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2001 Annual Meeting— Honolulu

The Society for Economic Botany will hold its 2001 annual meeting May 28-June 1, 2001 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Society will be the host to a range of other ethnobotany, conservation, and indigenous organizations that are participating in BUILDING BRIDGES WITH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE II: An International Summit Meeting on Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples, Conservation, Sustainable Development and Ethnoscience.

Building Bridges is a summit intended to begin dialogues between groups who have, or use, traditional knowledge and natural resources. These dialogues build connections, establish ties, and find new ways to solve growing global problems. The focus will center upon the roles that traditional knowledge can and should play in future developments.

Who should attend the conference? Indigenous and local people with traditional expertise are welcome to participate and encouraged to teach. Applied scientists, businesses, governments, foundations, and conservation organizations may consider incorporating traditional knowledge and peoples into their development plans and projects. Teachers, medical practitioners, and others needing continuing education credit are encouraged to participate and learn a range of ways in which traditional knowledge may be incorporated into their work.

This is an exciting opportunity for the membership of the SEB to work with other organizations toward common goals.

Please visit the following web site for CALL FOR PAPERS.
<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/buildingbridgessummit/Themes.htm>

At this point in time, the official web site [www.traditionalknowledge.com] is still under construction so while you are waiting for the final site please look here—
www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/buildingbridgessummit/building.htm.

- ◆ For more information, contact the meeting correspondent at bbt2@hawaii.edu
- ◆ The SEB meetings will be the focal point of the Building Bridges Summit meetings.
- ◆ SEB members are encouraged to present papers and posters in the Building Bridges contributed paper sessions.
- ◆ SEB members will be well represented as speakers in the Building Bridges symposia and other venues.
- ◆ The SEB symposium: "Crops and Cultures in the Pacific" will be on Friday June 1st from 8:30-11:30 am.
- ◆ The Distinguished Economic Botanist for 2001 (the first of the new millennium) will be Dr. Isabella Abbott who will speak at the Economic Botany Luncheon (Friday, June 1st from 11:30-1:00) on "Diversity and Traditional Hawaiian Uses of Algae."
- ◆ SEB student members presenting papers or posters in any Building Bridges sessions will be eligible for the Fulling and Morton awards.
- ◆ SEB will be joined by a number of other scientific, professional, and cultural organizations interested in the roles of traditional knowledge in the world today.

Contact BBT soon for hotel discounts and scholarships.

Read more on the 2001 Meeting on page 13

www.econbot.org

Plants & People

The Newsletter of
The Society
for
Economic Botany

Web site:
www.econbot.org

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The articles within the Newsletter are independently submitted and do not represent the position of The Society for Economic Botany as a whole.

Deadlines for submissions are February 1 (Spring Issue) and September 1 (Fall Issue).

Notes from the Field

Dear Members,

The heat of South Carolina is quickly passing as we prepare for our winter lives. However we have the warm climate of Hawaii to look forward to in May. There will be many people all converging to the SEB/BBT II meeting, so do not hesitate to make plans early. Will McClatchy and his team, as well as presiding President Barbara Pickersgill are offering us a program that will fill our minds and leave us breathless for days.

So did you write your genealogy down in South Carolina? Wasn't that a fun exercise to see how our discipline has many overlapping rootlets to the past. In fact, it is also intriguing to see that there were separate roots that overlap to the present. Those are: Linguistics, Anthropology, and Botany. So we are all related by our great founding mothers and fathers and therefore to each other.



Know Your Roots

The Newsletter remains full of new thoughts from more members so don't miss a page. Take your time reading the Ethics page and UK International Chapter and send us your thoughts and experiences, good or bad.

You will notice that we have begun accepting ads in the Newsletter. We are trying to become self-funded. Please, if you are part of a company or know any one that would be interested in placing an add, direct them to me.

Finally, I find it hard to keep up with the Web and our site so I hope that I am not duplicating items. If so I can only know if you tell me. Send in newsworthy items and comments by e-mail: Tflaster@rmi.net. See you in Hawaii or wherever our paths may cross.

Thank you and remember, ask a friend to join.

Trish Flaster

The SEB ListServ

November 1: Deadline for updating SEB Membership address

The 2001 SEB Membership Directory is planned to be completed this fall for a Spring 2001 printing. If you have never submitted your email or have a new mailing address visit the SEB web site change of address form - <http://www.econbot.org/changeaddr.html>

Currently, the SEB ListServ has more than 700 SEB members. However, 70% of the remaining missing members' e-mails are from North America (Canada, US, and Mexico). If you do not want to miss any SEB news, announcements, or discussions submit your email today!

South Carolina 2000 Meeting

Report of the 2000 meeting of the Society for Economic Botany, submitted by Presidents Beryl Simpson and Barbara Pickersgill

The Society held its annual meeting from 20-24 June at the University of South Carolina, organized by Past-President Gail Wagner with her customary blend of indefatigable energy and meticulous attention to detail. The meeting was targeted particularly toward students, and kept low-cost to facilitate their attendance, so it was pleasant to see Dr Wagner's efforts rewarded by a good turnout of students.



Crafts Workshop

The meeting officially began with a reception on the evening of 20th June at which Nancy Basket, a native Cherokee, provided a traditional blessing for the proceedings. The next three days included a mixture of symposium papers, contributed papers, poster presentations, and videos. The Society symposium, appropriate to both the Millenium meeting and the emphasis on student participation, was entitled "Roots in the Past, Seeds of Tomorrow: Sowing the Future of Economic Botany." However, particularly impressive were the student presentations in the contributed paper sessions. They showed a high level of sophistication in designing economic botany studies and in analysis of data, as well as innovation and imagination in initial identification of possible projects, and the ability to raise funds, secure permits, and cope with the inevitable difficulties of field work in locations that were often both exotic and remote. For their talk on "Impacts of Harvest on Populations of *Aechmea magdalenae*: Considering the Effects of Ecological and Human Variation," Tamara Ticktin (and Timothy Johns) received the Fulling Award. Michael Walker

and his colleagues received the Julia Morton Award for their poster "Ethnobotanical Investigation of Acjachemen Percussion Instruments." There were three worthy contenders for the Klinger Book Award, which this year went to Gerda Rossel from the Netherlands for *Taxonomic-Linguistic Study of Plantain in Africa*. This book represents the publication of her Ph.D. thesis.

The lunchtime roundtable discussions on education, ethics, and funding, instituted at the St Louis meeting last year, were continued this year. A valuable innovation was the workshop on methods in ethnobotanical research, run by David Lentz and Gary Martin. This was originally intended only for students, but in the event extended to everyone. An impressive collection of local sweetgrass baskets had been assembled for study, together with some "volunteers" for interview by participants in the workshop. Other delightful additions were the display, and sale, of craft items such as leaf-imprint pottery and ornaments woven from cereal straw.

The Business Meeting was held on 24 June. President Beryl Simpson reported on some of the matters discussed by Council on 20 June. Council had voted to pursue an invitation from the National Science Foundation to submit a proposal for a workshop on the status and future of ethnobiology. A representative from Allen Press had given Council an overview of electronic publishing under the BioOne initiative, and Council would continue to investigate this possibility. The results of the 2000 elections were announced: Brian Boom is the new President-Elect, Julia Kornegay the incoming Treasurer, and Gayle Fritz and James Miller new Council Members. At the close of the Business Meeting, Dr. Barbara Pickersgill took over the reins as the new President of the Society.

The meeting was notable for its informality, collegiality, and ability of everyone to attend all of the sessions. Socializing among participants was encouraged by the abundant snacks at the breaks in the formal sessions and delightful dinners that included a barbecue and banquet with traditional South Carolina dishes. Dr. James Duke, the Distinguished Economic Botanist for the year 2000, delighted the participants at the banquet with his homey review of herbal medicine and self-composed songs, which he accompanied on his guitar.

The next meetings are to be 28 May - 1 June 2001 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and 21-27 June 2002 at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, New York. Further details will appear in the Newsletter and on the Society's web page (www.econbot.org).



DEB Jim Duke

Awards

In her report (see 2000 meeting, page 3), Past-President Beryl Simpson reviews the South Carolina 2000 meeting and announces awards. Here is more detail about the book award.

