“Global Vision on Indigenous and Economic Botany”

Joint Conference:
Society For Economic Botany & the Indigenous Plant Use Forum will meet

June 28-July 2, 2015
Clanwilliam, Western Cape, South Africa

The Main Theme of the 2015 Indigenous Plant Use Forum (IPUF) / Society of Economic Botany (SEB) is “Global Vision on Indigenous Plants and Economic Botany.” As in the past, several short symposia will be held by grouping together oral papers and poster papers submitted by IPUF / SEB members for the 2015 Forum. Efforts will be made to accommodate all contributions on Indigenous Plant Use, Economic Botany, or related subjects.

Typical symposia themes include:

- Ethnobotany
- Ethnoveterinary
- Cultivation and propagation for sustainability
- Commercialization successes (rooibos, etc -from lab shelf to shop shelf)
- Ethno-pharmacology and biological activity testing
- Conservation and sustainability
- Plant use in arts and crafts
- Quality control in plant product use
- Future use of indigenous plants for economic botany

More details on page 3

IPUF/SEB Conference will be held concurrently (parallel sessions) in the Augsburg Agricultural School Hall and NG Gemeente Clanwilliam Hall from Sunday 28 June through Thursday 2 July 2015. It is the 18th IPUF Conference in its present format and the 56th annual conference for SEB.
Notes from the Field

Well, March is here. The buds in Colorado are swelling and we can see some green. Indeed it has been an interesting winter and one that boasts that climate change is here to stay.

Speaking of winters, we will be venturing south for the summer to reenter winter, albeit not with the adornments of snow and cold. South Africa beckons and those on the coordinating team are well invested in providing us the best of the Western Cape, its flora and fauna. Please check out pages 1, 3, and 4 for some details on registration, accommodations, field trips, etc. Your go-to site for all is www.econbot.org. One of the biggest events at our annual meeting is the Distinguished Botanist Award. This year we will be honored to receive a presentation from the DEB Dan Moerman.

While collating the newsletter I found lots of interesting articles on the web so don't miss Botanizing the Web on page 6.

There are opportunities listed as there are new field schools on this page.

Remember that we always want to hear from you and hope you will send us information about what you are doing as it interests the members. See Junko’s article about Satoyama Landscape on page 8.

Finally, we are saddened that one of our esteemed members has died. There are memorials to Dan Austin on page 11. He will be missed by many colleagues, students and friends and family.

Happy travels to South Africa,

—

Field School
Submitted by Keri Barfield (kbarfield@brit.org)

Here is an announcement for a new Conservation field school. The Maya Research Program (MRP—www.mayaresearchprogram.org), The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT—www.brit.org) is hosting a Conservation Botany and Ethnography Field School in two Yucatec Mayan-speaking villages in Yucatán, Mexico July 17 to August 16, 2015. The session will provide students (undergraduate and graduate levels) and participants with intensive field experiences in both conservation botany and ethnographic methods around ethnobotanical problems. The faculty consists of a professional ethnobotanist, pharmacologist, medical and environmental anthropologist, human ecologist, and archaeologist, plus local experts in Maya plant ecology, Maya cosmology, Maya ritual as related to botany, and Maya culture, past and present. Students will enhance their skills under realistic field conditions, learn to work in teams, explore the ethics of ethnobotanical research, and participate in service learning projects. In addition, students will experience home stays with community members and learn Spanish throughout the session, and visit famous archaeological sites. Space is limited so remember to apply early to ensure your spot in the course.

Link to website: https://sites.google.com/a/brit.org/conservation-field-school/home

Please share this information with any interested students.
### Provisional Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 27 June 2015</td>
<td>Tour A: Cederberg Mountains, Lambertsbay with dinner at Muisbosskerm (optional, cost and info on request to IPUF secretariat)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Sunday 28 June 2015 | Tour B: Cederberg and Sevilla Trail with viewing of medicinal plants and San rock art and medicinal plants (optional, cost and info on request to IPUF secretariat)  
- Late afternoon: Registration of IPUF & SEB delegates (venue to be advised)  
- Welcome dinner with local delicacies and special entertainment (included) |
| Monday 29 June | - Registration desk  
- Welcome and official opening of joint Conference  
- Guest speaker  
- Plenary invited presentations  
- Tea / coffee  
- Parallel sessions (volunteered papers on the themes)  
- Lunch  
- Parallel sessions (volunteered papers on the themes)  
- Dinner in the evening and Student Evening (at De Kelder Restaurant) |
| Tuesday 30 June | - Morning: Plenary invited presentations  
- Tea / coffee  
- Product displays and presentations  
- Lunch  
- Parallel sessions (papers) and “teaching” workshops and “hot topic” panels  
- Dinner in the evening and Open Science Network evening event |
| Wednesday 1 July | - Business meeting - IPUF  
- Field trip to rooibos farm (cultivation) & rooibos factory (processing)  
- Lunch included  
- Business meeting - SEB  
- Dinner in the evening |
| Thursday 2 July | - Morning: Plenary presentations  
- Tea / coffee  
- Parallel sessions (papers on the themes)  
- Lunch  
- Parallel sessions (papers on the themes)  
- SEB Distinguished Economic Botanist Lecture  
- Gala Dinner in the evening & Prize-giving |
| Friday 3 July | - Departure  
Tour A: Cederberg Mountains, Lambertsbay with dinner at Muisbosskerm (optional, cost and info on request to IPUF secretariat) |
| Saturday 4 July | Tour B: Cederberg and Sevilla Trail with viewing of medicinal plants and San rock art and medicinal plants (optional, cost and info on request to IPUF secretariat) |

