

STRI newsletter

April 21, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 16



On Tue, Apr 11, Julie Lennox, coordinator of the Panama-Canada Fund, Evelio López, coordinator of the Cartí Suidup Kuna Art Workshop and Jorge Ventocilla, STRI environmental specialist, signed an agreement through which the Canadian Embassy provides funds to establish a network of workshops in various communities. The workshops transmit to Kuna children environmental education and Kuna cultural values through various art forms. As part of the signing ceremony, the Kuna Tules musical group performed for the participants, at the Tupper Center Large Meeting Room ••• El martes 11 de abril, Julie Lennox, coordinadora del Fondo Panamá-Canadá, Evelio López coordinador del Taller de Arte Kuna de Cartí Suidup y Jorge Ventocilla, especialista en educación ambiental de STRI, firmaron un convenio a través del cual la Embajada de Canadá aporta fondos para establecer una red de talleres en varias comunidades. Los talleres transmiten educación ambiental a niños Kuna, así como los valores de su cultura, a través de diversas formas de arte. Como parte de la ceremonia de la firma del convenio, el grupo musical Kunas Tules tocaron para los participantes del evento en el Salón Principal de Reuniones del Centro Tupper. (Fotos: A. Montaner)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Donald Windsor, Apr 23-7 Jun, to work some time at STRI during his one-year sabbatical.
- Michael Lang, SI Diving Office, Apr 24, on official business at STRI and to join José Espino in an research expedition to Honduras and Nicaragua aboard the *R/V Urracá*.

Departures

- Joseph Wright, Apr 24-11 May, to Kenya, to consult with officials of UNEP and to visit the Mpala Ranch.
- Llewellya Hillis, Apr 27-21 May, to Woods Hole, MA, to present a paper at the 34th Northeast Algal Symposium and consult with colleagues at the Marine Biological Laboratories, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Harvard. Then to UK, to consult with Viviane Testa at Oxford, and colleagues at the British Museum of Natural History at London.

To a Research Expedition to Honduras and Nicaragua • R/V Urracá

- Jeremy Jackson, Helena Fortunato and Magnolia Calderón, Apr 27-6 May. Jeremy Jackson will return from May 6-14.
- Marcos Alvarez, Apr 27-25 May.
- Eldredge Bermingham and Giles Seutin, Apr 29-13 May.
- Héctor Guzmán and Gabriel Jácome, May 1-13.
- Harilaos Lessios and Bailey Kessing, May 2-7.
- Richard Lescher, University of Kansas and William Wcislo, May 4-13.
- Robin Foster, May 5-13.
- Jeremy Jackson and Amalia Herrera, May 14-22.

NO TUPPER NOON SEMINAR ON APR 25

EL 25 NO HAY SEMINARIO EN TUPPER

Felicitaciones

A Anibal Velarde, coordinador científico de Naos, por la graduación de su hija Silvia, quien obtuvo el título de doctora en medicina en la Universidad de Panamá.

A Note of Admiración •• Una Nota de Admiración

The Office of Human Resources wants to thank all those who donated annual leave to Lazlo Vegh to help in his medical emergency. Vegh received 880 hours from his fellow workers. Heidi Galvin, the officer in charge of the Leave Transfer Program in Washington, sent a note to Human Resources in which she wanted to express her admiration to the individuals who so generously contributed ••• *La Oficina de Recursos Humanos desea agradecer a aquellos empleados que donaron de su tiempo de vacaciones a Lazlo Vegh para ayudarlo en su urgencia médica. Vegh recibió un total de 880 horas en donaciones de sus compañeros. Heidi Galvin de la Oficina del Programa de Transferencia de Horas de Vacaciones, envió una nota a Recursos Humanos solicitado que se expresara su mensaje de admiración para aquellas personas que tan generosamente colaboraron con Lazlo.*

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**Clarification on the Fortuna Announcement****Aclaración sobre el Anuncio sobre Fortuna**

