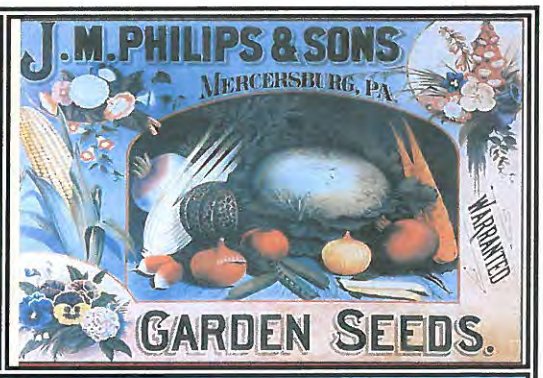
Plant Science Says



May, 2004

Adventures in the Amazon
By Gary Strobel

Another adventure! This time it was literally a breath-taking one. As we landed at the airport in la Paz, Bolivia, (elevation 13,500 feet), there was limited air and everyone in the group began to pant and immediately get headaches. This town is the highest national capitol in the world and serves as the jumping off point to the Bolivian Amazon. Suzan and I were accompanied by Ben Strobel (Scott's son) and three film students from the MSU program on Film making in Science. NSF had funded the project to make a documentary on endophytes in rainforests and their natural products (Jewels of the Jungle). The film's producer is John Shier and his wife, Sara, is the editor. Laura Boyd is a co-director producer. John shot film as we slogged thru [illegible]ching rain storms, muddy paths and no paths while encountering poisonous snakes, trantulas, and lots of interesting birds and plant life.

Lake Titicaca and a local lady who knows plant medicine.

After spending a day on Lake Titicaca and visiting with local folks about traditional medicine, we flew over the Andes in a very small plane to the jungle town of Rurrenabache on the Beni River. A motorized canoe took us up river to the Chalalan lodge located in the Madidi National Park. This place is a natural wonder filled with untouched rainforests, native Indian tribes [illegible] wildlife that is still waiting to be described, not too [illegible]ntion the fact the higher plants that occupy up to 200 different species per hectare. It is estimated that there is probably 30,000 to 40,000 different higher plant species here representing the greatest biodiversity on earth. Usually such plant diversity is paralleled by microbial diversity and this is of greatest interest to us. A nice collection was made and is now being processed.

The Kissing Flower

Dead man's finger- a Xylaria sp. growing on a downed and dead tree

We visited the jungle village of San Jose Uchupiamomas, another's day journey by canoe up river from the lodge. It has been there for over 300 years and its occupants have a very impressive good nature and are very kind to North American visitors. They showed us their plants that are used to treat everything from wounds to sores and headaches. We were all impressed, especially in that it takes one of their long boat rafts 9

days journey to go up river to the nearest jungle town from their village by strenuous polling of the craft. They survive there by living off the land just as one can imagine that such people may do.

John Shier had lots to film and record including the packs of red howler monkeys that made loud and strange sounds at sunrise and sunset. This happened as the caimans cruised the lake while long nosed bats did what they could to reduce the insect population.

Mr. Pablo Meyer also accompanied us on the first part of the trip. He is a grad student from the Rockefeller University in N.Y. I met him last year when I lectured there and now he is keen on studying endophytes after finishing his grad work.

Finally, we went on to the Peruvian Amazon and collected another set of plants from the Heath River area (Border of Bolivia and Peru). One of the most impressive trees in this area is the capriones (grease tree), a rubiaceous plant that loses its bark every few months which prevents any epiphyte from growing on it.

I learned that making a film is not an easy task - "Wait Gary, that was good but the sound was off", "Oops, lets try that again with a different lens", "Can't you say that in fewer words?" Take 67!!! Maybe we got it right. I have a new found respect for those who make films.

We finished the trip in Machu Pichu, Peru. During the second half of the trip in Peru, the Phillips brothers (of Phillips Environmental Products in Belgrade, Mt), Denise Manker and a colleague joined us from Agraquest in Davis, California. Hopefully, the trip was successful as John bagged nearly 30 rolls of film, I got samples, and everyone returned safely and well.

