

STRI news '98

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, July 31, 1998

Bambi Seminar

Thursday, August 6, Bambi seminar speaker will be David Marsh, University of California at Davis

The Effects of Individual Behavior on Patterns of Abundance of Across Scales: A case Study with Túngara Frogs

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI at 272-2124 or e-mail: Bambi

Arrivals

- Kaoru Kitajima, University of Florida, Aug 1-8, to conduct comparative studies of *Psychotria*, on BCI. Debjani Roy, short-term visitor from the Institute of Self- Organizing Systems and Biophysics, India, Aug 1-31, to visit STRI and consult with colleagues, in Gamboa.
- Catherine Potvin, STRI research associate from McGill University, Aug 3-15, to conduct studies of the natural regeneration of the tropical forest in the Canal Watershed, in Las Pavas and Tupper.
- George Chuyong, Duncan Thomas, Nicholas Songwee and David Kenfack, Korup Plot, Cameroon; Stuart Davies, Lambir Plot, Malaysia; and Robert John, Mudumalai Plot, India; participants at the CTFS meetings, Aug 4-11, to visit STRI and the Center's activities in Panama.
- Steve Turton, James Cook University, Australia, Aug 5-15, to visit the crane and consult with staff about canopy research.
- Joe Tien, Princeton University, Aug 6 - May 6, 1999, to work with Allen Herre at BCI.

CTFS Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Congreso del CTFS

The Center for Tropical Forest Science of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute are holding their network meeting "Forest Diversity and Dynamism: Results from a Global Network of Large-Scale Demographic Plots" at SI in Washington, D.C., from Thursday, July 30 through Saturday, August 1, at the Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum. This 3-day meeting will enable researchers working at each of the 13 Forest Dynamic Plots to present their results to other network members, learn about findings from other sites, and develop potential collaborative projects that would take advantage of the standardized nature of the CTFS network. On Thursday, July 30 at 8:30am, director Ira Rubinoff will welcome the participants of the Congress, followed by an introduction by Elizabeth Losos, CTFS director •••

El Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico del Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales llevará a cabo el congreso general "Dinamismo y Diversidad en el Bosque: Resultados de una Red Global de Parcelas Demográficas a Gran Escala" en el Smithsonian en Washington, D.C., del jueves 30 de julio al sábado 1 de agosto, en el Auditorio Ring del Museo Hirshhorn. Este congreso de tres días le dará a los investigadores que trabajan en cada una de las 13 Parcelas de Dinámica de Bosques, la oportunidad de presentar sus resultados y aprender de las investigaciones realizadas en otros sitios y desarrollar planes para proyectos de colaboración con la ventaja de la estandarización de la red del CTFS. El jueves de julio, a las 8:30am, Ira Rubinoff, director de STRI dará las palabras de bienvenida a los participantes, seguido por una introducción por Elisathe Losos, directora del CTFS..

- Fifteen students from the OTS, and Deedra McClearn, Aug 7-9, to visit BCI and learn about on-going research.

Visita del INAC

El 27 de julio, el director Ira Rubinoff, Elena Lombardo y Richard Cooke, recibieron la visita de altos funcionarios del INAC, Jorge Delgado, director, y Sebastián Paniza, director del Patrimonio Histórico. Durante la reunión se discutieron los avances de la investigación, así como

los esfuerzos de divulgación del interesante proyecto arqueológico que adelanta Cooke en colaboración con el INAC, en Cerro Juan Díaz, provincia de Los Santos.

Diving Officer Assistant

Ines Campbell was selected temporarily as the new assistant diving safety officer. Campbell will be in charge of the dive locker (regulators, diving computers, tanks and other scuba equipment) as well as the CPR-Ox program. Ines Campbell has a degree in Biology from the

University of Panama, is a certified SI scientific diver, NAUI SCUBA instructor, ASHI and NSC CPR and first aid instructor and DAN Oxygen instructor. She has worked in San Blas, Naos, Bocas and on board of the *Urracá* with several staff and visiting scientists as a scientific diver.

