

STRI news '98

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, December 14, 1998

Week's Seminars

No noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, December 15. If you wish to give a seminar please contact Neal Smith at the Tupper Center, ext. 2300.

Bambi Seminar

Thursday, December Bambi speakers for Thursday, December 17, Bambi seminar speakers will be Allen Herre, STRI, Blayne Beal, University of Pittsburgh, and Rachel Gallery, STRI.

Ecological Consequences of Host-fungal Interactions in Panama? A Progress Report from the Trenches

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

Arrivals

- Stuart West, short-term visitor from the University of Edinburgh, U.K., Dec 15 - Feb 5, to study the evolution of reproductive strategies, the ecology of non-pollinating fig wasps, and the stability of the fig-pollinator mutualism, at BCI and Gamboa.
- Ashleigh Griffin, University of Edinburgh, U.K., Dec 15 - Feb 5, to work with Stuart West, at BCI and Gamboa.
- Valery Terwilliger, University of Kansas, Dec 16 - Jan 7, to study the resource use variations of fast growing trees in Panama, in Gamboa.
Michael Greenfield, University of Kansas, Dec 16 - Jan 7, to work with Valery Terwilliger, in Gamboa.



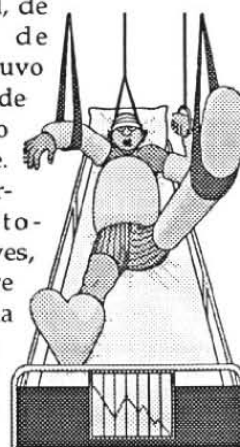
Margarita Cornejo, Biology Department Director at the University of Panama, and Mireya Correa, Elena Lombardo and Omar López, STRI, give certificate to one of the biology students that participated in the course "Introduction to Field Biology" at Gigante, coordinated by STRI and the University of Panama. The ceremony took place at the Tupper Center Exhibit Hall, on Thursday, Dec 10 ••• Margarita Cornejo, directora de la Escuela de Biología en la Universidad de Panamá, y Mireya Correa, Elena Lombardo y Omar López, STRI, entregan certificado a una de las estudiantes de biología que participaron en el Curso de Investigación de Biología de Campo en Gigante, que organizan STRI y la Universidad de Panamá. La ceremonia se llevó a cabo en el Salón de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper, el jueves 10 de diciembre. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- John Nason, University of Iowa, Dec 17 - Jan 10, to study fine-scale population genetic structure in tropical trees.

People

Our get well wishes to Roberto Borrell, from the Procurement Office, who had a car accident last Saturday, Dec 5. He had successful surgery on Thursday, December 10, and will be at the Clínica Paitilla during his recovery ••• Nuestros mejores deseos de una pronta recuperación a

Roberto Borrell, de la Oficina de Compras, que tuvo un accidente de carro el sábado 5 de diciembre. Bobby fue intervenido exitosamente el jueves, 10 de diciembre y estará en la Clínica Paitilla durante su recuperación inicial.



On Leave

Alejandro Arze will be on annual leave from Dec 9 through Jan 4. Fernando Caballero will be in charge of the Security/Protection operations ••• Alejandro Arze está de vacaciones del 9 de diciembre al 4 de enero. Durante este período Fernando Caballero estará a cargo de la Oficina de Seguridad y Protección.

Thank You Note

Since Christmas season is approaching I would like to thank all of you who have made possible the success of our community outreach program called the "Charla Smithsonian del Mes" during 1998. These talks, held on the last Weds of every month, at the Metropolitan Natural Park, are co sponsored by the "Patronato" or board of directors of the Park and by STRI. These talks by members of STRI began in 1996 to commemorate the 150 anniversary of the SI and the 50th of STRI. Originally they were meant to last six months but the enthusiasm of the local audience and our researchers has kept it going. This year over one thousand people attended. People from all walks of life and social levels, interested in knowing more about the incredible biological diversity of the tropics. My warmest thanks to the following naturalist who gave so much of their time, knowledge and motivation to make the presentations for 1998 such a success:

- Biff Bermingham: *Los Peces de Agua Dulce de Panama* January.
- Joe Wright: *La Corriente del Niño y los Bosques de Panama*. February
- Mireya Correa: *La Flora de Panama*. March.
- Jim Dalling and Julia Velazquez Runk: *La Artesanía y el Futuro de los Bosques de Panama* April.
- Gabriel Jacome: *Los Arrecifes de Coral y la Pesca en Panama*. May
- Roberto Ibáñez: *Los Anfibios del Area Central de Panama*. June.

