

STRI news

June 3, 1996

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

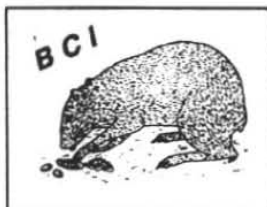
Tuesday, June 4, Tupper Center seminar speaker will be Gaetan Lefevre, University of Montreal

*Caribbean and Pacific black mangroves:
not two peas in a pod*

Abstract

Isolated in forest patches, mangrove stands often experience different physical conditions (rainfall, tide, salinity) despite similar floristic composition and structure. Although these abiotic factors are known to influence timing of flowering and intensity of vegetative growth, their potential effect on the invertebrate fauna and, ultimately, the bird community have largely been ignored. Based on one year of sampling in Galeta and Juan Diaz, I will attempt to evaluate how physical conditions, through their influence on plant phenology and invertebrate composition, affect the feeding guild assemblage of resident birds and the seasonal abundance of Neotropical-Nearctic migrant birds.

BAMBI SEMINAR SPEAKER



Thursday, June 6, Bambi seminar speaker at Barro Colorado Island will be Nigel Asquith, Duke University

*Population Viability Analysis:
Integrating Theoretical and
Applied Conservation?*

Transportation and dinner

reservations are essential. Please Call BCI at 276-2124.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

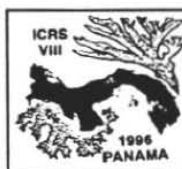
- Stephen Swearer, STRI short term visitor from the University of California, Jun 1-20, to study mechanisms of egg inviability in tropical lubrids, at San Blas.
- James Ashe, Robert Anderson and Robert Brooks, University of Kansas, Jun 2-23, to study the biodiversity and community structure of forest floor Coleoptera (Staphylinidae, Curculionidae, Cicindellidae), at Tupper.

- Josie Hinnegan and Tony Auen, Moses Films, Jun 3-11, to film a segment on the mating behavior of tortoise beetles for the National Geographic Explorer TV series: Animal Attraction.
- Michael Morales of North Carolina, to work as an "intern" with Allen Herre at BCI.
- Julie Denslow and Andre Tabanez, Louisiana State University, Jun 4-28, to work on the resource heterogeneity in secondary forests, on BCI.
- Michael Engel, Jun 4-11 Aug, to work on the social behavior and nest architecture of the nocturnal sweat bee *Megalopta genolis*, on BCI.
- Thomas Hetherington, Ohio State University, to work with Erik Lindquist on the acoustic and visual communication in the earless Panamanian golden frog, *Atelopus zeteki*, at Tupper.
- Ben Polanco, University of Utah, Jun 4-Feb '97, to work with Thomas Kursar at BCI.
- Dustin Rubenstein, Dartmouth College, Jun 4-1 Aug, to work with Michael Braun, on genetic studies of an avian hybrid zone (Genus *Manacus*).
- Frederic Venci, State University of New York, Jun 5-26, on the chemical ecology of a fecal shield defense, on a Mellon Exploratory Research Award, at BCI.

Departures

- Penny Barnes, May 30-7 Jul, to the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, to teach a summer course on Tropical Marine Invertebrates.
- David Roubik, Jun 2-12, to present a seminar at the invitation of the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Ira Rubinoff, Jun 7-11, to attend the opening of the exhibit "America's Smithsonian".

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW



HIGHLIGHTS

The ICRS Organizing Committee kindly requests all those interested in register for the meeting, to do so by June 7, at the latest. Preparation of registration documents and badges is being done and we will like to avoid last minute work. We will appreciate your cooperation ••• *El comité organizador del Octavo Simposio de Arrecifes Coralinos agradecerá que todos aquellos interesa-*

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

dos en registrarse en el congreso lo hagan antes del 7 de junio. Se está trabajando en los documentos de registro e identificaciones para evitar trabajo inesperado de último minuto. Apreciamos su cooperación.

