SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, November 1, noon seminar speaker will be MARVALEE WAKE, University of California at Berkeley.

Limbless Amphibians of the Tropics: The Biology of Caecilians.

Abstract: The gymnophione amphibians (caecilians) are limbless, elongate fossorial or aquatic animals, virtually pantropical in distribution. Their reproductive biology and aspects of the functional morphology of feeding and locomotion will be discussed. Kinematic and electromyographic data are used to analyze the system. Evolutionary morphology of caecilians provides information on a lineage apparently "constrained" early in its history, but which has had an adaptive radiation by utilizing its morphology in new ways.

NEXT WEEK

No seminar speaker scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, due to the Annual STRI Staff Retreat.

ARRIVING

October 30 - November 30, EUGENE MORTON, National Zoological Park, to study the demography of warblers in Gamboa.

October 31 - November 5, JAMES KARR, to work on the Environmental Sciences Program on BCI.

October 31, ELDREDGE BERMINGHAM, to participate in the STRI staff retreat.

November 1 - 7, GERHARD ROTH, University of Bremen, West Germany, to consult with Drs. Marvalee and David Wake. He will be staying at Gamboa.

CALENDAR

November 3 - Panama's Independence Day from Colombia is a national holiday and an official STRI holiday.

November 4 - Panama's Flag Day is a national holiday.

November 10 - The celebration of "El Grito de la Villa de los Santos", which initiated the independence movement from Spain, is a national holiday.

November 11 - Veteran's Day is an official STRI holiday.

November 24 - Thanksgiving is an official STRI holiday.

November 28 - The celebration of Panama's independence from Spain is a national holiday.

ON LEAVE

Barbara Cusatti, Oct. 31 - Nov. 4
Gloria Maggiori, Oct. 31 - Nov. 14

FROM FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

MARITZA VALLARINO DE PERURENA, formerly at Colgate Palmolive for 11 years, will be substituting for Barbara Cusatti from October 26 - November 14.

SE SOLICITA COOPERACION NAVIDEÑA

Como tradicionalmente se ha hecho en años anteriores, el cuerpo de guardabosques del Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado está realizando la fiesta de Navidad en la Comunidad de Las Pavas. Desde temprano se está recolectando ropa, zapatos, juguetes y otros artículos en buen estado que puedan repartirse. Favor enviar paquetes a A. Hernández o M. Concepción, BCI. Gracias por su cooperación.
There will be an informal seminar on BCI next Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome; the boat will return to Gamboa at 9 p.m. If assisting, please inform Maritza at BCI by 10 a.m. on Thursday.

Speaker: GERHARD ROTH
Title: AMPHIBIAN NEUROETHOLOGY

NEW BOOK FOR SALE

The STRI Mini-Store announces a new book for sale: ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL METHODS FOR THE STUDY OF BATS, ed. Thomas H. Kurz. $ 38.00

FROM THE TRAVEL OFFICE

Effective November 1, the airlines and travel agencies will be required to have copies of Paz y Salvos or documents showing exoneration of Paz y Salvo requirements before they can issue airplane tickets. This means that the STRI Travel Office will need the following, before purchasing tickets:
For scientific and administrative staff, spouses and dependents who have them - photocopies of valid MI cards;
For dependent minors - photocopy of passport showing date of birth;
For other staff travelling on official business - photocopy of valid Paz y Salvo.

Visitors who purchase tickets in Panama will need to give the airlines or travel agencies copies of their tourist cards if they have been in Panama less than 30 days, or copies of their Paz y Salvos if they have been here longer.

Everyone needs to plan ahead in order to have necessary documents available in time to purchase tickets, which, in many cases, also need to be purchased well in advance of travel dates.

La Temporada Abierta para quienes deseen cambiarse de plan médico federal comenzará el 14 de noviembre hasta el 9 de diciembre, tal como se había anunciado anteriormente. Los nuevos panfletos para el Panama Canal Area Benefit Plan (Mutual) todavía no están disponibles, pero según nos acaba de informar el Sr. Larrinaga, Gerente de la Mutual en Panamá, los beneficios no han cambiado para 1989. Pero sí va ha haber una pequeña disminución en las primas. Tan pronto se reciban los nuevos panfletos, se les distribuirán a los interesados. Para los que suscriben al plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield, nuestra Oficina de Beneficios en Washington está enviando los nuevos panfletos para 1989.

Cualquier empleado interesado en recibir curso de CPR o de Primeros Auxilios, deberá notificárselo a la secretaria de su sitio de trabajo, quien a su vez deberá enviar su lista a la oficina de la Sra. Barbara Cusatti en Tivoli. A mediados de noviembre se notificarán las fechas que nos asigne el Cuerpo de Bomberos para estos cursos.

