



The American Society of Plant Taxonomists  
**ASPT NEWSLETTER**

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## ASPT NEWS

### Systematic Botany Editorial Staff Changes for 2009

We are pleased to announce the following change to the Editorial Board of Systematic Botany.

**Managing Editor.** Jim Smith will begin serving as the new Managing Editor in 2009. We are very grateful to Jim for his willingness to serve Systematic Botany and ASPT in this important position. Leigh Johnson has done an exceptional job as Managing Editor for the past two years. We thank Leigh for his service to ASPT.

### ASPT Travel Grants for Students

In July, the ASPT Council approved a new grant program to promote graduate and undergraduate student attendance and participation at our annual meetings. This new program grew out of the excellent recommendations of the 2007—2008 ad hoc committee on enhancing graduate student participation in ASPT and will provide funding (\$300) toward travel or meeting expenses for up to 20 student ASPT members who are pursuing graduate study in plant systematics or (for undergraduates) are greatly interested in the area. Recipients also will obtain a free ticket to the ASPT annual banquet.

Recipients will be selected using a lottery, with at least 14 grants going to students who will be presenting papers or posters and up to 6 to students who will not be giving presentations. The new ad hoc ASPT Membership Committee will be administering this new grant program, which will be formally announced soon (e.g., on the ASPT website) in time for Botany 2009 registration. Please encourage eligible students who are in need of funding to attend Botany 2009 to apply for a travel grant and, if you are one of those students, please apply! Thanks to the members of the membership committee and the awards and honor's committee for their help in instituting this new opportunity for our student members.—**Bruce Baldwin, ASPT President**

### Letter from the Program Director

Dear fellow ASPT and BSA Systematics Section members,

I am writing with news about the upcoming Botany & Mycology 2009 conference, which will be at Snowbird, Utah, July 25-29, 2009. The conference web site is now online and is being updated as information on the meeting comes in: <http://www.2009.botanyconference.org/>. The web site should be open for registration in early January.

In this note I have important information for students regarding participation in field trips. In addition I have information about our plans for an auction at the conference. And finally, if you are interested, I have some responses to comments that we received following the Botany 2008 conference.

1. Attention Students! In 2007 the BSA Systematics Section decided that we want to enhance support for student participation in our annual conference—specifically participation in field trips, because we believe these are great opportunities to get to know other botanists. To do this we established a modest dues fee for the Section. The 2009 conference will be the first year to use these funds to help students participate in field trips. We will provide up to \$50 to 40 student members of the Section to participate in one of the Botany & Mycology 2009 field trips.

**Procedure:** send me an email message after you register for the field trip (as part of your conference registration). I will need your name, address, and field trip title, and I will arrange for you to be reimbursed for \$50 (or the cost of the trip if it is less than \$50). As of yet we do not have a way to discount your registration fee so reimbursement is necessary.

Important! You must be a member of BSA Systematics Section to receive this funding since the funds are coming from the Section. Student membership in BSA is quite reasonable. If you are not a member you can join now for 2009.

2. BSA Systematics Section membership—when you renew your membership in BSA please be sure you are a member of Systematics Section. The Systematics Section is using income from dues to enhance student participation in our annual conference (#1 above) so it is especially important that we all support this effort through the modest dues payment for the Section. Please also renew your membership in ASPT!

3. Botany & Mycology 2009. I am working with conference organizer Johanne Stogran and the other program directors, including BSA Program Director David Spooner, on plans for next year's conference. Johanne and the Snowbird Conference Center are doing a variety of things to make the meeting as affordable as possible (e.g., housing options, food). There will be more details on this on the conference web site as Johanne has them.

The scenery at Snowbird is magnificent and there will be numerous field trip opportunities, including early morning plant walks (special thanks to our local representative Lynn Bohs and her students for organizing these walks).

**Auction-** ASPT will hold its auction this year, but it will be on Wednesday evening during the all society banquet. This is because Mycological Society of America will be meeting with us, and they also do an auction. The usual day for their banquet is Wednesday so we have decided to hold a joint auction on Wednesday evening. ASPT Council as well as BSA and MSA Councils are also supportive of this idea, as are the auctioneers for the two societies. We will handle donations of auction items the same as in previous auctions, and proceeds will be distributed based on the source of the items (ASPT donation or MSA donation). It should be an enjoyable evening, and profitable too if participants bid high and often! More details on the auction will follow later. For

now please think about auction items that will be interesting, humorous, or special in some other way that will make them desirable. Think outside the book!

4. I recently had the opportunity to read through comments that Botany 2008 participants submitted and I thought that I should respond to some of them in this message for those who are interested.

**Program conflicts-** The program chairs will be implementing some new procedures to minimize conflicts among concurrent sessions. Complete avoidance of conflicts is impossible, but we will work hard to minimize them. We also must resist requests for last minute program changes once all pieces of the program puzzle are assembled. This is how many of the conflicts arise. The first step in our process is to distribute the symposia across the three days of the program, then fill in with contributed paper sessions. Sessions on similar topics are merged when possible or scheduled consecutively. Sessions that might draw similar audiences are noted to avoid conflict. We also try to avoid individual conflicts when they are noted by the submitting author, although this can be very challenging at times!

**ASPT banquet-** we underestimated the number of people who would attend the ASPT banquet, and as a result we settled on a venue with a 200 person maximum capacity. By the time we realized we would sell out it was too late to change the venue. The silver lining in this is that we have record numbers of people who want to join us for our banquet. Lessons learned!

**Reduce number of concurrent sessions?-** Several people suggested we reduce the number of concurrent sessions because there are too many good papers to see. The only way to accomplish this is to extend the meeting into Thursday, or limit the number of abstract submissions, or judge abstracts and reject the weakest ones. While some people have advocated a limit of one paper per person, I am aware of no support for either of the other two options. Establishing a limit is an option, but it is something that needs to be discussed broadly among all participating societies.

**Cancellations and no-shows-** This was a significant problem in Vancouver. We are trying to develop mechanisms to minimize this without resorting to an abstract submission fee. Some of the problem was caused by several attendees not being able to obtain a visa for travel to Canada, but this was not the only cause. A number of the cancellations came from people who are not members of one of our participating societies, so we have decided to require payment of the conference registration fee by anyone submitting an abstract who is not a member of one of the participating societies. We recognize that sometimes things happen and in a large conference like ours there will inevitably be some people who are not able to attend for one reason or another. In these cases it is important to communicate the cancellation to the

conference office as soon as possible. The inconvenience of cancellations was exacerbated in some sessions when the moderator moved up talks to fill in the gap caused by a cancellation. While I always instruct systematics session moderators to never do this, it did happen in some other sections. In future we will be certain that all moderators are briefed on proper procedures.

**Lecture room size-** There were several comments about sizes of lecture rooms and mismatch with size of the audience. I have found this to be the most difficult part of the job. Program directors and symposium organizers must estimate the size of the audience for each session. But audience size depends in part on what the concurrent session topics are. This can be very difficult but we try to learn from the mistakes and do better next time.

**Conference venue-** the greatest number of comments focused on the type of venue that people prefer for the annual meeting. Quite a few expressed pleasure at being on a university campus, but many others were not happy with the need to walk between buildings to change sessions (including several who also expressed pleasure at being on campus). Some people expressed preference for convention centers with closely grouped meeting rooms. Clearly it is not possible to satisfy everyone! The only solution to this is to select a mix of different venues so over time everyone is happy at least some of the time! One thing to keep in mind with university campuses is that our conference is not the only thing that is happening on campus. Classes, faculty activities, and camps also have claims on spaces, and conferences usually get the spaces that are left over. This often means walking between buildings to change sessions.

You can help in venue selection by sending me any suggestions you have for possible sites. What does it take to accommodate our meetings? We need 15-18 lecture rooms with a capacity range of 50-200 plus a large space for the plenary on Sunday evening that can accommodate approx 1200. We need a space for approx. 100 poster boards and 20-30 exhibitors, which amounts to about 30,000 sq ft. Ideally there will be a variety of housing options (combination of hotels, dorms, etc.) within walking distance, and places to eat. If you have an idea, please send it to me and I will be sure it is considered.

There were many other comments from Botany 2008 but I do not have time to answer all of them, and I am sure you do not want to read them all either! We do read these comments and try to act on them wherever possible. — **Patrick Herendeen (pherendeen@chicagobotanic.org), ASPT and BSA Systematics Section Program Director, Chicago Botanic Garden**



## PEOPLE

**Lawrence Memorial Award** – 2008 Recipient Mr. Dylan O. Burge, a student of Professor Paul Manos at Duke University, is the recipient of the 2008 Lawrence Memorial Award. For his dissertation research, Mr. Burge has undertaken a study of the genus *Ceanothus*. The proceeds of the Award will help support his travel to Mexico for field work and herbarium research.

**Linda Watson to Oklahoma State University**  
Dr. Linda Watson, former Professor and Chair of Botany at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio), has moved to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater to serve as Professor and Head of Botany. Her new email address is: linda.watson10@okstate.edu, and phone number is (405) 744-5559. [Posted 3 September 2008]

**Timothy Evans to Grand Valley State University**  
Dr. Timothy Evans has moved from his previous position at Hope College to take a faculty position at Grand Valley State University, in Allendale, Michigan. His new email address is: evanstim@gvsu.edu, and phone number is (616) 331-8704.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Persons in the job market should consult the newsletter/“Current News” section of the ASPT homepage <<http://www.sysbot.org>> for detailed descriptions. Below are very abbreviated listings of job notices that have appeared on that source; complete information needed for applications is not included here. For many positions, the deadlines have passed and the positions may be filled. The listing here is primarily for readers who might be interested in which organizations have had openings in the general area of plant systematics. The date the positions were posted is in square brackets [day/month/year].

Nearly all announcements have been edited to conserve space—be sure to obtain complete descriptions before applying.

### **Faculty Position in Plant Biology at Brigham Young University**

The Department of Biology at Brigham Young University seeks to fill a full time, continuing status position in plant biology. Qualified applicants with a PhD, postdoctoral experience, and expertise in evolutionary or organismal biology (including, but not limited to, modern

applications such as molecular ecology, systematics, genomics, evolutionary development, and so forth) are encouraged to apply. The successful candidate is expected to maintain an externally funded research program involving both undergraduate and graduate students. Excellence in teaching is required; teaching responsibilities will include general biology, plant diversity, and a graduate course in the candidate's area of expertise. The department offers competitive start-up packages and reduced teaching loads for new faculty. Interested persons should send a CV, statements of teaching and research interests, and a completed BYU faculty application form to: Dr. Leigh Johnson, Plant Biology Search Committee Chair, 401 WIDB, Department of Biology, BYU, Provo, UT 84602 – electronic applications, preferred, may be sent to [bio@byu.edu](mailto:bio@byu.edu).

The review process will begin December 10, 2008 for this position and continue until the position is filled. Faculty application forms can be found at: <https://yjobs.byu.edu>. Additional department and college information is available at website: <http://biology.byu.edu/home>.

Brigham Young University, an equal opportunity employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, veteran status, or against qualified individuals with disabilities. All faculty are required to abide by the university's honor code and dress and grooming standards. Preference is given to qualified candidates who are members in good standing of the affiliated church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. [Posted 7 November 2008]

### **Faculty Positions in Biology - University of Colorado Denver**

As part of an exciting hiring effort to fulfill goals in our college's strategic plan, the Department of Biology ([www.cudenver.edu/biology](http://www.cudenver.edu/biology)) on the UCD downtown Denver campus seeks three tenure-track faculty pending final budgetary approval: Assistant Professor in Environmental Toxicology (Job #805315 at [www.jobsatcu.com](http://www.jobsatcu.com)); Assistant Professor in Evolutionary Genetics (Job #805317 at [www.jobsatcu.com](http://www.jobsatcu.com)); and Assistant Professor in Developmental Biology (Job #805314 at [www.jobsatcu.com](http://www.jobsatcu.com)). UCD is dedicated to ensuring a safe and secure environment for our faculty, staff, students and visitors. To achieve this goal, we conduct background investigations for all prospective employees. The University of Colorado is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment. [Posted 4 November 2008]

### **Assistant Professor, Plant Biologist, Department of Biological Sciences, Towson University, FCSM-N-2242**

Applications are invited for a tenure-track appointment in the Department of Biological Sciences (<http://www.towson.edu/biology/>) at Towson University starting Fall 2009. Candidates must be broadly trained biologists, with the ability to teach Plant Ecology. Applicants are expected to possess a strong commitment to excellence in teaching,

show potential for a productive research/scholarly program, and pursue external funding. Teaching responsibilities will include courses in introductory biology, an advanced undergraduate course in the ecology and evolutionary biology of plants, and a graduate-level course in the area of specialty. The successful candidate will be expected to develop a research program that involves undergraduate and graduate students and complements existing research in the department. Ph.D. is required, postdoctoral experience preferred. Position is contingent on state funding at the time of hire.

Submit CV, copies of transcripts from all institutions attended, a one-page statement on teaching philosophy; a one-page statement on research interests; and three letters of reference. Electronic submission of application materials in PDF or Word format is encouraged. Submit application material to:

Dr. Roland Roberts, Chair  
Plant Biology Search Committee  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Towson University  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001  
email: rroberts@towson.edu

Review of applications will begin on December 10, 2008 and continue until the position is filled.

Upon submitting your Curriculum Vitae to indicate your interest in this position, please be sure to visit <http://www.towson.edu/odeo/applicantdata.asp> to complete a voluntary on-line applicant data form. The information you provide will inform the university's affirmative action plan and is for statistical purposes only and shall not be used to illegally discriminate for or against anyone.

Towson University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and has a strong institutional commitment to diversity. Women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. [Posted 29 October 2008]

### **Plant Evolutionary Developmental Geneticist Search 2008**

The Department of Biology (comprising the newly merged departments of Botany and Zoology) at the University of Florida invites applications for a 9-month tenure-track faculty position in Plant Evolutionary Developmental Genetics at the level of Assistant Professor, effective fall semester, 2009. We offer a collegial environment that fosters collaborative, interdisciplinary research. Individuals examining plant developmental morphology and its genetic control in a comparative and/or evolutionary context are especially encouraged to apply. Instruction at both undergraduate and graduate levels is expected, including a course in plant anatomy/ morphology, and also genetics and/or involvement in introductory biology. Successful applicants must have a Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience. Our faculty enjoy strong ties with the Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology Program,

UF Genetics Institute, UF Emerging Pathogens Institute, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and multiple University centers in biomedical, veterinary, environmental and agricultural sciences. Applicants should submit an electronic application consisting of a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, and three reprints; please go to <http://www.biology.ufl.edu/search/>. Applicants should also arrange to have three letters of reference mailed to Plant Evolutionary Developmental Genetics Search, PO Box 118525, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL USA, 32611-8525. Review of applications will begin on January 12th, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. Our department is committed to diversity as a component of excellence. Women and members of under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply. The University of Florida is an equal opportunity institution. (Please visit <http://www.hr.ufl.edu/job/datacard.htm> to complete a voluntary Application Data Card.) [Posted 28 October 2008]

