

## Tupper 4pm seminar

Tue, Jan 11, 4pm seminar speaker will be Thomas Seeley, Cornell University  
**Housing hunting by honey bees: a study of social decision making**

## Bambi seminar

Thu, Jan 12, Bambi seminar speaker will be Edmund Tanner, University of Cambridge, UK  
**Hurricanes are good for you (If you're a forest)**

## Arrivals

Edmund Tanner, University of Cambridge, UK, Jan 8-16, to assess the importance of litterfall for tree growth and nutrient dynamics by a large scale litter removal experiment in tropical deciduous forest in Panama, on BCI.

Matt Whiles, Alex Hury, Karen Lips, Catherine Pringle and Chad Montgomery, Southern Illinois University, Jan 8-16, to study tropical amphibian declines in streams, at Fortuna and El Copé.

Fernando Zapata, short-term visitor from Universidad del Valle, Colombia, Jan 10-30, to estimate the size of the Tropical Eastern Pacific fish fauna, at Naos.

Chris Darling, University of Toronto, Jan 10 - Feb 24, to teach the Tropical Ecology and Evolution Field Course, in Gamboa.

Joseph Fontaine, Suzanne Austin-Bythell and Randall Moore, Oregon State University, Jan 10-28, to participate in the Avian Ecology Course, on BCI.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

January 7, 2005

## Laurance: ATBC new president elect



STRI staff scientist William F. Laurance, a world authority in tropical conservation biology, is the new president elect of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), the world's largest scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of tropical ecosystems. STRI's S. Joseph Wright, moves to the position of past president, while STRI research associate Thomas E. Lovejoy is serving as current president. The ATBC has 1400 members from many countries around the world, and publishes the journal *Biotropica*. It also plays a major role in training young scientists and graduate students in the tropics, and organizes international conferences each year, often in the tropics. The 2005 ATBC Conference will be in Uberlandia, Brazil, and the 2006 Conference in Beijing, China.

Laurance focuses on the ecological impacts of intensive land-uses such as habitat fragmentation, logging, and wildfires, and consequences of global atmospheric and

El científico de STRI, William F. Laurance, autoridad mundial en conservación de la biología tropical, es el nuevo presidente electo de la Asociación de Biología Tropical y Conservación (ATBC, por sus siglas en inglés). La ATBC es la organización científica más extensa dedicada al estudio y conservación de los ecosistemas tropicales. S. Joseph Wright, de STRI, ocupará la posición de presidente anterior, mientras que Thomas E. Lovejoy, investigador asociado a STRI, asume el cargo de presidente actual. La ATBC tiene 1400 miembros de muchos países alrededor del mundo y publica la revista *Biotropica*. También tiene un rol importante en el entrenamiento de científicos jóvenes y estudiantes graduados, y organiza conferencias internacionales cada año, frecuentemente en los trópicos. La conferencia de ATBC de 2005 se celebrará en Uberlandia, Brasil, y la de 2006 en Beijing, China.

Laurance enfoca sus estudios en impactos ecológicos del uso intensivo de la tierra, como fragmentación de hábitats, explotación de madera y fuegos en áreas silvestres, y las consecuencias

## More arrivals

Douglas and Tara Robinson, Oregon State University, Jan 10-28, to teach an Avian Ecology Course, on BCI.

Douglas Woodhams, Vanderbilt University, Jan 10-31, to study the interaction of biodiversity and emerging disease in neotropical amphibians, at Fortuna and El Copé.

Jamie Voyle, University of Colorado, Jan 10-31, to study the relative susceptibility of Panamanian amphibians to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, a pathogenic fungus, in El Copé.

Tara Kent, volunteer from the US, Jan 10-20, to work with Davin Lopez, in Gamboa.

Brenda Larison, University of California at Los Angeles, Jan 11 - Apr 30, to study the factors influencing habitat selection and tactic use in a tropical damselfly, in Gamboa.

Heinrich Krause, University of Dusseldorf, Germany, Jan 12 - Mar 17, to study the photo inhibition of photosynthesis in leaves of tropical plants, at Tupper.

Benjamin Hancock, University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign, Jan 13 - Sep 30, to work with Jeffrey Brawn, in Gamboa.

## Departures

Don Windsor, Jan 1-17, to Ecuador, to study Wolbachia infection in Ecuadorian insects at the Yasuni field station.

Allen Herre, Jan 7-24, to the Netherlands, Scotland, England and Switzerland, to attend a thesis defense, present seminars, and to meet with colleagues.

climatic changes on tropical communities. He is also actively involved in conservation and development policy, especially in the Amazon and central Africa. Laurance is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and was recently recognized as the most productive scientist in the 25-year history of the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project (BDFFP), a long-term study of forest fragmentation in the central Amazon. In addition to serving as ATBC president, Laurance will continue to co-chair the ATBC Conservation Committee, which is playing an active role in identifying and bringing public and media attention to key tropical conservation issues.

atmosféricas globales y cambios climáticos en comunidades tropicales. También se ocupa de políticas de conservación y desarrollo, especialmente en el Amazonas y África central. Laurance es miembro de la Asociación de Estados Unidos para el Avance de la Ciencia (AAAS) y recientemente fue reconocido como el científico más productivo en la historia de 25 años del Proyecto de Dinámica Biológica de Bosques Fragmentados (BDFFP), un estudio a largo plazo de la fragmentación de bosques en Amazonas central. Además de presidente electo de ATBC, Laurance se mantendrá como miembro del Comité de Conservación de ATBC, el cual ejerce un papel activo en identificar y sacar a la luz pública importantes asuntos de conservación tropical.

