

Special seminar

Tuesday, July 22, STRI's Center for Tropical Forest Science will hold the **Neotropical Tree Species Distribution Symposium** from 8:30am-4:30pm, at the Tupper Center Auditorium. See the program on p.4.

Bambi seminar

Thursday, July 24, Bambi seminar speaker will be Luitgard Schwendenmann, University of Wyoming **Soil organic carbon dynamics in a tropical wet forest**

Arrivals

Beatriz Baker, University of Missouri at St. Louis, Jul 19 - Aug 24, to work with Michael Kaspari, on BCI.

Jenitta Kwong and Katherine Beebe, Princeton University, Jul 20 - Aug 3, to work with Michaela Hau, in Gamboa.

Laura Graham and Laura Spence, Cambridge University, UK, Jul 22 - Sep 16, to work with Edmund Tanner, on BCI.

José Dorias and María José Darías Cáceres, Instituto de Ciencias Marinas, Spain, Jul 22 - 28, to study new biomolecules from selected marine species, on the *Urracá*.

Sarah Benfield, Heriot-Watt University, July 22 - Aug 19, to participate in a Urracá-Darwin initiative Perlas Expedition. She will be posted at Naos.

Rebecca Jordan, Princeton University, Jul 23 - 30, to study sensory bias for dorsal fin morphology in *Poecilia*

STRI news 2003



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

July 18, 2003



Panamanian president inaugurates Culebra's turtle pond and marine exhibits

Panama's president Mireya Moscoso, in company of STRI director Ira Rubinoff and Liriola Pitti, director of IPAT, Panama's National Institute for Tourism, inaugurated STRI's sea turtle glass-pond and exhibit *Marine turtles: mysterious navigators* at Culebra's Marine Exhibition Center, on Wednesday, July 16. The pond—sponsored by IPAT has a capacity of 8,500gal of water. It houses five juvenile turtles: three *Ertemochelys imbicata*, a *Lepidochelys olivacea* and a *Chelonia mydas* or green turtle on loan from Galeta Marine Lab. They are fed fish, crabs and squid. Sharing the tank and the public limelight are a small shark and other marine organisms. Two additional exhibits were inaugurated that day at Culebra *Panamá: abundance of fish* based on the book by Allen and Robertson *Fishes of the tropical eastern Pacific*, and a lovely collection of oil paintings by architect Julio Chu, *From the reef*. Visit the new exhibits Tuesday to Friday 1-5pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am-6pm.

La presidenta de Panamá Mireya Moscoso, en compañía del director de STRI Ira Rubinoff y Liriola Pitti, directora del Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT), inauguró un estanque de vidrio para tortugas y la exhibición *Tortugas marinas: navegantes misteriosas* en el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas de STRI en Punta Culebra, el miércoles 16 de julio. El estanque—financiado por el IPAT— tiene capacidad para 8,500gal de agua. Actualmente alberga cinco tortugas juveniles, tres *Ertemochelys imbicata*, una *Lepidochelys olivacea* y una *Chelonia mydas* prestada de Galeta. Se les alimenta con peces, caracoles y calamares. Actualmente comparten el estanque y el ojo de público con un pequeño tiburón y otros organismos marinos. También se inauguraron dos nuevas exhibiciones marinas: *Panamá: abundancia de peces*, basada en el libro de Allen y Robertson *Peces del Pacífico oriental tropical*, y una hermosa colección de pinturas del arquitecto Julio Chú, *Desde el arrecife*. Visite las nuevas exhibiciones de martes a viernes de 1 a 5pm y los sábados y domingos de 10am-6pm.

More arrivals

Leonel Sternberg, University of Miami, Jul 25 - Aug 1, to study the uptake of nutrients from leaf-cutter ant nets, on BCI.

Jeffrey Sossa, SI's National Museum of Natural History, Jul 25 - Aug 21, to work with Ted Schultz, in Gamboa.

John Clark, George Washington University, Jul 25 - Aug 16, to study the systematics of the neotropical plant genus *Alloplectis* (Gesneriaceae), at Fortuna.

Departures

Aaron O'Dea, CTPA, Jul 18 - Aug 1, to the UK, to assist in conservation field work and vacation.

William Weislo, Jul 20 - Aug 1, to Chanela, Mexico, to discuss collaboration research and to visit the Chamela Biological Station.

New publications

Christy, John H. 2003. "Reproductive timing and larval dispersal of intertidal crabs: the predator avoidance hypothesis." *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural* 76: 177-185.

Christy, John H., Baum, Julia K., and Backwell, Patricia R. Y. 2003. "Attractiveness of sand hoods built by courting male fiddler crabs, *Uca musica*: test of a sensory trap hypothesis." *Animal Behaviour* 65(Online).

Harrison, Rhett D. 2003. "Fig wasp dispersal and the stability of a keystone plant resource in Borneo." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London) B* Online.

Sewall Wright Award to West-Eberhard

Dan Simberloff, president of the American Society of Naturalists (ASN) presented STRI staff scientist Mary Jane West Eberhard with the 2003 Sewall Wright Award at the awards banquet of ASN, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the Society for Systematic Biology, on June 24. The Sewall Wright Awards is given by the American Society of Naturalists to a senior (but still active) investigator of any nationality who has made major contributions to further the conceptual unification of the biological sciences. The

award, sometimes called "the ultimate in peer review for an established evolutionary biologist", was created in 1991 in honor of evolutionary biologist Sewall Wright. The Sewall Wright Award joins a number of other honors that West-Eberhard has received, including membership in both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. As a member of the former, West-Eberhard serves on the Committee on Human Rights for her third term, and she is active in promoting the careers of young scientists, particularly those doing work in Latin America.

(Photo: courtesy of Neal G. Smith)

Dan Simberloff, presidente de la Sociedad de Naturalistas de los Estados Unidos (ASN) hizo entrega del premio Sewall Wright 2003 a Mary Jane West-Eberhard, científica de STRI, durante la gala de premios de ASN, la Sociedad para el Estudio de la Evolución, y la Sociedad de Biología Sistemática, el 24 de junio. El premio Sewall Wright se otorga a investigadores "senior" (que estén activos) de cualquier nacionalidad que hayan hecho grandes contribuciones para avanzar la unificación conceptual de las ciencias biológicas. El premio, que con frecuencia es llamado "lo último en aceptación académica para un biólogo evolucionista establecido" fue creado en 1991 para honrar al biólogo evolucionista Sewall Wright. Este premio se suma a otros honores que West-Eberhard ha recibido, incluyendo la membresía en la Academia Nacional de Ciencias de los Estados Unidos y la Academia de Artes y Ciencias de los Estados Unidos. Como miembro de esta última, West-Eberhard sirve en el Comité de Derechos Humanos por tercera vez, y es activa en la promoción de científicos jóvenes, particularmente aquellos que hacen trabajos en América Latina.

New appointment at OCAPP

Public information officer Mónica Alvarado was appointed deputy director of the Office for Communications and Public Programs (OCAPP), last week. Alvarado started working for STRI in 1988, and since then, she has served as administrator assistant to director Ira Rubinoff, protocol officer, transition coordinator when STRI adopted the Panamanian labor code in 2000, and public information officer. Alvarado has a B.S. and master's degrees in business administration from the University of New Orleans. In this new position, she will continue to direct STRI's Public Information Office and will also provide managerial assistance to OCAPP director Stanley Heckadon Moreno. We wish her success with her new role.



More publications

Hubbell, Stephen P. 2003. "Foundations of Tropical Forest Biology edited by Robin L. Chazdon and Tim C. Whitmore" [Book review]. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 18(7): 321-322.

Jennions, Michael D., Backwell, Patricia R. Y., Murai, Minoru, and Christy, John H. 2003. "Hiding behaviour in fiddler crabs: how long should prey hide in response to a potential predator?" *Animal Behaviour* 65(Online).

Tyree, Melvin T., Engelbrecht, Bettina M.J., Vargas, Gustavo, and Kursar, Thomas A. 2003. "Desiccation tolerance of five tropical seedlings in Panama. Relationship to a field assessment of drought performance." *Plant Physiology* 132(3): 1439-1447.

Vincent, A., and Davies, Stuart J. 2003. "Effects of nutrient addition, mulching and planting-hole size on early performance of *Dryobalanops aromatica* and *Shorea parvifolia* in enrichment plantings in Sarawak, Malaysia." *Forest Ecology and Management* 180(1-3): 261-271.

Correction

To *STRI news*, July 11, 2003

STRI and the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS) completed their five-week graduate course on Tropical Marine Ecology on July 18, on Bocas del Toro. Instructors at Achiotines included Ilka Feller and Rachel Borgatti from SI's Environmental Research Center, John Pearse from the University of California at Santa Cruz and Ricardo Thompson, Tim Carruthers and Juan L. Maté, from STRI.

Mónica Alvarado, directora de la Oficina de Divulgación de STRI, fue nombrada subdirectora de la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Programas Públicos (OCAPP), la semana pasada. Alvarado empezó a trabajar en STRI en 1988, y desde entonces ha servido como asistente administrativa del director Ira Rubinoff, directora de Protocolo, y coordinadora de la transición en 2000 cuando STRI asumió el código laboral panameño. Alvarado tiene una licenciatura y una maestría en administración de negocios ambas de la Universidad de Nueva Orleans. En esta nueva posición seguirá dirigiendo la Oficina de Divulgación, y también prestará apoyo gerencial al director de OCAPP Stanley Heckadon Moreno. Le deseamos éxito en sus nuevas funciones.

Coates presents *Paseo Pantera*



American Ambassador Linda E. Watt, Elena Lombardo and Anthony G. Coates.

Unidos en Panamá, el martes 15 de julio. *Paseo Pantera*, la versión en español de *Central America: A natural and cultural history*, editada por el científico emérito y antiguo subdirector de STRI Anthony G. Coates, es el primer libro en español publicado por Smithsonian Institution Press. Esta publicación ha sido dedicada por sus autores a la República de Panamá, en el año de la celebración de su centenario. El libro fue publicado previamente en inglés por Yale University Press. Está a la venta en la Librería de STRI por \$24.95.

Anthony G. Coates presented the book *Paseo Pantera: Una historia de la naturaleza y cultura de Centroamérica* at the American Embassy in Panama, on Tuesday, July 15. *Paseo Pantera*, the version in Spanish of *Central America: A natural and cultural history*, edited by STRI scientist emeritus and former deputy director Anthony G. Coates is the first Spanish book published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. This publication has been dedicated by its authors to the Republic of Panama in the year of its centennial celebrations, as a contribution to understanding the rich biodiversity of the Isthmus. The book was previously published in English by Yale University Press. The book is selling at the STRI bookstore for \$24.95.

Anthony G. Coates presentó el libro *Paseo Pantera: Una historia de la naturaleza y cultura de Centroamérica* en la Embajada de Estados

Neotropical Tree Species Distribution Symposium

8:45am Ira Rubinoff - Welcome to STRI
9am Richad Condit
9:15am Jerome Chave: Maps of tree diversity
9:45am Tom Hollowell: Sampling biodiversity. Perspective from Guyana

10:15am Break
10:30am César Marín: Knowledge status of the flora of Colombian Amazonia
11am To be announced

11:30am Recess
12m Nigel Pitman: Macroecology of western Amazonian trees

1pm Lunch
2pm Mireya Correa: The status of knowledge of the flora of Panama
2:30pm K. Ruokolainen: Bringing together Neotropical tree inventory data sets: suggestions to do it in a quick and not so dirty way

3pm Break
3:15pm Alvaro Duque: Towards a single data base of trees in Colombian Amazonia: some preliminary results
4pm Richard Condit

Upcoming...Soils symposium

We tread on it,
trees grow in it,
water flows through it,
it is fundamental
it is basic (often acidic),
but what do we really know about it?

We announce a symposium dedicated to soil related research at STRI
Friday, August 1 starting 10am

Barbeque and drinks to follow at 5 p.m.