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**Information for the
SEB 2000 Annual Meeting**

June 20–25, 2000 at the University of South Carolina

The 2000 meetings will be held June 20–25 at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. The theme of the meetings will be the past, present, and future of economic botany, and the targeted emphasis will be on students.

Dormitory space has been reserved and will cost approximately \$22/person per night double occupancy and \$32/person per night single occupancy in an air-conditioned dormitory. The athletic facilities (indoor pool, weight room, exercise machines) may be accessed at \$3/day. Dormitory rooms will be available Monday, June 19 to Monday, June 26.

Registration will begin on Tuesday, June 20. A half-day field trip will be held on Tuesday afternoon, June 20, during the Council meeting, and there will be a welcoming reception that evening.

Submitted and invited papers will be given on Wednesday through Friday June 21–23. The traditional barbecue will be Thursday evening, and the banquet with a presentation from the Distinguished Economic Botanist, Dr. James Duke, will be Friday evening.

A field trip will be held on Saturday,

June 24, to visit places in the Appalachian Mountains. Simultaneously, a field trip will be held on Saturday-Sunday, June 24–25, to the South Carolina lowcountry and the coast.

We are planning to once again offer roundtable luncheon discussions on various topics. In addition, the papers will be stopped early one afternoon (Wednesday or Thursday) so that craft demonstrations can be held. At that time we will also hold an ethnobotany methods workshop for students (led by David Lentz and Gary Martin).

Further enhancements for students are still in the planning stages. We are working on an informal get-together with SEB Past-Presidents just for students. And, we'd like to encourage people to trace their academic family trees on a large piece of butcher paper.

For suggestions or requests, please contact the local arrangements chair, Gail E. Wagner, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208; Phone: 803-777-6548; Fax: 803-777-0259; Email: gail.wagner@sc.edu.

Visit the updated SEB Website:

www.econbot.org

Plants & People

The Newsletter of
The Society
for
Economic Botany

Website:
www.econbot.org

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The articles within the Newsletter are independently submitted and do not represent the position of The Society for Economic Botany as a whole.

Deadlines for submissions are February 1 (Spring Issue) and September 1 (Fall Issue).

Notes from the Field

The Newsletter Needs You!

Welcome to the Fall issue of the Newsletter. As we approach the next decade we are all looking for ways to improve our quality of life. So the Newsletter committee is doing their share by enhancing the Newsletter. This informal Newsletter has been provided to you, our members, for the past 15 years. It is intended to be the voice for the members and a vehicle to keep you informed about newsworthy botanical events and happenings within the Society. For the next decade, expansion and greater participation are the goals.

So what does that mean? We need you! The committee is seeking contributors who represent all the disciplines that make ethnobotany/economic botany unique. We'd love to recruit some members willing to write a new regular column or if you prefer, choose an existing column to write for each edition. Some new ideas, may include "Meet the SEB Member," botanical poetry, humor, or puzzles. Additional opportunities are available for "freelancers" willing to accept "special assignments" from our trusted editor (such as being a roving reporter at the annual SEB meetings). Amateur photographers/graphic designers are also needed to add visual interest to our publication. Extensive experience is not necessary, but you should be willing to learn, pay attention to detail, and adhere to our deadline twice a year (February 1 and September 1).

Students, this is a great opportunity for you to "network" in the ethnobotany community!

In this issue you will find new columns addressing ethical dilemmas, topics for students, and a wonderful section allowing our mentors to continue to guide us in our field—the "Past Presidents Column."

Ethnobotany is receiving attention. How it is viewed, how it is applied, and who is participating are being redefined. We hope you will be participating, and that you will let us know by submitting an article, listing an event, forwarding a website of interest, or sharing your botanical successes and failures from the field or classroom. We need to hear from you about what you like, what you do not like, and what you would like to see in the future. The deadline is February 1, 2000 for the next issue.

Thanks and have a prosperous New Year until we talk again in 2000.

Trish



Humor

A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

"Doctor, I have an ear ache."

2000 B.C.—"Here, eat this root."

1000 B.C.—"That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850 A.D.—"That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940 A.D.—"That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985 A.D.—"That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2000 A.D.—"That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

Awards

Distinguished Economic Botanist, Dr. S. K. Jain

Our 1999 Distinguished Economic Botanist, Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Institute of Ethnobiology, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India, has been a prolific

researcher and influential teacher in the interdisciplinary study of the role of plants in human societies. His publications, which are numerous, include taxonomic as well as economic botany

topics. Some of his single-authored books are *Glimpses of Indian Ethnobotany* (1981), *Methods and Approaches in Ethnobotany* (1989), *Contributions to Ethnobotany of India* (1990), and *Dictionary of India Folkmedicine and Ethnobotany* (1991). He has also published *Bibliography of Ethnobotany* (1984), *Notable Plants in Ethnomedicine of India* (1991), *Medicinal Plants of India* (1991), and *Cross Cultural Ethnobotany of Northeast India* (1994). As you can imagine, his papers, articles, and book chapters are too numerous to mention.

On his way from India to the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis, Dr. Jain broke his leg, requiring surgery. True

botanical trooper that he is, he spoke on the phone with the SEB President and made arrangements to send his paper before he went to the hospital! Thanks to his and his

family's extraordinary efforts, we had a copy of his paper, "Human Aspects of Plant Diversity," to read at the SEB banquet on Friday evening. The text will be published in the March 2000 issue of the journal.

Luckily, Dr. P.

Pushpangadan, Director of the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, was on hand to honor Dr. Jain, as was his colleague Dr. Sudershan Kumar. Dr. Pushpangadan accepted the award and citation from Dr. Michael Balick (New York Botanical Garden) on behalf of Dr. Jain, and read his paper to the attendees. Another award ceremony will take place at the National Botanical Research Institute when Dr. Jain is able to return to India, late in September. We are sorry to have missed the presence of Dr. Jain in person, and wish him a full and complete recovery. And although he did not get to dine with us, this is certainly a (courageous) tale he can dine out on for a long time to come.

**Dr. S. K. Jain
has been a prolific researcher
and influential teacher
in the interdisciplinary study
of the role of plants
in human societies.**

Klinger Book Award for 1999

The 1999 Klinger Book Award went to Wade Davis' *One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest*, Simon & Schuster Company, New York. The other books nominated were:

- Carrington, Sean 1998. *Wild Plants of the Eastern Caribbean*, Macmillan Education Ltd., London.
- Brussell, David Eric 1997. *Potions, Poisons, and Panaceas: An Ethnobotanical Study of Monserrat* (with a foreword by Schultes), Southern Illinois University Press.
- Moerman, Daniel E. 1998. *Native American Ethnobotany*, Timber Press, Portland Oregon.

Guidelines used by the committee are now posted on the website: <www.fau.edu/divdept/biology/seb/guidelines.htm>. Those wishing to see the four previous winners and other titles nominated will find them at: <www.fau.edu/divdept/biology/seb/awards.html>.

