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Join Us at SEB’s 49th Annual Meeting
June 1-5, 2008
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Sponsored by the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, the North Carolina Botanical Garden,
and the J. C. Raulston Arboretum

Featured Symposium
Building Upon the Legacy of Botanical Education and Traditional Knowledge

This symposium will bring together scientists and educators to reflect on the current era when the teaching of basic botany and plant sciences is rapidly declining in American universities. We will consider this in the context of economic botany, which encompasses all dimensions of human uses of plants in the past, present, and future, and by its very nature intersects the intellectual boundaries of a myriad of disciplines in the natural and social sciences. Many universities have associated botanical gardens that can serve as living laboratories where people can connect with nature and learn to appreciate the power and importance of plants in their lives. One objective will be to focus on botanical gardens as a valuable resource where plant collections, botanical education, plant exploration, and traditional knowledge can be interwoven into new, relevant, and exciting interdisciplinary undergraduate programs.

Letter from the President, February 6, 2008

Dear SEB Members,

The SEB Council has successfully concluded its Mid-Year Council Meeting that was held January 18th–20th at the Kampong in Miami, Florida. Before moving on to other matters, I would like to thank Dr. David Lee, the Director of the Kampong, and the National Tropical Botanical Garden (of which the Kampong is a part), for the opportunity to have our Mid-Year in such an ideal setting. The Kampong was the residence and private garden of the eminent plant explorer, David Fairchild, and represents an extraordinary collection of tropical fruiting and flowering plants from around the world, especially from Indo-Malaysia and the American tropics. Dr. Lee gave us a fascinating tour of the Kampong that was rich in historical details, and we certainly appreciate the wonderful introduction he gave to his recently published book, Nature’s Palette: The Science of Plant Color; I am sure it will be of great interest to our members. I would like to express my appreciation to all who attended the Mid-Year Council Meeting, especially to our outgoing treasurer, Dr. Diane Ragone, the Director of the Breadfruit Institute of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, who also made the arrangements for our Mid-Year Council Meeting at the Kampong. We want to congratulate Dr. Ragone and to thank her for allowing us to have a peek at her just-published book, Proceedings of the 1st International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development, which will also be of great interest to members of the society. We have now concluded the move of our business office from Hawai’i to St. Louis and the

Visit http://www.econbot.org
for detail on Pre-registration, Early Registration, and Call for Papers/Workshops
Notes from the Field

Spring is coming I am sure, but it hard to tell in the blustering cold of Colorado. It will be a wonderful experience to be walking in the luscious gardens at Duke University in early June at our annual meeting. We are focusing on Education and will have the opportunity to visit with our main Keynote Speaker, Peter Raven, a person with many skills and fabulous experiences in his amazing career. Mary Eubanks has arranged for many pre- and post-fieldtrips as well as workshops. However, due to the early meeting and limited space, abstracts are due March 24, so if you are serious about offering a talk, please submit it soon. See below for more details.

The Council held its mid-year meeting in January and has made giant leaps to realize the independence and leadership that now exists at the new SEB Office. Check out the minutes from the meeting on page 8 as well and the column from Bill Dahl who heads the SEB Office on page 9.

Students are very active and will be holding a Roundtable discussion at the upcoming meeting, taking calls for the new Mentor award, and seeking active members (see page 4).

The Journal is also seeing some changes as NYBG is now working with Springer as their publisher. Read Dan’s column on page 9 and consider being one of the many reviewers for the Journal.

So send me your news on courses, job offers, queries about field experiences, meeting announcements, and, of course, ethical conundrums that can be shared with the Ethics Committee page 13.

SEE YOU IN JUNE

Trish

Announcing....

The Society for Economic Botany
49th Annual Meeting June 1-5, 2008
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
DEADLINE IS MARCH 24

Please submit your poster and paper abstracts for the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany. This year’s schedule will accommodate 52 contributed papers and 68 posters. Posters should be no more than three to four feet wide and two to three feet tall. Submit abstracts online at

http://www.seb2008.com

This year’s deadline for receiving abstracts is March 24. Since notifications of acceptance will be sent March 28 to give presenters time to meet the early registration deadline on March 31, the Scientific Review Committee will greatly appreciate receiving your abstracts as early as possible.
In the morning, Dr. Peter Raven, President of the Missouri Botanical Garden and author of Biology of Plants, the leading botany text published in five languages, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Michael Balick, a Vice President of the New York Botanical Garden and teaches ethnobotany at Columbia and Yale Universities, will tell about how he has used urban ethnobotany to develop innovative teaching methods that give students first-hand ethnobotanical field experience in New York City. Dr. Robert Bye, Director Emeritus of the Botanical Garden of the Institute of Biology of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Dr. Edelmira Linares will provide an international perspective on botanical education. Dr. Bye’s and Dr. Linares’ work with indigenous communities are an exemplar of how botanical gardens with their academic resources and conservation commitments can combine education, research, and community outreach to enhance in situ conservation and revitalize the indigenous knowledge base of native plant use. University of Hawai‘i Professor Dr. Will McClatchey, who has been instrumental in establishing the first B.S. degree offered in Ethnobotany in the United States, will elaborate on ethnobotanical education at Columbia and Yale Universities, will tell about how he has used urban ethnobotany to develop innovative teaching methods that give students platform computer program designed to efficiently teach plant identification.

Our co-sponsoring institutions, the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the North Carolina State University J. C. Raulston Arboretum, will host evening events. The formal proceedings conclude on June 4 with a dinner at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Doris Duke Center when the 2008 Distinguished Economic Botanist Award will be presented to Drs. Brent and Elois Ann Berlin for their acclaimed work on the medicinal plants of the Maya of highland Chiapas. The Berlins were instrumental in founding the Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden at the University of Georgia, an interdisciplinary and collaborative effort that grew out of a partnership between the University of Georgia and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur in Chiapas. Related educational activities include a workshop on Google Earth led by Dr. Kim Bridges in cooperation with Duke’s Office of Information Technology, and a workshop on ethnobotany lab activities led by Dr. Linda Lyons on June 5. A variety of interesting field trips from the North Carolina coast to the mountains also are being offered.

Contributed papers and posters will be presented June 3-4. This year’s schedule will accommodate 52 contributed papers and 68 posters. We strongly encourage student participation and will offer awards for the best student paper (Fulling Award) and best student poster ( Morton Award). The contributed paper and poster abstract submission deadline is March 24. Since notification of acceptance will be sent March 28 to give presenters time to meet the early registration deadline on March 31, the Scientific Review Committee will greatly appreciate receiving your abstracts as early as possible.


*Plants of Longevity* discusses 215 plants from the flora of the Vilcabamba region in the Southern Ecuador, a region of high biodiversity. Each plant is pictured with the following categories listed: plant family, part used, type of administration, how to prepare the herbs, and for which illnesses one would take them.

Plants of the Four Winds is a larger, more comprehensive book of the rich medicinal flora of northern Peru. Aided by illustrations of 510 species of plants, the book discusses the same categories as *Plants of Longevity*, but with a richness of traditional knowledge as evidenced by the complexity of the formulas used for the illnesses and the antiquity of the knowledge. Today, the typical threats are eroding the plant ecosystems and therefore the knowledge of the past 2,000 years.

