratory	8,000		6,350	
Bocas del Toro Research Station	4,361		1,300	
Punta Culebra Nature Center	33,624		16,036	

## New publications

Lovette, Irby J., Perez-Eman, Jorge L., Sullivan, John, Banks, Richard C., Fiorentino, Isabella, Córdoba-Córdoba, Sergio, Echeverry-Galvis, María, Barker, F. Keith, Burns, Kevin J., Klicka, John, Lanyon, Scott M., and Bermingham, Eldredge. 2010. "A comprehensive multilocus phylogeny for the wood-warblers and a revised classification of the Parulidae (Aves)." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*: Online.

Miloslavich, Patricia, Diaz, Juan Manuel, Klein, Eduardo, Alvarado, Juan Jose, Diaz, Cristina, Gobin, Judith, Escobar-Briones, Elva, Cruz-Motta, Juan Jose, Weil, Ernesto, Cortes, Jorge, Bastidas, Ana Carolina, Robertson, Ross, Zapata, Fernando, Martin, Alberto, Castillo, Julio, Kazandjian, Aniuska, and Ortiz, Manuel. 2010. "Marine biodiversity in the Caribbean: Regional estimates and distribution patterns." *PLoS ONE* 5(8): e11916.

Mora, Andres, Parra, Mauricio, Strecker, Manfred R., Sobel, Edward R., Zeilinger, Gerold, Jaramillo, Carlos, Da Silva, Silane Ferreira, and Blanco, Mauricio. 2010. "The eastern foothills of the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia: An example of multiple factors controlling structural styles and active tectonics." *Geological Society of America Bulletin* Online.

Vignerón, Jean Pol, Simonis, Priscilla, Aiello, Annette, Bay, Annick, Windsor, Donald M., Colomer, Jean-Francois, and Rassart, Marie. 2010. "Reverse color sequence in the diffraction of white light by the wing of the male butterfly *Pierella luna* (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae)." *Physical Review E* 82(2): 021903.

## Happy 164th Birthday, Smithsonian Institution

By Kriston Capps  
[on August 10, 2010]  
"When James Smithson died in 1829, his will stipulated that the fortune he had collected —perhaps "treasury" is a better word— should be assigned to the United States in the case that his nephew had no heir. [He also stated that the money was to be used to found an establishment "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge" in Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution....]

"We may all remain thankful that his nephew died childless in 1835. Nearly a decade after President Andrew Jackson announced the bequest to Congress, on August 10, 1846, President James K. Polk signed into law a bill establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

It remains a mystery why this ever came to pass. Smithson had never been to the United States or met the American people. Historians' best guess remains that Smithson's move was a snub to British law and gentry, who refused to recognize him as the rightful heir of his esteemed father, Sir Hugh Smithson, 4th Baronet of Stanwick. (James Smithson, née Jacques Louis Macie, was born to his father's mistress.)"

If you want to read the rest of the article and learn what you can do to celebrate if you are in Washington DC, visit:

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local-beat/Happy-164th-Birthday-Smithsonian-Institution-100361224.htm>

1



An 1816 portrait of Smithson by Henri-Joseph Johns, now in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution.

Cuadro de Smithson de Henri-Joseph Johns, 1816, hoy día en la Galería de Retratos Nacionales, de la Institución Smithsonian

"Cuando James Smithson murió en 1829, dejó estipulado en su testamento que la fortuna que había amasado —quizá la palabra correcta sea "tesoro"— debía entregarse a los Estados Unidos, en caso de que su sobrino no tuviera herederos. [Tambi'en dejó establecido que el dinero sería para fundar en Washington DC, bajo el nombre de Smithsonian Institution, para enriquecer y diseminar el conocimiento entre los hombres...]

"Todos debemos sentirnos agradecidos de que su sobrino murió sin dejar hijos, en 1835. Cerca de una década más tarde, luego de que el presidente Andrew Jackson anunciara el fideicomiso al congreso, el 10 de agosto de 1846, el presidente James K. Polk firmó la ley estableciendo la Institución Smithsonian.

La razón que tuvo Smithson para tomar esta decisión sigue siendo un misterio. Smithson nunca estuvo en los Estados Unidos ni conoció a los americanos. La opinión más aceptada entre los historiadores es que Smithson quiso desairar a la sociedad y al sistema legal de Inglaterra, que se negaron a reconocerlo como el heredero real de su muy estimado padre, Sir Hugh Smithson, cuarto barón de Stanwich (James Smithson, o Jacques Louis Macie, fue el hijo que su padre tuvo con su amante.)"

Si desea leer el resto del artículo y las formas que el escritor recomienda para celebrar este cumpleaños si usted está en Washington, DC, visite la página de web que aparece al final de la primera columna.