### Product Display
An opportunity will be provided for individuals or companies to display and/or sell any product relevant to indigenous plant use/economic botany. Please contact ipuf@uj.ac.za for space.

### Call for Paper or Posters
A request is to indicate attendance and participation to secretariat by Friday 23rd January 2015 for planning purposes.

Due to the overwhelming response we had in recent years, we are limiting the paper and poster presentations to a maximum of one paper or one poster per presenter. Contributions in the form of 15-minute platform papers (10 minute presentation and 5 minutes question time) on the themes would be most welcome. Poster will be a one minute-one slide presentation. Paper/poster titles should reach IPUF secretariat by 17 April 2015, in order to compile a Provisional Programme for the Second Announcement. A short (approximately 350 words) ABSTRACT should reach IPUF by e-mail on or before 1 May 2015 for inclusion in the programme.

Registration forms and format for abstracts, to be distributed by 19 January 2015.

### Meals
All lunches (Monday to Thursday) and dinners (Sunday evening, Monday to Wednesday and Gala dinner) are included in the registration fee. The lunches and teas will be served at the lecture halls. Evening meal venues are to be announced.

### Student Awards
IPUF is again sponsoring awards for the best paper and poster presentations with special priority to post-graduate students. The winners will each receive a certificate and prize-money. Entry can be indicated on the registration form or by contacting (ipuf@uj.ac.za), electronically. SEB awards information available from SEB website.

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SEB 2015 Meeting
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Eligibility
Young scientists are the only persons eligible for this award and such persons must have specifically pointed out that they wish to be considered for the award. A young scientist will qualify by conforming to at least one of the following conditions at the start of the meeting:
• Under the age of 30 years on the date of the meeting
• Three or fewer presentations at prestigious scientific meetings, or
• Five or fewer years’ work in the respective discipline, associated with the presentations.

Mid-Conference Excursion
Visit to the main cultivation and processing venues of rooibos tea. Clanwilliam is the main centre of the rooibos tea industry (the most important indigenous crop commercialised). Look for more details about the excursion on the website.

Award for Best New Plant Product
An award for the Best New Product can be won, annually sponsored by Dr Carl Albrecht, the first chairperson of IPUE. The award will be a special wall-plaque and the organisers will obtain publicity for the winner and the product. Please submit nominations to ipuf@uj.ac.za. Criteria and an electronic entry form are available on request from the secretariat.

Dr. Daniel Moerman named the 2015 Distinguished Economic Botanist
By John de la Parra (delaparra.j@husky.neu.edu)

D r. Daniel Moerman is the William Stirton Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and is one of the most influential ethnobotanists of our time. He also has been an active and integral member of the Society for Economic Botany for decades. From 2004 to 2008, he was Editor in Chief of Economic Botany and was President of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology from 2006 to 2008. Dr. Moerman is particularly well known for his work documenting and studying the plants of the Native American people. His database and subsequent book Native American Ethnobotany have been recognized as monumental masterpieces of scholarship. Even the abridged edition of Native American Medicinal Plants is noted as “the most comprehensive and authoritative listing of Native North American plant use for medicines available anywhere.” (Moerman 2009) His dedicated study of these cultures was inspired by the thoughtfulness and perseverance of the indigenous people: “Their diligence and energy, their insight and creativity, these are the marks of true scientists, dedicated to gaining meaningful and useful knowledge from a complex and confusing world.” As a self-described “unhyphenated anthropologist,” his work has also included important investigations into the effects of belief and meaning on human health. Broadly and beautifully, he has stated that “Meaning affects life; Life affects meaning.” (Moerman 2002) His essential belief that a human being is “simultaneously a biological and cultural creature” has led to influential work on the ideas, implications, and cultural history behind the “placebo effect.” An interview with Dr. Moerman will be published in the next issue of Plants and People. Please join us in congratulating him at the 2015 Society for Economic Botany meeting in Clanwilliam.


