

# STRI newsletter

July 7, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 27

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Jul 11, seminar speaker will be John Pickering, University of Georgia, at 3:30pm.  
*Diversity of Parasitic Wasps: Flight Behavior, Sex Ratios and Seasonality*

## NAOS LAB LUNCHEON

Thu, Jul 13, Naos Marine Lab luncheon speaker will be Penny Barnes, STRI  
*Population Genetics of Lucinid Bivalves: Morphology and Allozymes*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Eight gamewardens from Costa Rica, Central Volcanic Mountains Conservation Area, Jul 10-17, to present a seminar and continue collaboration program with gamewardens at STRI.
- Olga F. Linares and Martin Moynihan, Jul 12, back from France.
- Joanna Oke, University of Wales, Jul 14-31 Aug, to study the synergistic effect of warm seawater and UV light exposition on the density of zooxantellae in *Pavona gigantea*, at Naos.
- Tadao Matsumoto, Tohru Miura and Kyoto Maekawa, Tokyo University, Jul 14-19, to work with Seigo Higashi, on sociobiological studies on neotropical social insects, at BCI.

### Departures

- Haris Lessios, Jul 8-11 Aug, to Montreal, to attend the meetings of the Society for the Study of Evolution. Then to Greece, to work at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.
- William Wcislo, Jul 8-13, to Lincoln, Nebraska, to attend the meetings of the Animal Behavior Society.
- John Christy, Jul 14-6 Aug, to Montreal, to present a paper at the IVth International Conference on Nemertine Biology.

## THINGS TO KNOW

### At the Tupper Center

- Mon, Jul 10 ■ Scientific support staff meeting, LMR, 2pm.  
Tue, Jul 11 ■ Seminar by John Pickering, Auditorium, 3:30pm.



Leo Van Vankenhoef (left) and José Ramón Perurena (right) recently presented "on the spot" cash awards to Alejandro Ureña, Víctor Castillo and Jaime Sierra, for personal recognition for ingenuity, drive and excellence (PRIDE), on BCI ••• Recientemente, Leo Van Vankenhoef (izq.) y José Ramón Perurena (der.) entregaron premios en efectivo "al instante" por inventiva, dedicación y excelencia (PRIDE) a Alejandro Ureña, Víctor Castillo y Jaime Sierra, en Barro Colorado. (Foto: A. Montaner)

### At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Jul 11 Saint Mary's School  
Wed, Jul 12 Escuela Cabuya Arriba  
Thu, Jul 13 Escuela Vista Hermosa  
Fri, Jul 14 Primer Ciclo José Santos Puga  
Sat, Jul 15 Colegio Nuestra Señora de Lourdes

### At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Jul 8 Colegio La Santa Familia and Centro Educativo Sócratico  
Sun, Jul 9 AFS American Foreign Service  
Sat, Jul 15 Grupo de Ecologistas Penonomeños and ANCON  
Sun, Jul 16 Colegio José Daniel Crespo, Chitré

### Research Station in Nusagandi

A research station in Nusagandi, San Blas mountain range, managed by PEMASKY, is open for ecotourism and scientific research. It has 25 beds and kitchen facilities. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is necessary to reach the station, in approximately 3-hour drive from Panama City. For those interested, reservations must be channelled through the STRI Visitor's Office, with 3 weeks in advance, since, besides the INRENARE permit, an additional one is required from PEMASKY for collection.

### Federal Life Insurance Open Season

Permanent Federal employees who have waived their FEGLI insurance have a few more days to sign up for Basic coverage only, during this open season that closes on Friday, July 21. A new feature of FEGLI coverage is the "Living Benefits" provision where a terminally ill individual can get an up-front insurance payment of their Basic coverage only. There are very limited events then an employee who has waived his/her coverage can enroll in the FEGLI program. Individuals signing up for coverage must have their FEGLI enrollment form (SF 2817) received in OHR, Benefits, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2100, MRC 912, by close of business July 21, 1995. If you have any questions or need an election form, you may contact Carmen Sucre, Office of Human Resources, tel. 227-3174.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Three-Year Grant from Mellon

