

# STRI news

October 17, 1997

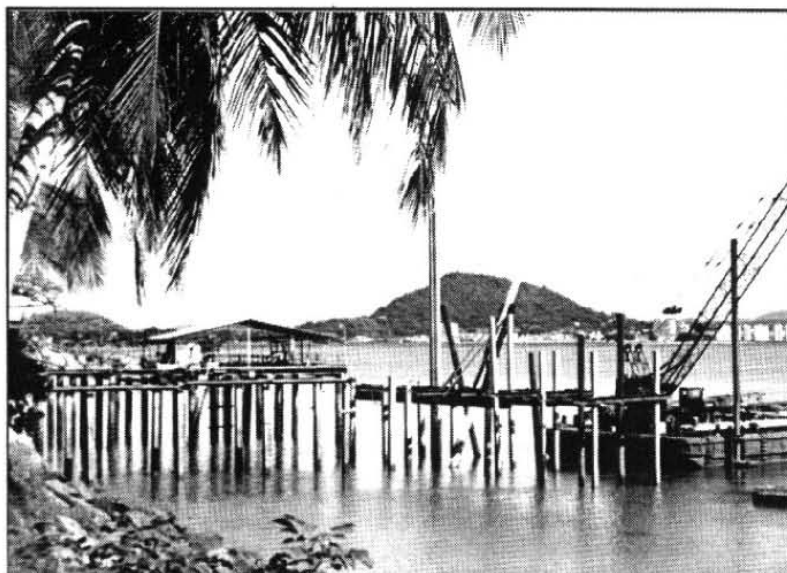
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Oct 21, noon seminar speaker will be Francis Mayle, University of Leicester, U.K.

### Abstract

The aim of the present study is to examine how the vegetation composition, positions of ecotonal boundaries, fire frequency, and climate have changed over much longer timescales, extending through the last glacial-interglacial cycle. Techniques employed to achieve this include analyses of fossil pollen, charcoal, and other proxy palaeoenvironmental data from lake sediments in the region. Preliminary pollen and lithological data together with two AMS radiocarbon dates are available from Labuna Bellavista (13°36'30.6"S, 61°33'16.7"W), a flat-bottomed lake that straddles the dry forest/savanna ecotonal boundary in the north of the park. They point to pronounced changes in regional vegetation and climate spanning at least the last 58,000 years. These are the first fossil pollen data from the Bolivian Amazon. The possible palaeoenvironmental significance of these preliminary results are discussed, together with plans for future palaeoecological work in the region.



STRI started working on the construction of a new pier on Naos Island several months ago to replace the old one which will be demolished. This new pier, scheduled for completion in February, will include a floating breakwater, a ramp and a floating dock ••• STRI empezó a trabajar en la construcción de un nuevo muelle en Isla Naos hace varios meses para reemplazar el viejo muelle que será demolido. El nuevo muelle, que se espera sea terminado en febrero, incluye un rompeolas flotante, una rampa y un desembarcadero flotante.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

## CHARLA SMITHSONIAN

El Patronato del Parque Natural Metropolitano y STRI invitan a la Charla Smithsonian del Mes, el miércoles 29 de octubre en el Salón Las Oropéndolas, Centro de Visitantes, Parque Metropolitano, por Martin Wikelsi

*Las Islas Galápagos y la Evolución de las Plantas y Aves de Centroamérica y Panamá*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Steve Mulkey, University of Missouri, Oct 19-31, to work with Joe Wright on *Psychotria* and Marantaceae, at Tupper.
- Tamara Ticktin, McGill University, to study the population ecology of *Aechmea magdalenae*, on BCI.

- David Bunker, University of Pittsburgh, Oct 20 - Jan 15, to work with Walter Carson, in a community level experimental test on mammal and insect control on tropical forest diversity, at BCI and Gigante.
- Francesco Andrietti, University of Milan, Oct 21-28, to consult with Manuela Giovanetti on her project at BCI, and visit STRI facilities.
- Brice Quenouille, University of Perignon, France, Oct 23 - Oct, 30, 2000, to study the molecular systematics of the Pomacentrid reef fish genus *Amphiprinn*, at the Naos Laboratories.

### Departures

- Penny Barnes, Oct 14-29, to visit the Bermuda Biological Station. Then to the Bahamas, to do research at the CMRC Marine Laboratory.
- Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Oct 19-24, to Salt Lake City UT, to attend the Geological Society of America meetings.
- Richard Condit, Oct 19 - Dec 2, to Oregon State University and to the University of Washington to present seminars. Then he will visit Kyoto, Japan, to attend a workshop on biodiversity, and to Cameroon, to initiate field work at the CTFs plot in the Horup National Park.
- Leonor Motta, Oct 24-29, to Charleston and Washington D.C., on official business.

