

STRI newsletter

NOVEMBER 9, 1989

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Weekly newsletter

No. 46

SEMINAR NEWS

On Tuesday, November 14, there will be two noon seminars at Ancon Conference Room starting at 11:30. Sandwiches will be served during lunch break at 12:30.

At 11:30

Changes in Red Sea Coral Community Structure, by Yossi Loya, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

Abstract:

Natural and man-made disturbances will be discussed as processes underlying observed patterns of change in Red Sea coral communities.

At 1:00 p.m.

Deep-sea Oil Seed Communities in the Gulf of Mexico, by Robert S. Carney, Louisiana State University.

Abstract:

Deep-sea communities have generally been viewed as detritus based, in a homogeneous environment. Communities at hot vents and cold seeps, however, are trophically unique and appear to occur along a strong gradient. Data collected so far in the Gulf of Mexico have raised basic questions about deep-sea ecology and evolution.

Next week seminar

On November 21, Thomas Kursar, University of Utah
Delayed greening in tropical leaves: an anti-herbivore defense?

DIA DE VETERANOS

o Día dedicado a la Paz Mundial
Anteriormente fue denominado Día del Armisticio, y era proclamado como día feriado anualmente por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos y los gobernadores de varios estados para honrar a todos los miembros de todos los departamentos del ejército cuyos sacrificios habían sido necesarios para contribuir a lograr la paz en el mundo •El 11 de noviembre fue declarado día feriado por primera vez en 1919, para conmemorar así la fecha en que se firmó el armisticio que finalizó la Primera Guerra Mundial •El 1ro. de junio de 1954, el Presidente Dwight D. Eisenhower firmó un decreto del Congreso por el cual "se honra a los veteranos el onceavo día de noviembre de cada año... un día dedicado a la paz mundial."

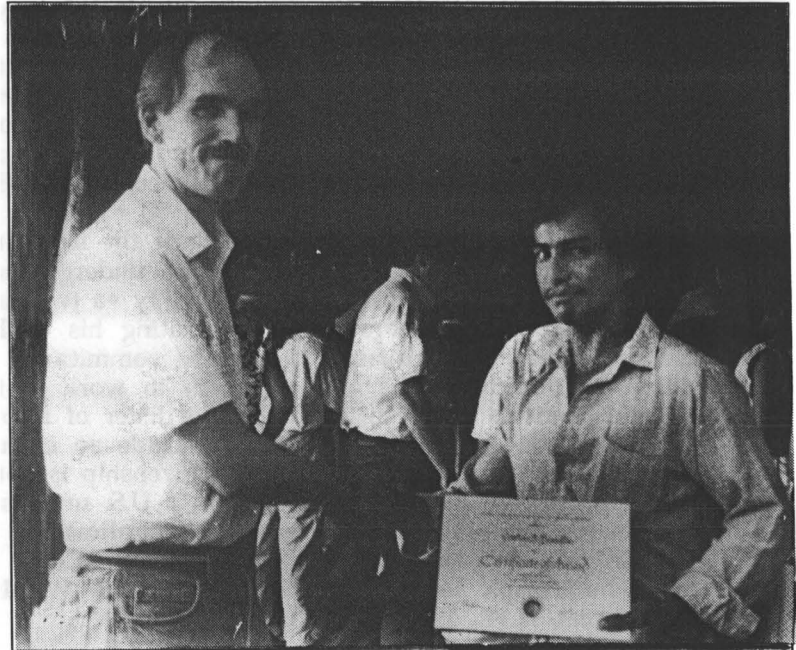


Photo: M.A. Guerra

Durante la fiesta de inauguración del nuevo bohío de Naos, Carlos Bonilla recibe un cheque y un certificado al mérito de manos de John Christy, en reconocimiento a la asistencia excepcional que Carlos brindó a un trabajador que cayó de un techo, fracturándose seriamente una pierna •Ismael González y Haris Lessios también fueron agasajados en reconocimiento por sus labores en STRI, a los que se les entregaron condecoraciones por diez años de servicio.

During the party on November 2 to celebrate the opening of the Naos Bohio, John Christy presented Carlos Bonilla with a check and a Certificate of Award in recognition of the exceptional assistance Carlos gave a another employee who fell from a roof and suffered a badly broken leg •Ismael González and Haris Lessios were also recognized for their service to STRI - both received their ten-year pins.

•New Baby

Congratulations to Howard Lasker and Mary Alice Coffroth, who welcome their son Eli Rexford, born on October 3 in New York.

ARRIVALS

•November 11 - December 15: From Field Life Education Films, Tokyo, Japan, Seiji Nishitani, Program Director, Yasuo Kasugai, Cameraman, Katsuya Toyoda, Cameraman, Kazuo Unno, Photographer, and Satoru Ohata, Video Engineer and Soundman, to film tropical fauna on BCI and Parque Soberania.

