



STRI NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 17, 1984

HOLIDAY MONDAY

Monday, February 20 (celebration of Washington's birthday) is a U.S. holiday and STRI offices will be closed.

SEMINAR NEWS

No seminar scheduled for Tuesday, February 21.

Tuesday, February 28: the speaker will be DEVRA KLEIMAN, National Zoological Park. The subject of her seminar is:

Golden Lion Tamarins: A case History for Conservation

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Arrivals for the past week:

RACHEL LEVIN, Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship, and her assistant, ELLEN SMITH, to conduct studies on the adaptive significance of antiphonal song in the bay wren, Thryothorus nigricapillus. They will be living in Gamboa.

ROBERT RICHMOND on a Smithsonian Marine Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on the population biology of corals, Pocillopora damicornis, on the Pacific side of Panama. He will be at STRI for one year.

PRISCILLA MARTINEZ, University of Guayaquil, Ecuador, on an Exxon Assistantship, to work with Gene Montgomery on the Pelican Nesting Project in Taboga.

For this week:

February 18 - Arriving, JEFFREY GRAHAM, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, to collaborate with I. Rubinoff and J. Motta on a study of the diving biology of the sea snake, Pelamis platurus. He will be here for approximately one month.

February 20 - Arriving, ROBERT SCHEIBLING, University of Dalhousie, Canada, to collaborate with H. Lessios on studies of the mass mortality of the sea urchin, Diadema antillarum. He will be at the Naos Marine Laboratory for three weeks.

Also arriving on the same day is TERRY CHRISTENSEN for one week to continue his spider studies in the interior of Panama.

February 24 - Arriving, ROBERTA RUBINOFF, Assistant Director, SI Office of Fellowships & Grants for the tropical biology fellowship review meetings.

Also arriving, DEVRA KLEIMAN, Smithsonian National Zoological Park, for a one week visit of STRI facilities.

CHARLES DARWIN FOUNDATION MEETINGS

The 44th Executive Committee Meeting and the 13th General Assembly of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Isles will be held at STRI on Friday, February 24 (Ancon Conference Room). Arriving this week to attend the meeting are:

DAVID CHALLINOR, PETER KRAMER, PAUL COLINVAUX, I. EIBL-EIBESFELD, GUNTER RECK, JUAN BLACK, MIGUEL CIFUENTES, JOHN WRIGHT, CRAIG MCFARLAND, and DIEGO PAREDES. The group will also be holding an informal meeting on the afternoon of February 23. We welcome them to STRI and wish them a successful meeting.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library was the setting for an interview of DAVE ROUBIK by NBC's First Camera on February 15, 1984.

PHOTO EXHIBIT:

STRI photographers are invited to submit their work to the Library's Photo Committee for display in the Library. First Exhibit: June 1st. Deadline: May 1st.

Subject: Themes pertaining to STRI's research interests---marine and terrestrial biology of the tropics, animal behavior, ecology, evolution, anthropology, archaeology, conservation.

Size and type of photo: 8 x 10; 11 x 14, black and white or color.

Number of photos: up to eight.

Participants: limited to STRI personnel, associates, fellows and their families. For further information call Carol Jopling, 52-2914.

INFLUENCE OF MAN ON VEGETATION & ENVIRONMENT 2,300 YEARS AGO*

"There are mountains in Attica which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings, and roofs hewn from this timber are still in existence. There were also many lofty cultivated trees.

The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the country, in all its abundance---stored in impervious potter's earth---and so was able to discharge the drainage of the heights in the form of springs and rivers with an abundant volume and wide territorial distribution. The shrines that survive to the present day on the sites of extinct water supplies are evidence for the correctness of my present hypothesis."

Plato (427-347 B.C.) Critias

*Anonymous. 1955, Sierra Club Bull 40(4) 31, in Ecology Vol. 37, No. 2.