

Flora of North America Newsletter



Volume 19, Number 2

July–December 2005

CHANTICLEER FOUNDATION RENEWS PARTNERSHIP

The Board of the Chanticleer Foundation has renewed its partnership with Flora of North America for 2006, committing \$400,000 to the project. The Foundation has been a sponsor of FNA since 2000, when it made a five-year commitment contingent on production of two volumes per year. It made an exception in 2005 so that the three volumes of Asteraceae treatments could be published together. Chanticleer supports core activities of the project, including illustrations, editing, and staff botanists.

Chanticleer, located in Wayne, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia, is a *pleasure garden*, designed to illustrate the beauty and art of horticulture. It originally was the seven-acre estate of Adolph Rosengarten Sr., head of the chemical company Rosengarten and Sons, and of his son Adolph Jr., who expanded it to 35 acres. Adolph Rosengarten Jr. created the Chanticleer Charitable Trust and the Chanticleer Foundation, which provides the framework to develop and maintain the garden. Mr. Rosengarten died in 1990. The partnership with Flora of North America was established by Christopher Woods, who was director of Chanticleer until 2003 and who designed most of the gardens, and has been continued under the leadership of R. William Thomas, current executive director.

Chanticleer is an exuberant celebration of plants, one of the most beautiful and interesting public gardens in the United States. Thousands of bulbs bloom in the spring, followed by orchards of flowering trees and then surprising tropical plants and beautiful herbaceous borders. The large scale of plantings and the bold use of colors, shapes, and textures make each garden a work of art. There are interesting sculptures throughout the garden as well.

Although beauty and art are the focus of Chanticleer, the plantings include many botanically interesting and unusual species. The Asian Woods, in particular, contain plants native to Korea, Japan, and China, collected on expeditions by the Morris Arboretum,

Longwood Gardens, Chicago Botanic Garden, and other gardens. Lists of plants in each garden are available on Chanticleer's website.

Educational programs at Chanticleer include photography workshops, *Dreaming out loud*, a young writers' workshop, and a variety of courses taught through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. In addition to its partnership with Flora of North America, Chanticleer works with Awbury Arboretum on a Landscape Apprentice program and with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on promoting its Gold Medal Award for woody plants and its City Gardening programs.

Chanticleer is open to the public 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Wednesday through Sunday, April through October. The garden is also open on Friday evenings until 8:00 from May through August. For directions and more information on the gardens, visit <http://www.chanticleergarden.org>.

VOLUMES 19–21 AVAILABLE

Asteraceae volumes 19–21 have been published and are available from Oxford University Press and the Missouri Botanical Garden Press. A link to order forms offering discounted pricing for the volumes is available at <http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/purchase.shtml>. Congratulations are due to Luc Brouillet, John Strother, Helen Jeude, Guy Nesom, Justin Allison, and other members of their team for the fine work that they have done. Kay Yatskievych and her team of compositors (Pat Harris, Martha Hill, Ruth King, and Kristin Pierce) did a superb job in getting the submitted materials into publication-ready form in record time. Yevonn Wilson-Ramsey, John Myers, Barbara Alongi, Bee Gunn, Linny Heagy, Marj Leggitt, Linda Vorobik, and Sheila Flinchpaugh prepared the beautiful illustrations for the volumes.

The volumes contain 418 genera with 2,413 species (Table 1) by 90 contributors. Principal contributors

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Volumes 19–21 (continued from page 11)

were John Strother (142 genera with 519 species), Guy Nesom (61 genera with 413 species), John Semple

(11 genera with 204 species), David Keil (29 genera with 142 species), Luc Brouillet (14 genera with 136 species), and Kenton Chambers (8 genera with 104 species).

Table 1. Statistics for Volumes 19–21 of Flora of North America (names of introduced taxa are italicized)

Conserved Tribe	Total	Total	Endemic	Endemic	Introduced	Introduced	Taxa
	Genera	Species	Genera	Species	Genera	Species	
Volume 19							
Mutisieae	7	14	1	4	0	0	0
Cynareae	17	116	0	48	14	50	30
<i>Arctotideae</i>	3	4	0	0	3	4	0
Vernonieae	6	25	1	18	2	2	0
Cichorieae	49	229	7	112	21	64	22
<i>Calenduleae</i>	4	7	0	0	4	7	0
Gnaphalieae	19	111	1	50	5	17	5
<i>Inuleae</i>	3	5	0	0	3	5	0
Plucheeae	3	12	0	3	0	3	0
Anthemideae	26	99	1	37	17	38	4
Volume 20							
Astereae	77	719	33	561	1	5	175
Senecioneae	29	167	8	117	6	20	43
Volume 21							
Heliantheae	148	746	40	470	6	22	131
Eupatorieae	27	159	5	98	0	3	16
Total for Asteraceae	418	2413	97	1518	82	240	426

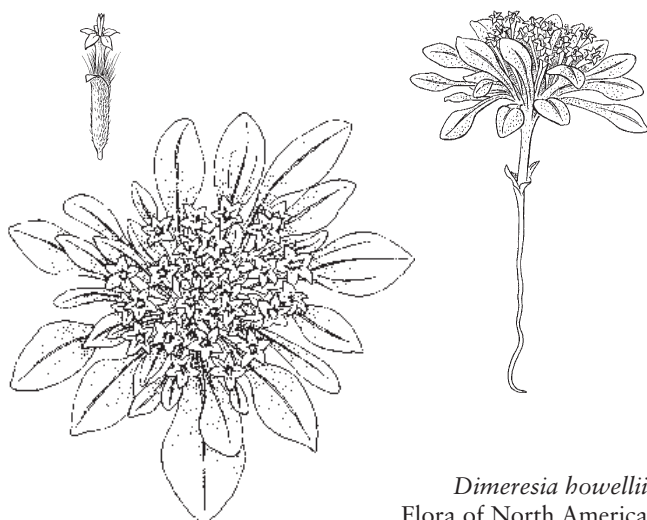
The Flora of North America (FNA) project is a cooperative program to produce a comprehensive account of the plants of North America north of Mexico. The *FNA Newsletter*, edited at the Hunt Institute and printed at the Missouri Botanical Garden, is published twice a year by the Flora of North America Association to communicate news about the FNA project and other topics of interest to North American floristic researchers. For more information, please see the FNA Web site, <http://www.fna.org>.

Readers are invited to send appropriate news items to: Mary Ann Schmidt, ELS, Newsletter Editor
Flora of North America
Hunt Institute, Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890.
Items can also be sent by e-mail to: maryanns@andrew.cmu.edu.

THE FNA WEBSITES

Although “the FNA website” is often referred to in Flora of North America literature, there are actually four websites that include major offerings of FNA material.

The main, official site is at <http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA>, hosted by the Harvard University Herbaria. It includes a general overview of *The Project*, and additional topics: *Introduction, History, Scope, and Rationale; Content; How to Cite; Administration; Funding; Newsletter; and Contact FNA*. The Flora is summarized, including *Families Included, Published Volumes, Volumes under Production, For Contributors & Reviewers, Purchase the Volumes, and FNA Online* (a major component of eFloras.org). Additional *Outreach Resources* are touched on including *Science Outreach Goals, Lesson Plans, and Fact Sheets*. The site is solid and information-rich. Versions of the published volumes are available, and clicking on the



Dimeresia howellii
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volume numbers (except Volume 1, which provides full text of all of the introductory chapters) leads one to the second website, eFloras.