Clanwilliam is at the foot of the majestic Cederberg mountains, about 230 km from Cape Town. Clanwilliam elevation is 100m; 32°10’43”S 18°53’28”E. www.clanwilliam.info / www.cederberg.com

Queries: ipuf@uj.ac.za

SEB Caribbean Chapter News

Submitted by Sonia Peter
(sonia.peter2007@gmail.com)

55th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany

The joint 55th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany and the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society of Ethnobiology was held May 11-14 in Cherokee, North Carolina. The synergy in the philosophy of the two societies was well expressed in the variety offered by the many interesting sessions and teaching workshops.

The Caribbean Chapter was pleased to participate by hosting a session on Caribbean Ethnobotany and a teaching workshop on Caribbean medicinal teas and herbal baths. The Caribbean Ethnobotany session was well attended and presentations were given by participants who had conducted research in Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados. Distinguished Professor John Rashford gave a presentation entitled “Baobab Culture in Barbados,” a collaboration with the Secretary of the Caribbean Chapter, Dr. Anthony Richards. The other participants included Maureen Meyer, Angelle Bullard-Roberts, Kathryn Flores, and Sonia Peter, the president of the chapter. The workshop was well subscribed and enjoyed by all of the participants. Activities centered around the “Weed Woman Song,” by Bill Rogers (Augustus Hinds) in which the songwriter immortalized the “Weed Woman” who carried the broad theme “Caribbean Bush Doctor and Modernity.”

Ancel Daniel, artist

Ancel shared her conceptualization, “I built a patient screen, a patient kardex that stood behind the screen, and photography of models who acted as patient clientele. My concept was based on a group of people in society who demonize the idea of folk medicine, but visit the ‘bush doctor’ behind the scenes while some of them use this medicine repackaged to them by the western society.”

Plants as Secret Agents of Change in Barbados

Under the auspices of the Barbados Museum, The Bellairs Institute, and the Barbados Community College, this year’s Queens Jubilee Scholars followed. These scholars were engaged in a three-dimensional research exercise that examined the changing flora of Barbados. The aim of the research is to identify the ways in which plants served as unobtrusive agents of change, particularly during the colonial era. Stage I of the exercise was a historical examination of plant movements into Barbados to distinguish plants that are indigenous from those that were introduced onto the island. Regarding the latter, the objective is to locate their sources of origin, identify where possible the precise time of their introduction and why, and the consequences of their introduction. In addition, this research seeks to trace the ways in which these introduced plants have influenced various aspects of life in present day Barbados.

3rd Caribbean ABS Workshop

Access to, and equitable sharing of, traditional knowledge are thorny issues persisting into the 21st century. The Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity include the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization by 2015 and its functionality, consistent with national legislation. This requires that all stakeholders and signatories establish the necessary capacity parameters including national legislative frameworks where applicable.

The multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CCS) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), convened a number of workshops in the Caribbean. The Second Caribbean Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) took place in November 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica. That workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica and was attended by 44 participants from 13 Caribbean countries. A road map towards implementation of the Protocol in the Caribbean region was adopted at this second ABS workshop. This was a significant achievement.

The third ABS workshop in St. Lucia brought together 50 participants from several Caribbean countries (Aruba, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, The Bahamas). These participants included representatives from governments, indigenous people and local communities (ILCs), academia, non-
Botanizing the Web

Sacred Scient: A Full-Length Movie
www.thesacredscience.com/screening_watchnow/

Plant Scientist Works with Landowners, Law Enforcement to Protect Ginseng
http://news.psu.edu/story/343092/2015/02/03/impact/plant-scientist-works-landowners-law-enforcement-protect-ginseng

Eric Burkhart, plant science program director at Penn State’s Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, is working to encourage private forestland owners to cultivate ginseng. He was recently awarded a grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to continue his work surveying growers and setting up monitoring sites for the state’s remaining wild ginseng on public lands.

A faculty instructor in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Burkhart is also helping train state law enforcement, providing them with information on the plant’s biology and ecology, the ginseng industry and markets, and applicable state and federal codes and regulations.

“There’s a really big knowledge gap in the law enforcement community as to how to respond when it comes to ginseng theft from private and public forestlands,” Burkhart said.