Strobel receives The Meritorious Technology/Science Award

Gary Strobel has received the first Meritorious Technology/Science Award given at MSU, which carries a $2,500 honorarium. The award is designed to honor MSU faculty members who have made one or more significant technological/scientific contributions. Their discoveries will likely be transferred to the private sector or have already been transferred. The discoveries have the potential to be useful or are already useful products or processes.

Strobel has studied the relationship between plants and their microorganisms for 45 years. His discoveries have impacted a number of areas including agriculture, health and the environment. He has published more than 300 scientific papers and lectured to audiences on all continents except Antarctica. He has 29 current patents or patent applications. He has trained more than 100 foreign students, postdoctoral graduates and technical experts in the last 40 years.

Gough receives The MSU Excellence in Outreach Award

Bob Gough, MSU Extension Service horticulturist, has been selected as one of the two inaugural recipients of the MSU Excellence in Outreach Award. He will receive a $2,000 honorarium.

In addition to research and teaching, Gough is known throughout Montana as "Dr. Bob" in his regular radio program and newspaper column, as well as through television programs, Internet resources and hundreds of Extension publications. The cultivator of a thriving Montana Master Gardener Program, he travels thousands of miles each year, teaching Montanans in many growing zones how to be better gardeners with expert, no-nonsense advice.

Graduate and Undergraduate Awards

Eva Grimme has received the APS Student Travel Award of $400. She will use the award to travel to the annual APS meeting in Annaheim, California at the end of July. Seventy-one applied and 17 were chosen.

Kristi DeVries has been selected to receive The Outstanding Senior Award. She received her degree in Horticulture Science in December and is currently working at the Chicago Botannical Gardens. Also, Andy Hogg and Yusuke Odake each received their Masters of Science degree in Plant Sciences. Andy is now working in Dr. Alan Dyer's lab and Yusuke is still looking into different options. A reception for all of our graduating students (undergraduate and graduate) will be from 4-6 on Friday, May 7 in 108 ABS. ***Please consider this an invitation to attend and celebrate this milestone in their lives.***

New Employees

Accountant – Barbara (Bobby) Bear - 119 ABS

I moved to Montana from Philadelphia 20 years ago to fly fish in the West. I have since taken up skiing and golf as well! My career has been pretty well divided between commercial banking and controller for a local travel consulting company. I have two children in college - Kaitlin (21) will be a senior at Hamilton College in

Clinton, NY and Alec (19) is a freshman at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO.

I spend my spare time doing the aforementioned sports and cooking. My friends and I cook Thai, Vietnamese or Japanese dishes most every weekend. I specialize in Japanese, having made sushi for over 30 years! We have one friend who just cooks BEEF – great roasts!

Accountant – Angelia Suffridge – Seed Lab

Hi, my name is Angelia Suffridge and I am the new Accounting Associate for the Montana State Seed Laboratory. I have junior standing in the pursuit of my bachelor's degree in horticulture. I started working on my bachelor's degree at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN. and then transferred to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Now, four children and a few years later, I plan to finish my degree here at Montana State University beginning this fall.

I am from a small town near Knoxville, Tennessee where I lived most of my life. Last summer my husband had the opportunity to advance within his agency, (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and we jumped at the chance to explore the western United States. In September, after the movers drove away, (and my oldest daughter pointed out the fact that we were officially homeless) we were ready. We loaded up the black cat, the dog, the two guinea pigs, and the fish (may he rest in peace), and headed west. Two thousand miles, six hotels, one Mount Rushmore, and several hours of children-produced home video footage to send to the grandparents, and we were here. Finally!!

In my leisure time I enjoy working on my pottery wheel, gardening and tending to my house plants. Our family activities include hiking, continuing our exploration of Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, and observing the many different kinds of native wildlife in this region. I am very excited to be working in this department and learning more about the seed lab.

