Physiology of these almost nothing about the and thus we know a peatland ecosystem, methane. However, no world’s atmospheric a large source of the microorganisms that are producing harbor methane-soil worldwide, and organic carbon found in roughly one-third of the hectares of land in Peatland ecosystems cover 400 million techniques using molecular ecosystems, insights Methane in peatland University of Tübingen at STRI, and Nélida E.Gómez will join STRI’s scientific staff, on a part-time basis. Kalko received her Ph.D. in 1991 at the University of Tübingen, Germany with the dissertation “The echolocation and hunting behavior of the three European pipistrelle bats, Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774), Pipistrellus nathusii (Keyserling et Blasius, 1839) and Pipistrellus kuhlii (Kuhl, 1819) in the field”. Kalko’s research interest is to integrate studies of physiology, behavior, ecology, and natural history of vertebrates to understand the ecological and evolutionary patterns of their diversity. She focuses her research on bats of the Chiroptera family since they offer optimal features for comparative studies, and provide crucial links to patterns and processes that affect the diversity of many plants and animals. Kalko publishes in international scientific periodicals and serves at the editorial boards of specialized journals. Her office and laboratories are on BCI. Nélida E. Gómez received her doctorate in natural sciences from the Technological University of Braunschweig, Germany, with the dissertation “The fecal shields of larvae of tortoise beetles (Cassidinae: Chrysomelidae): a role in chemical defense using plant-derived secondary compounds” in 1997. She graduated at the University of Panama in 1984 and obtained a master’s degree in Pharmacognosy from the University of Rhode Island in 1987. Gómez started working for STRI in 1984 as research assistant. In 1989 she accepted the position of scientific coordinator on BCI. After obtaining her Ph.D. in 1997 she re-joined STRI as chemist of Natural Products to design and develop scientific projects, prepare scholarly reports on scientific findings, and provide assistance for educational development and outreach programs. As staff scientist, Nélida will serve on a part-time basis. She will also be responsible for working on projects involving educational development and training. Her office will be at Tupper.
Arrivals
Christian Ziegler, University of Würzburg, Apr 22 - Jul 31, to work on a photo-driven book on BCI.

Mary Jane West-Eberhard, STRI, Apr 23-30, on official business, at Tupper.

Eric Warrant, University of Lund, Sweden, Apr 23 - May 9, to study visual optics in nocturnal hymenoptera, on BCI.

Jianjun Gao, visiting scientist from Yamagata University, Apr 26 - Oct 31, 2003, to work on the ecologically guided bioprospecting project in Panama, at Tupper.

Departures
Richard Condit, Apr 22 - May 3, to Curitiba, Brazil, to present lectures at the University of Curitiba.

Anthony Coates, Apr 25 - May 2, to Washington, D.C., on official business at SI.

Joe Wright, Apr 25-30, to Gainesville, FL, to meet with Steve Mulkey regarding research projects.

Héctor Guzmán, Apr 26 - May 4, to Cartagena, Colombia, to continue work on coral connectivity and to attend the First Meeting of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

On holidays
Monday, May 1 is the celebration of Labor Day, and is a national holiday.

El lunes 1ro de mayo es Día del Trabajo en Panamá y es feriado para todos los sectores.

Monuments conservation project in Panama
Proyecto para la conservación de monumentos

The World Monuments Fund, WMF and the SI Man and the Biosphere program, SI/MAB, will join Panamanian institutions an non-government organizations on a pilot project to conserve Spanish fortifications San Gerónimo in Portobelo, and San Lorenzo on the mouth of the Chagres river in the Atlantic. Principal funding for this project come from a donation from American Express to the Panamanian cultural agency INAC, through the WMF's World Monuments Watch program. STRI, INAC, ANAM, SI/MAB and non-government organizations will meet at the Tupper Center from Wednesday, April 26 through Thursday, April 27 to discuss their agenda, and make an official announcement of the project. For more information please contact the STRI's Office of External Affairs.

New STRI publications


