New publication on Central American botany

Representatives from the World Wildlife Fund, the Red de Herbarios de Mesoamerica y el Caribe, National Museum of Costa Rica and ANAM’s Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano del Atlántico Panameño gathered at STRI’s Tupper Conference Center to present a new summary of missing links in our knowledge of Central American flora, Identificación de vacíos de información botánica en Centroamérica, on Friday, January 11th. The publication, edited by Mariela Bermúdez and Joaquín Sánchez G., from the Costa Rica National Museum, includes contributions from STRI researchers Mireya Correa, Noris Salazar, Stanley Heckadon, and research assistant María Staff. It is the fourth in the technical series of the Red de Herbarios de Mesoamerica y el Caribe, established in 1995. This network currently represents 25 different plant collections including two in Panama: the herbarium at the University of Panama and the Summit Herbarium at STRI, both directed by Mireya Correa.

STRI assists new bio-security lab in Panama

At the request of the Panamanian Ministry of Health last year, STRI provided assistance and technical advice to the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory to design and develop a new bio-security laboratory in Panama, after last year’s Anthrax mailings and bio-terrorism threats. A team formed by Harry Barnes, assistant director for Scientific Support Services, Security manager Alejandro Arze, Safety officer José Ramón Perurena and scientific coordinator Raineldo Urriola advised in the development and acquisition of equipment for a Laboratory Level 2, and participated in workshops designed to handle suspicious packages and situations. STRI Procurement Office also assisted with the purchases for the new lab.
Researchers wanted for field study course

Especially for graduate students: Want to make a little money teaching college students about your research? Gerald Urquhart will bring undergraduate students from Michigan State University to Panama in May, 2002. May 7-8 they will be in Gamboa and May 9-10 on BCI. They are looking for guest scientists to help with field projects on May 8, 9, or 10. Scientists will be compensated. They are also looking for guest lecturers for evenings during this period (May 7-8, 10, Gamboa; May 9 on BCI). Field projects can be on a variety of things related to your research. Urquhart would like projects that introduce students to the context of a research project, how the question is asked, the design of the experiment, etc. Students will then accompany the researcher into the field to collect data and quickly analyze the data. Graduate student research projects are especially desirable. Interested please contact Gerald at urquhar5@msu.edu. Please suggest some rough ideas for field projects and location of project.

Game-Warden Day

As part of the activities to commemorate Game Warden Day in Panama, on Friday, January 18th, STRI’s Marine Exhibition Center in Punta Culebra hosted an educational group visit organized by CEASPA (Panamanian Center for Studies and Social Activities) for officials and game-wardens of Parque Nacional San Lorenzo, on Saturday, January 19. The Marine Exhibition Center director Argelis Ruiz served as guide for the group, emphasizing the importance to conserve tropical marine coasts and wetlands.

Como parte de las conmemoraciones del Día del Guardabosques en Panamá, el viernes, 18 de enero, el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Punta Culebra recibió una visita de grupo educativa organizada por el Centro de Estudios y Acción Social de Panamá, CEASPA, para directivos y guardabosques del Parque Nacional San Lorenzo, el sábado, 19 de enero. Argelis Ruiz, directora del Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas, atendió al grupo sirviendo de guía y enfatizó sobre la importancia de la conservación de las costas marinas y los humedales en los trópicos.