

STRI newsletter

March 27, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 13

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminars scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 and April 7.

BCI SEMINAR

Thursday, Apr 2, evening seminar speaker will be Gregory Adler at 7:45.

Islands as Experimental Systems for Testing Hypotheses in Ecology

Those interested in attending should make arrangements with Vielka Liao by Wednesday morning, Apr 1.

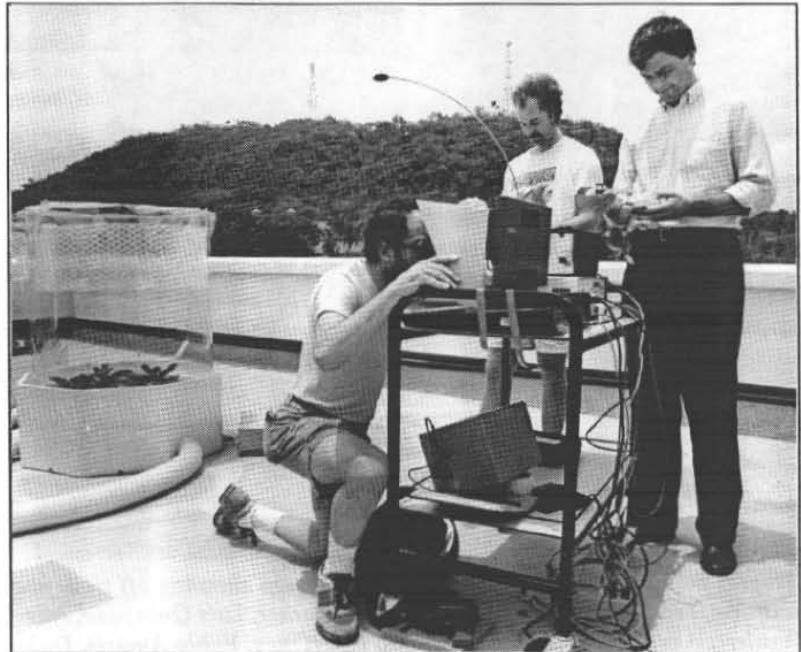
PEOPLE

Arrivals

- John Nason, Mar 28-Apr 17, and Timothy Haltsford, Mar 28-Apr 13, University of Georgia, to work on causes of genetic structure in tropical tree populations on BCI.
- William Schulz, SI, Office of Public Affairs, Mar 29-Apr 8, to interview STRI staff for possible articles.
- Martina Koniger, University of Wurzburg, post-doctoral fellow, Mar 30-Apr 1993, to do research on xanthophyll cycle activity and photo protection in tropical rainforest plants. Dr. Koninger will be working at Tupper with Klaus Winter.
- Beth Okamura, Short-term Visitor, Univ. of Oxford, Mar 30-Apr 22, to visit STRI and consult with Jeremy Jackson.
- Andrew Brower, Cornell University, Mar 31-Apr 5, to work at Naos on the molecular genetics of *Heliconius erato* and *H. melpomene* across intraspecific hybrid zones in Panama.
- Mary Ann Lindgren, Apr 1-16, STRI Liaison Office, on official business.
- Jaime Cavelier, Universidad de los Andes, Apr 3-18, to study aspects of stable isotopes and hydrilla relations on trees of BCI.

Departures

- Fernando Pascal and David West, Mar 30-Apr 2, to Jacksonville, FL, on business related to the construction of the new research vessel.



Stephan Flint and Peter Searles (left to right), coworkers of Martyn Caldwell (Mellon fellow from Utah State University, Logan) and Klaus Winter take measurements of ultraviolet radiation on the roof of Tupper Building. The project will include the examination of responses of tropical plants to natural UV-B ••• Stephan Flint y Peter Searles (de izquierda a derecha), colegas de Martyn Caldwell (becario Mellon de Utah State University en Logan) y Klaus Winter, miden la radiación ultravioleta en el último piso del Tupper. El proyecto incluirá examinar cómo responden las plantas tropicales a la radiación ultravioleta B natural. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Reminders from Procurement

- Deadline for conversion of address to the Unit 0948, APO AA 34002-0948 is July 15, 1992. Please make every effort to notify your change of address. Mail will not be returned to sender for lack of proper format as long as the address used is recognizable by the APO personnel. However, failure to use the new address will delay receipt of mail.
- Remember not to use franked envelopes for personal and/or internal STRI mail. Messenger envelopes are available at all facilities for STRI internal correspondence. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Attention: Library, Tivoli and Tupper Center

Atención: Biblioteca, Tívoli y Centro Tupper

Today, Friday 27, all telephones lines will be off starting at 4pm due to maintenance and repair. On Saturday air conditioned at Tupper Center will be turned off for maintenance ••• Hoy, viernes 27, todas las líneas de teléfono estarán fuera de servicio a partir de las 4 de la tarde. Se llevarán a cabo funciones de mantenimiento y reparación. El sábado, el aire acondicionado del Centro Tupper se apagará para su mantenimiento.



