

STRI newsletter

April 29, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 16



Maria Luz Calderón and Maria Magela Brenes collect garbage at Culebra on Earth Day, Friday, April 22 ••• Maria Luz Calderón y María Magela Brenes, recogen basura en Culebra, el Día de la Tierra, el viernes, 22 de abril.



After collecting the garbage, the beach cleaning team of 60 employees, fellows and volunteers, weighed and classified the garbage at the Culebra Marine Reserve ••• Luego de recoger la basura en la playa, el equipo de trabajo, que contó con 60 personas entre empleados, becarios y voluntarios, la pesó y clasificó en la Reserva Marina de Culebra.

(Fotos: M.A. Guerra)

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, May 3, noon seminar speaker will be Gregory Gilbert, STRI's Postdoc Fellow
Plant Diseases: in Tropical Forest

Abstract
Plant diseases are important in many processes in natural ecosystems, but they are very few studies from tropical forest communities. I will provide a brief tour of various plant diseases currently under study on the BCNM, and then describe in detail the relationships between a canker disease and the population dynamics and spatial distribution of the rapidly declining canopy tree species *Ocotea whitei*. Finally, I will explore the importance of plant disease in forest ecology and conservation.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Gerardo Avalos, Intern from the University of Missouri, Apr 29- Nov 30, to work with Joe Wright on plant physiology research.
- Robert Fleisher, Carl McIntosh and Alexandra Sangmeister, National Zoological Park, May 1-15 Jun, to work with Eugene Morton, at Gamboa.
- Astrid Ferrer, Short-term fellow from the Universidad de Los Andes, May 1-31 Jul, to study the fungi associated with mortality and decomposition of trees, on BCI.
- Melvin Tyree, STRI research affiliate, May 1-30, to work on his project of water relations and hydraulic architecture of trees in a lower montane rainforest with Gerhard Zotz and Matt Carlton, in Chiriqui.
- Karl Baodsvik, Director General, Elvin Roskaft, Deputy Director and Odd T. Sandlund, Head of the Division of Conservation Biology of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, May 3-7, to visit STRI facilities and staff.
- Nelida Gomez, May 2-30 Jun, to collaborate in studies with Don Windsor and Jacques Pasteels.

- Robert Tacker, University of Michigan, May 2-25 Jun, to study induced feeding preferences of land hermit crabs, at Naos.

Departures

- Jorge Illueca, to Bridgetown, Barbados, Apr 27-8 May, to participate at the Biodiversity Workshop on NGO Forum of UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States, and then to Mexico, to discuss the UNEP regional program for Latin American and the Caribbean 1994-1995.
- Elena Lombardo, May 4-16, to Washington D.C. on official business at SI.
- Klaus Winter, May 5-19, to London, U.K., to consult with colleagues at Oxford and Wurzburg, Germany.

Annual Leave

Vicky Chang-Yau, May 2-6.

Congratulations

To Ninochtka Franco de Smith who won the first prize at the Third Annual Japanese Speech Contest, sponsored by the University of Panama and the Embassy of Japan. Her talk was on the cultural differences between Japan and Panama: impressions upon returning to Panama after 10 years.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Since May 1 is a Sunday, the celebration of Labor Day in Panama will take place on Monday. Banks, government agencies and the private sector will close ••• *La celebración del Día del Trabajo en Panamá será el lunes, 2 de mayo. Bancos, agencias gubernamentales y el sector privado cerrarán sus puertas ese día.*

At the Tupper Center

Tue, May 3 ■ Noon seminar by Greg Gilbert, AUD.
Thu, May 5 ■ Administrative Managers meeting, Large Meeting Room, 2pm.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

Tue, May 3 *Instituto Italiano*
Wed, May 4 *Centro Educativo Bilingüe*
Thu, May 5 *Curundu Elementary School*
Fri, May 6 *Curundu Elementary School*
Sat, May 7 *Grupo Conservacionista La Mina*

From the Library

The Library is still open. Come on over! Construction of the annex will end tentatively the last few days of May. Exact date will be announced.