Klinger Book Award Report (1999-2000)

1. Klinger Book Award Committee
D. Austin (daustin@fau.edu) CHAIR
J. Rashford (rashfordj@cofc.edu)
H. Prendergast
(H.Prendergast@rbgkew.org.uk)
T. Johns (johns@macdonald.mcgill.ca)
B. Bennett (bennett@fiu.edu)
2. Guidelines for selection of "Klinger Book Award" (Adopted at the 1997 Society for Economic Botany meeting in St. Louis)
 - A. Books are eligible for 2 years after publication date.
 - B. Book copies must be received by the Book Review Editor to be considered.
 - C. Book Review Editor will request 3 copies of the book to be circulated among the book award committee.
 - D. Books that are validly nominated (A-C above) will remain eligible as long as they have been published within the 2-year period.
3. 1999-2000 Nominees
Davidson, A. 1999. *The Oxford Companion to Food*. London. Oxford University Press, London. Nominated by Mark Nesbitt, 2 March 2000.
Eubanks, M. W. 1999. *Corn in Clay*. University Presses of Florida. Gainesville, FL. Nominated by Tom Hemmerly, 17 March 2000.
Rossel, G. 1998. *Taxonomic-Linguistic Study of Plantain in Africa*. CNWS Publications, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands. Nominated by Dorothea Bedigan, 19 Jan 2000.
Simoons, F. J. 1998. *Plants of Life, Plants of Death*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI. Nominated by John Rashford, 2 March 2000.
Tuxill, J. and G. P. Nabhan. 1998. *Plants and Protected Areas: A Guide to in situ Management*. Standley Thornes Publishers, Cheltenham, UK. Nominated by Michael Dove, 26 May 2000.
4. Results: 2000 Klinger Award —
Taxonomic-Linguistic Study of Plantain in Africa by Gerda Rossel.

International Chapter

'Natural steps' for the SEB

Hew Prendergast, Centre for Economic Botany, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The December 1999 issue of the SEB UK Chapter *Newsletter* contained a write-up, from an economic botany perspective, of the International Botanical Congress (IBC) in St Louis. Mention is made (see p. 10) of a talk by Prof. Karl-Henrik Robèrt, Professor of Resource Theory at the University of Gothenburg, in which he described the beginnings of The Natural Step, an organisation devoted to sustainable development issues. His approach for building up an agreed and

prioritised list of issues—an agenda for the future—seemed worth trying, using the UK Chapter AGM as a trial run.

In St. Louis our President, Gail Wagner, had encouraged daily informal meetings in which members held discussions of a range of topics. One of these was whether the SEB should, and if so how, set a clear agenda for itself over and above its slogan of being 'Devoted to past, present and future uses of plants by people.' Those at the meeting

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John Rashford and Kit Anderson

Richard Howard Receives Awards

Last October the National Tropical Botanical Garden awarded Richard Howard the Allerton Medal at a formal meeting of the Board of Directors at their Miami Kampong facility. He is the first neotropic scholar to be so honored. The citation reads: The National Tropical Botanical Garden is pleased to present to Dr. Richard A. Howard on this 30th day of October, 1999, The Allerton Medal in recognition of decades of heroic service in the advancement of tropical horticulture and the understanding of tropical plants. (Signed Paul Alan Cox, Director and Douglas McBryde Kinney, Chairman)

In June, at a symposium on the Flora of the Greater Antilles at the New York Botanical Garden Richard was honored a second time with the award of a painting of *Cubanola domingensis* by Bobbi Angel and the citation: Richard A. Howard in recognition of his work in the Caribbean Islands.

Contact: Richard A. Howard <botanist@juno.com>

President's Letter

by Barbara Pickersgill

It is both an honour and a responsibility to succeed Beryl Simpson as President of the Society for Economic Botany. The Society now has just under 1,000 members, from 58 countries and 6 continents (we have yet to recruit a member from Antarctica!). Its dedication to "past, present and future uses of plants by people" encompasses many issues of current global and national importance. Some are contentious: ethical and political questions surrounding dissemination and exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge; the role of genetically modified crops in feeding the human population, now projected to peak at 10 billion; conservation of biodiversity in an era of climate change and population increase; the relative roles of high input versus low input agriculture. On some other issues, the goal is generally agreed but not how that goal should be reached; for example, how to overcome under-production of food in countries with environments that are marginal for agriculture; how to ensure sustainability of non-agricultural production processes; education in the broadest sense (of politicians and the general public in regard to plant-based issues such as genetically modified crops; raising the profile of our subject in schools and universities to ensure the future supply of applied plant scientists; facilitating the flow of information and training opportunities from north to south, south to north, south to south, north to north).

At the 1999 meeting of the Society, then-President Gail Wagner encouraged a series of discussion meetings on defining an agenda for the Society for the new century—an agenda in keeping with the Society's traditional aims but involving perhaps a higher profile and a more proactive role. This challenge was taken up by the UK Chapter (the first and currently the only international chapter operating under the umbrella of the parent Society, though the Society would welcome more such regional chapters). The UK Chapter's attempts to identify the top 10 current issues for the Society may shortly be aired more widely via the general Newsletter and/or the newly introduced Comments section of the Society's Journal. Watch these spaces!

The new editor of *Economic Botany*, Don Ugent, has already received many compliments on the Comments section and other changes he has introduced, particularly the coloured front cover. Advances in technology are also reflected in the increasing extent and importance of the Society's web site.

Many members used the on-line registration facility for the annual conference in June 2000 and the web site is now providing advance information about the 2001 conference. The current issue of the Newsletter is available through the web site, which should



Students in Action

help those members outside the US who find that information in the Newsletter sometimes arrives too late to be useful. For these and other developments, the Society owes much to the skill and enthusiasm of our webmaster, Michael Thomas, and members of the Web Site Committee.

The Society's elected Officers have a duty to ensure that the diverse interests of the Society each receive an appropriate share of the spotlight when it comes to determining the theme of the Society's annual meeting and official symposium. This year the emphasis is on ethnobotany, a topic that is certainly booming in North America and is probably top of the top 10 topics among our student members, to judge by the number and calibre of papers on ethnobotany presented at the Society's meeting in June 2000. I suspect that the Jesuits' slogan "Give us a child for his first 7 years and you give us a convert for life" applies also to the Society for Economic Botany. Certainly, I joined the Society as a graduate student and have remained an economic botanist throughout my professional life. In the coming decades, our Society thus will be able to harness the talents of a core of active and dedicated young members with practical experience of working in diverse cultures and continents.

In the shorter term, the annual meeting of the Society in 2001 will be held in conjunction with the international summit meeting on "Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge" at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Will McClatchey, our local representative, is putting together a programme packed with relevant and topical sessions, so

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Germplasm News & Views

by David Theodouropoulos

"GMOs (genetically modified organisms) have become the albatross around the neck of farmers." —American Corn Grower's Association.

"GMOs are dead." —title of Deutsche Bank study.

"How about farmer customers? I have a cynical hunch that most high-tech innovations are a false hope that actually makes their situation worse... many (most?) folks in this industry tell me that they think the anti-GMO uproar is 'the best thing that's happened to this industry in years.'" —Bill Freiberg, editor, *Seed & Crops Digest*.

"Terminator" seeds, monarch butterflies and Bt corn pollen, the European and Japanese debate on GMOs and rejection of grain shipments, destruction of GM crops by activists throughout the world, the debate over labeling, the Biosafety Protocol, the USDA organic standards flap... we live in interesting times.

