

# STRI newsletter

July 1, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 25

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Jul 5, noon seminar speaker will be Simon Haberle, STRI Postdoctoral Fellow from the Australian National University.

*The Paleoecology of New Guinea:  
An Antipodean View of Equatorial  
Environmental History*

### Abstract

The talk will outline the status of Quaternary paleoecological research in New Guinea, an equatorial island lying some 15,500 Km west of Panama. The discussion will cover climate change, human impacts and the application of new techniques, such as stable-isotope analysis, to the study of equatorial vegetation change.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Walter Carson, University of Minnesota, Jul 2-15 Jul, to work with Steve Hubbell on a community experimental test of the control that mammals and insects have on tropical forest diversity, on BCI.
- Wayne Sousa, Betsy Mitchell and two assistants, University of California, Jul 2-Dec '94, to study the light gap regeneration in a Caribbean Mangrove Forest, at Galeta.
- Robert Percy, Mellon Senior Fellow from the University of California, Jul 5-12, to start integrative studies of photosynthesis and whole plant performance in the understory at BCI.
- Hector Guzman, Jul 7, to start his new appointment at STRI.

The Newsletter is to keep the STRI community informed on matters of general interest. We appreciate contributions. Send your news to the Office of Education, c/o Maria Luz Calderon ••• *El Newsletter se publica con el fin de mantener la comunidad de STRI informada sobre asuntos de interés general. Mande sus noticias a la Oficina de Educación, c/o Maria Luz Calderón.*



Robert Corell (right), Chairman of the Implementation Committee for the Inter-American Institute for Global Change, visited STRI on Thursday, June 14, to present his work to the STRI community ••• Robert Corell (derecha) directivo del Comité de Desarrollo del Instituto Inter-Americano de Cambios Globales, visitó STRI el jueves 14 de junio para presentar una introducción de su trabajo a la comunidad de STRI.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

### Departures

- Georgina de Alba, to Washington D.C., Jul 2-9, on official business at SI.
- Alejandro Arze, to Washington D.C., Jul 2-9, on official business at SI.
- Carlos Urbina, to Washington D.C., Jul 4-9, on official business at SI.

### Wedding Bells

Connie Kolman, former STRI postdoctoral fellow and John Mulligan were married at St. Thomas More, in Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday, May 29. Our congratulations.

### Condolencias

Nuestro sentido pésame a Alberto "Tito" y Gloria Maggiori, así como a Adeia Gómez, por la muerte de Alberto Maggiori, padre de "Tito" y cuñado de la Sra. Gómez.

### Reminder ••• Recorderis

Monday, 4th of July is the celebration of Independence Day at the United States, and a STRI holiday ••• *El lunes 4 de julio se celebra el día de independencia de los Estados Unidos, y es un día feriado para STRI.*

**Special Visitor**

Donald Worster, Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of Kansas, will visit Panama invited by Fundación NATURA from 9-12 August. Worster is the director of the Nature, Culture and Technology Program at the University of Kansas and is one of the founders and principal representatives of the U.S. Environmental History. Worster has authored a number of important publications such as *The Wealth of Nature: Environmental History and the Ecological Imagination*, published by Oxford University Press, *Nature's Economy: a History of Ecological Ideas*, published by Cambridge University Press and *Rivers of Empire, Water, Aridity and the Growth of the American West*, published by Oxford University Press at New York, among others. At STRI, Dr. Worster will give a brief presentation of his work on environmental history, followed by a short question and answer period for scientists and all interested, on Wednesday, August 10, 11 am, at the Tupper Center Large Meeting Room. Please contact Mónica Alvarado for more information and special meeting arrangements.

**New Honor**

Leonor Motta was recently elected president of the COABIN (Comité de Amigos de la Biblioteca Nacional "Ernesto J. Castillero").

The Office of External and International Affairs donated \$1000 to the National Library for the purchase of books and periodicals as an initial effort to offer its users a more complete collection of publications.

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW****At the Tupper Center**

- Tue, Jul 5 ■ Noon seminar by Simon Haberle, AUD.  
 Thu, Jul 7 ■ *Programa de Ecología para el Manejo de las Areas Silvestres Kuna Yala (PEMASKY)*, Large Meeting Room, 8am.

**At the Culebra Marine Reserve**

- Tue, Jul 5 *Academia Santa María*  
 Wed, Jul 6 *Escuela Kirk Patrick*  
 Thu, Jul 7 *Escuela Presidente Roosevelt*  
 Fri, Jul 8 *Escuela El Prado*  
 Sat, Jul 9 *Escuela Salomón Ponce Aguilar*

**At Barro Colorado Island**

- Sat, Jul 2 ■ *Instituto Profesional y Técnico de David*  
 ■ *Asociación de Profesores de la Universidad de Panamá (APUDEP)*  
 Tue, Jul 5 ■ *Estudiantes de Ecoturismo de Panamá*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Diving Training Operation in Panama**

The U.S. Navy will carry out a major diving training operation in Panama from Jul 26-6 Aug, 1994 and have offered STRI the use of their ROV's (remotely operated underwater vehicle). This vehicle has a depth range between 0-300 fsw with a high resolution video camera installed (no collecting capabilities). It is extremely useful for deep sea surveys and research. The whole system is going to be operated by their own staff free of charge, but you will need to provide an operating platform (at least 25' boat) and transportation to the site for all the crew. Those interested in the use of the system, please contact Harry Barnes. For additional technical information, please contact Jose Carlos Espino, Diving Officer, at Naos.