STRI clarifies that the announcement published on page two of the Institute's Newsletter #14 of April 7, "Chiriquí Highland Forest Cottage for Rent" was premature. Currently, we are having meetings and conversations with IRHE officials regarding the possibility of STRI managing the Fortuna facility for staff and visitors who want to do research in the area. We would appreciate receiving information from researchers interested in using this site. You can send your comments to Leonor Motta, Executive Officer, Tivoli Administrative Offices, or to the Visitor Services Office, at the Tupper Center ••• *STRI aclara, que el anuncio publicado en la página dos del "Newsletter" del Instituto, #14 del 7 de abril, "Se Alquila Cabaña en Tierras Altas de Chiriquí" fue prematuro. Actualmente, estamos llevando a cabo conversaciones y reuniones con los oficiales del IRHE para estudiar la posibilidad de la que STRI administre el Centro de Investigación Jorge Arauz en Fortuna, para los científicos y visitantes que deseen realizar estudios en el área. Se agradecerá recibir información de parte de los investigadores interesados en usar esta instalación. Pueden enviar sus comentarios a Leonor G. Motta, Administradora, Edificio Tivoli, o a la Oficina de Visitantes, Centro Tupper.*

Telephone Numbers Change in Panama

Effective Sat, Jun 3, all telephone and fax numbers in the Republic of Panama will change due to the increase of the requests for lines. Instead of six digits, we will have seven. Except for the first digit, almost all of the rest of the numbers will remain the same. According to the INTEL's Office of Public Relations, the basic criteria for the changes

will be that the provinces of Panama, Darien and San Blas will start with a 2, followed by the original 6-digit number; the provinces of Coclé, Herrera, Los Santos and Veraguas will start with a 9, followed by the original 6-digit number; Bocas del Toro and Chiriquí will start with a 7, followed by the original 6-digit number and Colón will start with a 4 followed by the original 6-digit number. Nevertheless, this basic criteria will not apply to all places. For a table of conversion, please stop by the STRI Office of Fellowships and Education. Before Jun 3, all INTEL clients will receive their new official numbers with the bill.

Important: All numbers starting with 52 will start with 272; all numbers starting with 56 will start with 276; all numbers starting with 89 will start with 489. So far, all numbers starting with a 2 will start with a 22.

At the Tupper Center

- Apr 25-28 ■ *Fundación para la Protección del Mar (PROMAR) Exhibition*, Exhibit Hall, 9am
 Tue, Apr 25 ■ Tupper Scientific Support Staff Meeting, SMR, 9am
 ■ Diving Issues Meeting, LMR, 11am
 ■ Sexual Harassment Seminar, AUD, 1:30pm
 Wed, Apr 26 ■ Communication Systems Meeting, SMR, 2pm
 Fri, Apr 28 ■ CAFSAC-GOP Meeting, LMR, 11am

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Apr 25 *Escuela Internacional*
 Wed, Apr 26 *Instituto Episcopal San Cristóbal*
 Thu, Apr 27 *Instituto Episcopal San Cristóbal*
 Fri, Apr 28 *Programa Escuela Sin Murallas*
 Sat, Apr 29 *Instituto Enrico Fermi*

At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Apr 22 *Universidad de Panamá and Colegio Bilingüe de Cerro Viento*
 Sun, Apr 23 *Colegio Internacional SEK-Panamá*
 Sat, Apr 29 *Instituto Enrico Fermi and ANCON*
 Sun, Apr 30 *Boys Scouts, Balboa*

Posición Disponible en STRI

El Laboratorio de Paleocología requiere asistente de investigación por un año. Graduado en botánica o ciencias afines; conocimientos en taxonomía y experiencia en manejo de reactivos químicos. Deseable el inglés. Se dará preferencia a quien posea conocimientos en Palinología. Envíe su hoja de vida a Paul Colinvaux y/o Enrique Moreno, Centro Tupper, antes del 30 de abril.