IN.RE.NA.RE. Wildlife Manual

Manual de la Vida Silvestre de IN.RE.NA.RE
IN.RE.NA.RE. has sent to STRI a copy of the "Wildlife Manual for Those Responsible in The field for Its Management, Protection and Control", published in 1993. This is a reference document, in Spanish, and covers all aspects of this subject. It will be kept at the Visitors Services Office, Tupper Building, with Maria Morello, who is the person responsible for the processing of collecting, research, import and export permits for wildlife in Panama for STRI's scientific affiliates. In view of the importance of this document relating to the scientific activities in Panama, we recommend that it be consulted for subjects such as: Basic concepts about wildlife; legislation; institutional policies; concepts and basic practices for management; environmental education and community development, and administrative procedures. This document may be borrowed for consultation on a sign out basis, and should be returned within a few days for the use of other interested persons.

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El Instituto de Recursos Naturales Renovables (IN.RE.-NA.RE.) ha enviado al S.T.R.I. una copia del "Manual de la Vida Silvestre, para Responsables de la Gestiones de Campo en Manejo Protección y Fiscalización", publicado en 1993. Este documento, en español, es un instrumento de referencia, muy completo sobre el tema. El mismo se mantendrá en la Oficina de Visitantes, Edificio Tupper, con la Sra. Maria de Morello, quien es la persona responsable de tramitar los permisos de colecta, observación, importación y exportación de vida silvestre en Panamá, para los investigadores afiliados al STRI. Este manual está a disposición de quien tenga a bien consultarlo. Dada la importancia del mismo en el desempeño de las actividades científicas en Panamá, recomendamos su consulta en temas tales como conceptos básicos sobre la vida silvestre; legislación; políticas institucionales; conceptos y prácticas básicas de manejo; educación ambiental y desarrollo comunitario; y procedimientos administrativos. Los interesados pueden pasar a retirarlo comprometiéndose a devolverlo en un par de días, de manera que el mismo pueda estar disponible para los demás interesados.

From the Visitor Services Office

As many of you know, there is an increasing interest in STRI as a place to do research, not only because of the fact that it is accessible to tropical forests and two oceans, but because of its growing international fame as a first-class research institution. Over the next several months, STRI facilities are expected to be used to their maximum capacity. Living and working space, as well as other resources, like vehicles and boats, will be in great demand. This means sharing, and planning in advance, and cooperating to make the best use of limited resources. We anticipate that this trend will continue, causing "crunches" during the usual high-usage seasons, the dry season (January to mid April) and the summer vacation months (late May to early September). We therefore, encourage all researchers, specially the ones that have long-term or on-going projects, to plan well ahead and inform the VSO of their needs, in order for these needs to be considered. Also, we request that once commitments are made, that they be kept to/or within the dates approved, and that changes be consulted before they are assumed to be acceptable. Communication will be the key factor to make working at STRI scientifically profitable and also enjoyable.

From Accounting and Procurement Departments

De los Deptos. de Contabilidad y Compras

There are two DHL packages sent to Dr. R. Liinas, Department of Physiology at New York and to Prof. S. Turillazzi in Italy without the name of the senders. Please make the requisition to the Procurement Department in order to proceed with the payment. We will appreciate that you make requisitions prior or at the moment of sending items via DHL, to pay the vendor on time ••• *Dos paquetes fueron enviados a través de DHL sin el nombre del que los envió al Dr. R. Llinas, Departament of Physiology en New York, y al Prof. S. Turillazzi en Italia. Favor de llenar la requisición para el Departamento de Compras para proceder a pagar los envíos. Agradeceremos que, cuando se use el sistema DHL para paquetes, se haga la requisición antes o inmediatamente se envíen, para poder pagar a la compañía a tiempo.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