Monsanto is distancing itself from "terminator" seeds due to public outcry, but Delta & Pine Land is continuing with their production plans. Natural cross-pollination between herbicide-resistant GM canola varieties on a Canadian farm created a new, multiply-resistant type, rekindling concerns about the spread of transgenic traits and the formation of multiply-resistant weeds. In another interesting case of natural spread of GM traits, a farmer who did not plant GM seeds has been sued by Monsanto for infringement—he has counter-sued for trespass and contamination of his field. With growing concern over GM foods and demands for labeling, and the rejection of GM foods by major processors, the testing and certification of GM-free seeds and foods has become a volatile issue. GMO content of less than 0.1% is becoming standard, and testing is a new business. Field test kits are showing up, but lab tests have low accuracy. Questions are finally being raised concerning necessary isolation distances, buffer zones, and the liability of neighboring farmers and biotech firms for contamination, as well as the practicalities of segregating GM foods from field to processor to market. Interestingly, the cost burdens seem to be falling on the traditional growers. This will also affect "organic" seeds and other small-scale seed production due to the large sample sizes and high costs of testing. An analysis of the

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In the Classroom

by Wilson Crone

Educational Issues from Summer 2000: A Tale of Two Cities

This summer I presented and participated in two meetings: the Society for Economic Botany June meeting at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and a Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) summer workshop on "The Future of Plant Biology," at Keystone, CO, in July. Both of these meetings addressed increasing awareness and access to botanical/ethnobotanical issues in undergraduate education. I would like to summarize some of my thoughts from them in this column. First, I would like to enclose a description of my experiences teaching economic botany via distance learning. This was originally submitted to Gail Wagner as part of the packet of teaching exercises she made available at the SEB meeting.

Economic Botany in a Distance Learning Format

As an interdisciplinary subject, economic botany lends itself well to the distance learning format. Conveying information, imagery, and student involvement are challenges, though, when there is no face-to-face time with students. The "course management software," e.g., TopClass or WebCT, will probably determine the ultimate format of the class, but solving these three "I"s can take a variety of paths.

Information: Organization is a major factor. The course software may be initially intimidating to students, so that a standard format with built-in repetition is useful. I break up my lecture notes into "screen-size" portions. Long blocks of text are intimidating to scroll through. I try to maintain a fairly informal tone, to give the sense that I am "talking" with students instead of just delivering written content. I include many active links in my lecture notes, so students can explore points of interest readily. The URLs of many web pages change frequently, which requires constant updating of the links. Economic botany is an elective class at my institution, attracting a wide diversity of student interest and background each year. I tend to include a smattering of information, ranging from the taxonomic details of the plant family to history of the plant's uses, as a result.

Imagery: Internet courses allow for a wide variety of images, but the desire to bring in graphics must be tempered by the ability of the student to download them in a reasonable time. Most of my students have modem connections to the Internet, so large graphic files create a delay in viewing class material. As a result, I tend to use either links to other web pages for graphics, or to scan in only small graphics in the discussion part of the class.

Student involvement: The hardest aspect of distance learning is to have an interactive class. When I taught the class on campus, I was used to bringing in items to discuss and eat, handle, etc. In the distance-learning mode, I try to have the students interact with me and with each other via several vehicles.

First is discussion. Course management software typically includes a chat room area. For each small segment of the course, I post a provocative, "get the ball rolling" kind of question.

As part of their grade, students must respond and/or post their own comments.

A second is a participation activity. To give some flavor of the variety of different plant products, I have students mail in (or send images in) materials that apply to each section, along with some commentary. So far this semester, these items have ranged from baked bean labels for a legume section to a head of wheat for the section on the cereals. I have had success scanning in a

variety of objects, up to a sectioned head of cabbage. This may sound a bit like "show and tell," but creates a visual impression of student interests and daily interactions with plant products.

Third, quizzes ensure that students keep up with the coursework. Although my syllabus highlights a definite sequence of events, the distance learning format can lend itself to procrastination. Short, open-book quizzes due each week help to keep students on pace and highlight problems before they snowball.

These interactions require a fair amount of time. I check in at least once a day to the course, to reply to student submissions, steer discussion, or check submissions. Grading also

International Chapter

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agreed it was worthwhile but got no further, other than considering that a region-by-region approach could be useful—for example, highlighting which disciplines or issues, weakly developed or explored in any particular region, should receive attention from the economic botany community.

A couple of themes at the IBC had emerged as critical for the whole of the botanical community: the transfer of expertise and resources from north to south, and the importance of getting involved in the political process. With its enormous depth and range of expertise in many fields touching upon critical global problems, the SEB is well placed to tackle these challenges. It does, however, need to add to its congenial and somewhat north-based, academic identity a political dimension that does more to confront the huge losses facing the very

Do you live outside the United States? Send in your activities or goals, to share with us.

essence of the study of economic botanists, biological and cultural diversity. To achieve this, the SEB needs to set out what role it can and should play, and where it can best make a contribution scientifically and politically.

The aims of the session at our AGM were to introduce this whole subject and to make a start on what the key issues are. These are the results of a short brainstorm:

- North-south information flow, training etc.
- South-south communication
- How to measure sustainability
- Biotechnology
- Climate change
- Agricultural biodiversity
- Intellectual property rights of indigenous people
- Red Data Book of progenitors of useful plants
- Awareness raising among non-academic groups of plant-related issues

Classrooms are our heartbeat.
What excited you or your students lately?

Jobs

I have listed below a few job openings. Many have been listed on the SEB ListServ throughout the year —Trish

Two openings, one of which will have experience in science education (K-12 level) in addition to botanical expertise.

Two Faculty Positions Plant Biology

The Department of Biology at Eastern Michigan University is seeking to fill two tenure-track faculty positions at the rank of Assistant Professor. We seek two plant biologists, with preference given to candidates with expertise in phycology, plant development, and/or science education. Teaching responsibilities will include some combination of core biology courses, plant/ecology courses for teachers and advanced courses in plant biology. Positions require a Ph.D., teaching experience, and productive research. Science Education applicants must have evidence of successful K-12 classroom teaching experience. Successful candidates must have a strong commitment to teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels, including involvement of students in ongoing research, and will be expected to develop programs capable of attracting external funding.

Additional information is available at: www.emich.edu/public/biology/bioweb.htm. Submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching interests and philosophy, description of research, relevant reprints, and copies of transcripts (unofficial acceptable) to: Positions #F0105/F0106, Eastern Michigan University, 202 Bowen, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. For additional information, contact Dr. Robert Neely, Biology Dept. Head, Phone (734) 487-4242; e-mail: bob.neely@emich.edu or Dr. Gary Hannan, Search Committee Chair, Phone (734) 487-4399; e-mail: bio_hannan@online.emich.edu.

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In the Classroom

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includes a midterm as well as a final exam along with a term project. For distance learning, I make the tests as a series of open-book essays, although other faculty may opt for a closed-book test proctored on campus. The term projects have run from papers to PowerPoint presentations, to posters, to (semi-epic) poems, to videos. I ask for documentation of research and effort involved in the project for any format. In summary, I think that economic botany can work well in a distance learning format, but that faculty need to prepare the material accordingly.

In contrast to the above focus on distance learning, my topic for Keystone was "Plants in Community Colleges." Here, I touched on the themes of student diversity within an open-enrollment campus, and the necessity for creating "packaged" labs that could work within time and space constraints.

Examples of these labs include:

- ◆ Biodiversity lab: use sampling methods (e.g., with a stretched-out coat hanger!) around your campus to compare a regular lawn, the monoculture of a football field, and a "field" (weedy) area.
- ◆ Seed dispersal lab: use a meter stick to release milkweed (or similar) seeds at 100 cm and 10 cm, to get an idea of how seeds disperse (great for graphing, especially when done outdoors in a slight breeze).
- ◆ Plant anatomy lab: use familiar materials to highlight plant structure issues, e.g., cigarette to show tobacco leaf structure, toothpick for tracheids and fibers, and the meat of nuts for fat globules.
- ◆ Local ethnobotany lab: to parallel the sweetgrass basket workshop done at the SEB meeting, I put together a similar presentation using Shaker materials (they were very active in the Capital District area).

Another useful concept coming out of the workshop, particularly applicable to economic botany, was the suggestion to prepare case studies for students in other disciplines. Certainly, ethnobotany issues can be addressed from multiple viewpoints, e.g., social sciences, law, business, humanities, etc. I am heading a group from Project Kaleidoscope that is interested in creating examples of botanically oriented case studies for departments outside of biology.