- Salomon Aguilar: *"Los Bosques de la Cuenca del Canal de Panama*. July.
 - Martin Mitre: *Cantidad y Calidad del Agua en la Cuenca del Canal*. August.
 - Todd Capson: *La Búsqueda de Medicamentos en el Bosque Tropical Panameño*. September.
 - Frank Solis and Cesar Jaramillo: *Las Serpientes de Panama*. October.
 - Tom Kursar: *El Manejo Sostenible de los Cativales de Darien*. November.
- Elena Lombardo and Monica Alvarado provided constant support. This has included funds to produce a small colorful pamphlet with the summaries of all the talks and the opportune chilean "vinito" to celebrate the completion of the XXX Charla on November 25, given by Tom Kursar. The staff at the Metropolitan Natural Park have been just so wonderfully supportive, specially Rita Spadafora, the director of the park and Jenny Echevarria, the educational officer and deputy director. Our thanks also go to the journalist at *La Prensa* and *El Panama America*, who have given us constant free publicity during the year. Also to the newsdesks at T.V. channels 2, 4, 11 and 13. I am particularly in debt to RPC Radio whose early news program, has given us access to their audience to explain the nature of the talks and invite the public. On behalf of our very grateful audience, who have expressed to me their appreciation for having learned so much from your presentations about the wonders of the tropics: muchisimas gracias.

Stanley Heckadon Moreno

Publications

- Dalling, J.W., Hubbell, Stephen P., and Silveira, Katia. 1998. "Seed Dispersal, Seedling Establishment and Gap Partitioning Among Tropical Pioneer Trees." *Journal of Ecology* 86: 674-689.
- Krause, G. Heinrich, Thiele, Alexandra, Koroleva, Olga Y.,

Carouge, Nicole, Barth, Carina, Schmude, Claudia, Gardon, Hermann, Scholl, Silke Winter, Klaus. 1998. "Responses of the Photosynthetic Apparatus to High-Light/Low-Temperatures Stress in Plants from Temperate Zones and to UV Light Stress in Tropical Plants." In: *International Workshop on Stress Synergism in Plants - Abiotic and Biotic Stress in Photosynthesis, 23-26 August, 1998, Tata, Hungary*: 11.

Lovelock, Catherine E., Winter, Klaus, Mersits, Roman and Popp, Marianne. 1998. "Responses of Communities of Tropical Tree Species to Elevated CO₂ in a Forest Clearing." *Oecologia* 116: 207-218.

Mendoza H., Yaxelis G. 1998. Identificación y Caracterización de Hongos Endomicorrizicos en *Vorgia tenella* Hook. (Plantae, Gentianaceae). Thesis. Panamá: Universidad de Panamá.

Wurth, Mirjam K.R., Winter, Klaus and Korner, Christian. 1998. "Carbohydrate Responses to CO₂ Enrichment at the Top of a Tropical Forest." *Oecologia* 116: 18-25.

Beca para Panameño

STRI y la Universidad de Princeton anuncian una beca para un estudiante panameño que desee participar en tres cursos de biología que forman parte de un semestre de Princeton en Panamá, del 30 de enero al 29 de abril de 1999. Los requisitos son: ser estudiante de biología (al menos de 3er año); hablar inglés fluidamente; excelencia académica; disponibilidad de dedicarse al programa tiempo completo (incluye permanecer con el grupo en las diferentes localidades). Las solicitudes deben incluir, hoja de vida, créditos universitarios oficiales, y una carta de presentación indicando la razón que desea participar en este programa. Fecha límite: 6 de enero 1999. Entregue o envíe su solicitud a la Oficina de Educación de STRI o mándela al fellows@tivoli.si.edu