Nominations are now open for the 2000 award. Please send nominations (and books) to: Daniel F. Austin, Florida Atlantic University, Department of Biological Sciences, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991; Phone: 561-367-3320; Fax: 561-367-2749; Email: daustin@fau.edu.

Iwu Receives 1999 Richard Evans Schultes Award

Professor Maurice M. Iwu, founder and director of the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme (BDCP), an international NGO operating in several African countries, was awarded the 1999 Richard Evans Schultes Award at the annual meeting banquet of the Society for Economic Botany in St Louis in August.

Iwu and the BDCP are recognized for their efforts to build technical skills in Africa to make bioresources a viable vehicle for sustainable development. Improved technical skills generate drug discovery programs, based on natural products and traditional knowledge, that target therapeutic categories for tropical diseases suffered throughout Africa. Economic benefits from commercialized products are channeled back into areas where source plants are found through the Fund for Integrated Rural Development and Traditional Medicine, with provision to compensate individuals, communities, traditional

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healer associations and local institutions. The BDCP Website is www.bioresources.org.

Iwu, an Igbo traditional healer, is also past professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has authored many books, including *Handbook of African Medicinal Plants* and *African Ethnomedicine*, and is current president of the International Society of Ethnobiology. The award honors the name of Richard Evans Schultes, the Harvard ethnobotanist widely recognized as one of the most distinguished figures in the field.

Review of 1999 SEB Meeting Held with IBC

SEB Activities at the International Botanical Congress

Nearly 5,000 people attended the International Botanical Council in St. Louis this summer. Yet despite our initial fears of being lost in the crowd, SEB members met at sponsored symposia, lunchtime discussion groups, the Society's banquet and in informal gatherings.

Peter Raven, Director of the St Louis Botanic Garden, in his address reminded us

of the lost plants and the immediate need to gather knowledge on all plants for sustenance of the ecosystem. We have been gathering momentum as economic botanists and ethnobotanists. This must increase if we are to heed his words about the loss of two-thirds of all plants in the next half of this century.

Our lunchtime discussions were a great success and we hope to continue them at all of our meetings. They were on poignant

topics that need discussion, resolution, and action for the beginning of a successful millennium. I wish I could have spread myself thinner to participate in them all. In one discussion lead by Tim Johns we discussed the problem of

publication as a requirement of academic success while that same publication violated the protection of the IPR of the groups with whom we were working in the field. Better make plans for Columbia in 2000! (See article on page one for details about the 2000 meeting.)

Send us your suggestions for activities at the 2000 SEB Annual Meeting.

"The Origins and Development of Agriculture in the Tropics" Symposium

(Submitted by Beryl Simpson, President)

One symposium of interest to members of SEB was "The Origins and Development of Agriculture in the Tropics" organized by Dolores Piperno of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and Beryl B. Simpson, current SEB President. The talks included speakers from around the world who presented new data on the beginnings of agriculture in warm regions.

Ed Buckler began with a summary of joint molecular work that suggests an early movement of maize into South America followed by substantial differentiation and then a movement back into Central America where hybridization with incipient domesticates occurred. This work implies a more significant role of South American genotypes than previously suggested.

Otis Sangur's paper on *Cucurbita* presented data on several molecular markers that indicate that the five most widely cultivated species of *Cucurbita* are not derived from a common ancestor, but rather independently domesticated from distinct ancestors in North and South America. Luisa Herrera and col-

leagues from Colombia provided data from a long sequence from Pena Roja in northwestern Amazonia that shows changing resource use over time that was correlated with climatic changes. In the current Bantu-dominated areas of Africa where agriculture is now common it is difficult to reconstruct the pre-Bantu conditions, but Marti Mercader and co-workers have found that earlier cultures were foragers that were preadapted to the adoption of agriculture because of their management of native tree species. Early dates for the domestication of rice in the Yangtze River of ca. 10,000 ybp were presented by Jimmy Zhao who also showed that wild rice grew in the region 12,000 ybp.

Finally Dolores Piperno explained how phytoliths combined with other data have shown that agriculture was practiced in Ecuador 9000 years ago and in Amazonia 5000 years ago. She suggested that the growing of plants was adopted when it became an ecologically effective way of obtaining calories. The session engendered a lively discussion.

Symposia Sponsored by SEB at the IBC

(Submitted by Gail Wagner, Past-President)

The Society for Economic Botany sponsored three symposia at the IBC in St. Louis in August, 1999. The first to be presented was the symposium "South American Plants and Their Chemistry and Pharmacology Interactive with Human Activities," organized by Walter H. E. Lewis and Memory P. F. Elvin-Lewis.

Speakers covered topics including linguistics, chemistry, conservation, ethnomedicine, biology, and drug development as they relate to plant-human interactions and interdependencies. The second symposium was "Ecological Ethnobotany: Multi-Level Plant/People Interactions," organized by Jan Salick and Barbara Pickersgill (see review on page 5). The third symposium, "Anthropogenic Plant Migrations: Habitat Transformations by Overt and Inadvertent

The pictures and names of the symposia speakers are posted on the SEB web site:

www.econbot.org

Introductions," organized by David L. Lentz, C. Edelmira Linares and Robert Bye, explored the dissemination of crop species and alien flora into new environments and their impact on the modern landscape. This symposium was jointly sponsored by the Economic Botany Section of the Botanical Society of America. The pictures and names of the symposia speakers are posted on the SEB web site: <www.econbot.org>.

Continued on page 5

Past-Presidents

Past-Presidents Meet at the International Botanical Congress

For the first time, several Past-Presidents of SEB held an informal brain-storming session at the IBC in St. Louis in August, 1999. Attendees included Michael Balick, Walter Lewis, Jan Salick, and Susan Verhoek along with then-President Gail Wagner. As you can imagine, a lot of good ideas pertaining to SEB initiatives were put on the table and discussions were begun. The Club would like to continue to meet and serve in an advisory role to the Society.

If you are a past-president and have not yet heard from the Club, we need your contact information.

If you are a past-president and have not already heard from the Club, we need your address, phone, fax, and email contact information. Please send it to Gail Wagner, Dept. of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208; Phone: 803-777-6548; Fax: 803-777-0259; Email: gail.wagner@sc.edu. Or to the SEB Secretary, David Lentz, New York Botanical Garden, 200th Street and Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458; Phone: 817-817-8171; Fax: 817-817-8101; Email: dlentz@nybg.org.

Past-President Paul Cox Is a Hit at the IBC

On Friday, August 6, Dr. Paul A. Cox delivered a plenary lecture "Unfinished Journey: Carl Linnaeus' Travels in Lapland and the Creation of Ethnobotany" to a crowded auditorium. Midway through his tracing of Carl Linnaeus' early life, he was interrupted by Carl Linnaeus himself! The two continued with a dialogue, to the delight of the audience. When Linnaeus said at the end of the talk that he had a web page, I at first thought it was a backwards historical joke, but indeed he does: www.linnaeus.com. Linnaeus was well portrayed by Hans Odoo, who specializes in the impersonation of Carl Linnaeus. For a photo of the encounter, please see our web site: <www.econbot.org>.