Eric Burkhart (epb6@psu.edu)

Wildlife and Plant Crime

The focus of this “Wildlife Crime Challenge” appears to be on animals, but the descriptions suggest that solutions to combat plant trafficking would also be eligible. The Challenge will begin accepting applications in April 2015 until Summer 2015. You can sign up for email updates about the application window. https://wildlifecrimetech.org/about#faq

To support the development of new and innovative tools to combat wildlife trafficking, USAID launched the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge website on March 3, World Wildlife Day. The Challenge is a competition that aims to source innovative science and tech-based solutions to combat illegal trafficking of marine and terrestrial wildlife and is in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, and TRAFFIC—the wildlife trade monitoring network.

The Challenge focuses on four issue areas: understanding and shutting down transit routes, improving forensic tools and intelligence gathering, building strong criminal cases, reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products, and fighting corruption. Winners will receive financial, technical, and other assistance to scale their solutions.

Health Food
The avocado is proving to be more than a food for corn chips. A new study shows that the monounsaturated fats in the soft lush fruit lower heart disease risk when consumed daily. What’s more, there are a number of heart healthy compounds lurking in the soft green flesh, such as plant sterols, which makes this an easy-to-prescribe dietary change for patients who need to change up their diets for heart health. http://todayspractitioner.com/cardiovascular-health/one-day-avocado-reduces-heart-disease-risk/

Caribbean Chapter News
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Issues of relevance to Small Island Developing States and the challenges associated with the development of an ABS Policy framework were highlighted in Caribbean examples presented including “Bioprospection, Utilisation and Commercialisation of Genetic Resources: Cuban Examples,” “Value Chain Development with Genetic Resources from The Bahamas,” and “Medical Cannabis in the Caribbean: A Discussion of the Issues from the Viewpoint of the Nagoya Protocol.” A key outcome of the workshop was the reinforcement of the need for ABS regimes to encourage sustainable utilization of indigenous plant and marine resources and the unification required to protect the resources and the associated traditional knowledge. The Caribbean Chapter was represented by Dr Anthony Richards, Secretary.

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Tanzanian Safari
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and elephants during the Great Migration. In addition to seeing the glorious baobab trees and our visit to a Maasai boma (with demos of traditional dances, crafts and buildings), one of my favorite stops was the Ngong Rock of the Maasai in Serengeti. Indentations in this hollow metallic rock illustrate its use as an ancient musical instrument.

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Ngong Rock. Photo by Letitia M. McCune

Maasai boma of Ngorongoro. Use of Acacia sp. and Agave sisalana in construction. Photo by Letitia M. McCune (Photo rights acquired)
Botanizing the Web

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A new species in the Boraginaceae family: Phacelia gina-glenneae
Leith Edgar, now in External Affairs in our Pacific Region, tells us about a cool discovery by one of our botanists.

“Look, but don’t touch the flowers,” is something Gina Glenne, a Service botanist, frequently reminds herself when working with certain native plants in Colorado.

Unfortunately for Glenne, the glandular hairs of some phacelia, a common flower genus of the western United States, give her an allergic reaction. The resulting rash for some people is more extreme than exposure to poison ivy or oak. In Glenne’s case, more than five years of handling phacelia species in Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and Colorado has resulted in heightened sensitivity to all species of phacelia, and she breaks out in a rash that’s worse than poison ivy and lasts longer.

So when Glenne observed an unusual plant growing in the midst of Penland, or Kremmling penstemon, during a 2009 phacelia taxonomy project, she kept her hands to herself.

“Does anyone know what this phacelia is?” Glenne asked her colleagues of the Colorado Rare Plant Conservation Initiative surveying the area around Troublesome Creek, near Kremmling, Colorado. No one did.

She later returned as part of a taxonomic and genetic investigation of North Park phacelia populations funded by a Preventing Extinction grant administered by the Service.

Was this the discovery of an unnamed native Colorado flower? Glenne called upon the expertise and plant-handling abilities of Duane Atwood, a botanist with Brigham Young University. Upon inspection, he indicated that it could be a distinct hitherto undiscovered plant.

Fast forward a bit and the mystery plant received the name: Phacelia gina-glenneae. Atwood deemed it biologically distinct from the North Park phacelia to which it’s presumed to be most closely related. Genetics testing recently confirmed that Phacelia gina-glenneae is a distinct species.

Phacelia gina-glenneae is also a unique native flower at home in the white, tan-colored shale/clay substrates of Grand County, Colorado. Whereas North Park phacelia is a biennial, Phacelia gina-glenneae is thought to be an annual. In addition, the new plant on the Colorado phacelia block is relatively small in stature and appears to have evolved to thrive within the clay-rich soil type in which Glenne made the discovery.

The area around Troublesome Creek is managed in part by the Bureau of Land Management Kremmling Field Office, which recognized the need to protect Kremmling penstemon habitat and, in so doing, unknowingly conserved Phacelia gina-glenneae. BLM staff even expanded the Area of Critical Environmental Concern near Troublesome Creek, which now ensures that neither native plant will disappear.