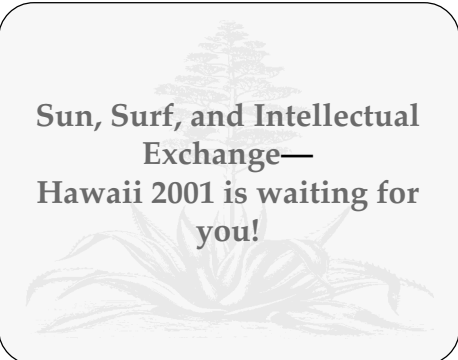
The overall take-home message of these meetings was the need for increased communication among colleagues. Particularly at the PKAL meetings, I found other faculty across the nation struggling with similar educational issues. Interaction among professional and other peers can only serve to increase general awareness and participation in plant biology. I will be glad to send material or communicate with interested SEB members.

Wilson Crone, Assistant Professor

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Web site: <http://www.hvcc.edu/academ/faculty/crone/index.html>



Sun, Surf, and Intellectual Exchange—
Hawaii 2001 is waiting for you!

Past Issues of the Newsletter

Many of you have inquired about past issues of the Newsletter. The inventory report from Allen Press is below. We will hold them for a while after this printing and then remove them from inventory. If you want them we would send them to you for the cost of the shipping and handling. Thanks to Carole Young, Managing Editor of the *Journal* for coordinating this effort. (CYoung@nybg.org)

year	no.		units	year	no.		units
1994	8		45	1997	11	fall	48
1995	9		46	1998	12	spring	5
1996	10	fall	44	1998	12	winter	39
1997	11	spring	1	1999	13	fall	29
				2000	14	spring	96

Ethics

Since ethics is at the heart of so many of the issues in Ethnobotany and Economic Botany we developed a new column last year. It has been a column that is intriguing, thought provoking, and instructive. Here are some additional questions that are often posed as we work in the field. A special thanks to Will and Valerie MacClatchley for submitting these. I look forward to your answers—yes you the readers—in the Spring 2001 issue. Please send your responses and situations to me by e-mail if possible, —Trish

1) Is it acceptable to write a local/indigenous name of a plant on an herbarium sheet, if the researcher is not from the group that uses that name nor has had the specific specimen identified by a member of the culture?

2) Is there a problem studying traditional plant usage in a culture that has recently made the plant under study illegal?

3) Is it ethical to collect herbarium or medicinal samples of rare or endangered plants, even if permits have been issued?

Workshops

NTPF Workshop in Oaxaca

As part of the events leading up to the Forest Stewardship Council Annual Conference, Falls Brook Centre will host a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTPF) workshop on 7 November in Oaxaca, Mexico. This workshop is primarily intended for FSC members and others who are working on the certification of NTFPs. The focus of the meeting will be to finalize guidance for certifiers to carry out assessments of NTFPs and to discuss recent field trials of NTFP certification. If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact Pat Mallet <pmallet@web.net>.

**What are your thoughts on ethics questions?
Send your response to Trish at tflaster@rmi.net.**

Jobs

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Assistant Professor, 13, Position No. 83004. College of Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, **University of Hawaii**, full-time, general funds, nine-month tenure-track position in cultural anthropology, with specializations in medical and Pacific Island anthropology, beginning Fall Semester 2001 pending availability of funds and position clearance.

Medical anthropology is conceived broadly and inclusively as the investigation of culture, society, biology, health, and illness. Research interests that focus on the cultural embeddedness of medical knowledge and practice are especially welcomed, as is a commitment to a broad cultural comparative approach. Theoretical and research interests should complement and engage current faculty strengths.

Ethnoecology Position

Please encourage any of your friends or others that might qualify to apply for this position. We have been promised additional positions in ethnobotany if this position attracts a significant, quality pool of applicants. The motivation is here to build a solid program but we have to show that the faculty constituents of a program are out there. I am hopeful that we will get many international applications and we would be happy to select a top quality faculty member from abroad. The current job announcement follows.

Assistant/Associate Professor (Ethnoecology)

The Department of Botany, College of Natural Sciences, invites applicants at the Assistant or Associate Professor level, for a full-time, tenure track, nine-month position available beginning January 2001. The department seeks an individual who will develop an outstanding research program and provide leadership in ethnoecology and related fields that emphasize studies of cultural interactions with botanical environments.

Primary teaching responsibilities include an introductory course in the undergraduate Ethnobiology curriculum, a lower division course in Botany or Biology, and an advanced course in the area of his/her research specialization. Secondly, the individual will be expected to interact with the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology program through teaching and/or research activities.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in botany, an appropriate field of biological science or its equivalent; demonstrated teaching ability; demonstrated scholarly achievements. For the Associate Professor level, additional requirements include a minimum of four years of teaching as Assistant Professor or equivalent and demonstrated superior scholarly achievements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Post-graduate training and field-oriented research in Pacific or tropical ethnoecology, the ability

to operate in a multi-cultural environment, and significant knowledge of, or interest in, traditional land use systems of the Pacific.

MINIMUM ANNUAL SALARY: negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: Submit vita, statements of teaching philosophy and research interests, reprints of up to three publications, and names and contact information for three or more references, including mail and e-mail addresses and phone numbers to:

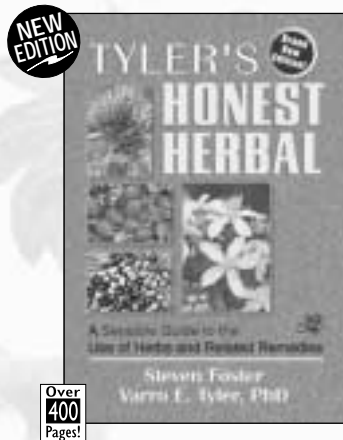
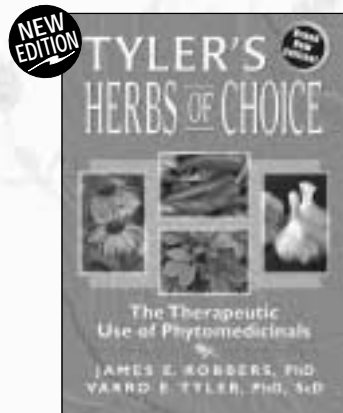
Chairperson, Dept. of Botany
3190 Maile Way
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-2279.

Program Information may be found at: www.botany.hawaii.edu. Send inquires to botany@hawaii.edu or fax 808-956-3923. The University of Hawai'i at Manoa is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of Minority Groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

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**Is there an ethical question
that has you pondering?**

Must-have publications for the herbal enthusiast!



Tyler's Herbs of Choice

The Therapeutic Use of Phytomedicinals

James E. Robbers, PhD,
and Varro E. Tyler, PhD

"One of the most useful and most quoted references in the field of herbal medicine (phytopharmaceuticals). . . . A blend of the available clinical literature of medicinal herbs and plants with their known phytochemicals and histories of use resulting in an entertaining and authoritative text."

—Jerry L. McLaughlin, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

This new edition of Tyler's original *Herbs of Choice* includes additional data on clinical studies and advances in determining mechanism of action, information essential for completely understanding any medicinal agent and its rational use in therapeutics.

\$49.95 hard. ISBN: 0-7890-0159-4.
\$19.95 soft. ISBN: 0-7890-0160-8.
1999. 287 pp. with Index.

Includes an 8-page, 4-color photogallery!

Tyler's Honest Herbal

A Sensible Guide to the Use of Herbs and Related Remedies

Steven Foster and
Varro E. Tyler, PhD

"An up-to-date revision of the most reliable source for the lay person on herbal medicines. Provides a clear, concise summary of some of the most important and popular herbs and related products. . . . Excellent as a starting point for scientists who desire more information on herbal medicines."

—Norman R. Farnsworth, PhD, Research Professor of Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago

Now in its fourth edition, **Tyler's Honest Herbal** presents essential botanical information and folkloric uses of herbal remedies in a clear, accessible style that makes learning easy for a wide variety of readers. The new edition features additional scientific data on herbs that will enable you to make wise, informed choices about the risks and benefits of herbs currently sold in the United States.

\$59.95 hard. ISBN: 0-7890-0705-3.
\$24.95 soft. ISBN: 0-7890-0875-0.
1999. 442 pp. with Index.

Includes an 8-page, 4-color photogallery!

