

SEMINARS

On Thursday, October 7th, at 12 noon in the NAOS Conference Room, SANDRA GILCHRIST, SI Postdoctoral Fellow from Florida State University, will give a seminar on:

Hermit crab shell selection:
mathematical and sampling biases

And that evening, YOSIAKI ITÔ, Nagoya University, Japan, will give an informal seminar in the BCI Lounge after dinner. The subject of Dr. Itô's talk will be:

Social behavior of a subtropical paper wasp, *Ropalidia fasciata*

Please call Barbara Butler (2522124) if you plan to attend.

THERE WILL BE NO LUNCHEON SEMINAR THIS TUESDAY.

LIBRARY NEWS

The STRI Library was given priority to receive year-end book purchase funds amounting to about \$5,000 to improve the reference collection.

And just received: A beautiful new map by local geologists R.H. and J.L. STEWART with the collaboration of W.P. WOODRING,
GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE PANAMA CANAL
AND VICINITY, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

RECENT ARRIVAL

DIANA WHEELER, SI Postdoctoral Fellow from Duke University, to spend a year at STRI studying "Physiological control of worker polymorphism in turtle ants". She will be living on BCI.

STAFF TRAVEL

October 5 - Leaving, IRA RUBINOFF to attend the World's National Parks Congress in Bali. Dr. Rubinoff will be consulting with colleagues in Australia and Hawaii and is expected back on October 27.

STANLEY RAND returned yesterday from a two week visit to the llanos of Venezuela where he was visiting an ongoing study of iguanas. This study conducted by Gordon Rodda, an SI postdoctoral fellow, is part of the SI IESP Venezuela project. A recent PhD from Cornell and a former STRI short-term fellow, Rodda will be in Venezuela for 18 months.

The study of iguanas in Venezuela was initiated by S. Rand and Gordon Burghardt to complement work done on iguanas in Panama. The project focuses on the social organization and particularly social behavior outside of the breeding season. The llanos are savanna-like plains which are extensively flooded during the rainy season and have a very severe dry season. In contrast to the iguanas studied in Panama, those in the llanos do much of their feeding on the ground, returning to trees to bask and to sleep. Rodda is observing social interactions among iguanas both in the roosts

and while they are foraging. He has found that individual adult iguanas can be recognized by irregularities in their crestscapes. For example he can identify 35 different animals using one of the roosts he has under observation. A large number of hatchling iguanas have been marked and their movements and growth are being followed.

The iguana project is based at the Biological Station on Thomas Blohm's ranch, Hato Masagural. Comparative data is being collected at Hato El Frio, an area with many fewer trees and larger expanses of grassland.

Though the SI IESP Venezuela project has been working at Hato Masagural for a number of years, until the organization of the iguana project, Gene Montgomery's study of ant eaters was the only STRI participation.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere condolences to VIELKA VERGEL for the recent loss of her father.

NEW BOOK

COLONIZACION Y DESTRUCCION DE BOSQUES EN PANAMA, a series of essays on this ecological problem, edited by STANLEY HECKADON and ALBERTO MCKAY has just been published. The book includes essays by IRA RUBINOFF and MARCELA CAMARGO DE COOKE.

DON'T MISS

In the October issue of GEO, "Days of Torpor, Nights of SLOTH" by RICHARD CONIFF, with photos by MICHAEL FOGDEN, relating interesting information about the sloths' natural history and focusing on GENE MONTGOMERY's extensive work with these animals in the wild. The article includes excellent photos taken by the Fogdens during their recent stay on BCI--- and a special one of 'Dr. Sloth' himself, with "one of his research subjects".

In the October issue of SMITHSONIAN, "Why birds take a winter vacation", by ROGER F. PASQUIER and EUGENE S. MORTON, including several photos by NEAL SMITH, such as the spectacular view of Broad-winged Hawks circling over Panama City.



From the LONDON SUNDAY TIMES review on: "The Bat that Cracked the Frog Code", BBC Series WILDLIFE ON ONE, based on M. TUTTLE and M. RYAN work on BCI.