*Women Who Light the Dark*, Paola Gianturco. Powerhouse Books, ISBN: 978-1-57687-396-0. Purchasing this book benefits the Global Fund for Women (www.globalfundforwomen.org). It provides images and wondrous true tales of others’ lives. Read about the individual women who are tackling the current issues, of violence, poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, malnutrition, and disease, etc. They may lack resources, but they are endowed with imagination and initiative to create opportunities to what appears to be limited situations. From poetry to street plays, from learning arithmetic through fashion to mentorships for taxi drivers, from carpentry to digging wells, from guiding ecotours to many other amazing, wealthy ideas, Paola, a photojournalist delights you with enticing images and thrilling stories.

*Essential Guide to Growing and Cooking with Herbs*, Katherine Schlosser, Louisiana State University Press, http://www.lsu.edu/lsp/press, ISBN 0-8071-3255-1. This is an excellent book from Herb Society of America’s member Kathy Schlosser. The preface salutes the national gardens in Washington, D.C., emphasizing the herb garden, a must-see for all. After the history/overview section on growing and harvesting, the book lists how to grow more than 60 culinary herbs. Also, there is a list of additional herbs in a special section on plants that have not been Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) by U.S. regulating agencies. Great recipes for herbal teas, herbal wines, herbas nuts, herbal jams and jellies, plus many more, follow.
**LUNCH ROUNDTABLES**

Missing your topic, or is the one paper you are passionate about only slotted for 15 minutes? Then why not host a roundtable during lunch on your issue, topic, or passion. There will be time during every lunch hour to sit with others to discuss topics of mutual interest. If you are interested, contact Mary Eubanks (eubanks@duke.edu).

The Student initiated workshop will be held as a roundtable in 2008. Laura Weiss is hosting a table on “Our Future: Jobs Outside Academia.” Trish has volunteered to help and we are seeking other non-academic mentors. If you know of others, please have them contact Laura (weissl@hawaii.edu).

**FIELD TRIPS**

**Pre-Meeting Field Trips**

Biocultural Diversity in the Land of the Cherokee: May 29–June 1
Organizer: Dr. Karen C. Hall, Office 864-656-4859; Fax 864-656-3304; e-mail carlson@clemson.edu.
Enrollment limit: 14
Cost per participant: $375.00

Land Use and Research History of the Duke Forest: June 1, 2–5PM
Organizer: Judson Edeburn, Duke Forest Resource Mgr, Ph 919-613-8013; e-mail judeburn@duke.edu.
Enrollment limit: 25

Tobacco: The Plant that Built Durham (and Duke): June 5, 9AM-1PM
Organizer: Professor Robert Healy, Duke University Nichols School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Office 919-416-4563; e-mail healy@duke.edu.
Enrollment limit: 22
Cost per person: $20

During the last quarter of the 19th century, Durham was one of the fastest growing and most prosperous cities in the South. Its economy was based on the growing, selling, and manufacture of Carolina Gold, the mild, flue-cured tobacco characteristic of the North Carolina and Virginia Piedmont. The most powerful of all the families associated with the tobacco industry was the Dukes, who at one time controlled 90% of the U.S. cigarette market.

SEEDS, Inc.: June 5, 9:30AM-12:30PM
Organizer: Brenda Brodie, Office 919-683-1197; E-mail info@seedssnc.org
Enrollment limit: 20; Cost per person: $15

**Call for an Informal Workshop on “Plant Knowledge of Migrants” at the SEB Meeting 2009**

Migration is a challenging worldwide phenomena and the plant knowledge of migrants is an interesting and increasingly important topic in ethnobotanical research. Several SEB members work on this dynamic topic. In November 2007, Ruth Haselmair, Elisabeth Kuhn, and Heidemarie Pirker, working at the Division for Organic Farming at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna (Austria), started their Ph.D. research on a project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). The aim of the project is to better understand the transmission and transformation of context-specific local knowledge of people, who migrate from their country of origin to a new environment. This aim should be achieved by the study of traditional knowledge about plant species used in Tyrolean emigrants’ customs, herbal medicine, and traditional food in Pozuzo (Peru), Treze Tílias (Brazil), New South Wales, and Victoria (Australia).

We are highly interested in listening to your experiences and in sharing and discussing our experiences on this issue. Therefore, we are planning to set up an informal workshop at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany in 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. We kindly encourage interested colleagues to collaborate in organizing a workshop on “Transmission and Transformation of Plant Knowledge in Migrant Communities.” If you are interested, please contact, me, Christian R. Vogl (e-mail christian.vogl@boku.ac.at).

**Post-Meeting Educational Workshops**

Google Earth for Ethnobotanists: June 5, 9:30–11:30AM
Organizer: Dr. Kim Bridges, e-mail kim@hawaii.edu
Enrollment limit: 24
No charge

Ethnobotanical Laboratory Activities: June 5, 1:00–4:00PM
Organizer: Dr. Linda Lyons, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Montana Western, Office 406-683-7075; e-mail l_lyon@umwestern.edu.
Enrollment limit: 21
Materials fee: $30.00

Registration, abstract submission, and information about housing, field trips and more is at www.econbot.org or www.seb2008.com.
The Society for 

**ECONOMIC BOTANY**

DEDICATED TO THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY PEOPLE

Current Society for Economic Botany Council (annual meeting elected position ends follows)

**President**
John Rashford, 2009

**Secretary**
Michael B. Thomas, 2008

**President-elect**
Jim Miller, 2010

**Treasurer**
Diane Ragone, 2008

**Past-president**
Will McClatchey, 2008

**Council Members-at-large**
Tamara Ticktin, 2008
Mary Eubanks, 2009
Maria Fadiman, 2010

Christian Vogl, 2008
John Rick Stepp, 2009
MyLien Nguyen, 2010

**Student Council member**
Arika Virapongse, 2010

**Ex-officio (non-voting, appointed) Council member publication editors**

Dan Austin

Dan Moerman

Trish Flaster

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**2008 Ballot**

Please submit ballot by Friday, March 31st, 2008

Biographical information and statements are available for each candidate at the SEB web site.

Check boxes to indicate your choices:

**President-elect** (vote for one):

☐ Eve Emshwiller

☐ Diane Ragone

☐ Write-in __________________________

**Secretary** (vote for one):

☐ Heather McMillen

☐ Write-in __________________________

**Treasurer** (vote for one):

☐ Sy Sohmer

☐ Write-in __________________________

**Council Members-at-large** (vote for two):

☐ Sandra Bannack

☐ Sarah Khan

☐ Write-in __________________________

☐ Jim Bauml

☐ Robert Voeks

☐ Write-in __________________________

☐ Rainer Bussmann

☐ Write-in __________________________

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Nominations for the 2009 ballot and 2009 Distinguished Economic Botanist (optional):

**President-elect:** ________________________________________________

**Council Member-at-large:** ___________________________________________

**Distinguished Economic Botanist:** _____________________________________

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Votes may be submitted in three ways. Votes must be submitted by March 31st, 2008:

1. Submit selections by e-mail to: wdahl@botany.org
2. Fax vote to: 314-577-9515
3. Mail vote to: SEB Business Office, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299 USA

*SEB Business Office, PO Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299 USA | wdahl@botany.org 314-577-9566 Fax 314-577-9515*

SEB is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization registered in the state of NY.

The Society for Economic Botany (SEB) was established in 1959 to foster and encourage scientific research, education, and related activities on the past, present, and future uses of plants, and the relationship between plants and people, and to make the results of such research available to the scientific community and the general public through meetings and publications.
Interview with Beryl Simpson, Past President 1999

By Jamie Whitacre

What led you to pursue a career in botany and economic botany?