## Destructive fires are not just Indonesia's problem: Harrison

*Nature* (Jan 6) published the letter "Destructive fires are not just Indonesia's problem" by STRI's postdoctoral fellow Rhett Harrison (vol 433: 13), in response to "Borneo is burning", an article by *Nature*'s chief news and features editor Peter Aldhous (Nov 11).

According to Harrison, who has witnessed fires throughout Borneo, the media's focus on Indonesia and Indonesian politics is diverting attention away from the basic causes of this widespread problem; namely environmental mismanagement, increased access to remote areas and a lack of law enforcement. Harrison concludes, "The ongoing massive destruction to natural environments and associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, make this a global issue of considerable urgency."

Several of the most recent publications by Harrison are the result of research conducted in Borneo. (Both articles can be obtained from [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu)).

El número de *Nature* (6 de enero) publicó la carta "Fuegos destructivos no son un problema de Indonesia solamente", por el becario postdoctoral de STRI, Rhett Harrison (vol. 433: 13) en respuesta a "Borneo se quema" un artículo de Peter Aldhous, editor en jefe de noticias y especiales de *Nature* (11 de noviembre).

De acuerdo a Harrison, quien ha sido testigo de fuegos a través de Borneo, el interés de los medios en Indonesia y las políticas indonesas desvían la atención de las causas básicas de este amplio problema: en particular el mal manejo ambiental, aumento de acceso a áreas remotas y una falta de aplicación en las leyes. Harrison concluye que "La actual destrucción masiva de los ambientes naturales y las emisiones de CO<sub>2</sub> asociados, hacen de esto un asunto global de urgencia considerable."

Varias de las publicaciones más recientes de Harrison son resultado de investigaciones realizadas en Borneo. (Ambos artículos se pueden obtener de [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu))

nature



## New publications



## US senator John McCain visits STRI

Arizona senior senator John McCain, wife Cindy, children Jack, Jim, Megan and Bridget, and nephew George Ascherl spent a day visiting STRI facilities, on Wednesday, December 29. McCain and party were hosted by director Ira Rubinoff, deputy director Eldredge Bermingham and staff scientist S. Joseph Wright. The group visited STRI research projects at the Canopy Crane Access System in Fort Sherman, tropical trees physiology research in Gamboa with staff scientist Klaus Winter, the Native Species Reforestation Project with its director, Mark Wishnie, and BCI. The photo shows Winter (right) briefing McCain (left), Rubinoff and Bermingham on his current projects.

El senador del Estado de Arizona, EU, John McCain, su esposa Cindy, hijos Jack, Jim, Megan y Bridget, y su sobrino George Ascherl pasaron un día visitando las instalaciones de STRI, el miércoles 29 de diciembre. McCain y su grupo fueron recibidos por el director Ira Rubinoff, el subdirector Eldredge Bermingham y el científico S. Joseph Wright. El grupo visitó proyectos de investigación en la Grúa de Acceso al Dosal en Fuerte Sherman, investigaciones de fisiología de árboles tropicales en Gamboa con el científico Klaus Winter, el Proyecto de Reforestación con Especies Nativas (PRORENA) con su director Mark Wishnie, y BCI. La foto muestra a Winter (derecha) explicándole a McCain (izquierda), Rubinoff y Bermingham sobre sus proyectos.

## From BCI//De Barro Colorado

Effective Monday, January 10, there will be changes in BCI trash boat and water taxi schedules:

Monday: Trash boat leaves BCI at 9:30am and leaves STRI's dock in Gamboa at 1pm.

Tuesday: Water taxi leaves BCI at 1pm and leaves STRI's dock in Gamboa at 2pm.

A partir del lunes 10 de enero, los horarios de la lancha de basura y el water taxi de BCI cambian:  
Lunes: Bote de basura sale de BCI a las 9:30am y sale del muelle de STRI en Gamboa a la 1pm..  
Martes: Water-taxi sale de BCI a la 1pm y sale del muelle de STRI en Gamboa a las 2pm.

### ¡Sólo para chicos!

STRI ha abierto una nueva puerta de comunicación electrónica, esta vez para los más pequeños: La Red Juvenil del Smithsonian de Panamá. A través de un boletín mensual se darán a conocer las actividades científicas y recreativas que se llevan a cabo en STRI. Para unirse a la red, sólo hay que escribir a [puntaculebra@si.edu](mailto:puntaculebra@si.edu)

Anikouchine, Natalie, Cooke, Richard G., Jimenez, Maximo, Jones, John G., Tapia, Conrado, and Wake, Thomas A. 2004. "A closer look at the Late Archaic fish fauna." In Voorhies, Barbara (Ed.), *Coastal collectors in the Holocene : the Chantuto people of southwest Mexico*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

Brown, Culum, and Braithwaite, Victoria A. 2004. "Effects of predation pressure on the cognitive ability of the poeciliid *Brachyraphis episopi*." *Behavioral Ecology Online*.

