

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, September 11, noon seminar speaker will be Manuel Guariguata, Yale School of Forestry.

*Landslide Disturbance and Forest
Regeneration in the Luquillo
Mountains of Puerto Rico*

Abstract

Research on natural disturbance in tropical rainforest has concentrated mostly on the occurrence of treefall gaps and their effect on the plant community. However, on tropical wet mountains, landslides are a kind of disturbance that has received little attention in studies of forest dynamics. Landslides in natural settings have usually been treated by ecologists as rare, catastrophic events, but their occurrence may be relatively common on forested slopes due to particular geomorphic and climatic factors. For example, interactions among shallow, heavy textured soils, and highly dissected topography, usually generates landslide-prone areas, especially after heavy rains.

Although landslides have been reported to disturb tropical forest, there is scarce information about their spatial and temporal dynamics, and post-landslide plant community recovery. In this seminar, I will expose such aspects from a study done in a lower montane wet forest in Puerto Rico. Here, the climate and geology interact in making land-scapes a chronic mode of canopy disruption. First, I characterize the landslide regime spatially and temporally.

Evening Seminar

Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30pm, Darryll Felder, University of Southwestern Lafayette

*Adaptation in Callianassid Mud Shrimp:
Specializations for Life Deep in a Mudflat.*

Next Week

Tuesday, Sep. 18, 11:30 am: Seminar speaker will be James Quinn, University of California, Davis.

*Disturbance and Intertidal Community
Structure*

At 1:00 pm: Alfredo Carrasco, Charles Darwin Research Foundation for the Galapagos Island.

*Asentamientos Humanos en Galápagos y
Medio Ambiente.*

PEOPLE



Durante esta semana que celebramos el día del trabajo, nuestras felicitaciones a todos los empleados de STRI cuya labor contribuye a que STRI sea un gran centro de investigaciones. En la foto apreciamos a Eduardo Navarro, BCI.

During this labor day week, best wishes to all STRI employees whose daily efforts contribute to making STRI a leading research institution. In the photo, Eduardo Navarro from BCI. (Photo: M.A. Guerra)

Arrivals

- Dr. Daryll Felder, September 9 - 12, to collect shrimp specimen for genetic studies.

Departures

- September 11 - 18, Gilberto Ocaña to Little Rock, Arkansas, to visit the Heifer and the Winrock Foundations.
- September 14, Alejandro Arce to Glynco, Georgia to attend a security training course.

Congratulations

- ◆ To STRI alumni, Jaime Cavelier who just received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University. New address: Laboratory of Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, University of California, 900 Veteran Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024 • Fax: (213) 825-9433 • Phone: (213) 825-9433.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Semana de la Tecnología y la Naturaleza

11-14 Septiembre, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá. El evento está organizado por los miembros del Instituto de Ingenieros en Electricidad y Electrónica de la Universidad Tecnológica con la participación de ANCON, INRENARE, Fundación PANAMA, STRI y la Comisión del Canal de Panamá. Habrá conferencias, exposiciones y debates todas las semanas en los temas de "La Conservación de la Cuenca Canalera, Prioridad para el Funcionamiento del Canal", y "Los Efectos de la Tecnología en la Naturaleza." El horario será de 9:00 am a 8:00 pm.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Important Notice

If you are planning to collect or conduct scientific research at Cerro Azul inside the Melo Finca, it is necessary to obtain a permit from Altos de Cerro Azul Co. The request must be submitted in writing through Maria Morello, Visitor Services Office, accompanied by your IN.RE.NA.RE. permit. It takes 5 work days to process.

Si va a efectuar colecta o investigación científica en el área de Cerro Azul que está dentro de la Finca de Melo, es necesario tener un permiso de Altos de Cerro Azul, S.A. La solicitud deberá ser hecha por escrito y acompañada por un permiso de INRENARE. La tramitación es por medio de María Morello de la Oficina de Visitantes, y toma 5 días laborales para procesarse.

Tupper Management Meetings

Starting Wednesday September 19 at 9:00 am in the Meeting Room, all Tupper Center Residents are welcome to join these meetings held every two weeks. The meetings are designed to raise questions, problems or suggestions on Tupper Center operations.