I have been interested in plants for as long as I can remember. I tried to make “hybrids” in grammar school by cutting seeds of two different species in half, sticking them together and planting them—never worked! I also loved to walk in the large wooded parks of Louisville (where I lived from ages 4–12) with my father. Later, I had a very encouraging high school science teacher in Quincy (MA) who let me go beyond the regular class labs. She initiated science fairs at the school and all of my projects were botanical. One, that received a prize at the State Fair, was “The Economic Aspects of the Rose.” While gathering information for the project, I went to the museum at Harvard and met Richard Schultes.

Later in high school, I worked at the Arnold Arboretum and met Dick Howard. When I was a freshman at Radcliffe College, I signed up for a graduate course in “Horticultural Taxonomy” that Howard taught. It never occurred to me that freshmen weren’t supposed to take graduate courses or that I was allowed in the course only because he knew me (something I learned later).

What were your first impressions of Richard Schultes and Dick Howard?

I met both of them in high school, but I spent a lot more time with Howard because of working one summer at the Arboretum. I came into contact with Howard almost every day. I did a variety of things [at the Arboretum]: I worked in the main office filing slides, paper work, but they also taught me how to graft and I did grafting in the greenhouses. One of the funny things I remember was they have a wonderful Bonsai collection that they received from Japan. At the time, nobody was interested in bonsai and nobody realized what a wonderful collection it was. So I read some books and I said, you know you should trim these things, shape them, “Oh!” they said, “go right ahead!” So, there I was with my clippers having no idea what I was doing. They were about 100 year old trees at that point. Since then, they’ve discovered their importance and they have a special area for them. They treat them much better I think than I did at the time.

More to the point, one day while I was working, I walked into Howard’s office and asked him what he was doing. He said that he was reading a dissertation, and, being young, I asked him what that was. And he told me, you go to graduate school, get a Ph.D., and write a dissertation. That was my first exposure to the fact that there was something beyond college. My parents were college graduates, but they didn’t have a degree beyond college. So, that set the stage.

With Schultes, the first meeting was much more cursory. When I went to the museum, he introduced himself and then he turned me over to the librarian. I didn’t see him again until I was in college. In fact, he was one of my many undergraduate advisors—I went through about five; Howard being my last. I was with Elso Barghoorn originally, but I wasn’t interested in paleobotany. Schultes was the next one and I don’t know why I switched from him. Then I decided I wanted to do something in medical chemistry, looking at plants used for medicine. So I switched to a molecular biologist, but it turned out he knew nothing about plants. I thought, “That’s not for me, I want to work with real plants, not extractions.” Later, toward the end of my junior year I needed a project for my senior dissertation. I had asked E.O. Wilson before the beginning of my junior year to be my advisor and he said, “Well, let’s see how you do in my course first.” Which was probably a smart thing for him to do before he took me on. So I took his course and in the meantime Howard sought me out and said, “Oh, I have this wonderful project for you to do on the West Indies, would you like to do your senior thesis on that?” I said, “Sure.” After the course was over, Wilson said, “Come by to see me about your senior thesis,” I told him that I already had an advisor. It might have changed the course of my life if I had worked with Wilson.

I knew by the time I was in the second semester of my senior year that I was going to stay at Harvard for my Ph.D. I sought out Otto Solbrig as my major professor and he was the one who came up with the group I worked for my dissertation. It was different from what Howard had me working on as an undergraduate; I said I was never going to work on anything as ugly as that again. I wanted something prettier!

How do you come up with ideas for research topics for yourself and for your students?

I’ve always been interested in answering questions using plants. One person who spent much time mentoring me in college and graduate school was Ernst Mayr; hence, I became very interested in speciation patterns. I’m still working on speciation patterns and biogeography. I am curious about and try to find which plants and groups will help solve problems. Currently, I’m working on Adesmia because I gave a paper at the botanical congress in Vienna in which I had gathered all of the studies I could find that dealt with phylogenies looking at the origins of each group. The research was heavily biased toward studies like the kind I would have done, focusing on a particular question, such as amphitropical disjunctions between North America and South America, and trying to determine which way plants moved. There were a whole bunch of studies that looked at that question. Similarly, New Zealanders are going nuts about trying to figure out where the flora of New Zealand came from. There are numerous studies that deal with groups that occur in both South America and New Zealand. What was really lacking were groups that were indigenous to South America, so after chastising everybody for not looking at those sorts of groups I said, “Shoot, I should do that.” So now I’m stuck with this species-rich genus that’s kind of a mess, trying to sort out all of its 250 species that occur between Southern Peru and Tierra del Fuego, mostly Andean. It’s going to take a while.

For students, I don’t usually hand them a topic. Sometimes they come in say “I want to work on palms, I’ve been to Peru already and I want to work in the tropics.” I say “OK.” I tell them to start corresponding with the palm people to see what genus has been worked on and what genus needs to be worked on. There is one student who is also interested in ethnobotany and needed a group that had an ethnobotanical component to it. So now, he is working on Attalea; he is example of someone who is already semi-focused.

I have other students who come into my office. We sit down and I ask them, “What are you interested in? Are you interested in working in the United States? You don’t want to travel much? Are you interested in traveling a lot? Are you interested in mountains? Are you interested in big flowers? Little flowers?” If people don’t like what they are working on, they don’t make much progress. So we go through a battery of questions to try to find groups that they are interested in, find plants that grow where students want to go, and hopefully have interesting side projects.

In other cases, a student will say, “This particular group interests me, what other aspects can I explore.” For example, one of my students (Sarah Taylor) is working on Nama, which grows on gyspophilic species arose once or more than once.
Past President’s Activities

Charlie Heiser recently sent me a notice of his article received by Springer. Here is a preview:

The Sunflower (Helianthus annuus) in Mexico: Further Evidence for a North American Domestication, Charles B. Heiser, e-mail c.heiser@indiana.edu, Department of Biology, Jordan Hall. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA. Published online: 21 December 2007.

Abstract: I have concluded that my initial verification of a specimen recovered from the San Andrés archaeological site in Mexico as domesticated sunflower was incorrect. The question in question is most likely the seed of a bottle gourd. As yet, there is no compelling evidence that the sunflower was grown as a food crop in Mexico prior to European contact. In addition, the complete absence of any early historical record for the sunflower in Mexico argues against its presence in pre-Columbian times. Although no dates or boundaries can be set, the wild sunflower may have grown in northernmost Mexico in early times. A southward range expansion for the species is probably very recent, perhaps in the last few hundred years with the development of a modern road system. The widely used common names of the sunflower in Mexico are in Spanish or with Spanish words in them, which suggests that the sunflower is a post-contact arrival.

References
Martínez M (1959a) Las plantas medicinales de Mexico. Ediciones Botas, Mexico.
Martínez M (1959b) Plantas útiles de la flor mexicana. Ediciones Botas, Mexico.
Martínez M (1979) Catálogo de nombres vulgares y científicos de plantas mexicanas. Fondo de Cultura Económica, Mexico.

Letter from the President

continued from page 1

Director of the SEB Business Office, Bill Dahl, also attended the Mid-Year Council Meeting. I would like to take this occasion to officially welcome him into the SEB fold.

On behalf of the Council and members of the Society I would like to congratulate Drs. Brent and Elois Ann Berlin for being this year’s Distinguished Economic Botanists in recognition of the extraordinary importance of their work over the past 48 years among the Tzeltal and Tzotzil Maya of the Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico, and their exceptional contributions to anthropology, ethnobiology, ethnobotany, conservation, and sustainable development. We look forward to their presentation at the banquet of the 2008 Annual Meeting.