Review of 1999 SEB Meeting Continued from page 4

Viagra Mimic Spices up the IBC

(Submitted by Jan Salick)

Ecological Ethnobotany proved the power of an ecological approach to ethnobotany during the SEB symposium this year at the International Botanical Congress. We journeyed to India, East Africa, the Amazon, Central America, and Mexico. Featured were Ayurvedic medicinals from the Western Ghats (Kamal Bawa, University of Massachusetts), Mayan tropical field/forest management (Javier Caballero, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Masai anti-cholesterol herbs for a diet of milk and blood (Timothy Johns, McGill University), palms and baskets (Elaine Joyal, Arizona State University), a Viagra mimic from ants, termites and chilis (Eloy Rodriguez, Cornell University), Fire! (Buck Sanford, University of Denver), and the peach-tomato for your liver and kidneys (Jan Salick, Ohio University). Issues from intellectual property rights to participatory development drove much of the discussion. In the primary lecture hall at the conference center in St. Louis, Ecological Ethnobotany melded two major themes of the IBC—"Human Uses of Plants" and "Ecology, Environment and Conservation."

Here are the results of the 1999–2000 slate:

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Ethnobotanews

Friends of the Earth, Summer 1999; Natural Foods Merchandiser, December 1998

Both of these articles are about the Terminator Seed, no it is not a movie with Arnold, but a real threat. This is not a fantasy, but a reality we are now experiencing without any knowledge of its effect for our future. Not only does it force farmers to repurchase new seeds annually, but it also affects the natural balance of the environment. These seeds are not fertile in the first year and self annihilate in the second season. Thus, there is no human interaction, no selection, for a greater cost. Delta and Pine Land Co. have developed this with Monsanto inline for the Patent and in collaboration with the USDA. Even though the genes have been spliced into self pollinating plants such as cotton and tobacco, we are unsure whether these genes will transfer to cross pollinated crops. We do not know how the pollen will affect pollinators or whether it will cross pollinate as experienced last year.

NEWS FLASH—Following 18 months of controversy and intense popular opposition around the world, Monsanto has advised the Rockefeller Foundation that they will abandon plans to commercialize Termi-

nator Technology. Monsanto's open letter to Rockefeller is available at their website: <www.monsanto.com/monsanto/gurt/default.htm>. However, the company says it will continue to pursue closely-related research targets that could allow Monsanto to switch on—or off—other genetic traits vital to a crop's productivity.

In addition to the Terminator seed in this article is discussion of the genetically modified organisms, GMOs. As the Friends of the Earth article focused on, is the result of combining organism such as viruses and plants? Insect resistant corn is made into

syrup, which we find in just about every beverage plus many other foods. Pollen from this corn has recently been shown to kill

monarch butterflies and other beneficial insects. What to do? Buy organic may be one solution, and write all the companies—M o n s a n t o , Pepsi, Nabisco, Heinz, etc. ask if their products contain GMOs, and tell them your viewpoint and power of the purse.

NEWS FLASH—Following months of controversy and opposition around the world, Monsanto has advised the Rockefeller Foundation that they will abandon plans to commercialize Terminator Technology

Write, phone or fax USDA Secretary Dan Glickman, USDA, 200A Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Ave., SW. Washington, DC 20250; Phone: 202-720-3631; Fax: 202-720-2166.

Navajo Nation Hopes to Revive Traditional Medicine

By Alisa Blackwood, 1999 Los Angeles Times. <www.latimes.com:80/excite/990711/t000061903.html>

PHOENIX—"For years, the wind, water, earth and sacred traditions were all the Navajos believed they needed to prevent illness and heal themselves spiritually and physically. That was before the development of Western medical technology, before the number of Navajo medicine men began to decline and before young Navajos began to discredit their own traditions."

The Navajo Traditional Apprenticeship Program, implemented in December, chose seven applicants to train with traditional ceremonial practitioners—medicine men—and take on the closely guarded knowledge handed down only through family and clan members.

The survival of the medicine man is vital if Navajo language and culture are to survive,

said Alfred Yazzie, a Navajo language instructor at Arizona State University. "Medicine men are, for the most part, the people who hold all the teachings and spiritual aspects of the community," Yazzie said. "They still hold a lot of the history—undocumented history."

Learning the ceremonies is a difficult and lengthy process. Depending on the ceremonies learned, training can take up to 10 years. And because ceremonies are not taped or written down, they must be learned orally.

As an incentive, the program awards a monthly \$300 stipend to apprentices and \$350 to teaching practitioners. It may not seem like much, but time is running out. Eddie Tso, the program's director, said six traditional ceremonies are almost extinct and will be the primary focus in the apprentice

program. "If we don't do anything about it, and look back in 20 years there won't be any ceremonies left."

Yazzie said, "A lot of young people didn't see the need to follow in those footsteps of Navajo ceremonies because they were told they were no longer needed." State Sen. Jack Jackson, also a Navajo said, "[Western education] made us ashamed of our way of life. Our ceremony was classified as superstitious, taboo. Therefore, our younger people sort of look down on these ceremonies." The solution, Jackson says, is for the state to treat the Navajo healthcare system as equal to Western medical health care. "Spirituality is the teaching that you exist within the universe with Mother Earth and Father Sky," he explained. "Many of our older people live to be 100 years old and never went to a hospital. They live by the laws of the universe. The whole universe is sacred—wind, water, air, plants, animals and you, yourself...that's missing in Western education."

Those chosen by The Navajo Traditional Apprenticeship Program train with traditional ceremonial practitioners

Ethnobotanews

Continued from page 6

Commercial Harvesting Threatens Many Medicinal Plants

Robyn Klein, Herbalist AHG Bozeman, Montana and the [Natural Foods Merchandiser](#) June 1999

Montana recently enacted legislation (SB 178, effective April 20, 1999), which imposes a \$1,000 per day fine for collecting echinacea roots from state lands. Collection of up to 1.5 pounds for personal use still is permitted. The bill began as a temporary 3-year moratorium on the harvesting of wild [Echinacea angustifolia](#), [Lewisia redivia](#), [Lomatium dissectum](#), [Trillium ovatum](#), [Cypripedium](#) spp., [Ligusticum](#) spp., and [Drosera](#) spp.

The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service support the Montana initiative and already have developed their own wildcraft permitting systems. The bill is not without controversy. Seven tribal governments in Montana object to restrictions on herbal collection and blame the problem on commercial harvesters whose only concern is immediate profit.

