Smithsonian

100 years of science in Panama

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá | STRI news | www.stri.si.edu | April 29, 2011

Gamboa seminar

Monday, May 2 is Labor Day in Panama, and a holiday for STRI. There will be no Gamboa seminar that day.

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 3, 4pm Tupper seminar speaker will be Carlos Jaramillo, STRI
The history of the Neotropics in a nutshell: 140 Ma of evolution

Paleo-Talk

Wednesday, May 4 at 4pm, PaleoTalk speaker will be Robert Stallard, STRI Conference Room, CTPA, Ancon
Rapid inventories from the Earth-Science perspective

Bambi seminar

No Bambi seminar is scheduled for Thursday, May 5. Please check your e-mails for information on the next Bambi on BCI.

Security number: 212-8211

Photo: Michael Barnes

Panamanian president visits SI

Panamanian president Ricardo Martinelli visited the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, to meet with SI secretary Wayne Clough, on Wednesday, April 27.

Martinelli was accompanied by first lady Martha Linares de Martinelli, vice president Juan Carlos Varela, the Panamanian ambassador to Washington, DC, Mario Jaramillo, and other members of his administration.

During the meeting, the dignitaries conversed on matters of mutual interest related to the Smithsonian's future projections in Panama including its operations and facilities throughout the country, and to the special relationship that exists between the Smithsonian and Panama. The presence of the Smithsonian in this Panama dates back to the time of the construction of the Panama Canal a hundred years ago, when the Smithsonian conducted its first scientific expedition to the Isthmus.

From the beginning of the relationship, the Smithsonian has been a trusted partner of the Republic of Panama. Through the scientific activities carried out by this reputable institute, Panama positions itself as an international center for the study of biodiversity and a mecca for tropical biologists.
The meeting between President Martinelli and Secretary Clough is a fitting occasion to exalt the celebration of 100 Years of Smithsonian science in Panama and to acknowledge the support STRI has received from the people of Panama over the years. Panamanian collaborators, government officials, academic colleagues, students and friends have all contributed to STRI becoming a premier center for tropical biology.

The photo above shows, from the left, SI secretary Wayne Clough, STRI director Eldredge Bermingham, Panamanian ambassador in Washington, Mario Jaramillo, SI undersecretary for Science Eva Pell, president Ricardo Martinelli, first lady Martha Linares de Martinelli, vice president Juan Carlos Varela and US ambassador in Panama Phyllis Powers.

Taken from www.stri.si.edu

El presidente panameño Ricardo Martinelli visitó el

Arrivals

Joanito Liberti, Dora Huszar, Anders Illum and Sami Schar, University of Copenhaguen, Denmark, to participate in the University of Copenhagen 2011 Tropical Behavioral Ecology Field Course, in Gamboa.

Dani Moore, Arizona State University, to participate in the University of Copenhagen 2011 Tropical Behavioral Ecology Field Course, in Gamboa.

Tiago Carrijo, University of Sao Paulo, to participate in the University of Copenhagen 2011 Tropical Behavioral Ecology Field Course, in Gamboa.

Laura M. Avila Segura, University of Florida, to participate in the University of Copenhagen 2011 Tropical Behavioral Ecology Field Course, in Gamboa.

Sarah Alessi and Lisa Van Blareden, Western Michigan University, to study fitness, decision rules and endocrine mechanisms of delayed dispersal, in Gamboa.

Michael and Deborah Kaspari, and Natalie Clay, University of Oklahoma, to work on the project "Toward a stoichiometric theory of ant-ecology---from colony performance to community composition", on BCI.

Karen Kapheim, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to study socio-genomic evolution in social bees, in Gamboa.

Susanne den Boer and Marlene Sturup, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, to study the evolutionary ecology of fungus-growing ants, in Gamboa.