The 2008 Annual Meeting—the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society—will be held at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, from June 1st to June 5th and is being organized by Dr. Mary Eubanks. The meeting will be hosted by the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at Duke University, the North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the J. C. Raulston Arboretum at North Carolina State University. The featured symposium, “Building Upon the Legacy of Botanical Education and Traditional Knowledge,” will focus on the diverse roles of botanical gardens have played and continue to play in botanical education. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. As noted in the preliminary schedule, a “key objective of the symposium will be to put the teaching and dissemination of botanical knowledge into historical perspective, characterize the changes in university curricula and programs today, elucidate how those changes are impacting the teaching of botany, delineate the challenges we face, discuss how botanical gardens can embrace economic botany/ethnobotany to exhibit creative leadership for breathing new life into programs that will proactively shape a secure future of botany.” As is customary, contributed papers and workshops will be the mainstays of the meeting. Members and prospective members are encouraged to present their latest research results. Details for the 2008 Annual Meeting and registration information can be found on the SEB website—http://www.econbot.org. I look forward to seeing you all in Durham, North Carolina, and we thank Dr. Eubanks and Duke University for hosting what I am sure will be an exciting and informative meeting.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Dr. Mark Nesbitt of the Royal Botanical Gardens,
Mid-Year Council Meeting

The Mid Year Council meeting took place on January 19-20, 2008, at The Kampong, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Coconut Grove, Florida.

Participants: Kim Bridges, Bill Dahl, Mary Eubanks, Maria Fadiman, Trish Flaster, Will McClatchey, Jim Miller, Dan Moerman, MyLien Thi Nguyen (via teleconference), Diane Ragone, John Rashford, John Rick Stepp (via teleconference), Arika Virapongse, and Christian Vogl [Voting members underlined]

The meeting was very dynamic with many decisions that are helping direct the Society towards a positive trajectory for the next several years. The council began by giving authorization of the website to the Business office. This would allow us to respond better to member’s requests, and put timely events and announcements on the web.

The Council also will be reviewing budgets to see how to keep costs reasonable while still being able to offer the most awards for members of any society and supporting students.

Finally the organization structure of the Society will be revisited to be sure all positions are clearly delineated and included in our review of the bylaws that would allow the Council to make timely and pertinent decisions without a burdensome structure.

As always, the Council is seeking ways to expand membership and continue the excellence of the Journal (see Editor’s Column). The Student Committee is calling for the Charles B. Heiser Jr. mentor award (see Cross Pollination). Updates from each committee were presented.

As I have sat on the board as an ex-officio member for over 20 years, I want to commend the board for their excellent work in making many transitions for the Society, which will soon be benefiting from the changes.

Finally, a big appreciation goes to Diane Ragone and David Lee, Kampong Director, for offering the Kampong for the meeting. What a blessing!
**Economic Botany Editor’s Report**

There are major changes going on with our journal, *Economic Botany*. Following our summer meeting, it became apparent that our efforts to become independent of the New York Botanical Garden were not going to work. We then considered starting a new journal independent of, and in addition to, the existing journal. This ultimately was considered impractical but still not impossible; however, it had the positive effect of encouraging the NYBG to increase its support of the journal (recognizing that if we didn’t provide content and edit the journal they would have to do it).

In addition to this, the Garden decided to outsource the production of its journals to Springer. The company, once known as Springer-Verlag, is now formally known as Springer Science+Business Media. Most of the time, however, it is known simply as “Springer.” It is a German-Dutch business that publishes about 1,700 journals and 5,500 books per year. Its website indicates that its 2006 sales were €924 million. The company maintains a large office in in New York’s Greenwich Village, with a few hundred employees. The staffers I have been working with have been very professional and capable, if, perhaps, a bit overwhelmed by the other 1,699 journals! I am confident, however, that all will work out in time.

The biggest benefit to us of working with Springer will probably be a significant increase in circulation. Springer essentially markets sets of journals on various topics globally. We will be part of a “Botanical Science” group. This year, Springer also added *Kew Bulletin* to this group.

One of the more challenging elements of the transition will be the replacement of our Fastrac submission system with Springer’s Editorial Manager. This is a slightly modified version of the same system used by Elsevier and several other major publishers. It will definitely be less personal than what we have been doing, but it may well help us keep better track of submissions and reviews than I have been able to do with my little Access database. The transition to Editorial Manager is underway; it’s not clear to me exactly when it will be done. As I write this, we are still using Fastrac. When we make the change, it will be indicated on SEB’s website.

There will be some rather modest changes in the layout of the journal, especially the covers, inside and out. I think that most other changes will be invisible to most readers; and I believe it is probable that we will decrease the time for reviews (which, I believe, is already quite short!)

And so, as we make these major changes, I again appeal to members to volunteer as reviewers. What I need most are generalists who will review not as particular authorities on the substance of articles, but who can review as ordinary readers. Please contact me, Dan Moerman, by e-mail at editor@econbot.org. I would like to know your general interests, and your willingness to review carefully, insightfully, and quickly!

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**SEB Office News**

I hope this note finds you well and enjoying the first touches of autumn in the southern hemisphere and those of spring here in the north. The Society office is now fully functional. If you have any questions regarding membership or access to the SEB website, send a note by e-mail (seb@botany.org) or call 314-577-9566.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008, please do so now. From an environmental and economic standpoint, it is best to know ahead of time how many members are renewing. With this information, we can be more efficient in how many copies of the Journal and Newsletter we produce, store, and distribute for members.

To renew online, go to [https://payments.botany.org/joinseb/](https://payments.botany.org/joinseb/). This is simple, safe, and efficient. Our privacy policy, can be viewed at [http://www.botany.org/governance/privacy.php](http://www.botany.org/governance/privacy.php).

If you would like to use a paper form and the mail, please go to [http://www.econbot.org/pdf/08_membership_application.pdf](http://www.econbot.org/pdf/08_membership_application.pdf). Send the form to P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299.

We are pleased to know that all members have online access to *Economic Botany*. If you have questions and/or difficulty logging into the site, please contact us at once. We’d be more than happy to assist you.

The SEB election ballot is on page 5 in the Newsletter and, along with bios of the candidates, online at [http://www.botany.org/SEB/2008Election.php](http://www.botany.org/SEB/2008Election.php). Please take the time to vote.

All the very best, Bill Dahl

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**Letter from the President**

Kew, for the key role he has played in the successful launch of a SEB European Chapter in January of this year. This effort began in October in 2006 with Peter Lapinskas and the European Chapter now has 121 members representing 49 countries. We can only hope that the success of this effort will offer encouragement to those in other major regions of the world who would also like to form their own chapters.

On behalf of the Council and the SEB membership, I would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Dan Moerman for the outstanding job he has done as the editor of the journal. We are also fortunate to have Trish Flaster as Editor of our Newsletter and I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for what has become an integral part of the Society’s functioning.

In the fall of 2007, the Society for Economic Botany was the beneficiary of an anonymous foundation gift in the amount of $30,000. As I did in my first letter to the society, I encourage SEB members who are in a position to do so, to promote the society’s mission by making a meaningful donation to the Schultes Endowment Fund (which benefits students who submit outstanding proposals for research project in economic botany and ethnobotany), the President’s Fund for Student Participation in Annual Meetings, the International Partnership Fund (which allows our members and colleagues in other parts of the world to obtain the levels of funding necessary to present their research at the annual meetings), or the Senior Scholars Award (which honors the respected “elders” of our society for their lifetime of service).

