Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá www.stri.org August 15, 2003

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, August 19, noon seminar speaker will be Matteo Garbelotto, University of California at Berkeley
Sudden Oak Death: the discovery of foliar Phytopthoras in the temperate forests and parallels with tropical Phytophthoras

Round-table

Tuesday, August 19, there will be a round-table and photographic exhibition on research conducted on San Lorenzo Protected Area, from 2 to 4pm at the Tupper Conference Center

Bambi seminar

Please check GroupWise for information on the next Bambi, on BCI.

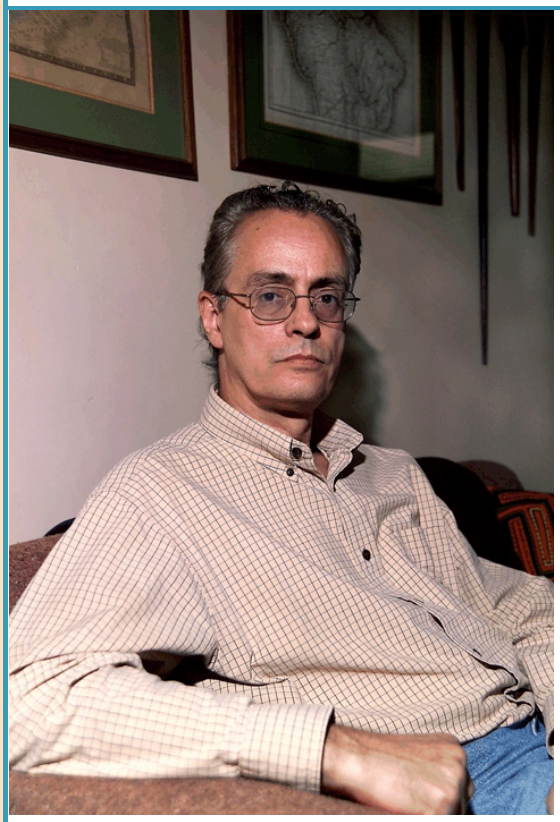
Arrivals

Nancy Hilbun and Mary Kellogg, Dauphin Island Sea Laboratories, Aug 16-30, to study the influence of land use in the last century, on Bocas del Toro.

Lora Richards, University of Utah, Aug 19 - Dec 5, to study the effects of natural variations in productivity on herbivore and predator populations in gaps and understory, on BCI.

Tyler Smith, University of Miami, Aug 19 - Nov 30, to study coral reef development in upwelling centers, at Naos.

Helen Muntz, University of Utah, Aug 20 - Nov 26, to work with Lora Richards, on BCI.



Fernando Santos-Granero

Santos-Granero, Bermingham and Jackson to represent STRI at SI's Science Theme Teams

Undersecretary for Science David L. Evans has invited STRI staff scientists Fernando Santos-Granero, Eldredge Bermingham and Jeremy B.C. Jackson (also with Scripps) to represent STRI at the Smithsonian Institution's science theme teams, that will be formed under the key research themes previously identified by the Science Commission. SI's Science Commission, established in 2001 to advise the Secretary and the Board of Regents to set priorities for scientific research, made a number of recommendations that will help science achieve the highest levels of success possible at the Smithsonian. Evans is formulating a science strategy that will identify research and collections opportunities, prioritize initiatives under increasing financial pressures, and increase the impact the Smithsonian has with the public. Four key science themes were identified by the Commission: The Origin and Nature of the Universe; The Formation and Evolution of the Earth and Similar Planets; Discovering and Understanding Life's Diversity, and; The Study of Human Diversity and Culture Change. Santos-Granero will join The Study of Human Diversity and Culture Change team. Bermingham and Jackson will be part of Discovering and Understanding Life's Diversity. *(Photo: Marcos A. Guerra)*