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### Our Condolences ••• *Nuestras Condolencias*

To Jennifer Campuzano, for the death of her fiancée, Allen Komar, on Thursday, October 9, in Allentown, PA  
 ••• *A Jennifer Campuzano, por la muerte de su prometido, Allen Komar, el jueves 9 de octubre, en Allentown, PA.*

### OUTREACH

El lunes 20 de octubre, Olga F. Linares, STRI, dictará una conferencia con motivo del Tercer Congreso Internacional de Historia, Octubre 20-24, Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí, David, Chiriquí

*Ecología y Economía Política de Grupos  
Indígenas Panameños*

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

#### Changes at the Accounting Department

In an effort to improve its efficiency, the STRI Accounting Department implemented the posting of local transactions directly to the SI Financial System (SFS). Prior to this, STRI sent entries to be posted through the Office of the Comptroller (OC). With the implementation of this change and the installation of the satellite link, the Accounting Department is now able to view SFS accounting information and post entries online. Now, the financial information is current, and both the STRI Accounting Department and the Office of the Comptroller in Washington are saving valuable working time.

#### Team-Concept at the Procurement Department

In order to maintain a high level of service quality, and avoid seasonal unmanageable volumes of work for members of the Procurement staff, the team-concept and sharing of all assignments was implemented in the Department. After three years of rotating of functions, now every member of the team will be able to either assist or replace each other when necessary. This accomplishment is the result of the cooperation of all members of the Procurement Department by learning how to process the different duties that every post demands, so they can provide STRI with uninterrupted service at all times.

#### Use or Lose Leave ••• *Tiempo de Usar o Perder*

Please remember that, as the end of the year approaches, "use or lose leave" must be scheduled in advance and used by January 3, 1998, or it will be forfeited. Use or

lose leave is annual leave in excess of 240 hours, which cannot be carried into the next leave year. Under certain conditions, such as illness or Smithsonian emergencies, leave may be restored. Details available at Office of Human Resources, ext. 2223 and 2228 ••• *Se les recuerda a los empleados que al acercarse el final del año, deben programar el tiempo que tengan de "Usar o Perder" (use or lose) y usarlo antes del 3 de enero de 1998. De no hacerlo así, lo perderán. El tiempo de "usar o perder" son las horas de vacaciones (annual leave) que el empleado acumule sobre las 240, y no se pueden usar el año siguiente año. Bajo ciertas condiciones, tales como enfermedad o urgencias de la Institución, estas horas podrían ser restituidas. Para cualquier consulta, comunicarse con la Oficina de Recursos Humanos.*

#### Historia de Dos Océanos

STRI y la Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá invitan a la presentación del documental *Historia de Dos Océanos* en el Auditorio del Centro Earl S. Tupper, el jueves 30 de octubre a las 7:30pm. Donación: público en general \$10, estudiantes \$5. Luego del documental habrá sesión para preguntas a los científicos que participaron en la producción del documental, y un brindis.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Oct 28 | TV New Zealand Natural History, Film Crew   |
| Oct 29 | Smithsonian Monthly Lecture at PNM by Martin Wikelsi  |
| Nov 1  | TV New Zealand Natural History, Film Crew   |
| Nov 4  | Secretary's and COD meeting in Washington   |
| Nov 20 | American Society: <i>An Evening at the Smithsonian</i>                                      |
| Nov 27 | Young President's Organization, Panama Chapter, visit to Cerro Juan Diaz with Richard Cooke |
| Dec 3  | Secretary's and COD meeting in Washington   |
| Dec 4  | Conferencia sobre la limpieza de la Bahía de Panamá por Luis D'Croz y Carlos Ayarza, Tupper |
| Dec 8  | Visit by J. Dennis O'Connor and Robert Hanle  |
| Dec 12 | STRI Christmas Party  |

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### For Sale ••• *Se Vende*

Two mountain bikes "Trek", with baby carriers, almost new, \$160. each. Daewoo Tico car, A/C, 14000km, \$3000. In' ted call Héctor Guzmán at 263-2204, a.w.h. ••• *Dos bicicletas montañeras "Trek" con carritos para bebés, casi nuevas, \$160 c/u. Carro Daewoo Tico, 14,000km, aire acondicionado, \$3000. Interesados llamar a Héctor Guzmán al 263-2204, después de trabajo.*