The 2009 Annual Meeting, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Society, will be hosted by the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina.

The life of the Society for Economic Botany rests with its members and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to renew their membership for 2008.

Sincerely,
John Rashford, President
Society for Economic Botany
I have other students who are not working in systematics. One student (Juanita Choo) is working in ethnobotany; she wanted to work with indigenous people in relation to palms. So she’s looking at tri-trophic level interactions: People who use of palms, insects that kill palms, people who eat the palm insects, and animals that disperse the palm fruit, and people who hunt the animals that disperse the palm fruits. All these complicated interactions relate to palm survival and fruit dispersal.

I have another student (Simone Cappellari) who is looking at pollination networks in the Cerrado in Brazil. I’ve done a lot of pollination work and always wanted to work in an area that had a lot of oil flowers but is very hard for Americans to work in Brazil. But Simone is Brazilian, so it’s perfect!

How many students are you currently working with? How many do you take on each year?

I currently have seven students. I had two new students join the lab this year. The year before I didn’t take any partly because we were traveling and we were gone at the time when the applications came in. Typically, before the students apply, I am able to develop a rapport with them, but since we were out of the country, I wasn’t able to do that.

What techniques do you use to inspire, motivate, and develop future botanists?

I just show them how interesting plants are. I think my interest in them excites other people. I also try to relate botany to people’s lives—often through food items.

What plants or which of your lessons are most successful? What plants or uses do students respond the most to?

I usually teach only upper-level undergraduate biology majors. In my Economic Botany class, there are a lot of pre-meds, so I’m not really drawing anybody into botany. However, I usually get comments from students after the course is over that they avoided taking a plant course because they thought they didn’t like plants, but they found the course really interesting and found they did, in fact, like plants.

Do you still do your beer-making lab, and if not, have you replaced it with something equaling interesting?

Actually, I only taught the lab twice in my 30 years of teaching. It had a short life, but it was interesting. Now, I bring things into class—not beer. Today I brought in sticky black rice and quinoa because we are doing “grains.” Even though there are 60 people in the class, we pass around a little bowl, everybody gets a spoon, and they put a little on their spoon to try some. Students are much more cosmopolitan now in terms of things they have tried. Fifteen years ago, I wouldn’t have had a student in my class who knew what parsnip was, now probably five of them know what parsnip is. I think the cooking channel has helped!

How are national (and international) science organizations working to improve science education? Where do botany and economic botany fit into the picture?

At the moment, I don’t think there is much of a push for science education. I now live in Texas and even the teaching of evolution keeps popping up as a serious question. However, it is not a problem here on campus.

What tools and technologies do you find most useful in your taxonomic and biogeographical studies?

Certainly the two greatest changes have been the adoption of a rigorous phylogenetic framework for evolutionary studies and the use of molecular data for phylogenetic studies. These have informed all of my work for the last 15 years. They have also provided exciting data about the origins and relationships of crop plants. New insights are provided every year.

You’ve worked in both museum and university settings. How is each of these environments unique? Is one better than the other for doing economic botany work? Are there differences in the way success is defined in a museum versus a university and are different skills required in one or the other to be successful?

While I teach economic botany (which I love to do) and I supervise students who do ethnobotanical or ethnological work, my research is not specifically ethnobotanical. As for the differences between my museum and university years one has to realize that I worked in a museum 30 years ago at the Smithsonian, which is probably unique as museums go. The strong points of working there was the freedom to travel and collect whenever I needed. The down side was the lack of graduate students and the intellectual excitement that exists in a (at least my) university setting. In my experience, expectations are high in this university setting in terms of numbers of publications, grants received, and teaching evaluations. The museum allowed for fewer, but much longer publications (monographs—a good and necessary function for museum researchers), often provided the funding needed itself (Smithsonian curators could not apply for NSF funds), and, of course, there was no teaching. Working with graduate students is one of the greatest joys of my life.

What direction do you see the Society and the field of economic botany taking in the next 10 to 20 years?

There probably will be more interest in conservation of indigenous material and more detailed studies on the relationships of economically important plants. There seems to be evidence that indigenous use of plants is declining, both because of increased globalization and over-exploitation of wild-gathered resources.

You’ve had a very successful career and family. It seems like the next generation of female scholars are working extremely hard and many (most?) are single. Is it possible to do both these days?

I like to work hard. I’d be bored if I didn’t. I think it is perfectly possible to juggle things around. Here in my section, we’ve hired something like six women in the last seven or eight years. Several of them had kids while they were on their tenure track journey and they have done very well. They don’t have stay-at-home husbands either. A couple of them have a spouse also in academia; in other cases, their spouses are successful in a different profession. That is the model that I always tried to show people and what I always tried to tell people. Men have always been encouraged to work hard, support a family, and be a good father—I don’t see any reason why a woman can’t be expected work hard, support a family, and be a good mother. Although it is true that women spend more time doing things like house cleaning and picking up and doing things like that.

What do you like to do in your free time—if you have any.

I am a serious cook—usually two or more hours per dinner plus something extra on the weekend—homemade pasta or bread. I also do Tai Chi (I’m a black sash at the moment). My spouse, Dr. Jack Neff, and I also like to hang out—often by taking short field trips.
Courses

Ferris State, in Big Rapids, Michigan, Announces Summer Program: EEB 455 Ethnobotany—Preq.: Two college-level courses in biology or BIO 162 or Faculty permission; 5 credits; Prof. Herron (ScottHerron@ferris.edu)

Ethnobotany is the study of the direct cultural use of plants by people. This integrated course utilizes an ecological framework to explore the botany, mycology, anthropology, natural resource management, history, linguistics, and American Indian studies of ethnobotany. An intensive Northern Michigan field botany/mycology experience and an applied ecology laboratory experience test the constraints and opportunities of specific plants and fungi. Lectures explore the cultural use of plants from a local to global perspective and a focus on Great Lakes American Indians. Students will learn to identify, classify, harvest, and culturally process many of the Northern Michigan plants utilized during pre and post European-American contact for food, medicines, crafts, cordage, firewood, teas, smudging/smoking, and ceremonies. Local American Indian cultural experts will provide several guest lectures and/or applied workshops.

For anyone who wants a Great Lakes perspective on Ethnobotany, this is a hands-on, low enrollment (16 cap) class, with many scholarships available to in and out of state students. Apply early (January or Feburary) before U of M students fill the seats. We will likely carry through 2008 a wild rice case study from last year. The class meets at the Biological Station in northern Michigan near Cheboygan, only 15 minutes of the Mackinac Bridge.

Faculty Interests: Ethnobotany and ecology of wild rice, field botany/mycology, microbial ecology, botanical archaeology/paleoethnobotany, plant propagation, traditional ecological knowledge, Anishinaabek Great Lakes Indian Studies including Anishinaabemowin linguistics and acquisition, Great Lakes oral and written history, Education of biology, ethnobotany, and underrepresented students. http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umbis/

Rice Research to Production Course at the International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, Philippines

Cornell University Professor Susan McCouch has a grant from the National Science Foundation that will support the participation of 10 U.S. citizens in a three-week course to be held at IRRI in the Philippines in May 2008. Students throughout the United States are invited to apply. Selected students will receive up to $1,400 to cover the cost of their roundtrip airfare. The course fees and accommodations at IRRI are covered through the scholarship. Contact: Francine Wilson Jasper (e-mail: jf10@cornell.edu).

