TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Sep 23, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Srygley, University of Washington
Butterfly Migrations Across the Isthmus of Panama: Where?, How? and Why?

Abstract
Southwesterly migrations of approximately seven species of pierid butterflies (sulphurs and whites) and three species of nymphalid butterflies (chocolates and daggerwings) peak annually in May or June on Lake Gatun, Panama. We have characterized the transit routes (flyways) from the Caribbean Sea to the relatively dry forests in the center of the isthmus and the Pacific coast. Conservation of flyways requires that migrating organisms are goal-oriented and capable of adjusting for being blown off-course. With measures of individual flight speeds and directions, we found that sulphurs and daggerwings were capable of compensating for being blown off-course when over water. By changing the butterflies' sense of time, we demonstrated that sulphurs use a time-compensated sun compass to orient. Preliminary results suggest that the migrations may be associated with a decline in larval food availability at the onset of wet season on the Atlantic coast.

PEOPLE

Arrivals
- Andrew Snedden, Short-term visitor from the University of Kansas, Sep 20 - Oct 7, to study the chorus structure in Túngara frogs, in Gamboa.
- Ana Isabel Perdices, Museo Nacional de Madrid, Sep 21-30, to work on freshwater fishes, at Naos.
- John Pickering, University of Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 4, to study the stability of a tropical forest and tropical forest area on military installations of the Panama Canal Area.
- John Pearse, Senior scholar, Sep 25 - Oct 3, to visit STRI and present a seminar. Victoria Pearse will also visit STRI.

Departures
- Paul Colinvaux, Sep 20-27, to Curitiba, Brazil, to teach an ecology course at the Universidad Federal de Paraná.
- John Christy, Sep 21-27, to Baltimore, MD, to attend the ICES symposium and workshops at the John Hopkins University.
- Héctor Guzmán, Sep 22-26, to Manila, Philippines, to participate in the workshop "Reefs at Risk", invited by the World Resources Institute.
- Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Sep 23-26, to Santa Barbara, CA, to attend the meetings of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

STRI Marine ESP Available in New Webpage
The STRI Marine Environmental Sciences Program now has its own page within STRI's website. The temporary address for that page during revision of STRI's website by OIT is http://160.111.157.3/mesp.html;

Enrique Morales (second from the left), president of the Honduras Coral Reef Fund, was present at the opening of the STRI's Coral Reef Exhibit at the San Pedro Sula International Airport, last month. Also in the photo are Marco Díaz, STRI, and local authorities. Enrique Morales (segundo, de izquierda a derecha), presidente de la Fundación Hondureña para la Conservación de Caños Cochinos, estuvo presente en el acto de inauguración de la exhibición de arrecifes coralinos de STRI, en el Aeropuerto Internacional San Pedro Sula, el mes pasado. Aparecen también en la foto Marco Díaz, STRI, y autoridades locales.
(Foto: Cortesía de la Oficina de Asuntos Externos)


YOU SHOULD KNOW
eventually it will be http://www.stri.org/mesp/html. That MESP page provides a program description, lists of types of data collected and those currently available, and site maps. When OIT has finished revising STRI’s website users worldwide will be able to immediately download MESP data, along with full documentation. Only sea temperature data will be accessible at this first stage; other monitoring datasets will be added in the near future as their documentation is prepared. Data not made available at that page are available as usual on diskette.

The Smithsonian Community Committee

by Constance Newman B. and J. Dennis O’Connor

"The spirit created within the Smithsonian community by the 150th anniversary year celebration has become an invaluable part of the Institution. The programs initiated and administered by the 150th Anniversary Community Committee... brought together and recognized all branches of the Smithsonian family. We have, therefore, established the Smithsonian Community Committee as a permanent part of the Institution, with the mission to: generate enthusiasm for being part of the Smithsonian; recognize the various members of the Smithsonian family and acknowledge their varied and substantial contributions; increase staff awareness and understanding of the Institution; and encourage staff to come together as a family. The Community Committee will continue to call upon directors to support, assist, and encourage participation in its programs by all the staff of the Smithsonian museums, research institutes, and offices... As these members rotate off the Community Committee, we will call upon individuals from the broad Smithsonian family to join and bring additional ideas, perspectives, and initiatives, and to help the Committee continue its positive influence and be as effective and successful as it was during the anniversary year. Initial thought is to continue the following programs as we review and develop new projects: Unsung Hero Awards... Open House Series... Photo Contest and Exhibition... Staff Art Show... The Smithsonian Family Program at the Folklife Festival... At the 150th Anniversary Festival, volunteers recorded oral reminiscences and collected SI-related memorabilia from visitors to the "Family Tent"... We look forward to working with the Smithsonian Community Committee, and enjoying the programs and projects it presents in the future."

AT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION #330

You will find information that is too long to publish on:
- El Museo y la Comunidad Sostenible Cumbre de los Museos de América 16-20 Abril, San José, Costa Rica.
- Tropical Birding in Costa Rica, Tropical Science Center.
- Dendrología Tropical en Costa Rica, Marzo 2-14, Centro Científico Tropical.

MISCELLANEOUS

From the Major’s Office • Invitación del Municipio

The Panamanian Municipality invites families of the STRI community to host a child from the provinces during the days of the celebration of the "World of Toys" parade, from December 12-15. Interested please call the Office of External Affairs, at Tivoli *** El Municipio de Panamá invita a las familias de la comunidad de STRI a ser padrinos de un niño de los 5,000 que tienen de las provincias para la celebración del desfile "Mundo de Juguetes" durante los días 12 al 15 de diciembre. Interesados favor llamar a la Oficina de Asuntos Externos de STRI, en Tivoli.