

SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, March 7, noon seminar speaker will be JORGE BRICEÑO, Universidad de Panamá.

Hydrilla en el Lago Gatún: un Reporte de su Situación Biológica.

Abstract: Con más de 30 años de haber arribado al Lago Gatún, Hydrilla se ha convertido en la planta acuática dominante. A pesar de intensivos esfuerzos para erradicarla del lago aún persiste el problema. En contraste es poco lo que conocemos de la biología y ecología de esta planta en su nuevo ambiente. Desde 1987, el Centro de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología de la Universidad de Panamá ha iniciado un programa para levantar información biológica básica que pueda ayudar a un manejo del problema en forma más eficiente. Se presentará información concerniente a la productividad, fauna asociada, variación morfológica y fenología reproductiva de Hydrilla en el Lago Gatún.

NEXT WEEK

On Tuesday, March 14, there will be two noon seminar speakers--

STEVEN VOGEL, Duke University, "Subtle and Supple: the Re-emergence of Comparative Biomechanics"

PAT MOLHOT, Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, Folsom Library, "Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems and their Use by Researchers".

ARRIVING

March 5, JOHN ARMER, M.D., SI Health Services, and TOM BRESSON, SI Safety Office, for an official visit to the various STRI facilities.

March 5 - April 4, MARY McDONALD, to work with Eugene Morton on the demography of the Kentucky warbler.

March 6 - April 5, SCOTT WING, SI National Museum of Natural History, to study the forest structure and composition represented by leaf litter on BCI.

March 8 - 22, IICHIRO SATO, HIROKICHI MACHIDA and MAYA KOIZUMI, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, to film wildlife on BCI for the television series "Global Family".

March 10 - 26, ROBIN ANDREWS, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, to continue her ESP study on the population dynamics of vertebrates of tropical forest undergrowth.

March 10 - 17, STEVEN VOGEL, Duke University, North Carolina, to visit STRI.

March 10 - April 28, FRED THOMPSON, University of Florida, to work on a systematic revision of neotropical hydrobiid snails of the subfamily Littorininae.

DEPARTING

March 2 - 12, DAVID ROUBIK, to continue africanized bee studies at the Centro de Investigaciones de Quintana Roo, then to Costa Rica to visit the OTS and the La Selva station.

March 4 - mid June, EGBERT LEIGH, for a seminar tour around the U.S.

March 5 - June, MARTIN MOYNIHAN, to Washington, D.C. on official business, then to France to visit various scientific institutions and do reference research.

March 5 - mid July, OLGA LINARES, to Washington, D.C. on official business and then to France to prepare trip to Senegal, where she will continue her work on the Jola urban migrants.

March 8 - 17, IRA RUBINOFF, to Washington, D.C. to attend the Congressional Hearings.

MI LICENSE PLATES FOR 1989

All STRI official and personal applications for 1989 MI plates for vehicles have been submitted to the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ministry officials have informed us that 1989 plates are not being distributed yet to any diplomatic or international mission. No official written notice to this effect has been issued. We understand that because of the above circumstances an automatic extension of 1988 plates has been granted. If new information is received, we will keep you posted. As soon as plates become available we will pick them up.

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The Deputy Director's Office is requesting an extra copy of any manuscript submitted for publication. This procedure will help keep track of the latest research work.

ANNOUNCEMENT

JOHN ARMER, M.D., from SI Health Services, will meet with anyone who would like to consult about diving matters at STRI on March 10 at 1 p.m. in the Naos Conference Room.

NEWS FROM DELL COMPUTER

If you use the utility supplied by Dell's for parking hard drive heads, you will damage them. Do not park the heads of any drive larger than 20 MB. If you need more information, call Haris Lessios at Naos.

POSICION ABIERTA

Se busca **Oficinista de Compras**, posición permanente de tiempo completo. Persona debe tener experiencia en compras locales y en el extranjero, ser totalmente bilingüe (inglés/español), y tener conocimientos de computadora. Se aceptarán solicitudes en la Oficina de Personal hasta el 15 de marzo.

PERSONNEL NEWS

ORLANDO CALDERON, procurement clerk, has resigned, effective March 10.

FROM THE COMPUTER SPECIALIST

Computer Viruses

(Edited from the OIRM Newsletter)

Many of us have come to depend heavily upon our computers. Computers are useful tools to store and manipulate information. However, these useful tools are susceptible to attack by unscrupulous software writers who write programs (known as viruses, worms and trojan horses) intended to alter information on your floppy disks and hard disks without your knowledge.

A virus is a computer program that adversely "infects" software programs or operating system files. Most viruses are harmless, but some are highly destructive.

Most worms and trojan horses are on the other hand written to be destructive. A trojan horse is a program sometimes designed to make your hard or floppy disks unreadable by formatting them, erasing files, and scrambling FAT tables. (A FAT table is like a table of contents which the computer uses to keep track of where files are located on the disk.) Some trojan horses erase or format the sector that loads a hard disk so that your computer will not start when turned on.

Many viruses, worms and trojan horses have catchy names and thus masquerade as games or "useful" utilities. If there is no documentation with a program, be careful! Various offices around the Smithsonian have reported viruses.

Viruses, worms and trojan horses can attack any type of computer, can infect backups, and can change or destroy data. They attack when you execute or perform a file (usually with an extension of .COM or .EXE). Most viruses cannot be passed along through files that hold only data. It is fairly safe to share data as long as the floppy disk holding your data is not a bootable disk. When you format the floppy disk you will share, use the **FORMAT A:** command without **"/S"** or **"/B"** options.

Some viruses or trojan horses reformat your disk when it is 50-90% full. Others draw entertaining pictures on the screen while deleting files, making copies of themselves in the background, or infecting other software programs.

The following 10 guidelines help to prevent attacks for networked environments, although the ones with an asterisk may also be applied to stand-alone PCs:

1. *Buy software from known, reputable sources. (Do not use pirated software.)
2. *Ensure that all purchased software is in its original shrink-wrapping when received.
3. *Make backup copies of original software as soon as you open the package. (You will always have the original software to load from again, if needed.)
4. Have the system manager or network administrator review all software before it is installed on a distributed system.
5. Test new software on an isolated computer to reduce the risk of contamination.
6. *Make a backup copy of all system software and data once a month. Store at least one year's worth of backups before reusing the disks. This will allow you to restore a system that may have been contaminated with a time-release virus.
7. Restrict access to systems programs and data on a need-to-use basis.
8. Check all programs regularly for changes in size which may indicate contamination.
9. *Review public brand shareware and freeware skeptically. Test all programs thoroughly on an isolated computer before using them on a distributed system.
10. *Remove any software that appears to be contaminated. If you think your machine has a virus, warn anyone with whom you have shared data.

The following measures are also recommended to safeguard your PCs:

- Backup your data files regularly onto floppy disks or on a tape backup system. Keep the floppies in a safe, dry place away from magnetic fields.

-If you use your computer to dial up a Bulletin Board and download (copy) files from the Bulletin Board, run the programs from a floppy disk first.

-If you have not upgraded to DOS 3.3, seriously consider it. (DOS 4.0 still has bugs and is not recommended at this time.) DOS 3.3 allows you to change file attributes.

There are three reliable commercially available utilities to help you recover from an attack. PC-Tools, Mace+ Utilities, and Advanced Norton Utilities. They range in cost from \$80 to \$150. Commercially sold vaccine programs, while possibly useful, may become nuisances when you format disks or do other necessary tasks.