### **Assistant Professor of Biology - Tenure Track Position (Position Update!)**

The Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, invites applications for a tenure-track appointment in biology beginning August, 2009. Saint Mary's College is a Catholic liberal arts college for women with a strong commitment to undergraduate education. Applicants must hold (or be at completion of) a Ph.D. in the biological sciences. Candidates will be expected to develop and teach at least one botany course (lecture and lab) and at least one course in environmental biology (lecture with or without lab) each year, both in an area of the applicant's choice. The successful candidate should also expect to develop one or more specialty courses as well as an active research program emphasizing undergraduate student involvement. In addition, candidates may be asked to teach introductory laboratories as needed. A strong commitment to undergraduate education of women, a liberal arts education, and service to the department and the College is expected. The appointee will be a Lilly New Faculty Scholar during the first two pre-tenure years. As such, s/he will receive course load reductions and some financial support for research. Lilly New Faculty Scholars are expected to develop campus ties within the institution by participating in cross-divisional interactions with other college units.

Please send a complete CV along with a letter of intent that includes your teaching philosophy as well as your email and phone contact information to: Chair of Search Committee, Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA. [nekvasil@saintmarys.edu](mailto:nekvasil@saintmarys.edu) Candidates will be contacted for full credentials (three letters of reference, visa status for foreign nationals, official transcripts, and evidence of excellent teaching [such as teaching evaluations]) if desired at a later date. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2008, and will continue until the position is filled.

Saint Mary's College has a strong institutional commit-

ment to diversity and seeks applications from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups, those who have had multicultural experience, and those who can demonstrate a commitment to diversity. [Posted 17 October 2008]

**Assistant Professor: Plant Evolution, Ecology, and /or Biogeography/Herbarium Director**

The Department of Botany at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater (<http://botany.okstate.edu>) seeks to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor to start August 2009. Duties include developing a rigorous externally-funded research program in plant evolution, ecology, and/or biogeography; teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and mentoring students; and serving as Herbarium Director. Preference will be given to applicants who pursue research that includes field and collections-based studies that support the Herbarium (a collection of 140,000 specimens largely representing the Great Plains flora). Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience are required. Submit an application as one pdf to [paula.shryock@okstate.edu](mailto:paula.shryock@okstate.edu). Include cover letter; CV; statements of research, herbarium, and teaching interests and philosophies; contact information for at least three references. Review of applications will begin December 1 and continue until position is filled. For more information contact Linda Watson at [linda.watson10@okstate.edu](mailto:linda.watson10@okstate.edu) or 405-744-5559. Oklahoma State University is an AA/EEO/E-Verify employer committed to diversity. OSU-Stillwater is a tobacco-free campus. [Posted 13 October 2008]

**Evolutionary Biologist - Assistant Professor**

The Department of Biology at Western Kentucky University invites applications for a nine-month, tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor in Evolutionary Biology. Candidates with expertise in any field of evolutionary biology including population genetics, morphological and molecular evolution, evolution of development and evolution of behavior are encouraged to apply. Ph.D. required, post-doctoral experience preferred. Additional qualifications include ability to teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students with a high level of effectiveness, excellence in research, commitment to pursuit of extramural funding and willingness to participate in departmental and university service. Teaching responsibilities will include undergraduate and graduate courses in Evolution and other subjects suitable to the successful candidate's area of expertise. The ability to teach introductory biology or biostatistics is desirable, as is a willingness to participate in campus bioinformatics initiatives. Submit a cover letter, CV, separate statements of teaching and research interests, up to three representative reprints and three letters of recommendation. Application materials may be sent as an email attachment in the form of a single PDF file to [evolution.search@wku.edu](mailto:evolution.search@wku.edu) or mailed to Evolutionary Biology Search, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd.

#11080, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1080. Review of applications begins November 7, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. Preferred start date is August 15, 2009. For more detailed information about the department visit <http://bioweb.wku.edu>. Western Kentucky University is committed to the promotion of stewardship and student engagement. All qualified individuals are encouraged to apply including women, minorities, persons with disabilities and disabled veterans. Western Kentucky University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. [Posted 8 October 2008]

**Smathers Chair in Tropical Tree Biology and Director of the Gifford Arboretum - Associate Professor or Professor**

The Department of Biology at the University of Miami invites nominations and invitations for an endowed Chair in Tropical Biology. The Smathers chair holder must be a distinguished scientist focused on plant evolution who will contribute to the department's strong focus on ecology and evolution in tropical systems. The Smathers Chair will also lead development and use of our on-campus John C. Gifford Arboretum. Send nominations or applications (CV and statements of interests in research, teaching, and managing a living collection) before December 3, 2008 to [SmathersChair@bio.miami.edu](mailto:SmathersChair@bio.miami.edu)

The search opens October 1, 2008 and closes December 3, 2008. The appointment will be made at the associate professor or professor rank. Under new leadership, the Department of Biology is beginning a significant expansion (see <http://bio.miami.edu/index.html>) and has recently hired five new faculty, two of whom are senior. As a major university in Miami, the gateway to the tropics, we have a strong commitment to excellence in Tropical Biology. The University of Miami particularly encourages applications from women and minorities. [Posted 22 September 2008]

**Coordinator, Research Experiences for Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, Organization for Tropical Studies**

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is currently seeking applicants for two Faculty Coordinator positions with the Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NAPIRE) Program at the Las Cruces Biological Station in Costa Rica. The NAPIRE Program provides research opportunities for 18 students from the colleges and universities that are part of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation. Each student works under the close supervision of an individual research mentor. Successful applicants will work closely with each other, as well as with research mentors, the Director of the Undergraduate Programs, and other OTS staff in the design and implementation of the 2009 NAPIRE Program. NAPIRE Coordinators will oversee student recruitment and selection, and will be responsible for on-site supervision and coordination of program activities.

**Qualifications:**

- Ph.D. or M.Sc. in biology, ecology, conservation biology or a related field.
- Professional experience in teaching field biology
- Professional experience in supervision of undergraduate field research.
- Excellent communication and organizational skills.
- Experience in teaching Native American and Pacific Island students a plus
- Bilingual (Spanish/English) desirable
- Native American and Pacific Island faculty are strongly encouraged to apply

The position is a 9-month contract with an anticipated start date of November 8, 2008, and an anticipated end date of August 8, 2009. The position is based in Costa Rica at the OTS Las Cruces Biological Station from June 8, 2009 through August 3, 2009. The contract is renewable for up to two years, depending on funding and performance.

Application deadline: October 1, 2008

To apply: send résumé or CV with cover letter, statement of teaching philosophy, mentoring philosophy, and research interests, and list of references to the Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs, Organization for Tropical Studies, Box 90630, Durham, NC 27708-0630. Applications may also be sent electronically to [vmendez@ots.ac.cr](mailto:vmendez@ots.ac.cr)

OTS is an equal opportunity employer. [Posted 10 September 2008]

### **The Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley, is seeking a Coordinator of Public Programs.**

This exciting position has independent programmatic responsibility for the development and implementation of 25+ weekend workshops each season (predominantly between March and August). Chooses scientific course topics, appropriate instructors, and field locations for 20-25 weekend workshops that are conducted on botanical and ecological subjects at locations throughout California. Conducts all aspects of administration needed to implement the public programs. Administers the program and ensures fiscal success according to policies set by UC Berkeley. Other responsibilities include desktop publishing, community building, and fundraising.

