

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, March 23, noon seminar speaker will be Meika Pipenbring, Universität Frankfurt, Germany
Plant parasitic micro fungi in the neotropics

Bambi seminar

Thursday, March 25, Bambi seminar speaker will be Judith Coenen, University of Leiden, Holland
“Superparasitism” behaviour of parasitoids

Arrivals

Thomas Eltz, University of Dusseldorf, Germany, Mar 20 - Apr 20, to study the fragrance biology of euglossine bees, on BCI.

John Rothgerber, Ohio State University, Mar 22 - Jun 15, to work with Joseph Williams, in Gamboa.

Noah Strycker and Jessica Adkins, Oregon State University, Mar 22 - Jul 12, to work with W. Douglas Robinson, in Gamboa.

Kevin Matson, University of Missouri, Mar 22 - Apr 12, to work with Robert Ricklefs, in Gamboa.

Randal Moore, Oregon State University, Mar 24 - Apr 24, to work with W. Douglas Robinson, in Gamboa.

Alana Domingo, predoctoral visiting scientist from the University of Louisiana, Mar 24 - 31, to study the molecular ecology of the Gobies, at Bocas del Toro.

Joel Stake, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Mar 24 - 31, to conduct an analysis of two scleractinian genera: *Porites* and *Agaricia*, at Bocas.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

March 19, 2004



Looking at the stars in Culebra

STRI's Marine Exhibition Center in Punta Culebra hosted some 550 people on Friday night, Mey arch 12, to look at the stars. The visit was coordinated with the Panamanian Association for Friends of Astronomy (APAA) and the National Secretariat for the Advancement of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT). The visitors were briefed by APAA and were able to watch Saturn, Jupiter, Venus, etc, while galactic music was playing. Last week, Culebra presented the movie “Coiba, Paraíso Salvaje”, that included a presentation by STRI research associate Todd Capson.

Cerca de 550 personas visitaron el Centro de Exhibiciones de STRI en Punta Culebra el viernes 12 de marzo en la noche, para ver las estrellas. La visita fue coordinada con la Asociación Panameña de Aficionados a la Astronomía y la Secretaría Nacional de Ciencias y Tecnología, SENACYT. Los visitantes recibieron información e instrucciones de parte de la APAA, y se pudo ver Saturno, Júpiter, Venus, etc., mientras se escuchaba música galáctica. La semana pasada Culebra presentó la película “Coiba, Paraíso Salvaje” que incluyó una presentación por el investigador asociado a STRI, Todd Capson.



Audrey Smith is new coordinator for Special Events

STRI is pleased to announced that STRI's Audrey M. Smith was selected for the position of Special Events coordinator at STRI. Audrey began working at STRI in 1984 in the Director's Office. In 1993 she was promoted to her present position as Tupper/CTPA manager. As such, Audrey has been responsible to oversee daily coordination and operation in both facilities especially with scientific activities as seminars, symposia and other events. She has always shown great skills in the course of planing and coordinating of important activities and projects carried out by the institution. In this new position, Audrey will continue to manage Tupper and the CTPA and will also be responsible to coordinate of special events, with the support of her team.

More arrivals

James Dalling, University of Illinois, Mar 26 - Aug 31, to study the comparative ecology of pioneers evidence for local variation in life history characters, on BCI and Costa Rica.

Departures

S. Joseph Wright, Mar 20 - Apr 15, to California, to continue research in the Mojave Desert and then to Princeton to continue work in a manuscript.

Egbert G. Leigh, Jr., Mar 20 - May 22, to Washington DC, on a combined work and holiday trip. In Washington will be consulting with colleagues at SI and will travel to various cities in the US presenting seminars and visiting various universities and institutions.

New publications

Dewalt, Saara J., and Chave, Jerome. 2004. "Structure and biomass of four lowland Neotropical forests." *Biotropica* 36(1): 7-19.

Harms, Kyle Edward, Powers, Jennifer S., and Montgomery, Rebecca A. 2004. "Variation in small sapling density, understory cover, and resource availability in four Neotropical forests." *Biotropica* 36(1): 40-51.

