The 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany
5 June – 9 June 2005

Visit our website, http://www.econbot.org, to get all the details about a fabulously full program for 2005. As you will see below, they have thought of everything, food to Internet. Please note that the Call for Papers is soon and we urge you to submit.

The 2005 meeting is hosted by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the College of Science and Engineering of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

Special Guest Lecture
Tuesday, 7 June
7:00 PM

Hugh Iltis: The Origin of Maize

“The Economics of Ethnobotany”
The symposia will focus on the economic importance of plants for medicines, for food, and for sustainable ranch practices, with special emphasis on the impact of ancient archaeobotanical boundaries on local economies.

Symposium I (Mon., 6 June)
Pharmacopoeia of Indigenous Peoples: The Polynesian and Micronesian Pacific
Organizers: Michael Balick and Will McClatchey

Symposium II (Tues., 7 June)
Conserving Genetic Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge of Food Crops in Northern Mexico and Tropical America
Organizer: David Lentz

Symposium III (Tues., 7 June)
Texas. Where It All Comes Together
Organizer: Scooter Cheatham

Symposium IV (Wed., 8 June)
The Economic Importance of the Anacardiaceae
Organizer: John Mitchell

Symposium V (Wed., 8 June)
Challenges and Opportunities in the Botanical Medicine Market: Ethnobotany and Traditional Medicine Meet Modern Commercial and Regulatory Realities
Organizer: Mark Blumenthal (tentative)

Symposium VI (Thurs., 9 June)
Where the West Begins and Why: An Ancient Ethnobotanical Boundary
Organizers: Dawn Youngblood and Phil Derring

Symposium VIII (Thurs., 9 June)
The Economic Botany of Ranch Lands: The Economics of Cattle Ranching
Organizer: John Merrill

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Notes from the Field

Canterbury was a great meeting, with participants from many disciplines coming together for a wide-ranging program. It was wonderful to see so many dear friends again and to make new ones. The 2005 meeting will be more intimate so we will have time to interact as an economic botany community. Check out the website and the detailed listing of symposia in the Newsletter.

New Editor

The biggest news is the new Journal Editor, Daniel E. Moerman. Dr. Moerman is the William E. Stirton Professor of Anthropology at The University of Michigan-Dearborn. He earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan in 1974. His early work relating to health emerged during his dissertation research with a rural black population in coastal South Carolina in the early 1970s. St. Helena Islanders told him of their complex theory of health involving a subtle system of pressures and flavors of the blood, which, if things went badly, could cause various illnesses. When they appeared, the illnesses were treated with a series of plants (called “weeds”) gathered from fields or planted in their gardens. Since then, his work has involved research focused in two areas: medicinal plants (primarily of Native American peoples from whom the Islanders learned most of their uses of plants), and study of the knowledge and understanding of health that people have. His well-known book *Native American Ethnobotany* (Timber Press, 1998) received the “Annual Literature Award” of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries for 2000. All of the actual data in that book is freely available on the Internet at [http://herb.umd.umich.edu/](http://herb.umd.umich.edu/). In 2002, Cambridge University Press published his book *Meaning, Medicine and the “Placebo Effect,”* about meaning in the healing process.

Dan’s aspirations for the journal include fewer pages, higher quality, and much faster turnaround. This means we will have to be much more selective. Methodological quality is very important, but the methods must demonstrate real results (fancy methods that don’t show anything interesting are uninteresting!). We seek articles from students, new professionals, and experienced hands from all areas of economic botany. Our goal is to have every issue of the Journal include something of genuine interest to every reader, and that many articles will occasion discussion and debate among a broad range of readers. We may have some special issues, or some special subjects for half an issue (currently under consideration: “Ethnobotany and Ethics”; other suggestions gladly accepted). We will try to fill all the pages, which means that there is a need for fascinating, broadly interesting, attractive, compelling items that will fill the quarter, half, or three-quarters of a page left at the end of a regular article. Original drawings of an interesting plant, with a brief caption explaining its use, a recipe for a delicious food from some group of people in Tibet, Peru, Madagascar, or Malawi; a VERY brief note on an interesting use of an interesting plant by interesting people; something that will fill what is now empty space in the journal: consider, in the current issue, 58(3), pages 353, 395, 409, 419, 475, 485, 497 (tough, but possible). Always feel free to query the editor by email at dmoerman@umich.edu about any ideas or concepts; to be guaranteed that you avoid the spam detector, put “Economic Botany” in your subject line.

I hope you are all enjoying the long autumn we are having. It gives us time to put up our food for the winter and contemplate the colorful leaves before snows appear.

Send me your news.

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Visit [http://www.econbot.org](http://www.econbot.org) for details about the 2005 Annual Meeting
It has been a wonderful reading year as many new titles have reached my desk. Here are a few brief notes on some titles I fine may interest the membership.

**Good Reading**

*The Handbook of Clinically Tested Herbal Remedies*, edited by Marilyn Barrett, PhD. This two-volume set is something needed for those researching or consuming herbal medicines. Not only is there a paucity of botany in this botanical field, but also limited clinical data. Marilyn has put together chapters that are relevant for any scientific discipline and reader expertise. In volume one, there are chapters covering the following topics: bioavailability, efficacy of herbal preparations, evaluating safety in herbal preparations, conducting clinical trials, EU focus, and more. The entire second volume is full of chapters on the clinicals. These chapters include the type of preparation (which often is not included in published articles), the summary, the adverse reactions information on published monographs, and any details known about the specific plant. Contact [http://www.HaworthPress.com/](http://www.HaworthPress.com/) ISBN 0-7890-1068-2, $159.95.

*Fundamentals of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy*, by Michael Heinrich, et al. Pharmacognosy is alive and well in the EU. Unfortunately, we cannot say that in the United States. However, the US herbal industry is thriving, yet often there is a lack of evidence and quality has limitations. Pharmacognostic training with basic texts like this may extend the knowledge base and therefore the quality. The text leaders in the field cover the fundamentals of pharmacognosy: plant biology, plant chemistry, plant medicines in use, and an overview of healthcare systems. Contact [http://www.Elsevier.com/](http://www.Elsevier.com/). ISBN 0444307152 $25.99.

*Plants of the Gwaii Haida*, by Nancy Turner. As many of you may know, Nancy has authored many books on people and plants of the First Nations. This one has been a labor of love for over 30 years. It is rich in knowledge and culture of the Haida Gwaii people. You can feel the cool and moist climate of the Queen Charlotte Islands as you wander through the countryside with Nancy and the Elders. The images are rich and each plant is clearly depicted. The local names are included and the medicinal knowledge remains with the people. Contact: Sononis with a toll-free phone call at 1-800-570-5229, ISBN 1-55-39-144-5, $38.95 Canadian.

*Vine of the Soul: Medicine Men, Their Plants and Rituals of the Colombian Amazonia*, by Drs. Richard Evans Schultes and Robert F. Raffauf, the Preface is by Wade Davis, the Foreword is by Sir Ghillean T. Prance, and the Epilogue is by Michael Balick. This book is the story of a time that was—a time when the Amazon indigenous peoples were free to roam the forest and rivers, their social institutions were intact and unencumbered by acculturation or the cultural destruction of their ancient societies and virgin forests. The story is told through over 160 black-and-white photographs taken by renowned Harvard ethnobotanist, Richard Evans Schultes, during the 1940s and 1950s when he spent 14 uninterrupted years living with the tribal peoples of the Amazon. Combining his scientific eye for documentation with a photographer's eye for lighting, composition, and character, he created an extraordinary record of the medicinal plants and flora of the Colombian Amazon.

Co-authored by Robert F. Raffauf, an outstanding plant chemist, *Vine of the Soul* contains some of the most significant photographs on this subject ever taken, accompanied by detailed descriptions of the uses of medicinal and other sacred plant substances, with information on the bioactive chemistry and medicinal properties of their plants.

