

Tupper seminar

No noon seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15. Please check GroupWise and your bulletin board for any last minute announcement.

Bambi seminar

Please check GroupWise and your bulletin board for information on the next Bambi.

Arrivals

Melvin Tyree, USDA Forest Service, University of Vermont, Jan 14, to study the integration of canopy and hydraulic architecture in *Psychotria* species along light and moisture gradients, on BCI.

Wolfgang Wanek, University of Viena, Austria, Jan 15-22 to visit STRI for future research, and consult with Klaus Winter.

Jodi Sedlock, short-term fellow from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jan 15 - Apr 15, to study bats and gaps: direct and indirect effects of treefall on local bat diversity, on BCI.

Amro Zayed, York University, Canada, Jan 17 - Feb 7, to study diploid male production in euglossine bees, at Tupper.

Correction

Sacha Lozano, short-term fellow from Universidad del Valle, Colombia, Jan 20 - Mar 31, to work on the project "Do tidally influence flows affect reef-fish larval replenishment at a local scale?" at Naos and Isla Ranchería, Coiba.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

January 11, 2002

Symposium on the future of the Amazon

STRI and the World Wildlife Fund - US will sponsor a half-day symposium entitled "The Future of the Amazon: Impacts of Deforestation and Climate Change" at the Tupper Conference Center on Tuesday, January 29, from 9am to 1pm. A number of leading Amazonian ecologists and conservationists will be speaking, with introductory comments by acting director Cristian Samper and WWF-US chief scientist Eric Dinerstein. The symposium will be presided by STRI scientist William F. Laurance who worked with the Smithsonian Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragment Project in Manaus, Brazil until recently. The STRI scientific community is invited to attend the symposium.

STRI y el Fondo de Vida Silvestre para la Naturaleza de los Estados Unidos (WWF-US) llevarán a cabo el simposio "El futuro del Amazonas: Impactos por deforestación y cambios climáticos" en el Salón de Conferencias del Centro Earl S. Tupper de STRI, el martes 29 de enero, de 9am a 1pm. El simposio contará con la presencia de líderes internacionales en ecología y conservación y comentarios introductorios de Cristián Samper, director encargado de STRI y Eric Dinerstein, científico en jefe de WWF-US. El simposio será presidido por el científico de STRI, William F. Laurance, quien residió hasta el año pasado en Manaus, Brasil, trabajando con el Smithsonian en el Proyecto de Dinámica Biológica de Fragmentos de Bosques. La comunidad científica de STRI está invitada a atender el simposio.

Simposio sobre el futuro del Amazonas

Genetic marker tells domestication story



In the January 8 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (vol. 99(1): 535-540) STRI researchers Oris Sanjur and Dolores Piperno, Thomas C. Andres from the Cucurbit Network and Linda Wessel-Beaver from the University of Puerto Rico establish mitochondrial DNA analysis as a powerful tool for understanding relationships among flowering plants. A comparison of mtDNA from cultivated squash, pumpkins, gourds and their wild ancestors strongly supports hypotheses based on archeological and ethnobotanical evidence for six independent domestication events in the New World.

(Photo: Marcos A. Guerra)

THE FUTURE OF THE AMAZON

Impacts of Deforestation and Climate Change

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Tupper Auditorium,
Tuesday, 29 January 2002, 9am - 1pm



Speakers will include leading authorities on Amazonian ecology and conservation:

Professor Ronal Arisari,
Duke University, USA

Dr. Philip Fearnside,
National Institute for Amazonian Research, Brazil

Dr. William Laurance,
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

Dr. Daniel Nepstad,
Woods Hole Research Center, USA

Dr. Wim Sombroek,
Pilot Program to Conserve the Brazilian Rainforest, Netherlands



For information contact:
Dr. William Laurance
Phone: 212 4232 or 314 9306
E-mail: william@stri.si.edu



More arrivals

Odd Sandlund, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Jan 18-31, to meet with Frode Odegaard and review his project, at Tupper.

David King, Jan 18, U.K., to study stem orientation in relation to growth rate and light in tropical vs. temperate deciduous saplings, with a Mellon Exploratory Award, on BCI.

Miscellaneous

Openhouse: everything must go! VW Gol (1500km) AC 8,000 vtu, digital washer, refrigerator, bed, stereo, diner, water heater, TV with VHS, etc. Everything almost new (with invoice for warranty). All prices are negotiable. Call Federico Alfaro (former STRI volunteer) at 613-3343.