A partir del miércoles 19 de septiembre a las 9:00 am en el salón de reuniones (debajo de la cafetería), TODOS los usuarios del Centro Tupper podrán participar en las reuniones sobre el manejo del Centro Tupper que se llevan a cabo cada dos semanas. Las reuniones tienen como propósito exponer problemas y hacer preguntas o sugerencias relacionadas a las operaciones del Centro Tupper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saving Suggestion

Raineldo Urriola is collecting all empty toner cartridges from laser printers. These can be exchange for credit to purchase new cartridges. Please do not throw away empty cartridges; send them to Raineldo Urriola, Tupper Center, or start collecting them at your facility. Raineldo will provide you with the address to sell or exchange them.

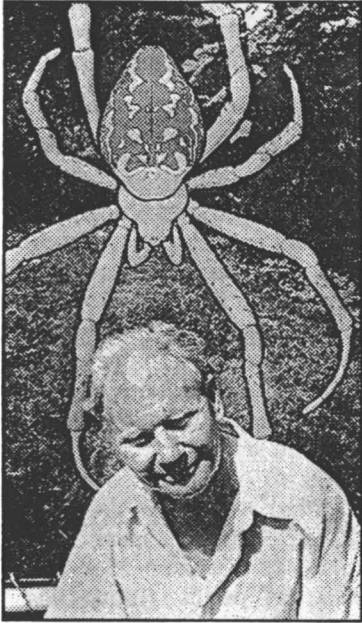
Moving Sale

Eric and Nancy Fischer are having a moving sale. If you are interested, a complete list of items will be posted in the bulletin board at your facility. Nancy can be reached at home, tel. numbers 23-0748 or 63-9454.

For Sale

Honda generator, gasoline, 1.4 kilowatt, AC/DC, \$450 or best offer. Call Annette Aiello, Tupper Center, tel. 27-6022.

FROM OTHER SOURCES



Spider Expert Steamed Up Over Movie

Washington (AP) - The new summertime movie thriller, "Arachnophobia", is bugging Dr. Michael H. Robinson, a spider expert who accuses Hollywood of spinning a web of deceit about his favorite creepy-crawly.

"It's a pity to give spiders a bad name" says Dr. Robinson, director of the National Zoo and former director of the American Arachnology Society. "It is very sad that we should be so irrational about them and see movies that reinforce all those ancient, primitive fears about spiders."

Dr. Robinson, an English-born biologist, spent 20 years studying spiders in Panama, Papua New Guinea and more than a dozen other tropical countries. He was outraged when he saw a newspaper advertisement for the Steven Spielberg - Frank Marshall movie about a monstrous vampire spider that terrorizes a California family.

"Eight legs, two fangs and an attitude" the ad reads. It's "Jaws with legs" warns one film critic.

"Arachnophobia" which means "fear of spiders", is about a huge Venezuelan spider that hitchhikes in a coffin to a small town in California. Besides breeding an army of deadly offsprings, it leaps to sink its fangs into human victims, paralyzing them in seconds with a lethal neurotoxin and sucking their bodies dry.

Dr. Robinson immediately summoned a reporter to issue the protest.

"This bloody movie is making horrible allegations about spiders, and they are so important to the ecology

of the world and so incredibly beneficial to mankind that I decided they need some good press," he said.

Dr. Robinson hailed spiders as nature's pest exterminator, ridding the Earth of billions and billions of mosquitoes and other insects every year. Without spiders, he said, human beings would be overwhelmed by winged creatures that would destroy crops and threaten to leave the planet virtually uninhabitable. "Ordinary spiders are perfectly harmless and they are marvelous friends to have around the house," Dr. Robinson said.

If they give you a severe case of the shudders, he said, simply cover them with a water glass, slide a sheet of paper underneath and carry them safely outside the home. Don't stomp on them or flush them down the toilet, he pleaded.

Not only are spiders great for gobbling pets, Dr. Robinson said, but they are wonderful objects of scientific study.

"The sex life of spiders is absolutely bizarre," he said.

A lot of the details can't be published in a family newspaper, but Dr. Robinson speaks in awed tones of the antenna-like things on a male spider's forehead that suck up sperm deposits like old-fashioned fountain pens.

In his elaborate courtship ritual, he said, the male spins a silk "mating thread" and serenades his female friend by strumming it like a guitar.

Of the thousands of spiders in the world, Dr. Robinson said, only three are poisonous to humans - the black widow, the brown recluse and the dreaded Australian funnel web spider.