Convocatoria del Colegio de Biólogos de Panamá

COBIOPA convoca a elecciones para elegir la directiva de 1995-1996, el sábado 29 de abril, en la Fundación Panamá (Ave. México y Calle 42, Edificio Guadalupe) a partir de las 8:30am. Mayor información en los tels. 25-7325 y 32-5552.



Rafael Batista (left) and Manuel E. Marino (right) are the new "Jacana" launch operators. Batista obtained a B.S. in Marine Engineering at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and Marino is a Naval Engineer graduated at the Naval School of Venezuela. They both started working for STRI on Jan 22. We welcome them to the STRI community ••• Rafael Batista (izquierda) y Manuel E. Marino (derecha) son los nuevos lancheros de la "Jacana" Batista obtuvo su licenciatura en Ingeniería Marina en la Academia Marítima de Massachusetts, y Marino es Ingeniero Naval, graduado en la Escuela Naval de Venezuela. Les damos nuestra bienvenida a la comunidad de STRI.

(Fotos: A. Montaner)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the Office of Fellowships and Education

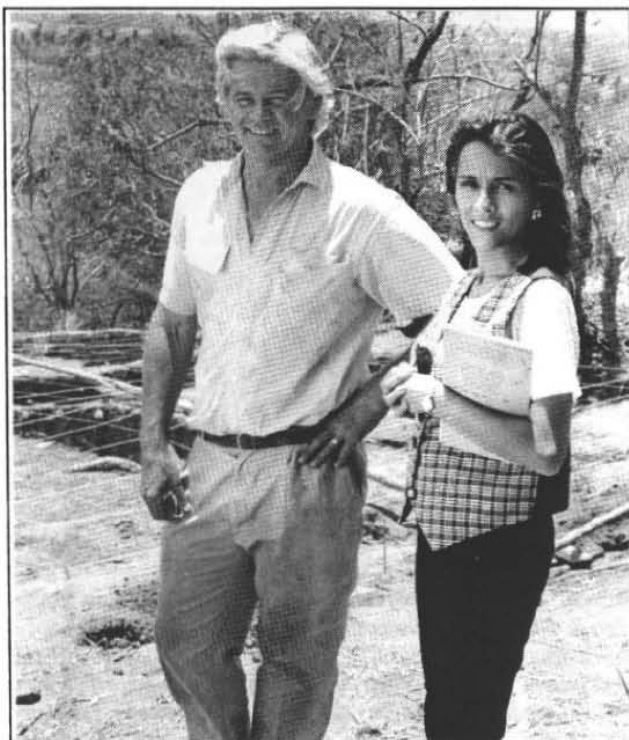
Due to lack of space, the STRI Newsletter is unable to publish all announcements. These are some of the news items available for consultation at the Office of Fellowships and Education (see Maria Luz Calderón):

- Brown University is announcing a one-year replacement position in population/evolutionary genetics available July 1. Deadline to apply: May 3
- Course: Ecologia Da Floresta Amazonica, Jul 15-16 Aug, Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil
- Post-graduate courses at the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering.
- Tropical Dendrology Course, Jun 19-7 Jul, Costa Rica
- Two-Week Museum Techniques in Botany Workshop, September, SI National Museum of Natural History
- SI/MAB Program: III International Biodiversity Measuring and Monitoring Course, Sep 3-6 Oct, Conservation and Research Center Front Royal, VA.
- U.S.-CEE Travel/Host Grants for American Scientists to cooperate with scientists from Central/Eastern Europe