Sign up for the listserve
exclusively for SEB members
by sending an email to:

Soc.econbotany@listbot.com

Intellectual Property Rights/Business

By Colin Woodard, Special to [The Christian Science Monitor](#). <www.csmonitor.com/durable/1999/07/28/fp1s3-csm.shtml>

WASHINGTON—The shamans were unhappy. Querubin Queta Alvarado and Antonio Jacanamijoy Rosero, spiritual leaders of their Amazonian tribes, stood incongruously in the headquarters of the US Patent & Trademark Office wearing traditional garb—beads, feathers, and teeth. But under their arms were official protest documents prepared by their attorneys.

The shamans say the Patent Office has helped steal their most important and sacred cultural property, an Amazonian plant called ayahuasca. So in March they came to Washington to request that US authorities review their decision to award an American researcher the patent for the plant.

Under US patent law almost anything that has been modified or manipulated by human invention is eligible for consideration—including microbes, plants, animals, even products created from human tissues, cells, or DNA. Supporters say such “life patents” are essential to encourage the development of new crop varieties, livestock, phar-

maceuticals, and medical procedures.

Thomas Jefferson excluded living creatures when drafting the country’s first patent laws. Under a 1930 congressional act, exceptions were made for seed and plant breeders, but patents on other life forms were not allowed. But in 1980, the Supreme Court voted to allow the patenting of a genetically modified bacterium.

Ayahuasca is the most recent case and one of the more clear cut. Amazonian shamans were outraged to learn that the plant had become the intellectual property of an American entrepreneur, under a 1986 patent. How, the shamans argued, could a naturally occurring plant be “owned” by anyone, particularly someone living where it does not grow?

India also has lodged official challenges to recent US patents on the active ingredient in the neem tree—used to control pests and as a natural toothpaste—and a modified strain of India’s famous Basmati rice. Angry protests against the Basmati patent have occurred in Pakistan and Thailand as well.

NSF to Present Report

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will present a “pre-publication release” of a report that is expected to call for a new major crosscutting environmental initiative at the Foundation. The Task Force on the Environment was established to assist the Foundation in defining the scope of its role with respect to environmental research, education, and assessment, and in determining the best means of implementing activities related to this area.

The Committee discussed eleven key-stone recommendations ranging across research, education, scientific assessment, physical infrastructure, technological infrastructure, and information infrastructure. The task force is also refining recommendations on partnerships and on international aspects. On a related matter, Congress is beginning its process to determine NSF’s budget for fiscal year 2000.

Committee for the National Institute for the Environment, 1725 K St. NW, Suite 212, Washington, DC 20006. Website: www.cnie.org.

How could a naturally
occurring plant be “owned”
by anyone, particularly
someone living where
it does not grow?

outside world. Soon after, scientists discovered their blood contained a virus they thought might lead to new leukemia treatments. To pursue this research, the US National Institutes of Health was awarded a patent in 1995 for the entire cell line developed from blood taken from a Hagahai man.

The Patent Office’s Kunin says that moral and ethical issues surrounding biotechnology should be addressed through restrictions and regulations on science, not on intellectual property law.

Announcements

SEB Website Updated

The Society now has a working website at www.econbot.org to enhance communications within SEB. When you go to the website, sign up for the list serve. This is limited to members of the society and will be a discussion group lead by ourselves. Students, especially, are encouraged as it is a perfect forum to find out about your future.

SEB Affiliates with AIBS

The Council of the Society for Economic Botany voted to affiliate our society with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). This is an umbrella organization with over 90 other scientific societies. Membership allows us access to a number of services and provides important contacts and advertising.

Biblical Herb Tours

Tours to Biblical sites focusing on herbs are available. Contact: Maya Bloom, Phone: 888-752-4253; Fax: 973-359-4104; Email: biblicalsites@nac.net.

The Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany

The Garden Club of America is pleased to announce a fellowship open to Ph.D. candidates and recent Ph.D.'s to promote the study of medicinal botany. The fellowship was established to protect and preserve knowledge about the medicinal use of plants, and thus prevent the disappearance of plants with therapeutic potential. Providing this research opportunity for botanists can, in turn, assist medical science in its ability to protect lives and develop new medicines.

The Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany will provide one grant award of \$4,000 annually. The funds may be used to cover direct costs associated with travel, field studies, or laboratory research, but cannot be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead. The Missouri Botanical Garden has agreed to administer the new fellowship. Selection of candidates for the award will be by a panel of botanists specializing in Economic Botany and Ethnobotany.

Eligible candidates include students currently enrolled in Ph.D. programs at recognized universities and recent graduates who have received their degrees in the last five years. To apply, submit a brief application letter, a 1–2 page description of the proposed research, a 1 page budget, and current curriculum vitae. Documentation of appropriate permits for field work or any studies—including animals, research clearances, and permission from governmental agencies—should be provided for all foreign research.

Additional information may be obtained at: www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/applied_research/chatham.html. Proposals should be received by January 15, 2000. Mail applications to: Dr. James S. Miller, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; Phone: 314-577-9503; Email: miller@mobot.org.

Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Award

The Botany Department at The Field Museum invites applications for the year 2000 Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Award. The award of \$1500.00 is designed to assist students and young professionals to visit the Field Museum and use the extensive economic botany and systematic collections. Individuals from Latin America and projects in the field of ethnobotany or systematics of economically important plant groups will be given priority consideration.

Applicants interested in the award should submit their curriculum vitae and a detailed letter describing the project for which the award is sought. The information should be forwarded to the Timothy C. Plowman Award Committee, Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA and received no later than October 31, 1999. Announcement of the recipient will be made no later than December 31, 1999.

Anyone wishing to contribute to The Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Fund, which supports this award, may send their checks to the above address. Make certain to indicate the intended fund.

Premio de investigación Latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman

El departamento de Botánica en "The Field Museum" invita aplicaciones para el premio de investigación Latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman 2000. Este premio de \$1,500.00 fue diseñado para apoyar a estudiantes y profesionales jóvenes en visitas al museo de Field y utilizar sus extensas colecciones de botánica económica y sistemática. Se les dará consideración especial a individuos de Latinoamérica y a proyectos en los campos de etnobotánica ó sistemática de plantas económicamente importantes.

Las personas interesadas en aplicar a este premio deberán proveer su curriculum vitae y una carta detallando el proyecto para el cual el premio se utilizará. Esta información debe ser enviada al Timothy C. Plowman Award Committee, Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA y ser recibida antes del 31 de Octubre de 1999. El ganador del premio será anunciado antes del 31 de Diciembre de 1999.

Cualquier persona que desee contribuir al Fondo de investigación latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman, el cual apoya este premio, puede enviar su cheque. Asegúrese de indicar el fondo al cual se destina su contribución.

Submitted by: Susan Hamnik, Department of Botany, The Field Museum, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605; Phone: 312-665-7861; Fax: 312-665-7158; Email: hamnik@fmnh.org.