Marine ESP

The Marine Environmental Sciences Program has expanded its web site to include data from the 1996-1991 Oil Spill study. The presentation has site maps, an extract of the conclusions from the executive summary, file documentation, and a bibliography as well as data files in text and Dbase format for downloading. This data had formerly been available only from the National Oceanographic Data Center. For persons needing NOAA sea surface temperature data, the data averaged over 1 degree quadrats along both coasts of Panama, have been extracted from the Lamont Observatory website and put into Dbase files on the MESP site, with appropriate acknowledgment. The San Blas meteorological and oceanographic data (wind speed and direction, rainfall, solar radiation, water temperature) up to its closing have also been made available on the web site as part of our routine posting of new data every 2 months. Water temperature will continue to be collected at one site. The MESP web page is on the public Smithsonian server in Washington, D.C. <http://www.si.edu/organiza/centers/stri/mesp/mesp.htm>

Video Presentation

Presentación de Video

You are all cordially invited to view the video "Panama: Paradise Found?" on Thursday, August 6, at 3pm at the Tupper Auditorium. This video, in English, was produced by Linda Harrar Productions for Audubon

Town Meeting in Bocas

Reunión con la Ciudad en Bocas

On Wed 22 of July there took place in the municipal palace of the city of Bocas del Toro a well attended town meeting in which a STRI delegation explained to the community the tropical biological station to be established in Isla Colon. The large audience included representatives of the central and local governments, school principals, hotel owners, the cocoa farmers cooperative, church authorities and fishermen. Stanley Heckadon explained the nature of the Smithsonian, the history, activities and research programs of STRI in Panama and in the tropics, and the importance of basic science towards education and conservation efforts. The example of BCI was used to underline that the Bocas station will start small and grow gradually. Elena Lombardo explained the very favorable disposition of the Panamanian government to STRI's Bocas initiative. The meeting lasted 3 hours including an extensive period for questions and answers. The people of Bocas expressed their strong support for the biological station, thanking STRI for choosing Bocas and for its policy of holding an open meeting to explain its projects as a new neighbor in the region

••• El miércoles 22 de julio se llevó a cabo un muy concurrida reunión con la comunidad de Bocas del Toro en el Palacio Municipal, donde una delegación de STRI explicó sobre la estación de biología tropical que se establecerá en Isla Colón. La audiencia incluyó representantes del gobierno local y central, directores de escuelas, dueños de hoteles, cultivadores de cacao, autoridades de la iglesia y pescadores. Stanley Heckadon explicó la naturaleza del Smithsonian, la historia, actividades y programas de investigación de STRI en Panamá y los trópicos, y la importancia de la ciencia básica en los esfuerzos de educación y conservación. El ejemplo de Barro Colorado se usó para destacar que la estación de Bocas empezará siendo pequeña y crecerá gradualmente. Elena Lombardo explicó sobre la disposición favorable del gobierno hacia la iniciativa de STRI en Bocas. La reunión duró tres horas incluyendo un extenso período de preguntas y respuestas. La gente de Bocas expresaron su fuerte apoyo a la estación biológica, agradeciendo a STRI por escoger a Bocas y por esta iniciativa de llevar a cabo una reunión abierta para explicar sus proyectos como un nuevo vecino de la región.

Adventures, and hosted by Mariel Hemmingway. It was partly filmed on BCI and Gamboa. Following the video presentation, there will be refreshments in the Exhibit Hall. Don't miss it ••• *Todos están cordialmente invitados al video "Panama: Paradise Found?" el jueves 6 de agosto a las 3pm en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper. El video, en inglés, fue producido por Linda Harrar Productions para las Aventuras de la Audubon, siendo la anfitriona Mariel Hemmingway. Está filmado parcialmente en Barro Colorado y Gamboa. Siguiendo la presentación del video tendremos refrescos en el Salón de Exhibiciones. No se lo pierdan.*

Next Week

Próxima Semana

New guidelines for STRI letterhead and business cards will be distributed next week. Old letterhead and cards cannot be used after Monday, August 10th ••• *Durante la próxima semana se distribuirán las nuevas guías para el nuevo papel para cartas de STRI y para las targetas de presentación. El viejo papel y las targetas de presentación antiguas no podrán usarse después del lunes 10 de agosto.*