This three-week course will appeal to undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and other professionals interested in learning more about rice diversity and the gene bank, rice production systems in Asia, phenotyping of rice plants in the field, land preparation, crop establishment, nutrient, water and pest management during the growing season, harvest and post-harvest technology, grain quality and nutrition, rice breeding and genetics, marker-assisted selection and the global rice economy. It will complement the growing interest in rice as a model genome by providing some context for the organism in its native environment.

The application deadline has been extended to January 10, 2008 (I know this is late, but I thought you could investigate for future attendance, Editor). Contact: e-mail TSickles@nasulgc.org.

Organic Natural Products: Chemistry, Technology and Industrial Applications

First Level Master Course in Academic Year 2007/08

Coordinated by Prof. Paolo Manitto, the course is held from March 2008 to February 2009, with 750 classroom hours and a three-month stage in associated institutes.

The course is open to graduates in Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Biotechnologies, Natural Sciences, Agrochemical Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Sciences.

Topics: Vegetable & Pharmaceutical Botany & Physiology; Chemistry & Biosynthesis of Organic Natural Products; Extraction, isolation, characterization of Organic Natural Products; Standardization, quality control; Pharmacognosy, toxicology, phyto vigilance; Industrial applications; and Law, business administration, and intellectual property rights.

Course Registration Fee: €3,200.00.
Registration is available online from 10/12/2007 at the website of the University of Milan www.unimi.it (Master e corsi di perfezionamento). Secretariat: University of Milan, Dept. of Organic and Industrial Chemistry, (Prof. Giovanna Speranza, Dr. Luisella Verotta), Via Venezian, 21, 20133 Milano, Tel. 02 5031 4079; fax 02 5031 4072; e-mail giovanna.speranza@unimi.it, luisella.verotta@unimi.it.

October 2007

Call for Teaching Tips Contributions

Deadline: 2 May 2008

Submit to Gail Wagner electronically (preferable) as a WORD 97 attachment at gail.wagner@sc.edu or hard copy at Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Please address the subject heading in your e-mail as follows: SEB Teaching Tips.

At the 2000 SEB meetings, I collated a booklet with aids for those who teach ethnobotany or economic botany. Given the theme of our 2008 meetings, I’d like to produce an updated version of the booklet for distribution (at cost) at the meetings. A copy of the booklet will be given free to each person who submits material. Unless I hear otherwise, I assume that submissions from 2000 can be included in this updated version. We may post this information on our website, or we may actually publish it. When you make your submission, please indicate which form of publishing you prefer.

I am especially looking for more teaching ideas of specific activities or domains of knowledge that can be used/taught in class (see below for the list from 2000). I’d like entries for this section of the booklet to range from 1-4 single-spaced pages in length. Please send instructions for classroom or field trip activities that you’ve found successful and interesting to students! Be sure to include your name, affiliation, and e-mail (or other) address.

I am also looking for additions to the list of textbooks (see below) along with an outline of the table of contents of each textbook. Please include the authors, title of book, year published, publishers, ISBN, cost, paper/hardback, whether it has an index, number of pages, and how references are cited (within chapter? end of volume?). Please also send information about any books or booklets available for purchase, such as those produced by botanical gardens for distribution to teachers. We are interested in all levels, from academia (K-12 and college) to public interest.

I’d like more book reviews of books that may be used as supplemental readers or sources in class. Please include basic information (as above) about the book. The reviews should be brief and succinct.

If you use movies or videos in class, please send the basic information on the greatest ones: title, year, who distributes it, and a 1-3 sentence summary (see list below of the movies already included).

Finally, if you can add to the list of references that detail the history of the field of ethnobotany,
Courses continued from page 11

ANNOUNCEMENT: Plan to Attend the 2008 International Training Program on Natural Products: Botanicals, Nutraceuticals and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Hosted by Rutgers University and the New York Botanical Gardens, this Intensive Short Course on Botanicals, Nutraceuticals, and Medicinal/Aromatic Plants, will be held from Aug. 11 - Aug. 15, 2008, at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) with part of the course held (transportation provided) at the New York Botanical Garden (Bronx, New York City, NY). Rutgers is one hour south of New York City, one hour east of Philadelphia, and 3.5 hours north of Washington, D.C.

THE PROGRAM: The 2008 program courses focus on the origin and applications of natural plant products, natural products chemistry, biochemistry, and extraction and processing methods. This also includes methods of isolation and analysis and an introduction of chemistry for the non-chemist as well as an in-depth focus on quality control, traceability, authentication, adulteration, and botanical standardization.

This course also will cover genetic diversity, plant-based bioprospecting, quality assurance, and quality control for botanicals from sustainable bush wild-crafting, through the introduction of a new botanical into cultivation, organic production, harvesting and processing, storage, and the actual quality control and product standardization of simple and complex natural plant products.

Case studies on individual botanicals, herbs, spices, herbal teas, essential oils, and medicinal and nutraceutical plants will be highlighted, largely on African, American, and Asian natural products as well as the marketing, trade, and regulations of dietary supplement and nutraceutical industries.

The 2008 program is geared to those interested in agriculture and food, the allied processing and product development industries and in international trade. For those involved in or interested in agriculture, this short course will include trainings in taxonomy and botanical authentication, plant genetic resources, genetic diversity, organic production technologies, developing real Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Sourcing Practices (GSP) for the successful commercialization of botanicals and in developing quality control programs for natural products including the development of tracking systems, standard operating protocols, and product specifications sheets for botanicals, medicinal plants, spices, essential oils and other herbal products and dietary supplements.

Ethnobotanews

Plant Detective on the Case for Cures
By Murphy Woodhouse, Missoulian, 08/02/07

When Lewis and Clark expedition member William Bratton fell ill with back pain and coughing on Feb. 10, 1806, the explorers were down one of their most valuable adventurers. The disease persisted for months, weakening him slowly as each day passed.

On May 24, Lewis described Bratton as “so weak in the loins, that he is scarcely able to walk, nor can he set upright but with the greatest pain.”

After exhausting the medical resources the expedition had, another crewmember, John Shields, suggested a Native American remedy that combined sweat baths and a tea brewed from horsemint, a prolific member of the mint family with a range from the American Southwest to Canada, including Montana. According to expedition records, Bratton was up and walking the next day, never to fall ill from the disease again.

Missoula’s Beth Judy, the show’s producer, as well as the voice of the show’s film-noirish personality Flora Delaterre, makes no claims to being a medicinal plant expert. The show had its genesis in 1995 when UM pharmacy professor Rustem Medora (SEB member) heard Judy on the air during MPR’s Spice Chest. Being a medicinal plants expert, Medora approached Judy with the idea of doing a similar show for the numerous plants with medical uses. According to Judy, Medora provided the science and she provided the narrative.

The show has changed a lot since its first 1996 airing and is now a pared-down, 90-minute show that airs on community and public radio stations from Galena, Alaska, to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Medora’s role with the show ended several years ago and now the facts are checked and provided by four professors from Seattle’s Bastyr University, a naturopathic medical school.

“I’m not really promoting use,” Judy said. “The boom in phytomedicinals is causing a lot of stress for these plants.”

As much as the show is about the panoply of medical plants, it’s also about the danger that some species are in due to habitat threats, Judy said.