Thanks to the BLM and conservation partners, both native flowers welcome wildlife today. “All the pollinators love the big, purple flowers,” Glenne says of the native bees buzzing around the plants’ flowers.

Far from seeking out the limelight, Glenne believes the work of her colleagues—Ellen Mayo, also a Service botanist, and Alicia Langton, a Pathways student studying phacelia clay annuals—greatly aided her discovery and subsequent documentation of Phacelia gina-glenneae.

Phacelia gina-glenneae still lacks a common name, and Glenne is hoping “Troublesome phacelia” will be selected by botanists in the state and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

Meanwhile, the search for new native plants in the unique soils of the Rocky Mountains continues.

“We don’t know if there are more out there, but we would sure like to find out,” she says, although she’ll be sure not to touch any she finds.

(Source: http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2015/1/20/Service-Botanist-Discovers-Native-Colorado-Flower)

Phacelia gina-glenneae still lacks a common name.
Photo credit: USFWS

Service botanist Gina Glenne enters GPS coordinates as Duane Atwood heads to a survey spot. Photo credit: USFWS
Typical Satoyama Landscape Preserved in Wakasa Town, Fukui Prefecture

Junko Kitagawa (junkokit3810@gmail.com)
Fukui Prefectural Satoyama-Satoumi Research Institute

Fukui Prefectural Satoyama-Satoumi Research Institute was established in 2013 and is located in Wakasa town (Fig. 1). Its purpose is to research sustainable living in the satoyama environment in Fukui Prefecture. I have been employed there since April 2014.

Satoyama is the Japanese term for traditional landscape of the border zone or area between mountain foothills and arable flat land. People have utilized natural resources in sustainable ways until recently. Because of it, the biodiversity of satoyama area is high and people recently have recognized the economical and ecological values. However, the environment has become deteriorated because of the introduction of modern agriculture and forestry during Japan’s rapid economic growth period and the recent shortage of workers in the satoyama area. Many young people favor urban areas; however, good satoyama environments remain and many people try to sustain the environment in Japan, including Fukui Prefecture. Many villages in Fukui Prefecture have been remained undeveloped; that is to say, large areas remain natural and there has been only moderate human interaction until recently. Therefore large satoyama areas have been preserved.

Wakasa town is one of them. The research institute studies search for ways to sustain a good relationship between human beings and nature.

Wakasa town is located on the Japan Sea Coast area and is a popular tourist area due to Five Lakes of Mikata, which is registered under the Ramsar Convention (Photo 1). The subsistence of this town is fishery and agriculture. Several varieties of fish can be caught since the lakes are connected to the sea and the waters vary from fresh to brackish. Large area of paddies spread to the south. Mountain forests have been utilized for timber, fuel, and the like. Numerous varieties of trees can be seen on mountains and, naturally, the autumn colors are fascinating (Photo 2). Photo 2 shows a typical Japanese Satoyama landscape. The specialty of Wakasa town are the Japanese plum orchards around the lakes. Over 70 percent of the plum harvest in Fukui prefecture comes from Wakasa town. Based on “The History of Mikata Town” (Mikata-choshi-hensan-jinkai 1990), the history of plum trees in this area is not so old, dating back to the Tempo period (AD 1830-AD 1844). The cultivar of the plum trees known as Nishida plum was developed in Irazumi beside Lake Mikata (Fig. 1). The fruits were shipped to Tsuruga, one of the main ports in those days. However, shipping was hard work since transportation was only by way of small boats in those days. In 1921, the Obama railway was opened, so it became possible to ship large amounts of plums; thus, the quality of Nishida plum became recognized in Kansai area. In 1967, the name of the Nishida plum was changed to Fukui plum. Generally, it is called Fuku-ume (plum). Fuku means happy in Japanese, so it was a challenge to increase the market share. The area of plum orchards in Fukui prefecture, especially in Wakasa town, expanded rapidly and harvest also increased. The town is called Umenosato (village of plum in Japanese) because of the large areas of plum orchards (Photo 3).

Photo 1. Five Lakes of Mikata viewed from the top of Mt. Baijodake, Wakasa town.

Photo 2. Colorful autumn leaves in the mountains of Wakasa town.

Photo 3. Plum orchard in Wakasa town.

Ethics Toolkit for SEB

Submitted by Letitia M. McCune, SEB Ethics Committee Chair (letitiamccune@msn.com)

Following the adoption of the ISE code of ethics in 2013, SEB’s ethics committee continues to work on its toolkit for members to use to help them with questions on methodology in relation to ethical research practices. We continue to request input from our members on their experiences with permits, informed consent, agreements, etc. to benefit future research. If you have some information to share, please sending a note to either email address below.