Secretary – Sheryll Quigley – Potato Lab

My name is Sheryll Quigley. I was born and raised in Minnesota. After spending 10 years in the Chicago area, I moved to Livingston and have been there for 7 years. My husband is a teacher in the Livingston school district and I have 3 grown children and two grandchildren. They all reside in Livingston so I spend my spare time with them. I love to garden, hike and camp and I have learned to fly fish since moving here (with the help of my husband). I really enjoy my job at the MSU Potato Lab very much. The work is fun and the people are great!

Bob's Byte by Bob Johnston
Word hints

You can create an icon on your desktop that will launch Word and automatically open the document you last opened. Either locate the file Winword .exe in Windows Explorer (for Office 2003, this is typically in C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\OFFICE11) or find it with the Search item on the Start menu (in the Search tool, you'll probably need to turn on More advanced options, then add checkmarks next to Search system folders and Search subfolders).

Once you find Winword .exe, right-click on the file icon and drag it to your desktop, and then select Create Shortcuts Here. Right-click on the new shortcut icon, choose Properties, and go to the Shortcut tab. In the Target field, after the existing file path, add a space and then /mFile1. You can also assign a shortcut key if you want to launch the file with a keystroke combination. When you're done, click on Apply. In the General tab, give the shortcut a descriptive name and click on OK.

When you copy text from the Web or another document into a Word file, Word will reproduce the typeface, color, and font size displayed in the original page. If you want the pasted text to match the formatting in the

destination document, use Edit | Paste Special, and choose Unformatted Text.

Do you need to swap the second and third paragraphs in the document you're working on? Don't waste time dragging text around within your document using the mouse. Just click on the paragraph you'd like to move, hold down Shift-Alt, and move the paragraph up or down using the arrow keys. Each press of the arrow key causes the selected paragraph to jump over one adjacent paragraph.

PowerPoint hints

For a quick preview of a slide show while you're editing a presentation, hold down the Ctrl key while clicking on View Show in the Slide Show menu. Instead of launching in full-screen mode, the presentation, starting with the current slide, will appear in a small window atop the slide being edited. To edit the slide and see your changes in real time, resize the PowerPoint window so the preview slide is in view. Any modifications you make will instantly appear in the preview window.

Using the mouse to move an object a minuscule distance can be very frustrating. Forget the mouse and use the keyboard instead. Just select the object you want to nudge and use the arrow keys to move it in the direction you want. Each press of the key will move the object [illegible] of an inch

Hints are courtesy of PC Magazine.

Moore Receives 3rd Degree Black Belt

Cheryl Moore was examined for her 3rd degree black belt ("Sandan") in Aikido Saturday, April 3, at a northwest United States regional seminar hosted by the Martial Arts Center here in Bozeman. She passed her examination and was awarded the honor by Hiroshi Ikeda Shihan, International Aikido [illegible]ster and head of the Boulder, Colorado western headquarters of the American Schools of Ueshiba, affiliated with Hombu Dojo in Japan. Through this connection with Aikido's headquarters dojo, Cheryl's rank is recognized internationally. Cheryl is one of 5 instructors at the Martial Arts Center and is head of instruction. She teaches classes for beginners as well as the weekly weapons class.

May Birthdays

Matthew Moffet	14
Robyn Klein	15
Mareike Johnston	22
Aravind Jukanti	23
Tom Blake	24
Gene Ford	29
Bob Johnston	29
Deanna Nash	31

Recipe of the Month

Lettuce Strawberry Salad

1 head romaine lettuce - rinsed, dried, and chopped
2 bunches fresh spinach - chopped, washed and dried
1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced
1 Bermuda onion, sliced
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
1/3 cup white sugar
1/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons poppy seeds

In a large salad bowl, combine the romaine, spinach, strawberries and sliced onion.

In a jar with a tight fitting lid, combine the mayonnaise, vinegar, sugar, milk and poppy seeds. Shake well and pour the dressing over salad. Toss until evenly coated.