•November 12. Eldredge Bermingham, to take up his position as a member of our scientific staff, and Edgardo Maravi, STRI's Developmental Officer in Washington to consult with STRI staff for one week.

•November 12-18, Robert Carney, Richard Dodge, Roger Green and Yossi Loya, Scientific Review Board for the Oil Spill Project, to attend the project's annual scientific review. Also arriving are Kathy Burns from the Bermuda Biological Station, James Kendall, from U.S. Minerals Management Service, and Sally Levings.

•November 13-17, For the inspection and tests to the electric and air condition systems of the E.S. Tupper Center, Phillip K. Reiiis, Paul Rasmussen, Sukhinder Sodhi, and Tony Figueras from ODC, and Robert Boyd, Stanley Smith and Larry Steubing from OPLANTS, SI, Washington.

•Garden Club of America • Scholarships in Tropical Botany

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 •The awards will be made on a one-time basis, and applications are due by December 31, 1989• •Recipients will be announced by March 15, 1990 •There is no application form, however, students must include the following: •a curriculum vitae, including graduate and undergraduate transcripts •evidence of foreign language capability •a two-page outline of the proposed research •a letter stating his or her plans for the future, as well as, a long term commitment to conservation of tropical forests and an intent to work in the area will add merit to the application; and •a letter of recommendation from the advisor, which should include an evaluation of the student's progress to date •U.S. citizenship is not a requirement, but students must be enrolled in a U.S. university to be eligible for this scholarship• Please mail applications to: Jane MacKnight, World Wildlife Fund/Garden Club of America, Scholarships in Tropical Botany, World Wildlife Fund, 1250 Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20037•



David W. Roubik
Ecology and Natural History
of Tropical Bees

•AVAILABLE AT
STRI Mini Book Store \$41.50

•IMPORTANT REMINDER•

Assistants for Researchers at STRI

Next deadline for applications: Nov. 15, 1989

Awards: 3rd. week in December

One of the chief ways that STRI fulfills its educational objective is through its program of Assistantships in Tropical Biology •Thanks to the support of the Exxon Corporation, staff scientists, visiting researchers and Postdoctoral fellows at STRI can request a student or recent graduate from Panama or other developing countries to participate as a field assistant in their on-going project •The assistant should gain experience and training in research methodology by their participation the particular project •The usual duration of an assistantship is 3 months •Qualified students may also apply for an additional 3 month fellowship to undertake their own research.

Guidelines for requesting an assistant

The principal investigator of a project must submit a formal request of 1-2 pages indicating the following:

•Educational value for the assistant, specifically describe skills and experience to be acquired •A brief description of the research project •Why an assistant is needed, what he/she will do and for how long (provide outline timetable) •What qualifications the assistant must have• This formal request should be given to Mrs. Georgina de Alba, who will present it with the candidate's application* to the STRI Educational Board at their quarterly meetings in March, June, September and December, for formal approval of funds •Approval of funds will depend more on the educational benefit that the assistant will derive from the experience, rather than on the benefit derived by the researcher•

*Applications are available on file in the Office of Education •When suitable candidates are not available, a search is initiated•

•From the Photo Department

We would like to remind all investigators who use our services that we need reprints (at least two) of articles which include our photographs. This does not include photographs of tables, charts or graphs, just color and/or B&W photographs. The submission of these reprints to our main office at Smithsonian Institution in Washington, helps justify our continued presence at STRI.

•From the Travel Office

The Travel Office expects to be closed for business from around December 1, 1989 to January 15, 1990, because of the move to the Tupper Center and vacation being taken by Gloria Maggiori. Any STRI Staff planning official travel during this period, please contact Gloria a.s.a.p. for the necessary arrangements.

•To the STRI staff who have MI status

Inspection of privately owned vehicles with "MI" license plates•

STRI staff members are advised that they may use the following companies to take their privately owned vehicles for inspection (REVISADO - 1990):

•La Casa del Descuento - Via España, Edificio Domino (near intersection with Via Argentina)

•Estación Shell "La Cresta" - Via España (intersection with Calle Martín Sosa).

•If the vehicle requires alignment and adjusting of lights, the cost is usually under \$20.00 •The following step is to take the vehicle to obtain the inspection sticker at Albrook Field, next to DNNT "Transito" in Ancon, off Gaillard Highway: there is a fee of \$2.10 for the sticker.

Required documents

•1989 Inspection papers (Certificado de Inspección Vehicular) •1989 License plate receipt (Recibo de Placa) •1989 Application for MI license plate (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores - Solicitud de Placa)

•Driver's licence

•Cedula or Passport •