

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY, INC.

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

SEB NEWSLETTER VOL II NUMBER 1

Welcome to the next issue of the Economic Botany Newsletter. I thank those who have read the first issue and have sent information for this issue. Please send meeting announcements and any other information you would like to share with the membership.

SLIDE EXCHANGE

In response to the request for the slide exchange I have gathered the following information and requests.

Donald Lawrence, Professor Emeritus has a large collection organized by use. He suggests we sell sets of slides and suggests we contact the pre existing clearing houses.

Triarch Incorporated, a microscope supply company, would like to distribute our photographic slides collections.

Arthur Nelson has a slide collection he would like to donate.

The Center for Research for the Development of Traditional Medicines in Indonesia has written about their slide collections of their completed plant surveys.

Thomas Hemmerly suggests that the slides be sold in sets such as nuts, tropical nuts, root vegetables. He also suggests that some slides sets are commercially available so we should offer a unique commodity if our slides exhibited herb processing of lesser known plants and of ethnobotanical uses, especially medicinal.

Hart Brent-Collins has requested slides of Polygala senega, Polygala tenuifolia, Myrrh odorata, Smilax aristolochiaefolia, Quillaja saponaris. Can anybody help?

If you can participate, please send requests or slides to me and I will get copies and return yours. If you prefer please send me duplicates.

## ECONOMIC BOTANY CLASS LISTINGS

Well no wonder we aren't getting new members, according to the responses from the newsletter, there are very few classes for budding ethnobotanists. The following are the locales of classes. If you are teaching, taking or know of any others please correspond.

Colorado Herbal Institute  
Connecticut College  
Middle Tennessee State University  
New York Botanical Gardens, Institute of Economic Botany  
North Dakota State University  
Northern Kentucky University  
Self Heal Herbal Center, Canada  
State University College, New York  
Southern California College  
Texas A&M  
University of Alberta, Canada  
University of British Columbia, Canada  
Universidad Del Valle, Colombia  
University of Florida  
University of Victoria, Canada  
Washington University, St Louis  
Yale University

At this time a computerized directory for these few classes is not needed and this project will be on hold. If students want assistance finding courses in Ethnobotany they can contact the Editor for addresses and details of the courses listed.

## SEB ANNUAL MEETING IN DAVIS

The symposium, "New Perspectives on the Origin and Evolution of New World Domesticated Plants", was held during the Joint Annual meetings of the Botanical Society of America and the Society for Economic Botany at the University of California, Davis, August 16-17, 1988. Organized by Dr. Peter Bretting of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association/Purdue University, Dr. John Doebley of the University of Minnesota, Professor Greg Anderson of the University of Connecticut and Professor Barbara Webster of UC-Davis, this meeting was supported by generous contributions from the Systematic Biology Program of the National Science Foundation, the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, UC-Davis, and Pioneer Hi-Bred International of Johnston, Iowa.

The symposium sought to compare and contrast evolutionary patterns in the various New World domesticates and their wild relatives, to re-examine current theories and models for the origin and evolution of these taxa, and for the evolution of cultivated angiosperms in general. The nine papers presented discussed annual or short lived perennials indigenous to temperate or tropical America. All food crops are of nutritional importance either locally or globally and the available scientific knowledge of these plants is strongly associated with their economic importance.

Drs. Wilson, Nee, and Newstrom demonstrated that new sampling from poorly sampled regions augmented our knowledge of the domesticated chenopods, cucurbits, and chayote. Molecular approaches are resolving formerly intractable problems and Drs. Doebley, Gepts, Grun, Rick, Reisenberg, and Wilson discussed the applications of these techniques towards evolutionary problems. Dr. Newstrom assessed the utility of linguistic data in identifying the origin of the wild progenitors of chayote in the context of new theoretical frameworks developed for analyzing folk names and classifications of plants. New approaches to old data and therefore re-analyses and re-interpretations of data have led to new perspectives as stated in Prof. Heiser's summary. The symposium allowed time, for scientist not ordinarily meeting, to establish informal "networks" of collaboration and cooperation essential for scientific progress. It is hoped that research pursued by agronomic scientists will be integrated with that of systematists evolutionists, and ethnobotanists. With the emergence of conservation of biological diversity and germplasm resources as high priority for research and interpretation of the traditionally disparate fields of evolutionary and crop improvements is vital to U.S. and worldwide research.