Two visiting scientists are seeking an inexpensive room for rent in an apartment or house in Diabolo, Albrook, or other neighborhood close to Tupper. They are in Panama City infrequently, but are looking for a long-term rental to keep things and stay when they are in the city. Please contact Mark Wishnie at mark.wishnie@yale.edu

 Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales
Te invita a participar del Campamento de Verano 2002:
"Una semana junto al mar con el Smithsonian"



Aprende a observar y diferenciar organismos que habitan en la costa del Pacifico.
Disfruta las maravillas naturales que se encuentran cerca de tu ciudad.
Conoce más de nuestros océanos jugando y produciendo tus propias obras de arte.

Fecha: del 21 al 25 de enero de 2002
Edad: de 7 a 12 años
Lugar: Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas (CEM), Punta Culebra, Calzada de Amador.
Costo: B/\$5.00
Incluye materiales, seguro y transporte ida y vuelta del Centro Tupper al CEM.
Fecha límite de inscripción: Viernes 18 de enero de 2002. Cupos limitados.
Información: 212-8170 ó 212-8171

A week by the sea with the Smithsonian

STRI will have its Summer Camp 2002 "A week by the sea with the Smithsonian" from Monday, January 28 through Friday, February 1st for children 7 to 12, from 8am to 12m. The camp will be at the Marine Exhibition Center in Punta Culebra. The cost is \$85 and includes the supplies, insurance and transportation from Tupper to Culebra. Children of STRI's employees pay only \$70. Number of participants is limited. Deadline for registration: Friday, January 18. For registration and more information please call tel. 212-8171 or 212-8171.

STRI llevará a cabo su Campamento de Verano 2002 "Una semana junto al mar con el Smithsonian" del lunes 28 de enero al viernes 1 de febrero, para niños de 7 a 12 años de edad, de 8am-12m. El campamento será en el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas (CEM) en Punta Culebra, Calzada de Amador. El costo del campamento es de \$85, que incluye materiales, seguro y transporte ida y vuelta del Centro Tupper al CEM. Para hijos de empleados de STRI el costo es de \$70. Los cupos son limitados. La fecha límite de inscripción es el viernes 18 de enero. Para inscripción o mayores detalles comuníquese al tel. 212-8170 ó 212-8171.

"Una semana junto al mar con el Smithsonian"

Is deforestation accelerating in the Brazilian Amazon?: Laurance

A research team of U.S. and Brazilian scientists has provided compelling evidence that rates of forest destruction in the Brazilian Amazon have accelerated over the last decade. The team, led by STRI scientist William Laurance, analyzed deforestation estimates produced by Brazil's National Space Agency that were based on detailed satellite images of the Amazon since 1978. Contrary to the claims of the Brazilian government that threats to Amazonian forests have fallen in recent years because of improved environmental laws and public attitudes, the Smithsonian team asserts that rates of deforestation have risen sharply since 1995. "Forest destruction from 1995 to 2000 averaged almost two million hectares a year," said Laurance. "That's equivalent to seven football fields a minute, and it's comparable to the bad old days in the 1970s and 1980s, when forest loss in the Amazon was catastrophic." The research team's findings are important because the Brazilian government plans to invest over \$40 billion in new highways, railroads, hydroelectric reservoirs, power lines, and gas lines in the Amazon over the next few years. About 5000 miles of highways will be paved. The government claims that these projects will have only limited effects on the Amazon. But the research team disputes these assertions. "There's no way you can criss-cross the basin with all these giant transportation and energy projects and not have a tremendous impact on the Amazon," says Laurance. "When you build a new road in the frontier, you almost always initiate large-scale forest invasions by loggers, hunters, and slash-and-burn farmers." Although new environmental laws in Brazil are designed to slow forest loss, the research team claims that most laws are rarely enforced. That, in concert with a rapidly growing population and dramatically expanding logging and mining industries, means that threats to Amazonian forests are growing. "The scariest thing is that many of the highways and infrastructure projects will penetrate right into the pristine heart of the Amazon," says Laurance. "That could increase forest loss and fragmentation on an unprecedented scale." The team's findings are described in a paper that just appeared in the journal *Environmental Conservation* (William F. Laurance, Ana K. M. Albernaz, and Carlos Da Costa. 2001. "Is deforestation accelerating in the Brazilian Amazon?" *Environmental Conservation* 28:305-311)

EurekaAlert!



Volleyball "Copa Rotativa Mercedes Ng Arroyo"

Everybody is invited to participate in the "Copa Rotativa Mercedes Ng Arroyo" starting today, Friday 11 at the Tivoli parking lot after 5pm. Please contact Eric Lam at the Tupper Center for more information.

Todos están invitados a participar en la liga de volleyball "Copa Rotativa Mercedes Arroyo" a partir de hoy, 11 de enero en los estacionamientos de Tivoli, después de las 5pm. Comuníquese con Eric Lam en el Centro Tupper para mayor información.