

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, 4pm seminar speaker will be William F. Laurance, STRI

Ecosystem decay of Amazonian forest fragments: A 25-year investigation

Bambi seminar

For information on the next Bambi, please check GroupWise.

Arrivals

David Winkler, Cornell University, Mar 27 - Apr 2, to study the life history and organismal biology of mangrove swallow, on BCI.

Edzo Veldkamp, University of Goettingen, Germany, Mar 28 - Apr 3, to conduct a nutrient augmentation or fertilization experiment, in Gamboa.

Gerhard Zotz, Mar 29 - Apr 10, to study the ecology of tropical epiphytes, on BCI.

James Dalling, University of Illinois, Mar 29 - Apr 7, to study the elevation effects on the life-history characteristics of tropical trees, in Fortuna and Bocas del Toro.

Virginie Canoine, University of Sienna, Italy, Mar 30 - Apr 14, to work with Leonida Fusani on the evolution of manakin displays, in Gamboa.

Charlotte Sharkey, volunteer from the University of California at Berkeley, Apr 1 - May 14, to work with Rachel Page, on BCI.

Safety tel. number:
212-8211



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

March 24, 2005

Communication workshop for scientists

Six international science journalists led by Nancy Baron from Sea Web/COMPASS: Jeff Burnside, NBC TV, Miami, Cornelia Dean, *The New York Times*, Natasha Loder, *Economist*, Thomas Hayden, US News and World Report and Kenneth Weiss, from *Los Angeles Times*, were brought to STRI to conduct the first in a series of communication workshops for scientists and STRI communicators. Invited by STRI were Sofia de Kosmas from Panamanian newspaper *La Prensa*, and freelancer reporter Eva Aguilar.

The journalists interviewed the scientists in different locations and for different media including Culebra, BCI, Gamboa, Bocas del Toro and Coibita.

The workshop was an initiative of staff scientist Jeremy B.C. Jackson, who has a wide experience with the media.

In his welcoming remarks, director Ira Rubinoff emphasized how scientists and science journalists share more than a common interest in science, and encouraged the group to “understand more about the selection pressures scientists and journalists face and develop techniques to channel scientific discovery at



STRI through the media to an international audience.” The photo shows Kenneth Weiss interviewing staff scientist Rachel Colin, on their way to BCI.

Seis periodistas internacionales de ciencia liderados por Nancy Baron de Sea Web/COMPASS: Jeff Burnside, NBC TV Miami, Cornelia Dean, *The New York Times*, Natasha Loder, *Economist*, Thomas Hayden, US News y World Report, y Kenneth Weiss, *Los Angeles Times*, visitaron STRI para llevar a cabo el primero de una serie de talleres de comunicación para científicos y comunicadores de STRI. STRI invitó también a Sofía de Kosmas, de *La Prensa* de Panamá, y a Eva Aguilar, reportera independiente.

Los periodistas entrevistaron a los científicos en diferentes lugares y para diferentes

medios incluyendo Culebra, BCI, Gamboa, Bocas del Toro y Coibita.

El Taller de Comunicación fue iniciativa del científico de STRI Jeremy B.C. Jackson, quien tiene una amplia experiencia lidiando con los medios.

En sus palabras de bienvenida, el director Ira Rubinoff subrayó cómo científicos y periodistas de ciencia comparten más de un interés en común por la ciencia, e invitó al grupo a “entender mejor las presiones de selección que enfrentan tanto científicos como periodistas, y a desarrollar técnicas para canalizar los descubrimientos científicos en STRI a través de los medios para llegar a audiencias internacionales.” La foto muestra a Kenneth Weiss entrevistando a la científica Rachel Collin, camino a BCI.

Departures

Egbert Leigh, Mar 19 - May 21, to Washington DC, to work at SI and to other cities around the US to present seminars at several universities.

Allen Herre, Mar 28 - May 8, invited to the People's Republic of China by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, to visit various institutions to present seminars. Will also meet with colleagues in San Francisco, and Bangkok.

Héctor Guzmán, Mar 30 - Apr 2, to San José, Costa Rica, to attend the Executive Speaker Training Seminar at the University of Costa Rica.