The eFloras website at <http://www.efloras.org> has been handled by Anthony Brach and Hong Song, with assistance from Myriam Fica at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It includes electronic versions of some but not all volumes of the following: *Annotated Checklist of the Flowering Plants of Nepal*, *Flora of Chile*, *Flora of China*, *Flora of Missouri*, *Flora of North America North of Mexico*, *Flora of Pakistan*, *Moss Flora of China*, and *Trees and Shrubs of the Andes of Ecuador*. Important floristic resources are also linked. This website is livelier than the main FNA site, with many color images, and the bracketed keys are hyperlinked, but as the site is still being put together one must not expect full text in listed but unpublished volumes (e.g., volumes 2 and 3 of the *Flora of Missouri*) or those in press. Because it interfaces well with the FNA site at Harvard, the two may be considered a single anthology site.

A third site is hosted by Utah State University at <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/default.htm>, and is maintained by Mary Barkworth and her group. Volumes 24 and 25 will be combined eventually into a *Manual of Grasses for North America*, and this is the official website for that effort. All of Volume 25 is available online, and about 30% of Volume 24 (not yet in hardcopy). One should disable “pop-up” blockers. The site includes excellent maps, interactive keys, nomenclature, discussion, some color images, and notes. Certain treatments in Volume 25 have been changed to reflect data received after hardcopy publication, thus this is a good test for extending the FNA project into the long term. All such modifications are noted in a table.

A fourth site, the Bryophyte Flora of North America website, is hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden at <http://www.mobot.org/plantscience/bfna/bfnamenu.htm>, and is maintained by Richard Zander. It posts treatments for the three FNA bryophyte volumes, 27, 28, and 29, as they pass final review, and includes Web versions of all illustrations as they are finished. The main menu offers *The Treatments: Descriptions, Keys, and Illustrations; Participants, Guides for Authors, and References; Research Results Published Elsewhere; Posting History; Reviewers; Perspectives*; and a *Search the Site* utility. Files that are helpful to authors include, among others: *Utterly Simplified Cookbook Method and Overview*; and *How to Write a Description of a Family of Only One Genus, or of a Genus of Only One Species*.

These electronic floras are major contributions to North American botany, and are genuinely history in the making. Support, long-term maintenance, and archiving of the sites should be a major element in planning for FNA. (R. H. Zander)

FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA HAS IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

At a meeting in Montréal in November 2005, conservation botanists identified *Flora of North America North of Mexico* as having the lead role in achieving the U.S. and Canadian components of the goal to document the plant diversity of the world, which is fundamentally important for achieving the objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). The objectives of the GSPC are: ultimately to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity; provide a mechanism to harmonize existing plant conservation initiatives; enhance the ecosystem approach and focus on the vital role of plants in ecosystem functioning; and provide a pilot study for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on setting targets, and a means to develop the CBD thematic programs.

At the International Botanical Congress in Saint Louis in 1999, Peter Raven exhorted the botanical community to develop a plan to stop the loss of plant diversity worldwide. A meeting to discuss this was held in Gran Canaria and resulted in the Gran Canaria Declaration 2000, which then was used as the basis for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted by the CBD in 2002. Since then, botanists working with conservation professionals within countries and regions have been drafting strategies and action plans for their areas.

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Global Strategy (continued from page 13)

In 2002, the American Public Garden Association (APGA, formerly AABGA), the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network (CBCN) began to discuss formal cooperation on plant conservation projects and on related initiatives such as education for conservation and biodiversity themes. The four organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding entitled *Promoting Plant Conservation in North America* in the summer of 2003.

The partnership has resulted in the development of a written North American strategy for botanic gardens in plant conservation. Beginning with workshops held in Barcelona, Spain, immediately prior to the Second World Botanic Gardens Congress in April 2004, draft targets for the North American botanic gardens community were refined through extensive consultations with the members of the respective network partners, including plant taxonomists and conservation botanists. The Asociación Mexicana de Jardines Botánicos also reviewed the draft targets. Following the consultations, the revised targets were adopted by the four individual partner organizations in 2005 under the title of the *North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Plant Conservation*.

Jardin Botanique de Montréal hosted the most recent meeting of the partnership 14–15 November 2005, to which a broader range of participants were invited to discuss the *North American Strategy* and its implementation, including Flora of North America, the Asociación Mexicana de Jardines Botánicos, the Association of Zoological Horticulture, IUCN, the Plant Conservation Alliance, NatureServe, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Luc Brouillet represented Flora of North America. The meeting also facilitated discussion of potential collaboration between FNA and the other participating organizations.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI, <http://www.bgci.org>) has provided leadership for implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation worldwide. BGCI brings together the world's botanic gardens to work for plant conservation through science, education, and horticulture. It also provides resources that many *FNA Newsletter* readers may find useful, including a searchable database of plant accessions and their conservation status held at over 600 of the world's botanic gardens, information on 2,200 botanic gardens of the world, and publications such as the *Darwin Technical Manual for Botanic*

Gardens and the *Handbook for Botanic Gardens on the Reintroduction of Plants to the Wild*. BGCI's world headquarters is located at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and it has regional offices throughout the world. The U.S. office, located at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, has organized workshops and meetings to discuss the GSPC and helps to facilitate collaboration between U.S. gardens and gardens in other countries through education, public outreach, and capacity building programs. (David Galbraith, Executive Director, Canadian Botanical Conservation Network, and Nancy Morin)

FNA ARTISTS HONORED

Yevonn Wilson-Ramsey and Bee Gunn, two of Flora of North America's many talented artists, were featured in an exhibit at Linda Hall Library January through May 2005. "Women's Work: Portraits of 12 Scientific Illustrators" featured six historic and six contemporary women illustrators. The illustrations were drawn from the collections of Linda Hall Library and Missouri Botanical Garden Library. These women were selected because of the quality of their work and because their illustrations demonstrate a range of scientific disciplines, artistic styles, and printing techniques.

Bee Gunn began illustrating plants in 1981, first in Australia and then in New Zealand. She was a graduate student at Otago University, where she studied botany and conservation. After moving to the United States she enrolled in a Master's degree program in plant systematics at University of Missouri–St. Louis. Since then she has also been working as an illustrator for *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. Illustrations by Bee featured in the exhibit included watercolors of *Metrosideros excelsa* and *Ravenala madagascariensis*.