“...he was, of course, a great botanist, arguably the most important Amazonian plant explorer of the 20th century. In over 12 years of nearly con-stant fieldwork, he collected more than 20,000 specimens, dis-covered some 300 species new to science, chronicled the use of more than 2000 novel medicinal plants. He mapped unkonwn rivers, lived among unknown tribes, became conversant in several indigenous lan-guges. In time, mountains would bear his name, as would national preserves. For all who knew him he was a link ... to the great naturalists of the Victorian Age and a distant era when the neotropical rainforests stood immense, inviolable, a mantle of green stretching across an entire continent.” —Wade Davis, Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society, from the Preface.


Non-timber forest products, (NTFPs), plants, and animals, are the mainstay of many local peoples. NTFP are the foods that sustain the people, but also provide diverse means of income for many. Some progress has been made through research to understand the role of these species, but only a few have been investigated. There are still many species needing research that would result in their sustained use and to understand their integral role in maintaining habitats and ecosystems. This book is informal, yet teaming with valuable, applied information on African products. Each chapter, written by an expert researcher who is intimate with the NTFP, provides a discussion on the NTFP’s background, use, collection practices, processing value to the community, and the future progress. In each chapter are exquisite drawings of the crude materials, people, and the products that are sold.

The aspect I enjoyed most while reading was the sense the reader had of walking through the forest with the collectors and opening our eyes to the issues surrounding each NTFP. There are still too few of us understanding the limitations and the critical need to gather information about NTFPs to sustain our universe, our people. Tony Cunningham wrote, “It brings to life the people and products behind the research, communicating in a very readable way the importance of ‘green social security’.”

What an excellent textbook on African peoples and their sustainable use of major African plants and animals. And don’t miss the extensive reference section. Contact Cifor at [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/) or t.suhartini@cgiar.org.


2005 SEB Meeting

Contributed Papers Sessions Are Scheduled Daily

Poster Sessions
Tuesday, 7 June and Wednesday, 8 June at 3:00-4:00 pm

Pre-Meeting Trips
Sunday, 5 June
* Trip to local working cattle ranch
* Day trips to museums in the Fort Worth Cultural District, Fort Worth Nature Center, and the Historic Stockyards

Post-Meeting Trip
10-14 June: Guided tour of the scenic Hill Country of Texas. Schedule and price TBA

Call for Sessions—Deadlines
Workshop proposal: 15 November 2004
Contributed papers: 15 November 2004
Contributed poster: 1 February 2005
Hill Country Trip: 1 March 2005
Other Trips & Day Events: 1 April 2005

Submission of Papers
Presentations should be 15 minutes using either slides or PowerPoint. The abstract should be single spaced, 12 pt. type, 200 words maximum. Be sure to include your affiliation and type of submission. Submit your title and abstract online directly to herbarium@brit.org.

Poster Specifications
Posters should be two-dimensional and no more than 4-feet wide by 3-feet tall. They should be lightweight enough to be attached to walls or mobile vertical supports with pins, putty, or tape. We request that all posters be submitted with title and abstract for review before the deadline of 1 February 2005. Submit to herbarium@brit.org.

Optional submission in digital format on a CD may be mailed to Amanda Neill, BRIT, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102.

Registration
Registration forms are online at http://www.econbot.org. Direct questions by email to jsecrest@brit.org or by phone at (817) 332-4441.

Early bird registration on or before 1 April:
Member $250; Non-member $315
Registration after 1 April:
Member $295; Non-member $360;
Student registration: $150; Daily rate: $65.

Registration fees include: Opening reception and barbeque dinner at BRIT; all symposia, workshops, and presentations; poster sessions; tour of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, including the Japanese Garden, with a reception and special lecture by Hugh Ilitis in the Garden Center auditorium; continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and bottled water, Monday-Thursday.

Evening Social Events
Saturday, 4 June
Dinner at Reata Restaurant, award-winning “cowboy cuisine”
(sign-up event, pay at time of service)

Sunday, 5 June
Opening reception and barbeque at BRIT, hosted by Ed Bass

Monday, 6 June
All-participant dinner at Joe T. Garcia’s, Mexican cuisine, a Fort Worth tradition (ticketed event, $20 per person; cash bar)

Tuesday, 7 June
* Tour of Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Japanese Garden
* Reception and Special Lecture by Hugh Ilitis, Leonhardt Auditorium, Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Wednesday, 8 June
Student mixer (free for students)

Thursday, 9 June
Closing banquet, TCU, Distinguished Economic Botanist, 2005 (ticketed event, $45 per person).

Accommodations
Rooms are reserved at a conference rate until 1 April 2005 at the Courtyard Marriott (1/2 mile from TCU campus) and the Clarion (downtown Fort Worth). There will be a shuttle service for both locations. Conference participants are responsible for their own reservations.

The Courtyard Marriott, $94 per night (1-4 people)
3150 Riverfront Dr., Fort Worth, Texas (817) 335-1300 (within walking distance of the Fort Worth Zoo, Log Cabin Village, University Park Village shops, and a variety of restaurants).

The Clarion, Downtown Fort Worth, $59 per night (1-4 people)
600 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Texas (817) 332-6900 (within walking distance of BRIT, the Bass Performance Hall, movie theatres, bookstores, downtown specialty shops, the Sid Richardson Western Art Museum, and a variety of restaurants).

The Clarion, Downtown Fort Worth, $59 per night (1-4 people)
600 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Texas (817) 332-6900 (within walking distance of BRIT, the Bass Performance Hall, movie theatres, bookstores, downtown specialty shops, the Sid Richardson Western Art Museum, and a variety of restaurants).

Texas Christian University Campus Housing
TCU’s campus accommodations include suites with private baths and dorms that share common facilities with private enclosures. Both provide a small refrigerator and microwave in each room. Suites, dorms, and apartments have washers and dryers available. Dial-up Internet service is in all rooms. Meals can be purchased in the dining hall or from a number of restaurants and cafes on or near campus. Dorms: Ensuite Double, with linen is $27 per person per night; Single, with linen is $37 per person per night. Apartments: 4-bedroom units with kitchen, living room, and linen is $48 per person per night.

Recreational Facilities
TCU Recreation Center has facilities for tennis, track, weight lifting and workout rooms, indoor climbing wall, swim center, and more. Cost is $8.00 per day or $20 per week. The Trinity River Trail and the Fort Worth Zoo are within walking distance of the campus.

Internet Connections
There will be a computer lab set up for conference attendees. Dorms have dial-up service.
Awards

Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Award

The Botany Department at The Field Museum invites applications for the year 2005 Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Award. The award of $3,000.00 is designed to assist students and young professionals to visit the Field Museum and use our extensive economic botany and systematic collections. Individuals from Latin America and projects in the field of ethnobotany or systematics of economically important plant groups will be given priority consideration.

Applicants interested in the award should submit their curriculum vitae and a detailed letter describing the project for which the award is sought. The information should be forwarded to the Timothy C. Plowman Award Committee, Dept. of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA and received no later than 15 December 2004. Announcement of the recipient will be made no later than 31 December 2004.

Anyone wishing to contribute to The Timothy C. Plowman Latin American Research Fund, which supports this award, may send checks payable to The Field Museum, c/o Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA. Make certain to indicate the intended fund.

Premio de investigación Latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman

El departamento de Botánica en “The Field Museum” invita aplicaciones para el premio de investigación Latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman 2005. Este premio de $3,000.00 fue diseñado para apoyar a estudiantes y profesionales jóvenes en visitas al museo de Field y utilizar sus extensas colecciones de botánica económica y sistemática. Se les dará consideración especial a individuos de Latinoamérica y a proyectos en los campos de etnobotánica ó sistemática de plantas económicamente importantes.

Las personas interesadas en aplicar a este premio deberán proveer su currículum vitae y una carta detallando el proyecto para el cual el premio se utilizará. Esta información debe ser enviada al Timothy C. Plowman Award Committee, Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA y ser recibida antes del 15 de Diciembre de 2004. El ganador del premio será anunciado antes del 31 de Diciembre de 2004.