Interested applicants, please see application under UC Berkeley job # 008989 (<http://jobs.berkeley.edu/>). Ideal start date, November 15, 2008.

For more information and a copy of the full job description, please contact Staci Markos ([smarkos@berkeley.edu](mailto:smarkos@berkeley.edu)) 510-643-7008. [Posted 9 September 2008]

### **Plant Ecologist/Systematist**

The Smith College Department of Biological Sciences invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professorship in terrestrial plant ecology/systematics beginning July 1, 2009. A commitment to undergraduate education and a strong research program including field research

opportunities for undergraduates are essential. Teaching responsibilities will include courses in plant ecology and plant diversity/systematics (each with a field component), and participation in the department's core course on biodiversity, ecology and conservation. A Ph.D. is required; teaching and/or postdoctoral experience is preferred. Smith College is a leader in education of women and has a vibrant Biological Sciences Department. Exceptional resources in the plant sciences include a botanic garden, greenhouse, herbarium, and field station. State-of-the-art facilities include a GIS lab and centers for molecular genetics, biochemistry, and microscopy. Programs in Environmental Science and Policy and Landscape Studies facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. The Five College Consortium, comprised of Smith, Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Hampshire Colleges and the University of Massachusetts, provides a rich intellectual and cultural life for faculty and students, as well as collegial opportunities for teaching and research. A curriculum vitae, statements of teaching philosophy and research interests, and three letters of recommendation should be sent by October 31, 2008 to: Plant Ecology Search Committee, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Clark Science Center, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063. Smith College is an equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. [Posted 5 September 2008]

### **Chair (Tenure, Professor)**

Position: The Department of Biology at Central Michigan University seeks an outstanding scholar and administrator for the position of Chair to begin August 2009. Applicants must meet the requirements for tenure at the rank of professor in the Department of Biology.

Department: The Department of Biology includes 27 faculty and 12 staff and offers undergraduate and master's degree programs. Areas of research and teaching range from molecular biology to ecosystem ecology, with existing departmental strengths in aquatic biology, biochemistry, bioinformatics, conservation biology, microbial ecology, molecular genetics, physiology, systematics, and wildlife biology. Departmental programs benefit from a variety of diverse resources including the CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan, a well-equipped microscopy facility, and an in-house DNA sequencing and analysis core facility. Additional information is available at <http://www.bio.cmich.edu/>. Established in 1892, Central Michigan University has an enrollment of 27,000 students, including approximately 20,000 students on the university's main campus. Classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a doctoral research university, CMU is recognized for strong undergraduate education and a range of focused graduate and research programs. CMU is a student-focused university with opportunities for leadership, internships, and off-campus volunteer programs. CMU is located in Mount Pleasant, a mid-Michigan community of approximately 25,000 permanent residents. A recently developed tourist destination

point, Mount Pleasant has retained its small-town flavor and offers outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities. CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see <http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo/>). Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Responsibilities: Among multiple responsibilities, the chair is expected to foster scholarly productivity and visibility of a diverse and active faculty while supporting innovative and high quality teaching. The chair must serve as an advocate for the department, develop and support efforts to secure external funding, and maintain effective liaisons with the campus and community. The chair will help refine and implement a shared vision for the department.

Qualifications: Applicants must have a Ph.D. in one of the biological sciences with a proven record of externally funded research and teaching excellence. Demonstrated leadership ability, a record of successful administrative experience, and effective communication skills are also required. A record of successful fund-raising is preferred.

Application: Please submit a letter addressing responsibilities and qualifications outlined above, a curriculum vita, a statement of administrative philosophy, and names and contact information for five references to:

Jennifer Schisa  
Department of Biology  
217 Brooks Hall  
Central Michigan University  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Review of applications will begin September 15, 2008, and continue until the position is filled. [Posted 5 September 2008]

### **Call for Nominations and Applications - Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Botany**

The BSA is soliciting nominations for the position of Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Botany to serve a five-year term, beginning January 2010. The Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Botany is responsible for publication of the Journal in accordance with editorial policies established by the BSA, the Editorial Committee of the Journal, and Journal tradition. Duties of the Editor-in-Chief include both operational responsibilities (processing of manuscripts, overseeing their professional review, preparation of issues, and adherence to a timely publication schedule), as well as aspirational responsibilities (helping shape a strategic vision for the future of the Journal). Qualities of candidates should include a research career in the plant sciences, a commitment to improve the Journal, a willingness to pursue innovation, a breadth of knowledge and experience of plant biology, and excellent communication skills. The Editor-in-Chief will be assisted by a professional staff, including a managing editor, a production editor, and several copy editors, as well as a team of dedicated, volunteer Associate Editors. The Editor-in-Chief receives an annual honorarium and works in collaboration with the BSA's Executive Director and Executive Committee to manage the Journal's operating budget.

Review of applications/nominations will begin November 1, 2008. Applications will be held in confidence and should include a letter of interest; a statement indicating the candidate's views on the current strengths and opportunities for improvement of the Journal; a description of the candidate's involvement with the BSA; and a detailed vita. Please send application materials to Scott Russell, Chair, AJB Editor-in-Chief Search Committee ([srussell@ou.edu](mailto:srussell@ou.edu)). The committee may request additional information as the search and screen process advances. [Posted 5 September 2008]

### **Plant Systematics Faculty Position**

Description: Hope College seeks applicants for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level to begin August 2009. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. and will be expected to develop vigorous, externally funded research programs with active participation by undergraduate students. A broadly trained Plant Systematist who uses modern techniques to address evolutionary or ecological questions of fundamental significance. She or he will teach a course in vascular plant systematics, will be a key member of a faculty team responsible for an introductory course at the organismal level, and may have the opportunity to participate in an environmental science program and/or teach evolutionary biology. Hope College places a high priority on sustaining a supportive environment that recognizes the importance of having a diverse faculty and staff in order to best prepare our students for successful careers in our multi-cultural nation and global community. Applications from qualified persons with diverse backgrounds and cultures, including women and persons of color are, therefore, especially welcomed. Hope College complies with federal and state requirements for nondiscrimination in employment.

Hope College is a Christian coeducational, residential liberal arts undergraduate college affiliated with the Reformed Church in America; has over 3200 students and 250 FTE faculty.

Additional information about Hope College can be found on the Web at <http://www.hope.edu/>.

Applications: Qualified applicants should arrange to have a curriculum vitae, copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, statements of research interests and teaching philosophy/competencies, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Tom Bultman, Chair, Department of Biology, Hope College, 35 East 12th Street, Holland, MI 49422-9000; [bultmant@hope.edu](mailto:bultmant@hope.edu). Electronic submission of application materials by email is preferred. Applications received by October 17, 2008 will be assured full consideration. [Posted 25 August 2008]

**Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) in Plant Systematics**

Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) invites applications for a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level in biology with expertise in plant systematics, starting Fall 2009. We seek an enthusiastic botanist who is committed to excellence in teaching at a predominately undergraduate institution such as ours and is dedicated to establishing a research program that engages students. Teaching responsibilities will include: a field-based botany course, introductory biology (majors or non-majors) and an upper division course in one's expertise. We are particularly interested in candidates whose research utilize phylogenetic methods to answer fundamental questions in botany, and might additionally use genomics tools. An interest in helping to maintain our herbarium is desired. Opportunities also exist for faculty to participate in courses in the first-year experience program, global education, environmental studies or other interdisciplinary programs. Tacoma is located on the Puget Sound of Washington, a uniquely scenic and biologically diverse region. Seattle and Mt. Rainier are about 40 miles from the suburban campus. PLU enrolls 3,600 students and is committed to finding connections between the liberal arts and professional schools and to promoting international education. The majority of our faculty have lived abroad or speak a second language. PLU enjoys a healthy and progressive relationship with the ELCA. We serve a diverse student body, endorse the goals of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and actively seek applications from women and underrepresented groups. Review of applications begins on October 1. Send in hard copy, an application letter, curriculum vitae, statements of teaching philosophy and research interests, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and three letters of reference to Dr. Mary Ellard-Ivey, Chair of the Plant Systematics Search Committee, Dept. of Biology, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447. Electronic applications will not be accepted. For more information see <http://www.nsci.plu.edu/biol/jobs.htm>. [Posted 18 August 2008]

**Coordinator, Research Experiences for Native Americans and Pacific Islanders Organization for Tropical Studies**

Position: The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is currently seeking applicants for two Faculty Coordinator positions with the Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NAPIRE) Program at the Las Cruces Biological Station in Costa Rica. The NAPIRE Program provides research opportunities for 18 students from the colleges and universities that are part of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation. Each student works under the close supervision of an individual research mentor. Successful applicants will work closely with each other, as well as with research mentors, the Director of the Undergraduate Programs, and other OTS staff in the design and implementation of the 2009 NAPIRE Program. NAPIRE Coordinators will oversee student recruitment and selection, and will be responsible for on-site supervision and

coordination of program activities. Qualifications: Ph.D. or M.Sc. in biology, ecology, conservation biology or a related field; professional experience in teaching field biology; professional experience in supervision of undergraduate field research; excellent communication and organizational skills; experience in teaching Native American and Pacific Island students a plus; bilingual (Spanish/English) desirable; Native American and Pacific Island faculty are strongly encouraged to apply. The position is a 9-month contract with an anticipated start date of November 8, 2008, and an anticipated end date of August 8, 2009. The position is based in Costa Rica at the OTS Las Cruces Biological Station from June 8, 2009 through August 3, 2009. The contract is renewable for up to two years, depending on funding and performance. Application deadline: October 1, 2008. To apply: send résumé or CV with cover letter, statement of teaching philosophy, mentoring philosophy, and research interests, and list of references to the Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs, Organization for Tropical Studies, Box 90630, Durham, NC 27708-0630. Applications may also be sent electronically to [vmendez@ots.ac.cr](mailto:vmendez@ots.ac.cr). OTS is an equal opportunity employer. [Posted 18 August 2008]

**Botanist, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database**

The USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana has a vacancy open for a GS-12/13 botanist (plant systematist) through 25AUG08. The announcement can be found on <http://www.usajobs.gov> under the following announcement numbers: NRCS-NCSU-08-18DE (Non-Federal Status) or NRCS-NCSU-08-18MP (applicants who are current Federal employees). Incumbent will serve as a principal plant taxonomist developing the PLANTS database - the national database that provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories. It includes names, plant symbols, checklists, distributional data, species abstracts, characteristics, images, plant links, references, crop information, and automated tools. More than 70,000 users log onto PLANTS every day and it is the most heavily used USDA scientific database <http://plants.usda.gov>. [Posted 8 August 2008]

### **Plant Taxonomist, Gaoligong Shan Biodiversity Project, California Academy of Sciences**

Position Summary: Full-time position. Application deadline 15 September 2008. Serves as the botanist for the Biodiversity of the Gaoligong Shan project, funded by the MacArthur Foundation, for 1.5 years beginning in the summer of 2008. The incumbent's primary responsibilities will be to study herbarium collections resulting from a long-term survey of a mountain range in Yunnan Province, China. The incumbent will conduct species identifications, track specimen identifications from outside experts, and, with additional study of historical collections from various herbaria, compose floristic treatments of several groups of plants for the Gaoligong Shan. Opportunity exists for contributions to GIS and biodiversity assessment analyses. Assigned responsibilities require a Masters or Ph.D. and advanced knowledge of plant systematics. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. This position reports to the lead botanist on the project and works closely with the collections manager of the Department of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences. Essential Duties and Responsibilities: Oversee the identification of the collections derived from the project. With the assistance of the collections manager, distribute selected specimens to experts for identification as needed. Database historical collections data from herbaria and contribute to taxonomic revisions of various plant groups. May participate in the development of exhibits based on the results of the project. Follow all Academy safety regulations. Other duties as assigned. Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Education and/or Experience: Masters or Ph.D.; specialty in systematic botany. Good organizational skills. Computer and database knowledge, spreadsheet knowledge. Understanding of the components of a flora and its uses. Knowledge of botany of East Asia. Thorough understanding of botanical curatorial practices. Knowledge of GIS applications desirable. Language Skills: Fluency in Chinese and English highly desirable. Application: Please apply at the web site < <http://www.calacademy.org> > (click on "Employment" at bottom of the CAS page). [Posted 6 August 2008]

### **Scientific Editor Needed, Second Edition of The Jepson Manual**

The Jepson Herbarium, University of California at Berkeley, is seeking an additional scientific editor for the second edition of The Jepson Manual, the floristic reference for the state of California. The successful candidate should be an experienced botanist and editor with demonstrated expertise in California floristics. Familiarity with The Jepson Manual preferred. This is a rigorous and demanding position that requires extensive knowledge of plant terminology, strong interpersonal communication skills, and untiring attention to detail.

The full time, temporary position (1-2 years) will ideally be based in Berkeley. For more information, please contact: Bruce G. Baldwin <[bbaldwin@berkeley.edu](mailto:bbaldwin@berkeley.edu)> or Staci Markos <[smarkos@berkeley.edu](mailto:smarkos@berkeley.edu)> (510) 643-7008. Already completed treatments are available here <<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepsonmanual/review/>>. [Posted 21 July 2008]

### **Conservation Project Manager, New York Botanical Garden**

Summary of Responsibilities: The Conservation Project Manager will assist the Dean and Vice President for Science in the creation of a Conservation Center. Will use specimen data to inform conservation and to build on the international connections of the Science program to more efficiently implement conservation activities in places where the Garden maintains active programs. Will connect with external advisors and assist in the development of a defined mission and strategic plan for its implementation. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent Benefits, including 4 weeks vacation. Requirements: 1) M.S. in Botany or related field of plant sciences, Ph.D. preferred. 2) Experience with GIS preferred. 3) Experience with the application of specimen data to conservation questions. 4) Experience with organization of scientific symposia and workshops. 5) Experience with international botanical research and conservation programs. 6) Proficient spoken skills with Spanish or Portuguese preferred. Position Application Number: SC-1619. For more information: See <[http://www.nybg.org/footer/employment\\_listings.php](http://www.nybg.org/footer/employment_listings.php)>. To apply: Send cover letter and résumé to: Human Resources, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458-5126. The New York Botanical Garden is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



## **FELLOWSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, POST-DOCS**

M.S. Student Position: Analysis of patterns of gene flow in Maryland populations of *Harperella* (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) Funding is available for a graduate teaching assistantship in the Department of Biological Sciences at Towson University. The successful candidate will assist in a research study regarding patterns of gene flow in Maryland populations of *Harperella* (*Ptilimnium nodosum*), a federally-endangered stream macrophyte. The study will focus on examining patterns and relationships between gene flow via seed and pollen using molecular markers. Understanding historical and contemporary patterns of gene flow and their effects on genetic diversity and genetic structure is necessary to manage and restore populations of *Harperella*. Identification of more genetically diverse plants may be key to restoring viable

populations as these carry more adaptive genetic variance. Additionally, if we understand historical patterns of gene flow we can formulate more educated hypotheses about the manner of restoration efforts, in particular, we can identify the most genetically diverse subpopulations for protection and use in restoration activities. Students would be expected to use data generated from their studies for a Master's thesis at Towson University. The stipend is currently \$12,000/year, plus a full tuition waiver and travel costs. The assistantship will begin in August 2009. Deadline for applications is 15 March 2009, but early applications are encouraged.