Yevonn Wilson-Ramsey was encouraged early on to develop her artistic talent. Her first work as a botanical illustrator was as a landscape design major at Texas Tech University. She was invited to illustrate a publication on color patterns in chrysanthemums, and that led to a job doing scientific illustration for college textbooks for Mosby-Publishing Company. She did botanical illustrations for the *Flora of Panama* at Missouri Botanical Garden between 1973 and 1979, then was the sole illustrator for the *Manual of Flowering Plants of Hawaii*. In 1993, she returned to Missouri Botanical Garden to illustrate for *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. Her work has been shown in other national and international exhibitions and she has been commissioned to create artworks for film star James Gandolfini and for Prince Andrew of the English Royal

Family. Prince Phillip of England requested a private viewing of her original artwork from the *Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i* during a World Wildlife Fund symposium in 1987.

Featured in the Linda Hall Library exhibit were several panels of Yevonn's exquisite drawings of *Lilium* and *Cyperus* from volumes 26 and 23 of *Flora of North America North of Mexico*, and the beautiful color frontispieces of *Silene petersonii* from Volume 5 and *Iris brevicaulis* from Volume 26. Yevonn is Senior Artist for Flora of North America and coordinates the work of other artists as well as continuing to draw lovely and accurate illustrations.

Flora of North America is very fortunate to have such talented artists working on the project. More information on the exhibit and on the catalogue, which can be purchased, is available at <http://www.lindahall.org>.

ZARUCCHI NAMED LEHMANN CURATOR AT MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

On Tuesday, 17 January 2006, a reception was held at Missouri Botanical Garden where Director Peter Raven named James Zarucchi, FNA Editorial Director, as Anne L. Lehmann Curator of North American Botany.

Established in 1992, the Anne L. Lehmann Curator of North American Botany honors the wife of John S. Lehmann, president of the Garden's Board of Trustees from 1953 to 1958. An emeritus trustee in her own right and recipient of the Henry Shaw medal, Anne Lehmann founded the Members' Board and the Tower Grove House Historical Committee. Dr. Zarucchi is FNA Vice President and Editorial Director, and oversees the many aspects of FNA centered at MO. Zarucchi's research interests include Apocynaceae, the dogbane family; Fabaceae, the bean family; and floristics of northwestern South America, China, and North America.

The Lehmann curatorship was held in the past by FNA Vice President for Business and Development Nancy Morin.

VOLUME 6 UPDATE

Volume 6, to be published in 2007, comprises 24 families, the largest of which is Malvaceae. Of the 142 taxa (including families and genera) being treated, 49 manuscripts have been received and are in either pre-review or review status.

VOLUME 7 UPDATE

To date, Volume 7, to be published this year, treating Magnoliophyta: Dilleniidae, part 2, covering five families (Salicaceae, Capparaceae, Brassicaceae, Moringaceae, and Resedaceae), is on schedule with 77 (80%) of the genera and 183 (30%) species of Brassicaceae already sent out for review. In addition, one of the largest genera treated in volume 7—*Salix* with 110 species, authored by George Argus—has also been made available for review. David Boufford at Harvard University Herbaria is Taxon Editor for the Salicaceae and Brassicaceae, and is coordinating the reviews as they are received. Gordon C. Tucker has joined efforts to help complete and submit treatments of the 14 genera and 38 species of Capparaceae recognized in the FNA area; Hugh H. Iltis and Staria S. Vanderpool are also authoring or co-authoring treatments with Gordon Tucker for the Capparaceae. The Taxon Editor for the Capparaceae is Leila Shultz at Utah State University.

Flora of North America Volume 7 is being processed at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, with Martha Hill as Technical Editor and James Zarucchi as Lead Editor. Illustrations for species treated in this volume are being prepared by Barbara Alongi, John Myers, and Yevonn Wilson-Ramsey.

VOLUME 8 UPDATE

Volume 8, scheduled for 2007, will include roughly 759 species in 132 genera and 20 families. The largest families are Crassulaceae, Ericaceae, and Saxifragaceae. Craig C. Freeman and Richard K. Rabeler are co-lead editors for the volume. Much of the editing will take place at the Editorial Center at the University of Kansas. Mary Ann Schmidt (Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation) is the volume's technical editor. In February 2006, the lead editors met with production staff at the Missouri Botanical Garden to review progress and to pull specimens for artwork.

Treatments for ten families (50%), 75 genera (57%), and 348 species (46%) have been submitted, up from the eight families (40%), 63 genera (49%), and 310 species (41%) reported at the end of 2005. At present, we are on schedule for the number of families and genera received but 4% behind our production goal for the number of species treatments received. The lead editors are in regular contact with authors and taxon editors, and are confident of receiving treatments for an additional five families, 18 genera, and 89 species

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Volume 8 (continued from page 15)

by the end of June 2006. Receipt of those treatments will place our tallies at 15 families (75%), 93 genera (71%), and 437 species (58%)—still 22% behind our 80% goal for treatments. It will be imperative to get large genera—*Arctostaphylos* (73 species), *Philadelphus* (31 species), *Rhododendron* (33 species), *Ribes* (56 species), and *Sedum* (48 species)—into review soon. These five genera include 241 (32%) of all species in Volume 8 and account for 55% of outstanding species treatments.

Manuscripts for 47% of the 152 treatments (families plus genera) have been submitted to the technical editor for formatting and are at various stages of review. The lead editors are indebted to Luc Brouillet, lead editor for Volume 9, for his assistance in updating the late Patrick Elvander's draft treatment of *Saxifraga*. Brouillet also is working with the Volume 8 lead editors to ensure parallelism among family descriptions in the Rosales, five of which appear in Volume 8 and four of which appear in Volume 9.

We are working closely with Kay Yatskievych to speed production of artwork. Families in which we have pulled at least 50% of the species to be illustrated include Bataceae, Cyrillaceae, Clethraceae, Empetraceae, Pyrolaceae, Diapensiaceae, Symplocaceae, Theophrastaceae, Primulaceae, Pittosporaceae, Hydrangeaceae, and Saxifragaceae.

Arctanthemum arcticum
subsp. *polare*
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VOLUME 9 UPDATE

Volume 9, to be published in 2007, includes four families, 73 genera, and about 596 species. The Rosaceae represent the bulk of the volume with 67 genera and about 585 species. Luc Brouillet is lead editor for the volume, and much of the editing will take place at the Canada Editorial Center in Montréal. Helen Jeude (Fort Worth, Texas) is technical editor and Marjorie Leggitt (Colorado) will be the main artist.

All authors have been contacted and only two genera are orphan. Manuscripts for eight genera (35 species) were received, representing approximately 12% of genera and 6% of species to be treated. These are currently in the regional review stage of processing.

VOLUME 24 UPDATE

We are working hard to have the second volume on grasses ready to submit in August of this year. We would dearly love to have it ready before Botany 2006. If we are close, anyone involved is invited to help celebrate. Enough said—time to put nose to grindstone.

VOLUMES 27–29 UPDATE

Volumes 27, 28, and 29 are the bryophyte volumes (informally known as the Bryophyte Flora of North America), and these are edited at the Missouri Botanical Garden FNA Bryophyte Center. When each manuscript passes the review process, it is placed on the Center's public website: <http://www.mobot.org/plantscience/bfna/bfnamenu.htm>. The Web version may be modified by the author (through the Center) in response to comments by Web readers before hard-copy publication. As illustrations are completed, a Web version of each is included with the electronic publication.

