

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, January 25, 4pm seminar speaker will be Egbert Giles Leigh, Jr., STRI Biogeography of large islands: New Zealand and Hawaii

Conservation forum

Tue, Jan 25, Conservation Forum speaker will be Michael Roy, from a Panamanian NGO. He will present an overview of ARI's plan to sell areas of forest in the Clayton and Camino de Cruces National Park areas, for industrial and residential development. LMR, 2:30-4pm, Tupper Center

Bambi seminar

Please check GroupWise for information on the next Bambi. If you are interested to give a Bambi, please contact Mélida Ruiz, on BCI.

Arrivals

Corina Barth, Cornell University, Jan 22 - Feb 8, to visit STRI to consult with Heinrich Krause and Klaus Winter, at Tupper.

Peter Wainwright, University of California at Davis, and David Bellwood and Andrew Hoey, James Cook University, Australia, Jan 24 - Feb 8, to study the biomechanics of suction feeding in Teleost fishes, at Naos.

Robert Prezant, Montclair State University, Jan 24-29, to work with Jacalyn Giacalone, on BCI.

Departures

Ira Rubinoff, Jan 24-30, to Washington DC and Houston, Texas, on official business.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

January 21, 2005

Fortunato moves to Galeta

Researcher Helena Fortunato accepted the position of manager/scientific coordinator of STRI's Galeta Marine Laboratory, effective January 24, under the general supervision of Stanley Heckadon, director of STRI's Office of Communications and Public Programs (OCAPP). Galeta has a history of research dating from the early 60's with studies conducted by Ira Rubinoff on tropical fishes. Adjacent to a fringing coral reef, protected by mangrove forest and crowded with other marine organisms that live in seagrass communities, Galeta

has been a site of intense research that have produced about 300 scientific publications. Different to other STRI research sites, Galeta Island is co-managed by STRI, ANAM, the Governor of Colon, SENACYT, Colon's Mayor's Office, the University of Panama, the Technological University, and Colon's Civil Society. Fortunato will lead STRI's public programs and environmental education in Galeta, strengthening the relationship with the above mentioned institutions. She will also coordinate research projects conducted by STRI scientists and visiting scholars interested in Galeta. She will



pursue STRI's interest in attracting more researchers—in coordination with Bocas—to conduct studies on coastal tectonic formations, erosion, fishing activities and utilization of sustainable resources, in Galeta. We wish her all success in this position.

La investigadora Helena Fortunato aceptó la posición de administradora/coordinadora científica del Laboratorio Marino de Galeta, a partir del 24 de enero, bajo la supervisión general de Stanley Heckadon, director de la Oficina de Divulgación y Progams Públicos (OCAPP). Galeta tiene una larga historia de investigaciones que datan de principios de la década de 1960, con estudios realizados por Ira Rubinoff sobre peces tropicales. Adyacente a un complejo de arrecifes de coral, protegido por un bosque de manglares y habitado por otros organismos que viven en comunidades de pastos marinos, Galeta ha sido un lugar de investigaciones intensas que

han producido cerca de 300 publicaciones científicas. A diferencia de otros lugares de estudio de STRI, Isla Galeta es co-manejada por STRI, ANAM, la Gobernación de Colón, la Alcaldía Municipal, SENACYT, la Universidad de Panamá, la Universidad Tecnológica, y la Sociedad Civil de Colón. Fortunato liderará los programas públicos y la educación ambiental en Galeta, reforzando la relación con las instituciones mencionadas. También coordinará los proyectos de investigación que llevan a cabo otros científicos de STRI y académicos visitantes interesados en Galeta. Helena responderá al interés de STRI en atraer más investigadores en coordinación con Bocas del Toro, para realizar investigaciones en las formaciones tectónicas costeras, erosión, actividades de pesca y utilización de recursos sustentables en Galeta. Le deseamos mucho éxito en esta posición.

STRI security number: 212-8211

More arrivals

Dimitri Deheyn, postdoctoral visiting scientist from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Jan 26 - Feb 13, to study the optical, biochemical, and molecular characterization of new bioluminescence systems, on Bocas del Toro.

Brian Hillir, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Patrizia Pretto, University of Padova, Italy, Jan 26 - Feb 13, to work with Dimitri Deheyn, on Bocas.

Timothy Billo, University of Washington, Jan 25 - Feb 5, to study vocal variation and function in a Sub oscine hybrid zone with shifted clines, in Gamboa.