As an example, Lisa Offringa’s research on medicinal plants in Thailand required a knowledge of Thai laws on medical intelligence, coordination of work with a local university and botanical garden, training of local researchers, full prior informed consent for all participants in their own language, the acquisition of permits, all analyses to be done within Thailand, deposits in Thai herbaria, and training in ethical research conduct as well as IRB approval from Lisa’s home institute.

James Welch will be giving a presentation at the Society of Ethnobiology in Santa Barbara this year on “Social and Bureaucratic Contours of Ethnobiological Intellectual Property among the Xavante (A’uwe),” in which he describes the inconsistent requirements of informed consent from village/community versus Xavante practice of knowledge regarding plants and animals being considered proprietary knowledge of distinct sets of people such as women or certain age groups.

Also, for those whose research involves the collection of plant material there is an informative listing of formal comments on the issues of biopiracy, farmer’s rights, and breeder’s rights on the website of The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. http://www.planttreaty.org/content/farmers-rights-submissions.

Do you have a particular experience(s) you’d like to share for the greater good of the SEB membership in regard to following the SEB Code of Ethics? Please contact us at ethics_chair@econbot.org.
Opportunities

Accion Ambassadors
www.accion.org/ambassadors

Every year, we look for a stellar group of volunteers to travel the globe and witness firsthand the impact of economic opportunity in the developing world, and we’re pleased to announce that applications are open for 2015!

With volunteer placements ranging from microfinance institutions in Mumbai to fintech startups in Zambia, this dedicated group of volunteers, or “Accion Ambassadors,” as we like to call them, will be fully immersed in the work of Accion’s partner institutions in the field for eight weeks. They’ll tackle numerous and varied challenges while documenting their experiences on the Accion Ambassadors blog. Apply to be a 2015 Accion Ambassador today!

Exceptional candidates are invited to interview and we take great care to create unique, customized experiences that fit their individual skills and interests, as well as the needs of our partner hosts.

Required Qualifications:
• At least 21 years of age and a university graduate
• Fluency in local languages (Spanish, Hindi, Mandarin, English), as needed by partner
• Experience traveling and living overseas, preferably in a developing country
• Excellent writing, communication, and analytical skills
• Interest in microfinance, economic development, and/or social entrepreneurship
• Flexibility, humility, and cultural sensitivity
• Ability to participate in the mandatory Ambassadors Training in Boston, May 18–20, 2015
• Ability to cover all travel and living expenses during the course of the program, including the training session in Boston
• Ability to commit to at least an eight-week placement

Application Requirements:
• A current resume
• A cover letter that answers these questions:
  Why do you want to be an Accion Ambassador? What do you hope to gain from the experience? What skills can you offer to your host MFI? How do you plan to finance this experience? What skills can you offer to your host MFI? How do you plan to finance this experience? What skills can you offer to your host MFI? How do you plan to finance this experience? What skills can you offer to your host MFI? How do you plan to finance this experience?
• A writing sample no longer than 1,000 words
• Exceptional candidates will be invited to have a phone interview and possible subsequent interviews with partner hosts before final selection

Grants

WICHITA, Kan., March 16, 2015 — In a speech at the National Farmers Union Convention today, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the availability of $96.8 million in grants to fund innovative projects designed to support specialty crop producers, local food entrepreneurs, and farm-to-school efforts, which in turn will increase access to healthy, nutritious food for American families and children. The announcement is part of USDA efforts during National Nutrition Month to focus on improving access to fresh, healthy, and nutritious products for millions of Americans.

“Increasing market opportunities for local food producers is a sound investment in America’s rural economies, while also increasing access to healthy food for our nation’s families,” Vilsack said. “Consumer demand for local, healthy food is skyrocketing in schools, hospitals and wholesalers. These grant opportunities allow farmers and ranchers to meet this demand, and feed our nation’s kids.”

Secretary Vilsack also announced changes in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to help increase access to the program for beginning, limited-resource, and other producers who do not have risk protection available through crop insurance products. Many of these producers grow fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops.

“With these changes, more farmers can enter the specialty crop marketplace with peace of mind that they have risk protection should disaster strike,” said Vilsack.

The grant programs administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) include the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP), and the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, which covers two types of grants: the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). Also included in the announcement is the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Farm to School Grant Program, designed to bring local foods into the school cafeteria. USDA’s Farm Service Agency implements the NAP program, which has been expanded to better protect specialty crop and other eligible producers from losses due to natural disasters.

Over $63.2 million in SCBGP grants are allocated to U.S. states and territories based on a formula that considers both specialty crop acreage and production value. Interested applicants should apply directly through their state department of agriculture. A listing of state contacts and application due dates can be found at www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.