To spread the conservation message, as well as information about medicinal plants, Flora Delaterre moved off the airwaves and into a coloring book for kids ages seven and up called “Medicinal Plants of North America” several months ago. According to Judy, the Missoula area is home to many plants with medical uses. Among them are camas root, willow, stinging nettle, horsetail, and evening primrose.

CONTACT: Prof. James E. Simon, NUANPP, Rutgers University (e-mail jimsimon@aesop.rutgers.edu) or Dr. Adolfnia Koroch, NUANPP, Rutgers University (e-mail akoroch@rci.rutgers.edu).
Ethics Committee Comments

In 2006, President Will McClatchey asked the Ethics Committee to look into revising the SEB's now somewhat dated ethics guidelines. The committee members represent diverse views, but generally support a concise, conceptual approach, rather than a legalistic approach. We welcome all comments and suggestions, and as this will not be a rushed endeavor, there is time for all views to be heard with a full discussion of thorny issues.

We generally agree that we cannot “solve” currently divisive or charged issues, so the guidelines should not endorse specific positions on unsettled issues. However, a vigorous exchange of ideas will help the Society find new ways of approaching them—today’s dialogs will forge tomorrow’s solutions, so we encourage members to share and debate their ethical choices in these pages.

Currently, my thoughts have been ranging over the possible use of “first principles” rather than specific mandates, and consideration of principles of respect, full disclosure (financial and conflict-of-interest), and self-doubt (questioning our own views). Other issues that may bear consideration are the need to speak honestly to the public (not overstating cases), group rights vs. individual rights, ownership and culture, rights as linked to responsibilities, timeliness in fulfilling responsibilities, and many other issues.

I’ve been hearing more and more about the importance of financial and data disclosure. Full public disclosure of data could be routine, now that the Internet provides an inexpensive means of dissemination. We all know how often our requests for the raw data on which published papers are based go unanswered. Publication of papers should be contingent on the authors making their raw data available to the public within a reasonable time after publication, and this principle might be included in our ethics guidelines.

Similarly, full financial disclosure could also be expected. We all know to scan the acknowledgements at the end of papers to detect possible sources of bias stemming from funding sources. We might also consider requesting that authors post full personal financial disclosure of sources of income and investments. Conflict of interest is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. In turn, funding sources could be expected to provide full public disclosure, so that the monetary stream is transparent to its ultimate sources. None of this need use limited print journal space, but can be handled easily with links in online versions of these same journals. This would go a long way to regaining the respect and integrity that research is due. Perhaps our guidelines could move these issues along.

The Committee would greatly appreciate hearing members’ thoughts, and we will schedule another of the always-interesting ethics roundtable discussions during lunch at the 2008 meeting. See you there!

Please send me an e-mail with your thoughts (dt@dtheo.org).

—David Theodoropoulos, Chair, Ethics Committee.

Call for Teaching Tips Contributions

please do so! Below I include only a list of the authors and dates of publications. If you have any further references summarizing ethnobotany or relating the history of the field, please send the full reference to me.

Here is what was included in the 2000 Ethnobotany/Economic Botany Teaching Tips compiled for the 2000 Society for Economic Botany meetings.

Teaching Tips
“Antibiotic Activity of Spices,” by Robin J. Marles
“The Art of Specimen Preparation for Herbaria,” by Karen Hall
“Economic Botany in a Distance Learning Format,” by Wilson Cronce
“Freelists in Ethnobotany,” by Rick Stepp
“Medicinal Plants and Disturbed Environments: A Field Exercise,” by Rick Stepp
“Pomander Beads,” by Susan Verhoek
“Tips for Teaching Economic Botany,” by Barbara Pickersgill
“What Is It?,” by Gail E. Wagner

Textbooks
The basic information and tables of contents were printed for the following texts.
Balick, Michael J. and Paul Alan Cox. 1996. Plants, People, and Culture: The Science of Ethnobotany
Cotton, C. M. 1996. Ethnobotany: Principles and Applications
Given, David P. and Warwick Harris. 1994. Techniques and Methods of Ethnobotany As an Aid to the Study, Evaluation, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
Jain, S. K., editor. 1989. Methods and Approaches in Ethnobotany
Lewington, Anna. 1990. Plants for People

Books That Were Reviewed
Bruchac, Joseph. 1995. Native Plant Stories
Ventocilla, Jorge et al. 1995. Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna
Ploskin, Mark J. 1994. Tales of a Shaman’s Apprentice

Movies/Widescreens That Were Reviewed
Acorn: Staple Food of the California Indians, 1962
Baobab: Portrait of a Tree
Basketry of the Pomo: Introductory Film, 1962
Beautiful Tree: Chishikale, 1965
Buckeyes: Food of California Indians, 1961
Cacici or Mamisc Beer, 1988

Charcoal Makers, 1990
The Chinampas, 1990
City Farmers, 1997
Corn is Life
Elena: Hallucinogenic Ecstasy among the Yanama, 1970
An Ecology of the Mind, 1992
The Flour Mill House, 1970
The Flying Farmer, 1989
Heritage in Cedar: Northwest Coast Indian Woodworking, Past & Present, 1979
Hopi Songs of the Fourth World, 1982
How to Make Storytum Melasina, 1970
Making a Bark canoe, 1969
Over the Hedge, 1993
Pine Nuts, 1961
Race to Save the Planet: Seeds of Tomorrow
Rana: Guardians of the Forest, 1990
Sinew-Backed Bow and Its Arrows, 1961
Slash and Burn Agriculture, 1975
Tea Fortunes, 1986
Tule Technology: Northern Paiute Uses of Marsh Resources in Western Nevada, 1981
Wakapi Slash and Burn Cultivation, 1988
Wood Cutters of the Deep South, 1973

List of References on the History of Ethnobotany
The Society for Economic Botany Charles B. Heiser, Jr. Mentor Award

The Student Committee initiated the Award in 2007 to recognize outstanding economic botanists who have substantially impacted the training and professional development of economic botany and ethnobotany students. The Award is named in honor of Charles B. Heiser, Jr., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Indiana University who is most known for his hallmark research on the origins of agriculture. He is a past president of the SEB (1978) as well as a Distinguished Economic Botanist (1984). Under his direction and mentorship, 29 students received their Ph.D. The winner of this award, chosen by current students, spotlights dedicated educators who foster the development of the field by example and through student mentoring. It acknowledges mentors who are experienced, knowledgeable, trustworthy friends, counselors, and teachers.

Eligibility Criteria for Nominated Mentors
1. Open to SEB members (closed to non-members)
2. Closed to previous awardees

Eligibility Criteria for Students to Nominate a Mentor
1. Students and recent graduates (within 3 years) who are current SEB members

Mechanisms for Soliciting Nominations from Students
1. Student listserv
2. Plants & People Newsletter
3. Annual SEB meeting (e.g. student mixer)
4. Annual SEB elections

Nominations
Students will submit letters explaining their reasons for nominating a mentor. These can be submitted via e-mail or in a posted letter to the Student Committee chair. (Nominations of names only will not be considered. A letter with multiple signatures will be counted as only one, so each student should write her/his own letter.)

