

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, 4pm seminar speaker will be Egbert Leigh, STRI
The Neutral Theory: A historical perspective

BDG

Tuesday, July 10, at 2pm, the Behavioral Discussion Group will meet in the Large Meeting Room with Hermógenes Fernández, to discuss
Changing the way: history of fungus-growing ants in disease management

Bambi seminar

No Bambi has been scheduled for Thursday, July 12. If you wish to give a Bambi, please contact Alan Roddy.

Arriving next week

Mauricio Rodríguez, OFEO, Washington DC, to work in design projects at STRI.

Cristina Salvador, Stanford University, to study plant reproductive biology and seedling recruitment, in Gamboa.

Rick Hochberg, University of Massachusetts, to study the Bocas del Toro biodiversity.

Ingrid Parker, University of California in Santa Cruz, to study the geographic origin and recruitment patterns in *Chrysophyllum*, in Gamboa.

Daniella Schweizer, University of California in Santa Cruz to study the local and landscape interactions between pioneer trees and soil microbial communities as they relate to succession. Summer preliminary field work to test potential study questions, in Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

July 6, 2007

STRI and CCT sign agreement to protect coastal environment in Colón

STRI director (*a.i.*) Eldredge Bermingham and Captain Lin Shyh-Horn, president of Colon Container Terminal signed an agreement of cooperation on June 27, to establish a permanent buffer zone of 2.1 hectares next to Galeta Point and canalize rainfall run-off to the Bay of Colon, to avoid a change in salinity in the Bay of Margarita. In 2005, Panama approved the expansion of CCT operations using three extra polygons of land covered with mangrove forests.

The new agreement is the result of intense negotiations between STRI and CCT convoked by Panama's vice president Rubén Arosemena, who serves as director of this country's Marine Authority. Officials from ANAM, the ministries of Housing, and Economy and Finance, and the Colon Free Zone also participated in the negotiations.

Bermingham recognized the efforts carried out by all the participants and highlighted the importance of dialogue between neighbors. "We need to be ever diligent regarding the interaction of development and



the environment, always looking for means to sustain both." He congratulated vice president Arosemena for his initiative and Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, who led all negotiations.

CCT president also presented Heckadon with a first check of \$10,000 to support the Galeta Fellowship Program for one of a five-year renewable commitment. This program support students doing thesis research work, based on Galeta.

El director (*a.i.*) de STRI Eldredge Bermingham y Lin Shyh-Horn, presidente de Colon Container Terminal, firmaron un convenio el 27 de junio, para establecer un área de amortiguamiento de 2.1 hectáreas próximas a Punta Galeta y canalizar los agujeros hacia la Bahía de Colón, evitando cambiar el nivel de salinidad de la Bahía de Margarita. En 2005, Panamá aprobó la expansión de operaciones de CCT usando tres nuevos terrenos cubiertos de bosque de manglar.

Este convenio es el resultado de intensas negociaciones entre

STRI y CCT convocadas por el vice presidente Rubén Arosemena, quien funge como director general de la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá. Funcionarios de ANAM, los ministerios de Vivienda y de Economía y Finanzas, y la Zona Libre de Colón también participaron en las negociaciones.

Bermingham reconoció los esfuerzos llevados a cabo por los participantes y destacó la importancia del diálogo entre vecinos. "Debemos ser siempre diligentes en cuanto a la interacción entre el desarrollo y el ambiente y buscar fórmulas para que ambos sean sostenibles." También felicitó especialmente al vice presidente Arosemena por su iniciativa, y a Stanley Heckadon-Moreno por liderar todo el proceso de las negociaciones.

El presidente de CCT hizo entrega de un primer cheque por \$10,000 a Heckadon para apoyar el Programa de Becas de Galeta por uno de cinco años, renovables. Estos fondos financiarán investigación para tesis, con base en Galeta.

More arrivals

Frank Hailer, Jon Beadell and Gary Schnek, SI National Museum of Natural History, to study the phylogeography and systematic relationships of tropical seabirds: An examination of systematic relationships and philopatry of tropical seabirds to determine significant conservation units for populations, at Bocas.