Publications

Cultivated Foods

Flora for Fauna is a UK publication emphasizing cultivated foods as critical for conservation. Britain's gardeners are the disseminating and research focus for the database. The database catalogues the interaction of organisms. Visit the website at <<http://fff.nhm.ac.uk/fff/>>.

Ethnobotany In India

Needing books on Ethnobotany in India? Contact Scientific Publishers, Fax: +91-291-613480; Email: amrish@jp1.dot.net.in.

New Mushroom Journal

A new publication is ready for your viewing, The International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms. Contact: Begell House Publishers, Fax: 212-213-8368; Email: begellhouse@worldnet.att.net.

A Book Review

Earth and Spirit, by Maria Benedetti

Published by Verde Luz, Orocovis, PR 1989, pp. 268.

Review by Trish Flaster, Printed with permission from [Herbalgram](#).

There are many herb books being written, but few that address the healing systems of native people in such a respectful way. The book's style is unique in its approach to the listing of active herbs in the Puerto Rican pharmacopoeia. The author uses dialog, and interviews with the local healers, to discuss curative properties and plants. It incorporates the traditional methods and attitudes that ultimately complement the effectiveness of the plants. Her interviews with local people discuss the changes in the cultures, yet she highlights the current methods with the past so as they travel into the future there is no loss, but only the integration of knowledge systems. For example, during her interview with the midwife they discuss breech births. She elicits when the midwife can massage the fetus so the head is down and when it is too late and the mother should go to the hospital. Another interview is with a farmer in which the organic, dynamic nature of the farming is still integrated into a small urban farming scene. From this, she weaves an environmental picture and in the epilogue discusses the current issue of so many people dependent on plants for healing while they, the cultures and their environments are disappearing.

One last aspect of the book I liked very much was the ease of the references, glossaries, etc., so that the Latin and local herb names were interchangeable making the reader fully understand the foreign language.

Being a short book, it is easy within a few sittings to travel to the Latino culture while learning how to heal the people and the earth.

Meetings

“Return to the Roots: A Workshop in Ethnobotany”

Return to the Roots aspires to show how biodiversity is critical to human health. Additionally, following the forum, we propose to develop appropriate inquiry-based curriculum targeted towards an upper elementary/middle school student audience. Coinciding with the development of curriculum would be an offering of a teacher workshop to introduce the curriculum to interested educators in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region.

The June 9-10 workshop will include a banquet of organic, locally-grown foods with a keynote address by Dr. Wade Davis, renowned ethnobotanist and author of One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rainforest. The full-day workshop will include presentations from other noted ethnobotanists, Dr. Dennis McKenna, Trish Flaster and author Matt Wood. Panel discussions and outdoor, experiential sessions will also be offered. We will also designate a portion of the Warner Nature Center's Trailside Museum to host sponsor tables with products and/or information available to workshop participants.

We are requesting \$8,500 to help make the Ethnobotany Workshop possible. Any revenue garnered above and beyond the expenses incurred will be directed toward the Nature Center school programs, which make it possible for any interested school groups to participate in the nature center programs at no charge to them. Contact: Thomas Anderson, Director, Warner Nature Center, 15375 Norell Avenue North, Marine, MN 55047; Email: tanderson@smm.org.

First International Conference on Echinacea

The University of Newcastle, Ourimbah, north of Sydney, Australia, will be the location of this conference on February 18-20, 2000. Contact: Ron Willis, Phone: 612-4345-4140; Fax: 612-4348-4148; Email: ccae@ozemail.com.au.

Call for Papers for NTFP session at ISSNRM Conference 2000

Bob Muth and Dick Hansis are organizing a meeting with several sessions on foraging in post industrial North America for the Eighth International Symposium on Society and Natural Resource Management to be held in early Summer 2000, at Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. They would like to use the papers as a basis for an edited book. If you would like to be a contributor, please contact Bob Muth, Email: rmm@forwild.umass.edu; or Dick Hansis, Coordinator, Environmental Science, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521; Phone: 707-826-4148; Fax: 707-826-4145; Email: rah14@humboldt.edu.

In The Classroom

The Education Committee met during the International Botanical Congress, and held two pertinent roundtable lunch discussion groups, one on education (led by Gail Wagner) and one on international training opportunities (led by Gary Martin). The following column and call for submissions is an outgrowth of a suggestion made by Susan Verhoek at the education roundtable.

The Education Committee will maintain a section on the SEB web site. We will be updating the Class/Program list that was spearheaded by the efforts of Trish. We will be holding our very own field methodology workshop for students at the 2000 SEB meetings in Columbia, SC, led by David Lentz (New York Botanical Garden) and Gary Martin (People and Plants Initiative, World Wildlife Fund)!

We are soliciting one-page hands-on teaching examples or teaching tips for teaching economic botany or ethnobotany, which we will compile into an informal booklet to be made available at the June 2000 meetings at the University of South Carolina. Those who contribute and attend the meetings will receive a copy at half the cost of xeroxing! The deadline for submission is March 31, 2000. Please send an electronic version (tell us what wordprocessing program it is in) or typed to: Ethnobotany Teaching Tips, Gail E. Wagner, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208; Email: gail.wagner@sc.edu.

The following is an example of the type of submission we seek.

Pomander Beads

Teaching Tips - Class Activity, Submitted by Susan Verhoek, Lebanon Valley College

Looking for a hands-on component during a segment on scents and aromatherapy in my non-lab, non-majors, "Plants and People" course, I chose pomander beads. From medieval times until now, people have enjoyed or needed ways to freshen, sanitize, or perfume the air around them (1). As portable potpourris, pomanders were popular in medieval times. Originally the pomanders were beads strung for wearing, but later they were like lockets with the scented material carried inside. Early recipes were for wax, moss, or earthen balls with scented oils, waxes, and various plant materials incorporated. Creating simple beads allows students to consider sources of scent, collect plant materials, and experience making a product. An updated use for a short string of beads is as an automobile air freshener.

A recipe for flour-based rose petal beads (2) reported that insects fed on the flour balls. A different recipe blended from the recipe for the salt dough used for homemade children's craft clay and the original rose bead recipe should be less susceptible to insects. The addition of essential oils and fixatives to the recipe would give a stronger scent. Students tried using fresh grated lemon peel, fresh-collected juniper berries, commercial cinnamon powder, or dried rosemary or rose petals. The lemon resulted in the strongest scent. Rosemary or rose petals produced interesting flecked textures in the beads. Beads can also be strung with whole spices as spacers.

Developed by Susan Verhoek from recipes provided by Jeanette Thomas (salt modeling dough) and Debbie Hartman (rose bead).

References:

- (1) Clarkson, Rosetta E. 1939. Magic Gardens (Dover reprint: 1972. Herbs and Savory Seeds: Culinaries, Simples, Sachets and Decoratives.)
 (2) Frederick, Kate C. 1993. Fragrant Herbal Beads. Herb Companion 5 (3):68-69.

POMANDER BEADS RECIPE, Salt Dough version

Makes enough for 3-4 medium sized beads. Allow 1 class hour for bead preparation.