Seasoning Savvy

How to Cook with Herbs, Spices, and Other Flavorings

Alice Arndt

"A WELL WRITTEN AND WONDERFULLY COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION OF THE WORLD OF HERBS, SPICES AND AROMATICS—at once authoritative and easy to use. There's inspiration and good advice for everyone from cooks and restaurant chefs to culinary historians and food scholars."

—Nancy Harmon Jenkins, Author of *The Mediterranean Diet Cookbook*

This book discusses over a hundred herbs, spices, flavorings, and blends in detail, telling what they are and how to select, store and use them—and what you might substitute if they are unavailable. Not a cookbook, **Seasoning Savvy** is an adjunct to every cookbook and will help you get the most out of the seasonings you use to flavor your food.

\$59.95 hard. ISBN: 1-56022-031-7.
\$24.95 soft. ISBN: 1-56022-032-5.
1999. 268 pp. with Index.



The Haworth Herbal Press®

An imprint of The Haworth Press
10 Alice Street
Binghamton, New York 13904-1580

Cross Pollination

—continued from page 16

Traditional Antimalarials from the Peruvian Amazon

by Steven J. Casper
sjcasper@artsci.wustl.edu

Medicinal plants from the Amazon jungles of South America have been the subject of study in Dr. Walter Lewis' lab for several years. Working near the Ecuadorian-Peruvian border with several tribes of indigenous Jivaros, he and Dr. Elvin-Lewis collected many medicinal plants. Several of these were collected for the first time and we are still working with them in the areas of cancer, hepatitis, and tuberculosis treatment. Until the end of last year, the lab was part of an International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) project in Peru. During the project's duration, we collected thousands of plants with the help of several indigenous people who live within the jungles of north-central Peru. They were mostly people from Aguaruna villages but we also interacted with several mestizos who live near boundaries with traditional villages. They shared both the plants they use medicinally and the manner in which they prepare the cures.

I entered the lab midway through the project and immersed myself in all aspects of the work, from collecting plants and interviewing people to extracting the chemical components that give the plants their medicinal properties. Eventually, I began to focus on those plants that are used to cure malaria. I feel it is vital to explore alternatives to current drugs now that the malaria parasites are becoming resistant to many allopathic drugs. Millions of people, young children mostly, die every year from malaria, and the numbers will only increase because of emerging resistance. Through this study, I began to see that many of the same plants were used in different areas, which hints at those plants having true efficacy. Interestingly, the plants people use represents a fairly random distribution among several different plant families. I began to look to see if there was a chemical similarity between the different plants. So far the chemistry is distinct.

I am looking at a few species that have



What was that plant in the centerpiece anyway?

Jobs

—continued from page 8

Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison working with the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation. In developing a botanical garden at the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve in north-western Ecuador, we are looking for a qualified person with botanical garden experience who has also worked with orchids. Below is the position announcement.

Catherine Woodward
Dept. of Botany
430 Lincoln Dr., 220 Birge Hall
Madison, WI 53706
E-mail cwoodward@ceiba.org
http://www.ceiba.org

under construction at the reserve. A person is needed to oversee the completion of the garden and establish a management plan for its maintenance, and to provide training to an apprentice garden manager who will assume management of the garden after this position ends. Duties include planting and overseeing the planting of ornamentals that make up the garden's framework of permanent plants; designing and overseeing the creation of natural-looking orchid display areas; planting and transplanting orchids; caring for orchids; developing a rotation protocol for orchids maintained in the nursery and displayed in the garden; maintaining the garden and its trail system on a daily basis and developing a maintenance schedule; training the apprentice garden manager..

QUALIFICATIONS:

The preferred applicant will be self-motivated, hardworking, Spanish-speaking, and adventurous with the following qualifications:

- ◆ Extensive experience growing orchids
- ◆ Previous work in a botanical garden, preferably in a tropical setting
- ◆ Knowledge of botanical garden design
- ◆ Experience working with tropical plants and/or knowledge about tropical environments
- ◆ Patience and the ability to work well with others, in a supervisory position
- ◆ Spanish Fluency or near-fluency (required)

REMUNERATION: \$400 per month plus airfare, housing, and local transportation.

TO APPLY: Send by postal mail, e-mail or fax a detailed cover letter (less than 2 pages) describing your interest in the position, stating when you can start, and highlighting relevant qualifications, plus a CV and the names, phone numbers, e-mail and postal addresses of two references to the address below. All application materials must be received by Oct. 20, 2000. Positive notifications will be sent by Nov. 15, 2000. Inquiries for this and/or other positions should be sent by e-mail only to mail@ceiba.org. Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation, 2319 North Cleveland, Chicago, IL 60614, Fax: (773) 871-3798. More information on CFTC and the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve: www.ceiba.org

Short-Term Position

TITLE: Orchid Botanical Garden Supervisor/Trainer

LOCATION: El Pahuma Orchid Reserve, Ecuador

DURATION: 3 months, with possible extension (start flexible /as soon as possible)

DESCRIPTION: The El Pahuma Orchid Reserve is a 600 hectare cloud forest reserve located in northwestern Ecuador about 1 hour from Quito, the capital city. An outdoor orchid botanical garden is currently

shown very high inhibitory activity against the parasites in tissue culture. I am expanding my work on the chemistry to include study on how modifications to the chemical's structure affect activity in tissue culture. I have collected North American species of the same genus to see if they, too, have antimalarial activity. I suspect they will,

since the taxa are closely related and I have found references to Creek and Seminole tribes using this plant in the past to treat fevers. Because malaria produces a profound fever, there might be a connection, although the reference does not specifically identify malaria as the cause of the fever they are curing with these plants.

Botanizing the Web

Sustainability Web Site

I'd like to alert you to major revisions in the web site of Five E's Unlimited at <http://www.eeeee.net>. By bookmarking this site you will find a "virtual library" at your fingertips on the many elements of sustainable developments. The site offers hundreds of searchable resources to help communities, businesses, educators, researchers, policy makers, environmental managers, legislators, and households make better decisions. As our testimonials demonstrate, this site also serves as an excellent electronic reference in high school and college classrooms where students are encouraged to learn how science, society, and economics, as well as ethics and morality, influence our multi-dimensional lives. Hundreds of information pages include discussion of population, climate, energy, natural resource use, coastal planning and management, human-nature linkages, biodiversity, watershed protection, technology, sustainable agriculture, safe water supplies, waste management, community development, transportation, green building, economic revitalization, consumerism, sustainable cities, international security, politics, smart rural development, education, family relations, human values, etc. Part of the Five E's web site's purpose is to offer the public service of circulating and promoting the most current ideas, tools, and success stories involving people, places, and organizations attempting to achieve sustainability. Our site on sustainability is not the biggest or most expensive, but many find it extremely helpful.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. R. Warren Flint, Five E's Unlimited
PO Box 311, Pungoteague, VA 23422
+1-(757) 442-5588; E5unltd@aol.com
<http://www.eeeee.net>

Web Discussion on NWFP Inventory

In May 2000, the workshop "Developing Needs-Based Inventory Methods for NWFP: Application and Development of Current Research to Identify Practical Solutions for Developing Countries," was held in Rome at FAO HQ. The workshop was organized by the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) and sponsored by the Forest Research Programme of DFID,

with support from the European Commission. The background paper "The Biometrics of Non-Timber Forest Product Resource Assessment: A Review of Current Methodology," by J. Wong and the "Draft Workshop Report" can be downloaded from the ETFRN web site: www.etfrn.org/etfrn/workshop/ntfp/

African ListServ

This is an interactive forum for discussion, collaboration, and networking devoted to exchange of information, ideas, and experiences on sustainable use, management, and conservation of African natural resources. This list will facilitate exchange of information on environmental issues and concerns with focus on the African region, and raising environmental awareness in general.

This is a forum in which a variety of viewpoints concerning environmental conservation in Africa may be discussed to promote cooperation among diverse environmental groups and interests and to encourage initiatives at local, national, sub-regional, and international levels.

This forum was launched in Nairobi, Kenya, COMMA on the occasion of the Conference of Parties (COP-5) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) held at UNEP Headquarters on 15-26 May 2000.