Muller-Landau, Helene C. 2004. "Interspecific and inter-site variation in wood specific gravity of tropical trees." *Biotropica* 36(1): 20-32.

Pearson, Georges A. 2004. "First report of a newly discovered Paleonindian quarry site on the Isthmus of Panama." *Latin American Antiquity* 14(3): 311-322.

STRI se complace en anunciar que Audrey M. Smith, de STRI, fue seleccionada para la posición de coordinadora de Eventos Especiales en STRI. Audrey empezó a trabajar en 1984 en la Oficina del Director. En 1993 fue promovida a su posición actual de administradora del Centro Tupper y el CTPA. Como tal, ha sido responsable de supervisar las operaciones y coordinación diaria en ambas instalaciones, especialmente con actividades científicas como seminarios, simposios y otros eventos. Ella siempre ha demostrado habilidades especiales en el curso de la planificación y coordinación de actividades y proyectos llevados a cabo por la Institución. En su nueva posición, Audrey continuará administrando el Tupper y el CTPA y también será responsable por los eventos especiales, con el apoyo de su equipo de trabajo.

Quads: STRI's record!



With the assistance of two gynaecologists, five pediatricians and nine medical technicians, Naos marine administrator Juan Carlos Ricaurte (Ecuador) and wife Vivian Valenzuela (Chitré, Panamá) received their quadruples at 10:26 and 10:27am on Tuesday, March 9, in Panama City. Juan Carlos weighed 4lb, Juan Diego 2lb 14oz, Vivian Marie, 3lb, 6oz, and Valerie Rebecca 3lb, 6oz. The photos show Juan Carlos Jr. (left) and Valerie Rebecca (right) who are already home with their parents, and in perfect health. Congratulations to this very special family!

Con la asistencia de dos ginecólogos, cinco pediatras y nueve técnicos médicos, el administrador marino de Naos, Juan Carlos Ricaurte y su esposa Vivian Valenzuela recibieron a sus cuatrillizos entre las 10:26 y 10:28 am, el martes 9 de marzo en la ciudad de Panamá. Juan Carlos pesó 4lb al nacer, Juan Diego 2lb 14oz, Vivian Marie, 3lb, 6oz, y Valerie Rebecca 3lb, 6oz. La foto muestra a Juan Carlos Jr. (izquierda) y Valerie Rebecca (derecha), quienes se encuentran ya en casa con sus padres, y en perfecto estado de salud. ¡Felicitaciones a esta familia tan especial!



BCI is looking for nature guides

STRI's Public Program on Barro Colorado Nature Monument is looking for new nature guides. The guides must be bilingual (English-Spanish), have excellent communication skills, and be willing to commute to the Island. Preference will be given to those with knowledge in tropical biology. Interested please send a short CV and letter of introduction to Oris Acevedo, BCI scientific coordinator, Fax 212-8937, e-mail: acevedo@bci.si.edu. Guides work with contracts as temporal employees. Deadline to apply: April 2, 2004.

El Programa Público del Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado de STRI está interesado en contratar nuevos guías naturalistas. Los guías deben ser bilingües (inglés-español), tener habilidades de comunicación excelentes, y estar dispuestos a viajar a la Isla. Se le dará preferencia a aquellos que tengan conocimientos en biología tropical. Los interesados deberán enviar una hoja de vida resumida y una carta de presentación a Oris Acevedo, coordinadora científica de BCI, Fax 212-8937, e-mail: acevedo@bci.si.edu. Los guías trabajan con contratos profesionales temporales. Se aceptarán aplicaciones hasta el 2 de abril de 2004.

More publications

Wright, S. Joseph, Calderon, Osvaldo, Hernandez, Andres, and Paton, Steve. 2004. "Are lianas increasing in importance in tropical forests? A 17-year record from Panama." *Ecology* 85(2): 484-489.

Wysor, Brian. 2004. "An annotated list of marine Chlorophyta from the Pacific Coast of the Republic of Panama with a comparison to Caribbean Panama species." *Nova Hedwigia* 78(1-2): 209—241.