Cualquier persona que desee contribuir al Fondo de investigación latinoamericano Timothy C. Plowman, el cual apoya este premio, puede enviar su cheque, pagadero a “The Field Museum, c/o Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496 USA”. Asegúrese de indicar el fondo al cual se destina su contribución.

Recipes

Maca, Lepidium meyenii, Recipes From HerbPharm:

Maca Bliss Balls
1.5 cups sunflower seeds
1.5 cups pumpkin seeds
1 cup sesame seeds
5 cups cashews
2 cup soaked almonds, blanched
1 cup tahini
2/3 cup honey + 1/3 cup maple syrup
1 tbsp vanilla, 1 tbsp maca extract
6 tsp spirulina powder (optional)
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup maca
Roast sunflower, pumpkin, and sesame seeds. Combine nuts in the food processor and blend until smooth (leave out one cup ground nuts). Mix in rest of ingredients. Roll into 1” balls and roll in remaining nuts. Makes about 4 dozen balls.

Vegan Vanilla Maca Cake
3-1/4 cups whole wheat pastry flour (or 1/2 rice flour, 1/2 barley flour)
1/4 cup maca powder
2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1-1/2 cups maple syrup
2/3 cup canola oil
1 cup water
2.5 tbsp vanilla
1.5 tbsp Pharma Maca™ Extract
2 tbsp apple cider vinegar

Coconut-Cashew Cream Frosting
1 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup brown rice syrup
2 cups cashew cream
vanilla to taste
Mix all the ingredients and drizzle over cake.

Cashew Whipped Cream
1 cup raw cashews
1 cup water
1 cup canola oil, approximately
4 tbsp maple syrup
1/2 tsp vanilla
pinch of salt
Blend cashews and water to form a thick cream. Slowly add the oil in a fine stream. The cream will get very thick. (If necessary, add additional oil until desired density is reached). Blend in maple syrup, vanilla, and salt. Chill and serve. Yields 2-1/2 cups.

Seeking Participants

Dear Listers,

I am Maria de los Angeles La Torre-C, researcher in Ethnobotany in Peru. I will be the editor for the next number of Arid Zone Review (Revista Zonas Áridas) with emphasis in Ethnobiology Research in this zone. Please contact with me if you like to participate with a contribution.

The issue announcement is as follows:

El Centro de Investigaciones de Zonas Áridas (CIZA) hace de su conocimiento que el próximo número (N°8) estará dedicado al tema Investigación Etnobiológica en Zonas áridas y Semiáridas, siendo la Editora invitada la Dra. María de los Ángeles La Torre C. y tendrá como objetivo difundir la conservación, uso y manejo de recursos por los pobladores locales en estos ambientes áridos. Si alguno de Uds. desea contribuir con algún trabajo de investigación realizado en zonas áridas o semiáridas en Latinoamérica les agradeceriamos su participación. Esta revista se distribuye a nivel America Latina y podra servir de via para el conocimiento de sus trabajos en este tema.

Atentamente,

Dra. Maria de los Angeles La Torre Cuadros

Semiáridas, siendo la Editora invitada la Dra. María de los Ángeles La Torre-C, y tendrá como número (N-8) estará dedicado al tema de conocimiento de sus trabajos en este tema.

http://www.geocities.com/alc2468/ tvasat.html
Germlasm News and Views

Submitted by David Theodoropoulos, email: dt@dttheo.org

“First, with the introduction of GMOs always remember there is no such thing as containment... The other important issue is there is no such thing as coexistence.”
–Percy Schmeiser.

“The end result is far more control over farmers. They will be forced to conform to “coexistence” practices that have little to do with good farming. There will be more bureaucracy, paperwork and pressure for certification. Seed saving and exchanges, if they are not prohibited, will be much more complicated. The future of non-GM agriculture will be a tightly regulated system that will leave farmers far more vulnerable to the power of agribusiness.”
–Genetic Resources Action International.

“A seed can remain a bundle of hope, or it can become a tool of oppression.”
–Terry Boehm, VP, National Farmers Union.

Using commercially available GM test kits, several Mexican NGOs, with assistance from UNAM, have detected the presence of GM traits in maize in 24% of 138 communities in 9 states in Mexico. Among other GM traits found was the Bt-Cry9c protein from StarLink, a patented maize variety that is prohibited for human consumption in the US, and the cause of the largest contamination scandal in the US several years ago.

In spring 1997 this column asked “If a patented gene spontaneously moves to a neighbor’s field of an unpatented traditional variety, will the patent-hold acquire rights to the genetically contaminated crop?” On May 21 the Canadian Supreme Court ruled on Monsanto Canada vs. Percy Schmeiser, concerning adventitious GM canola found on Schmeiser’s land. The court found that while higher life forms cannot be patented, because Monsanto holds legitimate patents on the transformation process and the gene construct expressed, the “use” (growing) of the plants violated these patents, even if presence of the gene was involuntary and the farmer does not take advantage of the trait (herbicide resistance). It did not award Monsanto damages or costs. The 5-4 decision will place the issue before Parliament. During the past few years Monsanto withdrew all allegations that Schmeiser had obtained the seed illegally, and admitted those allegations were false. Schmeiser had never purchased seed from Monsanto, but lower courts had ruled that it did not matter how his land became contaminated.

The ISF (International Seed Federation, Nyon, Switzerland) has considered the question of whether conventional and organic agriculture can coexist with GM agriculture because of problems of gene flow from GMOs, and questions of responsibility for the contamination of conventional and organic crops. While most organic movements prohibit the presence of GM genes, the International Federation of Organic Movements (IFOAM) adopted the position in 2002 that organic certification is a production method, rather than an end product guarantee, and that adventitious presence of GM genes should not preclude certification. The ISF and IFOAM, along with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) organized the first World Conference on Organic Seed in July. The cost of segregating non-GM crops added US$0.32 per bushel on average in Iowa in 2002, according to a study by Iowa State University. Segregation costs will be US$0.70 per bushel if all costs are included, according to the USDA. “The National Grain and Feed Dealers Association estimated that less than five percent of the US grain elevators have the ability to operate such a dual marketing system” according to Dr. Robert Wisner of Iowa State University.

Because of the requirement that organic crops be produced from organically-grown seed, and organic livestock be fed only organic feed, demand for organic seed for pasture and forage crops is “increasing dramatically,” according to Dr. Athole Marshall of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (UK). Significant technical challenges to producing adequate seed exist.

The non-availability of an “equivalent variety” is an exemption to the “organic seed” requirement, and considerable controversy is arising on this point. High price is not considered an exemption, and the power to determine “equivalency” may be removed from the grower. A proposed phase-out of exemptions has caused concern that this will reduce diversity within crop species.

The European Union has implemented Genetically Modified Food and Feed Regulations requiring full traceability and labeling for all food and feed produced from genetically modified ingredients. Adventitious presence tolerance thresholds of 0.9% for EU authorized GMOs, and 0.5% for unauthorized, have been established. Identity preservation and traceability will also apply to non-GMO products. Although some have called this the “end of the ban” on biotech crop approval, others have described it as a “veiled trade barrier,” in violation of the WTO. In February, 87 member states of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted new GM labeling requirements. South Africa has implemented regulations that require labeling of GMO products only if “composition, nutritional value or mode of storage or cooking is significantly different from conventional food.” Germany plans to allow the limited cultivation of GM maize in 2004, and Poland states that it will rescind its ban on GM foods and crops when it joins the EU.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has implemented an interim rule requiring permits instead of simple notifications for introduction of GM plants designed for the production of compounds for industrial use, including pharmaceuticals and other non-food or feed uses. This is a step towards insuring the containment of such organisms, that hazardous compounds not normally found in foods will not enter the seed and food supply. The National Food Processors Association (US) states that there is “an unacceptable risk to the integrity of the food supply associated with the use of food and feed crops as ‘factories’ for the production of pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals. At this time, [there] is too great a risk of contamination of the food supply.” The Grocery Manufacturers of America states that the US government “should not permit the use of food crops or crops that are sexually compatible with food crops in the manufacture of pharmaceutical (or industrial) compounds.” The North American Millers Association has asked the USDA to prohibit pharma-crops that use food plants, and the National Academy of Sciences also opposed food crop pharmaceuticals.