Several members of the Tupper volleyball team showing off their new uniform. From left to right standing: Luis Turner, Luis Quinzada, Angel Aguirre, Agapito González, Edmundo Rodríguez, Pablo Amaris, Dalys Ochoa, Rodolfo Gallardo, Raineldo Urriola, Ricardo Gómez and Lidia Mann. Kneeling in front, Marcel Epailly and Isis Ivancic ••• Recientemente, el equipo de vóleibol de Tupper, estrenaron uniformes. En la foto aparece un grupo (ver lista arriba) de participantes del equipo.

(Foto: Mirna Fernández)

Seidell Endowment

Objective: to disseminate scientific information to a wider audience. Deadline: April 15, 1992. Submit your proposals to the Director's office by April 10th.

April Calendar

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

March 31 Last day for getting your Panamanian license plates
 April 22 Earth Day Celebration

New Bat Species on BCI

H.V. Schnitzler and E.K.V. Kalko have recorded a new species of bat for BCI, *Diclidurus albus* (Emballonuridae). The bat was simultaneously sighted and its sonar signals detected Saturday night, 21 March, by the BCI dock. It is common, but flies high and has thus escaped mistnets.

Assistant Available

Lesley Joan Evans is interested in working as a research assistant at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. She has recently begun a

Master's degree in Zoology at the University of Toronto. Ms. Evans' areas of interest are behavioral ecology and conservation biology, particularly of bird reproductive behavior and its evolution. She has previous field experience in the tropics with a field course in Tropical Insect Biodiversity in Costa Rica in May-Jun 1990. Will be available from mid-May through the end of August. If interested you can contact her at 305 St. George St., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5R 2R2, or call Tel: 416-978-8532)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRI Birthdays

- Nelson Hernandez 1
- Diomedes Abrego 1
- Axel Calderón 2
- Arcadio Rodaniche 2
- Neal Smith 3
- Mercedes Arosemena 3
- Miguel Estribí 6
- Dolores Piperno 7
- Gabriel Martínez 9
- Efrain Domínguez 12
- América Staff 14
- Ismael González 23
- Brian Keller 26
- Marcos Guerra 27



Liga de Verano (Vóleibol)

Resultados del juego del viernes 20:
 Tupper vs Naos - Ganador Naos
 BCI vs ANCON - Ganador BCI

Calendario de Juegos

- Marzo 27: Tupper vs ANCON
 BCI vs Naos
- Abril 3: Tupper vs BCI
 ANCON vs Naos
- Abril 10: Tupper vs ANCON
 BCI vs Naos

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ahumada, Jorge A. 1992. "Grooming Behavior of Spider Monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*) on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *International Journal of Primatology* 13(1): 33-49.

- Bush, Mark B. and Whittaker, R.J. 1991. "A Revision of Estimates of Bird Colonization on Krakatau." *Journal of Biogeography* 18(5): 585.
- Colinvaux, Paul. 1991. "Paleoecological Background-Neotropics-Comment." *Climatic Change* 19(1-2): 49-51.
- Dudley, Robert and Vermeih, G.J. 1992. "Do the Power Requirements of Flapping Flight Constrain Folivory in Flying Animals?" *Functional Ecology* 1992 (6): 101-104.
- Fernández, Idalia and Zapata, Pedro. 1991. Nutrición de Larvas de *Mithrax spinosissimus* (Lamarck) en Aguas Panameñas del Caribe. Tesis, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Exactas, Panamá: Universidad de Panamá.
- Herrera, A. and Jackson, Jeremy B.C. 1992. "Environmental versus Taxonomic Variation in Lophophore Morphology of Panamanian Cheilostome Byozoans." *Marine Biology* 112(1): 99-106.
- Karr, James R., Dionne, Michele and Schlosser, Isaac. 1992. "Bottom-Up versus Top-Down Regulation of Vertebrate Populations: Lessons from Birds and Fish." In: *Effects of Resource Distribution of Animal-Plant Interactions*: Chap. 9. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Roubik, David W. 1992. "Loose Niches in Tropical Communities: Why Are There So Few Bees and So Many Trees?" In: *Effects of Resource Distribution of Animal-Plant Interactions*: Chap. 11. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Stern, David. 1992. "Male Territoriality and Alternative Male Behaviors in the Euglossine Bee, *Eulaema meriana* (Hymenoptera: Apidae)." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 64(4): 421-437.
- Wolda, Henk. 1992. "Trends in Abundance of Tropical Forest Insects." *Oecologia* 89(1): 47-52.