Jeri Ledbetter, Prescott College, Bill Hatcher, National Geographic and Scott Thybony, Arizona, Jan 27 - Feb 13, to study the *Bradypus pygmaeus* of Isla Escudo, Bocas del Toro.

Congratulations!



To Jessica Eberhard, Kyle Harms, and grandparents Bill and Mary-Jane, for the birth of Dylan Reese Harms, on January 13th in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He weighed 8lb 3oz, and measured 21.5 inches.

Bone collection to Veraguas Museum

Georges Pearson, STRI's visiting scientist and former fellow from the University of Kansas, gave in custody a collection of 18 fossils, to the Veraguas Regional Museum, this past week. The fossils belong to six giant ground sloths (*Eremotherium sp.*) and four Gomphothere mastodon (*Cuvierinus tropicus*) found in La Trinidadita dated at 45,000 14C BP, and eight giant ground sloths from Llano Hato, dated at 47,000 14C BP. Both sites are located in the Azuero peninsula. The excavations were conducted by Pearson in 2001. The giant ground sloths were plant-eating creatures that rivaled elephants in size. They stood 6 m (20 ft) tall and weighed several tons. Ground sloths originated in South America and spread northward by drifting on trees and debris to the West Indies and by migrating over the Central American land bridge to North America. The Gomphothere mastodon is also a giant mammal of the Ice Age, a sort of elephant.

According to local newspaper *La Prensa* (Jan 20), reporting from Santiago de Veraguas, Pearson revealed that he also found a fossilized molar tooth of a mastodon in the coast, near Las Perlas island. "During the Ice Age, the sea level in the Isthmus was 120 meters lower than today. This allowed more space and travel routes to all living species. Pearson's conclusion will be published in this month's issue of the *Caribbean Journal of Science*.



The photo shows the Museum's director Dicardides Rodriguez (left) and Pearson, preparing a list of the collection. To see photographs of the excavations please visit: <http://people.ku.edu/~ftgap/pearson/PEARSON.htm>

distribuyeron hacia el norte viajando en troncos de árboles y *debris* hacia las Antillas y migrando a través del puente biológico de Centroamérica hacia Norteamérica. Los mastodontes Gromphothere también son mamíferos gigantes de la Era Glacial parecidos a un elefante.

De acuerdo al periódico local *La Prensa*, (20 de enero) informando desde Santiago de Veraguas, Pearson reveló que también había encontrado un diente molar fosilizado en la costa cerca de la Isla de Las Perlas. "Durante la Era Glacial, el nivel del mar en el Istmo estaba 120 metros por debajo del actual. Esto permitía a las especies existentes contar con más espacio para habitar y desplazarse a otros lugares.

Las conclusiones de Pearson serán publicadas este mes por la revista *Caribbean Journal of Science*.

La foto arriba muestra al director del Museo, Dicardides Rodríguez (izquierda) y a Pearson, confeccionando una lista de la colección. Para ver fotos de las excavaciones, visite: <http://people.ku.edu/~ftgap/pearson/PEARSON.htm>

New publications

Gill, Sharon A., Vonhof, Maarten J., Stutchbury, Bridget J.M., Morton, Eugene S., and Quinn, James S. 2005. "No evidence for acoustic mate-guarding in duetting buff-breasted wrens (*Trochocercus leucotis*)."*Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* Online.

Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles, Loo de Lao, Suzanne, Condit, Richard G., Hubbell, Stephen P., Foster, Robert B., and Perez, Rolando. 2004. "Barro Colorado Island Forest Dynamics Plot, Panama." In Losos, Elizabeth C., and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles (Eds.), *Tropical forest diversity and dynamism: Findings from a large-scale plot network*: 451-463. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Losos, Elizabeth C. 2004. "Habitat specialization and species rarity in Forest Dynamics Plots." In Losos, Elizabeth C., and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles (Eds.), *Tropical forest diversity and dynamism: Findings from a large-scale plot network*: 103-106. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Van Bael, Sunshine A., and Brawn, Jeffrey D. 2005. "The direct and indirect effects of insectivory by birds in two contrasting Neotropical forests." *Oecologia* Online

Miscellaneous

For sale: Hyunday Accent, year 2000 \$4500; Air conditioner 12000 BTU, \$100. cel. 511-5960

Albrook apartment for rent, two bedrs, one bath, furnished. Quiet area. Available immediately \$600. Please call Chimene at 276-6621 or cel. 674-6621