From the Naos Island Laboratories

De los Laboratorios de Isla Naos

Three central telephone lines at Naos are out of order: 228-4039, 228-4060 and 228-0447. Please use the lines 228-4022, 228-4150, 228-2477, 228-4450, 228-0672, 228-4465 and 228-2573 ••• Hay tres líneas de teléfono dañadas en Naos: 228-4039, 228-4060 y 228-0447. Por favor use las líneas 228-4022, 228-4150, 228-2477, 228-4450, 228-0672, 228-4465 y 228-2573.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening of "Insects: Friends and Enemies"

Inauguración de "Insectos: Amigos y Enemigos"

On Friday, May 31, STRI permanent employees received the Smithsonian 150 anniversary pins, Ira Rubinoff made a few remarks, and the pilot exhibit "Insects: Friends and Enemies" was inaugurated. Members of the STRI community can visit the exhibit ••• El viernes 31 de mayo, luego de la entrega de "pines" del 150avo aniversario del Smithsonian a todos los empleados permanentes de STRI, se inauguró la exhibición piloto "Insectos: Amigos y Enemigos, en el Centro de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI están bienvenidos a conocerla.

New Agreement ••• Nuevo Convenio

On Friday, May 31, INRENARE director, Rolando Guillén and Ira Rubinoff, signed an agreement to carry out a program to monitor the Panama Canal Watershed. The objective of this agreement is to provide updated information for decision makers in the planning and managing of the watershed. The program covers monitoring the forest, vertebrate populations, soils and hydrological aspects ••• El viernes 31 de mayo, el director del INRENARE, Rolando Guillén y Ira Rubinoff, firmaron un acuerdo para llevar a cabo un programa para monitorear la Cuenca del Canal de Panamá. El objetivo de este acuerdo es el de suministrar información oportuna a los administradores de la cuenca en cuanto a planificación y manejo. El programa cubre el

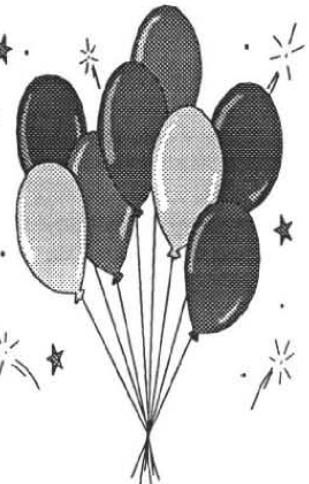
monitoreo de la cobertura boscosa, las poblaciones de vertebrados, los suelos y aspectos hidráulicos.

Special Seminar ••• Seminario Especial

On Sat, Jun 1, the Panamanian Herpetological Circle gave a talk on Parque Nacional Altos de Campana. The seminar speaker was César Jaramillo: Inventario de Anfibios y Reptiles: Fase Inicial para la Conservación de estas Especies en el Parque Nacional Altos de Campana ••• El sábado 1 de junio se llevó a cabo un seminario a cargo del Círculo Herpetológico de Panamá en el Parque Nacional Altos de Campana por César Jaramillo: Inventario de Anfibios y Reptiles: Fase Inicial para la Conservación de estas Especies en el Parque Nacional Altos de Campana.

STRI June Birthdays

Rodolfo Selles	1
Hely C. Cortez	2
Argelis Ruiz-Guevara	2
Nereida Hernández	2
Rolando Pérez	4
Bonifacio De León	5
Gabriel Abrego	7
Gloria Maggiori	7
Jose Carlos Espino	7
Klaus Winter	10
David West	15
Maritza Perurena	15
Aureliano Valencia	16
Shawn McCafferty	22
Leo van Valkenhoef	29
Carmen Sucre	30



FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Step Increases

Apply only to federal employees who occupy permanent General Schedule positions: within-grade increase means a periodic increase in an employee's rate of basic pay from one step of the grade to the next higher step of that grade. The length of period for granting within-grade increases are: steps 2, 3, and 4: 52 weeks of creditable service. Steps 5, 6 and 7: 104 weeks of creditable service. Steps 8, 9 and 10: 156 weeks of creditable service. If you have questions please call Maritza Perurena or Carmen Sucre, Human Resources Office, Tivoli.