



# Society For Economic Botany Newsletter

# PLANTS & PEOPLE

A biannual newsletter published by and for the members of the Society For Economic Botany

Volume 23

Fall 2009

### In This Issue:

2010 Meeting .....	1
Notes from the Field .....	2
Bhutanese Travel .....	2
50th SEB Meeting-2009 .....	3
Letter from the President.....	5
Publications .....	6
Honoring Our Members .....	6
Cross Pollination .....	7
Jobs, Internships, Field Studies ...	7
Field Trips at 2010 Meeting .....	9
Botanizing the Web .....	10
Politics and Science.....	16
Meetings.....	18
In Memoriam.....	19
Open Science Network.....	20



## 2010 ANNUAL MEETING of the SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY XALAPA, VERACRUZ, MEXICO June 6-June 10, 2010

Dear SEB Members,

It is our pleasure to announce the upcoming SEB's 51st Annual Meeting that will take place in Xalapa, Veracruz, México, June 6-10, 2010. To commemorate this occasion, we are planning a series of activities where stimulating scientific meetings will be complemented with remarkably beautiful and cultural scenery.

The surrounding ambiance of the city and the state is characterized by a great diversity of flora and a wide ethnic configuration, which is the perfect environment to discuss this year's main theme: agrobiodiversity. The objective is to present a set of approaches that promote the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its uses in a number of themes such as ethnobotany, community conservation, food production systems, food self-sufficiency, among others.

Along with the academic program, we are also putting together a mixture of unique field trips that will take you to the main archeological sites

of the state and learning journeys to local markets and regional coffee plantations.

As host institutions, the Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales (Citro) at the Universidad Veracruzana and the Instituto de Ecología, A.C. (INECOL) are working to make your participation an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Please visit the SEB's web page (<http://www.econbot.org>) as we will be updating all information.

On behalf of all the members from the organizing committee, we look forward to meeting you in Xalapa.

Greetings,

Valentina Martínez Valdés  
Local Conference Coordinator  
[vamartinez@uv.mx](mailto:vamartinez@uv.mx)

**Continued on page 8**



*Plants & People*

**The Newsletter of  
The Society  
For  
Economic Botany**

**Web site:  
<http://www.econbot.org>**

## Newsletter Committee

**Trish Flaster, Editor**  
1180 Crestmoor Dr.  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Email: [newsletter@econbot.org](mailto:newsletter@econbot.org)

**Mike Balick**  
**Charlotte Gyllenhaal**  
**Kurt Allerslev Reynertson**  
**David Theodoropoulos**  
**Bill Dahl, Webmaster**  
**Gail Wagner**  
**Jamie Whitacre**

**Tita Young**  
[www.WordScribe.com](http://www.WordScribe.com)  
*Designer*

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

I love this time of year as we harvest dinner every evening from our gardens and begin to pull the quilts up to our chins as Autumn approaches, at least here in Colorado.

I hope you all have enjoyed your summer in the field and are preparing for the upcoming seasonal changes.

This issue highlights our 2009 annual meeting, its council meeting, and the multiple symposia well organized by John Rashford, Sarah Khan, and Karen Hall.

The students have been active, no surprise here, as they continue to excel. There are many articles submitted by them.

Finally, there is the 2010 meeting in Xalapa,

Pues, Hasta Mexico

*Trish Flaster*

Trish



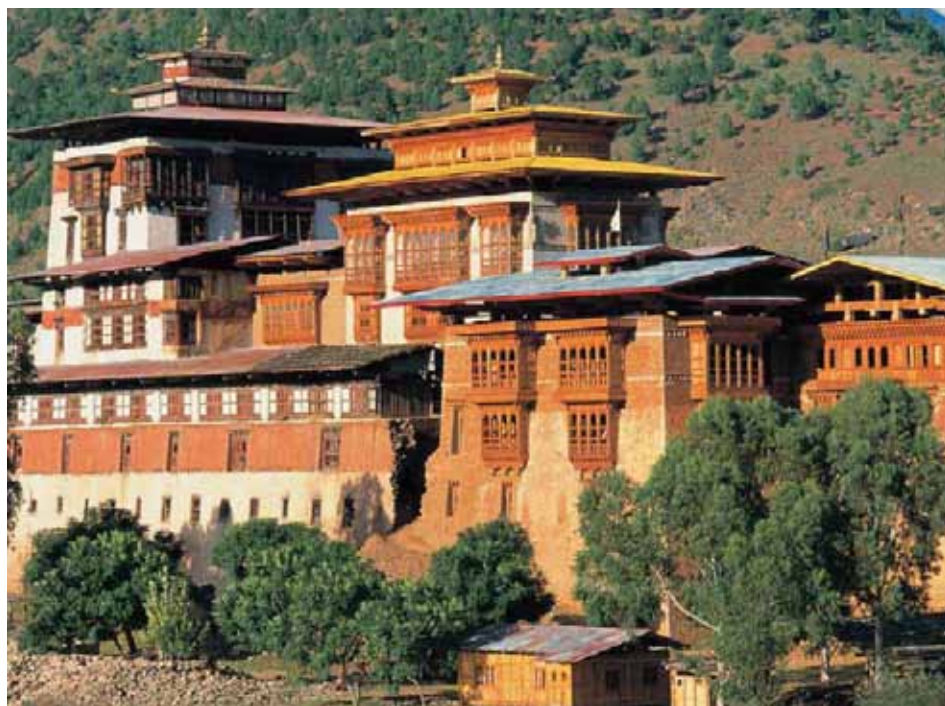
### Bhutanese Travel Opportunity

Consider this travel opportunity to Bhutan in July 2010. You will experience an amazing journey to immerse yourself in Buddhism, participate in the culture, visit the Institute of Traditional medicine to learn about their medical system, and see the incredible sites Bhutan has to offer. It is a rare opportunity to walk in the footsteps of those who went before, carrying the traditions and those that will follow. On some days there are lectures to orient you to the culture and spiritual richness of the country. Other days are spent in walking the land to see its herbals and visit with her people.

Intrigued? 15 days in Bhutan for \$3,750, all expenses included except airfare to Thailand. A bargain to see the pristine country of Bhutan,

which is questioning how to conserve their land yet support progress and maintain their spirituality. The itinerary begins with the Medicine Buddha Empowerment given by his holiness Ngawang Tenzing at the community monastery in Namker, Paro, and a trip to Punakha Dzong, one of the grandest dzong, a fortress built in 1637 AD. It was at one time the capital of Bhutan before the 1950s and Gangtey monastery, the only Ng-ingmapa monastery west of the Black Mountain range and home to the rare black-necked crane. The monastery completed a major renovation a year ago under the guidance of Gangtey Tulku

Please contact Trish Flaster [tflastersprint@earthlink.net](mailto:tflastersprint@earthlink.net) for the detailed itinerary.



## 50th Annual Meeting—2009: A Review

### Awards from the 2009 SEB Meeting

Mike Balick and Nina Etkin are the  
2009 Distinguished Economic Botanists

#### 2009 DEB Address

by Lisa Offringa and Jillian De Gezelle

This year marked the 50th Annual Meeting of the SEB and honored two Distinguished Economic Botanists, Dr. Michael Balick and Dr. Nina Etkin. Dr. Etkin, a professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, was very highly regarded in our community for her impressive research career and accomplishments.



Her family members accepted her award posthumously and Paul Ross, Nina's husband, and Lisa Gollin, a colleague from the University of Hawai'i, spoke in remembrance of her life and inspiring work.

Dr. Balick is the Vice President for Botanical Science, as well as the Director and Philecology Curator of the Institute of Economic Botany (IEB) at The New York Botanical Garden. He gave a presentation after the acceptance of his award, which followed the banquet held at the College of Charleston. He shared images and stories telling of his past research experiences, current projects, and lessons for future work.

During his talk, Dr. Balick acknowledged his great mentors, noting that science advances only by standing on the shoulders of giants. In his career, these giants have included mentors like Richard Evans Schultes and Sir Ghillean Prance. Our discipline, he noted, is in a constant and accelerated state of evolution. It would have been difficult to pay them back, so to speak, for all they had done for him. He discussed the ways in which he has alternatively decided to "pay it forward," by giving back to others as a mentor to his own students, post-docs and research assistants, who are working to advance their own careers in Ethnobotany. He spoke on the importance of students challenging the ideas of their mentors, and that sometimes our critics are our best teachers.



This concept of paying it forward can have a far greater reach than merely within our own institutions, as Dr. Balick's work illustrates. Central to his collaborative research projects is the training of local ethnobotanists in the countries in which his research is conducted. For the younger generation he has helped long-time collaborator, Dr. Rosita Arvigo, organize an annual "Bush Medicine

Camp" for children in Belize, to educate and revive an interest in their own traditional medicine. In Micronesia, his studies recognizing canoe making as an endangered cultural keystone practice led to the development of a public educational program on traditional canoe building. This practice is innately tied to and dependent on knowledge of the local biodiversity, requiring participants to identify and utilize over two dozen plant species for a canoe's construction. Projects like these are integral to the IEB's research model, sharing the common goal of extending the cultural knowledge of plants into the next generation, a "generation of conservationists."

Dr. Balick strives to include a wide range of collaborators in much of his work. He mentioned many of the traditional healers he has worked with over the last 20 years by name in his presentation, and with fond and clear memories. Dr. Balick gave recognition to several healers through co-authorship on various scholarly publications. The recently published book, *Ethnobotany of Pohnpei: Plants, People and Island Culture*, compiled by Dr. Balick and collaborators, was copyrighted in the name of the Pohnpei Council of Traditional Leaders and had 21 local authors. The success of his programs can be attributed to working in conjunction with local communities to include benefit sharing and recognition of their contributions. Dr. Balick's extensive research experiences, reaching far and varied corners of the globe, provide innovative models for raising the bar in regards to our collaborative research partnerships with communities.

It was apparent that this year's two Distinguished Economic Botanists, Dr. Michael Balick and Dr. Nina Etkin, have both successfully 'paid it forward' to many in our community, by the appreciation and emotion expressed by their students and colleagues during the Banquet. Memories of Dr. Nina Etkin are held close by those who knew her, and those who had the honor of working with her. Her legacy lives on through her students who blossomed under her committed mentorship and her many publications for future generations to read. The Society was privileged to honor these two distinguished scholars, whose shoulders we will surely stand on for many years to come.

### Review of the 2009 Morton and Fulling Awards

Submitted by Rick Stepp, University of Florida

The **Julia F. Morton Award** was first presented in 1997 in memory of her scientific research and dedication to the Society of Economic Botany. The award is presented for the best poster at the annual meeting for students or young profession-

als (5 years or less post-doctoral experience). *The winner this year was Rebecca Hamilton for her poster "Investigations of Essential Oil Combinations as Antimicrobial Agents in Cosmetics."* The abstract of this work is as follows: "Essential oils have been used traditionally as preservatives in cosmetics and personal care products. Currently, the personal care industry is searching for natural alternatives to synthetic preservatives and antimicrobials. Substantial research exists on the antimicrobial activity of single essential oils, but few studies have focused on the synergistic effects of essential oils in combination. In this report, the antimicrobial activity of essential oil mixtures against three microorganisms, officially recognized by the European Union as required for determining preservation stability in cosmetics, were investigated. The objectives were to determine the presence or absence of synergistic effects of selected essential oil mixtures against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Candida albicans*. A collection of essential oils, selected on the basis of composition, fragrance compatibility, and documented antimicrobial activity against *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, and *C. albicans*, were used in this study. The activity of the oils alone and in combination; were accessed using the agar disk diffusion method. Synergistic actions against the microorganisms are measured at the minimum inhibitory concentration of each oil and monitored by comparison of individual oils to combinations. Differences in diffusion of oils in the agar was recognized and adjustments made to limit this as a factor in the observations. Measurements on inhibition zones around the disks indicated that individual essential oils had significant antimicrobial activity and that the activity of the oil was related to applied concentration. Inhibitory concentrations differed among the oils." The 2009 committee awarded an Honorable Mention to Jane Bradbury for her poster "Oxalic Acid and the Tuber pH of Oca (*Oxalis tuberosa* Molina): An Initial Investigation into the Role of Organic Acids in the Domestication of Oca."