David L. Evans, subsecretario para Ciencias del Smithsonian ha invitado a los científicos de STRI Fernando Santos-Granero, Eldredge Bermingham y Jeremy B.C. Jackson a representar a STRI en uno de los equipos de los temas de ciencia de la Institución, que serán formados bajo los temas de investigación principales que fueran identificados previamente por la Comisión de Ciencias. La Comisión del Ciencias del Smithsonian, establecida en 2001 para asesorar al Secretario y al Comité de Regentes a establecer prioridades en investigación científica, hicieron una serie de recomendaciones que ayudarán a que la ciencia logre los más altos niveles posibles de éxito en el Smithsonian. Evans está formulando una estrategia científica que identificará oportunidades de investigación y adquisición de colecciones, establecerá prioridades en las iniciativas que se encuentran presionadas financieramente, y aumentará el impacto que el Smithsonian tiene con el público. La Comisión identificó cuatro temas científicos claves: El Origen y Naturaleza del Universo; La Formación y Evolución de la Tierra y Planetas Similares; El Descubrimiento y Entendimiento de la Diversidad de la Vida; y el Estudio de la Diversdad Humana y los Cambios Culturales. Santos-Granero se unirá al equipo del Estudio de la Diversidad Humana y los Cambios Culturales. Bermingham y Jackson serán parte del equipo Descubrimiento y Entendimiento de la Diversidad de la Vida.

More arrivals

Christa Weise, University of New Mexico, Aug 21, 2003 - Aug 15, 2004, to study abundance, assembly and seasonality in neotropical bat communities, and: activity patterns of the great fruit-eating bat (*Artibeus lituratus*), on BCI.

Departures

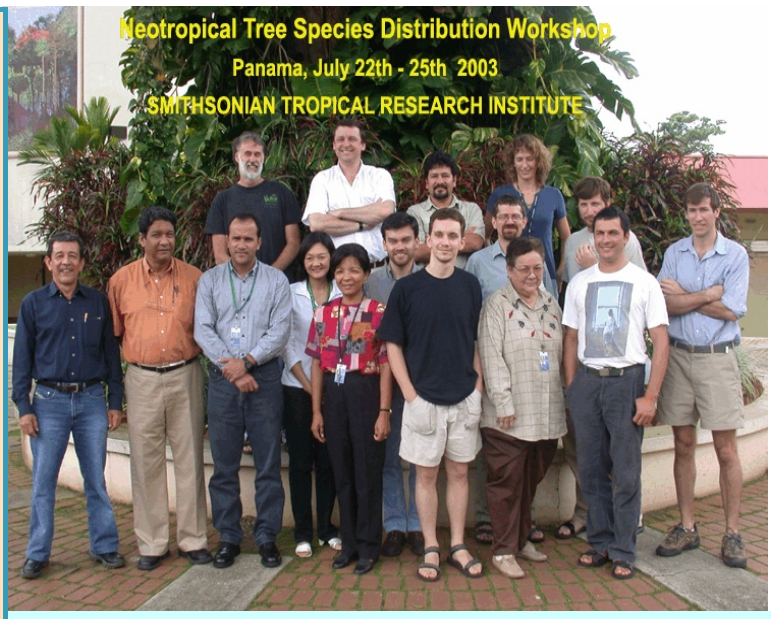
Allen Herre, Aug 16 - Nov 3, to Leeds, UK, to attend the European Evolution Conferences, then to Montreal, Canada, to participate in the McGill University field course.

Congratulations

Lidia de Valencia, who was awarded a fellowship to participate in the Environmental Education Workshop in Costa Rica, organized by INBIO (National Institute for Biodiversity), from Aug 25-28.

From the US Embassy

Effective Aug 2, transit passengers in the United States must carry a US visa, even if their destination is a third country. Citizens of twenty seven countries that belong to the Visa Waiver Program are exempt: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Island, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.



STRI´s Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) held a symposium on Neotropical Tree Species from July 22-25, at the Tupper Center. In the photo, the participants gather in the Corotú Plaza, for a group photo. *(Photo: Lidia de Valencia)*

El Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico de STRI (CTFS) celebró un simposio sobre Especies de Arboles Tropicales del 22 al 25 de julio, en el Centro Tupper. En la foto, los participantes se reúnen en la Plaza Corotú para una toma del grupo.