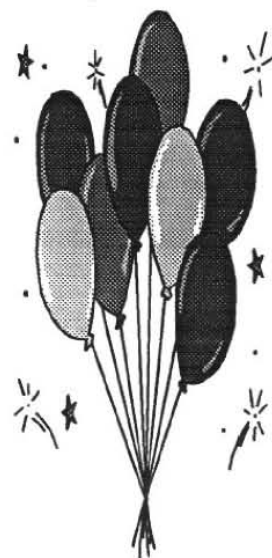
Smithsonian Research Expeditions

Scholars, scientists, curators, archivists, and other SI staff who need assistance with their work in 1994 and 1995 are invited to submit ideas to Smithsonian Research

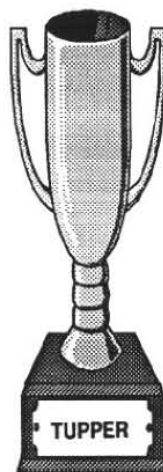
Expeditions (SRE). SRE (part of the Smithsonian Associates) provides SI staff with people who want to be of assistance by making a personal commitment and financial contribution to the Institution. Projects should be of a one- to two-week duration and can be in D.C. or field sites internationally. For more information and a 1994 catalog, please contact Felicia Erickson or Mary Van Meter at (202) 287-3210 or 490 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 4210, MRC 933.

May STRI Birthdays

Aurelio Virgo	1
John Christy	4
Angel Aguirre	5
Steve Paton	5
Ernesto Peña	7
Juan B. Durari	13
Juan Barría	13
Gabriel Jácome	13
Ubaldo Pimentel	17
Alejandro Arze	17
Anthony Coates	20
Roland Gough	20
Eduardo Sierra	20
Abel Gómez	22
Félix Sánchez	26
Oscar Jiménez	29
Nancy Knowlton	30



Tupper Campeón de Volibol



Luego de 7 viernes donde se jugaron un total de 21 juegos en la Liga Interna de Volibol, el equipo de Tupper salió vencedor de la temporada, el viernes 22 de abril. La Liga Interna de Volibol está compuesta por los equipos de Tupper y Naos y por dos equipos invitados: Colinas del Golf y ANCON. Queremos felicitar a los campeones Angel Aguirre, Pablo Amarís, Marcel Epailly, Yassir Hassan, Julieta Martínez, Fernando Oglivie, Luis Turner, Noemí Zamorán y Gloria Zelaya, por tan merecido triunfo. Cabe destacar que este es el primer año que gana el equipo Tupper desde los inicios de la Liga en 1992.

Día Interamericano de la Secretaria

STRI desea felicitar a todas las secretarias del Instituto en la Semana de la Secretaria, especialmente el día 26, Día Interamericano de la Secretaria. Por su lealtad, profesionalismo y apoyo mantenido a todas las actividades que se llevan a cabo en el Instituto, queremos agradecerles y reconocer su labor sin la cual sería imposible el éxito de nuestra misión en este país.

Día de los Bibliotecarios

También se celebró la semana pasada el día de los Bibliotecarios, el sábado 23 de abril. Deseamos felicitar a Vicky, Elizabeth, Angel y Ricardo, bibliotecarios de la Biblioteca de Ciencias Tropicales en STRI.

MISCELLANEOUS**Lost**

The book *Productivity of the Ocean: Present and Past*, by W.H. Berger was sent from Naos to the Library, but never arrived. If you have seen it, please send it to the Library. Its classification code is NHQH91.8.M34D34. Thank you.

NEW STRI BOOKLIST

The Biology of Lemmings / NC Stenseth & RA Ims, eds.
QL737.R666B614 1993 STRI.

Coalitions and alliances in humans and other animals /
edited by AH Harcourt & FBM de Waal.

QL737.P9U78 1992X STRI.

Historical archaeology of the Chesapeake / edited by
PA Schackel & BJ Little. F187.C5H56 1994X STRI.

Water transport in plants under climatic stress / edited
by M. Borghetti, J. Grace & A. Raschi.

QK870.W425 1993X STRI.

Methods in Plant Biochemistry, v.10, 1993: Molecular
Biology / edited by J. Bryant [series editor, PM Dey &
JB Harborne]. QK861.M592 STRI.