Recent electronic publications of bryophyte treatments include *Aongstroemia*, *Indusiella*, and *Symblepharis* by P. M. Eckel; Gigaspermaceae by A. E. Rushing; *Physcomitrella* by B. Goffinet; *Atrichum* and *Pogonatum* by G. L. Merrill-Smith; *Ptilium* by W. B. Schofield; and Schistostegaceae by J. A. Harpel. The large genus *Tortula* is in review.

Requests have been made by several bryologists to use many of the illustrations of P. Eckel in other publications.

As of 17 April 2006, Volume 27 (most of the acrocarps, to be published in 2006) has 90% of the genera and 82% of the species submitted, and 86% and 75%,

respectively, finished. Volume 28 (remaining acrocarps and pleurocarps, to be published in 2008) has 50% of the genera and 42% of the species submitted, and 43% and 38%, respectively, finished. Volume 29 (hepatatics and hornworts, to be published in 2010) has 18% of the genera and 19% of the species submitted, and 14% and 9%, respectively, finished. Totals for all three volumes are 53% of the genera and 50% of the species submitted, 48% and 44%, respectively, finished.

Volume 27 (Volume 1 of the Bryophyte Flora of North America) is in the home stretch, and all treatments should be finished shortly so we will have time for final corrections, technical editing, and stylistic composition prior to sending the manuscript and illustrations to Oxford University Press. The bryophyte editorial group includes R. Zander (Lead Editor), M. R. Crosby, C. Delgadillo M., and D. Vitt, and we thank retiring S. Bartholomew-Began for her expertise over the years. We encourage authors of all outstanding treatments for this first of the three bryophyte volumes to redouble their efforts to finish on time. This work has been a long time in the making, and continued funding for not just the bryophyte effort but for all of FNA rests on successful, timely publication.

CENTERS

Interactive Key to *Carex*

Timothy M. Jones, a graduate student at Cleveland State University, has made available an interactive key to 361 of the 480 species of *Carex* at <http://utc.usu.edu/carex/>. Tim was inspired to start the project by FNA Volume 23 and encouraged in his work by Dr. James Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The Museum also provided Jones with access to the over 3,000 acres of high-quality preserves in the Museum's Natural Areas Program. The result is a collection of gorgeous photographs, that, together with images and line drawings from other sources, will help users of the key confirm their identification as well as increase their appreciation of sedges. Jones is the first to acknowledge that, without the kind of authoritative and parallel treatments that appear in FNA Volume 23, his project would not have been feasible. He took the descriptions in the volume as his starting point, modified the wording, and, yes, in some cases, tweaked the descriptions as he tested the key on friends, colleagues, and others. Mary Barkworth encouraged him to make his work available now, even though the key does not include all 480 species, so that he can obtain

feedback—and possibly funding for its completion. It helps to see plants in the field oneself, and the remaining species are those of western and northern North America—a long way from Cleveland, Ohio.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

GBIF Database

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; <http://www.gbif.org>) is an international organization that is working to make data from the world's natural history collections freely available via the Web. Currently, there are about 170 data providers. The amount of information the institutions provide, and the organisms for which they provide it, varies. Nevertheless, it is already a valuable resource, particularly if one is looking for information about plant distributions in Europe and North America. The data provided can be downloaded to a file or, if one wants to see the distribution of georeferenced data, to Google Earth.

There are, of course, some caveats. For instance, one does not always know how accurate the identifications are nor, in some cases, the georeferencing. It may also be necessary to look under different names. For instance, a search on *Leymus cinereus* does not bring up the same records as searching on *Elymus cinereus*. It will, however, often be easier to obtain a preliminary picture of the overall distribution of a species from GBIF than from asking multiple herbaria. Try it; if you don't like it this year, check it out next year. It is changing rapidly.

PLANTS Database

The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov>) launched a newly designed site for the new year that botanists will find even more useful than the previous version. This database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the United States and its territories. It includes names, plant symbols, checklists, distributional data, species abstracts, characteristics, images, crop information, automated tools, onward Web links, and references. PLANTS is a collaborative effort of the USDA, NRCS National Plant Data Center, the USDA NRCS Information Technology Center, and many other partners.

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Plants Database (continued from page 17)

The new version is part of a USDA initiative to modernize and standardize its websites—giving them a consistent look and feel while allowing each site to present its information in ways best suited to the data and the audiences.

The home page for PLANTS is well organized and attractive—probably more inviting to non-agency users than before. It also features some aspects of PLANTS that you may not have known. For you photography nuts, PLANTS is looking for contributions of identified submissions of 100 or more images, preferably with supporting information. Some of the 25,000+ images already on the site are available as printer-friendly posters that you can download.

Most useful to those interested in the Flora of North America—especially if you are preparing or reviewing treatments—may be the “Update PLANTS Distribution Maps” module. Here you can view distribution reports that may not have been incorporated in the PLANTS maps yet. You can select reports by taxonomic name, state, and date range. The report shows the state/county distribution, area in acres, abundance, whether the report has been reviewed, and whether the documentation is a herbarium specimen, literature reference, or personal observation. You also can register and then contribute distribution updates yourself.

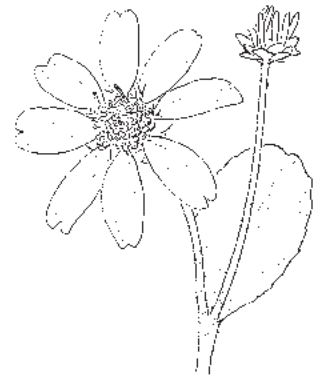
The PLANTS profile for each taxon now brings up images, maps, and categories of information available in one screen. Each profile has a link to the Flora of North America treatment if it has been published. It is much easier to see what other kinds of information are available. For instance, clicking on “Growth habit” takes you to a page of definitions. Clicking on “plant source and reference” gives you a list of all of the references that support the distribution map. Clicking on “plant characteristics” gives you information on topics like growth requirements and propagation—a little-known resource for gardeners, horticulturists, and botanical gardens. There is also information on plants of conservation concern and weeds, including both state and federal status.

PLANTS is an amazing resource for anyone who works with plants in any way. The new design makes it easier to see and use the many features that bring together a tremendous amount of information.

RSA-POM Online Specimen Database

The Herbarium at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSA-POM) is proud to announce the availability of their new searchable online specimen database. Please visit <http://www.RSABG.org/herbarium/database> to

search among 90,000 records entered so far, primarily from southern California at this time, but including all plants considered by the California Native Plant Society to be rare or endangered within the state. (This includes all those considered threatened and endangered at the state and federal levels.) We hope that these data will be of great benefit to various sectors of the scientific, botanical, conservation, and associated communities.



Berlandiera pumila
Flora of North America
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Feedback is welcome! We are grateful for all of your comments and suggestions; please take the time to use our online feedback form, or e-mail us directly with your thoughts and questions.

We plan to share these data with both the California Consortium of Herbaria and GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) in the very near future, and appreciate suggestions of any other portals that might improve access to these data.