To join the group, simply send a blank e-mail to:
ConserveAfrica;subscribe@egroups.com

IDRC Web Site

IDRC has a program concerned with urban agriculture called Cities Feeding People. Please see their publication series at http://www.idrc.ca/crp/rptindex_e.html for studies that may be of interest.

Intellectual Property Pages Web Site

IK Pages have been expanded and revised. Take a look at the web site that is becoming a truly international gateway to information about indigenous knowledge. The IK Pages are:

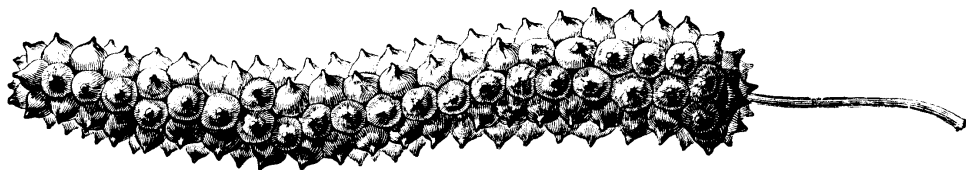
- ◆ An integrated, online system of information on local knowledge as it relates to sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- ◆ A gateway to a large selection of relevant sources on the Internet;
- ◆ A system with search and browse options that enable a person to locate quickly the exact information they are seeking;
- ◆ An instrument to facilitate communication among persons with a professional interest in the subject;
- ◆ Free access to information possessed by persons and organizations all over the world;
- ◆ A forum for those who wish to share their expertise on indigenous knowledge with others.

Added Value of the New IK Pages

The IK Pages can help you in various ways. They offer possibilities for:

- ◆ Searching or browsing through a selection of annotated resources, which are identified by region, topic, and type of resource;
- ◆ Publishing news and making announcements of workshops, conferences, calls for papers, etc., —free of charge;
- ◆ Reading or downloading online versions of the international journal known as the *Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor* (all issues since Feb. 1993);

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Propagating Experience and Monitoring US Medicinals

In response to a request for field experience, positive and negative I have received this....

Dear Trish Flaster,

It is very nice to hear your invitation. You did not mention only the success stories but you also asked for failures. I had one of them. Last October I founded a Center of Useful Plants in a small Aegean town in Turkey, and at the end of June we had to close it due to financial difficulties. We had trained about 30 volunteers in ethnobotany, to collect information, and to press plants. It was a very successful effort: at least 10 of them were meeting every week and discussing the information they had gathered. At the end of 7 months we had 400 plant samples and information on 150 species with their local names and various uses. However, when the Foundation experienced financial disaster we had to close our doors. Now I am trying to write a new project to continue fieldwork for a few more months in fall and winter and to write it up the whole thing. I do not lose my hope, but it was a very sad experience. All of our training programs with the school children have ended. I have to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this failure with you. Very best wishes.

Fusun Ertug, Ph.D. (fertug@attglobal.net)
Ex-Curator of Bodrum Research Center for Useful Plants

Ridvan Pasa Sok. Refik Bey Apt. 13/14
Goztepe 81080 Istanbul Turkey
Phone: 90-216 360 1768

**USFWS setting protocols
for US medicinal plant
research**
**Join their ListServ: contact
Julie_Lyke@fws.gov**

The following is a summary of the goals of a volunteer group working on the conservation of medicinal plants. Through their hard work this group completed its first project—a plant monitoring project in North Carolina. Several plots were set out: ginseng, black cohosh, and bloodroot were counted to initiate the beginning of this long-term study. The next step in this project is to harvest these species to determine what is sustainable. This project was successful due to the effects of individuals, the Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Garden Club.

Plant Conservation Alliance
Medicinal Plants Working Group
Evolving Strategy

Recognizing that commercial demands may cause overharvesting from the wild, the Medicinal Plants Working Group, which includes representatives from industry, government, academia, Tribes, and environmental organizations, aims to create a framework for discussion and action on behalf of medicinal plants. The group's primary focus is to facilitate action on behalf of species of particular conservation concern as a means to balance biological and commercial needs and, in the long term, minimize regulatory intervention. Within that framework, there may also be a need to provide public education on Tribal interests and policies as these intersect with the conservation of plants. The Working Group intends to raise awareness of native medicinal plant issues and needs among partner agencies and cooperating organizations to generate and share information regarding species of medicinal and economic importance and conservation concern. The specifics of the plan follow.

- **Develop a list of all such plants**
- **Promote appropriate conservation measures for native medicinal plants**
- **Promote sustainable production of native medicinal plant products**
- **Increase participation in native medicinal plant conservation**

The number of groups interested in native medicinal plants is growing. Participants range from consumers to policy makers, farmers, and school children that could be brought into the discussion through concerted outreach and education. The goals are two: 1) expand awareness of native medicinal plant needs among those who could assist with their conservation and 2) ensure that future generations grow into fuller awareness of the value of these plants.

- **Encourage active participation by Tribes and other holders of traditional ecological knowledge pertaining to native medicinal plants**

Ethnobotany is multi-disciplinary. To discover the practical potential of native plants not only requires knowledge of plants, but also an understanding and sensitivity to the dynamics of cultures. By observing the intimate and harmonious relationship of indigenous cultures to their environment, their accumulated knowledge of the biodynamics of the natural world, and their traditions of stewardship that sustain fragile ecological balance, scientists, ethnobotanists, and others can gain insight into the management of land reserves, plant communities, and the biodiversity they sustain, and help maintain a balanced ecosystem for future generations.

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Botanizing the Web

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- ◆ Communicating with other persons in your field via a system of mailing lists; for example, in the fields of ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) and biodiversity in Africa (AFRICADIV);
- ◆ Contacting other organizations and networks active in your field of interest and/or region, and adding your own organization or network to the list;
- ◆ Reading about actual cases that serve as models ('best practices') of how indigenous knowledge can be put to use for development purposes, and then either contacting the persons involved and/or offering your own 'best practice.'

The IK Pages can be found at <http://www.nuffic.nl/ik>; pages. Suggestions for additions can be sent with the help of an electronic form at <http://www.nuffic.nl/ik; pages/reactform.asp>. All other suggestions, questions, and comments can be sent to the webmaster at ciran@nuffic.nl.

SEB 2001—Annual Meeting and Symposium

The Society meeting in Hawaii (2001) is in association with the summit meeting "Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge." The Society's symposium be on the last day of this meeting, Friday 1 June, 8.00-11.30 am, followed by the Society Luncheon (11.30 am -1 pm), which will honor Dr. Isabella Abbott, Distinguished Economic Botanist 2001.

The theme of the Society's symposium will be Crops and Cultures in the Pacific. It is being organized by the President of the Society, Dr Barbara Pickersgill (b.pickersgill@reading.ac.uk).

Many of the important cultivated plants of the Pacific Islands and the Pacific Rim are vegetatively propagated perennials, whose origins, evolution, and spread have been difficult to investigate by traditional methods. New molecular techniques are now making it possible to ask, and answer, questions about where and from what wild ancestors these crops were domesticated and by what routes they spread. At the same time, advances in techniques for recovery and analysis of plant remains from archaeological sites, including sites in areas where it was previously thought unlikely that plant material would be preserved, are providing hard facts to integrate with hypotheses about the diffusions of crops and cultivation through the Pacific region. The time therefore seems right to revisit the topic of agricultural origins and dispersals in an area that Carl Sauer long ago suggested as the original hearth of plant domestication.

Each paper in the symposium will center on a different crop. Speakers have been asked to integrate new molecular work on the origins of the crop with new archaeological evidence on its use by man, and to review evidence on the diffusion of the crop, including diffusion of associated technologies for cultivating, harvesting, processing or storage of the crop. The crops and speakers that will be featured are:

- ◆ **Introduction and conclusion:** Barbara Pickersgill (The Univ. of Reading, UK)
- ◆ **Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*):** Peter Matthews (National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan)
- ◆ **Pacific plantains (*Musa*):** Françoise Carreel (CIRAD-FLHOR, Guadeloupe) and Valérie Kagy (CIRAD, New Caledonia)
- ◆ **Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*):** Hugh Harries (CICY, Mérida, Mexico)

- ◆ **Sugar cane (*Saccharum*):** J. C. Glaszmann, L. Grivet, and A. D'Hont (CIRAD, Montpellier, France)
- ◆ **Kava (*Piper methysticum*):** Vincent Lebot (CIRAD - Department of Agriculture, Vanuatu)

The symposium will therefore provide a 21st century look at an inter-disciplinary subject of popular as well as scientific interest, relevant to the location and general theme of the meeting in Hawaii, and appealing to many of the interests represented among members of the Society.

