RETURN OF THE BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

After a 17-month hiatus, the Biological Conservation Newsletter makes a welcome return with a brand new look. For the past two decades, former editor Jane Villa-Lobos had done an amazing job with the newsletter bringing insight and information to the conservation community at large. After publishing 180 issues of the newsletter, Jane Villa-Lobos retired last year from the Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. We send her tremendous thanks for an amazing performance and wish her the best. Now in its 19th year, the Biological Conservation Newsletter has a new editor, Gary Krupnick. Coming from the Pennsylvania State University where he was a post-doctoral associate in plant ecology, Dr. Krupnick now heads the Plant Conservation Unit within the Smithsonian Institution’s Department of Botany. Any comments or suggestions about the return of the newsletter are welcome.

BCN ON THE WEB

Along with a new editor comes a new look for the Biological Conservation Newsletter. A web site for the newsletter is now up and running, with recent and archived issues available for browsing. In addition, links to other newsletters and journals in the fields of biodiversity and conservation biology are available. At this web site you can get information about subscribing to the newsletter and signing up for the BCN listserv which sends monthly notices to subscribers when new issues are posted to the web. Moreover, readers can search through the extensive bibliography, which includes over 8000 references to literature on conservation biology. These references have been obtained from a weekly review of the new journals and books received by the Smithsonian Institution’s Botany and Natural History libraries and from suggestions submitted by subscribers to the newsletter. Point your web browser to http://www.mnh.si.edu/botany/bcn.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Postdocs in applied conservation and conservation planning are available through The Nature Conservancy. The deadline for proposals this year is February 15, 2000. The focus areas for the Smith Postdoctoral Fellows for the Year 2000 are conservation of freshwater biodiversity, biological invasions, and conservation planning. For more information about the Smith Fellows Program, as well as a copy of the proposal guidelines, see the Conservancy internet site, http://consci.tnc.org/. You can also receive a copy of the guidelines by sending an e-mail to postdoc@tnc.org or writing to the Smith Conservation Fellows Program, Conservation Science Division, The Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203-1606. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Seaton at kseaton@tnc.org, or by phone at 919-967-5493 ext. 125.

FUTURE MEETINGS

THE RATTANS OF AFRICA: An International Meeting on the Conservation & Development of the Rattans of Africa will be held at the Limbe Botanic Garden in Cameroon on February 1-3, 2000. Rattans are climbing palms found in the lowland tropical forests of the Old World. Rattans have recently been identified by many government and bilateral development agencies as a high priority resource with the potential to contribute to the conservation of forests of West and Central Africa through sustainable development. This proposed development has been thwarted...
by the lack of even basic knowledge of the taxonomy, ecology and utilization of these species. This seminar will bring together the current experts concerned with rattan research and development in Africa. For further information, please contact: Terry Sunderland, African Rattan Research Programme, Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, UK. Fax: +44 (0)181 332 5278; E-mail: afrirattan@aol.com.

**IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS:** The International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO), a renowned international body in forestry research, has entrusted Malaysia to host the prestigious XXI IUFRO World Congress to be held on August 7-12, 2000, at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. This Congress will see the convergence of 3,000 foreign and local participants, making it the largest scientific congress on forestry to be held in Malaysia, the first developing country ever to host the Congress in the 100 years history of IUFRO. The theme of the Congress, “Forests and Society: The Role of Research” was chosen to reflect the increasing importance of research and development in sustainable forest management. A committee headed by Forest Research Institute Malaysia will organize the congress.

The Congress will cover pertinent issues such as Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Forest and Society Needs, Changes in Environment and Society, Cultural Diversity in Forest Management and the Global Vision of Forest and Society. A one-day In-Congress tour within Klang Valley, related to forestry activities to highlight Malaysia’s commitment towards achieving Sustainable Forest Management, will be conducted. For further information, please contact the Congress Secretariat at Tel: 03-6372135 / 630 2153; E-mail: iufroxxi@frim.gov.my; Web: http://frim.gov.my/iufro.html.

**Call for Articles and Announcements**

The editor encourages the submission of new articles related to conservation biology to be published in the Biological Conservation Newsletter. Announcements of job openings, future meetings, courses, new publications, and new web sites are also desired. News items and announcements should be submitted by the middle of the month by sending e-mail to krupnick.gary@nmnh.si.edu, or by writing to the editor at: Gary Krupnick, Editor, Department of Botany, MRC-166, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0166; (Tel: (202) 357-2027; Fax: (202) 786-2563). Each author should provide name, affiliation, postal address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

**Current Literature**


**New Publications**

UMDAUS Press announces a new book: Centres of Plant Endemism in Southern Africa: A Review with Emphasis on Succulents, by Abraham E. van Wyk and Gideon F. Smith. The extraordinary floristic diversity in southern Africa is not only one of the region’s greatest natural assets, but also one of the botanical wonders of the world. Here, south of the Cunene-Zambezi Rivers, more than 10% of all vascular plants (over 30000 species), including more than 46% of all succulents, are found on about 2.5% of the world’s land surface area. Moreover, at least 60% of these species are strictly confined (endemic) to the region. Contents include a comprehensive overview of each Centre of Endemism, detailed color maps of all Centres, up-to-date lists and numerous examples of succulents and non-succulent species endemic to these Centres, discussion of the richness of the endemic flora, and a complete taxonomic index to all scientific plant names mentioned in the text. The book is available for $50 (plus $15 for shipping) from UMDAUS Press (PTY) Ltd., P.O. Box 11059, 0028 Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa; Tel: ++27-11 884-5588; Fax: ++ 27-11 884-5685; E-mail: afick@iafrica.com.


James, F.C. 1999. Lessons learned from a study of habitat con-


Willis, J.H. 1999. The contribution of male-sterility mutations
to inbreeding depression in *Mimulus guttatus*. *Heredity* 83:337-346.


NEXT ISSUE: If you would like to contribute an article or provide an announcement, please send your submission by the middle of the month addressed to: Gary Krupnick, Biological Conservation Newsletter, Department of Botany MRC-166, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0166. Tel.: (202) 357-2027; Fax: (202) 786-2563; E-mail: krupnick.gary@nmnh.si.edu.