Sir Ghillean Prance and Hardy Eshbauh, two DEBs, catch up with each other between papers.

Continued on page 4

## 50th Annual Meeting—2009: A Review

The **Edmund H. Fulling Award** honors the life and scientific pursuits of the founder and first editor of the journal *Economic Botany*. It is given for the best contributed oral paper at the annual meeting by a junior professional (with a degree for no more than five years). The paper is invited to be published in *Economic Botany*, subject to normal review. At the meetings, a three-person ad-hoc committee judges papers presented at the annual meeting. After evaluating all of the eligible papers, the committee unanimously chose Anna Bailie's presentation entitled "Phytogeographical and genetic variation in mountain ash, *Sorbus* spp., a traditional medicinal plant of the James Bay Cree." The abstract is as follows: "Mountain ash (*Sorbus decora* or *Sorbus americana*), a member of the family Rosaceae, is used as a traditional medicine by the Cree of Northern Quebec for treating a variety of ailments, including different pain symptoms. This tree, along with other plants of the eastern boreal forest, has recently been identified as a therapeutic candidate for Type 2 Diabetes, a metabolic disorder approaching epidemic prevalence among the Cree, as well as other Aboriginal groups globally. Laboratory analysis shows both species of *Sorbus* as good sources of antioxidants, which could prevent the some symptoms associated with diabetes. However, antioxidant capacity was observed to vary according to location and species (Fraser et al. 2007). Analysis of expression of precursor genes for likely active phytochemicals identified geographic structuring according to both latitude and location (Bailie et al., unpublished). As part of an innovative integration of molecular biology into ethnobotany, differences at the genetic level were tested using microsatellites. Genetic differences will then be used to understand differences in gene expressions and phytochemical profiles among *Sorbus* spp. populations. Twenty populations of *Sorbus* from the areas surrounding five communities in the James Bay Region from four different latitudes ranging from 50° to 55° N were sampled in August 2008. DNA was extracted from leaves dried on silica, from both *S. decora* and *S. americana*, via a modified CTAB protocol. Five microsatellite primers were adapted from those previously developed for *Sorbus torminalis* (Oddou-Moratorio et al. 2001). Antioxidant capacity of samples was also analyzed to determine if a correlation existed between populations and medicinal activity. Genetic structuring is observed according to location, including between coastal and inland populations. Latitude was found to play a significant part in differences observed. Variations in antioxidant capacity were observed between and within populations, as well as according

continued from page 3

to tissue type, with medicinal ability linked with expression of phytochemical genes. In conclusion, both environment and genetics impact the creation and activity of antidiabetic phytochemicals in *Sorbus*. Molecular genetics can be used to explain variation within medicinal plants, and isolate what are the most active components of tissues used in traditional preparations. A better understanding of the origin of phenotypic characteristics, such as secondary metabolites of ethnobotanical interest, is necessary in assessing plants used by Aboriginal peoples as well as for establishing the basis for their potential benefits and future application."

### Symposia

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Society of Economic Botany



Conference participants enjoy a visit to the Sweet Grass Festival in Mount Pleasant following the conclusion of the conference. From left to right: Sarah Kahn, Bob Bye, Lisa Gollin, Edelmira Linares, Gail Wagner, Ian Martin, Sonia Vougioukalou, Pesach Lubinsky, Gene Anderson.

in Charleston, SC, Sarah Khan's **The Tasting Cultures Group** organized an art exhibit and an education panel in collaboration with The Avery Research Center, art historian Henry J. Drewal, and the Society for Economic Botany's 2009 Past President and Planning Chair, John Rashford of The College of Charleston.

The education panel, entitled "Tasting Cultures: African American Foodways in the Americas", introduced the SEB community to three lively and dynamic experts, Jessica Harris, John Mason, and Michael Twitty, who presented on the broad field of African and African American cuisine, agriculture, and religion. A focus on foodways was particularly appropriate since Charleston and South Carolina Lowcountry represented one of the major entry ports for people of African descent. Africans and their descendants throughout the Americas contributed to food and culture in the Southern United States. How do you taste memory? How do you connect to your history, your traditions and your ancestors? Up-rooted from ancestral lands, Africans arrived with their minds and cultural heritages intact despite the horrors of the "Middle

Passage." Enduring adversity, enslaved Africans put down roots in the soils of the Americas and grew new crops (as well as old) with resourcefulness and creativity. Africa's contributions to the Americas are many. In particular, African American foodways, as expressions of multiple ethnicities and histories, mixed and stirred with Indigenous American, European, and Asian foods to create a distinctive mélange of culinary traditions.

Foodways are a vital contribution to culture. Oral histories related to foodways—home remedies, recipes, culinary practices, farming and foraging practices, religious rituals, and the environments that gave rise to these traditions—are rich areas of traditional ecological knowledge. A focus on foodways is particularly appropriate since Charleston and South Carolina Lowcountry represented one of the major entry ports for people of African descent. Africans and their descendants throughout the Americas contributed to food and culture in the Southern United States. With African Atlantic foodways as the focal point, presentations, performances and the artists' exhibit and panels will highlight complex, multiethnic, and diverse Southern culinary histories.

After the presentation, the SEB Community headed to the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture for the opening of "The Art of African/American Foodways" co-

curated by Sarah K. Khan and Henry J. Drewal. The artists' exhibit provided engaging multimedia works that represent the numerous contributions African culture has made

to the African Atlantic world as it relates to ethnobotany, food, and culture. The artist participants included Bolaji Campbell, Sonya Clark, David Driskell, Amos Paul Kennedy, Michelle Tejuola



Painted Gourd by Michelle Tejuola Turner



Turner, and Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees. In addition, Obakunle enlivened the exhibit with an interactive shekere performance that related to the beautifully sculpted and painted gourds in the show.

The exhibit "The Art of Foodways" will be traveling and

Continued on page 11

## Letter from the President

Dear SEB members,

The Society for Economic Botany is moving in exciting new directions at the beginning of our second half-century. We are becoming an increasingly international society, with annual meetings being planned for Mexico and Europe in 2010 and 2012, respectively. We are beginning to cooperate more with our sister societies, such as the Society of Ethnobiology (SoE) and the International Society of Ethnobiology. Both of these new directions were advocated by several members who responded to our survey, and they are also among my own goals for the SEB. Additionally, I am very pleased that the society's Student Network is becoming increasingly active. I hope you are as excited about these new directions as I am. To keep this letter short, I will write more about all these initiatives in the future, and here briefly mention just a few other items. I'm sure that you all noticed the fine work of our new Editor-In-Chief, Bob Voeks, of CalState Fullerton, when you received the latest issue of *Economic Botany*. Dan Moerman is a hard act to follow, given the improvements that he made during this term as EIC, and this is never an easy transition to make, but Bob is doing an excellent job at it. We hope that Bob will be willing to continue as EIC for many years to come.

I welcome our new incoming members of the SEB Council, Jeanine Pfeiffer and Linda Lyon, both council-members-at-large, and Laura

Shiels, Student Representative, as well as our new President-Elect, Mary Eubanks. I look forward to working with you all. Many thanks to Jim Miller, our immediate Past President, and to outgoing Council members Rick Stepp, Mary Eubanks, and student representative Arika Virapongse.

I would also like to mention that the SEB Council decided that it would be helpful to have an official meeting coordinator, who would act as a guide and resource to help the local organizers of our annual meetings, and provide the society's institutional memory with regard to those meetings. We were pleased that Rainer Bussmann, director of the William L. Brown Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and a very experienced meeting organizer, has accepted this role.

Finally, I'm sure that all who attended the 50th annual meeting in Charleston, SC, will join me in congratulating John Rashford for pulling together such a remarkable conference. It will be hard to top the way the City of Charleston and the local culture were included as part of the program. Whereas it is somewhat of a tradition to include some local cuisine and field trips to local sites of interest in our conferences, this meeting "raised the bar" in terms of making connections with the local community — both within and outside of the scientific program. Highlights included a fascinating reception talk by Joyce Coakley on Gullah traditions, culture, and sweetgrass baskets,



**Bob Bye quizzes a basketmaker at the Sweet Grass Festival.**



and several presentations about local environmental issues, from urban planning to the effects of development on the local people and land. In truly transdisciplinary style, the symposium on African Ethnobotany in the Americas in the scientific program was linked to several cultural presentations, including local musicians, the Food Panel on African Atlantic Ethnobotany and Foodways organized by Sarah Khan, as well as the accompanying art exhibit that Sarah curated with her husband, Henry Drewal. Sweetgrass basket makers were present in person, as well as represented in films, books, and artwork. Those of us who had been unfamiliar with Charleston had a wonderful introduction to the city and the surrounding Lowcountry. We will remember this meeting for a long time to come.

I look forward to working with all of you during this special anniversary year. Please contact me if you have any questions about how you can get involved in the SEB.

Best wishes,

Eve Emshwiller  
University of Wisconsin—Madison



**Gail Wagner, Linda Different Cloud, Sonia Vougioukalou, and Pat Harrison visit Angel Oak near Charleston**

## Publications



**HerbalGram, Winter 2009;81 Has a amazing article on climate change and plant medicine:**  
*The Effects of Climate Change on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*

### Agroforestry

Check out the free publications listed at this site:  
<http://agroforestry.net/index.html>

### The Overstory

The Overstory is a free e-mail journal for agroforesters, gardeners, researchers, professionals, and enthusiasts, focusing on design concepts for agricultural systems which integrate trees and other perennial plants.

**First Call for Papers:** <http://www.iipj.org/>  
*The International Indigenous Policy Journal* is pleased to announce an Open Call for Papers for 2009. Submit to: [callforpapers@iipj.org](mailto:callforpapers@iipj.org).

1. This is an open call for first year one! No deadline!
2. The Journal will be posting articles on a rotating basis - adding new articles as they are accepted.
3. Comparative international content is a priority.



4. Historical methods, qualitative, and quantitative approaches and mixed methods are all acceptable.
5. For the first issues, articles will be published in English only. Abstracts will be translated into Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.
6. A "policy paper" section will be published in the future. These articles will be less stringently reviewed as they aim at more popular discussion of a policy or set of policies.

#### *What Is Acceptable:*

- a) Any rigorous research that has policy relevance and relates directly to indigenous peoples.
- b) Articles can relate to a single country or single population group but such articles should have policy implications/lessons that are relevant.

## Honoring Our Members

### **Nagib Nassar, SEB Member Celebrates 50 Years Teaching and Research**

Conserving wild cassava, a *Manihot* species native to Brazil and Mexico, was the most fascinating work in my career. I began to collect and conserve *Manihot* for crop improvement 35 years ago. In 1975, my first mission was on behalf of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture was in Brazil. I was a visiting scientist sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations at the University of Sao Paulo.

Collecting wild species encouraged me to plant and propagate them at the Universidade de Brasilia. Five years later, I provided IITA with hybrid seed. These gave rise to cultivars that are now planted in about 4 million hectares, allowing Nigeria to be the first producer of cassava. See <http://www.geneconserve.pro.br/iita2.gif> and [http://www.geneconserve.pro.br/decades\\_of\\_cassava.pdf](http://www.geneconserve.pro.br/decades_of_cassava.pdf).