The FSMIP provides $1 million in matching funds to state departments of agriculture, state colleges and universities, and other appropriate state agencies. Funds will support research projects that address challenges and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. agricultural products domestically and internationally. Grant applications for FSMIP, FMPP, and LFPP must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 14, 2015. Applicants should start the registration process as soon as possible to ensure that they meet the deadline.

Graduate Student Leaders Sought to Shape Science Policy

Applications are being accepted for the 2015 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award. This award recognizes graduate students in the biological sciences who have demonstrated initiative and leadership in science policy. Recipients receive first-hand experience at the interface of science and public policy. Winners receive:
• A trip to Washington, DC, to participate in the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition Congressional Visits Day, an annual event that brings scientists to the nation’s capital to advocate for federal investment in the biological sciences, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation. The event will be held in late spring 2015. Domestic travel and hotel expenses will be paid for the winners.
• Policy and communications training, including information on the legislative process and trends in federal science funding.
• Meetings with congressional policymakers to discuss the importance of federal investments in the biological sciences.
• A one-year AIBS membership, including a subscription to the journal BioScience and a copy of “Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media.”
• An award certificate and membership in the EPPLA alumni network.

The 2015 award is open to U.S. citizens enrolled in a graduate degree program in the biological sciences, science education, or a closely allied field. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to science policy and/or science education policy. Prior EPPLA winners and AIBS science policy interns/fellows are not eligible.

Satoyama Landscape

Traditionally, plum fruits are made into umeboshi, pickled plum (Photo 4A). Large amounts of salt are applied to fruits and rubbed red leaves of Perilla frutescens var. crispa is mixed in for color and flavor. After the rainy season (from June to July) in Japan, it is dried under the sun for a few days. Entering 1960s, it has become popular to make plum liquor (Fig. 4B). Consumption of plum fruits became widespread. Still plum liquor is popular, although umeboshi production has become smaller year by year since it contains large amount of salt, which is considered harmful to one’s health. Plum jam, plum syrup, etc., are getting popular now since the plum itself is considered to be healthy. Plum syrup is made into drinks and we can see the plum drink in plastic bottles at stores (Photo 4C).

Recently, one of the lakes, Lake Suigetsu (Fig. 1 and Photo 1) has become world famous for providing a terrestrial radiocarbon calibration dataset for the entire period of the radiocarbon timescale (Kitagawa and van der Plicht 1998, Bronk Ramsey et al. 2012, Staff et al. 2013). The sediment is annually laminated (Photo 5) and the lamina continue up to 70,000 years. Many environmental scientists and archaeologists are attracted by Lake Suigetsu.

Photo 5. Annually laminated (varved) sediment of Lake Suigetsu.

The town is attractive not only because of its the beautiful landscape but also for its scientific environment, and archaeologists are attracted by Lake Suigetsu.

Native Forest Foundation in Sri Lanka

Conservation of Lesser-Known Species & Ethnobotany Project

By Damitha Rajapakse (damilda@slnet.lk)

Sri Lanka is a country with rich plant diversity, 4,000 plant species and 800 are endemic to the country. There is an extensive cultural heritage including an ancient traditional agriculture in which these plants are utilized to support healthy rural communities. These communities are under the guidance of traditional local healers, elders, and their indigenous community leaders.

These indigenous plant species have unique medical and nutritional properties useful in solving acute health problems. They are connected with ethical, cultural, spiritual, and social activities. But, because of agricultural development, the gathering of medicinal plants and securing dietary diversity is decreasing. The number of wild foods and natural home remedies has dropped dramatically with people’s transition from being hunter-gathers to being farmers as is common in the developing world.

It has been identified that there is also an enormous wealth of indigenous ecological knowledge interests. Many research efforts, including environmental conservation and reconstruction of past environments, are underway. People in Fukui Prefecture are now cooperating with researchers to seek ways for good sustainable living.


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It has been identified that there is also an enormous wealth of indigenous ecological knowledge interests. Many research efforts, including environmental conservation and reconstruction of past environments, are underway. People in Fukui Prefecture are now cooperating with researchers to seek ways for good sustainable living.


To offer this data, I am in the process of establishing an ethnogarden focusing on native wild fruits and rare medicinal plants as an arboretum and documenting and transferring indigenous knowledge as the Rare Plant Resource Centre (RPRC). This provides a facility where people can learn, exchange, and research with hands-on experience from local traditional bearers to the next generation. Sunday schools in rural church parishes, Buddhist monasteries, and rural orphanages are the sites where members of the younger generation are actively involved in regenerating their diminishing social values through cultural conservation obligation.