Intense debate is occurring throughout the seed world on these issues, as well as intellectual property, access to genetic resources, and phytosanitary issues.

In northern California, Mendocino County voters overwhelmingly (56 to 44 percent) approved Measure H, which prohibits the planting of GMO crops, in spite of opponents of the measure outspending supporters by seven to one. Similar initiatives are moving forward in 11 other California counties. The Vermont Senate passed (28-0) the Farmer Protection Act to hold biotech firms liable for contamination of conventional and organic crops with GMOs, and has also

Continued on page 10
Klinger Book Award


Dr. Langenheim is a Past-President of the Society, Congratulations, Jean!

Below are listed the members of the committee and the titles that were considered. All the titles are worthy of mention and reading.

Daniel F. Austin, Chair
Conservation & Science Department
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
2021 N. Kinney Road
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John Rashford
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College of Charleston
Charleston, SC, 29424
rashfordj@cofc.edu

Brad Bennett withdrew from this year's committee because his book is being considered. Below are the four nominations for this award.

Kwa’ioloa, Michael and Ben Burt 2001. Na Masu’u Kia’l Kwara’ae: Out Forest of Kwara’ae. British Museum Press, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QQ


2004 SEB Meeting

We had a very productive meeting in Canterbury. Here are some of the highlights of the Council and business meetings.

**Congratulations to the 2004-05 Officers.**
Brady Bennett, President-elect; Diane Ragone, Treasurer; Mary Ebanks and Julia Kornegay, Council Members At Large.

Our membership is doing well, however, even though our finances are fine, the expenses of publishing, meetings, website and extensive support for students and other scholarships need replenishing. The best way to increase our savings for these and other proposed projects is to expand our membership. We need your support. If everyone could go out and recruit new members, we can fill our coffers and offer more support to young and mid-career scientists.

Expert consultants have offered to review our finances status. They will comment on how to distribute our funds to maximize our savings so we can utilize our funds efficiently. Council formed committees to review our publishing expenses, and methods to raise money for activities, awards, and outreach.

**Journal News**
Don Ugent, journal Editor and Council member for many years, is stepping down and will be missed. He helped to implement many useful changes in the Council as our Treasurer, and most recently as our Editor. Good Luck, Don!

Dan Moerman is the new journal Editor. One of the many changes we are investigating with him will be electronic formats.

**Hal Conklin Receives Nomination for 2005 Distinguished Economic Botanist**

**Awards**

*Fulfilling*
My Lien Nguyen, University of Hawai’i *Some Like It Hot...and Sour, The Ethnobotanical Evolution of “Càu Chua Cá Lóc” in Vietnamese Migrations*

*Schultes*
Heather McMillen’s dissertation research (Ethnomedicine of Tanzania in Ecological Perspective) will investigate the medicinal plant use and management in Tanga, Tanzania. Although little is known about the specific circumstances of harvesting medicinal plants, there is concern that such harvest threatens biodiversity conservation and sustainable primary health care. She will use ethnographic and ethnobotanical methods to investigate local ecological knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors related to natural resource management in general and to medicinal plants in particular, the cultural, ethnomedical, economic, and ecological contexts of medicinal plants; the potential ecological consequences of management by collectors; and the selection criteria used to identify particular plants for diverse uses. McMillen will focus on Tanga communities in the Eastern Arc Forest, a biodiversity hotspot. Most people in developing countries rely on medicinal plants for primary health care and the treatment of HIV/AIDS, yet these plants go without protection, monitoring, or even a comprehension of the context or extent of their collection and use. By privileging local people and their ecological knowledge, this research will contribute to the design of culturally appropriate resource management and to the sustainable use of medicinal plants in Tanzania. McMillen plans to resume field research in the spring of 2005.

*Morton*
Linda Lyon (Frostburg State University) *Traditional Healing in Contemporary Life of the Antanosy People of Madagascar*

**Future Meetings**

There was tentative agreement to hold 2006 annual SEB meeting in Thailand pending successful negotiations with the local organizers.

**Committees**

The Council formed the ad-hoc Collections of Ethno- and Economic Botany (CEEB) Working committee (see SEB’s website). This committee is authorized to submit proposals to IMLS and other funding organizations on behalf of the SEB and partner organizations in order to fulfill the mission of the ad-hoc CEEB committee.

**Student Committee**

The final major discussion pertained to student representation. The Bylaws, approved by the membership, now include student representation on the Council for 2 years and a student committee, headed by the Student Council member.
Meetings

Indigenous Peoples’ Right to Health, 9-10 December 2004

Did the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples make a difference? This conference and Public Meeting at Health Unlimited (London) marks the end of the International Decade of Indigenous People and Human Rights Day.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for researchers engaged in work on indigenous health to present their work to an audience of academics and professionals working in indigenous health including a number of representatives of indigenous peoples’ organisations. A programme for the conference, details on submission of papers, and a registration form can be downloaded from http://www.healthunlimited.org/aboutus/indigenous%20people%20conference.htm.

A call for more effective action to secure the right to health for indigenous peoples will be made based on the findings of the conference and the chapter on indigenous health in Global Health Watch, an alternative global health review to be published in July 2005.

The meeting chair is Richard Horton, Editor of The Lancet and addressed by Rosalina Tinuc, Indigenous Activist and Presidential Delegate for Indigenous Affairs, Guatemala (tentative). Prof. Jeff Reading, Scientific Director of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples’ Health, Canada and health research advisor to the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa. Contact: Ruth Willis by email at ruth.willis@lshtm.ac.uk or by mail at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK.

3rd Annual Catskill Mountain Ginseng/Medicinal Herb Festival, 10 October 2004

I know this meeting is already over, but I thought you might check it out for the 4th annual Ginseng Festival.

Sample ginseng tea and fresh ginseng root, examine the finest wild ginseng in the world, purchase fresh wild ginseng, and listen to educational presentations from researchers from West Virginia, Penn Sate, Cornell, and the University of Maryland. Learn how to grow ginseng in your woodlot and purchase ready to plant ginseng seeds and rootlets. For more information, contact the Heart of Catskill by email at hoca@mhonline.net or Bob Beyfuss at rlb14@cornell.edu.

The Sixth International Conference on Grey Literature

NY Academy of Medicine Conference Center, NYC, 6-7 December 2004

In the transition to the 21st century, grey literature has become a daily work experience in public, academic, and business sectors. In one decade—owing to Internet technology—grey literature has moved from being an uncharted and untapped resource to being a mainstream source of information. This information revolution has had a tremendous impact on the landscape and environment in which grey literature is produced, processed, and exploited. This conference on offers information professionals an opportunity to explore current and emerging issues. http://www.textrelease.com/pages/2/index.htm

Johns Hopkins Fall Institute in Health Policy in Barcelona, Spain, 15-27 November 2004

This event is organized by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Public Health Agency of Barcelona (Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona) with the collaboration of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. http://www.jhsph.edu/Dept/HPM/Non_Degree/Institutes/index.html

Twelve courses, within three tracks, will be offered over two days. All courses will be in English and held at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Risk Assessment and Management of Environmental, Occupational, and Nutritional Health

1. Risk policy, management and communications
2. Politics, policy and transportation safety
3. Work organization, society and health
4. Principles of human nutrition
5. Tobacco control, national & international approaches
6. Environmental epidemiology and health policy

Health Inequalities & Community Health

7. The political and social context of health
8. The epidemiology of health inequalities
9. Class, gender, ethnic inequalities

Advanced Methodological Techniques

10. Patient Outcomes & Quality of Health Care
11. Cohort studies, design analysis, & applications
12. Relationship of epidemiology & health policy

Contact Information: Pam Davis, Administrative Coordinator (Hopkins), email: pdavis@jhsph.edu, Marta Lahoz i Casarramonna, Deputy Chief Administrator (UPF), phone: +93 542 29 56, email: marta.lahoz@idec.upf.edu.

The Palms—A Symposium on the Palm Family Biology

Linnean Society of London & Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, 6-8 April 2005

The field of palm biology is developing faster than ever. At the last international palm meeting in 1997, palm phylogeny was in its infancy. Now there is more of a thorough understanding of palms. New palm phylogenies have enhanced all areas of palm research. This symposium will draw on these advances by focusing on palm research in evolutionary biology and the environment.

The symposium (6-8 April 2005 at the Linnean Society of London and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), incorporating the 5th Annual Meeting of the European Network of Palm Scientists (EUNOPS), is in honour of Dr. John Dransfield, Head of Palm Research at Kew, in recognition of his four decades of outstanding contribution to global knowledge of palms as well as his co-authoring of Genera Palmarum, the benchmark monograph of the palm family.

The symposium will offer a varied and exciting series of invited papers on Phylogeny & Evolution, Structural Biology, Ecology, Conservation & Sustainable Use. Additionally, Kew will host a series of discussion-based workshops following the main themes of the meeting and are aimed at stimulating exchange of ideas and building collaborations. Also, there will be tours of Kew’s extensive palm collection.

http://www.linnean.org
dominic@linnean.org

Natural Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: Assessment ~ Conservation ~ Engagement

In June 2005 a consortium of community and conservation groups is hosting a conference on biodiversity conservation and how it impacts the ecology, culture, and economy of Mid-Atlantic Highlands communities (mountainous regions of PA, OH, MD, WV, VA, TN, KY and NC). The event will be held June 16-18, 2005, at the U. of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Please fill out the two-minute survey on content/format so the meeting will be informative and provide useful connections between your needs and biodiversity conservation practices in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands of the Appalachian Mountain Range. The survey link is: http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zeigp=WEB2Q5BD37Y
ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org
Fellowships and Internships

University of Florida Working Forests in the Tropics Ph.D. Fellowship Announcement

With funding from the National Science Foundation, the Working Forests in the Tropics Program at the University of Florida offers competitive doctoral fellowships for training and research focused on tradeoffs among economic uses, ecological conservation, and regional development in the tropical forests of Latin America.

Our unique “Ph.D. plus” curriculum includes training in interdisciplinary theory, field courses, practicum experiences, and leadership and communication skills. Research themes include (1) Capacity Building, (2) Cultural Persistence, (3) Ecological Dynamics, (4) Forest Management Systems, (5) Macro-Economics and Infrastructure Development, and (6) Policy and Governance.

Applicants should combine cross-cultural experience, academic excellence, and leadership potential. Fellows will be expected to collaborate with one or more of the 20 Latin American universities, government agencies, and NGOs that participate as research and training partners.

Awards include tuition waivers, NSF-IGERT fellowships, and some travel and supply funds. In accordance with NSF policy, applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents. Application deadline: January 17, 2005. Website: http://www.tropicalforests.ufl.edu/wft

HerbaCulture Work/Study

HerbaPharm, a successful herbal company offers an HerbaCulture Work/Study program on their certified organic farm in southern Oregon mid-March-July. Work includes cultivating and harvesting in exchange for classes on organic farming and herbalism. You must be prepared for hard work, communal housing provided, and no monetary fee. Phone: (541) 846-9121 or email: workstudy@herb-pharm.com

Summer Internships at Chicago Botanic Garden

The Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University are accepting applications for a Summer Research Program in Plant Biology and Conservation Science (June 13 – August 30, 2005) supported by a National Science Foundation-REU site grant. This year we will offer up to eight awards to qualified undergraduates interested in conducting plant research. Stipends of $3,000 plus accommodation costs will be awarded to successful applicants. Funds are also available to support research and travel. We offer students hands-on experience and training in a wide variety of field studies, including plant demography, quantitative genetics, molecular ecology, plant breeding, invasive plant dynamics, paleoethnobotany, economic botany, soil ecology, and remote sensing. Responsibilities may include field sampling, laboratory studies, and data analysis. Core program activities include the design and execution of independent, mentored research projects, and participation in weekly seminars. Through these activities, students will learn the fundamentals of experimental design, the use of the scientific literature, data collection and analysis, and oral presentation. At the end of the summer, students will analyze their data, prepare an abstract, and present their findings at a student research symposium.

Applications and further information can be obtained from Dr. David Lentz (dlentz@chicagobotanic.org). Completed applications for the summer of 2005 must be received by March 15 and notification of acceptance into the program will be provided by April 20. Acceptance into the program will be based on academic performance, your professional goals and research interests.

Classes

The Center for Spirituality and Healing

(http://www.csh.umn.edu/Education/Counseling/ ) This center offers an integrated-medicine program within the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota. We have teamed up with the Kohala Center, a non-profit teaching and learning institute in Kamuela, Hawaii, to offer this course annually. Judging by the response from students who took this course in the summer 2002 and/or January 2004, we find that the “immersion” format of the course and the rich content resonates deeply with people. Many of our students report that it has been one of the most stimulating and enjoyable experiences of their academic careers, and some were even motivated to change to majors that would lead to careers in the life sciences. Such feedback is gratifying to teachers who place value on fostering curiosity and a love of the botanical world! Join us in Hawaii’s January 3-14, 2005, and find out for yourself. Plants in Human Affairs is a learning vacation, and the Big Island is the perfect getaway from the dreary Midwestern winter! Help us spread the word about this exciting and unique course; feel free to forward information to friends, colleagues, and students who may have an interest in this course or its topics. We look forward to seeing you on Hawaii’s Aloha and Mahalo. Dennis McKenna, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Center for Spirituality and Healing, Univ. of Minnesota, mckenn031@umn.edu; Kathleen Harrison, M.A., Ethnobotanist & President, Botanical Dimensions, Sebastopol, CA, kharrison2@earthlink.net; and Nancy Feinthel, feinthel@umn.edu, phone (612) 626-5166.

Three Summer Courses Offered

This is to announce that beginning summer 2005 and continuing in 2006 and 2007, the University of Florida, with NSF support, will offer short courses on research methods in cultural anthropology. The short-course program is directed by H. Russell Bernard, Jean Einsminger, Jeffrey Johnson, Carmella Moore, Eric Smith, and Susan Weller. The courses, which will last five days, will be offered at DUMI, the campus of the Duke University Marine Science Laboratories—the same site as East Carolina’s Summer Institute on Research Design in Cultural Anthropology, also supported by NSF. Except for transportation to the site, NSF will cover the costs of attending the short-course program. While the Summer Institute on Research Design is for students in cultural anthropology who are preparing grant proposals for doctoral research, the short-course program
Germplasm News and Views

Continued from page 6

become the first state to require labeling of GM seeds. Initiatives to ban GM crops are running in 22 European countries: 500 cities in Italy, over 1000 municipalities in France, and 100 in Austria, and 8 of the 9 Austrian provinces, 27 of the 54 Greek prefectures, and many others have either banned GMOs or indicated their intent to do so.

“[A] large majority of foreign consumers and wheat buyers do not want GM wheat at this time.” –Dr. Robert Wisner, Prof. of Economics, Iowa State University.

“There is currently not enough differentiation in seed identification systems for farmers to easily distinguish between biotech and non-biotech varieties.” –Boyd Hartman, CoPul.

Monsanto has stated that, while it has entered into agreements to develop biotech wheat, it will not introduce it until various conditions have been met, including appropriate regulatory and trade approvals, grain-handling protocols, and willing buyers found. The National Association of British and Irish Millers and the European Miller’s Association have appealed to Monsanto and the US and Canadian governments not to commercialize GM wheat.