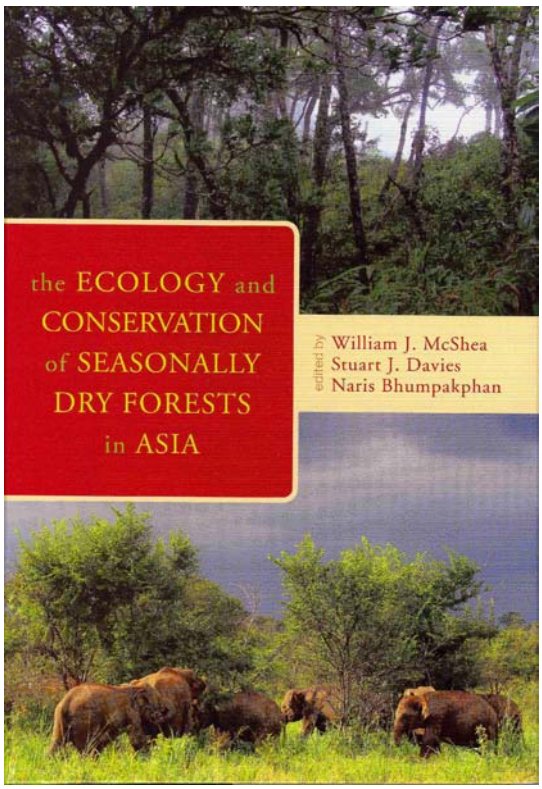
Smithsonian en Washington, DC para reunirse con el secretario Wayne Clough el miércoles 27 de abril. Martinelli estuvo acompañado por la primera dama Marta Linares de Martinelli, el vice presidente y canciller de la República, Juan Carlos Varela; el embajador de Panamá en Washington, DC; Mario Jaramillo, y otros miembros de su administración.

Durante la reunión, los dignatarios conversaron sobre temas de interés mutuo relacionados con las proyecciones futuras del Smithsonian en Panamá, incluyendo sus operaciones e instalaciones en todo el territorio de Panamá y con la relación especial que existe entre el Smithsonian y Panamá. La presencia del Smithsonian en esta nación se remonta a los tiempos de la construcción del Canal de Panamá hace 100 años cuando se realizó la primera expedición científica del Smithsonian al Istmo.

Desde los comienzos de la relación, el Smithsonian ha sido un socio confiable para la República de Panamá. A través de las actividades científicas que lleva a cabo esta institución de gran reputación, Panamá se ha posicionado como un centro internacional para el estudio de la biodiversidad y una micca para los biólogos tropicales. La reunión entre el presidente Martinelli y el secretario Clough fue una perfecta ocasión para exaltar la celebración de los 100 años de ciencia del Smithsonian en Panamá y para agradecer el apoyo que STRI ha recibido de parte de la gente de Panamá a través de los años. Los colaboradores panameños, funcionarios gubernamentales, académicos, estudiantes y amigos, todos han ayudado a que STRI sea un centro de primera en biología tropical.

New CTFS book

STRI's Center for Tropical Forest Science/Smithsonian Institution Global Earth Observatories (CTFS-SIGEO) announces its new book, *The ecology and conservation of seasonally dry forests in Asia*, published by Rowman and Littlefield. The book was edited by William J. McShea, research ecologist at the Conservation Ecology Center in the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute; Stuart J. Davies, director of CTFS/SIGEO, a joint effort by STRI and the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University; and Naris Bhumpakphan, associate professor of biology at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.



Seasonally dry forests are the most widespread forest type remaining in South and Southeast Asia. For many endangered species, such as tigers, elephants, deer, and primates, this unique habitat is central to their survival. The forests are also intimately linked to humans in the region, who have lived in and relied on them for centuries. Despite the importance of seasonally dry forests, little is known of their ecology.

The chapters in the new CTFS/SIGEO volume draw connections between forests, endangered species, and agricultural communities in the region. The contributors, many of whom are in-country researchers and managers who have spent years studying this ecosystem, provide an overview of the ecology and conservation of seasonally dry forests in Asia. The book also includes case studies for the conservation of species dependent on these ecosystems, such as tigers, elephants, deer, banteng, and gibbons, and discussions of effective management and conservation of seasonally dry forests. According to Jeffrey A. McNeely, senior science advisor at the IUCN, "Climate change is likely to have significant impacts on these forests, so having a baseline of solid science will help give future studies a sound basis for comparison, and for conservation..."

The ecology and conservation of seasonally dry forests in Asia will be for sell at STRI´s Corotú Bookstore, shortly.