**Nota de Interés**

Argelis Ruiz Guevara participó, en representación de STRI, en el Congreso General Kuna celebrado en Tubuala del 10 al 12 de junio, donde se discutieron temas de interés mutuo para STRI y la comunidad de Kuna Yala. Esa misma semana, del 14 al 16 de junio, Ruiz Guevara participó en el Taller "Normas para el Aprovechamiento Pesquero en Areas Protegidas", con una charla sobre las actividades científicas marinas que realiza el Instituto Smithsonian. El evento se llevó a cabo en la Estación Biológica, Parque Nacional Coiba.

**Principios Ecológicos para el Desarrollo Sostenible**

La Organización para Estudios Tropicales, Costa Rica, anuncia el curso "Principios Ecológicos para el Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina", dirigido a profesionales en puestos políticos, administrativos y técnicos, cuyas decisiones afectan el uso de los recursos naturales y la calidad ambiental. El objetivo general del curso es el de mejorar el desempeño de los participantes en los procesos de toma de decisiones, y con este propósito se estudiará el concepto de sostenibilidad, la evaluación de impacto ambiental, la valoración de los costos ambientales, y la evaluación conjunta de los aspectos ecológicos, técnicos y económicos que deben ser tomados en cuenta en el proceso de desarrollo y en la definición de políticas. El curso se llevará a cabo en varios lugares de Costa Rica del 19 de noviembre al 3 de diciembre de 1994. Fecha límite de inscripción: 1o. de agosto de 1994. Costo total del curso \$3,000, lo que incluye estadía, alimentación, materiales, equipo, transporte en Costa Rica y matrícula. No incluye transporte internacional ni trámites migratorios. Hay un número limitado de becas. Para mayor información, favor de visitar la Oficina de Educación de STRI, en el Centro Tupper.

### "El Niño and Climate Prediction"

The Office of Interdisciplinary Earth Studies, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, the Office of Global Programs and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announce that the third publication in the from *Reports to the Nation on Our Changing Planet* series "El Niño and Climate Prediction" will be available for distribution later this spring. These publications are designed to raise the level of public awareness of climate and global change issues, through responsible and timely reports written and edited by leading scientists and science writers. "El Niño and Climate Prediction", by John M. Wallace and Shawna Vogel examines the causes and effects of El Niño, and the scientific quest to better understand and predict it. The monographs will be accompanied by a colorful and informative poster. At STRI we have been offered 12 copies of the document, but we may ask for a larger number. If you are interested in receiving the publication, please stop by the STRI Office of Education, before Friday, July 8th.

### Enfoque su Mundo II

El Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) anuncia su concurso fotográfico internacional "Enfoque Su Mundo II", patrocinado por Canon. El tema del concurso es el medio ambiente, y la gente y especies que lo habitan. Fotógrafos de todas las edades, profesionales y aficionados están invitados a presentar sus fotografías tomadas entre el 1 de enero de 1994 y el 30 de abril de 1995, fecha límite del concurso. La inauguración oficial del concurso será en octubre de 1994, después de cuya fecha los formularios de inscripción (incluyendo las reglas del concurso) podrán solicitarse en las oficinas del PNUMA y en los Centros de Información de las Naciones Unidas. También puede reservar un formulario de inscripción, ya disponibles, escribiendo a Focus on Your World II, Information and Public Affairs Branch, UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya.



*Pablo Amarís gave a training course on Cardiovascular Resuscitation to members of the STRI personnel on Friday, Jun 24, at the Tupper Center Conference Hall ••• Pablo Amarís dictó un curso práctico de entrenamiento en resucitación cardiovascular a miembros del personal de STRI el viernes 24 de junio en el Salón de Conferencias del Centro Tupper.*

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

#### Mpala Research Center

*Laikipia Plateau, Kenya*

Applications are sought from active Ph.D. level researchers in ecology, environmental science, behavior, evolutionary biology, or allied fields to direct a newly-established research and training centre in north-central Kenya. The director will be responsible for preparing a draft master plan for the center which would require coordination of the gathering of basic environmental data and monitoring of animal and plant population/dynamics, coordination of field research and training activities, fundraising and administration of the centre. The candidate must be fluent in English and have experience and publications relevant to research in East African ecosystems and have managerial skills. The Mpala Research Centre is a collaborative activity of the Mpala Research Trust consisting of the National Museums of Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Mpala Wildlife Foundation, Princeton University and the Smithsonian Institution. Interested please send C.V., three recent reprints and three letters of recommendation to Mpala Research Centre, c/o Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, 900 Jefferson Drive, Rm 2207/MRC 435, Washington D.C. 20560. Tel. (202)786-2817.

### NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Angier, Natalie.** 1994. "Spiders Weave Crafty Web Signs, Saying to Prey, 'Open Sky'". *The New York Times* Tuesday, April 19, 1994: C13
- Levins, R. and Adler, Gregory H.** 1993. "Differential Diagnostics of Island Rodent Populations." *Coenoses* 8(3): 131-139.
- Luoma, Jon R.** 1993. "Some Oil Spills Repeat Harm Again and Again." *The New York Times "The Environment"*, Tuesday, December 21, 1993: C4.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### From the STRI Mini-Bookstore

Get a free greeting card with any purchase at the STRI Mini-Bookstore. Also, with the purchase of \$20 or more, you get a free recycled stationary paper and envelopes set. The bookstore is getting ready for Christmas, so please bring your suggestions. This year the Mini-Bookstore will have a Christmas Sale in October for your convenience. **Great News! We accept Visa and Mastercard.**

#### Bocas Dive Shop

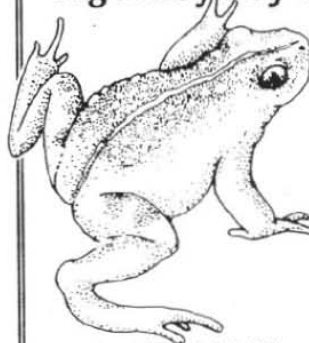
Bocas del Toro is a geologically diverse land with mountainous terrain, numerous cays and islands, rainforests, and marine and bird sanctuaries. Bocas Dive Shop, located on Isla Colon, offers tours to several different dive locations in and around Bastimentos Marine Park. It offers tours to the banana company plantations in Changinola and rides on the banana train and water taxi. Abundant seafood. Canoeing, horseback riding and treks into the rainforest. Overnight package

\$87 (rates based on double occupancy). Two day package \$181.65. All meals included. Prices do not include air fare to Bocas. For reservations contact Vielka Vergel, Agencia de Viajes Anita, tel 64-7646, Fax 64-6349. Bocas Dive Shop 78-9279.

#### Agencia del I.D.A.A.N. en Diablo Heights

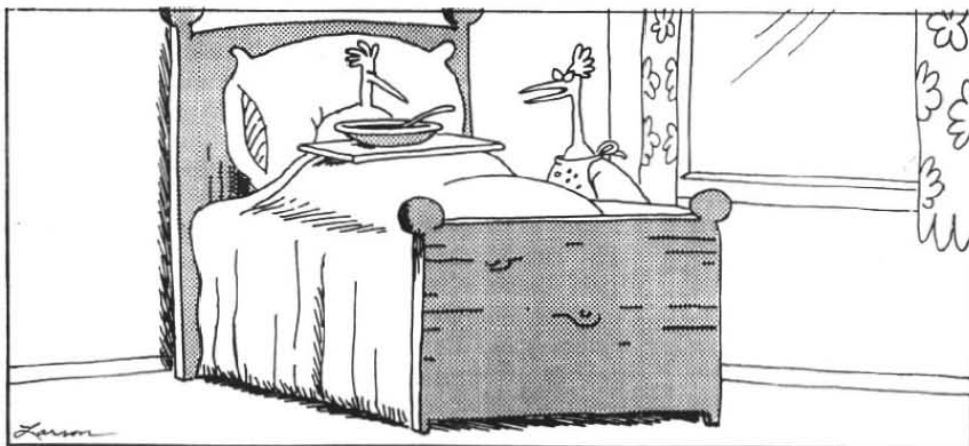
El I.D.A.A.N. ha abierto una nueva agencia de cobros en Diablo Heights, edificio 5553. Para cualquier información llamar al teléfono 52-2879.

#### Big Derby Day Celebration



Don't miss Derby Day and 4th of July celebration on Barro Colorado Island this Saturday, July 2. There will be Water Volley Ball in the morning (across the Island), BBQ and toad racing at 5:30. There will be a late boat for mainlanders. \$2 each. Please

contact Daniel Millan to reserve your sit on the boat ••• *No se pierda la gran celebración del 4 de julio y el "Derby Day" el sábado 2 de julio en Barro Colorado. Habrá Volibol acuático en la mañana (del otro lado de la isla), barbacoa y carrera de sapos a las 5:30. Habrá un bote de regreso tarde en la noche. Costo por persona: \$2. Favor ponerse en contacto con Daniel Millán para asegurar su puesto en el bote.*



*"Quit complaining and eat it!... Number one, chicken soup is good for the flu... and number two, it's nobody we know."*