RSA-POM Herbarium houses over 1.1 million specimens, the majority of which are traditionally mounted herbarium sheets. Of the estimated 410,000 California specimens in the herbarium, nearly 210,000 are from southern California. We have currently databased nearly 110,000 of the southern California specimens, 90,000 of which are now available online. A particular strength of this collection is its temporal range, which includes many recent collections due to the Garden’s active participation in local and regional floristic projects. Data are being entered by plant family, with five databasing fronts in the collection, and various groups having been prioritized upon request. (For a list of families entered so far, please contact the Herbarium Collections Manager at sula.vanderplank@cgu.edu.)

Search notes: Wildcards (%) are coded into searches, so partial names can be used. This is an especially useful feature when searching for localities where many different permutations may be encountered in abbreviations (e.g., Mountains, Mts., Mtns., M.). The user is able to select the number of records to be displayed per page, with set increments from 10 to 500. Initially records are returned in spreadsheet style. Clicking “expanded results” returns a more-detailed set of data for all found records, while selecting a specific accession number limits expanded data to that individual record. Each column can be sorted in ascending or descending

order, and by selecting the collector's name one can access all specimens collected by that individual.

Specimen Mapping with Google

A new interactive “on-the-fly” specimen distribution map is now available from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point Herbarium's website. As an example: <http://wisplants.uswp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode-ABIBAL> (click on “New Point maps”).

These maps integrate Google's mapping technology with optional satellite coverage, zoom, and panning capabilities. The data are a collection of over 288,000 specimen records from all participating institutions and herbaria in the state. The underlying specimen label data are accessible by clicking on a “dot.”

This new map is in addition to the existing specimen Town Range distribution maps (click on “Town Range Maps”). These maps with broader geographic coverage give a larger list of specimens for each “dot” than the Google maps which represent a unique latitude and longitude.

Because of the accuracy of the Google map, only non-listed taxa have been made available. The maps can be generated for these taxa on a request basis.

Oregon Type Specimens

A collaboration between the Oregon State University Herbarium and the OSU Valley Library has resulted in a new taxonomic resource. High resolution images of 1,210 type specimens of Oregon plants, together with copies of their protologues (original taxonomic descriptions), are now available in the Digital Collections of the library. Of particular significance are the numerous type specimens collected and/or described by Thomas J. Howell and Morton E. Peck. The project involved the digital photographing of the type specimens, the scanning of protologues from the literature, obtaining permission from copyright owners for materials not in the public domain, and importing, compiling, and indexing metadata from the herbarium databases. The system uses CONTENTdm digital content management software (<http://digitalcollections.library.oregon-state.edu/herbarium>).

Consortium of California Herbaria Welcomes RSA Data

The Consortium of California Herbaria Web interface now includes data from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSA) specimen database along with records from JEPS, UC, UCR, IRVC, SBBG, UCSB, DAV,

CHSC, and UCSC. There are currently nearly 650,000 records available.

The Consortium home page is at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/chc_open.html and the records are also available through the Jepson Interchange at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange>.

New Digital Library Available

A new digital library from Real Jardín Botánico, CSIC, is available. Online access and downloads of botanical books can be found at <http://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es/ing/index.php>. Books are related mainly to Iberian flora but also to Latin-American and Philippine floras and other classical botanical works. High-quality pdf images are provided.

PUBLICATIONS

Plants of Western Oregon

Plants of Western Oregon, Washington & British Columbia, by Eugene N. Kozloff. Timber Press. Hardcover, 7-3/8 × 10-3/8 in., 608 pp., 712 color photos, 354 b/w illustrations. ISBN 0-88192-724-4. \$65.00.

A great resource for native plant enthusiasts, biologists, ecologists, conservationists, and amateur naturalists who desire a comprehensive, up-to-date, and well-illustrated book for identifying plants in the Pacific Northwest. This is the definitive guide to the rich and varied plant life of the region, from the ocean shore to the crest of the Cascades, from British Columbia south through the Klamath Mountains of southwestern Oregon and the Siskiyou in northwestern California. More than 2,500 species are included, with user-friendly keys and more than 700 color photographs and 350 line drawings to facilitate successful identification. It is available from Timber Press at <http://www.timberpress.com>.

Plant

Plant, by Janet Marinelli, editor-in-chief. 2005. DK Publishing, Inc. New York. 512 pp. \$50.00.

This is an astonishing and sumptuous book. It celebrates plants while warning of their vulnerability and suggesting ways that each person can help protect them. The color photos that grace every page would make owning the book worthwhile even if there were no words. But there are words, and they are used in

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Plant (continued from page 19)

remarkable ways. Enormous topics are summarized in easily understandable paragraphs. Teachers, exhibit designers, botanical garden sign creators, and you—trying to explain to your Aunt Maude what you do for a living—will find this book extremely helpful in suggesting ways to communicate complex environmental and scientific issues. Fundamental subjects range from plant physiology to evolution and taxonomy. How plants and communities work, ways in which plants are amazing *and* essential to life as we know it, how plants are endangered, and what we can do about it are threads neatly interwoven throughout the book. *Plant* is divided into five sections: “The World of Plants,” “Global Habitats,” “Plant Encyclopedia,” “Invasive Plants,” and a reference section. “The World of Plants” covers basic plant biology and ecology, and includes suggestions for gardeners about environmentally friendly design and techniques, and things to look for or avoid when buying plants. “Plant Encyclopedia” is organized according to life form, and after an explanation of the important morphological features of each, gives details of selected genera and species. Some 2,000 taxa are covered. For each taxon, its distribution, biology, and conservation status are given in some detail. The reference section itself is an invaluable guide to plant conservation organizations, classifications, and lists. It is hard to do justice with words to the photographs, which are absolutely beautiful and show the intricacies of plant form so well. Also, it is difficult to convey how efficiently so much information is provided. Thirty-seven people from around the world are listed as contributors and consultants and many botanical organizations provided information or supported in other ways. With Janet Marinelli they have created a book that can greatly increase one’s appreciation of plants and will delight and interest botanists.

DEATHS

John Thieret, 1926–2005

John Thieret, Professor Emeritus at Northern Kentucky University and Curator Emeritus of KNK, passed away 7 December 2005 from a brain hemorrhage. John devoted much of his life to the Kentucky Academy of Sciences as editor of its journal and was working on the computer editing a paper when this happened. He went into a coma and did not wake up.

John was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 1 August 1926. He received his B.S. (1950) and M.S. (1951) degrees

from Utah State University. He returned from the West to his native Chicago for his Ph.D. studies, completing a Ph.D. in 1953 under Dr. Theodor Just. Following graduation, he joined the staff of the Field Museum as Curator of Economic Botany, a position he held until 1961. He served as Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana from 1961–1973. In 1973, he joined the faculty at Northern Kentucky University as Professor of Botany as the first chair of the newly formed Biological Sciences Department. After seven years as chair, he continued as a professor in the department until his retirement in 1992. He remained active in botany, continuing to work on Flora of North America treatments (*Elaeagnus* was his most recent subject) and various editing projects.