Corinne Richards and Amanda Zellmer, University of Michigan, to study the selection and the rapid evolution of morphological variation among Strawberry poison-dart frogs of the Bocas del Toro Archipelago.

Departures

Eldredge Bermingham to Washington DC and Virginia, to participate in a retreat of the Smithsonian Executive Committee and the Leading Laboratories Meeting for the barcoding project.

Oris Sanjur, to Washington DC, to participate in the Leading Laboratories Meeting for the barcoding project.

Mark Torchin, to California, to collaborate with colleagues at the University of California in Los Angeles and in the University of California in Santa Barbara, conduct field research and attend a conference in San José.

Javier Mateo Vega to Lima, Perú, to participate in a Decision Makers meeting.

José Ramón Perurena to Washington DC, on official business at SI.



STRI 4th annual science symposium 2007

Staff scientist Allen Herre and Fellowship and Internship Program administrator Adriana Bilgray convened the 4th Annual Science Symposium at the Earl S. Tupper Center in Panama City from Thursday, June 28, to Friday, 29.

Thirty-two speakers celebrated the broad range of intellectual inquiry, institutions, countries and funding sources that continually reshape the STRI community of tropical scholars.

Day one ended with the presentation of a new compilation of STRI work and edited by staff scientists Egbert Giles Leigh, Jr., E. Allen Herre, Jeremy B.C. Jackson and Fernando Santos-Granero. The book was translated into Spanish by Olga Londoño. Nélide Gomez coordinated the project and edited the Spanish version. The book was presented by staff scientists Mireya Correa and Egbert Giles

Leigh, Jr., and acting director Eldredge Bermingham.

Each 16-talk day was followed by dinner in the Tupper Center courtyard: a chance to discuss the talks and relax.

Video-recorded talks and power point presentations will be available in DVD format from the Office of Special Events.

By Beth King

The photo shows leading editor Leigh during book presentation.

Summaries of the symposium talks will be published in the near future.

El científico de STRI, E. Allen Herre y la administradora del Programa de Becas y Pasantías, Adriana Bilgray, convocaron al Cuarto Simposio Anual de Ciencias de STRI en el Centro Earl S. Tupper, del jueves, 28 de junio al viernes 29 de junio.

Congratulations

To Carmen Schloeder, research assistant to Mark Torchin at Naos, for obtaining her Ph.D. at the Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) at the University of Bremen, Germany, with the thesis: "Reproductive ecology of the Caribbean reef coral *Porites furcata* (Anthozoa, Scleractinea, Poritidae) in Bocas del Toro, Panama." The supervisors of the dissertation were Hector Guzman (STRI) and Ulrich Saint-Paul (ZMT), in collaboration with the Birmingham Laboratories, at Naos Island Laboratories.

New publications

Arnold, A. Elizabeth, and Engelbrecht, Bettina M. J. 2007. "Fungal endophytes nearly double minimum leaf conductance in seedlings of a neotropical tree species." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 23(3): 369-372.

Balter, Michael. 2007. "Plant Science: seeking agriculture's ancient roots." *Science* 316 (5833): 1830-1835.

Baltzer, Jennifer L., Davies, Stuart J., Noor, Nur Supardi Md., Kassim, Abdul Rahman, and LaFrankie, James V. 2007. "Geographical distributions in tropical trees: can geographical range predict performance and habitat association in co-occurring tree species?" *Journal of Biogeography* Online.

Condit, Richard S., Le Boeuf, Burney J., Morris, Patricia A., and Sylvan, Marshall. 2007. "Estimating population size in asynchronous aggregations: A Bayesian approach and test with elephant seal censuses." *Marine Mammal Science* Online.

More publications

Ordóñez, Cristina, Troeng, Sebastian, Meylan, Anne, Meylan, Peter A., and Ruiz, Argelis. 2007. "Chiriqui Beach, Panama, the most important leatherback nesting beach in Central America." *Chelonian Conservation Biology* 6(1): 122-126.

Tanner, Edmund V.J., and Barberis, Ignacio M. 2007. "Trenching increased growth, and irrigation increased survival of tree seedlings in the understory of a semi-evergreen rain forest in Panama." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 23(3): 257-268.

Van Bael, Sunshine A., Bichier, Peter, Ochoa, Isis, and Greenberg, Russell. 2007. "Bird diversity in cacao farms and forest fragments of western Panama." *Biodiversity and Conservation* 16: 2245-2256.

STRI in the news

"Nos fuimos a Barro Colorado" by Robamorena. 2007. www.robamorena.com (Not suitable for over 25)

STRI in radio

An interview with Stanley Heckadon and Gerry Bowden will air on Sunday, July 8, in Radio Metropolis on FM frequency 93.5. This is a new radio station in English. The program "Sunday Night at the Metropolis" from 7-9pm has been structured as magazine type program offering local information, local news and interviews on a middle of the road pop music platform. You can also listen to Radio Metropolis at www.on-the-radio.com/

Treinta y dos conferencistas presentaron una amplia gama de cuestionamientos científicos, instituciones, países y fuentes de financiamiento que continuamente le dan forma a la comunidad de académicos tropicales de STRI.

El primer día del simposio terminó con la presentación de una nueva compilación del trabajo de STRI editado por los científicos de STRI, Egbert Giles Leigh, Jr., E. Allen Herre,

Jeremy B.C. Jackson y Fernando Santos-Granero. El libro fue traducido al español por Olga Lodoño. Nélica Gómez coordinó el proyecto y editó la versión en español. El libro fue presentado por los científicos Mireya Correa y Egbert Giles Leigh, Jr., y el director (*a.i.*) Eldredge Bermingham.

Luego de cada uno de los días de 16 charlas del simposio, se ofreció una cena en la terraza

del Centro Tupper: una oportunidad para discutir las charlas y relajarse. Las charlas fueron grabadas en video y estarán disponibles en formato DVD en la Oficina de Eventos Especiales.

La foto muestra a Leigh, durante la presentación del libro.

Los resúmenes de las charlas serán publicados próximamente.



Panama's postal services launch environmental stamp at STRI

Víctor Caballero, advisor to the minister of Government and Justice and Vladimir Berríos Lem, in charge of the Philatelic Department, issued a series of commemorative stamps with images of the Red Backed Squirrel Monkey *Saimuri oerstedii* in coordination with World Wildlife Fund on June 27, at the Tupper Center Auditorium. This primate is an endangered species.

The Panama postal services chose STRI to issue these special stamps in recognition of the research and conservation activities conducted at STRI. Rafael Samudio, STRI research associate, presented a talk on the ecology, behavior and geographical distribution the Red Backed Squirrel Monkey.

Caballero and STRI's Georgina de Alba, associate

director for Administration and Finance dated the first stamps and presented gifts to members of the STRI community for the support to the Philatelic Department and for contributing environmental photographs for other stamps in the past.

Víctor Caballero, asesor de la ministra de Gobierno y Justicia, y Vladimir Berríos Lem, a cargo del Departamento de Filatelia, pusieron en circulación una serie de estampillas conmemorativas con imágenes del mono ardilla de espalda roja *Saimuri oerstedii* en coordinación con el World Wildlife Fund el 27 de junio, en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper. Esta especie se encuentra amenazada.

La Dirección General de Correos y Telégrafos de

Panamá eligió a STRI para celebrar este evento, en reconocimiento a las actividades de investigación y conservación que se llevan a cabo en el Instituto. Rafael Samudio, investigador asociado a STRI presentó una charla sobre la ecología, el comportamiento y la distribución geográfica del mono ardilla de espalda roja.

Caballero y Georgina de Alba, directora asociada a STRI para Administración y Finanzas sellaron las primeras estampillas e hicieron entrega de regalos a representantes de la administración de STRI que han apoyado al Departamento de Filatelia y a otros miembros de la comunidad que han aportado fotografías para la confección de estampillas ambientales en el pasado.

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE



- Recycling one ton of cardboard saves over nine cubic yards of landfill space.
- The largest single source of waste paper collected for recycling is corrugated boxes.
- Fix leaks. One dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons of water per day