From the 1980s until present, I worked on the discovery of apomixis and transference of its genes, producing the first apomictic cultivar of this crop.

My experience with teaching gave me my greatest strength. Teaching was like composing a piece of music, and building an orchestra, all the time a strong friendship with my students from the moment they joined my class up to their graduation.



My fifty years teaching were divided at Cairo University from 1958 to 1974 and the University of Brasilia. This multi-culture exposed me to a broad range of learning styles and allowed me to acquire a number of different teaching methods. In Cairo University I taught Horticulture and Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources. In Brasilia University I taught Plant Breeding, Organic Evolution, Evolution of Cultivated Plants, Basic Cytogenetics, Cytogenetics Methods and Techniques, Economic Botany, Plant Breeding of Perennial Crops, and Botany of Cassava on both graduate and post graduate levels. These courses are now taught at the federal universities of Goiás, Vicosa, Rio grande do sul, Brasilia, Feira Santana, and Sao Paulo in Brazil, the Pan American center in Costa Rica, and Bern University in Switzerland.

## Cross Pollination

### Diabetes In the Wild

I have heard two or three people say that non-western, traditional peoples can/do diagnose “diabetes” by noticing that the person’s urine is “sweet” because the urine attracts ants or butterflies. Such practice has always been of the “someone told me” sort—“Someone told me that people diagnose diabetes by. . .” but I have never found a genuine first-person report, or any published report, first person or otherwise. If anyone has ever heard such testimony from traditional peoples somewhere, or has seen a published report, or knows someone who did, please let me know. Many thanks,

Daniel E. Moerman, [dmoerman@umich.edu](mailto:dmoerman@umich.edu)  
William E Stirton Prof. Emeritus of Anthropology  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

### BGCI Survey

#### *How prepared is the United States to meet future botanical challenges?*

The Chicago Botanic Garden and Botanic Gardens Conservation International’s U.S. office are working with several partners to assess strengths and areas for improvement in plant science education, research, and habitat management in the United States. This one-year, grant-funded project involves four key stages: (1) literature review, (2) survey of the botanical community, (3) workshop with key stakeholders, and (4) production and distribution of a report. For more information about the project see: <http://www.bgci.org/usa/bcapinfo>.

The survey is now ready and we are looking for participants. If you are involved in plant science research, education or natural resource management in the United States, we need your help. Please help us get a better picture of the U.S. botanical capacity by taking our anonymous survey!

The survey has been split into four different groups, please select the one group that best describes you:

1. University/college faculty: <http://tinyurl.com/lwlnr>
2. Graduate student (Masters or Ph.D.): <http://tinyurl.com/kv2ca8>
3. Federal agency staff: <http://tinyurl.com/mb8upj>
4. Individuals working at non-profit organizations: <http://tinyurl.com/mj3taw>

You can also access or share the survey links on the web by going to <http://www.bgci.org/usa/bcap>

Thank you for your participation! Your contribution is crucial to the study’s success and is greatly appreciated.

NOTE: All surveys are anonymous, will take ~15 minutes to complete, and cover topics such as

academic background, research & management interests and expertise, access to resources, & opinion on conservation issues. Survey results will be summarized in a report that will be freely available online in mid-2010.

Andrea T. Kramer, Ph.D. [andrea.kramer@bgci.org](mailto:andrea.kramer@bgci.org)  
Executive Director, U.S. Office  
Botanic Gardens Conservation International  
at Chicago Botanic Garden  
Phone: 1-847-835-6971  
[www.bgci.org/usa](http://www.bgci.org/usa)

### Association for African Medicinal Plants Standards <http://www.aamps.org/en/>

Professor Arnold Vlietinck, AAMPS member, is headquartered in Mauritius. AAMPS, Scientific Advisory Committee was in Burkina Faso (July 23-30) to work with Professor Hassanata Millogo (AAMPS Director) on setting up the proposed **AAMPS laboratory accreditation program**. They visited various laboratories and related medicinal plant facilities in Burkina Faso and consulted with local lab technicians and other experts to get an idea of the key problems and also how to develop a stepwise accreditation program. This single country visit will be a “test case.” Once this process is completed, a regional or Africa-wide funding proposal to develop the accreditation program in different regions will be written. We will do this in association with the International Foundation for Science (IFS) who have recently undertaking a review of Academic Laboratory facilities in several African universities. The AAMPS scheme will not be restricted to academic labs, but will also include private and public R&D and Public Health laboratories.

### Healing Seekers

Thank you for sharing so much information and ideas. It pleases me to know more people are aware of the value of medicinal plants to the world. If I may, please allow me to share a non-profit organization with which I am involved called Healing Seekers ([www.healingseekers.com](http://www.healingseekers.com)). This group films healing practices used by intact indigenous cultures and creates documentaries to teach the public. So much of this knowledge is being lost and we hope to play a role in preserving it. I believe you will enjoy the trailers on the website.

Best regards,  
John

John W. James, [jamesjw4@gmail.com](mailto:jamesjw4@gmail.com)  
Healing Seekers/CuraCaza  
336 655-3568

*True religion is real living; living with all one’s soul, with all one’s goodness and righteousness.*

—Albert Einstein

## Jobs, Internships, Field Studies

### Where Ethnobotanist Are Needed...

The University of Hawai‘i, Botany Department and the National Tropical Botanical Garden will be offering an intensive Conservation Ethnobiology Field School on the island of Kauai‘i, January 3-February 12, 2010. The course is intended for advanced students with a background in biological and social sciences. More information and applications may be found at: <http://sites.google.com/site/conservationethnobiologyfield/Home>.

### Employment

\*Regional Educator\*\* (Horticulture/Native Plants-Saline County, Missouri)\*

Lincoln University is seeking to hire a Regional Educator in the area of Horticulture/Native Plants. This position will be located in Saline County, Missouri. A Masters of Science in Horticulture, Plant Science, or closely related agricultural field is required. Please visit [www.lincolnu.edu/pages/110.asp](http://www.lincolnu.edu/pages/110.asp), for a complete job description.

### United Plant Savers’ Intern Program

2009 apply now for 2010

Goldenseal Sanctuary, Rutland, Ohio  
Spring program ~ Scholarships available April 2010  
Hard Working? Motivated to learn about medicinal plants? Want to experience United Plant Savers’ 360-acre plant sanctuary in Ohio?

Join us in our UpS Sanctuary Intern Program!  
NEW! Applicants will now be accepted on a first-come basis. As soon as your application and references are received and reviewed, we will inform you of your status. We will no longer wait until the application deadline to accept final applicants.

Interns will learn...

- General plant propagation techniques
- Working with “At-Risk” and endangered species
- General farm upkeep and maintenance
- Greenhouse work
- Medicinal plant identification
- Sustainable wild harvesting principles & practices
- Medicine making

Interns work 30 hours/week doing a variety of medicinal plant conservation and cultivation projects. Classes and opportunities to work with staff teachers and Chip Carroll, Program Manager. Details available online at [www.unitedplantsavers.org](http://www.unitedplantsavers.org). Call or write for details and application. Betzy 802-476-6467 or Lynda 707-824-0731 [plantsaversmail@earthlink.net](mailto:plantsaversmail@earthlink.net) or [lynda@unitedplantsavers.org](mailto:lynda@unitedplantsavers.org)

Lynda E. LeMole, Executive Director, United Plant Savers, [www.unitedplantsavers.org](http://www.unitedplantsavers.org)  
phone: 707-824-0731, fax: 707-824-0279,  
email: [lynda@unitedplantsavers.org](mailto:lynda@unitedplantsavers.org)

## SEB's Annual Meeting: 2010

*continued from page 1***Agrobiodiversity, lessons for conservation and local development**

As conflicts between biodiversity conservation issues and economic development turn into a worldwide concern, answers are emerging from different sectors to create alternatives to face the environmental crisis and its consequences. Under this situation, agrobiodiversity, understood as a set of social construction of habitats and cultures together with agricultural systems containing diversity of species and landscapes, appears to become important in addressing issues such as food security and poverty reduction. However, agrobiodiversity is also meeting challenges of its own that put into consideration the obligation to generate a deep analysis of all the influencing factors. For example, the capitalist expansion influences social inequities, the reduction of natural resources, climate change, and the loss of local knowledge. Consequently, in a changing world, answers must be provided and agrobiodiversity plays an important role in presenting explanations and valuable lessons around problems associated with human well-being. Therefore the 2010 meeting, carried out in the International Year of Biodiversity, will host serious and innovative discussions concerning important agrobiodiversity-related issues.

1. From Plant Use and Domestication to Vegetation Management: The Role of Local Communities for Conservation

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) are considered to be key for an integrated conservation strategy. In countries like Mexico, Natural Protected Areas (NPA) correspond to a very small percentage of the national territory and are not necessarily representative of all ecosystems needing conservation. Also ANP often subsist in contexts of social conflicts, for which alternative strategies for conservation that integrate social needs are required. Furthermore, the connection between biodiversity and culture is better understood and it is now recognized that often, local people integrate as part of their natural resources management system, the conservation of particular areas. These

areas are important, and persist, given their cultural value and are now widely recognized as part of a national conservation strategy. However, this topic is seldom discussed in the academic settings. We consider that it could be a novel topic for the SEB, as it is a current subject, relating the implications of the connections between plants and people. For this subject relevant topics include ethnobotany and ethnobotany, including the corresponding discussion on property rights, the value of plants and the management of areas for their conservation, issues regarding biocultural value, among others.

2. Ethnobotany of economics plants: local knowledge, commerce and sustainability

Under the circumstances of habitat reduction, cultural disintegration and the loss of botanical knowledge, ethnobotany portrays multiple risk scenarios. Yet, in an unequal world it can also be seen as a contributor to the development of rural and urban societies, as the description of new species and the reappraisal of the already known emerge as useful information. However, this combination of economics and flora resources encourages not only scientific questions but also a wide set of thoughts related to political and ethical decisions. This topic will then open discussions and the presentation of papers related to sustainability of ethnobotanic resources, resource access and equity, rescue and conservation of local knowledge as well as economic development of rural and urban settings and commercialization of economic plants in local and global contexts.

3. Food self-sufficiency & economic botany: a subsistence agriculture point of view.

Scientific development has demonstrated interdependence between social and environmental settings around the countries in the globe. Nevertheless in today's world, access to food resources has become a problem of inequality where some societies tend to consume more than necessary and others are pushed to deprivation limits. This area will give an opportunity to reflect on the concept of food security and the role of economic botany with particular emphasis on agrobiodiversity, as well as the different strategies used by groups, societies and nations to face challenges within this subject.

4. Ancient systems of food production

Industrial food production systems have

evolved into complex processes involving the implementation of sophisticated technologies and extended supply chains, a process that has paralleled to the loss of cultural local knowledge. In contrast, ancient systems of food production have been primarily based on social and environmental interactions that have been established by a solid local knowledge regarding natural resources and their management, and through time, have been able to adapt to local environmental conditions. However, these systems have become vulnerable due to external factors. May these ancient practices have the potential to offer viable alternatives for today's challenges? This theme will allow the presentation of experiences and ideas around genetic varieties, use of traditional species with organic production and food security potential, analysis of local agroecosystems, and other challenges faced like property rights, species loss, etc.

5. Special Symposium: Plant domestication as an ongoing process: Implications and applications for conservation and resilience.

Through a series of case studies, this symposium aims to highlight how the dynamic and recurring processes of local selection, introgression, intercontinental diffusion, adoption and re-adaptation continue to give rise to novel varieties. The speakers will illustrate how a better understanding of these processes can be incorporated into more effective strategies for the conservation and use of genetic resources, and provide farmers, breeders and consumers with increased options for responding to social, economic and climatic change. The invited speakers will be selected to reflect a global perspective and the scope of their presentations will be encompass crop diversity at the gene pool level, including cultivated varieties as well as closely related wild species.

The symposium will present some novel approaches to promoting the conservation of agrobiodiversity, and its uses to improve food security and reduce poverty in farming communities. Building upon public awareness opportunities associated with the International Year of Biodiversity, a symposium on crop evolution, and its application towards the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, would serve to highlight the importance of this most important subset of biodiversity.

**THE CALL FOR PAPERS WILL BE OPEN IN THESE AREAS FOR ORAL AND POSTER SESSIONS. ALSO, THERE WILL BE SESSIONS DEDICATED TO CONTRIBUTED PAPERS.**

## Field Trips at SEB's 2010 Meeting

A set of unique field trips are being organized. They will take the participants on journeys around the region to archaeological sites, local markets, coffee plantations, and other sites of interest.

### 1. Anthropology Museum of Xalapa

<http://www.uv.mx/max/>

**Approx. Cost:**

USD\$10. Entrance fee, guided tour, and transportation are included.

**Date and Time:**

4pm-6:30pm, Sunday 6th of June. Bus leaves from Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.

**Description:**

The Museum of Anthropology of Xalapa presents almost 30 centuries of art and history. It guards the most important collection of pre-Columbian works produced by the civilizations that inhabited the state of Veracruz and have been recognized as one of the most important cultures in Mesoamerica, like the Olmecs. There are 18 galleries and 4 patios that hold more than 2,500 archeological pieces.

**Language:**

English and Spanish

**Suggested Schedule:**

The guided tour of the museum will last one hour and a half and is scheduled to end before the opening reception starts.

**Departure Site:**

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa

### 2. Two Guided Tours to the Francisco Javier Clavijero Botanic Garden

<http://www.incol.edu.mx/jardin/JBC/inicio.htm>

**Approx. Costs:**

USD\$12. Transportation and refreshments such as tea and fruit will be available. Entrance fee is also included.

**Date and Time:**

Two hours: One and a half with the guide, and 30 minutes for free visit, souvenir shop or so.

**Participants:**

10 Min; 30 Max per tour.

NOTE: There is a possibility to offer a third guided tour if there is demand: 30 participants, 2 hours.

**Description:**

Guided tours are developed for showing visitors the botanic garden, its living collections and what is the work being carried out. It seeks to provoke interest, relating plants with daily visitors' life and

revealing outstanding facts. National collections of cycads and bamboos are highlighted. It is of special interest to show how the garden is involved with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

**Language:**

English and Spanish: Two visits in English (one on Sunday 6th, one on Friday 11th); Two in Spanish (one on Sunday 6th, one on Friday 11th)

**Suggested Schedule:**

Sunday June 6: 10:00 – 12:00

Friday June 11: 10:00 – 12:00

**Departure Site:**

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa

### 3. Ethnobotany in a Local Market of Xalapa (Mercado Toluca)

**Approx. Cost:**

USD\$14 per person. Includes a 7 page photographic guide and a packet of dried plants and seeds. NOTE: Meals are not included.

**Date and Time:**

Sunday June 6.

**Participants:**

15 min.; 20 max

**Description:**

We will begin at the Hotel with a brief introduction to the markets of the region and we will review a photographic guide booklet where some recommendations will be given. We will then visit the market, where everyone can wonder around at their own pace. After our visit we will meet back at the hotel where we will comment on what was seen. You will be given a small packet of seeds, flowers, and dried condiments.

**Language:**

Spanish with simultaneous translation to English.

**Suggested Schedule:**

9:00-9:30am Introductory talk of the regional markets, particularly the "Toluca" Market. We will review the small guide book before going.

10:00-11:30am Visit to the Market

11:30am Return to the Hotel

12:00-1:00pm Comments on the visit

**Departure Site:**

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa: 15 min. walk to the market

### 4. Overnight Trip to Las Cañadas, Huatusco.

<http://www.bosquedeniebla.com.mx/>

**Approx. Cost:**

USD\$145 per person. Includes transport to/from Xalapa, 3 meals, room (double or single), and guided tours.

**Date and Time:**

Depart by bus Friday June 11 @ 8am, from Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.

Return to hotel by bus Saturday June 12 @ noon,

**Number of Participants:** 15 min.; 22 max.

**Description:**

A one-hour ride from Xalapa, through picturesque countryside and small towns, takes us to Las Cañadas, a local cooperative living on the edge of 306 hectares of mostly cloud forest on the foot hills of the Pico de Orizaba, Mexico's highest volcano. The cooperative's aim is to live and produce in a sustainable manner. They involve local farmers, schools and neighboring land owners in the conservation of resources. Around 40 hectares are used for rotational intensive grazing for dairy cows, agroecological food production and other infrastructure. Activities include permaculture, agroecology, ecotechnology, environmental education, and bio-construction. The other 266 hectares are for the recuperation and conservation of the cloud forest.

**Language:** English

**Suggested Schedule:**

Note: There will be 9 hours of activities, not counting meal times.

**Friday June 11**

8:30 am: Meet at the Hotel Crowne Plaza to leave for Las Cañadas.

10:00 am: Audiovisual presentation of Las Cañadas Project

11:00 am: Guided tour through the Cloud Forest

2:30 pm: Lunch

4:00 pm: Guided tour through the Agroecological Center

5:30 pm: Sustainable live stock farming and the seed production tour

7:30pm: Dinner

The night is spent at Las Cañadas Lodge.

**Saturday June 12**

8:00 am: Breakfast

10:00 am: Return to Xalapa Hotel Crowne Plaza

**Departure Site and Arrival Site:**

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa



**Botanizing the Web**

**U.S. Forest Service attempting to regulate gathering of plant materials**

By Vincent Schilling, Today correspondent, Mar 3, 2009  
 VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — On Dec. 29, 2008 the U.S. Forest Service issued a measure attempting to regulate the gathering of native plant materials on Forest Service lands. The ruling would regulate tribal members that gather any plant materials used for basket making, traditional medicines, ceremonies and food.  
<http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/national/40663497.html>

**Highlights from the March Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science newsletter, the COPUS Clarion, Available online at**

<http://copusproject.org/resources/COPUS-Clarion-2009-03.pdf>

**Native Seeds/SEARCH (Southwestern Endangered Aridlands Resource Clearing House)**

Here is a great webpage to browse for volunteering and possible employment.  
<http://www.nativeseeds.org/about/employment>

**This article links wild food to conservation and suggests marketing as a conservation tool.**

Certified organic wild crops in any development plan can be a demonstration of the sustainability of the wild harvest. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29629/icode/>

[http://www.gjfreepress.com/article/20090415/COMMUNITY\\_NEWS/904149983/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1059](http://www.gjfreepress.com/article/20090415/COMMUNITY_NEWS/904149983/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1059)

**Curt's Corner: Planting the seeds of learning at Ethnobotany Teaching Garden**

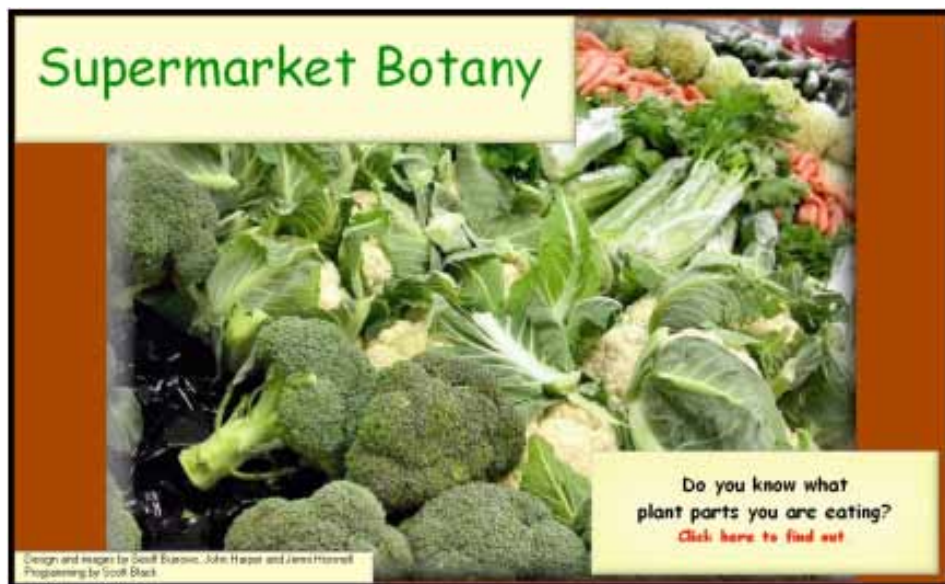
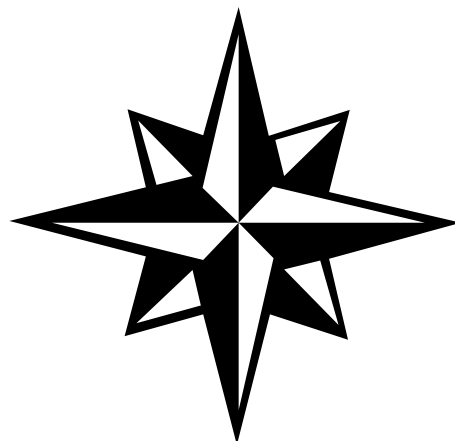
By Curt Swift  
 Last Friday and Monday, the Ethnobotany Teaching Garden at the Mesa County Fairgrounds started to take shape. Friday's planting activities involved getting in several clump aspen trees, three ponderosa pines and six freshly-dug pinyon pines.

Last Monday, thanks to Jeffrey Zentlin's class of 23 kids, five *Cercocarpus montanus*, three *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, three *Juniperus scopulorum*, seven *Ephedra viridis*, five *Yucca baccata*, nine *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, three *Atriplex canescens*, three *Atriplex confertifolia*, three *Ceratoides lanata*, six *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, seven *Artemisia tridentata*, three *Amelanchier utabensis*, five *Rhus trilobata*, and five *Linum lewisii* along with the remaining *Populus tremuloides* went into the ground. If some

of those names are not familiar to you they should be. They are all native to western Colorado.

Dr. NARENDRA KUMAR KIRTIBHAI PATEL has created a website. Check it out for a good summary of events in of the history of Ethnobotany.  
<http://plantethnobotany.ning.com>

Gail Wagner, Ph.D. has several times presented interesting research papers on the general knowledge of plants within our human population. Here is another approach: <http://www.csu.edu.au/research/grahamcentre/education/>. This web page supplies is an innovative way of presenting Supermarket Botany information. It is designed both to give accurate botanical information and as a way to interest school students in botany.



**50th Annual Meeting—2009: A Review**

transforming in each location: expected exhibits are planned for Oxford, MS, New Orleans, LA, and Milwaukee, WI, in 2010. For a detailed overview of the education panel and the Avery exhibit and future venues, visit [www.tastingcultures.com](http://www.tastingcultures.com). Our speakers and artists are pictured below, from left to right: John Mason, Jessica Harris, and Michael Twitty.

**Symposium of African Ethnobotany in the Americas**

Submitted by John Rashford

It is a justifiably well-established tradition in the history of ethnobotanical studies to focus on people/plant relations in association with cultures that have lived for millennia in a given environment. This year's 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany continued this important tradition, but it also examined the influence of migration on people/plant relations, and it did so in the context of the extraordinary worldwide movement of people and plants that was an essential part of the early development of our now globally interdependent way of life. To this end, the 2009 meeting included a symposium entitled "African Ethnobotany in the Americas," as well as contributed papers. This topic was fitting for Charleston as a historic port city that has played an important part in the early development of colonial plantation systems in the Americas, systems largely based on African labor. Conference participants were able to explore the history, landscapes and botanical legacies of this development, which has become a key aspect of tourism in Charleston. In addition to the South Carolina Lowcountry and North America generally, symposium presentations on African Ethnobotany in the Americas included current research in the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

The symposium sought to address three key questions. First, how did the forced migration of over 10 million Africans to various parts of the Americas—including their movements in association with resistance, post-emancipation conditions, and economic and educational opportunities—influence their knowledge and use of native and introduced plants, especially those plants from Africa and Asia? Second, what are the current ethnobotanical legacies of the Atlantic trade for New World African

*continued from page 4*

use of plants in such areas a food, medicine, craft, art, religion and cultural identity? Lastly, what is the current state of the scholarship on African ethnobotany in the Americas?

I would like to thank the symposium participants for the presentations, which were well received, and a special thanks to Joyce V. Coakley, a Mount Pleasant native, basket maker, writer, and historian who, as the Featured Speaker of the Opening Reception, welcomed conference participants to Charleston and its Gullah Culture; George Benson, the President of the College of Charleston who gave a wonderful overview of the history of the College of Charleston; Mayor Joseph Riley, who gave an inspiring introduction to the extraordinary history and development of Charleston; and Dana Beach, Director of the South Carolina's Coastal Conservation League, who gave an eye-opening account of environmental concerns in the Lowcountry.

John Rashford and Bob Voeks will edit the publication of the Symposium. Look for that in the future.

Symposium and contributed papers relevant to the topic of African Ethnobotany in the Americas included the following.

**Seeds of Memory: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World**

*Judith A. Carney*

**Comparative Ethnobotanical Knowledge of an Amerindian and Maroon Community for Three Vegetation Zones in Suriname, South America**

*Bruce Hoffman*

**African Ethnobotany in Brazil: Botanical Homogenization in the Black Atlantic**

*Robert Voeks*

**Ackee in Costa Rica: Afro-Jamaican Roots and Central-American Fruits**

*Joseph B. Powell*

**Agrobiodiversity in the Urban Landscape: Reflections of the African Diaspora in Local California Food Markets**

*Laura R. Lewis*

**Ecological Effects of the Carolina Rice Industry: 1685 to the Present**

*Richard Dwight Porcher Jr.*

**Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art**

*Dale Rosengarten*

**Urbanization and NTFP Transformations: The Political Ecology of Sweetgrass (*Muhlenbergia filipes* or *M. sericea*) in Greater Mt. Pleasant, S.C.**

*Brian Grabbatin*

**A Quarter Century of Coastal Development and Conservation**

*Dana Beach*

**Afro-Mexican Ethnobotany: An Overview**

*Robert Bye*

**African Medicine in America**

*Dan Moerman*

**Diffusion and Ethnobotany of the Afro-Brazilian Berimbau**

*James Sera*

**Evil Nature: The Malicious Use of Plants in Afro-Brazilian Sorcery**

*Brian Brazeal*

**What Makes A Plant Magic? Symbolism and Sacred Herbs in Afro-Surinamese Rituals**

*Tinde van Andel*

**Comparative Ethnopharmacology in the Sierra Leone-American Connection**

*Cyrus Mac Faoy*

**African Influences on Yucatec Maya Agriculture**

*E. N. Anderson*

**Empowered Knowledge: An Afro-Mexican Pharmacopoeia in Diasporic Perspective, Central Veracruz**

*Natalie (Naya) Jones*

**The Transported Landscape of Immigrant Rice Cultivators: Southeastern U.S. and Hawai'i Compared**

*Mark Merlin*

As blue color on cloth, indigo permeated the city of Charleston through this once-important dyestuff made real by enslaved peoples, the Eliza Lucas Pinckney family and others. "Black and Blue: Indigo as Substrate for Cultural Exchange" was presented to attendees by Karen Hall (Ethnobotanist) and colleagues Andrea Feeser (Art historian), and Kendra Johnson (Costume

Continued on page 12



A vendor setting up her wares at Charleston's Market

## 50th Annual Meeting—2009: A Review

history). The presentation was followed by a live demonstration of an indigo vat.

### Indigo Workshop by Karen Hall

A substantive dye that involves reduction-oxidation chemistry, indigo is a particularly interesting hands-on example of ethnobotany. As cloth is submerged into the vat, it transforms from white to green as it absorbs the dye. The color transformation from green to blue only occurs in the presence of free oxygen and thus, the redox transformation happens in real time as the cloth emerges from the vat. Other cultures describe indigo vats as being 'alive' or 'fertile' and take care to keep them in working condition. Chemically speaking, oxygen introduced into the vat makes the solubilized indigo fall out of solution, therefore, making it unavailable to fiber. Balancing the delicate nature of the dye with the excitement of conference attendees was a pleasure. To my mind, indeed the vat is 'alive'!



Gail Wagner shows off the scarf she dyed in Karen Hall's indigo workshop

### Gender Issues in Ethnobotanical Fieldwork: Workshop Summary from the SEB Annual Meeting June 3/2009

By Anna Bailie and Laura Shields

The "Gender Issues in Ethnobotanical Fieldwork" workshop hosted by the Student Committee at the 2009 SEB meeting in Charleston sparked a great deal of interesting discussion and debate about approaches to fieldwork as well as impacts of gender issues on the result of ethnobotanical studies. Just a few of the interesting issues brought up during panel member presentations by Sonia Vigoukalou, Art Whistler, Mark Merlin, Janine Pfeiffer, Naya Jones, Bob Voeks, Robert Bye and Edelmira Linares, Jocelyn Mueller, and other workshop participants included:

- The interplay between gender, researcher and the informant and how this can bias research in various respects;

*continued from page 11*

- How ethnobiological knowledge comes from variables that are often strongly correlated with gender (health, food, etc.);
- Dealing with social taboos, ability to collect data, safety issues;
- Race and gender;
- Benefits and unique issues involved with dual-gendered collaboration (ethnobotanical couples conducting fieldwork together);
- Contrast of perspectives and experiences of male and female researchers who independently conducted ethnobotanical studies at the same site;
- Debate about the pros and cons of working with local translators/assistants of the opposite gender, and the importance of careful selection of such assistants; and
- How homosexuality may affect rapport with a community.

If this topic interests you, please join our online discussion found under the SEB Facebook Fan site at <http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=83383997077&topic=9078>.

### 1st Annual Heiser Award given to Hugh Popenoe ... What Inspires Good Students Are Great Mentors

Submitted by Charles de Souza

The 50th Annual Meeting of The Society for Economic Botany in Charleston was my first experience interacting with people passionate about plants and society outside my home institution in Virginia. There was such a variety of participants either directly or peripherally involved with economic botany at the meeting, it was akin to having the chance to meet The Jonas Brothers, Radiohead, and the Rolling Stones all in one place. There was a head-spinning diversity of personalities, research foci and perspectives, and all delivered at a breakneck pace. I remember first falling behind schedule on the first day when John Rashford came around during breakfast and reminded a few of us that Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. was already waiting in the auditorium. The Mayor spoke so passionately and sincerely about his work that I completely forgot about my lonely, half-eaten bagel back in the cafeteria.

Throughout the paper presentations I had the chance to deepen my understanding in areas that I am already interested in, as well as the opportunity to be enriched by research approaches tackling issues from very different angles. At times the presentations focused on the people and other times a focus on plant research.

The strong social aspect of the conference is what

ultimately made the deepest impression on me. While some attendees came from institutions with seemingly expansive economic botany departments, many of us came from institutions where there are only a handful of colleagues with similar interests, making these annual meetings truly invaluable. Many of the younger attendees were eager to make new connections while many of the more seasoned researchers were equally open, willing to assist and share their knowledge with less experienced ethnobotanists.

On Monday I attended the Workshop: Migrants and Their Knowledge and Use of Plants led by Christian Vogl. We all sat outside to enjoy the weather and take a break from the extreme air conditioning. While I was expecting an instructor leading a class, it was more of an open format roundtable where everyone in attendance shared their research. Despite the diversity of interests



and approaches, a few issues did emerge to focus the exchange. In such a short period of time, the open format proved itself ideal as someone could be approached after the formal meeting for a more

**Continued on page 13**

## 50th Annual Meeting—2009: A Review

continued from page 12

in-depth conversation. This listening, learning and sharing during formal sessions and then afterwards, informally connecting with people is what I found most valuable. This seemed the only way to go for a conference involving such broad issues, a diverse group of researchers and a finite schedule.

A very touching part of the conference and the culmination of what I experienced was the Charles B. Heiser Jr. Mentor Award presented to Hugh Popenoe. My exposure to Charles Heiser is mainly from having read and enjoyed his popular book on a few members of the *Solanaceae*, so I was thrilled to see this award in his honor. Hugh Popenoe's story was fascinating in itself, but more insightful were the many impassioned expressions of gratitude from his current and former students. It seemed everyone who knew him was aware of how fortunate they were to have the chance or to have had the chance to be in his presence.

I walked away from the conference having met new potential mentors, colleagues, and friends. I had the privilege to witness the passion of people engaged in work they love, people thrilled not only with what they do, but also with what could and what inevitably will be next. While my enquiries may not be as broad as those I encountered, I was reminded to keep my mind open as I start to narrow in on the types of questions I'll be working on in the coming years and remember the mentors I met.



Kim Bridges takes photos of the student attendees



Founding Members of the Society For Economic Botany

## And the 2009 Klinger Award Goes To...

On behalf of Dan Austin, Chair of the Mary E. Klinger Committee, and other members Nancy Turner, Eric Boa, John Rashford, the 2009 Mary E. Klinger Book Award goes to

Claire Hope Cummings

**Uncertain Peril. Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds.** (2008). Beacon Press.

*Uncertain Peril* is a beautifully scripted, clearly articulated treatise on genetically modified crop plants. The author, who has extensive legal background and experience in agriculture and environmental policy related to GMOs, proposes alternative approaches to industrial agriculture can be adopted from indigenous peoples' food production systems that work in harmony with nature. The book features the work of some members of the Society for Economic Botany, and points the way to changing our course for greater global food security.

## Richard E. Schultes Award

Reporting on behalf of the Schultes Committee composed of Rainer Bussman, Sarah Khan, and Mary Eubanks, the Schultes Award, which was created in 2001 to honor the late Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, is presented annually to a member of the Society who is a graduate student or who has received their degree within a year. It provides funding to help defray the costs of fieldwork on a topic related to economic botany. This year's award goes to **Ashley Duval** for her proposal to investigate the link between home garden acai domestication efforts with crop evolution and plant genetics resources in Brazil.



A Tea Taster provided a personal tour of the Charleston Tea Plantation for members of the Society on a field trip before the conference began

## Uncertain Peril

By Claire Hope Cummings

Claire Hope Cummings was an environmental lawyer for 20 years. An environmental journalist, she has also farmed in both California and Vietnam. Following is an excerpt from her new book, *Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds* (Beacon Press, 2008).

## Excerpt

*On a frozen island near the North Pole, a huge hole has been blasted out of the side of an Arctic mountain and a tunnel has been drilled deep into the rock. When the facility under construction here is completed, it will be lined with one-meter-thick concrete, fitted with two high-security blast-proof airlock doors, and built to withstand nuclear war, global warming, terrorism, and the collapse of the earth's energy supplies. It's known as the "Doomsday Vault," and in it will be stored millions of seeds and mankind's hope for the future of the world's food supply.*

*The idea is that in the event of massive ecological destruction, those seeds could be used to reconstruct the planet's agricultural systems. Exactly who might remain to begin replanting the earth after such a catastrophe is only one of the questions this astounding project raises. The more immediate question is, are seeds in peril? The answer is yes, especially the seeds that provide us with food, fiber, and fuel. Both the diversity and the integrity of seeds are threatened, in the wild and on our farms. They are being put at risk by agricultural technologies, patents and corporate ownership, and the overall degradation of the environment. The plight of seeds is one of the most important environmental stories of our time. Until now, however, this critical issue has not received the attention it deserves.*

**Field Trips at SEB's 2010 Meeting***continued from page 9***5. Cuenca del Río Actopan Tour***Approx. Costs:*

USD\$58. Includes transportation, meals and tour guide.

*Date and Time:*

9am-6pm on Friday, June 11

*Number of Participants:*

5 min.; 42 max.

*Description:*

50 km south of Xalapa is the Actopan River Basin where we will visit fragments of the deciduous tropical forest and see the tropical mosaic of this river basin. We will visit the source of the river and talk to the local producers of mango, chayote, sugar cane, maize, and livestock farming. We will have lunch at the edge of the river and end our day visiting the regional arts and crafts shop in Xalapa and tasting some regional coffee in a very local café.

*Language:*

Spanish with English translation.

*Suggested Schedule:*

9:00am: Departure from Hotel Crowne Plaza  
 9:45am: Visit fragments of deciduous tropical forest  
 10:45am: Tour through the plantations of sugar cane, chayote and mango.  
 12:30pm: Visit to the source of the Actopan River.  
 1:30pm: Lunch in Chicuasen  
 3:00pm: Visit the regional arts and crafts shop in Xalapa.  
 6:00pm: Return to Hotel

*Departure/Arrival Site:*

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.

**6. Chavarrillo, a landscape of a rural community in Xalapa**

<http://www.cafaselva.com/paginas/historia.htm>

*Approx. Cost:*

USD\$70. The trip includes transportation, rural lunch, and tour guide.

*Date and Time:*

9am to 6pm on Friday June 11.

*Number of Participants:*

15 min and 34 max.

*Description:*

On this trip we will be able to see the altitude change between 610m to 1,100m in the mountain ranges of central Veracruz. We shall visit a rural community in the surrounding areas of Xalapa, visiting different types of vegetation in a mosaic of coffee and citrus fruit plantations. It is a great

place for people who enjoy hiking, as we shall have a guided walk to different areas of the *ejido* down paths between the coffee trees and tropical forests of immense natural richness and see plants that are in danger of extinction, orchids, and a wide diversity of birds.

*Language:*

Spanish with English translation.

*Suggested Schedule:*

6:00am: Departure from Hotel Crowne Plaza  
 6:30am-10:00am:  
 Tour of the *ejido* and bird watching.  
 11:00am-1:00pm:  
 Visit the lemon plantations.  
 1:00pm: Rural lunch  
 3:00pm: An introduction to the Birds of Prey Census Project  
 6:00pm: Return to Hotel Crowne Plaza.

*Departure and Arrival Site:*

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.

**7. The Coffee Plantations of Veracruz***Approx. Costs:*

USD\$70. Transportation, meal, and tour guide.

*Date and Time:*

9am to 6pm on Friday June 11.

*Number of Participants:*

15 min.; 32 max.

*Description:*

Coatepec, 20 minutes from Xalapa, is Mexico's coffee growing capital with a small mountain town feel. We'll visit a shaded coffee production ranch and see the plantation design, the useful species, and the care that the clouded forest trees receive. After lunch in a regional restaurant, we will visit the coffee museum and enjoy a coffee tasting session.

*Language:*

Spanish with English translation.

*Suggested Schedule:*

9:00am: Departure from the Hotel Crowne Plaza  
 9:45am: Visit La Onza coffee plantation ranch  
 12:00pm: Visit the coffee museum  
 1:30pm: Lunch  
 3:00pm: Visit the Cultural Center La Ceiba Gráfica situated in a beautiful old hacienda. (<http://www.laceibagrafica.org/>)  
 5:00pm: Coffee tasting in the Center of Coatepec  
 6:00pm: Return to Hotel Crowne Plaza.

*Departure and Arrival:*

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.

**8. Archeological Sites of Veracruz**

<http://www.delange.org/ElTajin/ElTajin.htm>

*Approx. Cost:*

USD\$230. It will include ground transportation, meals, one-night hotel room, and tour guide.

*Date and Time:*

7am, Friday June 11 – 7pm Saturday June 12

*Number of Participants:*

15 min.; 42 max.

*Description:*

We will be visiting some of the most stunning and significant archeological sites nestled in some truly spectacular areas of Veracruz. Tajín, with its unique and unusual structures still holds a strong feeling of mystique and wonder. Papantla, where we stop for lunch, is at the center of Veracruz's vanilla growing region, a small commercial town where it is not uncommon to see the Totonacs wearing their traditional clothes. We will spend the afternoon on the Costa Esmeralda and wind down with an afternoon by the sea and spend the night in a Hotel nearby. Saturday morning we will visit Quiahuiztlan, a pre-Hispanic cemetery situated on a verdant foothill with wonderful views of the coast, sitting beneath a rocky outcrop. We will then head towards what used to be the largest city on the Gulf of Mexico and the Capital kingdom of Totonacapan with a population of 30,000 at its peak, Cempoala. We will be back at the Crowne Plaza by 7pm on Saturday night.

*Language:*

Spanish with English translation.

*Suggested Schedule:***Day 1**

7:00am: Depart Hotel Crowne Plaza  
 11:00am: Arrive at El Tajin for a guided tour  
 2:00pm: Take the bus to Papantla for lunch and wonder around town and visit the murals.  
 4:00pm: Head towards Costa Esmeralda for an afternoon swim in the Golf Coast and stay in a Hotel in front of the ocean.

**Day 2**

7:30am: Breakfast  
 8:30am: Depart Hotel  
 10:00am: Visit the archeological sight of Quiahuiztlan.  
 1:00pm: Lunch at La Higuera Blanca, a famous fish restaurant on route.  
 3:30pm: Visit the Archeological site of Cempoala

**SEB's Annual Meeting: 2010***continued from page 8***Location**

The state of Veracruz is considered one of Mexico's most diverse and rich entities regarding flora. Its topographical and climatic varieties create an ecological mosaic with a vast range of plant and animal species. The plant communities present in Veracruz represent the majority of the vegetation in Mexico. Also, the state is rich in its ethnic configuration. Having been the home of past outstanding cultures, many of its current peoples maintain features of their original Totonac, Popoluca, or Nahuatl (to state a few) identities.

Xalapa is the capital city of Veracruz and is a lively university town, considered a cultural and educational center. It is at an altitude of about 4,500 feet and is surrounded by lush cloud-forested hills and mountains. Xalapa is one of Mexico's richest cities in trees and vegetation; it has many parks (El Tecajete, Parque Natura, Los Berros, Parque Juárez, the Museum of Anthropology, and Los Lagos del Dique), and ecological reserves throughout the city (Cerro de Macuipetel and La Martinica). There are coffee plantations, banana groves, and gardens all through the area, as well as fragments of conserved mountain forest types. Xalapa is home to one of Mexico's most important botanical gardens, Jardín Botánico Francisco J. Clavijero, committed to the study and conservation of native flora and especially to threatened and endangered species. The city has three major universities, a multitude of preparatory and technical schools, various institutes, art galleries, folklore groups, the outstanding anthropology museum, and the world-renowned Xalapa Symphony Orchestra.

**Venue**

The venue for the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany will be the Crown Plaza Hotel located in a privileged location at the entrance from Mexico City highway, only 10 minutes from Down Town (by ground transportation), 20 minutes from Coatepec, and walking distance from the Anthropology Museum. The Huasteco, Tolteca, Mexica, and Olmeca, the four conference rooms at the venue, will host all of the different sessions and events on the programmed for the meeting.

Breakfast and dinner will be served here, and most of the shuttle buses for social events and field trips will depart from this location.

Crown Plaza Hotel  
Av. Ruiz Cortines 912  
Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. 91010  
Hotel Front Desk Tel: 52-228-8423400  
Hotel Fax: 52-228-8423424

**Getting Here**

Fly to Veracruz International Airport and take a 90 minute bus ride to Xalapa, or fly to Mexico City and take a bus to Xalapa (4 hours, approx. \$20.00 US) or a connecting flight to Xalapa. Ground transfers can be arranged at the airport in Veracruz at the ADO stand in the national arrivals area. Bus schedules can be checked on line: [www.ado.com.mx](http://www.ado.com.mx). Bus schedules can also be checked on <http://www.ticketbus.com.mx>. Deluxe services offered by UNO and ADO GL, 1st class service by ADO, and 2nd class service by AU.

**Tentative Schedule Overview***Sat. June 5*

Arrival and activities on their own  
Meeting registration

*Sun. June 6*

Meeting registration  
Field trips to: botanical garden, local markets, museum of anthropology, Xalapa and surrounding towns.  
SEB Council meeting  
Opening Reception (Museum of Anthropology of Xalapa)

*Mon. June 7*

Meeting registration  
Symposia  
Poster session inauguration

*Tue. June 8*

Meeting registration  
Agrobiodiversity theme session  
Workshops  
Social event, Noche de fandango (Citro's garden)

*Wed. June 9*

Agrobiodiversity theme session  
Contributed papers  
Workshops  
Student mixer

*Thu. June 10*

Agrobiodiversity theme session  
Contributed papers  
Banquet & Distinguished Economic Botanist event (Francisco J. Clavijero Botanical Garden)

*Fri.-Sun. June 11 – 13*

Field trips to Las Cañadas, archaeological sites, botanical garden, cycads tour, and more.

**Registration and Abstract Submissions**

will be online at [www.econbot.org](http://www.econbot.org) beginning early November.

**Meeting Fees (USD)**

	Oct 1-Mar 31	Apr 1-June 6
	Early	Late
Member	\$270	\$320
Student	\$176	\$176
Student (Mexico)	\$86	\$86
Non-Members	\$350	\$410

These fees include meeting materials, breakfast, and dinner.

**Social Events****Opening Reception at the Museum of Anthropology. (Beverages and local food samples)**

Xalapa's Museum of Anthropology houses the largest collection of artifacts from Mexican Gulf Coast cultures such as the Olmec, the Huastec, and the Totonac with more than 2,500 pieces. The most notable pieces in the museum are the giant Olmec heads and the smaller Totonac ones, which are called "caritas sonrientes" (little smiling faces). The museum also contains a 40,000 sq. meter garden.

**Noche de Fandango at Citro**

*USD\$15 (Beverages and regional food samples)*

"Son Jarocho" and the "Fandango," which are part of the popular culture of the southern area of the state of Veracruz, occur in rural communities as well as in the cities of the Sotavento region. "Son Jarocho" is a regional genre, which resulted from the meeting of three worlds (Spanish, African, and Indigenous). Its ritual space is the "Fandango de Tarima." (More about Fandango at <http://losutrerablogspot.com/>)

**Banquet & Distinguished Economic Botanist**

*USD\$30 (Formal dinner & music)*

The Francisco Javier Clavijero Botanic Garden was inaugurated in February of 1977. It is located in Xalapa, about 500 km East of Mexico City, into the natural distribution of temperate montane cloud forest. Through its 30 years, the Garden has become one of the most important in Mexico.

**Official Meeting Hotel**

The Crown Plaza is a modern style hotel offering full services and only 15 minutes from downtown. Their normal rate rounds about \$130 dls. Nevertheless, the negotiated rate for all participants wishing to stay in their facilities will cost approximately \$90 dls (single-double) per night. We will be giving soon the reservation code to acquire this discount.

**Continued on page 17**

## Politics and Science

### AIBS Reports:

#### PRESIDENT VISITS THE ACADEMIES, SHARES PLANS FOR SCIENCE

President Barack Obama addressed the annual meeting of the National Academies on April 27, 2009. The President's address, a blend of history and vision, articulated the five pillars of his science policy. Additionally, the President challenged scientists to share "your love and knowledge of science to spark the same sense of wonder and excitement in a new generation."

Political pundits often seek to link current presidents to their predecessors. These connections are often tenuous, but can help frame modern policy discussions. That said, a unique linkage between President Obama and President Lincoln—both from Illinois—might be their recognition of the importance of science to our nation's well being. According to prepared remarks, the president said: "The very founding of this institution stands as a testament to the restless curiosity and boundless hope so essential not just to the scientific enterprise, but to this experiment we call America. A few months after a devastating defeat at Fredericksburg, before Gettysburg would be won and Richmond would fall, before the fate of the Union would be at all certain, President Lincoln signed into law an act creating the National Academy of Sciences. Lincoln refused to accept that our nation's sole purpose was merely to survive. He created this academy, founded the land grant colleges, and began the work of the transcontinental railroad, believing that we must add "the fuel of interest to the fire of genius in the discovery ... of new and useful things."

Moving forward, Mr. Obama said, "we face more complex set of challenges than we ever have before: a medical system that holds the promise of unlocking new cures and treatments - attached to a health care system that holds the potential to bankrupt families and businesses. A system of energy that powers our economy - but also endangers our planet. Threats to our security that seek to exploit the very interconnectedness and openness so essential to our prosperity. And challenges in a global marketplace which links the derivative trader on Wall Street to the homeowner on Main Street, the office worker in America to the factory worker in China - a marketplace in which we all share in opportunity, but also in crisis."

Alluding to recent battles with congressional Republicans over the scope of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Budget Resolution working its way through Congress, the President said: "At such a difficult moment, there are those who say we cannot afford to invest

in science. That support for research is somehow a luxury at a moment defined by necessities. I fundamentally disagree. Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been."

President Obama set forth his goal for science. "I believe it is not in our American character to follow - but to lead. And it is time for us to lead once again. I am here today to set this goal: we will devote more than 3 percent of our GDP to research and development. We will not just meet, but we will exceed the level achieved at the height of the Space Race, through policies that invest in basic and applied research, create new incentives for private innovation, promote breakthroughs in energy and medicine, and improve education in math and science. This represents the largest commitment to scientific research and innovation in American history."

In brief, the President pledged the following five steps:

1. Funding - to double the budget of the NSF, NIST, and Office of Science at the DoE. Also, the President will seek a permanent extension of the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit.
2. Clean Energy - the Administration will make an unprecedented commitment to a clean energy economy, including funding for the National Research Council recommended ARPA-E program at the Department of Energy.
3. Improving the U.S. healthcare system - ARRA funds will support computerizing America's medical records and seek to increase funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including doubling funds for cancer research.
4. The White House pledges to "restore science to its rightful place."
5. The President issued a renewed commitment to education in mathematics and science. Obama said "That is why I am announcing today that states making strong commitments and progress in math and science education will be eligible to compete for more funds under the Secretary of Education's \$5 billion Race to the Top program."

#### SCIENTISTS VISIT CAPITOL HILL: SUPPORT NSF, USDA RESEARCH

More than 30 scientists and graduate students traveled to Washington, DC on April 21-22, 2009 to meet with members of Congress about the importance of a predictable, sustained investment in biological, agricultural, and environmental science. They were in Washington, DC as part of the annual BESC/CoFARM (Biological and Eco-

logical Sciences Coalition/Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions) Congressional Visits Day events.

Among this year's participants were scientists affiliated with AIBS member organizations, such as the Organization of Biological Field Stations, Association of Ecosystem Research Centers, American Arachnological Society, and many others. Winners of the 2009 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award also participated in the event, as did several other graduate students.

The two-day event began with a briefing by senior staff from the White House, the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Congress. The briefing provided participants with an insider's view of the federal budget for research and development, and tips for effectively communicating with members of Congress. On the 22nd, participants fanned out across Capitol Hill for meetings with Representatives and Senators. This year, the group thanked members of Congress for their efforts to include \$3 billion in the ARRA (i.e., the economic stimulus package) for the NSF, and to remind members of Congress that a sustained and predictable investment in scientific research is required if the United States is to maintain its global leadership in science.

On April 21, representatives of BESC and CoFARM visited with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), the Senate Majority Whip, to present him with an award from BESC and CoFARM, recognizing him for his leadership on behalf of agricultural and environmental research. Representing BESC were co-chairs Robert Gropp and Nadine Lynn, director of public policy for AIBS and director of public affairs for the Ecological Society of America, respectively. Also representing BESC were Dr. Knute Naddelhoff of the Univ. of Michigan and Dr. Scott Collins of the Univ. of New Mexico. In discussions with the BESC and CoFARM representatives, Senator Durbin referenced the importance of agricultural research and extension to helping to stabilize troubled regions, such as Afghanistan and Haiti.

In addition to honoring Senator Durbin, BESC and CoFARM will recognize Representative Maurice Hinchey (R-NY). Hinchey has long supported investments in biological, environmental and agricultural research from his position on the Appropriations Committee.



## Field Trips at SEB's 2010 Meeting

### 9. Picturesque Towns

Xalapa, Coatepec, El Lencero, Xico

*Approx. Cost:*  
USD\$58.

*Date and Time:*  
9am Sunday June 6

*Number of Participants:*  
15 min; 22 max

*Description:*

Xalapa is primarily a cultural city with a wide variety of art galleries, cultural centers, theaters, and museums. Walking along the steep streets, feel the cool fog as you wander around the architecture, visit the quaint alleys, discover the legends and stop in one of the many cafés.

The lovely colonial city of Coatepec (declared World Heritage Site) is 5 miles from Xalapa. It's surrounded by lush vegetation, coffee plantations, and large quaint colonial homes with central patios blooming with flowers. Coatepec is known for its coffee production, its orchid variety, its singular cuisine and its ice cream. Visit the Church of the Virgin of Guadalupe and City Hall.

The Hacienda el Lencero Museum, with lovely gardens and a lake along with colonial architecture, houses pieces as well as furniture that go back to the 16th century. This hacienda originally belonged to one of Hernan Cortez' soldiers, which he used as a guest house. It was later sold and was converted into a bull-raising ranch and a sugar cane farm and refinery. By 1842, the property belonged to General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana.

Xico is a quaint town 12 miles from Xalapa. It's a coffee producing region that is also known for its wonderful cuisine, running the list from Mole Xiqueno to traditional egg bread to berry wine. With a natural backdrop that includes rivers cascades and cliffs, it is very much a traditional sort of place with frequent festivities. The most important of the festivities being the feast day of Santa Maria Magdalena, the patron saint of the town and they include traditional dances, fireworks and a Xiquenada (a Pamplona-style running of the bulls).

*Language:* English

*Suggested Schedule:*

9:00am Departure from Hotel Crowne Plaza to visit Coatepec, Xico, El Lencero  
5:00pm Return to Hotel Crowne Plaza.

*Departure and Arrival Site:*

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa.



*continued from page 14*

### 10. Conservation of the *Dioon edule* by the Rural Nursery in Monte Oscuro, Veracruz.

*Approx. Cost:*  
USD\$35.

*Date and Time:*  
Sunday June 6

*Number of participants:*  
5 min; 15 max

*Description:*

This trip will take us to a nursery where sustainable uses of *Dioon edule* are implemented and incentives for conservation for this species are developed. You will see simple cultivation methods in an area where *Dioon* has been rescued from road works, where they are being kept at the nursery for later relocation.

We will also visit an oak forest, habitat of the cycadas and orchids such as *Laelia anceps* (although it will not be flowering at the time of our visit).

*Language:*

Spanish with translator

*Suggested Schedule:*

9:30am Departure from Hotel Crown Plaza  
10:30am-  
12:30pm Visit the Monte Oscuro Nursery (a 20-min walk)  
12:30-  
1:30pm Visit the nearby oak forest  
2:00-  
3:30pm Lunch at a local restaurant  
4:00pm Return to Hotel Crowne Plaza.

*Departure and Arrival Site:*

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Xalapa



## SEB's Annual Meeting: 2010

*continued from page 15*

### Alternative Accommodations

There is no student housing or dormitories available for visitors; however there are some descent low cost hotels. Different lodging options include the following hotels and hostels in Xalapa, which can be an alternative for participants.

*Posada la Marquinita* is a block and a half from the cathedral but out of the hassle and bussle. It is a plant-filled guesthouse set in an 18th-century residence with rooms arranged around a garden.

*Posada de los Cafetos* is colonial style nestled in the center of town with neat clean and bright rooms.

Hotel	Stars	Approx. cost in dls. (single-double) per night
Posada La Marquinita <a href="http://www.lamariquinta.xalapa.net/">http://www.lamariquinta.xalapa.net/</a>	4	\$30-50
Mesón del Alférez	3	\$40-60
Los Cafetos	2	\$20
Hostal de La Niebla (Youth Hostel)	n/a	\$20
Hostal del Bravo	2	\$20

### Host Institutions

The SEB's 2010 Annual meeting to be held in Xalapa, Veracruz will be co-sponsored by two hallmark research institutions in the state of Veracruz with national and international recognition. Both institutions have major strengths in botanical, ecological, natural resource management and biodiversity research with significant roles in the promotion of conservation and sustainable development in Mexico. In addition, Biodiversity International will sponsor and provide support in organizing the Special Symposium.

### Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales (Citro), Universidad Veracruzana (CITRO)

*Contact Information*

Casco de la exhacienda Lucas Martín  
Privada de Araucarias. s/n.  
Col Periodistas. C.P. 91019.  
Xalapa, Veracruz, México.  
Tel/Fax: +52 (228)810-8263  
<http://www.citrouv.edu.mx/>  
<http://www.uv.mx/citro/intro.html>

**Continued on page 19**

## Meetings

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is actively recruiting candidates to participate in the fourth annual NIH National Graduate Student Research Festival, to be held November 12th - 13, 2009 in Bethesda, Maryland. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program in the United States and on schedule to complete your Ph.D. degree requirements by October, 2010.

NIH will select up to 200 students to spend two days discussing their research, meeting other U.S. students, learning about the research being done at NIH, and exploring postdoctoral training opportunities on the NIH campuses. The deadline for application is July 1, 2009. More information and the online application can be found at <http://www.training.nih.gov/postdoctoral/ngsrff/>.

If you have questions or require more information, contact Darryl M. Murray, Ph.D. at [murrayda@mail.nih.gov](mailto:murrayda@mail.nih.gov) or Dr. Jonathan Wiest at [wiestj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:wiestj@mail.nih.gov).

Cordially,  
Darryl M. Murray, Ph.D.

## SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY

These are exciting times in the world of ethnobiology and the Society of Ethnobiology continues to be at the forefront of the discipline.

Here's an update of some of our latest initiatives.

1. A new on-line publication series, "Contributions in Ethnobiology". Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/contributions>.
2. Free on-line access to Journal of Ethnobiology issues pre 2005. Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/journal/archives>.
3. The initiation of local chapters. Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/chapters>.
4. A new membership structure. Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/membership/join>.
5. A comprehensive textbook in Ethnobiology, coming 2010. Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/node/240>.
6. Our 2010 annual meeting in Victoria, BC, back-to-back with the ISE congress. Visit <http://www.ethnobiology.org/node/249>

Also, we're launching an advertising campaign to publicize our new publications. If you know of any newsletters or list serves that would be appropriate advertising venues, please let me know!!! Looking forward to seeing you in Victoria next year!

Dana Lepofsky, President

## Open Science Network

modules posted on our working site, with examples of evaluations completed on some. We are ready to invite others to post their curriculum modules on the site for evaluation and use by others. Instructions for posting to the site can be accessed at <http://sites.google.com/site/ethnobiologycenter/Home>. In addition, the site is rich with tools and information on education sites and curriculum resources. <http://sites.google.com/site/ethnobiologycenter/Home/osn-tools-information>

The next network meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2010 in Xalapa, Mexico. Anyone interested in participating in this project is encouraged to attend.

More information can be accessed at [http://www.wiserearth.org/group/opensci\\_ethnobiology](http://www.wiserearth.org/group/opensci_ethnobiology), and <http://sites.google.com/site/ethnobiologycenter/Home>. There you can take a look at the virtual meeting reports and some of the goals and benchmarks we've developed.

Don't miss the DEADLINE October 1, 2009

*continued from page 20*

Want to participate in the Open Science Network but need help with travel expenses to the next meeting in Xalapa? There are two competitions you can enter for a chance to win a travel award to the meetings prior to the next Society of Economic Botany meeting next June. One is competition to design a logo for the Open Science Network. The other will allow students, faculty and career ethnobiologists to contribute ethnobiology curriculum and/or participate in their evaluation. Winners will receive a travel award to the next meeting in Xalapa, June 5, 2010. Information about the competitions can be accessed on the WiserEarth site [http://www.wiserearth.org/group/opensci\\_ethnobiology](http://www.wiserearth.org/group/opensci_ethnobiology).



## 11th ISE Congress 2010 Continuity and Change in Ethnopharmacology: Transdisciplinary Science for our Future. In memoriam of Prof. Nina Etkin (2009)

The ISE's first congress took place about 20 years ago (Strasbourg 1990). This year (2009) the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, the official journal of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) will celebrate its 30th birthday and the term as such has now been used for more than 40 years. Several generations of ethnopharmacological researchers with diverse backgrounds and interest have shaped the field and today it certainly is a diverse and flourishing area of academic and applied research. While some decades ago we focused on what we considered 'traditional knowledge,' there now is an increasing focus on the dynamics of knowledge. Similarly, the last decades have made us more and more aware how crucial the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity is and that there is an intrinsic link between biological and cultural diversity. Ideas taken from traditional knowledge systems continue to be an important source of inspiration in drug development and at the same time 'new' food supplements and herbal remedies from 'traditional societies' are entering the market at an ever increasing rate.

Our 11th congress will address these dynamics and offer a unique opportunity to present ethnopharmacological work and discuss the wider implications of our research. It will be celebrated from Sept. 20–25, 2010 jointly with the first Spanish-Portuguese Symposium on Ethnobiology

at the University of Castilla, La Mancha in Albacete, Spain.

The main themes of the congress are:

- Ethnopharmacology and biocultural diversity
- Circum-Mediterranean ethnopharmacology / ethnobotany and its exchange with the Americas.
- From traditional remedies to modern medicines – phytochemical, pharmacological, and clinical studies.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their role in ethnopharmacology
- The interface between history and ethnopharmacology.
- The interface of medicine and food plants
- Various symposia including one organized by young ethnopharmacologists

The congress is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Nina Etkin, former president of the ISE and well known researcher with a special interest in the food and medicine interface. We will commemorate her life and work. For the very first time, we are also planning events for younger researchers in the field. I would like to invite you to contribute to this event and to share your experiences with the scholarly community.

Prof. Michael Heinrich  
President, ISE (2008 – 2010)  
Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy,  
The School of Pharmacy, University of London,  
Fax: +44-20-7753-5909, Tel: +44-20-7753-5844

## In Memoriam

Herbs Etc. founder, the “godfather of American herbalism,” dies at 68.

2/24/2009 - 2/25/09

Master herbalist Michael Roland Shaw Moore, a former Santa Fe resident, died last week in Tucson, Ariz., from complications of kidney disease.

Known as the “godfather of American herbalism,” Moore, 68, wrote a half-dozen books about herbs and trained hundreds of people in their medicinal uses.



“He’s going to have a lasting and significant impact on the whole direction of American herbalism,” said Mark Blumenthal, founder and executive director of the American Botanical Council in Austin, Texas. “Hundreds of people who have studied with him have started small businesses and schools, and have gone on to become herbalists.”

“He was a musician and a composer and he kind of saw herbs in a similar way,” said Buffy Siebel, who studied with him and is now manager of Herbs Etc. on Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. “Each plant had its place and had its beauty and had its use.... Every single plant, he would dote on it like it was the only plant in the world.”

“He fell in love with plant medicine and he pursued it his whole life,” said his widow, Donna Chesner, administrator of his Southwest School of Botanical Medicine in Bisbee, Ariz. “He pursued the old masters of the eclectic traditions in America and he made many outstanding contributions to the modern herbalism based on his own creativity, his own reading of the old texts and his own practice through many, many years of having a store.”

Born Jan. 9, 1941, in Bellingham, Wash., Moore grew up Los Angeles, studied music at the California Institute of Arts, became interested in herbalism and ran several herb shops in Southern California.

In 1970, he moved his herb shop from Topanga Canyon, Calif., to Taos, where he called it Herbs

Etc., and brought the business to Santa Fe the next year.

Siebel said that although Moore already knew about herbs before coming to New Mexico, he learned more from New Mexican Hispanics and began harvesting local herbs so he could supply them in the off-season. “Michael taught through metaphor in a way that really made you understand the concept about how the body worked and how the body responded to different plants and how plants worked,” she said. “He was just a brilliant teacher.”

Blumenthal recalled that he was living in a commune near Peñasco about 1971 when he walked into Herbs Etc. on Aztec Street to find out about medicinal plants, and struck up a lifelong friendship with Moore. “He would speak in a stream of consciousness,” he said. “He gave his classes sitting almost Buddha-like. He was kind of like a biker Buddha — big beard, long hair, kind of a paunch, T-shirt, always with the black vest.”

In the mid-1980s, Moore sold Herbs Etc. to an employee, Daniel Gagnon, who still owns the store, so he could concentrate on teaching. He moved from Santa Fe to Bisbee, then to Silver City, where he met Chesner. Together, they lived in Albuquerque, then returned to Bisbee, where they continued to reside until his death on Friday.

Chesner said Moore taught until 2006, when “his health did not allow him to teach anymore, so he spent years working on a home-study course — filming his entire 500-hour course (that) was reduced down to a DVD. ... He, of course, was extremely well-known in his field, so he fielded many calls and mentored many students.”

AHPA Joins Herbal Community in Celebrating Michael Moore and American Herbalism

*April 23, 2009* – The American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) was privileged to attend and help sponsor a recent conference to memorialize Herbs, etc.-founder and grandmaster herbalist Michael Moore. Held April 17-19 in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, the event brought together students, teachers, users and growers of herbs to celebrate Mr. Moore’s accomplishments and the many lives touched by the beloved “God-father of American Herbalism.”

Mr. Moore’s DVD home study courses – a materia medica and a course on clinical and constitutional herbalism – are available and interested parties should contact Dr. Dentali for more information (sdentali@ahpa.org; 301-588-1171 x103

## SEB’s Annual Meeting: 2010

*continued from page 17*

The principal mission of CITRO is to integrate research on natural resources and human-environment relationships. Since its creation, CITRO has focused on establishing a new academic paradigm, becoming an interdisciplinary institution involved in scientific research, technology development, environmental education and extension, with the objective of improving environmental, social and economic conditions of communities in the Mexican tropics. CITRO began its operations in 2003 as a result of a cooperative agreement between the Universidad Veracruzana (UV) and the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Since establishment, CITRO has made major research and development contributions in subjects ranging from ethnobotanical and botanical studies, diversification of agricultural and coffee agroecosystems, alternative production systems, application of geomatics for natural resource conservation and management, environmental education, as well as studies on water resources and watershed management. CITRO has also developed a nationally recognized graduate program for the UV.

### Instituto de Ecología, A.C. (INECOL)

#### Contact Information

Km. 2.5 Carretera Antigua a Coatepec # 351.  
Congregación El Haya. C. P. 91070  
Xalapa, Veracruz, México.  
Tel/Fax: 52 228 8421881  
<http://www.inecol.edu.mx>

INECOL is one of the CONACYT (Mexican Science and Technology National Council) federal research institutes. It is nationally and internationally recognized and has a trajectory of more than 30 years. Its mission is to produce scientific knowledge, develop technology, generate public opinion and prepare professionals on ecology, biodiversity, and natural resource management. The aim is to contribute to the conservation of the natural heritage and to social and economic development. With more than a hundred researchers and a graduate program, research is conducted on a multitude of topics including several aspects that relates plants and peoples. The INECOL has also been involved in the organization of several national and international symposia and conferences.

#### Local Attractions

A good start to visit Xalapa is taking a walking tour through the paved streets in downtown that go up and down and around galleries, parks, and museums. The historic State Government building, which has beautiful hand-made murals, is in front of the 19th Century Cathedral. A whole list of gardens, museums and architecture sites are listed here: <http://www.xalapa.gob.mx/turismo/atractivos.htm>



## Economic Botany Business Office

4475 Castleman Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63110

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 116  
Lawrence, KS

### Open Science Network

<http://www.wordle.net/gallery/wrdl/899092/OpenNetwork>

*Open Science Network First Meeting*  
Submitted by Pat Harrison

At the 2009 Annual SEB meeting in Charleston, a group of 40 students, ethnobiology educators, ethnobiologists, education professors from the University of South Carolina and non-profit conservation representatives met on Saturday, May 30, prior to the Society for Economic Botany meeting in Charleston to build a network of people OPEN to creating, sharing and improving science curriculum. Led by Tena Crews, a facilitator from the University of South Carolina, this diverse group established foundational strategies for the implementation and growth of the Open Science Network project. Focus on the open philosophy and the innovative nature of the project guided decisions that were made.

#### *Our Purpose:*

The "open science" network is to promote ethnobotanical education through the use of web-based technologies and the continual exchange of educational techniques, materials, and experiences across institutional and international borders. The project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is a Research Coordination Networks in Biological Sciences (RCN)- Undergraduate Biology Education (UBE) award.

An "open-philosophy" approach supports a perpetual network generating science curriculum through team efforts of universities, science institutions, educators and students (including non-traditional), using an open-group evaluation model similar to open-source software. Unlike a static repository of information, the system's technological capabilities will be flexible enough to house the collective knowledge of both expert and user and evolve as the knowledge and needs change.

#### *Goals:*

Curriculum goals are to survey members and create an inventory of curriculum resources available for the system, then produce and evaluate fully functional curriculum modules for online access. The goal is to develop a broad range of delivery methods, topics and entry levels to be shared through the network. Participants will be invited to post their curriculum for evaluation and sharing. Then the goal of network building will begin, and members will actively seek new participants to contribute and use curriculum resources and join in the development of the network. We will seek participant from sister societies, universities, and other institutions and invite them to the next meeting in Xalapa in 2010.

We have reached our first benchmark for curriculum goals with over 10 fully functional

**Continued on page 18**