John was very active in the Flora of North America project, authoring Psilotaceae—the first treatment in Volume 2—and many other families and genera. You will find his name on the roster of the Editorial Committee in Volume 1 of the FNA Newsletter in 1987.

John was the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Service Award from the Kentucky Academy of Sciences. He was a wonderful botanist and a great teacher with a marvellous sense of humor.

A standing-room-only crowd of faculty, botanists (from at least five states), former students, and friends gathered on 26 January 2006 to celebrate John’s life at Northern Kentucky University. FNA was represented by Rich Rabeler, Barney Lipscomb, and Mike Vincent, board members; and David Brandenburg, Landon McKinney, and Mark Nienaber, contributors. John’s passions for botany and editing were highlighted by all; they made him a natural for the FNA project. He will certainly be missed! (Miriam Kannan, Tim Lowery, Rich Rabeler, and others)

Grady L. Webster Jr., 1927–2005

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Grady Webster, Professor Emeritus at the University of California–Davis, on 27 October 2005, of complications after a stroke he suffered a week earlier. He was 78 years old. He is survived by Barbara Webster, his wife of nearly 50 years and herself a well-known botanist, and his daughter Susan Webster.

Grady was one of the founding members of the FNA Editorial Committee and served as Southwest Regional Coordinator until 1996, as well as being a taxon editor for Euphorbiaceae, Buxaceae, Simmondsiaceae, and Boraginaceae. He was always a source of thoughtful advice, eloquent turn-of-phrase, and good humor at FNA Editorial Committee meetings. He was an indefatigable explorer and had a wide range of interests,

including poetry, literature, and culture. He received the Engler Medal from the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, the Merit Award from the Botanical Society of America, for which he also served as president, and the Asa Gray Award from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists—for which he also served as president. His publications include major contributions to the knowledge of plants in North America, California, Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Panama, and he was author of four books and more than 100 papers. Grady received a bachelor's degree in botany at the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in botany at University of Michigan under Rogers McVaugh. He was offered one of the first postgraduate fellowships by the National Science Foundation, which allowed him to spend four years at Harvard University. In 1958, he took a faculty position at Purdue University, and in 1966, he accepted the position of professor in the Department of Botany and Director of the University Arboretum at University of California–Davis. He has mentored many undergraduate students and has trained more than 20 graduate students. His family still has a home outside Austin, Texas, and Grady had spent many enjoyable days exploring the wildlands of Texas, most recently just after the Botany 2005 meetings in Austin.

The Grady L. Webster Graduate Fellowship in Plant Systematics and Plant Geography fund has been established in the UC–Davis College of Biological Sciences in Grady's memory by his wife Barbara and his daughter Susan. This will provide support for students in the Ph.D. program at UC–Davis, especially for expenses often not covered in grants or other scholarships that are important for professional development. These might include laboratory fees for research, travel to professional meetings, field trips, visits to museums and herbaria, or the costs of publication. Contributions to the fund should be sent to: The UC–Davis Foundation, One Shields Avenue, Davis CA 95616-8536. For more information contact Kathy Sachs Barrientes at (530) 754-9253.

Guanghua Zhu, 1964–2005

Guanghua Zhu, Missouri Botanical Gardens staff member, died 2 November 2005. He had returned early from a trip to China in late September, and then spent most of October in a hospital in Saint Louis. Unfortunately, the cancer that he survived a few years ago returned. We shall miss him greatly, especially for his personal qualities, but also in view of the great contributions that he made to the Flora of China project (on which he was a co-director) and also to increasing understanding between Chinese and Western botanists. He is survived by his wife, Fang Yuxing, and a son,

Yifu. A memorial service was held at the Spink Pavilion at MO.

A scholarship fund has been established for their son Yifu, who turned five years old on 5 December. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your contribution to Michael Olson, Controller's Office, Missouri Botanical Garden, P. O. Box 299, Saint Louis MO 63166-0299, USA. The Garden will hold the money for a time and then turn it over to Yuxing. Your contribution will not be tax deductible, but will be very much appreciated. Checks should be made payable to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Other Deaths

John Dwyer, Neotropical Rubiaceae specialist and professor emeritus of botany at Saint Louis University, died 7 December 2005.

David Given, Director of the Christchurch Botanical Garden, Christchurch, New Zealand, following a battle with kidney cancer, passed away 27 November 2005.

Albert E. Radford, long-time Director of the University of North Carolina Herbarium, passed away on 12 April 2006. There will be a memorial service in Chapel Hill sometime in May.

John Reynolds, herbarium manager at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, died 19 January 2006. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer of the esophagus.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Postdoctoral Position, Tibetan Flowering Plants, Field Museum

The Botany Department at the Field Museum (Chicago, Illinois, USA) seeks applicants for a two-year postdoctoral position to take part in a project funded by the MacArthur Foundation to conduct research and build capacity for biodiversity conservation in the eastern Himalayas. The project, a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution and the Kunming Institute of Botany, focuses on three nature reserves in southern Xizang (Tibet) where field trips will take place in the summers of 2006–2008. In the field, the position entails general collecting of vascular plant specimens and assisting in the training of local land managers, students, and others in field techniques. In Chicago,

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Postdoctoral position (continued from page 19)

the successful applicant will conduct research on the evolution and biogeography of Tibetan plants at the Field Museum under the supervision of co-PI Dr. Richard Ree. Considerable flexibility in choosing a taxon or study question will be granted—the person could pursue an independent project, or take part in ongoing projects of the co-PI focusing on taxa such as *Pedicularis* and *Corydalis* in the greater Hengduan region. It is expected that the research will incorporate molecular data, to be generated in the Field Museum's Pritzker Laboratory, a modern and fully equipped facility for molecular systematics.

In addition to research, the position entails various logistical and informatics-related duties, such as assisting the co-PI in managing a specimen database and developing a project website, facilitating short-term visits by Chinese collaborators and trainees to Chicago, and helping arrange field trips. These responsibilities will take up about 30% of the time.

Botanists with an interest in temperate Asia, alpine plants, Northern Hemisphere biogeography, and/or biodiversity informatics are encouraged to apply. Previous field and laboratory experience is strongly preferred; GIS expertise is a plus. Starting date is flexible: as early as August 2006 (in time for the first field trip) is possible. Salary is \$33,000 to \$35,000 UDS/year + full benefits for two years.

To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and contact information for two references to the following address. For more information, contact: Dr. Richard Ree, Botany Department, The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL 60605 USA; phone: (312) 665-7857; e-mail: rree@fieldmuseum.org.

Herbarium Workroom Manager

The Herbarium of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSA-POM) seeks an excellent individual to manage the herbarium workroom and oversee the daily activities of the herbarium volunteer community. Please visit <http://rsabg.org/content/view/68/149> for more information.

NYBG Laboratory Technician/Molecular Systematics

Responsible for DNA extraction, gene amplification (PCR), purification, and automated sequencing of standard genes being tested for application as an identifying plant DNA barcode. Will coordinate and maintain a database of plant tissues, DNA samples, and data, while testing and implementing new methods of data collection automation using current machinery. Full-

time, ten-month position requires at least a B.S. degree in biology or chemistry and experience with standard molecular biology techniques including nucleic acid extraction, PCR, cloning, automated DNA sequencing, etc., or a willingness to be trained in these techniques.