In an unprecedented move, the US Congress reinstated and extended the PVP certificate held by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station for Marshall ryegrass, which had expired in 2002 and the variety entered the public domain. This extension is contrary to the convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which requires fixed-period protection. “Expired varieties enter the public domain. [This] takes something in the public domain and assigns it to a specific entity...and establishes a dangerous precedent” according to the American Seed Trade Association. The situation is similar to the repeated extensions of copyright protection to coincide with the copyright expiration of the Disney character “Mickey Mouse.” This has essentially created eternal copyright protection, contrary to the stated intent of Congress.

The largest PVPA (Plant Variety Protection Act) wheat settlement to date, Syngenta Seeds won a US$150,000 judgment against the Prairie Farmers Association in Arkansas for illegal sales of proprietary wheat seed and labeling violations.

In fall 2001 this column recommended the application of the “open-source” model to public domain seed stocks. Richard Jefferson of the Center for the Application of Molecular Biology to International Agriculture is working to “create a crop-improvement counterpart to the ‘open-source’ software movement” according to Jonathan Knight in an article in *Nature*. Workers in India have also suggested the application of the open-source model to seeds.

Recent implementation of new rules requiring phytosanitary certificates for all seed, regardless of type, quantity, or origin, has seriously impacted the free flow of germplasm. “[I]t is becoming more difficult to ship seed into the United States...and making seed movement more difficult in general” according to Bernard Le Buuene, Secretary General of the International Seed Federation. I would like to hear from anyone who has experienced problems with your research because of this.

Citations on request.

Classes

Continued from page 9

is for faculty and students who are at the very last stages of their degree programs. Younger faculty members are especially encouraged to apply. In 2005, there will be two short courses offered: one in text analysis and another to be announced later. In 2006 and 2007, three courses will be offered each year. We’ll announce the dates and the courses for 2005 soon. We’d like your input on the courses to be offered at the SCRM. Below is a list of potential courses. Please tell us the courses you’d most like to see offered.

1. Ethnographic decision tree modeling
2. Research design
3. Methods in cognitive anthropology (including consensus modeling, MDS, etc.)
4. Probability and nonprobability methods of sampling in fieldwork
5. Time allocation studies
6. Rapid rural appraisal
7. Testing hypotheses using cultures as units of analysis
8. Ethnobotany
9. Designing and testing questionnaires in the field
10. Experimental economics
11. Collecting and analyzing data on household economies
12. Collecting and analyzing data on social networks
13. Collecting and analyzing data on nutrition and health assessment
14. Collecting and analyzing data on demographic variables
15. Collecting and analyzing data on behavior from direct observation

Contact Russ Bernard by e-mail at ufruss@ufl.edu
Distinguished Economic Botanist Award Presentation and Symposium in Honor of Gordon Hillman

Submitted by Gayle Fritz, email: ggfritz@artsci.wustl.edu

This year’s Distinguished Economic Botanist (DEB) award was presented to Gordon Hillman by SEB President Timothy Johns at the Society’s 2004 Annual Meeting in Canterbury. Gordon Hillman is currently Honorary Professor at University College London (UCL), where he served as Director of the Archaeobotanical Laboratory until his recent retirement. He continues to conduct research on ancient plants and human ecology, and is completing a book on the useful plants of Britain. As part of the award presentation, former SEB Board member, Gayle Fritz, spoke of Gordon Hillman’s many significant contributions, including publications that cover more than 18,000 years of plant-human interactions on at least three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. Hillman combines intellectual creativity with methodological sophistication and consummate field and laboratory skills to ask and answer novel questions concerning origins of agriculture and relationships between preagrarian people and plants. His experimental studies of crop harvesting and processing activities changed the ways archaeologists interpret plant assemblages and brought new quantitative rigor to archaeobotanical analysis. Students and colleagues from around the world received training from him, and all rave about his pedagogical skills, enthusiasm, humor, and generosity.

Professor Hillman’s professional contributions and impact at the Institute of Archaeology at UCL. Fusun Ertug screened a beautiful video highlighting Gordon’s influence on the archaeobotany of Turkey and on a generation of Turkish archaeologists. Martin Jones discussed seed dormancy and archaeobotanical indicators for spread of the mouldboard plow across Europe. Daniel Zohary focused on founder crops of Neolithic agriculture in southwestern Asia and why they became so successful. Ann Butler examined morphological traits of wild and domesticated legumes in the tribe Vicieae and shared fascinating ethnoarchaeological observations about seed selection criteria applied by modern Ethiopian farmers. Mordechai Kislev reconstructed the taxon Triticum parvococcum using samples of stored, threshed wheat grains from Tel Batash (700-1400 BCE) in Israel. George Willcox gave a broad and thought-provoking synthesis of paleo-environmental and archaeobotanical evidence relevant to agricultural beginnings in southwestern Asia. Gary Crawford and Gyoung-Ah Lee submitted a paper (read by Andrew Fairbairn) on early agriculture in Neolithic North China and implications for political complexity of the Longshan Culture. Dominique DeMoulins and Carl Phillips discussed the ethnobotany and archaeobotany of the doum palm (Hyphaene thebaica). Andrew Fairbairn talked about the difficulty of recovering ancient macrobotanical remains in New Guinea, reporting promising results from his recently completed fieldwork. Finally, Francis McClaren and Aylen Capparelli presented a global survey of the genus Prosopis as used for food.

The symposium was enormously informative and exciting to everyone interested in past plant use. The inspiration and scholarly legacy of our Distinguished Economic Botanist for 2004—Gordon Hillman—were clearly manifested.

Gayle Fritz is pictured at left with Tim Johns, Past President SEB on her left and Dr. Gordon Hillman our 2004 DEB on her right.
Botanizing the Web

Aboriginal Times
http://www.aboriginaltimes.com/
Below is an summary of a typical article.

Whitehorse - Yukon Council of First Nations Grand Chief Ed Schultz wants to know why Yukon First Nations aren’t in charge of the territory’s aboriginal language programs.

Schultz had some strong words about the situation Friday following a meeting of Yukon chiefs. The Grand Chief says with many native languages disappearing, and some gone already, he’s going to take action. Schultz says the territory’s First Nations have a mandate to protect languages, but lack the tools to do it.

He wants to make sure the people who speak those languages have the power to preserve them.

“What makes us distinct is our language – that’s what makes us distinct,” he says. “That’s the essence of our identity. But the control measures for its ongoing utilization, development, promotion and integration into the contemporary world is controlled by everyone else but us.”

“We have the least say on that. And we’re not going to take it any more.”

Currently, most money for Yukon language programs flows through non-native government agencies like Canadian Heritage, and the territorial Department of Education.

Schulz says as soon as possible, that cash and the rial Department of Education.

The move to regulate traditional healers who use rituals in combination with herbal remedies to treat what ails the body and soul comes amid efforts to cope with one of the world’s highest AIDS rates affecting 5.3 million adults, or one in nine South Africans.

“They have a huge role to play in HIV/AIDS: training, caring and they also play a role of mediator,” says Maseko.

Close to 70% of South Africans consult traditional healers who remain prominent figures in Zulu, Xhosa, and other black African cultures, according to the health ministry.

Under the bill, only those registered healers can practice medicine and they will be barred from making diagnosis or treating terminal diseases such as AIDS and cancer.

A conviction under the terms of the proposed legislation can lead to a fine or imprisonment of up to 12 months.

Ancestral spirits
But the bill fails to spell out the criteria for granting a license and the mechanism for keeping the practitioners in check.

The bill has drawn flak from some in the medical establishment who say the type of holistic approach practiced by the traditional healers is not scientifically sound.

“Most traditional healers are called by the spirits to become healers,” Doctors for Life International, which represents 600 traditional healers, said in a statement.

“The licensing of traditional healers will have a negative impact on the economy of South Africa, with regards to giving people time off work for long periods, as often required by the ‘ancestral spirits’,“ the group said.

