



STRI NEWSLETTER

#37 - September 24, 1982

STRI RECEIVES FUNDING FOR PROJECT: ALTERNATIVES TO DESTRUCTION

We have just received the good news that the W. Alton Jones Foundation, Inc. has approved a grant in the amount of \$1,029,000, for a five year period, to develop alternatives to the destruction of tropical forests. The project will be carried out in the vicinity of the West Bank of the Barro Colorado Nature Monument.

SEMINARS

We will not have a seminar on Tuesday, September 28th. Staff, visitors and fellows interested in giving upcoming talks during the Tuesday noon hour are urged to contact DAVE ROUBIK at the Tivoli, in order that seminars can be scheduled for the coming month.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

September 26 - Arriving, ARIS TEE ALLEN, SI Office of Design and Construction for one week.

Leaving, JOHN CUBIT, for Washington, D.C. on official business related to the Marine Environmental Sciences Program.

September 27 - Leaving MICHAEL ROBINSON and NICK SMYTHE for a short official trip to Belize. They will be returning September 29.

TERESA TOWNSHEND, from the University College of Wales, recently arrived and will be here for six months working on the effects of food availability on the reproduction of cichlid fish. She will be living on BCI.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Each issue of Current Contents will be displayed in the Library until superseded by a new one, and will then be routed. Members of the scientific staff who would like to be on the routing list to receive this (or any similar publication) are asked to please contact ANGEL AGUIRRE.

New Index: ENTOMOLOGY ABSTRACTS
New Journal: Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The Gamewardens of the BCNM are planning a Christmas Party for the 65 children of Las Pavas, a neighboring community on Gatun Lake. Donations of toys, clothing and food would be welcomed. If you are interested in donating any of the above for this event, please contact PEDRO ACOSTA at BCI.

FILM RECENTLY RELEASED

The film on the frog-eating bat story, the research project conducted on BCI by MERLIN TUTTLE and MIKE RYAN, was released this month in England as part of the BBC series "WILD LIFE ON ONE".

STRI RESEARCHER IN THE NEWS

DR. DAVID ROUBIK's recent article in SCIENCE on carrion bees has generated a great deal of interest in the news media, for although it is believed that some bees and wasps may consume flesh to turn it into nest-construction material, the bees found by Roubik in eastern Panama are believed to be the first to use the flesh ingested from dead animals as a protein source. As a recent article in the SCIENCE WATCH section of the NEW YORK TIMES reports these stingless bees (*Trigona hypogea*) have no other protein source than the flesh they consume, and have lost through the course of evolution the hairy "baskets" on their rear legs that almost all other bees use to collect pollen. From his observations Roubik has found that these bees partly digest the animal flesh and transport it to the nest where they then regurgitate it to other bees. The bees deposit pheromone trails between sources of food and their nest, which makes it possible for fellow nestmates to arrive quickly and in great numbers at the food site. Unlike other bees, this species has five large, pointed teeth on each mandible to enable them to easily gather carrion and for attacking competitors for food and nest sites.

The carrion bee story that has attracted the attention of scientists and non-scientists alike is another example of the many interesting mysteries of nature that are yet to be discovered by tropical biologists.

FOR SALE

Sears Kenmore apartment size gas stove, 4 burners, oven, broiler, \$290.
Bamboo living room furniture with cushions: sofa, two chairs, coffee table \$650.
Glasstopped iron table, 4 matching chairs: \$300.
All in excellent condition, used only 4 months. Call evenings, (2)52-5033.