Send resume to: Recruiter-SCM; The New York Botanical Garden, 200th Street and Kazimiroff Blvd., Bronx NY 10458-5126 USA, e-mail: HR@nybg.org; EEO/M/F/D/V.

Plant Collections Manager, University of Connecticut

The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology seeks a dedicated person to manage the botanical holdings in a state-of-the-art combined collections facility. The collections support teaching and research activities of the Department and the scientific public. The successful candidate will organize and maintain the vascular and nonvascular plant herbaria and the paleobotanical collection and will identify, prepare, catalogue, and database preserved plant specimens and living arboretum specimens. The plant collections manager responds to requests from faculty and visiting scientists and shares responsibility for maintenance and operation of the combined collections facility with other collections managers. The plant collections manager maintains professional liaisons with curators at other institutions and assists other agencies with species identifications, status of rare and endangered species, etc. Other principal responsibilities are to manage all incoming and outgoing loans, maintain the botanical collections database and website, mount and label specimens acquired by the herbarium, curate the associated library, and perform related duties as required. This position also involves training of student workers and volunteers, preparation of public/instructional exhibits and facility tours, participation in a collections management seminar, processing of donations and exchanges, and purchase of equipment and supplies.

Minimum Qualifications: M.S. degree in botany (or appropriate field); fundamental curatorial skills; knowledge of plant taxonomy and botanical nomenclature; excellent computer and organizational skills; basic knowledge of taxonomic databases.

Preferred Qualifications: Ph.D. in systematic botany or related area and prior experience in herbarium management; detailed knowledge of BG-BASE or similar electronic database; experience in data sharing initiatives (e.g., GBIF, RBGE multisite); detailed knowledge of modern curatorial standards and techniques; knowledge of standard loan protocols and specimen packaging; knowledge of image capture and manipulation.

The review of applicants will begin on 15 May 2006 and will continue until the position has been filled.

Please send cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Don Les, Chair, Search Committee, University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 75 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3043, Storrs CT 06269-3043 USA.

REU at Mountain Lake Biological Station

The Mountain Lake Biological Station (University of Virginia) is pleased to announce its Summer 2006 REU Program, now in its 14th year! Use these links to learn more about the program, complete an on-line application, or download a flier to post:

REU program Web page: <http://mlbs.org/REU.html>

REU program postable flier (pdf): http://mlbs.org/download/MLBS_REU_Poster.pdf

MLBS home page: <http://mlbs.org>

MEETINGS

Flora of North America at Botany 2006

Botany 2006 will be held at California State University–Chico, in northern California, 28 July–3 August 2006. Flora of North America has organized a symposium, “Flora of North America: Synergy with the Botanical Community,” to look at various ways that botanical projects in North America benefit from each other. The symposium is sponsored by the Systematics Section of the Botanical Society of America and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. The second workshop for authors and editors will be held on Sunday, 30 July. There is no charge for the workshop, but preregistration is required.

FNA will host an evening reception to honor and thank the many people who worked on the Compositae volumes—everyone is welcome. This will be a good opportunity to meet the authors and editors. As always, FNA will have an informational table in the exhibits area where you can purchase one of our lovely T-shirts and chat with other FNA fans.

For more information on Botany 2006, visit <http://www.botany.org>, under Conferences.

SPNHC/NSCA Joint Meeting

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Natural Science Collections Alliance will hold a joint annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 23–27 May 2006, at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, in the heart of Albuquerque’s historic district and just off Route 66. “The Road to Productive Partnerships” theme will focus on collaborations of scientific collections with partners such as government agencies, local and international agencies, and non-profit groups. The co-hosts will be the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology and the U.S. Geological Survey Arid Lands Field Station.

In addition to invited speakers and oral and poster presentations, the program will feature a series of special sessions with relevant and wide-ranging topics of interest for today’s museum professional. A series of workshops will be offered on 27 May and will highlight recent advances in georeferencing, digital imaging, data sharing, and bioinformatics. Several pre-meeting full-day and half-day field trips will be available, as well as museum tours on the University of New Mexico campus, a reception and banquet with live music, Trade Show, and unsurpassed networking opportunities. Information on the meeting is available at <http://www.msb.unm.edu/meetings/SPNHC-NSCA2006>.

Society of Herbarium Curators

The Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC), open to everyone, is a forum for discussion, action, and support, especially of threatened herbaria. Born in the southeastern United States, SHC has gone on to form an umbrella organization, which aims to unite herbaria across the nation and around the world.

Its mission is to promote and expand the role of herbaria in botanical research, teaching, and service to the community at large, to provide a forum for discussion and action on all issues confronting herbaria, and to extend its efforts and interject its influence toward the protection and preservation of endangered herbaria.

In particular, regional networks will be used to reach out to groups that have been historically underrepresented in the botanical and conservation communities, to land managers and state and federal agencies, and to K–12 students and teachers. SHC will work to support herbaria of all types in these regions, to help develop community standards of curation, and to make certain that herbaria are fully utilized and not orphaned by their institutions.

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Herbarium curators (continued from page 23)

For the past decade, the Southeastern Herbarium Curators' Committee, a group of curators in the southeastern United States, have been informally meeting with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). The group organized a symposium entitled "The Future of Plant Collections in the Southeast" in 2001 and the concept for the expansion of this organization was developed in the ensuing workshop. Through efforts spearheaded by John Herr at the University of South Carolina, Michael Woods at Troy University, and Dan Evans at Marshall University, the group developed a constitution and formally organized as SHC on 4 July 2004. SHC has been recognized as an affiliate society by ASB and the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (SABS).

For more information about The Society of Herbarium Curators, visit our website at <http://www.newberry.net.com/sabs/SHC>. Please contact any officer listed on the site for additional information. Also, please print a copy of the membership application provided on the website and consider becoming a member of this exciting new organization.

Third International Rubiaceae Conference

The Third International Rubiaceae Conference will be held at K. U. Leuven (Belgium) 18–21 September 2006. Since the previous Rubiaceae conference in 1995, many new morphological and molecular data have been published. These data partly confirm previous classifications, but also provide new insights into the evolution and biogeography of this large family. The short Rubiaceae symposium during the XVIIth International Botanical Congress in Vienna made the need for a more-prolonged meeting very evident. With the Third Rubiaceae Conference, we want to offer a forum to all Rubiaceae scientists to present the results they achieved in the last decade. The conference is also open to scientists working on other families of the order Gentianales.

The conference will consist of thematic sessions of lectures and a poster session. The proceedings will be published as a special volume of the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*. Further information is available at the conference website: http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/bio/sys/rubiaceae_conference. We hope that you will be able to attend the conference.

Plants, People, and Evolution

On 4 August 2006 the Linnean Society of London is hosting a one-day conference in honor of Dr. Barbara Pickersgill, the geneticist and expert on *Capsicum* at Reading University. She retired in September 2005 after over 30 years teaching and research at Reading.