Plant material

Use leaves, petals, seeds or other aromatic parts only.

Use 1/2 cup of plant material, fresh or dried.

Process the aromatic material in mortar or blender until smooth and fine.

Dough

Mix dry:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup salt

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 teaspoon alum

To Make Beads:

1. For each 1/2 cup of plant material, add 3-4 Tablespoons of dry dough mix.
2. Mix plant material and dough mix.
3. Add enough warm water gradually to bring dough to kneading texture (ca 1 Tablespoon for each 3-4 Tablespoons of dry mix).
4. Add food coloring (optional).
5. Knead dough 1 minute.
6. Add 15 drops of essential oils to complement the scent.
7. Roll into beads (beads will shrink slightly upon drying).
8. String beads with a large needle onto a heavy thread or dental floss, leaving enough length to slide the beads.
9. Dry by hanging in an airy place for about 3 days. Slide the beads each day so they do not stick on the thread. String for use on dental floss.

Jobs

Opening for Economic Botanist at The Missouri Botanical Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden seeks an Economic Botanist to join the Applied Research Department. The selected candidate will conduct research in plant systematics, specializing in plants used as foods and herbal medicines, coordinate collecting expeditions in the United States and foreign countries, curate the economic botany collection at the Garden, assist in preparing a manual of food plants of the world based on the collections, and prepare systematic treatments and revisions of eco-

nomically important plant groups.

Qualifications include a Ph.D. in botany or related field and up to seven years specialized experience in botanical systematics and related activities. Also requires familiarity with herbarium routines and botanical literature, ability to obtain fund-

Apply to:
Human Resource Management
Missouri Botanical Garden
Attn: EcoBot, P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166
Fax: 314-577-9597
Email: rland@admin.mobot.org. (EOE)

ing, exceptional written communication skills, and ability to travel for extended periods of time. Spoken foreign language ability desired. No closing date; position is open until filled.

Several Positions Available at Thad Cochran National Center for Natural Products

The Thad Cochran National Center for Natural Products Research has several positions available:

- Two Associate Research and Development Staff Positions are located in the Center's medicinal plant garden. Positions are in support of an existing 3-year program and can be extended.
- Field Agronomist for outgrowing, viability studies and methodology
- Senior R&D Staff/Horticulturist
- Field Botanist to collect germplasm for lead compound discovery.

To request more details about qualifications contact: Charles Burandt, Phone: 662-915-7250; Email: cburandt@olemiss.edu.

Botanists Needed at the Nature Conservancy

The Botany program at the Nature Conservancy is looking for botanists interested in evaluating the conservation status of medicinal plants that might be globally or regionally endangered due to their demand in the medicinal plant trade.

The work involves gathering and evaluating existing rangewide information on factors that determine conservation status (basically, writing or revising a complete Element Global Ranking form for The Nature Conservancy's databases), such as number of extant occurrences, abundance, threats, declining trends (if any), etc. This includes defining what a population is

(in the Heritage lingo, an "Element Occurrence" for the EOSPECS field) and if possible, define the specifications for ranking the quality of occurrences (ABCD-RANKSPECS).

If you are interested, please contact:
Martha Martinez
The Nature Conservancy
Phone: 703-247-3761; Fax: 703-525-8024;
email: mmartinez@tnc.org

Of particular interest for us in this case are the population trends and any evidence of collection from wild populations for medi-

cal use purposes, even anecdotal. We would also like recommendations for further inventory work or research.

We have a list of U.S. native plants that have appeared in herbal catalogs and/or that are of interest to the USFS (who is providing the funds for this work). I can make this list available to interested people to choose from, but I also ask that you propose the species you would like to work on, if you know of any in particular. Most of the species in the list are G4-G5, that is, currently ranked as globally common and widespread.

I can provide about \$250 per species and the work needs to be completed by January 2000.

New Classes

The list of classes and programs in economic and ethnobotany, undergraduate and graduate, is now on the Society's webpage <www.econbot.org>. Click on "Students" and it is within that folder. I will continue to notify you in the Newsletter of new classes and changes. We are hoping that those of you listed can periodically check and keep your information up-to-date. Now that this is free to everyone please remember to encourage students of all ages to join the Society while visiting the website.

Additions and Updates to Classes and Programs in Ethnobotany and Economic Botany:

Dr. Marshall Sundberg
Division of Biological Sciences
Emporia State University
Emporia, KS 66801
Phone: 612-341-5605
Email:
sundberm@esumail.emporia.edu

Dr. Paul Minnis
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Phone: 405-325-2519

Enrique Salmon has moved to Fort Lewis College where he is teaching full-time. He teaches two undergrad ethnobotany classes. His summer classes already in the list are now offered in the graduate program. His new address is:

Enrique Salmon
Fort Lewis College
Department of Anthropology
140 Hesperus Hall
Durango, CO 81301
Email:
Salmon_E@Grumpy.Fortlewis.edu

David J. Hicks
Biology Department
604 College Avenue
Manchester College
N. Manchester, IN 46962
Phone: 219-982-5309
Email: djhicks@manchester.edu

Dr. Paul Gepts
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Agronomy and Range Science
University of California
1 Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8515
Phone: 530-752-7743
Fax: 530-752-4361
<http://agronomy.ucdavis.edu/gepts/pb143/pb143.htm>

Carlos R. Ramirez-Sosa
Department of Biology
St. Lawrence University
Canton, NY 13617
Phone: 315-229-5810
Fax: 315-229-7429
Email: cramirez@stlaw.edu

Gil Hughes (University of B.C., Dept. of Botany) retired last year from Department of Botany, U.B.C., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4, and so will be listed as Emeritus.

An undergraduate class in economic botany under the title "Plants and Civilization" is being taught by:

Khidir W. Hilu
Department of Biology
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540-231-5407
Fax: 540-231-9307
Email: hilukw@vt.edu

An Update from Brandon University

In your list of "Graduate Classes and Programs in Ethnobotany" you have V.L. Harms and David Meyer at the University of Saskatchewan. Professor Harms (my ethnobotany M.Sc. supervisor) has retired and Professor Meyer does not wish to be contacted directly since it is not his field. In addition to my main position at Brandon University in Manitoba, I have adjunct status in the Biology Department at the University of Saskatchewan and am responsible for supervising the ethnobotanical projects conducted through both universities (and actually through the U. of Manitoba in Winnipeg too). Therefore it would be better for students to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Robin J. Marles, Ph.D.; Botany Department, Brandon University; 270 18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6A9, Canada; Phone: 204-727-7334; Fax: 204-728-7346; Email: marles@brandonu.ca.