Other events relevant to SEB members will include contributed paper sessions:

- ◆ **Economic and Ethnobotany** (8.00-11.30 am, Tuesday 29 May)
- ◆ **Practical Applications in Non-Timber Forest Products** (8.00-11.30 am, Wednesday 30 May)
- ◆ **Pacific Ethnobotany** (8.00-11.30 am, Thursday 31 May)

2001 SEB Committee Meetings
8.00-11.30 am, Monday May 28

2001 SEB Council Meeting
7.00 am-1.00 pm
Wednesday May 30

Monitoring US Medicinals

—continued from page 12

- **Generate financial support for native medicinal plant conservation projects**

The development of reliable, sustainable financial support is the lynchpin upon which the work of the Medicinal Plant Working Group depends. Without such financing, projects fall back on the time and energy of volunteers for completion, a condition that would make it difficult to fulfill the range of activities critical to the mission of the group. Funding generated to support projects would be made available for cross-cutting efforts bringing together researchers, educators, businesses, and others in support of plant conservation.

CONTACT: Julie_Lyke@fws.gov

International Chapter

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- Recording/retrieval/dissemination of information on economic uses of plants
- Promotion of local uses and knowledge ('use it or lose it')
- *In situ/ex situ* balance in conservation
- Access to conservation information
- Sustainability from natural sources of production of non-synthesizable compounds
- Certification of natural products
- Commercialisation of Non-Timber Forest Products
- Problems with terminology
- Bioremediation/rehabilitation.

Eric Boa considered the need for classifying these issues within a logframe (of goals, purpose, outputs, and activities), and to approach their identification according to the needs and constraints of poverty (e.g. issues of nutrition, income), health (human, animal, and ecological) and history (e.g., archaeology and capitalism) and the resources (people [first], plants, animals, landscape) available to meet them.

At the end of the brainstorm I offered these as a quick 'top 10' I had drawn up:

- Training of tropical country nationals in botany
- Disappearance of traditional plant knowledge
- Effect of harvesting on wild populations of medicinal plants
- Utilisation of exotic species as a means of control
- Non-Timber Forest Products as alternatives to large-scale logging from forests
- Role of botanical knowledge and collections in the conservation and revitalisation of cultural practices
- Integration of traditional and allopathic medicine in developing countries
- Insight from archaeobotanical data on the origins and development of plant exploitation
- Involvement of local communities in conservation of protected areas
- Access to information for developing country botanists.

Although we were a bit hesitant about how we should move forward, members had no doubt that the direction was right. For example, the plans by Don Ugent, the new editor of *Economic Botany*, to introduce reviewed papers into each issue (conveyed to us by Peter Lapinskas), offered an opportunity to recommend which key scientific issues

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International Chapter

—continued from page 13

are addressed. Each review could flag up the sort of actions that the SEB could take and how we could persuade others to take action too. A summary of such actions, and the need for them, could eventually result in a kind of declaration by the SEB, similar to the 1988 Declaration of Belém by the Society for Ethnobiology on the rights of indigenous peoples. A declaration from SEB could serve as a marker of concern, a statement of intent, and a reference point for those seeking support for their work.

In the interests of keeping up momentum, and of reaching members who could make it to the AGM, I ask you to suggest your 'top ten' issues (in not more than say a dozen words each) which you think are critical for the attention of the SEB. Do include any other thoughts you may have. Later we can make some attempt at putting these issues into some sort of themes, and perhaps prioritise them too, and take them to the SEB conference in South Carolina.

Postscript. The February 2000 issue of the British Ecological Society's *Bulletin* has two articles on the theme of involvement by scientists in 'political' issues. In 'Ecology in the Real World' (pp. 16-18), David Walton, Chairman of the BES Public Affairs Committee, writes: "The BES is and always has been a learned society whose *raison d'être* is to support and promote ecology as a science. With a membership largely dominated by academics and apparently fearful of being associated with the politicisation of ecology and environment through 'green politics' it has moved only slowly towards the realisation that ecology is more than an academic discipline." He goes on to point out that "The environment and its management are now a major preoccupation of governments and major funding agencies world-wide mainly because much of the world's population sees a continuing downward spiral in almost all aspects of environmental quality." He emphasises the importance of ecologists giving advice and expertise to policy makers, and finishes by asking rhetorically: "Are we doing enough as a Society? Are you contributing?" Later in the issue Richard Hobbs, in 'From Our Southern Correspondent' (pp. 32-33), laments that scientists can be sidelined in the big issues and either "aren't involved in the process or take the approach of passing information and expertise on to others who then do with it what they will (and that's often not very much!)." He ends up: "We would not consider ourselves as a conservation pressure group, but rather an association of concerned scientists who want

Publications

PLANT TALK

Thanks for your concern about the temporary suspension of Plant Talk. There will be good news to report officially in a few weeks. A major US botanical garden has offered to buy Plant Talk and keep all of us. We will be publishing a double issue in December, so subscribers will not have a break in their subscriptions. (If you have not seen this publication it has been reviewed and part of *Ethnobotanews* in the past. It is excellent and would be a great loss if not continued. Contact Jane Villa-Lobos (janevl@pcfl.net) for your subscription—Trish)

The new publication, *The Medicinal Flora of the Alaska Natives*, is now available for purchase. The work is a synthesis of the existing published material on traditional medicinal plant use of the Alaska Natives. The vast majority of anthropological and ethnographical work detailing traditional plant use in Alaska has been stored in urban libraries or out of state, virtually inaccessible to most rural residents. This book was an attempt to consolidate that material in a reference format and to, in a sense, return that information to the tradition bearers living in remote parts of the state. Over 150 plants are described and eight Native groups in Alaska are discussed: Aleut, Alutiiq, Athabascan, Eyak, Haida, Inupiat, Tlingit, and Tsimshian. Originally intended to be distributed only to schools and libraries throughout rural Alaska, this publication was reprinted and copies are available from the Alaska Natural Heritage Program. To order a copy or request more information contact Judy Alward at: 907-257-2732 or ANJAA@uaa.alaska.edu.

Recently I needed a flora and was unable to find it in a timely manner and at a bargain rate. My locally owned bookstore offered an alternative —Trish

WATKINS NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS

Dealers in natural history books since 1968, they actively buy and sell in all fields including mammalogy, ornithology, ichthyology, entomology, and related sciences —

botany of course! In fact, they have a lot of botany titles listed and have recently purchased another collection of about 2,500 titles. The list will be added to daily. Go to the web site that is at the very end of this message. Then click on the "botany" catalogue. They have listed a really nice private collection of about 2,000 titles and now we are going to begin with another.. A full list of their inventory can be viewed at www.bibliofind.com/cgi-bin/texis.exe/s/search/dcat.html?dealerid=335d7191fe Larry and Connie Watkins
7036 State Highway 29, Dolgeville, NY 13329
Phone: (518) -568-2280; bearsend@telenet.net

BOOK REQUEST

Greetings from the UK branch of Aang Serian Peace Village, a Tanzanian NGO dedicated to promoting indigenous cultures and traditions. This is a call for help!

I just received an e-mail from an editor who wants to put together three books for International Women's Day 2001. These will be published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust. They probably will be:

- (1) A book giving a voice to indigenous women around the world. Articles/papers/insights/stories on any theme.
- (2) An anthology of poetry by indigenous (and non-indigenous?) youth.
- (3) A book on "Turning development inside-out"—sustainable development projects initiated and led by Indigenous Peoples, and reconciliation/peace initiatives. This one won't necessarily be focused on women. Please, please send your contributions to me at <aang_serian@hotmail.com> as soon as possible and forward this message to everyone in your networks. Anything that we want to publish for IWD 2001 has to be ready for final editing by December. All copyright will remain with the authors. Gemma Burford aang_serian@hotmail.com
Aang Serian UK Secretariat
55 Southmoor Road, Oxford OX2 6RF, UK
Phone: +44-1865-558080

ABC BOOK SALE

American Botanical Council, ABC, is having a great sale. Check out their site www.herabalgam.org and then search the herbal education catalog and the books.

to ensure that rational decisions are made about things that matter. I think it's imperative that we continue and improve this process. You never score any goals from the sidelines, and that's where scientists will stay unless they (or their societies) get involved."

