

SEMINAR NEWS

On Tuesday, March 12 our speaker for the luncheon seminar at Ancon will be PAUL SPITZER, Cornell University. The subject of his talk is:

Osprey Biology: Population Ecology in the U.S.

On Wednesday, March 14 ROBIN ANDREWS, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, will give an informal seminar at 8 pm in the BCI Lounge. Her subject is:

Allometry and life history evolution in reptiles

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

March 10 - Arriving, I.G. PRIEDE, University of Aberdeen, to collaborate on the sea snake project with I. Rubinoff, J. Graham and J. Motta. While at STRI, Dr. Priede will be giving a telemetry workshop and two seminars; the dates and times will be announced after his arrival. He will be in Panama until March 21.

March 12 - Arriving, HAROLD MICHAELSON and ROSS SIMONS, from the Smithsonian Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science. Mr. Michaelson will be visiting us for one week and Mr. Simons for two.

Also arriving are PHILIP RUNDEL and his assistant, N. STEPHENSON, University of California at Irvine. They will be on BCI studying limiting resources for growth and photosynthetic capacity in tropical forest seedlings.

March 16 - Arriving, ARTHUR DUNHAM and BRENDA CARPER, University of Pennsylvania, for a visit with S. Mulkey regarding his research project on BCI.

Returning, KEN CLIFTON, Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow, to continue his project on territorial groups of the striped parrotfish, Scarus iserti, in the San Blas.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Silberglied Collection, except for about 60 publications, is now fully cataloged and shelved with other monographs in the STRI Library.

NOTE OF INTEREST

DAGMAR WERNER will give the talk for the administrative staff on Thursday, March 15 at 12 noon in the Tivoli Conference Room. She will speak on: "The Iguana Management Project".

STRI HONORS "MRS G"

Friday evening, March 2nd, STRI gave a special party at the Tivoli site to honor Mrs. ADELA GOMEZ, who retired after thirty-nine years at STRI. Ira Rubinoff began his talk describing the day, 23 years ago, when he met Mrs. Gomez, and then went on to describe her accomplishments throughout the years. Rubinoff said: "Mrs. Gomez has brought a special level of devotion, efficiency, drive, diplomacy, and intelligence to her job and to STRI. Ministers, congressmen, presidents, ambassadors, senators, and in the old days, even governors and admirals were all in a days work. She dealt with all the institutional crises.... She could referee a machete fight, she could arrange to borrow a cement mixer or a barge or a jeep. She could find a rare medicine for a sick monkey. She could get you permission to go to Coiba--and the return trip as well.....! She did this with quiet, unassuming intelligence and devotion to her work, but the critical element was her love---she loves the Smithsonian family---she took us into her home---she catered to our needs---she was always on duty...." Martin Moynihan led a toast to Mrs. Gomez health, and then she received gifts from the scientific staff, from her "girls and guys" in administration and from her "children" on BCI. But as Mrs. Gomez herself said, she will not be leaving STRI; she will continue acting as Special Consultant, giving us the help and kindness she has given for many years. Mrs. Gomez was accompanied by her family, friends and present and past co-workers. Even the weather was at its best. It was a very fitting occasion for a very special person.

TROPICAL ECOLOGY FIELD COURSE

The Field Course in Tropical Biology organized by Yael Lubin, STRI, and Rosemary Sagistan and Victor Hugo Tejera from the University of Panama will begin Friday, March 9th thru April 10th. This intensive field course will take the fourteen participants from the University of Panama to different sites throughout the Republic: Parque Nacional Soberania, the Barro Colorado Nature Monument, Galeta, Aguadulce and Chiriquí (Boquete, Volcán Barú, and Fortuna). Funded by the Smithsonian Educational Outreach Program, the purpose of the course is to introduce participants to a variety of natural habitats and expose them to scientific problems and methodology. Twenty-six instructors from STRI, the University of Panama, and several local institutions (RENARE, IRHE, MIDA and the PANAMA AUDUBON SOCIETY) will give talks or lead the students in a variety of projects at the above mentioned sites. This is the first time that a field course of this nature is given in Panama, and it has entailed a herculean effort on the part of the course coordinators. BUENA SUERTE.