Seeks Help Structuring Graduate Courses

I'm a German vegetation ecologist from University of Bayreuth, with my main research and teaching areas being classification and regeneration ecology of alpine and mountain forest vegetation. Currently, I'm mainly working in Southern Ecuador, and Eastern Africa. As another part of my work, I'm also engaged in research and teaching in ethnobotanical topics. In Germany, so far there doesn't exist any more comprehensive possibility for graduate studies in Ethnobotany/Economic Botany. Currently, we're in the process of structuring graduate courses on these topics, and are planning to establish a full master's course in the future.

It would be extremely helpful to get more information about the structure of your ethnobotany courses, requirements, teaching topics, class schedules, etc. Thank you very much for your valuable help. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Rainer W. Bussmann, Boostr. 17, 81541 Muenchen, Germany; Phone: 89-65114754; Fax: 89-66617-37303
Email: ceja.andina@t-online.de

New, Exciting, Finally...An Ethics Column

While scientists from all disciplines have had an on-going concern with ethical issues for decades, recent developments in both biotechnology and bioprospecting have raised the profile of ethical issues for economic botanists. Biotechnology now allows us to transfer genes between species nearly at will, and is impacting farming systems worldwide with such innovations as Terminator genes in seeds, and regulations against seed-saving by farmers. Implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity is proceeding all over the globe, raising serious considerations and limitations on the collection and dissemination of information about the traditional uses of plants.

As professional awareness of the ethical issues involved in working in ethnobotany and economic botany rises, it is inevitable that more researchers and students will find themselves confronting ethical questions in their work. The Society for Economic Botany already has a set of ethical guidelines, which will soon be posted on our website.

The number and complexity of ethical questions that occur to SEB members today, however, indicate to the SEB Ethics Com-

mittee that the Society could provide a real service to its members by enlarging its scope of activities. So, at our committee meeting during the 1999 SEB Annual Meeting, we decided to initiate a new feature for the Newsletter—a question and answer column

from 3 or 4 Society members who we feel could contribute different and valuable viewpoints.

We've already received an ethical question for the Spring issue, but if you would like to submit questions for future issues, send

During the 1999 SEB Annual Meeting,
the SEB Ethics Committee decided to initiate
a new feature for the Newsletter

—a question and answer column on ethics.

Submit your question for future issues.

on ethics. In every issue, starting with the Spring 2000 issue, we will explore an ethical question submitted by a Society member. Because we strongly believe there is no single completely correct answer to any of the questions likely to be raised with the Committee, we will seek short answers to each question

them to the Committee member who is currently coordinating this effort, Charlotte Gyllenhaal, Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, m/c 877, University of Illinois at Chicago, 833 South Wood Street, Room 331, Chicago IL 60612-7321; Email: gyllenha@uic.edu.

Botanizing the Web

Sign up for the **listserv** exclusively for SEB members by sending an email to: Soc.econbotany@listbot.com.

Ethnobotanical Resource Directory website is full of interesting tidbits and great links to other ethnobotanically pertinent sites. <<http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/~michael/eb/>>.

Here is a site suggested by member **Jim Baumlat the LA Arboretum**. <www.lifesci.ucla.edu/botgard/html/botanytextbooks/economicbotany/index.html>.

You are invited to visit the **non-wood forest products publication page of FAO** at: <www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/nwfp/public.html>.

“Brazilian palms (Palmae): a little bibliography” can be found on: <www.geocities.com/RainForest/9468/palmbibl.htm>.

If you have published papers (or post-graduate theses) pertaining to Brazilian *Arecaceae*, that are not listed, send the complete bibliographical references for inclusion in the pages. Your name will be, of course, added to the “Acknowledgments”. Contact: Celso Lago Paiva, Researcher on Palms Ecology and Economic Botany, State University of Campinas—UNICAMP; Phone/Fax: +55 19 227-5548.

Medicinal Plant Project, University of California, Santa Barbara. Website: <www.globalmedicine.ucsb.edu/MPP/MPP.html>.

The URL listed below could use our help. When browsing it, I found it to be devoid of ethnobotany and more of an exchange for potential unqualified herbal medicine, and herbal drugs. I hope some of you can add a few comments to their chat room and add more credible ethnobotany. —Editor.

Ethnobotany Café Website: <<http://countrylife.net/ethnobotany/>>.

BIONET has new phone and fax numbers, but the address and website will remain the same: 1630 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009; Phone: 202-238-0550; Fax: 202-238-0579; Website: <www.bionet-us.org>.

Grazing in the Field

Notes from Members about their field work or experiences

Slide Exchange

I am a long-time member of the Society of Economic Botany. Several years ago you were setting up a slide exchange for economic plants. You outlined the various categories in the SEB Newsletter, Vol. III, November 1989, while calling for contributions. I have not heard much mention of this project lately and I found no reference to it in a search, albeit a cursory one, of Plants & People back issues. Does this slide resource exist? Also, do you know of any digital repositories of high resolution images of economic plants? These would be images suitable for magazine publication, large prints, interpretive signage, etc. Slides would be useful in our public programming, which, in recent years, has focused more intensively on economic botany.

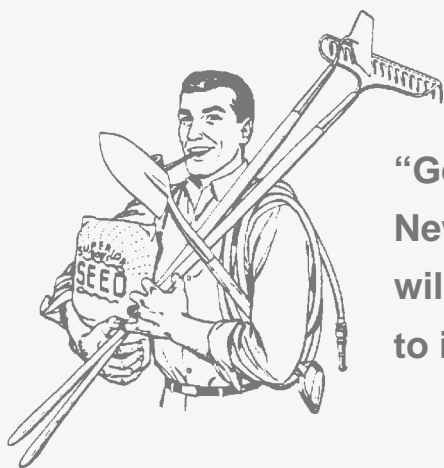
Jack Lord, Publications Editor, Curator, RBG Medicinal Garden, Royal Botanical Gardens, P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, ON L8N 3H8; Phone: 905-527-1158, ext. 222; Fax: 905-577-0375; Email: jlord@rbg.ca; Website: <www.rbg.ca>.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

Dear Jack,

The reason you have not seen recent notices about the slide exchange is that I was unable to move the masses to send me copies of slides to exchange. I would hope now that we have a web page this may facilitate an exchange. There are many pictures of plants available from various sources, but still a limit to photos of people and plants, especially people processing plants. I welcome your ideas about how to reinstate this project.

Trish



**“Germplasm
News and Views”
will return next year
to its familiar place.**

Seeking Botanical Photos

Francisco Perez Raya, a doctor in Pharmacy and Professor of botany at the Granada University is building an image bank about Iberian flora (Spain and Portugal), in which a good number of endemisms (above all from Sierra Nevada mountains and southern Spain) are included.

Two CD-roms with a total of 800 good quality images in tiff format, with a size of 800x600 and resolution of 300 dpi, are available. He would like to exchange these CDs for others of similar characteristics. The photographs are of good quality educational, botanical, and professional purposes.

Contact: Dr. Francisco Pérez Raya, Dpto. de Biología Vegetal (Botánica), Univ. Granada, Spain; Phone: +34958243915; Fax: +34958243912; Email: frperez@platon.ugr.es; Website: www.arrakis.es/~jahita/.