### **Postdoctoral Positions at The New York Botanical Garden**

Two Postdoctoral positions are available for 1 year with renewal possible for up to 3 years to work in plant anatomy/morphology and the phylogeny of vascular plants. These Postdoctoral positions involve working on a Monocot Tree of Life project and working on Plant Ontology across the vascular plants. Background experience and expertise in phylogenetic systematics is mandatory. The candidates should be familiar with molecular techniques and applications as well as generating data using anatomical and morphological techniques, (SEM, etc.). Submit CV and a list of references.

Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, reprints if available and the names and contact information for at least three references to: Dr. Dennis Wm. Stevenson, Vice President for Laboratory Science, Attn: Human Resources Department, The New York Botanical Garden, 200th Street and Kazimiroff Blvd., Bronx, New York 10458-5126, USA. Positions open until filled. Positions to begin September 1, 2008 (Monocots) and October 1, 2008 (Ontology). The New York Botanical Garden is an Equal Opportunity Employer. [Posted 23 September 2008]

### **Te Papa MSc Scholarship in Molecular Systematics at Victoria University**

Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand and Victoria University of Wellington are offering a Master of Science (MSc) scholarship in the field of molecular systematics at Victoria University. The purpose of the award is to promote research between Te Papa and Victoria University in the area of molecular systematics, ecology and evolution.

An MSc degree at Victoria University is undertaken over two years (Parts 1 and 2) and involves four courses worth equal marks, plus a research thesis worth 60% of the total. The Te Papa-VUW scholarship provides the successful applicant with a student stipend of \$4000 in part 1 (2009) and \$6000 in part 2 (2010). The project offered in 2009-2010 will be a molecular systematic investigation of the New Zealand species of *Pseudopanax* (Araliaceae) or *Gleichenia* (Gleicheniaceae), or another project to be determined. The thesis research will involve the DNA sequencing of chloroplast and nuclear genes, with complementary morphological analyses, and will address phylogenetic questions such as

the relationships between species and generic boundaries, as well as issues of biogeography and species-delimitation. The ideal applicant will have completed a BSc degree and have an interest in New Zealand plants and molecular phylogenetic techniques.

For more information about the thesis project or studying towards an MSc degree at Victoria University contact: Dr Leon Perrie (e-mail: [leonp@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:leonp@tepapa.govt.nz)), Dr Heidi Meudt (e-mail: [heidim@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:heidim@tepapa.govt.nz)), or Dr Peter Ritchie (e-mail: [Peter.Ritchie@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Peter.Ritchie@vuw.ac.nz)). For information about the School of Biological Sciences and a copy of the post-graduate prospectus visit <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/sbs>. Applications are lodged through the Scholarships Office, Victoria, University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand. E-mail: [Scholarships-Office@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Scholarships-Office@vuw.ac.nz). Tel +64-4-463 5113/5557. Visit the web site for an application form and instructions: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/scholarships>. Applications close on 1 November 2008. Selection will be based on academic merit and short listed applicants may be required to participate in a telephone interview. [Posted 3 September 2008]

### **Graduate Opportunities in Botany at The New York Botanical Garden and Fordham University**

The New York Botanical Garden and the Biology Department and Louis Calder Center of Fordham University are pleased to announce a new partnership to jointly train Ph.D. students in Biology. Students will have the opportunity to benefit from the strengths of both institutions and work on research projects that combine aspects of plant systematics, conservation biology, and ecology. Joint graduate students will have full access to the staff expertise and resources of both institutions, including NYBG's new Pfizer plant research laboratory, Steere Herbarium, and Mertz Library, and Fordham's Calder Center and the Biology Department's broad range of courses in biology. Preference will be given to students whose interests combine field- and laboratory-based research, and who will actively use the collections and facilities of both institutions. Students must apply to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) at Fordham and to NYBG's Graduate Studies Program. Funding packages and fellowships include tuition, health coverage, and an annual stipend. Applications to both institutions must be received by January 15, 2009.

Information on the graduate program at The New York Botanical Garden is available at <http://sciweb.nybg.org/science2/GraduateStudies.asp> or by contacting Lawrence M. Kelly ([Lkelly@nybg.org](mailto:Lkelly@nybg.org)). Information on Fordham University is available at <http://www.fordham.edu/biology/>, [http://www.fordham.edu/calder\\_center](http://www.fordham.edu/calder_center), or by contacting Amy Tuininga ([tuininga@fordham.edu](mailto:tuininga@fordham.edu)). Fordham applications may be downloaded from <http://www.fordham.edu/gsas>. [Posted 26 August 2008]

### Post-doctoral positions, monocot phylogenomics and evolution

Descriptions: Two post-doctoral positions in monocot molecular phylogenetics and comparative biology are now available in the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Annual salaries are \$36,000 based on 22-month terms. These positions provide exciting opportunities for research on broad-scale patterns of monocot phylogeny, biogeography, and ecology. The successful candidates will work closely with T. J. Givnish in Madison, as part of a \$2.9M project funded by NSF and involving six campuses in the United States and colleagues in Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia. Research will include (1) sequencing, annotating, and comparing whole chloroplast genomes, and (2) identifying and sequencing several nuclear genes for taxa representing all major groups of monocots. Both positions will involve extensive phylogenetic analyses, calibration of molecular trees against fossil dates, and overlays of morphological, ecological, and distributional data. Opportunities will be provided for close collaboration with other post-docs and PIs involved in the project, including studies of transcriptomes, whole-plastid genomes, a wide array of morphological and anatomical characters, and fossil monocots. Applicants should have extensive hands-on experience with DNA sequencing, informatics, and phylogenetic reconstruction, broad evolutionary interests, and excellent skills in written and oral expression. Madison is a vibrant community of 200,000 set amid four large lakes, with a rich mix of cultural offerings and outdoor activities, and an excellent quality of life. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is a world-class research center, with 42,000 students and 2000 faculty; federal research funding ranks third nationally among public institutions. Excellent sequencing facilities are available through the UW Biotechnology Center. The Department of Botany perennially ranks in the top five among its peers nationally, and includes six labs with a strong focus on plant evolution and systematics. Information on research in Professor Givnish's lab can be seen at <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/givnish>. Applications: Applicants should contact Professor Givnish at [givnish@wisc.edu](mailto:givnish@wisc.edu). Please provide a letter summarizing your research interests and experience, why this opportunity is exciting for you, and contact information for two professional references. Preferred starting dates are September 15, 2008 for the plastome position, and February 1, 2009 for the nuclear-gene position, but some flexibility is available to permit recruitment of the strongest possible candidates. Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants and nominees must be released upon request. Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. [Posted 25 August 2008]