The final goal of the symposium involves dissemination of these proceedings via publication in the Journal of Economic Botany in 1989-1990.

Peter Bretting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Oldest News

#### N.I. VAVILOV CENTENARY CELEBRATION

On November 24-25, 1987 a major celebration was held in Moscow on the honor of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov. Paul Fryxell, President of SEB and Jack Harlan, Distinguished Economic Botanist were in attendance. It was a great opportunity to consult with the foreign scientists and administrators of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

#### Old News

The Department of Botany, Chicago Field Museum, is conducting a survey of Economic Botany Collections. They want open lines of communications during their relocating to solve common Ethnobotanical collection problems. If interested request a questionnaire from: Department of Botany, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605-2496.

#### Newer News

During the SEB annual meeting a letter was drafted and sent to the governments of the US and USSR supporting the agreement of the respective Presidents in the support of the co-study of the global climates. Persons wanting copies for other societies please request them from the Editor.

The SEB Board voted to establish an International chapter of the Society of Economic Botany. The Chapter will be located in Mexico under the direction of Dr. Robert Bye. The new chapter can provide researchers with information such as the location of researchers within their country as well as identifying research sites within Mexico. It will enhance the exchange of information and provide excellent international relationships.

David Siegler was elected to replace Peter Bretting as the new Chair of the Section of Economic Botany of the BSA. Thanks Peter for a job well done co-sponsoring the symposium.

Due to the election of Walter Lewis to the office of Vice President, Paul Cox has been chosen to fill the vacancy of council member.

#### Newest News

David Williams, a New York Botanical Gardens graduate fellow, received the Edmund H. Fulling Award for his paper entitled, "Evidence for the origin of the erect peanut, Arachis hypogaea subsp. fastigata Waldron". Congratulations. The paper was presented at the Economic Botany meetings in Davis in August.

Emprise, Inc., a Washington, D.C. consulting firm is in the process of developing an on-line database on alternative cancer treatments. The effort will be funded by a Phase II Small Business Innovative Research Grant from NCI.

Besides the data on the availability , costs, treatment regimen, and practitioners of alternative treatments, the database will include scientific evaluations of each remedy based on both the scientific literature and actual case records.

The Group is lacking in the records on herbal treatment of cancer, since so many of these are self administered. The Group would therefore like to receive medical records, insurance claims, or accounts of personal experiences of patients who have successfully or unsuccessfully used herbal treatments. The information should specify both the herbs used and any other treatments administered.

Those of most interest are Aveloz, Chaparral, Goldenseal, The Hoxsey treatment, HTR, Iscador, Taheebo or Pau D'Arco, and Winter's tea.

Send to Working Group ethnobotanist, Dr. Charlotte, Gyllenhaal, 20 Park Drive, Glenview, IL 60025

The current SEB Board Members are:

President: Paul Fryxell  
 Vice President: David Bates  
 Secretary: Gail Wagner  
 Treasurer: Bill Stern  
 Council: Ron Hurov (1989)  
 Paul Cox (1989)  
 Mike Balick (1990)  
 Charlotte Gyllenhaal (1990)  
 John Rashford (1991)  
 Peter Bretting (1991)  
 John Thieret, Editor, Journal of  
 Economic Botany  
 Trish Flaster, Newsletter editor

#### BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT

See you the week of June 11 at the 1989 Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee. Don't miss a visit to the Great Smoky Mountains.

#### FUTURE ISSUES

Send ethnobotanical items of interest and news clippings to me, Trish Flaster, 2115 Orchard Ave, Boulder, Colorado, 80302. Hopefully the next issue will be sent with your copy of the journal.