

SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

Scientific Observations

“The idea of a lab filled with graduate students and postdocs was born at a time when we wanted the sciences to expand rapidly. It was an effective way to train young scientists and to get work done at low cost. But today, we are at a steady state, and we don’t need to generate hundreds of new labs.”



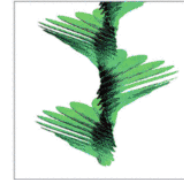
BIOLOGIST AND 2008 MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT SUSAN MANGO, WHO JOINS HARVARD’S FACULTY THIS SUMMER, IN THE APRIL 14 CURRENT BIOLOGY

SN Online

www.sciencenews.org

LIFE

Maple seeds whirl through the air with the help of a single wing and a heavy body. The flying stunt helps spread seeds far from the parent tree. See “How maple fruits fall” for video and story.



Science Past | FROM THE ISSUE OF JULY 4, 1959

BRIDES AND GROOMS ARE YOUNGER THAN EVER — Today’s brides and grooms are younger than any others in the nation’s history, the Population Reference Bureau reported. The average age for first marriages in the U.S.



last year was 23 for men and 20 for women. More girls married at 18 than at any other age. In 1890, men averaged 26 at first marriage and women averaged 22. Since then, the average age has been declining slowly but steadily.... The Bureau offered no reason for the trend toward early marriages.

Factors believed to contribute, however, are the nation’s continued economic prosperity, teen-agers “going steady” at progressively younger ages, and a significant percentage of pre-marital pregnancies in young girls.

Science Future

July 19–23

Get curriculum training at the NEED National Energy Conference for Educators in Nashville. See www.need.org/training

July 31

Deadline for submissions to the Imagine Science Film Festival in New York City. Get more info at www.imaginesciencefilms.com

October 28–November 1

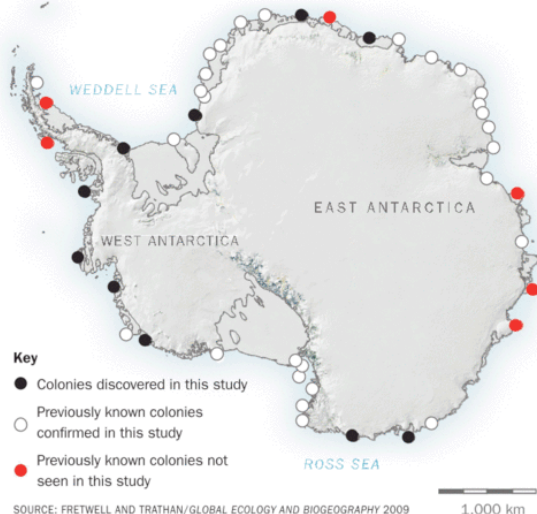
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers conference in Washington, D.C. Visit www.shpe.org/shpe2009

EARTH

An explosion of agriculture in 18th century Asia led to the destruction of huge swaths of forest. New analyses show the deforestation may have triggered the drier seasons that followed. Read “Cultivation changed monsoon in Asia.”

Science Stats | PENGUINS FROM SPACE

Emperor penguin breeding colonies in Antarctica identified by fecal-stained ice in study of satellite images



Introducing...

A newly described tyrannosaur species was small enough to have looked humans in the eye. *Xiongguanlong baimoensis* lived in what is now China between 110 million and 120 million years ago, says paleontologist Peter Makovicky of Chicago’s Field Museum. That era lies well within a 40-million-year-long gap in the tyrannosaur fossil record, he and colleagues note online April 21 in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. Remains of the creature suggest that it weighed about 270 kilograms and was roughly 2 meters tall when measured at the hips. So, the species also fills the size gap that accompanies the time gap in the fossil record, falling between the smaller, older *Dilong paradoxus* and the larger, more recent *Tyrannosaurus rex*.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE; MODIFIED FROM D. LENTICK; M. DONNELLY/FIELD MUSEUM; BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY