1994 Conference in Mexico

I could hardly believe all the work that has gone into the symposiums for this conference. Not only do we have our regularly scheduled symposium, "Collection and Management of Wild Useful Plants in Mexico" but 2 others, "Advancement in the Study and Use of Medicinal Plants in Mexico" arranged by the Mexican Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the last by Jan Salick, "Economic Botany Research in Mesoamerica." The field trips will give us a glimpse of Mexi-

can ethnobotany by taking us to the markets, Chinampas, agricultural research station, Teotihuacan, and finally a two day trip to the Sierra Norte de Puebla. The booklet of information is on the way as I write this and I know that a great amount of detail and consideration was put into the preparation. I believe you will have few questions if any but if you do please call Lucille Kaplan, SEB Secretary, 617/287-6846.

Meetings, Titles and Grants

Richard Spruce Memorial Conference
An esteemed member and the last surviving U.S. Botanist of the U.S. Office of Economic Warfare, William Brew wrote about the Richard Spruce Memorial Conference held last September in England. It concentrated on Spruce’s accomplishments in Amazonia and the Orinoco Basin. His next venture was his royally commissioned trip to Ecuador where he obtained Cinchona succirubra (roja-roja) for India. It was a great hope of the British empire to raise plantations of quinine to combat the malaria in the British colonies. Dr. Brew, who ventured to Ecuador in 1943-1945 also presented a paper on Spruce’s contributions. Dr. Brew acknowledged our other great botanists that contributed to the project.

Upcoming Meetings submitted by Ellen Dean and others

American Society of Pharmacognosy

Fig Trees and Associated Animals
May 1994
Dergen, Norway
organizer: C.C. Berg
ARBOHA
Midevegen 240,
5067 Store Milde, Norway
(FAX 47-55991546)

International Conference on the Ecology, Conservation Biology, and Environment of Costa Rica
20-24 June 1994
Drake Bay, Peninsula de Osa, Costa Rica
Organizer: Celso Vargas,
Dept. de Computacion, ITCR
Aptdo. 159, Cartago, Costa Rica
FAX 506-515348

(continued on page 6)
Food For Thought

I was overwhelmed with letters from our new library subscribers and they couldn't be more complimentary. Thank you all. Also the most exciting thing I have to announce is the upcoming Mexican Conference. Please look under "Meetings" in the Newsletter for more details. Finally, we will be participating in an international meeting hosted by one of our chapters.

I want to request that people continue to send in Economic Botany and Ethnobotany class listings. This list is very valuable and constantly requested by students. However, my biggest disappointment is that most of the lecturers complain about the lack of texts appropriate for a course in Ethnobotany. Any suggestions?

A topic we may want to visit in more detail at one of our conferences or as a dialogue in the Newsletter is the cost-cutting of herbaria. I am appalled at the struggle that is needed to keep the doors of university herbaria open. There is a shrinking number of taxonomists being trained and that doesn't seem to bother anyone in the biology/botany departments. In fact, botany is often being removed from the department title. I have reviewed an article in Ethnobotanews section about this, but that is not enough. Any comments, suggestions?

Finally, the finalized version of the SEB Ethics Guidelines is on page 4. We will be voting on it at the Conference in Mexico City. This is your opportunity to vote it into existence. SEB was one of the few societies to bring ethics to the forefront and formalize their concerns into guidelines. Chistine Padoch and Brian Boom and the Ethics Committee have really accomplished a lot.

Hasta Mexico...

LIBRARY SUBSCRIBERS RESPOND

The Lloyd Library has written to welcome us to their shelves. The NYBG Library has asked our publication schedule. We publish 2 issues, one in the spring and one in the fall. When those actually arrive varies depending on the NEWS items, my personal schedule, and the coordinated efforts with other Newsletter committee members and writers of the issue.

The University of the West Indies Acquisitions Librarian wrote to say that the Biology Department is enthusiastic about the subscription. They can be assured that they will continue receiving every issue from now on. Cornell University and the City of Los Angeles have also written to say that they are anxious for their next copies.

I am pleased to announce that the Library subscriptions were received with open arms and I have received many letters requesting the previous newsletters. I will be requesting support for the printing of past issues at the Annual Meeting in Mexico, June 20-24. Afterwards, I will notify all interested Libraries of the decision.

RECIPES FROM THE FIELD

Tom Zennie submitted this recipe:

As he was hunting deer he noticed the black seeds of Allium tricoccum through the snow. He dug several roots and cooked wild leeks with his venison meal. The inner loins were cut into strips crossways and fried. To this the peeled leek bulbs were sliced longitudinally and added and sautéed for 5 minutes. This venison leek stir fry is a must.
SEB CLASSES

All classes listed in the class guide are all considered classes and no more than that. It is important for anyone considering attending to contact the person listed and verify the course title and current status. This list is not meant to be more than a guide to assist those who are trying to educate themselves in our field.

SEB classes are very popular on campus. Walter Lewis’ class at Washington University on Medicinal Plants was attended by almost 300 students. This was a university record for the largest class ever.

I would like to request that lecturers send in their book titles for classes in Ethnobotany. I receive many requests for textbook titles from professors. Tom Mione of Central Connecticut State University writes to share his favorite book for those interested in the origins of agriculture, K.V. Flannery’s, Guila Naquita, 1986, Academic Press, chapters 1 & 33.

Many of you have been submitting your class syllabi with your class listing. This has been an added advantage. If more people could send their course syllabi, Gail Wagner, a member of the Education Committee, has volunteered to computerize them this summer. After she has completed the entries, a diskette will be available upon request.

Also, does anyone have a Lab book designed for SEB classes? Dr. Wilbur Settle of the State University of New York, Oneonta, had sent one years earlier that he shared with me. Also Dr. Schultes and A.F. Hill published in 1973 their manual, “Plants and Human Affairs: Laboratory Manual for Biology 104,” Harvard University, Ed II, Botanical Museum of Harvard. Any others???

I was given a listing of The Video Planet’s films and videos. There are many films, etc. that I think professors today may want to order. You can contact them at 1-800-4 9050 or 5332 College Ave., Suite 101, Oakland, CA 94618.

The new address for Philip Sowerstone-Sopkin is Depto. de Biologia, Universidad de Valle A.A. 25360 Cali, Colombia.

NEW CLASS LISTINGS

Tom Zennie is teaching wild medicinal plant classes at Western Michigan Adult Education Center, and wild food foraging classes. Contact him through Parke-Davis in Holland, Michigan.

Dr. Gregory Anderson, University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Box U-1, 75 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269-3043, 203/486-4322, offers undergraduate and graduate courses in ethnobotany.

Tom Mione, teaches an undergraduate class “Plants and Civilization” at Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050-4010.

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

The UK groups has organized mini-chapters that seem to enhance membership so that all members can attend and are not limited by location. Mini chapters are Liverpool and Scotland. There are thirty-eight members at present in the UK group. At their general meeting, the constitution based on the SEB USA was ratified, David Harris was elected President, and Dr. Chileseen France delivered a lecture on the “Ethnobotany of the Amazon Basin.” Dr. Yuri Vavilov gave a talk on the relationships between his father and the UK scientists. Subsequent meetings will include the Tropical Agricultural Association and Wye College. The next general meeting will be held on November 22 and the theme will be the West Indies and Plantation Economic Botany.
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY

In conducting their research, economic botanists often must confront difficult ethical issues related both to their daily collection needs and methods, and to the dissemination and use of their findings. Since economic botanists are a diverse group with greatly varying scientific backgrounds and professional affiliations, their ethical problems are both diverse and complex. This document presents guidelines for professional behavior for members of the SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY.

1. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC.
   A. They will strive to use their knowledge, skills, and training to enhance the well-being of human kind. They will specifically refuse to work professionally on any research that in their knowledge or judgment will result in harm being done to anyone.
   B. They will strive to maintain professional competence and will not offer advice on subjects on which they are uninformed.
   C. They will not engage in nor allow the dissemination of information about economic botany that is false, misleading, or exaggerated.

2. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE STUDIED.
   A. They will communicate clearly and honestly to all with whom they work the objectives and possible consequences of their research. If the research has a commercial objective, researchers will make that explicit to those studied and will disclose what the commercial results might reasonably be expected to be.
   B. They will comply with all rules and limitations that local people, their communities, or their institutions place on the research. They will not "trick" people into revealing "secret" information. They will offer to supply any reports or materials resulting from the research.
   C. They will respect any request for confidence made by those providing data or materials, provided that the maintenance of such confidence does not compromise other ethical considerations.
   D. They will respect individuals’ right to anonymity and privacy of those they work with when it is requested.
   E. When materials or information obtained from those people can reasonably be expected to have a commercial payoff, they will arrange with employers for equitable economic compensation for those who have provided the information and/or plants and will do all in their power to ensure that compensation is paid.

3. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER HOST INSTITUTIONS.
   A. They will comply honestly and completely with all regulations requesting disclosure of project objectives, sponsorship and methods, as well as supply reports and specimens to perform specified services (e.g., seminars and training).
   B. They will, when the situation requires, make clear that they will not compromise their professional ethics as a condition of their receiving clearance to do research. Specifically, they will provide no secret information or reports that might jeopardize people they have worked with or other individuals.
   C. They will assist their collaborators in enhancing the physical and human resources of their institutions.

4. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PROFESSION.
   A. They will maintain a level of integrity and professional behavior in the field so as not to jeopardize future research by others.
   B. They will not present as their own the work of others.
   C. They will not allow, to the limits of their abilities, their materials to be used for fraudulent or harmful purposes.

5. MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE ETHICAL GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY.
PUBLICATIONS

Glossary of Vital Terms for the Home Gardener, Robert Gough published by Haworth Press, Inc. 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904. This is more than another layperson's book. It is an excellent source for the professional botanists as well. It combines "botanese" and "gardenese" to make one very useful text.

I did not have this book but saw a review in the newsletter of the Environmental Defense Fund. It sounded interesting...

Mortgaging the Earth by Bruce Rich. Contact EDF at 257 Park Avenue South, NY, NY 10010. It presents evidence of the destructive nature of what results from World Bank loans as told by people whose lives and livelihood had been directly affected by the unecological results from World Bank loans. He discusses mechanisms to put into place that would require accountability for institutions such as the World Bank. However he states that efforts will be fruitless if the understanding of the relationship between humans and nature is not realized.

New Journals from AB Publishers:
Arboricultural, the International Journal of Urban Forestry; Biological Agriculture and Horticulture; Journal of Interdisciplinary Economics; International Tree Crops Journal; The Journal of World Forest Resource Management.
PO BOX 42, Bichester, Oxon OX6 7NW, England.

Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 North Winnn Road, Decorah Iowa 52101, carries limited yet excellently chosen books on various crops and ethnobotany titles. This non-profit grassroots organization has 7,000 members who permanently maintain and display unique seed collections, rescuing them from extinction.

A great new newsletter "The Curcurbit Network News," PO Box 560494, Miami, FL 33256. This is a multidisciplinary group of subscribers who are all fascinated by the Curcurbitaceae family. $5 US, $10 international.

BOOK REVIEW submitted by David Theodoropoulos. Seed Germination Theory and Practice 2nd Ed. 1993, Norman C. Deano, 139 Lenor Dr., State College, PA 16801 USA. Price: $20.00 post-paid worldwide.

In this massive study of the germination requirements of nearly 4,000 species, Deano brings the mechanistic world view of a physical organic chemist to bear on the problems of germinating difficult seeds. The effects of many methods on the destruction of inhibitors and the stimulation of germination were studied, and simple and effective methods were discovered that produce high germination in many species which were formerly nearly impossible to germinate. A unique approach is his application of rate theory to germination, with most species following zero-order or first-order date processes, and germination rates closely following the laws of chemical kinetics. The methods developed are highly materials and space-efficient, allowing 500 species to be germinated in a cubic foot, and once inhibiting mechanisms and induction times are determined, the production of seedlings is easy. Deano vigorously debunks common germination myths, and his lively discussions and digressions make for interesting reading. He rightly points out that current endangered species laws "speed up the extinction of the species by discouraging propagation," and calls for revised laws which discourage collecting but encourage propagation and dissemination. His views on plant nomenclature are sure to raise hackles among biologists (thank goodness chemists aren't in charge of taxonomy!), but he raises a few valid points and it is thoroughly tonic reading. The summary of data on the nearly 4000 species is of great importance, and will prove very valuable to propagators. The book is an excellent demonstration of the value of a fresh viewpoint brought to a problem by someone from another discipline. Everyone who works with seeds needs this on their bookshelf.

In other news, the USDA Yearbook of Agriculture has fallen to the budget ax, and this enjoyable series will be missed by many. Also falling to budget woes are the wonderful BOSTID books edited by Noel Vietmeyer, and this program needs our support. (See Letters to the Editor in the newsletter for information on this.)
Regulation of Cell and Tissue Culture Congress  
4-7 June 1994  
Research Triangle Park, NC  
Contact: Marietta W. Ellis (410/992-0964)  

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting 7-12 June 1994  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
Organizer: see Association for Tropical Biology, below  

Association for Tropical Biology Annual Meeting  
Held jointly with the Society for Conservation Biology  
7-12 June 1994  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
oraganizer: Eduardo Santana,  
ATB-SCB Organizing Committee  
Dept. of Wildlife Ecology,  
Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706  
FAX 608/262-6099  

1st International Symposium of Ecosystem Health and Medicine  
19-23 June 1994  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  

North American Prairie Conference  
Prairie Biodiversity: From Molecules to Landscapes, From the Past to the Future  
12-16 July 1994, at the Kansas State University  
Contact: North American Prairie Conference  
Conference Office  
Division of Continuing Education  
College Court Building  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas 66606-6006  

American Institute for Biological Sciences Annual Meeting, including:  
American Society of Plant Taxonomists,  
Botanical Society of America and others  
7-11 August 1994 in Knoxville, Tennessee  

6th International Symposium on Genetics and Molecular Biology of Plant Nutrition  
17-24 July 1994  
University of California, Davis  
Organizer: D.W. Rains,  
Dept. of Agronomy and Range Science,  
University of California, Davis, CA 95616  
(916-752-1711)  

Plant Biomechanics Congress  
5-9 September 1994  
Organizer: Bernard Thibaut  
LMGC "Bois",  
CP 81, U. Montpellier 11,  
Place Eugene Bataillon,  
34095 Montpellier Cedex, France (33/67 14-34 31)  

International Conference on Biodiversity and Development: Toward A New Partnership  
4-9 September 1994 in Paris, France  
Organizer: IBUS 51 Bd. de Montmorency,  
75016 Paris, France  

Congress Latinoamericano de Botanica  
2-8 October 1994 Mar del Plata  
Organizer: Dr. Arturo J. Martinez, Presidente,  

VI Congresso Latinoamericano de Botanica,  
Instituto de Recursos Biologicos,  
INTA Castellar 1712,  
Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina  

North American Savannas and Barrens Conference: Living in the Edge  
15-16 October 1994  
Illinois State University  
Organizer: Dr. Roger Anderson,  
Department of Biological Sciences,  
Illinois State University,  
Normal, IL 61790-4120 (309/438-2653)  

Forest Canopies: Ecology, Biodiversity, and Conservation  
10-13 November 1994  
Sarasota, Florida  
Organizer: Dr. M. Lowman, Director of Research  
Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave.,  
Sarasota, FL 34236,  
(813/366-5730)  

Book titles of interest submitted by Ellen Dean:  

Nepstad, D.C. and Schwartzman, S. (editors),  

(continued on page 7)
American Society of Plant Taxonomists Grants
Address and deadline changes each year
Most recent address for Feb. 1, 1994 deadline:
Susan R. Kelhare
A.S.P.T. Honors Committee,
Dept. of Biology,
Willamette University,
Salem, OR 97301

Garden Club of America / World Wildlife
Fund Scholarships in Tropical Botany
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
Dec. 31 deadline

Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research
Sigma Xi Headquarters
99 Alexander Drive - Box 13975
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Feb. 1, May 1, Nov. 1 deadlines

The Explorers Club Funds, for field research
46 E 70th St,
NY, NY 10021
Jan. 31 deadline

The American Iris Society Scholarship (for all
plant sciences, not just studies of Iris)
3033 Jefferson
Boulder, Colorado 80304
Mar. 1 deadline

Soroptimist International Founder Region
Womens Fellowships
Feb. deadline, no address available

American Association of University Women
Fellowships
Nov. 1 deadline, no address available

National Geographic Society
Committee for Research and Exploration
17th and M Streets, NW Washington, D.C. 20036
202/857-7439 rolling deadline

Organization of American States
Dept. of Fellowships and Training
Washington, D.C. 20006-4499
202/789-3902
(for projects in Latin America)

Phi Beta Kappa: check your local chapter for
information and deadlines
ETHNOBOTANENEWS

Ethnobotany, Volume 5 numbers 1&2, 1993, I had never seen this journal and read many articles that I found interesting and full of ethnobotanical listings of plants used in other lands. The journal is published in India, and many articles contain Indian Ethnobotany.

Biological Conservation Newsletter, December 1993 announces a new Director of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge England. Dr. Mark Collins author of The Last Rain Forest, Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests, joined the center in 1982 after many years of field research. The WCMC will publish its first global list of threatened plants. This is a culmination of 15 years of data gathering and analysis. This includes approximately 36,000 taxa that are threatened at either the country or world level.

IBID November 1993 ACCESS: A directory of Contacts, Environmental Data Bases, and Scientific Infrastructures on 175 Biosphere Reserves in 32 Countries is available on computer diskette. The information is contained in either Lotus, Excel, or D-base format. Specify Macintosh or MS DOS requests to UNESCO MAB Secretariat, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

Journal of Herb, Spices and Medicinal Plants, Volume 1 Number 4 1993, “Effect of Spacing and Fertilization on the Yield and Active Constituents of Milk Thistle, Silybum marianum,” by Omer, Refaat et al. I have chosen to review this article to highlight this journal because it is one of the few forums that allows articles such as this one to be published. Herbal use and information about herbal plants has increased and professional information needs to reach a broad audience that supports this industry. The article includes data on how to increase seed production while maintaining potency of this highly valued potential liver regenerating plant.

There are many articles about the current struggle between the herb industry and the USFDA to allow the use of herbs and supplements. I have reviewed many in the past few years and will just list a few to demonstrate the continued battle. They include an article in Time magazine, Utne Reader, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, a letter from the Paraguayan Ambassador to the USFDA advocates use of Stevia rebaudiana, and many more. The government is trying, in this editor’s view, to over-regulate a commodity that has been in use throughout the world. This will limit the individual’s ability to choose their own healing and accessibility to well-known safe herbs. If you have not heard about these issues, please contact the American Herbal Products Association or your local health food store and write your political leaders and let them know your views.

In Mark Blumenthal’s “Herb Clips,” he has shared an article in the Journal of Medical Ethics by Richard Smith. Dr. Smith emphasizes the lack of scientific evidence used by some physicians. This is not because the physicians are unethical but rather that there is not adequate evidence in the literature to assure them that their treatments have been researched well. To compensate for the lack of solid scientific data, he suggested that more training be given to physicians so that they can discern the quality of the research they are reviewing before using it on their patients.

Conservation Biology, Volume 7, #4, December 1993, “Plant Taxonomic Research with Special Reference to the Tropics: Problems and Potential Solutions,” by J. Parnell. Taxonomists are an endangered group of highly trained experts. The esteemed individuals that have led us into our present taxonomic glory are retiring and there are too few to replace them. This is particularly highlighted in this article that emphasizes the aging of tropical taxonomists. The herbaria are closing and the floras are being written at such a slow pace that the flora changes prior to their completion. This he credits to the lack of funding and

(continued on page 9)
lack of infrastructure (herbaria staff etc.). This problem is particularly perplexing when one realizes that floristic inventories take hundreds of years to complete and that generations of taxonomists are required to complete the job. It is this author’s suggestion to find opportunities that link foundations and universities help the universities to continue to support the training of taxonomists.

ERRATA
An error was brought to my attention by Dr. Brew. The press responsible for Schultes and Raffauf’s book, The Healing Forest, is Dioscorides Press, not Synetic Press. My apologies to those of you who have been inconvenienced by this error.

TRAVEL
International Rainforest Workshops are offering some exciting trips this year so plan ahead: DECEMBER 31, 1994-JANUARY 7, 1995, is focused on healing practices of the indigenous people of the Amazon. It is designed for health practitioners including nurses, therapists, sociologists, psychologists, physicians, students, and educators. Continuing Education credit is available. Contact Frances Gatz at International Expeditions 1-800/669-6806 for package information or Joseph Moreno 314/576-9441 for program details.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr. James Rodman has written to address several issues to us all. He is the Program Director at the National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology. The division supports fundamental research on biological plant diversity, including curatorial improvements, network of long-term ecological research sites, doctoral dissertations conferences, workshops, and more. He has sent me several interesting items for members. The best I feel is his general communication and expression of interest and also the Annual report and Grants List. This is only for Systematic Biology, but I am sure if you want additional information you can contact him at 703/306-1481.

Garrison Wilkes said that anyone with extra books may want to donate them to the National School of Agriculture in Chapingo, Mexico. You can reach him at the Biology Department at the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus, 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125, 617/287-6662.

New England Wild Flower Society, INC. Garden in the Woods 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701-2699, 508/877-7630, FAX 508/877-3658. This group is sharing knowledge on the horticulture of commercially available plants. With the increase in plants used for healthcare, wild harvested plants are becoming endangered. Only Panax or Cyripedium have been listed as endangered while others are becoming noticeably rare. Write or call them to grow meadow and woodland species or to receive their recommended reading list and courses. Thanks, Heather!

Kelly Fleming of La Finca Organics writes to thank us for the Newsletter and is awaiting the news for the upcoming meeting in Mexico. It complements her work to field collect and preserve, ex situ, lost and new crops of Latin America.

HELP HELP: Noel Vietmeyer, Senior Program Officer at the National Research Council writes to tell us of recent financial cuts that affect his program. He asks us to assist him in saving the AID BOSTID Innovation Program. This program was responsible for promoting many new crop plantings outside the United States by disseminating, free of charge, booklets promoting these crops. Please write:

When you send your copy if you would please copy Noel — he would appreciate it (FAX 202/334-2660).
GERmplASM NEWS & VIEWS

by David TheodoropouloS

In this issue we are changing the “Trends in Seed Demand” to a new column name to reflect a broadened content. Please send news, items, and opinions concerning seeds and the issues surrounding germplasm. Of particular interest is news of developments that impact the free flow of germplasm. I don't wish to continue to bore you with nothing but trends in seed demand!

There is some confusion about the identity of cultivated material of Agrimonia, Glycyrrhiza and wild Impatiens species. Widely varying fruits of Agrimonia are distributed under the same name.

Material in the trade of these three groups needs attention by competent taxonomists.

There has been a trend for dropping prices for European flower seed the past few years, and now we are seeing distinct worldwide deflation of prices of a wide variety of seeds, including wild-collected germplasm.

Demand is up for Alyogyne, Aristolochia, Calochortus, Celosia, Digitalis spp., especially D. mertensensis, Comphrena, Hemerocallis, Hesperaloe, Matiola, Meconopsis, the old-fashioned single hollyhocks, and all types of sweetpeas. We are seeing a great increase in U.S. demand for tobacco seed, probably due to higher taxes on the commercial product, and a three-fold increase in demand for books and pamphlets on tobacco use, cultivation and curing. This follows the pattern we recently saw in Canada when tobacco taxes rose. We would be very interested in any accounts of simple curing methods adaptable to home production. Demand continues strong for hot peppers, Ricinus, Ipomoea, Hibiscus, Asclepias, Acacia, Eucalyptus and Passiflora. Indigofera is in demand, but supplies are nonexistent. Native grasses, including Bromus, Melica, Stipa and Phalaris are in strong demand, particularly Phalaris arundinacea for wildlife habitat and erosion control. Oddly, this native species is mistakenly considered a non-native, and is being exterminated in many areas. Caudiciform plants of all kinds are increasingly in demand, and collectors have taken to growing common plants like Mirabilis jalapa, with the thick roots well exposed as interesting specimen plants. Demand is way down for Limonium and corn varieties.

Canada is easing restrictions on entry of seeds of woody plants imported in small quantities. Colorado, on the other hand, is tightening up controls on all types of seeds.

Trade journals have been reporting for the past year on proposed amendments to the U.S. PVPA patenting legislation to bring it into conformity with UPOV (Seed & Crops Industry, Dec. '92; Seed World, Dec. '93). While the farmer's right to save seed will still be recognized, it will be in a much restricted state. This right has been continually eroded since the inception of the Act, and is now even being called the farmer's "privilege" to save seed. UPOV has no farmer-exemption provision, though member countries are allowed to provide one. However, if present trends continue, it will disappear. These developments were predicted decades ago by opponents to the PVPA. Also predicted was the development of patented plants designed for use with increased chemical input, though this was dismissed by advocates of patenting. In the Jan. '94 Seed & Crops Industry, the article, "Dupont Introduces New Herbicide 'Partner' for STS Soybeans," details the linkage of a new potent sulfonylurea herbicide for use with soybeans containing Dupont's patented STS sulfonylurea-resistant gene.

In the Fall '93 newsletter, we reported the ransacking of Cargill's offices in India by farmers protesting patented seeds. Since then, a $2.3 million seed processing building was destroyed, and in October between 500,000 and a million farmers demonstrated to protect their freedom of seeds (K. Asubel, Seeds of Change, 1994). A number of old heirloom crop varieties are now being patented (A. Kapuler, pers. comm.). How bad does it have to get before we repudiate patent protection of living organisms and genetic material? A worldwide movement opposing the ownership of life is emerging. Kapuler has called the ownership of plants based on changing a few genes in a genome of over 10,000, ethical suicide, or ethicide (Deep Diversity Catalog, 1994).
HELP HELP: Noel Vietmeyer, Senior Program Officer at the National Research Council writes to tell us of recent financial cuts that affect his program. He asks us to assist him in saving the AID BOSTID Innovation Program. This program was responsible for promoting many new crop plantings outside the United States by disseminating, free of charge, booklets promoting these crops. Please write: J. Brian Atwood Administrator Agency for International Development Washington, DC. FAX 202/647-0148, phone 202/647-8518. When you send your copy, if you would, please copy Noel — he would appreciate it (FAX 202/334-2660).

Herb Research Foundation can complete your personalized literature search. The fees are $60/hour plus $.50/page. This will provide a limited search within their extensive files. They can also provide bibliographic searches, professional evaluation of the literature and more... Contact them at 303/449-2265.

Joseph LaFerriere has submitted his CV for consideration and asked if anyone has any job listings to share for a job-hunting Ethnobotanist.

Lisa Collin, 2841 A Kolowalu Street, Honolulu, HI 96822 is seeking sources of grants and fellowships for graduate students with interests in Ethnobotany. (See the section of Grants for Graduate Students this issue of "Plants and People.")

Ethnopharmacology Research program is seeking a natural products phytochemist to complement the ethnobotanical and ethnomedical research program. The candidate should have a Ph.D. in chemistry, pharmacology, or related fields and experience in natural products chemistry. The position is in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico where a new laboratory will be established. Spanish skills will be required and benefits awarded. Contact: Brent Berlin, Centro de Investigaciones Ecologicas del Sureste, Carretera Panamerican y Periferico Sur S/N, San Cristobal de las Casa, Chiapas, 29200 Mexico.

Run to your mailboxes if you haven’t received your 1994 voting ballots. These must be returned with the allotted time frame or your vote won’t count.

Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, California has many events coming within the next month. Their exciting programs begin on Saturday April 23 with an Earth Day tribute which includes Mark Plotkin’s lecture and book-signing. Californian natives will be attending to share items made from their local flora and later a lecture on medicinal plants used by southern California natives.

Dr. Dennis McKenna will be the guest lecturer at Quail Gardens on May 1, 1994 to discuss Ethnopharmacology and Drug Discovery. Also available is a videotape of a lecture by Dr. Nat Quansah, a World Wildlife Fund Officer who works in Madagascar. The tape discusses the Manongarivo Project, a successful attempt at combining appropriate development with the conservation of biodiversity in a Madagascan village. The tape is available for $16.95. Many other programs are offered and people should contact Diana Goforth at 619/436-3036 or 619/753-1545.

Laura Clavio has published the “Directory of Herbal Education”. She has compiled a list of classes with brief descriptions. This is a welcomed addition to our class lists and I am sure will continue to expand. To obtain this booklet Contact her at Intra-American Specialities, 3014 N. 400 W., West Lafayette, IN 47904, 317/497-9381

International Hemp Association has written to inform us of their organization. It is a non-profit, non-political organization based on a common goal to promote the beneficial uses of cannabis products worldwide. A newsletter is forthcoming. They are seeking supporters that can offer financial support or the submission of an article for the newsletter. Direct your questions and donations to The International Hemp Association, attn. Rob Clarke, Ana van den Vondelstraat 15, 1054 GX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Internships are available at the Yawa Yee Indigenous Foundation in Pastaza Province in Ecuador. This rainforest conservation project needs technical support from biologists, zoologists, and botanists. They are also requesting general managerial and administration skills. Room and board will be supplied. Contact: Alex Rubin at the Tropical Rainforest Coalition 408/496-9412.
Rainforest Remedies: 100 Healing Herbs of Belize
by Rosita Arvigo and Michael Balick, Illustrations by Laura Evans

221 pp, 1993. Lotus Press, P.O. Box 325 Twin Lakes, WI 53181, toll free 1-800-548-3824. $9.95 + $1.50 shipping and handling.

Since 1987, Drs. Arvigo and Balick have been collaborating on the Belize Ethnobotany Project, a survey of the plant resources in Belize including a study of the relationship between people and the plants in their environment. Rainforest Remedies, the second publication of the Belize Ethnobotany Project, is intended for use in Belize as a healers' manual, to stimulate and reawaken interest in traditional healing.

Each of the 100 plants has a simple illustration, text organized by common name, and Latin name and family. The treatment of each species has a simple description, information on habitat, and detailed information on traditional use, including discussion of folk uses and contra-indications, as well as posology. In addition, information on pharmacological studies and chemical content, where known, is included, although much of this reports on in-vitro activity.

Some of the plants such as ginger, coconut, periwinkle, and lemon grass will be well-known by ethnomontanists while other species are distinct to the Central American region. The introduction contains information on how the project is operated, and discusses ethical involved in ethnobotanical studies.

The book is priced quite reasonably, and a portion of the proceeds have been designated for support of the traditional healers who collaborated in studies that led to the publication of this book. The forward by Mickey Hart notes that “in recognizing the value of this information through our own lives, we send a message to the people of the rainforest that their knowledge is important to us, and that its loss would be devastating loss for all human kind.”

Well worth purchasing,
Trish Flaster

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Economic Botany Newsletter
P.O. Box 368
Lawrence, KS 66044

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