El Centro de Ciencias Forestales y los Observatorios Globales de la Tierra del Smithsonian (CTFS/SIGEO) anuncia su nuevo libro, *The ecology and conservation of seasonally dry forest in*

More arrivals

Ellen Paynter and Boris Baer, University of Western Australia, to study the evolutionary ecology of fungus-growing antes, in Gamboa.

Lisa Maria Heider, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, to join Tropical Ecology Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM) – Panama, on BCI.

Na Wei, University of Michigan, to study the population genetic structure and phylogeography of widespread tropical forest trees, on BCI.

Claudia Atomei, McGill University, to study Bocas del Toro biodiversity, at the Bocas del Toro Research Station (BRS) on Colon Island.

Departures

Mary Jane West-Eberhard, San José, Costa Rica, to Washington, DC, to attend the meeting of the Secretary's Distinguished Lecture Award Committee at SI, and to attend the meeting of the Committee on Human Rights of the US Academies of Sciences.

New publications

Barske, Julia, Schlinger, Barney A., Wikelski, Martin, and Fusani, Leonida. 2011. "Female choice for male motor skills." *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* doi:10.1098/rspb.2011.0382x

Goodbody-Gringley, Gretchen, Woollacott, Robert M., and Giribet, Gonzalo. 2011. "Population structure and connectivity in the Atlantic scleractinian coral *Montastraea cavernosa* (Linnaeus, 1767)." *Marine Ecology* doi:10.1111/j.1439-0485.2011.00452.x

Asia [La ecología y conservación de un bosque seco estacional en Asia] publicado por Rowman and Littlefied. El nuevo volumen fue editado por William J. McShea, ecólogo investigador en el Centro de Ecología de la Conservación del Smithsonian, Stuart J. Davies, director del CTFS/SIGEO, un proyecto de STRI y Arnold Arboretum de Harvard University, y Naris Bhumpakphan, profesor asociado de biología en Kasetsart University, en Bangkok, Tailandia.

Los bosques secos estacionales son el tipo de bosque de mayor extensión en el sur y sureste de Asia. Para muchas especies en peligro de extinción como tigres, elefantes, ciervos y primates, este hábitat único es crucial para sobrevivir. En esta región, los bosques están relacionados íntimamente con los seres humanos que viven y dependen de ellos desde hace siglos. A pesar de la importancia de los bosques secos estacionales, poco es lo que se sabe sobre su ecología.

Los capítulos del nuevo volumen del CTFS-SIGEO describen conexiones entre bosques, especies en peligro y comunidades de agricultores de la región. Muchos de los autores que contribuyen al nuevo libro son investigadores y administradores que residen en los países descritos, que han pasado años estudiando este ecosistema. El libro también incluye casos de estudio para la conservación de las especies que dependen de este ecosistema, como tigres, elefantes, ciervos, bueyes salvajes y gibones, así como discusiones sobre el manejo efectivo y la conservación de bosques secos estacionales. De acuerdo a Jeffrey A. McNeely, consultor científico senior de IUCN, "Se espera que el cambio climático tenga impactos significativos sobre estos bosques, de forma que el tener un base científica sólida será de gran ayuda para estudios y comparaciones futuras sobre conservación..."

El libro se venderá en la Librería Corotú de STRI, en un futuro cercano.

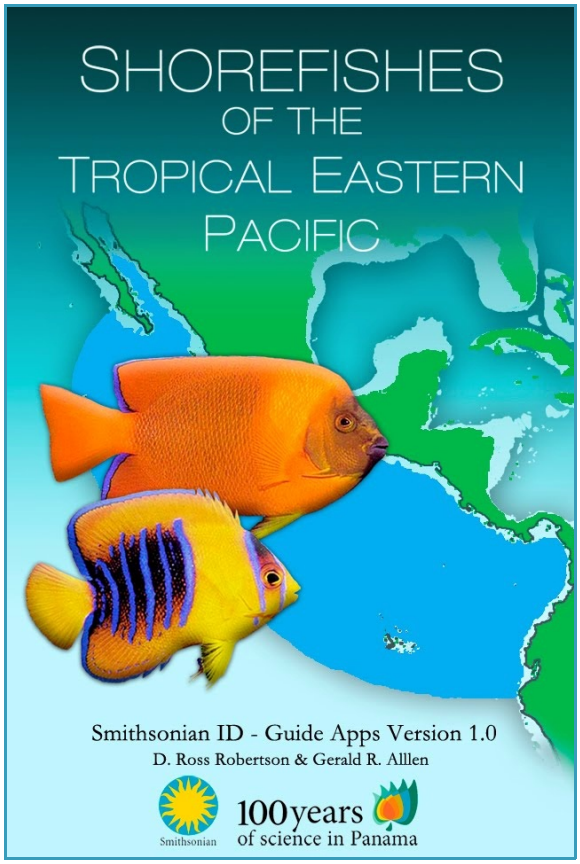
STRI intern wins Viewer´s Choice Competition