### Ph.D. Position in Plant Hybridization

DESCRIPTION: A Ph.D. position is available to join an on-going study on hybridization between distylous spe-

cies of primroses (*Primula* L.). The study focuses on how the variation of floral traits typical of distyly affects the formation and establishment of hybrids. The funded position is available for a minimum of three years, extendable to a fourth year upon satisfactory performance. REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's or, preferably, Master's degree in biology. Experience in the use and development of molecular markers and/or pollination biology strongly preferred. Good quantitative skills necessary. LOCATION: The Ph.D. position is available at the Institute of Systematic Botany of the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Zurich is located on a lake within striking distance from the Alps, easily reachable by public transportation. DEADLINE: Applications will be reviewed until a suitable candidate is selected. Candidates are invited to send in their application as soon as possible. HOW TO APPLY: Send in the following documents: 1) a two-page letter explaining why you are interested in this position and why you are qualified for it; 2) your University transcripts; 3) your Curriculum Vitae; 4) the names and email addresses of three people who can comment on your qualifications for the position. If you apply by email, please (a) include the title "Ph.D. position Zurich 08" in the Subject line; (b) send in your application as a single pdf file. CONTACT: Prof. Elena Conti, University of Zuerich, Institute for Systematic Botany, Zollikerstrasse 107, 8008 Zuerich, SWITZERLAND. Ph: 0041 44 634 8424; Fax: 0041 44 634 84 03. email: [ContiElena@access.unizh.ch](mailto:ContiElena@access.unizh.ch). [Posted 25 August 2008]



## NEWS FROM HERBARIA AND COLLECTIONS

### Donation of the Graham Palynological Collection to the Smithsonian Institution - Carlos Jaramillo, [jaramilloc@si.edu](mailto:jaramilloc@si.edu)

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama is proud to announce that it has received the donation of the best collection of neotropical pollen in the world, the Graham Palynological Collection, thanks to the generosity of Alan Graham, Professor Emeritus at the Kent State University and current curator at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. This collection began as part of an early palynology laboratory set up in the herbarium of the University of Texas in 1954, and expanded with original preparations, and also with exchanges with numerous laboratories throughout the world. It comprises over 25,000 pollen slides of modern taxa, mostly from the neotropics, thousands of pollen slides from Dr. Graham's work on the geological history of the forests of Central America, as well as pollen residues and an impressive collection of literature (over 16,000 reprints related primarily

to the biology and geology of the New World with emphasis on Latin America). The modern reference component has the added virtue that all the original preparations can be referenced to a specific herbarium collection, allowing scientists to verify the identification of fossil material and specimens used in taxonomic studies.

At STRI, we are grateful and honored to be hosting this collection, which is an invaluable resource for our scientists. Soon, we hope to have all components in digital format, to share it on the web with everyone who might be interested, worldwide. See the pdf flyer. [Posted 28 August 2008]



## FUNDING AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

### Request for Proposals - The John W. Marr and Myrna P. Steinkamp Funds

The Colorado Native Plant Society supports research projects in plant biology from the John W. Marr and Myrna P. Steinkamp funds. These separate funds honor the late Dr. John Marr, Professor at the University of Colorado and the first President of the CONPS, and Dr. Myrna Steinkamp, a founding member of CONPS who worked on behalf of the Society for many years in a variety of capacities. Both funds were established to support research on the biology and natural history of Colorado native plants by means of small grants. The Steinkamp Fund targets rare species and those of conservation concern. Both field and laboratory studies are eligible for funding. Thanks to the generous contributions of many members and supporters, a total of nearly \$3,000 is available. Individual awards are not likely to exceed \$1,000. Recipients of the awards must agree to summarize their studies for publication in *Aquilegia* and the Society web site. They are highly encouraged to present the results of their research in poster or presentation format at the CoNPS annual meeting and/or a chapter meeting.

CoNPS grants have funded a variety of research projects dealing with Colorado native plants. One of the projects resulted in an article on pollinator shifts and length of nectar spurs in columbine flowers, which was published in the journal, *Nature* (June 2007) and another in articles on *Physaria bellii* published in *Biological Conservation* (2007) and *Conservation Genetics* (2007).

The Board of Directors is now soliciting proposals for a February 15, 2009 deadline. Information on guidelines and requirements for proposals may be obtained by contacting Board member Jan Loechell Turner at [jltturner@regis.edu](mailto:jltturner@regis.edu) or (303) 458-4262. Alternately, you may visit our web site at [http://www.conps.org/research\\_grants.html](http://www.conps.org/research_grants.html). [Posted 21 October 2008]

### Lawrence Memorial Award – 2009 Nominations

The Award Committee of the Lawrence Memorial Fund invites nominations for the 2009 Lawrence Memorial Award. Honoring the memory of Dr. George H. M. Lawrence, founding Director of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, the annual Award of (\$2,000) is given to support travel for doctoral dissertation research in systematic botany or horticulture, or the history of the plant sciences, including literature and exploration.

Major professors are urged to nominate outstanding doctoral students who have achieved official candidacy for their degrees and will be conducting pertinent dissertation research that would benefit significantly from travel enabled by the Award. The Committee will not entertain direct applications. A student who wishes to be considered should arrange for nomination by his/her major professor; this may take the form of a letter which covers supporting materials prepared by the nominee.

Supporting materials should describe briefly but clearly the candidate's program of research and how it would be significantly enhanced by travel that the Award would support. Letters of nomination and supporting materials, including seconding letters, should be received by the Committee no later than 1 May 2009 and should be directed to: Dr. R. W. Kiger, Hunt Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890 USA. Tel. (412) 268-2434 [Posted 22 September 2008]



## SYMPOSIA AND MEETINGS

### 2009

#### Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society, 8 – 12 January 2009, Mérida, México

Invited symposia will feature talks on the biogeography of disease, patterns and processes in biotic transition zones, disjunct distributions in Asia and America, and the biogeography of species extinction. Attendees are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. The conference will also include workshops, field excursions, and social events. Registration, contact, and additional information may be found at <http://www.biogeography.org>. [Posted 28 April 2008]

#### California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference, 17 – 19 January 2009, Sacramento, CA

The CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions aims to bring together over 1,000 scientists, conservationists, university students, public policy makers, local and regional planners, and land managers from all regions of the state and beyond to share and learn about the latest developments in conservation science and public policy. We seek solutions-based papers and posters on the

following topics: climate change and California's flora; rare plant conservation and restoration; mitigation and monitoring of impacts to plants and communities; invasive species; vegetation classification and mapping to promote native plant conservation; conservation genetics; achieving equal protection for plants; regional planning tools; land management; and basic conservation-related plant science. We also seek papers on plant conservation from regional and ecosystem-level perspectives, including Baja California. The conference will take place at the Sacramento Convention Center and Sheraton Grand Hotel. For more information, see our web site <<http://www.cnps.org>>. [Posted 3 January 2008]



## SPECIAL COURSES

### **Course Title: Plant Resources, People and Religion in China Summer Study Abroad**

Through lectures and field trips to famous sacred mountains in eastern China (Huang Shan, Qiyun Shan, Tianmu Shan and adjacent areas), students will gain skills in field botany and knowledge of plant biodiversity and its uses in China. The course enhances cross-cultural exchange during this 3 week program by having students from Zhejiang University joining the class and visits to famous Chinese & botanical gardens, markets, and museums in Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Suzhou cities, as well as visits to villages and the Buddhist and Taoist temples on the mountains.

DATES: May 19-June 8, 2009

COURSES: PB 495R/595R: Plant Resources, People, Culture, and Religion in China.