Two STRI articles in *Science*

A group of scientists led by John M. Pandolfi, former STRI fellow from SI's National Museum of Natural History that includes STRI staff scientists Richard C. Cooke and Jeremy B.C. Jackson published "Global trajectories of the long-term decline of coral reef ecosystems" in today´s issue of *Science* 301(5634): 955-958. Degradation of coral reef ecosystems began centuries ago, but there is no global summary of the magnitude of change. The authors compiled records, extending back thousands of years, of the status and trends of seven major guilds of carnivores, herbivores, and architectural species from 14 regions. Large animals declined before small animals and architectural species, and Atlantic reefs declined before reefs in the Red Sea and Australia, but the trajectories of decline were markedly similar worldwide. All reefs were substantially degraded long before outbreaks of coral disease and bleaching. Regardless of these new threats, reefs will not survive without immediate protection from human exploitation over large spatial scales.

The same issue of *Science* brings a review by Ted Hugues, that also includes John Pandolfi and Jeremy B.C. Jackson, "Climate change, human impacts, and the resilience of coral reefs" (p. 929-933). The diversity, frequency, and scale of human impacts on coral reefs are increasing to the extent that reefs are threatened globally. Projected increases in carbon dioxide and temperature over the next 50 years exceed the conditions under which coral reefs have flourished over the past half-million years. However, reefs will change rather than disappear entirely, with some species already showing far greater tolerance to climate change and coral bleaching than others. International integration of management strategies that support reef resilience need to be vigorously implemented, and complemented by strong policy decisions to reduce the rate of global warming.

New book by Angehr

Panama Audubon Society and BirdLife recently published the book *Directorio de áreas importantes para aves en Panamá. Directory of important bird areas in Panama* by STRI ornithologist George Angehr in English and Spanish. The book is an important conservation effort that incorporates Panama in the Important Bird Area (IBA) program that started in the late 1980s in European countries. Today, the program has more than 60 countries throughout the world. It identifies critical habitats for bird survival, in order to enable decision makers to adopt national and multi-national legislation to protect these sites for the future. The book sells for $20 in the STRI Library.

De la Embajada de US

A partir del 2 de agosto, todos los pasajeros en tránsito que pasen por los Estados Unidos deben portar una visa de los Estados Unidos, aunque su destino final sea otro país. Los ciudadanos de los veintisiete países que pertenecen al programa "Visa Waiver" están exentos: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bélgica, Brunei, Dinamarca, Finlandia, Francia, Alemania, Islandia, Irlanda, Italia, Japón, Liechtenstein, Luxemburgo, Mónaco, Holanda, Nueva Zelandia, Portugal, San Marino, Singapur, Eslovenia, España, Suecia, Suiza y el Reino Unido.

Miscellaneous

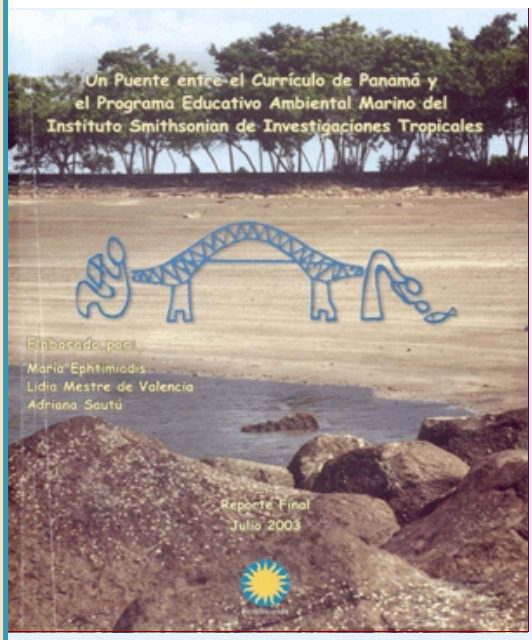
For sale: 1993 Nissan Pathfinder, 4x4, V6, great condition, leather interior, CD player, sunroof, manual, 159k, U.S. specs, $4500 + import duty. Call 212-8835 **woodwardc@naos.si.edu**

Shadow puppetry classes for children 7-12 years old (Sept. 1-Oct. 30). Also singing-composition, paint-drawing, dance theater, & creative literature classes for teenagers-adults (Aug. 25-Oct. 30). Casa Taller: 226-2805, 676-2845, Barrio San Francisco.