National Geographic distinguished Jane Kim, former STRI intern, with the Viewer´s Choice Competition award for her Migrating Mural project, along with 14 other ocean conservation projects.

At STRI, Kim worked with D. Ross Robertson in an app for Shorefishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific identification guide (see app and opening page above). More at: www.ink-dwell.blogspot.com

National Geographic distinguió a Jane Kim, ex-pasante en STRI, con el premio de más vistos, por su Mural de Migraciones, junto con otros 14 proyectos de conservación de los océanos.

En STRI, Kim trabajó con D. Ross Robertson, en una aplicación para Shorefishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific [Peces del Pacífico oriental tropical] así como en la página de título (vea la aplicación y la página de título en las imágenes de arriba). Para mayor información, visite: www.ink-dwell.blogspot.com



New publications

Hau, Michaela, and Beebe, Katherine. 2011. "Plastic endocrine regulation of year-round territorial aggression in tropical male spotted antbirds." *General and Comparative Endocrinology* doi: 10.1016/j.ygcen.2011.03.016

Hirsch, Ben T., and Morrell, Lesley J. 2011. "Measuring marginal predation in animal groups." *Behavioral Ecology* 22(3): 648-656.

Nilsen, Kari-Anne, Ihle, Kate E., Frederick, Katy, Fondrk, M. Kim, Smedal, Bente, Hartfelder, Klaus, and Amdam, Gro V. 2011. "Insulin-like peptide genes in honey bee fat body respond differently to manipulation of social behavioral physiology." *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 214(9): 1488-1497.

Ricklefs, Robert E. 2011. "A biogeographical perspective on ecological systems: some personal reflections." *Journal of Biogeography* doi:10.1111/j. 1365-2699.2011.02520.x

Torchin, Mark E., and McKenzie, Valerie J. 2010. "Introduction of Armand Kuris, Recipient of the 2010 Clark P. Read Mentor Award." *Journal of Parasitology* 96(6): 1041-1043.

West-Eberhard, Mary Jane, Smith, J. Andrew C., and Winter, Klaus. 2011. "Photosynthesis, reorganized." *Science* 332(6027): 311-312.

Winter, Klaus, Garcia, Milton, and Holtum, Joseph A.M. 2011. "Drought-stress-induced up-regulation of CAM in seedlings of a tropical cactus, Opuntia elatior, operating predominantly in the C3 mode." *Journal of Experimental Botany* doi:10.1093/jxb/err106

Moynihan Visitor´s Center to be rebuilt

Barro Colorado Visitor´s Center, dedicated to the memory of STRI´s founding director Martin H. Moynihan in 1997 (BCI´s old dining hall), was demolished to build a new Visitor´s Center. The old wooden building dated from 1924 and its structure was severely damaged.

The new Visitor´s Center is expected to be completed in September, 2011. The work is being done by McKinney International, under the supervision of STRI´s Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations.

El centro de Visitantes de Barro Colorado, dedicado a la memoria del director fundador de STRI, Martin H. Moynihan en 1997 (el antiguo comedor de BCI) fue demolido para contruir un nuevo Centro de Visitantes. El viejo edificio de madera databa de 1924 y sus estructuras estaban severamente deterioradas.

Se espera que el nuevo Centro de Visitantes se complete en septiembre de 2011. El trabajo lo lleva a cabo McKinney International, bajo la supervisión de la Oficina de Ingeniería de Instalaciones y Operaciones.

At BCI´s old dinning hall

En el antiguo comedor de BCI