It's a rare opportunity to hear an international range of specialists in plant domestication, cytogenetics, and taxonomy, reflecting Barbara's wide interests:

Greg Anderson (USA) – *Solanum*

Spencer Barrett (Canada) – weeds, breeding systems

Alejandro Casas (Mexico) – Mexican ethnobotany, Cactaceae

Colin Hughes (UK) – legumes in the Neotropics

Mark Nesbitt (UK) – wheat

Bruce D. Smith (USA) – archaeobotany of the Americas, domestication

Duncan Vaughan (Japan) – beans, plant genetic resources

Jonathan Wenel (USA) – cotton, genomes

Daniel Zohary (Israel) – evolution of Old World crops

Registration fees are low (£25/£15) and include lunch and an evening reception. As it will be summer, cheap accommodation will be available at university halls of residence (details on reg.form). Registration form and details can be found at the Linnean Society website:

<http://pixobx.co.uk/linneaneventdetails>.

[php?eventID=51](http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/scihort/ecbot/index.html) or

<http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/scihort/ecbot/index.html>.

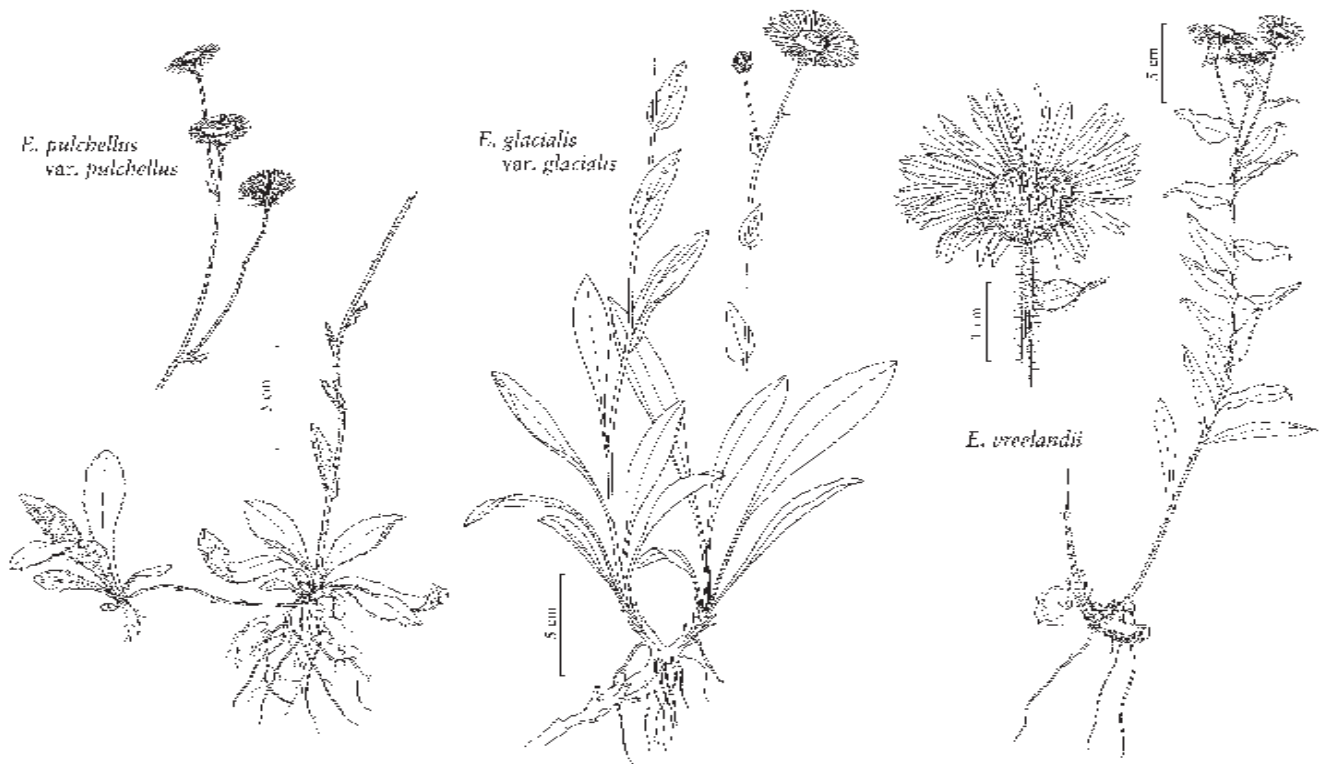
Exact titles of papers will be confirmed later. If any colleagues or ex-students of Barbara are reading this and have not already been contacted by Julie Hawkins or Mark Nesbitt, please contact Mark at m.nesbitt@rbgkew.org.uk.

American Public Gardens Association Annual Conference

The American Public Garden Association (formerly American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta) Annual Conference will be held in San Francisco, California, 28 June to 3 July 2006. The theme of the conference is "Sustainability: Walking the Talk," and will include tours of Bay Area gardens as well as sessions at the conference center—the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown San Francisco. For more information, visit <http://www.publicgardens.org>.

Compositae Meeting in Barcelona

The International Compositae Alliance will meet in Barcelona 3–10 July 2006 at the beautiful new Institute of Botany located in the Botanic Garden of Barcelona. Some 35 talks have been scheduled. For more information, see the meeting website: <http://www.institutbotanic.bcn.es/compositae2006>.



Erigeron panel
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Texas–Oklahoma Herbarium Meeting

The Texas–Oklahoma Regional Consortium of Herbaria (TORCH) is being developed to advocate for and organize herbaria in Texas and Oklahoma. Four primary goals of TORCH are proposed:

- provide a mechanism for communication and collaboration among regional herbaria of all types and sizes;
- promote regional data sharing and plant taxonomic and collections-based research;
- function as a regional consortium in the developing national network of herbaria;
- assist herbaria with infrastructural and management guidelines and problem solving.

The inaugural meeting of TORCH will be held Saturday, 6 May 2006, at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, in Fort Worth, Texas. All herbarium representatives and those who work with plant collections in Texas and Oklahoma are invited to attend. The meeting program will have three primary components: 1) presentations by representatives from regional herbaria, 2) invited presentations on collections-based activities and initiatives impacting herbaria in Texas and Oklahoma, and 3) a group discussion focused on herbarium issues and

the organization of TORCH. Additionally, there will be a Saturday evening mixer, dinner, and presentation. BRIT is sponsoring the meeting.

More information on TORCH and the upcoming meeting is available at the Herbarium Collaborative site at <http://herbaria.science.oregonstate.edu/> under “Regional Networks.”

Whitebark Pine Conference

A conference on whitebark pine will be held at Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon, 27–31 August 2006.

Whitebark pine is a keystone species in high-elevation forests of the Pacific Coast. It not only provides critical wildlife habitat and watershed protection, but evokes the beauty and majesty of the special places where it resides.

The conference will explore the ecology, population structure and genetics, wildlife interactions, disturbance regimes, threats, and challenges of managing whitebark pine and other high-elevation five-needle pines in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. The program will include invited speakers, organized debate, contributed papers and posters, field trips, and a photo contest.

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