Buehler, Deborah M., Castillo, Alberto I., and Brawn, Jeffrey D. 2004. "First nest description for the Ocellated Antbird (*Phaenostictus mcleannani*)." *Wilson Bulletin* 116(3): 277-279.

Cristol, Hope. 2004. "Evasive maneuvers reveal that social insects constantly learn from bad experiences." *Inside Smithsonian Research* 6(Autumn): 6-7.

Gomez, Denis, and Perez, Haidy. 2004. "Estimación de la riqueza y abundancia de macroalgas en los arrecifes de Punta Galeta, 15 años después de un derrame de petróleo." Unpublished Bachelor's, University of Panama, Colon.

Hooper, Elaine R., Legendre, Pierre, and Condit, Richard G. 2004. "Factors affecting community composition of forest regeneration in deforested, abandoned land in Panama." *Ecology* 85(12): 3313-3326.

## More publications

Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles. 2004. "How wet are the wet tropics." In Losos, Elizabeth C., and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles (Eds.), *Tropical forest diversity and dynamism: Findings from a large-scale plot network*: 43-55. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Losos, Elizabeth C., and Loo de Lao, Suzanne. 2004. "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*: 433-450. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Makana, Jean-Remy, Hart, Terese H., Liengola, Innocent, Ewango, Corneille E.N., Hart, John A., and Condit, Richard G. 2004. "Ituri Forest Dynamics Plots, Democratic Republic of Congo." In Losos, Elizabeth C., and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles (Eds.), *Tropical forest diversity and dynamism: Findings from a large-scale plot network*: 492-505. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Moran, Amy L. 2004. "Egg size evolution in tropical American arcid bivalves: The comparative method and the fossil record." *Evolution* 58(12): 2718-2733.

Nascimento, Henrique E.M., and Laurance, William F. 2004. "Biomas dynamics in Amazonian fragments." *Ecological Applications* 14(4): S127-S138.

Savage, Jay M., Hollingsworth, Bradford D., Lips, Karen R., and Jaslow, Alan P. 2004. "A new species of rainfrog (genus *Eleutherodactylus*) from the Serranía de Tabasará, west-central Panama and reanalysis of the *Fitzingeri* species group." *Herpetologica* 60(4): 519-529.

## II Folkloric workshop at Tupper

A second interactive workshop to demonstrate the different uses and rhythms of percussion instruments across the Isthmus of Panama will be held at the Tupper Center Exhibit Hall at 5pm, Thursday, January 20, due to the request of participants to the first workshop in November. The workshop, to be lead by Ricaurte Villarreal professor at the Department of Artistic Expressions in the University of Panama, is organized by STRI's Milton García. All members of the STRI community, locals and visitors are encouraged to attend and experience one of the most attractive features of the Panamanian traditional music.

Un taller interactivo para demostrar los diferentes usos y ritmos de los instrumentos de percusión en diversas áreas del Istmo de Panamá, se llevará a cabo en el Salón de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper a las 5pm, el jueves, 20 de enero, por petición de los participantes del primer taller en noviembre. El taller, que será dirigido por Ricaurte Villarreal del Departamento de Expresiones Artísticas de la Universidad de Panamá, está organizado por Milton García, de STRI. Invitamos a todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI, locales y visitantes a experimentar una de las facetas más atractivas de la música tradicional panameña.



## More publications

Valencia, Renato, Condit, Richard G., Romoleroux, Katya, Foster, Robert B., Villa Muñoz, Gorky, Losos, Elizabeth C., Balslev, Henrik, Svenning, Jens C., and Magard, Else. 2004. "Tree species diversity and distribution in a forest plot a Yasuní National Park, Amazonian Ecuador." In Losos, Elizabeth C., and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles (Eds.), *Tropical forest diversity and dynamism: Findings from a large-scale plot network*: 107-118. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## Miscellaneous

For rent: Furnished house in Gamboa, available Jan 18, \$375/month or \$100/week. Telephone, electricity, water, maintenance and cleaning included. House-sharing possible. Contact Emma Sayer at 212-8933 or 659-4067; email: [ejs44@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ejs44@cam.ac.uk)

Albrook apartment for rent, two bedrooms, one bath, furnished. Quiet neighborhood. Available immediately \$600. Interested please call Chimene at 276-6621 or cel. 674-6621

For rent: Apartment at Casco Viejo: 4 brooms, 2 bath. \$450. Interested please contact Patrizia Pinzon at: tel. 677-1164, Cel 697-6789 E-mail [pinzonp@si.edu](mailto:pinzonp@si.edu)

puntaculebra@si.edu', and 'Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales'."/&gt;

Estudiante interiorano que quiere trasladarse a la Universidad de Panamá desea compartir apartamento en la ciudad con otros estudiante. Interesados favor llamar a Carlos Sánchez, tel. 661-8918 ó 996-9363.