Richard Cooke, Mar 30 - Apr 6, to Salt Lake City, to attend the meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, then to Austin, to attend a thesis defense.

D. Ross Robertson, Mar 31 - Apr 9, to Jamaica, to do census and collect reef fishes for work on demography.

New publications

Barberis, Ignacio M., and Tanner, Edmund V.J. 2005. "Gaps and root trenching increase tree seedling growth in Panamanian semi-evergreen forest." *Ecology* 83(3): 667-674.

Eberhard, Jessica R., and Bermingham, Eldredge. 2005. "Phylogeny and comparative biogeography of *Pionopsitta* parrots and *Pteroglossus toucans*." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* Online.

Ewers, E. Robert. 2005. "Are conservation and development compatible?" *Trends In Ecology & Evolution* 20(4): 159.

Environmental Decision Makers Workshop

STRI held the first of two environmental workshops on coastal and marine ecosystems for Panamanian decision makers, "Foro Desarrollo Nacional: Riqueza Natural" from March 9-11 at Hotel Melia, Colon. The second workshop, on forests and watersheds, will be held from March 30- April 1 at the Gamboa Rainforest Resort.

The seminar, designed for decision makers of the Panamanian government, NGOs, and the civil society, aimed to share information on biodiversity and natural resources in Panama, highlighting the role protection plays in conservation and national development. It was intended for all participants to establish a working relationship to help them effectively cope with the great challenge of achieving a balance between national development and the

STRI llevó a cabo el primero de dos talleres ambientales en ecosistemas costeros y marinos para administradores de recursos de Panamá, "Foro Desarrollo Nacional: Riqueza Natural" del 9-11 de marzo en el Hotel Melia de Colón. El segundo taller se llevará a cabo del 30 de marzo al 1ro de abril en el Gamboa Rainforest Resort.

El seminario, diseñado para administradores de recursos del gobierno de Panamá, ONG's y la sociedad civil, tuvo como objetivo compartir información sobre biodiversidad y recursos naturales de Panamá, subrayando el papel que la protección juega en la conservación y el desarrollo



protection of natural resources. The event was an initiative of staff scientist William F. Laurance who obtained special funds from Agora Foundation and co-coordinated the seminar and visits to the field in with Nélide Gómez. Laurance, Gómez, Todd Capson, Luis D' Croz, Héctor Guzmán, Stanley Heckadon, José Manuel Pérez and Mark Wishnie contributed conferences to the workshop. STRI's Mónica Alvarado, Jeanette Egger, Elena Lombardo, Tania Herrera and Audrey Smith with colleagues

nacional. Se deseaba que todos los participantes establecieran una relación de trabajo para ayudarse mutuamente a enfrentar el gran reto de lograr un balance entre el desarrollo nacional y la protección de los recursos naturales. El evento fue una iniciativa del científico de STRI William F. Laurance, quien obtuvo los fondos de la Fundación Agora y co-coordinó el taller y las visitas al campo con Nélide Gómez. Laurance, Gómez, Todd Capson, Luis D' Croz, Héctor Guzmán, Stanley Heckadon, José Manuel Pérez y Mark Wishnie contribuyeron con conferencias durante el seminario. Mónica Alvarado, Jeannette Egger, Elena Lombardo, Tania Herrera y Audrey Smith de STRI, con

from Panamá's Environmental Authority (ANAM) provided great support to the event.

According to Laurance, "all 35 participants just loved the workshop, were inspired by the presentations and lively discussions, and felt they gained a great deal from it." "The participants were amazed to learn about the fragility of Panamá's natural richness and how it is becoming deteriorated, despite its great contribution to the country economy and welfare of Panamanians," added Gómez.

colegas de la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM) ofrecieron gran apoyo al evento.

De acuerdo a Laurance, "todos los 35 participantes disfrutaron grandemente el taller, y quedaron tan inspirados por las presentaciones y las vívidas discusiones, que expresaron que habían ganado muchísimo de la experiencia." "Los participantes estaban sorprendidos de saber sobre la fragilidad de la riqueza natural de Panamá y cómo se está deteriorando a pesar de la gran contribución que representa para la economía y el bienestar de los panameños", añadió Gómez.