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Cooke, Richard and Ruiz-Guevara, Argelis. 1994. "Salvaging, Identifying and Marking Sea Turtles in the Bay of Parita, Panama." In: *Proceedings of the 14th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, August 1994*: 213-214, compiled by K.A. Bjorndal, A.B. Bolten, D.A. Johnson and P.J. Eliazar. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-351.
- Harms, Kyle Edward and Aiello, Annette. 1995. "Seed-Boring by Tropical Clearwing Moths (Sesiidae): Aberrant Behavior or Widespread Habit?" *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 49(1): 43-48.
- Lessios, Harilaos A. 1994. "Status of *Diadema* Populations Ten Years After Mass Mortality." In: *Echinoderms Through Time*: 748, edited by David, Guille, Féral and Roux. Rotterdam: Balkema.
- Weil, Ernesto and Knowlton, Nancy. 1994. "A Multi-Character Analysis of the Caribbean Coral *Montastraea annularis* (Ellis and Solander, 1786) and its Two Sibling Species *M. faveolata* (Ellis and Solander, 1786) and *M. franksi* (Gregory, 1895)." *Bulletin of Marine Science* 55(1): 151-175.

RESEARCH UPDATE



Estela Villarreal, Telemetro Canal 13, interviewed Richard Cooke at Cerro Juan Diaz, Los Santos, for the television program "En Exclusiva" presented on Thursday, April 20, at 10pm ••• Estela Villarreal, de Telemetro Canal 13, entrevistó a Richard Cooke en Cerro Juan Díaz, Los Santos, para la serie de televisión "En Exclusiva" presentada el jueves 20 de abril a las 10 de la noche. (Foto: Telemetro)

Short Version of "En Exclusiva", by Richard Cooke

The STRI/INAC excavations at the Cerro Juan Diaz site near los Santos continued during the dry season with the assistance of 30 students from the Centro Universitario Regional de Azuero and the Universidad de Panamá (Escuela de Geografía e Historia). These activities are part of a one-year educational programme financed by the SI Educational Outreach Fund. The educational coordinator is Ilean Isaza, and the archaeologist in residence, Aguilaro Pérez. In the 20x10m 'Operation 3', begun in 1993, work concentrated on a complex series of domestic and ritual features (*rasgos*) dated to the 5th-7th centuries of the Christian era. Post-holes (*moldes para postes*) and compacted clay floors from part of a house lie over these features, and separate them from later burials and rubbish dumps (*basureros*). The primary symbols of wealth and hierarchy at this time were jewelry made out of imported marine shells (*Spondylus*,

pearl oysters [*ostiones perlíferos*], and *Strombus*), and necklaces made from carnivore teeth (species which are absent or very rare in kitchen middens—mostly domestic dog, but also jaguar, puma, howler monkey, raccoon and tayra—[gato cutarro/gato negro]). Only a handful of the 60-odd skeletons recovered were buried with large quantities of these artifacts. Interestingly, pottery accompanied only three individuals. This situation contrasts with that of post-A.D. 700 burials. It seems that polychrome pottery and goldwork ultimately displaced rare animal products as the most desired media for political advertisement (the shell-tooth necklace association has been observed at Venado Beach, near Panama City, and La Cañaza, in the Tonosf valley).

A new 15x18m unit has been opened on the top of the hill that overlooks the sea. Under the recent fill (*el relleno moderno*) is a series of rubbish dumps and house features (*rasgos domésticos*) that, to judge from finds of non-indigenous pottery and bricks, probably refer to the 'pueblo de Indios' of Cubitá, which was 'half-a-league' from Los Santos according to a 1575 document. This represents the best archaeological evidence yet obtained in Panama for occupational continuity across Spanish contact. These features lie on top of refuse dumps (*basureros*) cut by burials, and huge lenses of ash and red clay, which probably represent ritual activities. Finds of whole and fragmented Spondylous and pearl oyster shells, and beautifully made stone drills, point to the on-site manufacture of shell jewelry with imported materials (the Pearl Islands are the most likely source). Cerro Juan Diaz' coastal location, landmark geography, and large human population supported by productive terrestrial and estuarine ecosystems were undoubtedly related to its primacy as a manufacturing and redistributive centre. It remains to be seen whether it retained this primacy after goldwork displaced exotic shells, presumably disrupting commercial relationships around Panama Bay.

Steve Paton



has moved (again) to:

Room 210

Ext. 259