But the South African Medical Association representing 16,000 practitioners is welcoming the move to regulate the healers and make their practice safer for the public.

“There are many people who utilize traditional healers and the notion of getting them registered and getting standards of safety is a good notion,” said Dr Kgosi Letlape, chairperson of the South African Medical Association.

It will nevertheless take years to implement the legislation and to issue licenses to the plethora of medicine men and women who practice various forms of healing.

Effective Botany

Commission Urged to Scrap New GM Decision

March 9, 2004 - A coalition of some of Europe’s most vocal campaign groups has called on the European Commission to rethink a proposal on the labeling of genetically modified organisms, urging the lawmakers to allow Europe’s massively anti-GM population the freedom to choose products that are guaranteed GM free.

The Commission is due to adopt a proposal for a decision “establishing minimum thresholds for adventitious or technically unavoidable traces of genetically modified seeds in other products” on 8 September.

But according to the coalition (which consists of Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, the European Environmental Bureau, Coldiretti, Europe’s largest farmers’ organization, international organic movement IFOAM, the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism trade unions and Eurocoop, the European consumer coop-eratives association), the proposal would allow maize and oilseed rape seed lots to contain up to 0.3% of genetically modified organisms without being labeled—and mark the end of consumer freedom of choice.

The previous rules allowed for a threshold of 0.9% for the accidental presence of GM material.

“[This Decision] provides no guarantee that farmers and the food industry will be able to continue offering non-GM products below the 0.9 per cent labeling threshold for final products,” said Eric Gall, Policy Advisor for Greenpeace’s European unit. “It will also load serious additional costs on economic operators all along the production chain.”

Moreover, the decision will effectively tie the hands of national governments wanting to protect traditional farming techniques in their own countries. “EU member states, which are supposed to develop national legislation to protect
Botanizing the Web  Continued from page 12

conventional and organic farming from GMO contamination, will be left no room for maneuver,” said Marco Schlüter of IFOAM Europe.

“The next European Commission will also be deprived the chance to take a more considered view on the issue of ‘co-existence’ … a problem that is crucial for the future of non-GM farming in Europe.”

The Commission is also flying in the face of opposition from almost all the interested parties, including the European Parliament, which passed a resolution in December last year (2003) calling for the seeds labeling threshold to be set at the reliable detection level of 0.1%.

Stefano Masini from Coldiretti warned that the decision would hinder the ongoing reform of the CAP. “High quality agriculture, which is at the core of the new Common Agricultural Policy, will be damaged if unlabelled contamination of seeds is allowed.” The organisations also argue that consumer antipathy toward GM products is still very high, despite the lifting of the de facto moratorium on new GM approvals earlier this year – a change of stance by the Commission, which was widely believed to be due to international pressure from the United States, where GM plantings are widespread.

“There is no need to rush through this decision. The vast majority of conventional seeds on the EU market today, including imported seeds, are not contaminated with GMOs. It would be irresponsible for the ongoing Commission to leave us with a proposal that contradicts its promises to guarantee ‘co-existence’ and freedom of choice for consumers,” said Donal Walshe, director of Eurocoop.

The groups claimed that allowing what they called “contamination of seeds” would make it increasingly difficult for farmers to offer non-GM products to consumers—despite the overwhelming demand for GM-free food—and would increase the cost of co-existence (of GM and non-GM foods), costs that will have to be shared throughout the food chain, ultimately resulting in more expensive food.

The EU has the toughest rules on GM labeling in the world, with mandatory labeling covering countless food products. The new rules, which came into force in April, require all foods that contain or consist of GMOs or that are produced from GMOs to be labeled regardless of the presence of GM material in the final product.

Critics of the rules have already claimed that they do not make sense: “Two different products will appear on the supermarket shelves—a product derived from GMOs but with no GM material present will be labeled as such, whereas a food product that has GM material present but which is under the threshold will not require a label,” commented the CLAA, the voice of the 600 billion European food industry, back in April.

But with around 300 genetically modified maize plants and more than 2,000 GM oilseed rape plants now set to be allowed to grow on every hectare of supposedly GM-free fields in Europe, “without farmers even knowing about it,” according to the coalition, the confusion is only likely to increase, with more food than ever before likely to be made from some form of GM crop but with even less likelihood of any mention of genetic modification ever being mentioned on the label.

“What Is Native?”
http://www.nps.gov/plants/maillist.htm

From Lisa Tasker (Wearing the hat of the Co-committee chair for the Colorado Native Plant Society’s Horticulture and Restoration Committee)

In case you have not already come across this document put out by the Colorado Native Plant Society, here is our attempt at addressing what is “native.” You can find this document on the website as well http://www.conps.org/.

I would like to suggest contacting Dr. Yan Linhart at the University of Colorado. Among his studies is one documenting genetic “pollution” from planting of non-local natives planted near their true native counterparts along a roadside in Rocky Mountain National Park. Contact him through the U of C website under the EPO biology department. A second contact could be Andy Kratz, the botanist with the Forest Service for the Rocky Mountain Region. He is involved with a document addressing genetic issues with regard to revegetating with native plants (coming out of California). There is more information on this at http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/ca/Public/IMs/1997/CAIM97-005-P.html.

New Research Articles on Ethnobotany

I invite you to read over 1600 new research articles (a total of over 3600) based on my ethnobotanical surveys in different parts of Chhattisgarh, India. You will find many interesting information of traditional allelopathic knowledge, herbs used as bio-indicators, some forgotten traditional formulations, etc.

http://botanical.com/site/column_poudhia/publish/journal.cgi
http://botanical.com/site/column_poudhia/poudhia_index.html
Pankaj Oudhia, email pankajoudhia@yahoo.com.
Jobs

Plant Biologist needed for joint position with the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University.

The Chicago Botanic Garden and the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences in Northwestern University seek to hire a plant biologist to fill a joint non-tenure-track position for a renewable two-year term.

The person holding this joint position will have duties as a member of the continuing-lecturer faculty in the Weinberg College, teaching one plant science/botany course each quarter during the College’s three-quarter academic year, and advising students in their research. At the Chicago Botanic Garden, the lecturer will develop and teach classes in the School of the Botanic Garden to professional and continuing education audiences, and will assist the School of the Botanic Garden develop new programs and academic collaborations.

A Ph.D. in botany or a related plant science area (plant conservation biology, plant evolution, etc.) is required for this position. Experience teaching in a university setting, interest/experience in adult continuing and professional education, and experience with competitive grant proposal writing and project management is desirable. This is a chiefly teaching position although the person holding it will have access to Chicago Botanic Garden research facilities and common research-support facilities in Weinberg College in order to carry out his or her own research program. The person hired in the position will officially report to the Director of the School of the Botanic Garden and to an appropriate official in the Weinberg College. For more information, please contact:

Larry DuBuhr, Ph.D.
Vice President of Education
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, IL 60022

Tropical Forest Specialist

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is currently seeking an individual to develop programs for a new 12000 square foot Tropical Forest. Phipps Conservatory is one of the oldest and largest conservatories in the United States. This new addition to our 43500 square foot display conservatory will be utilized as a changing display space to depict tropical forest regions from around the world. The first exhibit will focus on Thailand. The Tropical Forest Specialist will be charged with working with Phipps education staff, horticulture staff, and design teams to help develop and evaluate relevant exhibits and programs for this venue. This will include medicinal plants, other ethnobotanical themes, environmental issues, and current research on plants in Thailand. The developed programs and exhibits will include interactive, formal, and informal programs for school group and the visiting public. The specialist is also expected to develop programs and exhibits to show how environmental issues in tropical regions are related to, and similar to, challenges at home. This person will be our key staff member in developing programs on environmental issue and sustainable practices for our institution and the public in southwestern Pennsylvania.