Together with the Organization for Tropical Studies, STRI received a 3-year grant from Mellon to foster comparative studies among STRI and OTS sites. One part of the grant funds short-term, exploratory trips (up to \$2000) to enable researchers at STRI to visit OTS sites and meet with potential collaborators, with the aim of subsequently getting funds from elsewhere to do a comparative study. Each recipient is obligated to give a research seminar during the visit to OTS. STRI has at least 5 awards each year. Interested individuals should write a very brief proposal with a statement of intent, and include how you envision future collaborations will develop. The proposals can be sent to Joe Wright, Allen Herre, or Bill Wcislo, who can be contacted for more information. OTS has the same number of awards to pass out each year for people to visit STRI.

### More PRIDE Awards ••• Más Premios "PRIDE"

Last week, Mercedes Denis, Naos Laboratories Manager, gave "on the spot" cash awards to Reynaldo Tapia, San Blas Station, Ismael González and Osmila Sánchez-Galán, Naos Laboratories, for personal recognition for ingenuity, drive and excellence (PRIDE). Our congratulations ••• *La semana pasada, Mercedes Denis, administradora de los Laboratorios Marinos de Naos dió premios en efectivo "al instante" a Reynaldo Tapia, de la Estación de San Blas, y a Ismael González y Osmila Sánchez-Galán, de Naos, en reconocimiento por su inventiva, dedicación y excelencia ("PRIDE"), por sus contribuciones al mejoramiento de los servicios del Programa Marino. Nuestras felicitaciones.*

### At the Office of Education

You find information of courses, fellowships, congresses, etc., that is impossible to publish in the Newsletter, due

to the lack of space. Some of that information concerns:

- Concurso de la Red Latinoamericana de Botánica 1995-1996, para becas de perfeccionamiento, eventos científicos, fondos de instalación para ex-becarios de la RLB y cursos regionales en centros de postgrado.
  - VI Curso Internacional de Contaminación de Acuíferos, México, D.F., Sep. 18-13 Oct.
  - Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History 1996: Research Training Program.
  - Convention on Biological Diversity: Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Biosafety, Madrid, Jul 24-28.
- To get more information, please stop by the Office of Fellowships and Education, Room 340, Tupper Center.

## NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

González, Antonio G., Bazzocchi, Isabel L., Moujir, Laila, Ravelo, Angel G., Correa, Mireya D. and Gupta, Mahabir P. 1995. "Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitory Activity of Some Panamanian Plants from Celastraceae and Lamiaceae." *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 46: 25-29.

Wellington, Gerald M. and Dunbar, R.B. 1995. "Stable Isotopic Signature of El Niño southern Oscillation Events in Eastern Tropical Pacific Reef Corals." *Coral Reefs* 14: 5-25.

### Cleaning Party ••• Fiesta de Limpieza

On Saturday, July 8, there will be a cleaning party at the Barro Colorado Old Dining Hall. Coffee and donuts and a picnic lunch will be offered. The boat to BCI leaves Gamboa at 7:15 am and returns from the Island at 2:30pm. Leave your message with Isis Ivancic, Visitor's Office at the Tupper Center (tel. 227-6021) if you are interested in participating ••• *El sábado 8 de julio se llevará a cabo una fiesta de limpieza del Viejo Comedor de Barro Colorado. Se ofrecerán "donots", café y almuerzo tipo "picnic". La lancha sale de Gamboa a las 7:15 am y regresa de la Isla a las 2:30pm. Si desea asistir, favor de dejar su mensaje con Isis Ivancic, Oficina de Visitantes, Centro Tupper, tel 227-6021.*

### From the Office of Education

#### De la Oficina de Educación

In an effort to save paper, the STRI Newsletter will continue as a two-page bulletin until next fiscal year ••• *Para ahorrar papel, el "Newsletter" de STRI será de dos páginas hasta el próximo año fiscal.*

### On the "New STRI Booklist"

This is available in GroupWise. Printed copies can be picked up at Library and the Office of Education.