Taught in English

by Dr. Jenny Xiang &

Dr. David Boufford (Harvard University Herbaria)

CONTACT: Faculty Director

Dr. (Jenny) Qiuyun Xiang

Department of Plant Biology

[Jenny\\_Xiang@ncsu.edu](mailto:Jenny_Xiang@ncsu.edu)

(919) 515-2728

Course details: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~qxyxiang/>

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/%7Eqxyxiang/other/China%20Plant%20Biology08%282%29.pdf>

Plant%20Biology08%282%29.pdf

COST: Estimated at \$1800 and includes:

- . Tuition for 3 credits
- . Housing: double occupancy dorm with private bath and air conditioning
- . All meals
- . All local transportation, guided visits, and entry fees
- . Botanical field trips to: Tianmu Shan, Jiuhua Shan Huang Shan and Qiyun Shan
- . Cultural activities: Day trip to Shanghai, visits to Putuo

Shan, Suzhou, West Lake and ancient residence and street in Anhui

. Health insurance, \$200 application fee

Note: International Airfare, visa costs and personal expenses not included

APPLY: Apply online at <http://studyabroad.ncsu.edu> by February 8, 2009 Scholarship information also available online. [Posted 7 November 2008]

### **Workshop at the University of Michigan, Jan 10-11, 2009: Estimating Species Trees: a Phylogenetic Paradigm for the 21st Century**

Recent computational and modeling advances have produced methods for estimating species trees directly. Accurate estimates of phylogenetic relationships can be extracted from genetic data with these new approaches, sometimes with less data, by directly modeling the causes of discordance in topology and branch lengths among gene trees. Such inferences are commonly impossible under the traditional phylogenetic paradigm because of the potential for the idiosyncrasies of gene trees to obscure the actual history of species divergence.

We are offering this workshop to not only increase the visibility and use of these methods, but also address a number of significant challenges to estimating species trees, to assure that the advantages these methods offer reach a broad community of users. The goals of the workshop are to: (i) provide an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of current methodology, (ii) present empirical examples demonstrating the utility of current methodology as well as its limitations, and (iii) offer instruction on the technical aspects involved in using current software. This will be accomplished through the combination of a series of lectures (day one) and hands-on computer training (day two). Participation in the workshop requires registration (go to <http://www.ummsz.lsa.umich.edu/sptree.html>) and is free for those attending the lectures (on Jan 10) and is \$25 for those attending the computer training (on Jan 11; see website for programs that will be covered). To facilitate broad and diverse participation in this important workshop, funding is available to offset transportation and lodging costs (i.e., \$500 for those from the US and \$1000 for international participants - see website for details on how to apply).

Co-organizers: L. Lacey Knowles, University of Michigan, and Laura S. Kubatko, Ohio State University

Location of the workshop: University of Michigan, January 10-11, 2009.

Invited speakers for workshop:

Liang Liu, Harvard University

Laura Kubatko, Ohio State University

Dennis Pearl, Ohio State University

Cecile Ane, University of Wisconsin

James Degnan, University of Canterbury

L. Lacey Knowles, University of Michigan

Luay Nakhleh, Rice University

Karen Cranston, University of Arizona

Bret Larget, University of Wisconsin

Robb Brumfield, Louisiana State Univ.

Lisle Gibbs, Ohio State University  
 Scott Edwards, Harvard University  
 Catherine Linnen, Harvard University  
 Natalia Belfiore, University of California, Berkeley

For more information please contact: Dr. L. Lacey Knowles, knowlesl@umich.edu

This workshop has been made possible by funds generously provided by the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. [Posted 16 October 2008]

**Tropical Dendrology in Costa Rica, two-week classes in 2009: April 20—May 2 (in Spanish), and June 27—July 4 (in English)**

These classes offer intensive study of tropical trees while traveling through 4 life zones (dry, moist, wet, and cloud forests) in Costa Rica. A highly efficient teaching method is used, and students are able to identify about 80% of the important families and genera of Central America and Northern South America. Details and testimonials are available at [www.hjimenez.org](http://www.hjimenez.org). Costs: US\$ 1600.00 which covers food and lodging (airfare not included). A Tropical Birding class is also scheduled for August, 2009. Contact: Dr. Humberto Jiménez Saa. Apdo. 86-1200/ San José, Costa Rica. FAX: (506) 22534963. Phones: (506) 2291-0862; 2231-1236 [hjimenez@racsa.co.cr](mailto:hjimenez@racsa.co.cr). [Posted 19 September 2008]

**Tropical Botany, Florida**

The University of Florida, Department of Botany and the National Tropical Botanical Garden-Kampong, in collaboration with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, will offer an intensive, in-residence course/workshop on the systematics of tropical plants, in Miami, Florida, from 30 June – 21 July 2008. Instructor: Dr. Walter S. Judd (Course Director, Department of Botany, 214 Bartram Hall, PO Box 118526, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-8526; e-mail <[wjudd@botany.ufl.edu](mailto:wjudd@botany.ufl.edu)>; phone: 352-273-1983; fax: 352-392-3993). Dr. Scott A. Zona, Research Scientists at F.T.G., will lecture on the systematics of Palmae. The Course: Tropical Botany is an intensive course of study in the biology and systematics of tropical plants. Subject matter will be largely based on the extensive holdings of tropical vascular plants at Fairchild Tropical Garden, National Tropical Botanical Garden-Kampong, and the Montgomery Botanical Institute. These gardens have the largest living collections of tropical plants in the United States. Additionally, field trips will be made to the Florida Everglades, the Florida Keys, and adjacent natural areas. The natural vegetation of South Florida, which includes littoral and dry land habitats, mixed tropical hardwood hammocks, pinelands, and mangrove communities, will introduce students to the diversity of tropical vegetation. The object of the course is to provide advanced students and/or professionals with a detailed coverage of the systematics, phylogeny, diversity of structure, and economic botany of tropical vascular plants. Questions concerning the course should be addressed to Dr. Judd. Credit-hours: Tropical Botany is taught as a workshop sponsored by the

National Tropical Botanical Garden-Kampong, with the collaboration of Fairchild Tropical Garden. If academic credit is desired students may enroll in either BOT 6935 (graduate), BOT 4935 (advanced undergraduates) and receive 2 semester credit-hours, or BOT 5685 (Botany students, with permission) and receive 5 semester credit-hours. These courses are offered by the Department of Botany, University of Florida, and they can be taken by non-U.F. as well as by U.F. students. Students may also arrange for academic credit from their home institutions. Enrollment: Limited to 12 participants, with preference given to upper-level students or professional biologists/teachers. Application: Individuals should apply by 16 April 2008 (to Dr. Judd, see address above). Applications should include the following: a letter stating reasons for taking the course, a curriculum vita, and a letter of recommendation (sent separately). Applicants will be notified of acceptance by 5 May 2008. Accommodation: Students will be housed at the Kampong (superintendent's cottage/dormitory), but, if desired, housing is also available at a hotel near Fairchild Tropical Garden; cost of room is \$25 per day. Fees/tuition: A course fee of \$1300 is required to cover garden and course/workshop costs. In addition, if U.F. academic credit is desired, tuition costs are \$311.60/ credit (in-state, graduate), \$108.55/ credit (in state, undergraduate), \$941.79/ credit (out-of-state, graduate), or \$594.70 /credit (out-of-state, undergraduate). Three scholarships (covering a portion of the course fee) will be available. [Posted 14 December 2007]



**WEB SITES**

The ASPT web site has an extensive list of web links arranged under various headings – from morphological character and DNA databases to nomenclature and floristic-oriented sites. This list is only as up-to-date as the membership makes it. Please send any updates and new sites that might be of interest to the ASPT membership to [eric\\_roalson@wsu.edu](mailto:eric_roalson@wsu.edu). Your contributions are appreciated!

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS

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