As previously announced, the Open Season for those who wish to change their federal medical plans will begin Nov. 14 until Dec. 9. The new pamphlets for the Panama Canal Area Benefit Plan (Mutual) are not available yet, but Mr. Larrinaga, the local Mutual of Omaha manager, has just informed us that the benefits have not changed for 1989. There will only be a slight decrease in the premiums. As soon as the new pamphlets are received, they will be distributed accordingly. For those who subscribe to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan, our Benefits Office in Washington is mailing the new 1989 pamphlets.
FROM PERSONNEL (continued)

Any employee interested in taking a CPR or First Aid course should inform the facility secretary, who will in turn submit her list to Ms. Barbara Cusatti's office at Tivoli. In mid-November, everyone will be informed of the dates assigned by the Fire Department for these courses.

NEWS FROM THE ANCON FACILITY

The Office of Education and Conservation was assigned another telephone line 62-3416, in addition to 62-2014.

FROM PROCUREMENT

U.S. military express mail is functioning normally again.

JOKES NEEDED

The newsletter would appreciate contributions of your favorite jokes.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Garden Club of America is offering two $5,000 awards to assist with field work in the area of tropical botany. Awards will be made on a competitive basis to graduate students conducting field work in the tropics as part of their doctoral dissertation research. Applications due by December 31, 1988. Send CV, transcripts, evidence of foreign language capability, 2-page outline of proposed research, letter stating future plans including possible commitment to tropical forest conservation, and letter of recommendation from advisor. Students must be enrolled in a US university.

Jane MacKnight, WWF/Garden Club of America, Scholarships in Tropical Botany, World Wildlife Fund, 1250 Twenty-fourth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, USA.

NEW FORTUNA FACILITY

Effective November 1, 1988, STRI will have a facility available in Fortuna, Chiriquí, for use by researchers who wish to conduct studies in a tropical cloud forest.

This facility (housing and lab) was made available to STRI by the Instituto de Recursos Hidráulicos y Electrificación (IRHE). It is located in the town of "Los Planes", which was constructed to house the employees of the E. Fabrega Dam. The house is a duplex; one side consisting of 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen and dining/living room, the other having 2 bedrooms, bath and lab area. The fees for use of the Fortuna facility will be $5.00 per person per day.

All visits must be coordinated through the Visitors Office at least two weeks in advance. Ms. Maggiori will make the necessary reservations, etc. All researchers wishing to visit Fortuna are reminded that they will need to have INRENARE Research and/or Collecting Permits first, the same as they would for research in any other area of the Republic of Panama. Ms. Maggiori will need a copy of that permit to attach to the letter of introduction to the IRHE officials, which she will provide for visitors to hand carry to Fortuna.

For additional information call the Visitors Office at 62-3049.

SIMPOSIO DE PRIMATOLOGIA

Con el objeto de reforzar el éxito de la primera reunión de primatólogos mexicanos celebrada en 1987, y de estimular el intercambio de individuos e instituciones involucradas en investigaciones básicas y aplicadas con primates no humanos en México, se organizará un II Simposio de Primatología en la Estación de Biología "Los Tuxtlas" del 29 al 31 de marzo 1989 (Apartado 176, San Andrés Tuxtla, Veracruz, Mexico).
LIBRARY NEWS

New Books:

REGIONAL VARIATION IN INDIAN OCEAN CORAL REEFS: PROCEEDINGS OF A SYMPOSIUM... (D.R. Stoddart and Maurice Yonge, editors, 1971). QA541.5.C735 STRI

RELACIONES MORFOMETRICAS EN UNA POBLACION DE ASTYANAX RUBERRIMUS, EIGENMANN, 1913 DEL RIO SAN FELIX, PANAMA. (Humberto Saldana Saldana, 1987). QL638.C5516 STRI

SEDIMENTARY ENVIRONMENTS AND FACIES. 2ND EDITION. (H.G. Reading, 1986). QE471.S378 STRI


SERENGETI SHALL NOT DIE (Bernard Grzimek and Michael Grzimek, 1973). QH77.T3G713 STRI

SHARP LOOKOUT: SELECTED NATURE ESSAYS OF JOHN BURROUGHS (Frank Bergon, editor, 1987). QH81.B966 STRI

LA SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA (COLOMBIA) TRANSECTO BURITACA-LA CUMBRE (Thomas van der Hammen and Pedro H. Ruiz, editors, 1986). QH541.5.M65557 STRI

STATE OF THE WORLD: A WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY. 1988. HC59.69.S797 STRI

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS WITH MISSING DATA (Roderick J.A. Little, 1987). QA276.L57 STRI


TIMBER AND THE FOREST SERVICE (David A. Clary, 1986). SD565.C57 STRI

TURTLES, TORTOISES, AND TERRAPINS 2nd EDITION. (F.J. Obst, 1988) translated from the German by Sylvia Furness. QL666.C5023 STRI

UNIVERSE OF GALAXIES (Paul W. Hodge, compiler, 1984). QB857.U55 STRI

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION (Robert L. Carroll, 1988). QE484.C254 STRI

VIABLE POPULATIONS FOR CONSERVATION (Michael E. Soule, editor, 1987). QH352.V53 STRI