Molecular biologist Claire Nisonger, descendant of James Smithson's family and husband Thomas Nisonger, Library Science professor, both with Indiana University visited STRI from March 11-20, to learn about STRI activities in Panama and visit facilities. The Nisongers were greatly impressed with the STRI Library, the amount of electronic journals and access to catalogs and databases. The couple also visited the Library's "Special Collection Room" with Angel Aguirre (at left in the photo), and offered to donate part of their personal library in Library Science to STRI, for the use of Library Science students. Panama is currently offering two master's programs in Library Science. In the photo, Thomas Nisonger examines the book *Indian Races of America*, published in 1865 by Charles de Wolf Brownwell.

La bióloga molecular Claire Nisonger, descendiente de la familia de James Smithson, y su esposo Thomas Nisonger, profesor de Bibliotecología, ambos con Indiana University, visitaron STRI del 11 al 20 de

SI officials visit OFEO-Panama

STRI's Office of Facilities and Operations (OFEO) receive special visitors from Washington DC last week. Richard Day, zone and facilities manager at the National Museum of Natural History, OFEO's financial analyst David Voyles and cost analyst Eugene Fitzgerald visited their colleagues in Panama to evaluate procedures and suggests changes to improve operations in Panama. They were sent by OFEO director William Brubaker. Roger Yankoupe, director of SI's Office of Safety and Environmental Management (OSEM) and Andrew Wilson, assistant director of Fire



marzo, para conocer las actividades e instalaciones de STRI en Panamá.. Los Nisonger se mostraron impresionados por la Biblioteca de STRI, la cantidad de revistas electrónicas que posee, y el acceso a catálogos y bases de datos. La pareja también visitó el Salón de la Colección Especial de la Biblioteca con Angel Aguirre (a la izquierda en la foto), y ofreció

donar parte de su biblioteca personal de Bibliotecología a STRI, para el uso de estudiantes de Bibliotecología. Panamá actualmente ofrece dos programas de maestría en Bibliotecología. En la foto, Thomas Nisonger examina el libro *Indian Races of America*, publicado en 1865 por Charles de Wolf Brownwell

Protection and Safety Division, OSEM, also visited STRI's OFEO officials in their yearly evaluations. With them were OSEM's Fire Protection engineer William Dumayas and Bronson Brown. This was Yankoupe's first visit to Panama.

La Oficina de Instalaciones y Operaciones de STRI (OFEO) recibió visitantes especiales de Washington DC, la semana pasada. Richard Day, gerente de zona e instalaciones del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, el analista financiero David Voyles de OFEO, y el analista de costos, Eugene Fitzgerald visitaron sus colegas en Panamá

para evaluar procedimientos y sugerir cambios para mejorar las operaciones en Panamá. El grupo fue enviado por William Brubaker, director de OFEO. Roger Yankoupe, director de la Oficina de Seguridad Laboral y Administración Ambiental (OSEM) y Andrew Wilson, subdirector de Protección de Fuegos y la División de Seguridad Laboral de OSEM también visitaron a los funcionarios de OFEO de STRI, en su visita anual de evaluación. Con ellos estuvieron William Dumayas, ingeniero de Protección de Fuegos, y Bronson Brown, OSEM. Esta fue la primera visita de Yankoupe a Panamá.

More publications

Fallon, Sylvia M., Bermingham, Eldredge, and Ricklefs, Robert E. 2005. "Host specialization and geographic localization of avian malaria parasites: A regional analysis in the Lesser Antilles." *American Naturalist* 165(4): 466-480.

Hoagstrom, Carl W. 2005. "The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography Stephen P. Hubbell." *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 98(2): 241-242.

Reynolds, Hannah T., and Currie, Cameron R. 2004. "Pathogenicity of *Escovopsis weberi*: The parasite of the attine ant-microbe symbiosis directly consumes the ant-cultivated fungus." *Mycologia* 96(5): 955-959.

Velasquez Runk, Julie, Mepaquito, Pinel, and Pena, Floriselda. 2004. "Artisanal non-timber forest products in Darién province, Panamá: The importance of context." *Conservation and Society* 2(2): 217-234.