Criteria for Forming the Committee of Students Who Will Choose the Mentor
1. The committee shall be formed each year and must consist of five people: four voting members (two current members of Student Committee and two general SEB student members) and one non-voting coordinator.
2. All four voting members must abstain from nominating a mentor. The non-voting coordinator may submit a nomination letter before reading any other submitted letters of nomination.
3. The coordinator will be responsible for receiving, organizing, and distributing letters of nomination to the committee after the deadline for submissions. Before distributing the letters to the committee, s/he will remove or blacken out any identifying information (e.g., name, institution) of the nominee and the letter writer to assure anonymity and then group multiple nominations for the same person together (if they exist).
4. Each of the four voting committee members will individually review all letters and rank their top two choices for a mentor. Together, the committee will discuss their choices and then vote on their top choice (by submitting it via e-mail to the coordinator). The nominee with the most votes will win the award. In the case of a tie, the committee must discuss further and vote again.

Criteria for Committee Members to Consider in Selecting the Mentor
1. Most convincing letters (rated on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=weak, 2=OK, 3=good, 4=outstanding, 5=exceedingly outstanding and unique).
2. Number of letters
3. In the event that we receive fewer than five nominations, a mentor award will not be
Cross Pollination

Continued from page 14

selected for that year. These letters will be rolled over for consideration for the next year.

Recognizing the Mentor

Prior to announcing the award, the SEB Award Chair and the Mentor Coordinator will notify the selected mentor by e-mail. She will be encouraged to attend the SEB annual meeting where she will be publicly recognized and presented with the plaque. If the mentor is not present at the meeting, the Mentor Coordinator will publicly recognize the mentor and the plaque will be sent to the mentor after the meeting.

A few things to keep in mind:

1. Give yourself a lot of time to get it written, like four or more months, especially if you are taking a class, taking comps, etc. I rewrote my intro 26 times. The experience sucked, but my adviser was right. It was much easier to write the rest once I had a solid idea of where I was going. Also, the only way it will get it written is to apply your butt to the chair. Use superglue if you need to.

2. Be explicit about what you are going to do and how. How many people will you interview, what statistical tests will you use, what methods, etc. Also, everything needs to tie together. You will need to mention stuff in your intro and theory if you plan on using it in your methods.

3. If you have done preliminary research at the site, include it. Even if you have just visited the site and talked to residents, include what you learned. I would encourage going there first to suss out possible projects. I originally wanted to work with woman shellfish harvesters. There are none where I am. I had to rethink entirely what I wanted to do. I think what I am doing now though is more interesting, but... :) I'm a doctoral student currently in the field in southern Mozambique collecting data for my dissertation. My work is interdisciplinary (anthropology, ecology, and geography) and has a strong ethnobotany component. I am funded by NSF (cultural anthropology) and a U.S. Fulbright student (environmental science). My dissertation title is “Ronga Wild Plant Harvest and the Conservation of Coastal Savanna Landscape in Southern Mozambique.” If you like, I can send a PDF.

4. Read widely in the literature, and if you can, include some of that. Highlight that you have the experience (classwork, other degrees, etc.) to get your project done. If you plan on doing interdisciplinary work, you need to show that you are capable of the work.

5. Take a look at a wide range of funded and unfunded proposals and, if you can, look at the reviewer comments. My department at UGA keeps a bunch of old funded proposals in the main office. Ask around. I wish you the best of luck in your proposal writing. Just keep telling yourself that you will be in the field soon enough. Sitting at a desk from 9-5 writing nearly killed me.

I thought this was helpful to Here is an item sent in by a student, Jen Schaffer (j-inverde@gmail.com). I thought this was helpful to all, not just students.

Timeline

Solicitation:
1 Jan–Listserv, Spring Issue of Newsletter; also solicit nominations via the annual SEB elections
Submissions:
1 Jan – 1 April

Committee Chooses Mentor:
1 May

Mentor and SEB Award Chair Are Notified:
2 May

Announcing the Mentor:
Annual meeting in June and afterwards in the Newsletter

Here is an item sent in by a student, Jen Schaffer (j-inverde@gmail.com). I thought this was helpful to all, not just students.

Award

The SEB Award Chair will organize the purchase of a plaque for the Mentor and the recognition ceremony, which will be part of the ceremony for the DEB and Klinger award at the SEB annual meeting.

British Columbia—Found on Many Best Place On Earth Shortlists. Prof. Nancy J. Turner, Past SEB Council Member and this year’s recipient of the Wm. L. Brown Award, has spent her career studying how it got that way.

In 2008, Dr. Nancy Turner of the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada will receive the award. Having devoted her career to the study and preservation of Native North American plant generic resources, she has been particularly interested in the Indigenous Peoples of northwestern North America and their knowledge and use of plants. Her personal contacts, commitments, and friendships with Native Americans have enlightened her work and our understanding of indigenous plant management. Her work on traditional land management, sustainable use of non-timber forest products, and the relationship of human and environmental health has affected the field of ethnobotany globally.

Dr. Turner is an ethnobotanist and a distinguished professor in the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. While working on her B.Sc. honors thesis, she collaborated with Saanich First Nations elders to learn about the significance of plants to their culture. Her Ph.D. work concentrated on plant classification systems among the Haida, Nuxalk (Bella Coola), and St’atl’imx (Lillooet) people. Her major research contributions have been in demonstrating the pivotal role of plant resources in past and contemporary aboriginal cultures and languages, as an integral component of traditional knowledge systems, and how traditional management of plant resources has shaped the landscapes and habitats of western Canada.

In conjunction with the presentation of the Brown Award, the WLBC and MBG will hold a two-day symposium entitled “Ethnobotany: The Integration of Science and Traditional Knowledge.” Dr. Turner will be the keynote speaker at the symposium, which will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis Nov. 7-8, 2008.

Contact: Bruce Ponman by e-mail at bruce.ponman@mobot.org, WLBC at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Phone: 314-577-9565, http://www.wlbcenter.org/award.htm.
Dear SEB Students,

It’s already mid-way between annual meetings. I would like to give you some updates on the progress of our student network and invite your input.

1. We are currently soliciting your nominations for the Charles B. Heiser Jr., Mentor Award. Here is your opportunity to honor those mentors who’ve meant so much to you. Please see the criteria listed below and send nominations to weissl@hawaii.edu.

2. SEB 2008: The 49th Annual Meeting will be in Durham, North Carolina at Duke University June 1-5, 2008. Abstracts are due on March 24. The student network will organize the annual student mixer and run a student information table. If you would like to get involved with some of our activities at the conference, please contact Arika (arikavira@yahoo.com).

3. We will be recruiting a new member to the student committee. Please see the details of the student network in the attached document. Contact Arika (arikavira@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

4. If you would like to contribute some student news to the newsletter, please contact Trish at newsletter@econbot.org.

5. Please upload your thesis and dissertation abstracts to the student website: http://www.econbot.org/_membership_/index.php?sm=0. This is a great resource for everyone.

6. Feel free to post any questions or needs on the student listserv by sending an e-mail to seb@freelists.org. Please send the Student Network committee any suggestions or concerns.

7. We will be updating the school lists of classes and programs in Economic and Ethnobotany. Please have your professors contact Trish, Heather, or My Lien, tflastersprint@earthlink.net, hmcmille@hawaii.edu, mylien.t.nguyen@gmail.com

8. Finally, we are having roundtables at the 2008 meeting. If you want to host a topic let us know. Laura Weiss is hosting a table on Our Future: Jobs Outside Academia. Trish has volunteered to help and we are seeking other non-academic mentor participants. If you know of others please have them contact Laura by e-mail at weissl@hawaii.edu.

Thanks! Arika Virapongse, Student Network chair, Hugo de Boer, Cassandra Quave, and Laura Weiss

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