During a field trip to Pipeline Road, participants in the Center for Tropical Forest Science Workshop (March 11-17) visited a series of small plots set up to study variation in forest composition. From left to right, Miguel Martínez, Jess Zimmerman, Robert Waide, Richard Condit, Robin Foster, Pamela Hall, Milagros Ruiz and Rolando Pérez ••• Durante un viaje al Camino del Oleoducto, participantes del Seminario-Taller del Centro de Ciencias Tropicales (11-17 de marzo), visitaron una serie de pequeñas parcelas destinadas a estudiar las variaciones en la composición del bosque. De izquierda a derecha: Miguel Martínez, Jess Zimmerman, Robert Waide, Richard Condit, Robin Foster, Pamela Hall, Milagros Ruiz y Rolando Pérez. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

CURSOS/CONFERENCIAS

Conferencia sobre el Medio Ambiente

La Federación Nacional de Mujeres de Negocios y Profesionales de la República de Panamá presenta dos paneles sobre: Mujeres, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo "Donde estamos 500 años después", el 28 de marzo a las 4pm (bosques, costas y ríos, flora y fauna, contaminación ambiental y reciclaje) y el 29 de marzo a las 4pm sobre el aporte de la mujer en educación, vida económica y vida pública del país. De 2 a 7pm se llevará a cabo la exhibición especial de organizaciones ambientalistas en el Centro de Convenciones Atlapa. Para mayor información llame al 60-8084.

All visitors and fellows are encouraged to schedule seminars during their visit to STRI. Please contact Haris Lessios, seminars' coordinator or check seminars' calendar with Ana María Ford.

From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet

• Page-a-Day Calendar •

Many washing machines can be set for exactly the amount of laundry at hand. Carefully following the manufacturer's instructions saves water and energy. If your washer isn't adjustable, don't run it until you've collected a full load.

From the Personnel Office ••• *De la Oficina de Personal*

Don't worry about what's ahead. Just go as far as you can go —from there you can see farther.
Anónimo

No te preocupes por el porvenir. Solo llega hasta donde puedas —desde allí podrás ver más adelante.
Anónimo

Creativity

All of us could think more creatively if we wanted to. The main ingredient is a burning desire to "find a better way."

"Creativity is like peace," says the Harvard Business Review. "Everyone wants it, everyone seems to have some ideas about it, but nobody appears able to produce it."

Yet, in some ways, creative thinking is no different from solving a jigsaw puzzle if we work hard enough at it. If necessary, we can test each piece against every other piece in the puzzle until we find where it fits.

Two things are essential to this process. One is to be aware of your problems. The second is a desire to find the answers. People who don't recognize problems—or aren't keenly interested in solving them—might not ever recognize the answers.

Productive ideas are most apt to occur to the person who is looking for them. With few exceptions, important inventions and innovations have been conceived by people who were trying to solve a problem, who had an intense desire to find a better way, and who persisted despite repeated failure. "Genius," said Edison, "is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

Leaders are supposed to carry out their assigned functions and responsibilities. But creative employers do more than that. They're also aware that everything related to their jobs might be done faster, better, more reliably, with fewer errors, and at a lower cost.

These are their problems. They carry them constantly in mind, looking for and considering every possible answer. They are creative because they want to find a better way and really work at it. The human brain, unchallenged and at rest, produces no miracles.

Sense of Humor • A mother mouse was out for a walk with her five babies when a big cat suddenly appeared. The little ones hid behind their mother who stood her ground and began to bark loudly: "Arf! Arf!" This frightened the cat, which turned and fled. Turning to her offspring, the mother mouse said: "Now children, that should teach you the value of knowing a second language."

Creatividad

Todos podemos pensar más creativamente si nos lo proponemos. El principal ingrediente es un ferviente deseo de "encontrar mejores soluciones."

"La creatividad es como la paz," dice el *Harvard Business Review*. "Todo el mundo la quiere, todo el mundo tiene ideas acerca de ella, pero nadie parece ser capaz de producirla."

Sin embargo, el pensamiento creativo se parece a la forma en que se resuelve un rompecabezas, probamos una con otra cada pieza del rompecabezas hasta encontrar el lugar preciso donde deben ir colocadas.

Hay dos elementos esenciales en este proceso: estar conciente de los problemas y un deseo de encontrar las soluciones. Las personas que no identifican los problemas—o no están vivamente interesadas en resolverlos—posiblemente nunca percibirán las soluciones.

Es más probable que le lleguen ideas productivas a la persona que las busca. Con pocas excepciones, las invenciones más destacadas han sido concebidas por personas que trataban de resolver un problema, con un intenso deseo de encontrar una mejor solución, y que persistieron a pesar de los fracasos. "El genio," decía Edison, "es 1% inspiración y 99% de transpiración."

El deber de los líderes es cumplir con sus funciones y responsabilidades. Pero los empleados creativos van más allá. Ellos, además, están concientes de que todo lo que se relacione con su trabajo pudiera ser hecho con mayor rapidez y calidad, más confiable, con menos errores, y a menor costo.

Esos son sus problemas. Siempre los tienen en mente, buscando y tomando en cuenta toda posible solución. Son creativos porque desean encontrar una mejor manera y verdaderamente trabajan para lograrlo. El cerebro humano, imperturbable y en reposo, no produce milagros.

Sentido del Humor • Una mamá ratona salió de paseo con sus cinco bebés cuando de pronto apareció un gatazo. Los pequeñuelos se escondieron detrás de la mamá, quien se le enfrentó al gato ladrando fuertemente: "Arf! Arf!" Esto asustó al gato que salió desparovido. Entonces la mamá ratona le dijo a sus críos: "Que les sirva de lección, hijitos míos, la importancia que tiene el saber un segundo idioma."

Hasta la próxima,

Carmen