The Rainforest Alliance is now accepting applications for the second Kleinhans Fellowship in Tropical Agroforestry. The Kleinhans Fellowship supports research into practical means of managing and utilizing tropical forest resources without destroying the integrity of the forest ecosystem. The research should lead to the development of a crop, product, or marketing technique that can provide incomes for families or small groups living in our near tropical forest areas. The fellowship provides \$15,000/year, for two years. At the end of the project, a thoroughly documented paper suitable for publication is expected. Anyone with a master's degree in forestry, ecology, environmental science or related fields may apply; doctoral candidates or post-doctoral researchers preferred. Proposals must be in English. The fellowship will begin in September 1991. Applications, including letters of reference, must be received at the Rainforest Alliance by February 1, 1991. Send application to: Rainforest Alliance, Kleinhans Fellowship, 270 Lafayette Street, Suite 512, New York, New York, 10012. *From Rainforest Alliance*

From the Personnel Office

De la Oficina de Personal

Success is often hard to take
-especially when it's the other person's.

Giving Others Credit

A young woman was visiting a sculptor in his studio. She watched him work for a few moments, then said: "I never knew sculpture was so easy. I'll bet I could do that."

"Sure, nothing to it," said the artist. "All you need is a block of marble and a hammer and chisel. Then you simply knock off all the marble you don't want."

It's a quirk of human nature that other people's jobs usually look easier to us than our own. And to add irony to irony, the more talented others are, the easier their jobs look.

There are times, of course, when our judgment may be correct. But it would always be wise to keep in mind that looking at another's work is like looking at the proverbial iceberg; we see only the tip. All the problems, all the blood, sweat and tears lie submerged and out of sight.

None of us arrived at our present positions without making hundreds of decisions -some wrong but many more right. We've made sacrifices that we alone know about. We've worked hard through the years to develop and polish our skills. We want to be given credit for those accomplishments. So do other people.

When we downgrade the accomplishments or the work of others, we're usually guilty of one of two things: a false confidence in ourselves or the need to inflate our own egos.

For the people in an organization to get along together, each must give the others credit for their skills and abilities. There must be mutual respect. It takes many different temperaments, talents, and abilities -all working harmoniously together- to make an organization go. Giving others credit for their abilities, whether they are above us, below us, or on the same level, is what cooperation is all about. And no company or organization can prosper and grow without it.

To encourage talent is to create it.

Hasta la próxima!

Carmen Suarez

El éxito a veces es difícil de aceptar -especialmente cuando otra persona es la que lo ha logrado.

Dar Crédito a los Triunfos de los demás

Una joven visitaba a un escultor en su estudio. Lo observó trabajando un rato, y dijo: "No sabía que la escultura fuera tan fácil. Apuesto que yo podría hacer eso."

"Por supuesto, es muy fácil," dijo el artista. "Todo lo que se necesita es un bloque de mármol, un martillo y un cincel. Y luego simplemente se va quitando todo el mármol que no se necesita."

Es una peculiaridad de la naturaleza humana que el trabajo de los demás nos parezca más fácil que el propio. Y para agregar una ironía a otra, mientras más talento tienen los demás, más fácil parecen ser sus trabajos.

Desde luego, hay ocasiones en que nuestros juicios pudieran estar en lo correcto. Pero siempre es prudente tener en cuenta que ver el trabajo de otra persona es como ver al consabido témpano, del que vemos sólo la punta. Todos los problemas, la sangre, el sudor y las lágrimas se encuentran sumergidos, invisibles.

Ninguno de nosotros hemos llegado a nuestras actuales posiciones sin haber tenido que tomar cientos de decisiones -algunas equivocadas, pero muchísimas correctas. Hemos hecho sacrificios que sólo nosotros conocemos. Hemos trabajado muy duro a través de los años para desarrollar y pulir nuestras habilidades. Nos gusta que se reconozcan nuestros logros. Y a los demás también les gusta.

Cuando minimizamos los triunfos o el trabajo de otras personas, generalmente estamos cometiendo una de estas faltas: o tenemos una falsa confianza en nosotros mismos, o necesitamos inflar nuestros propios egos.

Para que existan buenas relaciones entre la gente que conforma cualquier organización, cada persona debe reconocer la eficiencia y habilidades que observa en los demás. Debe existir el respeto mutuo. Se necesitan muchos y variados temperamentos, talentos, y habilidades -todo ésto trabajando armoniosamente en conjunto- para que una organización funcione. La verdadera cooperación consiste en dar crédito a los demás por sus habilidades, ya sea que se encuentren por encima, o por debajo de nosotros, o al mismo nivel. Y ninguna compañía ni organización puede prosperar ni crecer sin eso.

Estimular el talento es crearlo.

Sense of humor



Sentido del humor