Pueblos Indígenas, Bosques y Ambientes Marinos de PANAMA

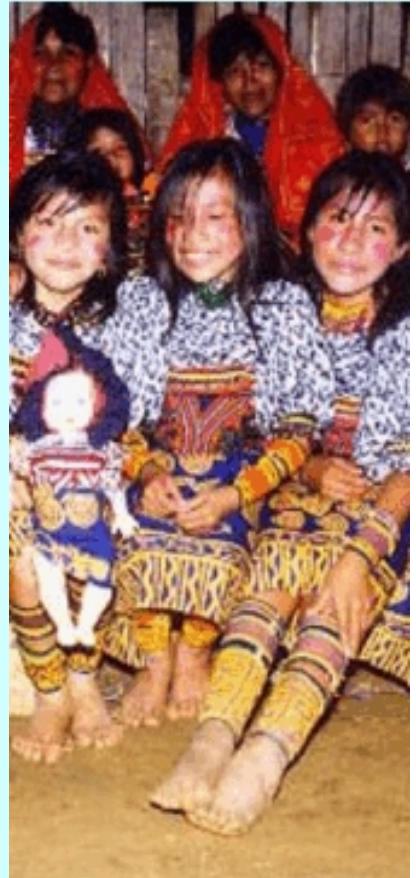
Jorge Ventocilla, education specialist from STRI's Office of Communications and Public Programs (OCAPP) produced the poster map "Indigenous peoples, forests and marine environments in Panama" with the geographical distribution and information on the Bribri, Naso, Ngobe, Bugle, Kuna, Embera and Wounan peoples in the Isthmus of Panama. The poster was sponsored by STRI, Native Lands, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and Fundacion Dobbo Yala. Copies of the poster are available for distribution to organizations, libraries and public offices at OCAPP in Tupper.

Jorge Ventocilla, especialista en educación de OCAPP, produjo el mapa/afiche "Pueblos indígenas, bosques y ambientes marinos de Panamá" con la distribución geográfica e información sobre los pueblos Bribri, Naso, Ngöbe, Bugle, Kuna, Emberá y Wounan en el Istmo de Panamá. El afiche fue financiado por STRI, Native Lands, Cooperación Técnica Alemana (GTZ) y Fundación Dobbo Yala. Copias del afiche están disponibles para la distribución a organizaciones, bibliotecas y oficinas públicas en las oficinas de OCAPP en Tupper.

Scouts from 11 countries visit Culebra

Scouts from 11 countries in Latin America and the Antilles, instructors and parents visited STRI's Marine Exhibition Center at Culebra on January 6. The group of nearly 1000 were participating in an international gathering organized by Panama's Scouts Association. This large visit was channeled through Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá, that coordinated the event with STRI's staff in Culebra and the Scouts Association.

Scouts de 11 países de América Latina y las Antillas, instructores y padres visitaron el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Punta Culebra, el 6 de enero. El grupo, de casi 1000, participan en un Encuentro Internacional Scout organizado por la Asociación de Scouts de Panamá. La nutrida visita fue canalizada a través de Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá, quien coordinó el evento con la Asociación de Scouts y el personal de STRI en Culebra.





Coley and Kursar's studies on BCI

STRI's research associates Phyllis D. Coley and Thomas A. Kursar from the University of Utah, long-term researchers on Barro Colorado Island, focus their current studies on the macro-evolution of chemical defenses in the genus *Inga*. The photo at right shows the red new leaves of *Inga*, where the plant concentrates its chemical defenses against herbivores, in order to allow new leaves to develop.

Studies like these, and years of data gathered by Coley, Kursar, and other colleagues, are the backbone of the International Collaborative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG), one of STRI's most innovative projects, that aims to use information from basic research for health, conservation, and training of new biologists.

Los científicos asociados a STRI, Phyllis D. Coley, y Thomas A. Kursar, de la Universidad de Utah, investigadores a largo plazo en BCI, enfocan sus estudios actuales en la macroevolución de las defensas químicas del género *Inga*. La foto a la derecha muestra las nuevas hojas rojas de *Inga*, donde la planta concentra sus defensas químicas contra herbívoros para permitir su desarrollo.

Estudios como éstos, y años de información recogida por Coley, Kursar, y otros colegas, son el pilar de los Grupos de Colaboración para la Biodiversidad (ICBG), uno de los proyectos de STRI más innovadores, que usa información de biología básica para la salud, conservación y entrenamiento de nuevos biólogos.