This is a one year contracted position with the potential for an extension. The quality candidate will have experience with tropical plants or ecology and in developing education programs for a wide variety of groups and individuals. Candidate must have a broad understanding of sustainable practices and a passion for the environment and an advanced degree in biological sciences, botany, ethnobotany, or related field. The candidate must also have the ability to interpret basic scientific research for the public. Interested candidates should forward a letter of introduction and resume to:

Jan M. Kortz
Human Resource Manager
1039 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15132

Ph.D. Position

The University of Milan is opening one Ph.D. position for a non-European student, in the chemical area. The call will appear in September. The applicants should present a M.Sc. in the chemical area, recognized by the Italian government. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of their scientific titles. The knowledge of English language is requested. Those who are interested to apply should contact:

Luigi M. Turcato
Professor of Phytochemistry
Università degli Studi di Milano
Dipartimento di Chimica Organica e Industriale
via Venezian 21
20133 Milan
ITALY

Rainforest Alliance Jobs

1. Major Gifts Manager: Personnel@ra.org
2. Coffee Program Manager: jillsolomo@aol.com, http://www.globallrecruitment.net/
3. Marketing Campaign Manager: Personnel@ra.org

Hunter College, City U. of New York, Environmental Health & Cities, Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate/Full Professor:
http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/health/uph, skltznma@hunter.cuny.edu

Director of School of Community Health at The College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State U.: http://www.healthy.pdx.edu/, http://www.upa.pdx.edu/

Assistant Professor of Health Politics University of Michigan: plants@umich.edu

Postdoctoral Research Associate at the New York Botanical Garden’s Dominican Ethnomedicine Project: http://www.nybg.org/footer/employment_listings.php, hr@nybg.org

Assistant Professor, Functional Ecology, Dept. of Botany University of Toronto: barrett@botany.utoronto.ca

Three Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Positions—Ecologist (Job # 7195), Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics (Job # 7196), Plant Anatomy and Morphology (Job # 7194): http://www.humboldt.edu/~biosci/

Tenure-Track Biology Faculty Position in Dept. of Natural and Applied Sciences, U. of Wisconsin, Green Bay: reedt@uwgb.edu

Assistant Professor, Plant Anatomy/Morphology, Dept. of Botany, U. of Hawai’i at Mānoa: http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Biology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville: http://www.upp.edu/~pers

Nine-Month, Tenure-Track, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Emporia State U., Kansas: http://biology.emporia.edu/postbiol.htm, sundheim@emporia.edu

Assistant Professor, Plant Physiology/Plant Development, Dept. of Biology, College of William and Mary: http://www.wm.edu/

Faculty Position in Natural Products Chemistry at U. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/
‘Related Information on Internet’ link at the end of each item. Register (free) for Biology Education Online, an NSF-funded project to provide a peer-reviewed e-journal by and for K-16 educators. This site also hosts a Graphics Gallery and an Activities Exchange. Be sure to browse through the Woodrow Wilson National Leadership Program in Biology section, listed under the Partners’ Collection.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), sponsored by the U.S.D.A. and posted at http://www.ageclassroom.org/. The section on Teacher Resources includes a Resource Directory, Lesson Plans, Science Fair Projects, Teacher Awards, Grants, and Great Links. There is also a Kid’s Zone. Lesson plans are presented in PDF format so they are easily printed. Some of the lesson plans and links are specific to a number of states.

Amazon Adventure: A Case Study in Medical Technology and Bioethics, by Bobbi Swain and John Nishan and posted at http://www.accessexcellence.org/AE/AEPC/WWC/1993/amazon.html. This lesson ties to the National Geographic film, Secrets of the Amazon.

Anthropology on the Internet for K-12, compiled by Margaret R. Dittemore of the John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, go to http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Anthropology-K12/anth-k-12-home.htm. Although I found no resources directly ethnobotanical in nature, there are great links to various resources by country.

Botanical Society of America Online Image Collection, visit http://images.botany.org/. Currently, 15 topical sets are accessible, including one on Economic Botany.


Check out Federal Resources for Educational Excellence at http://www.ed.gov/free/index.html. These resources are arranged by subject, including Science and Social Studies. Under Science — Ecology — Environmental Protection Agency, for example, you can access the EnviroMapper StoreFront, which allows you to create maps with federal, state, and local information about environmental conditions.

History/SocialStudies for K-12 Teachers, http://home.comcast.net/~dboals1/boals.html. This site has the most comprehensive collection of links.

MarcoPolo—http://www.marcopolo-education.org/home.aspx. This huge teacher resource site includes nearly 3,000 lesson plans/activities.

To see National Geographic Xpeditions, go to http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions. The lesson plans/activities are indexed by standard or aspect of geography, title of lesson plan, and grade, and all are printable. Ethnobotanically oriented examples include Regional Foods, Spices of the World, and Spice Geography.

PBS Teacher Source: http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/. This site includes over 230 sets of state and national teaching standards. Lessons are arranged by topic. For example, under Science — Botany, you can find “Engineer a Crop,” “Warriors of the Amazon: Plant Magic,” and “Genetically-Modified Foods.” Under Science — Ecology, you can find “The Rainforest, Raw Materials, and You.”


RubiStar: http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php. This site helps you to create your own assessment rubrics for project-based learning activities.

**Education**

**Ethnobotany Lesson Plans**
Submitted by Gail E. Wagner, email: gail.wagner@sc.edu

If you are looking for inspiration for teaching ethnobotany, help is just a click away on the Internet. You can find syllabi, college lecture notes, preK-12 lesson plans and activities, and resources useful for teaching. In this column, I want to concentrate on material posted for preK-12 teaching. These lesson plans and activities can provide some wonderful ideas for use in the college classroom, as well as in preK-12 classes.

There are several excellent preK-12 teaching websites. All include lesson plans and search engines for finding plans/activities by content or grade level. At the end of this article are the top sites I found useful. First, however, I would like to say a word about preK-12 lesson plans and the ethics of using Internet resources.

Teachers of preK-12 build their lesson plans around state and federal curriculum standards, but the topics they choose to meet those standards may vary. Although there are science standards, no standards center on ethnobotany, and speaking as an anthropologist, few to none are labeled as anthropology. However, many of the goals in geography, which does figure in the curriculum standards, are very anthropological in nature. There is an increase in the number of lesson plans using ethnobotanical topics to teach subjects, such as science or geography. Lesson plans generally include the following information: subject and theme, appropriate grade levels and class size, strategies, duration, objectives and skills (per the standards), materials, vocabulary, background, procedure, closure, evaluation, and sources. Although lesson plans on the Internet are posted for free use, if you use one in its entirety or even for inspiration, you should cite the author(s), title, url, name of webpage, and date of access as one of the sources in your lesson plan.

Several members of the Society for Economic Botany have already authored materials included in online ethnobotanical lesson plans. Our Past-President Michael J. Balick has written “Green Treasure—The Useful Plants of the Amazon Valley,” which features pictures and information on six important plants (PBS Teacher Source, The Rainforest, Raw Materials, and You). Steven R. King has authored or co-authored several informative articles, including “An Introduction to Ethnobotany,” “Medicines That Changed the World,” “Foods That Changed the World,” and “Tubers from the Andes” that are used on Access Excellence (Resource Center: Ethnobotany). Also available through Access Excellence is an interview with Mark Plotkin (“The Shaman’s Apprentice: Mark Plotkin Talks about Rain Forest Medicines,” an interview by Sean Henahan). David L. Lentz is interviewed on the National Geographic web site at [http://www.nationalgeographic.com/research/grantee/99/lentz.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/research/grantee/99/lentz.html).

Ethnobotany is an excellent topic that can combine arts, humanities, and science; it is multidisciplinary in nature. It lends itself to hands-on activities that can be fun and interesting not only for preK-12 but also college-age students. At the very least, if you post web pages for your courses, such as on Blackboard, the following can provide text and image links for your students.


Wow! Subjects covered under Resource Center include botany; ethical, legal, and social issues; health; biotechnology; and teacher’s websites. One nice feature is the

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