I trust that you would agree with me on the importance of initiating a project of this nature and, therefore, it would be very much appreciated if you could kindly assist in building up a productive collaboration in order to further preserve these valuable concepts.

In Memoriam: Daniel F. Austin

Submitted by Letitia M. McCune
(letitiamccune@gmail.com)

Dan was book review editor of Economic Botany in 2003 at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Of course he also continued contributing his vast knowledge to this area. What appears below are just a few of the remembrances being expressed today from the Arizona area.

Tucson is a haven for retired biologists. Dan Austin came escaping the humidity and hurricanes of Florida. He soon became a vibrant member of the Arizona botanical community. All of us depended on him for Convolvulaceae identifications. He bought a house in desert grassland at the foot of the Sierra Mountains west of Tucson, and began hiking in the Baboquivari Mountains, the sacred range of the Tohono O’odham people. His book on the Baboquivaris is one of the few books on the flora of an individual Sky Island—pointing out Caribbean affinities we had not imagined! We’ll remember his presentation on the salty, irreverent, humorous names of plants and animals described by Linnaeus—not the usual sanctimonious church-loving aristocrat! We have lost a friend, and a fine botanist. A tall handsome man with an air-cooled cowboy hat with a rich voice.

Tom Van Devender and Ana Lilia Reina-G (Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Sky Island Alliance)

Dan was very involved with the AZ Native Plant Society, and did present, representing ASDM, at our 10th Arizona Botany Meeting in 2013, presenting: “Graptopetalum (Crassulaceae) in Arizona.” I remember working with him, too, on the Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting when it was held at ASDM in 2003, which he was Meeting Coordinator. Dan was so instrumental in getting my own book, Food Plants of the Sonoran Desert, out to ethnobotanists, to be considered being nominated for the Klinger Book Award, presented by the Society (an award that I was honored to receive). He also provided the beautiful Convolvulaceae treatment for Vascular Plants of Arizona and of course his, what will become a classic, Baboquivari Mountain Plants: Identification, Ecology, and Ethnobotany, 2010, another beautiful, thorough and carefully researched work on his beloved Baboquivaris.

My life was definitely made better with meeting him, learning from him, sharing stories, all reveling with excitement for his plants and desert, ethnobotanical passion too. His contributions as a scholar are very, very impressive, publishing so many great works, several of which won the Klinger Book Award, all of which reflecting a keen eye for writing and observing. But what I remember him most for was his genuine passion for plants and people, for wanting to share what he knows, yet never shy in asking others what they thought or for their own expertise. And he was such a good guy as a friend.

Wendy C. Hodgson (Desert Botanical Garden, AZ Native Plant Society)

Dan helped me with rare plant work in southern Arizona as a volunteer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He accompanied me in the field on several occasions while we searched for, counted, and assessed populations of rare Amanita, Astragalus, Pectis, and other species. He loved to test my botanical knowledge, showing me plants he was sure I didn’t know, only to find these were the only plants I did know (I hail from other regions). Dan took on a huge project for me last year, conducting Internet searches on rare plants of Arizona and compiling this information onto disks for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; an undertaking for which I am very appreciative. I depended on Dan, as I do all my volunteers, to guide me into this new world of desert botany in southern Arizona. I expected him to accompany me on many more trips... his loss is huge to the botanical community of southern Arizona and to me; he will be missed.”

Julie Crawford (AZ Fish and Wildlife Service)

These are only a few examples of the lives he’s touched here in Arizona in “retirement.” His life and work will be further honored in the upcoming edition of the Economic Botany.

Dan was book review editor of Economic Botany when I was EIC. But he did so much more. Any time there was a problem, a reviewer who had disappeared, a case of dueling reviewers, a huge problem of some sort with the web site, whenever there was a problem, a reviewer who had disappeared, Dan was there with sage advice, calm assurance. And he could review a case of dueling reviewers, a huge problem of some sort with the web site, whatever, he was there with him. Or when I was EIC. But he did so much more. Any time...
A Safari Experience in Tanzania

In case you want an extended trip in Africa, here is a member suggestion...
Submitted by Letitia M. McCune, Ph.D. (letitiamccune@msn.com)

In case you are looking for a safari experience in Tanzania on your way to or from the conference in South Africa I can sincerely recommend the tour outfit of Warrior Trails Ltd. as based on our family’s experience with them last summer. The owner is Maasai, contributes to Maasai community projects, and has several options to visit or stay in a traditional village. I also suggest you request guide Nicolas Peter as his knowledge of native plants (he has a side business as a nurseryman), English and Swahili exceeded my expectations. We visited Lake Manyara, Serengeti, and Ngorongoro, seeing many animals including up-close views of a huge number of lions, wildebeests, zebra, hippos, giraffes,

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