Wrege, Peter H., Wikelski, Martin C., Mandel, James T., Rassweiler, Thomas, and Couzin, Iain D. 2005. "Antbirds parasitize foraging army ants." *Ecology*, 86(3): 555-559.

Zotz, Gerhard. 2005. "Vascular epiphytes in the temperate zones - a review." *Plant Ecology* 176(1): 173-183.

STRI in the news

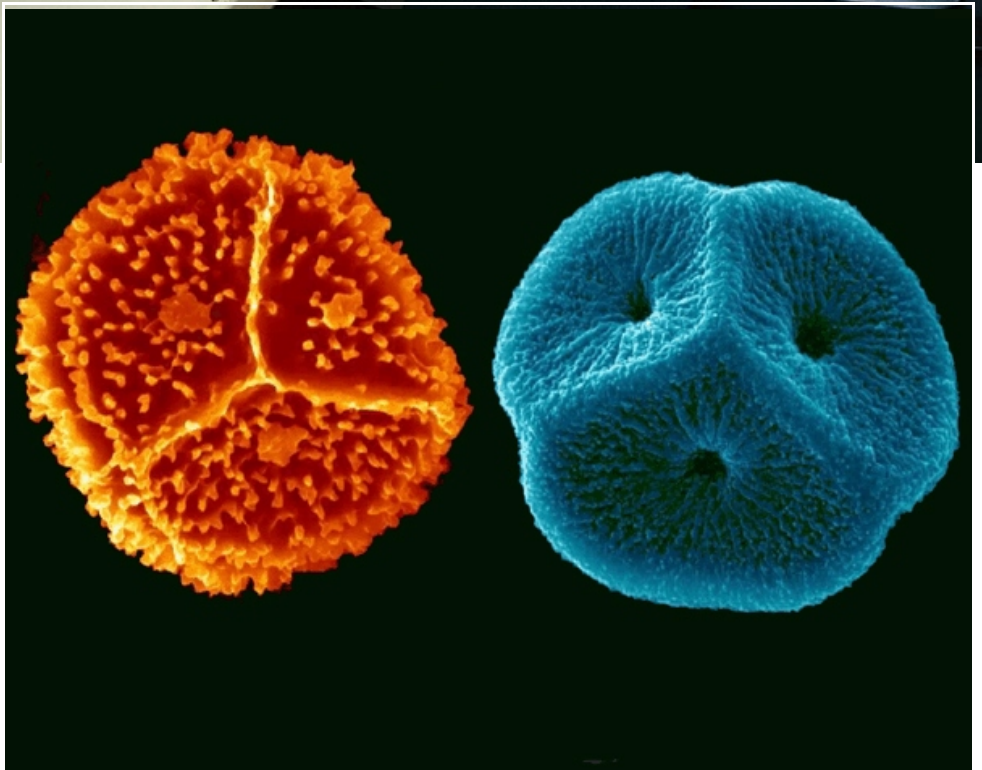
Hey, You, Get Off of My Sponge, by Henry Fountain. 2005. *The New York Times*, March 15.

science in progress:



After hours

Biologist Jorge Ceballos from Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá (IDIAP) works at STRI Friday night and on Saturday from 8am-5pm providing support to STRI scientists, the University of Panama, and other institutions with which STRI has scientific collaboration agreements. Ceballos prepares samples and uses the electronic microscope at Tupper to produce images for specialized publications. Frequent users of the microscope are Dolores Piperno, Don Windsor, Héctor Guzmán, Annette Aiello and Noris Salazar-Allen. The photo at right is an image of an anteceroete and a notilia spore under study by Salazar-Allen.



El biólogo Jorge Ceballos del Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá (IDIAP) trabaja en STRI los viernes por la noche y el sábado de 8am-5pm dando apoyo a científicos de STRI, la Universidad

de Panamá, y otras instituciones con quien STRI tiene convenios de colaboración científica. Ceballos prepara las muestras y usa el microscopio electrónico de Tupper, para producir imágenes para publicaciones especializadas. Usuarios frecuentes del

microscopio son Dolores Piperno, Don Windsor, Héctor Guzmán, Annette Aiello y Noris Salazar Allen. La foto de arriba es de un anteceroete y esporas de notilia, bajo estudio por Salazar-Allen.