Plant Contributions Needed

Ms. Trish Flaster,

I am teaching a course on medicinal plants and am looking for some plant species that I can use as display or maintain in my greenhouse space at the University of Connecticut. I have only started, so any species (live plants or propagation materials) that you are able to contribute will be accepted with appreciation. Thanks.

Usha Palaniswamy, Ph.D.

Email: palanisw@spf1n1.ucc.uconn.edu

Update From Michele Kay

Hi! I just wanted to let you know that I appreciated all the Urban Ethnobotany related articles found in the Plants & People Spring 1999 newsletter. It is a growing field where an Ethnobotanist can fit into. I have a M.Sc. in Ethnobotany and recently did a 6-month contract with the Canadian government working with Traditional Herbal Medicines (mostly reviewing DIN applications). Now I'm doing a 6-month contract with a pharmaceutical company and although most of my work now does not deal with THMs, I hope this will change in the future.

Michele Kay

UK Liaison Address Change

Here is a change of address for our Council member and UK Chapter Liaison:

Dr. Peter Lapinskas

26 Deepdene Wood

Dorking

Surrey

RH5 4BQ

United Kingdom

Phone/fax: 01306 88 25 28 (from UK);

+44 1306 88 25 28 (from overseas)

Email: PLapinskas@BioSys.net

Continued on page 15

Grazing in the Field

Continued from page 14

Seeking Research Assistant Position in Ethnobotany

Dear Ms. Flaster,

I am writing because I have seen your name on a number of ethnobotany web pages, and I found your list of graduate programs very helpful. I thought you might have some suggestions or advice for me, as I am very interested in pursuing a graduate degree in ethnobotany and I have been looking into programs that offer ethno/economic botany study. I would really like to gain some more field experience before returning to school. I have a degree in biology from Swarthmore College and have had a variety of experiences in plant sciences. I spent a summer interning at the NYBG's Institute of Economic Botany under Dr. Michael Balick, working on medicinal plants from Belize and curation of a small collection of Indonesian plants under Dr. Charles Peters. I also have extensive experience working at the University of Colorado Herbarium and the Swarthmore College Arboretum.

As a member of the Environment and Health team at Physician's for Social Responsibility, I was able to understand more about the complex relationships between people, the environment, and public policy. Although I really enjoy the biology side of things, it is clear to me from my experiences that working with people and learning from diverse groups is an essential part of what I hope to study. I am looking for any research assistant position that might give me more exposure to fieldwork in ethnobotany, and I'm pretty flexible about geographical location and compensation.

Sofie Beckham, Phone: 828-433-9189; Email: sbeckham10@hotmail.com.



South Africa's Green Gold: Traditional Medicine

KwaZulu-Natal's (KZN) human population is approximately eight million. It is estimated that eighty percent of the inhabitants of this South African province use traditional medicine in some form or another. Over four hundred plant species have been recorded as traded in the medicinal markets in KZN, representing an industry worth two billion rand per annum.

Intense harvesting of medicinal plants has led to the threatened status of some species. Endangered plants traded in Durban's city markets include *Scilla natalensis*, *Eucomis autumnalis*, and *Ocotea bullata*. To prevent total devastation of natural populations, Silverglen Medicinal Plant Nursery was begun in 1986. The aim of this local governmental operation is threefold: education, propagation, and the conservation of plant material used in traditional medicine.

Central to Silverglen's objectives is the passing on of horticultural skills to local practitioners of traditional medicine, collectors, and street traders via a three-day training course. Students stay on site and are included in the day-to-day running of the Nursery. Slide and video presentations are also part of the training program. Emphasis is, however, placed on the practical aspect of knowing and growing medicinal plants. The course also seeks to show the scope of opportunity in the medicinal plant industry and promotes awareness in the need for the sustainable use of our medicinal plant resources.

The potential of South Africa's green gold has not yet been fully realized. It is hoped that Silverglen will continue to stimulate local business development in the field of traditional medicine, while preserving native resources.

Contact: Richard Symmonds, Durban Parks Department, Silverglen Medicinal Plant Nursery, P.O. Box 3740, Durban 4001 South Africa; Email: richards@durban.gov.za.

A Letter from Carolyn Cook

Dear Trish,

In 1977, I first met and fell in love with Irian Jaya's people and rain forests. I lived here in the mining town of Tembapura with my husband and children for 7 years. After working as a volunteer and establishing education programs for women in four villages, I decided to return to school so that I could better understand the complex problems facing the natural resources and the people of highland Irian Jaya. It took me more than ten years of coming and going and degrees from three different universities to prepare myself for the tasks ahead. My Ph.D. research was on the natural resource management of the Amungme people of Tsinga Valley. I lived with them for one year in their very isolated area learning as much as I could from them about everything they used from forest, fallow and garden....

Contact Carolyn for more about her fieldwork at: Carolyn_Cook@fmi.com.

Student Network Established at SEB '99

During the course of the International Botanical Congress, I was overwhelmed by the sheer number of botanists, not to mention the impressive list of economic botanists/ethnobotanists, who were in attendance. I recognized names whose publications I had read and was excited to finally meet them and put a face with a name. But when it came to students in this field, I had no idea who anyone was. A few of us began discussing ways in which we could organize the student attendees and we decided that an informal dinner and a night of dancing would be a great start. Although it was last minute planning, there was an excellent turnout for the dinner and about a dozen die-hards made it to Club Viva. I hope that a student mixer of this sort will be an annual event at future SEB meetings.

Also established was the creation of an Economic Botany/Ethnobotany Student Network. The main reason for such a network was the hope that it would foster open channels of communication and facilitate dialog among

student colleagues. Although the Student Network is still in the preliminary stages of development, some thoughts about the function of the Network include:

- Circulate abstracts of research proposals to establish lines of communication among students conducting research on similar topics or in similar areas of the world.
- Develop standardized research methodologies, which will foster comparative studies and possible co-authorship of publications.
- Develop a mentoring system whereby graduate students further along in their studies can assist newer students in developing meaningful research projects.
- Alert each other about upcoming funding/research/internship/job opportunities and informative websites.
- Organize topic discussions concerning how "we", as the next generation of "ethno-types" would like to see the field defined and applied.
- Establish lines of communication that will bridge the gap between ethnobotanists,

anthropologists, biologists, economists, chemists, and others.

- Share creative ideas and fresh perspectives that will enhance our collective learning experience.

The Student Network will be housed in the SEB website.

Write to join the listserv for students!

This Student Network will be housed in the SEB website, through the generous assistance of the SEB webeditor, Michael Thomas, a graduate student at the University of Florida. Let's work together to make this Network as useful as possible. I hope you all have a great year. Send your suggestions and comments to: Michael B. Casaus, Graduate Student, Cornell University, Email: MBC11@cornell.edu.



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