After the talk, Eric led us on a tour round CABI. In the Herbarium we saw an original sample of Alexander Fleming's *Penicillium*. There I was astonished to learn that the fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease had been renamed as recently as the early 1990s. Taxonomy stills needs support. —Hew Prendergast (h.prendergast@rbgkew.org.uk)

Germplasm

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USDA's annual cropping practices survey found that GM crops provided no significant difference in economic returns.

After the discovery that sprouted broccoli seeds have much higher concentrations of cancer-preventing compounds than the heads, a patent was issued covering the sprouts. Although commercial sprout growers have produced sprouted broccoli seeds long before the patent was issued, they are now being sued for infringement.

As trade barriers fall, there is a greater misuse of phytosanitary regulations. "After the Tokyo Round... (they) have become monsters.... Regulations are rife with restrictions on one kind of seed listing diseases of another species—requiring a phytosanitary certificate for corn seed showing freedom from a lettuce disease, for example, and requiring a lab. This problem is so big that we'll still be working on it long after the biotech issue is put to bed." —L. Coonrod, USDA, FAS.

AgriBioTech, once 8th largest, has filed for bankruptcy.

Pop Quiz: Where have we heard this before? (Answers below)

- 1) "I think metastatic cancer is the strongest analogy." —Bill Gregg, USGS plant ecologist, on plant "invaders."
- 2) "...botanical invaders...are biological pollutants..." —Randy Westbrook, USDA.
- 3) "...a surgeon does grievous damage... removing a cancer." —John Randall, justifying use of herbicides against "invaders."
- 4) "The blending of the natural world... is, I think, a blow to the spirit and beauty of the natural world." —Bruce Babbitt.

White List Update: The National Invasive Species Council's "white list" or "clean list" proposal, (Spring newsletter, p. 7) has generated much interest. Currently, we sensibly "blacklist" (prohibit) a limited number of known weeds and pests—all other species are permitted. The white list reverses this and establishes a list of "safe" species—all others are prohibited until "proven innocent"—an expensive and time-consuming hurdle for researchers, and another roadblock to the vitally important free flow of germplasm and ex-situ conservation. While containing weeds and pests is laudable, well-meaning but ill-thought-out laws may be harmful—who would have imagined the unforeseen consequences of the CBD? The "invasive species crisis" as portrayed in the media is simply not supportable in fact—"invaders" are actually disturbance indicators, and every empirical measure of biodiversity has increased due to anthropogenic dispersal.

President's Letter

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Society members making the long journey to Hawaii will find the whole five days of the meeting of potential interest. However, sessions of particular relevance to the Society will be concentrated as far as possible into the final three days of the meeting. The Society luncheon will feature the Distinguished Economic Botanist for 2001, Dr. Isabella Abbott, herself a native Hawaiian. Watch the web site for continuing updates on this conference and note that early registration carries substantial financial benefits!

Past-President Jan Salick is coordinating the Society's response to a suggestion from NSF that a workshop be held, possibly with NSF funding, to discuss the current state of research in ethnobotany, a research agenda, and funding opportunities. This is one tangible way in which the Society's resumption of membership in the American Institute of Biological Sciences is giving it a higher profile and increased influence, at least within the US, and we can rely on Jan to ensure that this continues in the coming year.

These are challenging and stimulating times for economic botanists, and with your help our Society has much to contribute toward policies and priorities, not only nationally, in the 58 countries in which we have active members, but also globally. When I hand the Presidency to President-Elect Brian Boom in Hawaii next year, I hope it will be with even more initiatives in hand and accomplishments under our belt.

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2001 Meeting's Contributed Paper Sessions
Economic and Ethnobotany (8.00-11.30 am, Tuesday May 29)
Practical Applications in Non-Timber Forest Products
(8.00-11.30 am, Wednesday May 30)
Pacific Ethnobotany (8.00-11.30 am, Thursday May 31)

As yet, all scientific attempts to predict "invasiveness" have failed (except for known weeds) and invasiveness is simply impossible to predict (Karieva 1996, Williams 1999, etc.). "Invasion biology" lacks operational definitions of its primary concepts (native, alien, invasion, harm, etc.) and, as constructed, is non-falsifiable, immune to testing, and lacks predictive capacity. Its anecdotal nature, unsupported causal attributions, arbitrary temporal and spatial scales, data mining, and basis in a long-discredited ecology of stable, co-evolved communities are other flaws. Until these flaws are corrected, calls for invasiveness testing are unsupportable. We need accurate information to guide our management and policy decisions, not breathless demagoguery. Have we learned nothing from the past? The bogus "parade of horrors" used to promote the porkbarrel Mirex program (to exterminate the fire ant, yet actually helped its spread), or the utter failure of the \$100 million spent spraying

DDT to eradicate *Aedes aegypti*? In the 1970s the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a white list three times, but negative comments (particularly from zoologists) prevented its implementation. Input from professionals in the SEB will have great impact on policy makers. Visit www.geocities.com/nnowwhitelist and click on the links to e-mail your objections to the government or contact me (dtethbot@netzero.net) to join in signing a letter of objection.

Answers: 1) "[Israel is] a contagious cancer." —Idi Amin, 1975. 2) "[The Jews] pollute every national culture..." —Lagarde. 3) "[This is] cutting into good flesh in order to get rid of the bad." —assistant to Stalin, describing the purge of the '30s. 4) "...preservation of those original racial elements which bestow culture and create the beauty and dignity of a higher mankind." —Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*. We have heard this all before; for extra credit, describe where it leads.

Cross Pollination—A Student's Perspective

Sunny South Carolina. The Confederate flag was still flying over the capitol in Columbia despite the controversy that kept a few Society members from attending this year's conference. I've been a member of the SEB for a few years, but only attended my first conference this year. While there may have been some who felt unwelcome by the State's reluctance to let go of a controversial symbol, I felt the open arms of the Society throughout the conference. And I believe this feeling was shared by all the students who attended. I was, in fact, surprised to see so many students attending the conference. Students of all levels — in doctoral programs, Masters programs, and even undergraduates presenting posters and networking to find the perfect grad program. I realized then that students make up a significant portion of the Society, and therefore should have a good presence at the conference. Many students presented papers as well as posters, demonstrating what I put forth in the last newsletter — that good, interesting research is not just the domain of tenured professors.

With so many students at the conference, I started thinking about the comments I hear repeated so often when a student tells a Seasoned Professor of Botany that s/he would like to study ethnobotany. Invariably, that student is advised to find another field in botany, because "there are no jobs for ethnobotanists." I, myself, have been discouraged by these words, and at the conference, I couldn't help but wonder when that sentiment would change. With the growing popularity of this young discipline, shouldn't there be a point at which universities catch on to the old theory of supply and demand? There is a demand for ethnobotany programs, so shouldn't the schools supply them? In doing so they will create jobs for ethnobotanists. I think it's only a matter of time before this happens. So it's only fitting that at the conference, we were given a glimpse of that future, as many brilliant students presented their research. I think it is safe to say that the future of the Society and our discipline.

Continuing what we started in the last issue, we have another student presenting an

abstract on current research in ethnobotany. In this issue, Steven Casper from Washington University gives us brief account of his work looking for plants that can be used to combat the growing threat of malaria. He has spent

a good deal of time in the field and in the laboratory, in search of a solution.

Other students are encouraged to send abstracts and descriptions of research in all fields of economic botany. Kurt Reynertson
kreyner@lehman.cuny.edu

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**The Student Network will
be housed in the SEB
website.**

**Write to join the ListServe
for students!**



Economic Botany Newsletter

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