Moving sale: Chevrolet Blazer 1999, automatic, full extras, 27,000km, 5 doors, $12,000 negotiable. Household items: lamps, TV, CD, cordless tel. Food blender, floor fans, sofa bed, coffee tables, computer table, etc. Call Rup Banerjee at 685-3230 or e-mail **rup_banerjee@hotmail.com**

For sale: Honda Civic, 1992, black, A/C, $3800 neg. Contact Andrew Moeser at 212-8830 or e-mail: **moesera@naos.si.edu**

La Sociedad Audubon de Panamá y BirdLife publicaron recientemente el libro *Directorio de áreas importantes para aves en Panamá. Directory of important bird areas in Panama* por el ornitólogo George Angehr de STRI, in español e inglés. El libro es un esfuerzo importante de conservación que incorpora a Panamá en el programa de Áreas Importantes para las Aves (IBA, por sus siglas en inglés). Este programa empezó a finales de la década de 1980 en países europeos. Hoy día cuenta con más de 60 países alrededor del mundo. El libro identifica los hábitats críticos para la supervivencia de las aves, habilitando así a la sociedad a adoptar legislaciones nacionales y multinacionales para proteger estos lugares para el futuro. El libro se vende por $20 en la Librería de STRI.



A fun bridge for learning

STRI presented the Panamanian authorities with the final report of the project "Un puente entre el currículo de Panamá y el Programa Educativo Marino de STRI" [A bridge between the Panamanian curriculum and STRI's Marine Educational Program] on Tuesday, August 5, at the Tupper Conference Center. The program aims to integrate educational activities carried out at STRI´s Marine Exhibition Center, with the Panamanian official curriculum for schools. The program invites schools to visit the Center at least once a year every grade, from kindergarten to the 12th year, to allow students to learn the basics of a marine ecosystem in at least thirteen guided experiences.

STRI hizo entrega del reporte final del proyecto "Un puente entre el currículo de Panamá y el Programa Educativo Marino de STRI" el martes 5 de agosto en el Centro de Conferencias Tupper. El programa tiene como objetivo integrar las actividades educativas que se llevan a cabo en el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Punta Culebra, con el currículo oficial de Panamá para las escuelas. El programa invita a las escuelas a visitar el Centro por lo menos una vez al año cada grado desde el jardín de infancia hasta el 12 grado, para permitir que los estudiantes aprendan lo básico sobre un ecosistema marino, en un mínimo de trece experiencias guiadas.

Un puente divertido para aprender

Gigante course

STRI and the University of Panama completed the XVIII Field Biology course on Gigante Peninsula held from July 29 to August 10. Twelve students from the University of Panama (UDP), Chiriqui University (UNACHI) and Santiago Regional University participated in the course that was coordinated by Elizabeth Osorio and Anayansi Valderrama, UDP. During the course the students have the opportunity to learn about on-going research projects in Panama, and intensive research methodology from first hand, in a field station. *(Photo: Gian Montúfar)*

STRI y la Universidad de Panamá completaron el XVIII curso de Introducción a la Biología de Campo en la Península de Gigante, que se llevó a cabo del 29 de julio al 10 de agosto. Doce estudiantes de la Universidad de Panamá (UDP), la Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí y la Universidad Regional de Santiago participaron en el curso, coordinado por Elizabeth Osorio y Anayansi Valderrama, UDP. Durante el curso, los estudiantes tienen la oportunidad de conocer sobre los proyectos de investigación que se están llevando a cabo en Panamá, así como metodología intensiva de investigación en primera mano, en una estación de campo.