

Meet a New ASP Member

by Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

ASP welcomes many new members to the Society this year. We are pleased to feature our new member, Dr. Tim Motley. He is Associate Professor and Stiffler Chair of Botany in the Department of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Motley is also Director of Science at Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, Virginia. We are grateful to Dr. Motley for taking time from his busy schedule to give us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him.

How did you hear about the ASP?

I first heard about the society through my collaborator and friend Dr. Edward Kennelly. We have been working on projects together, such as black cohosh and Chinese traditional herbal medicines, for several years.

Why did you join the ASP?

I was interested in keeping more in touch with the field of natural products and building collaborations.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

Yes, I am a member of the Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Taxonomy, Pacific Science, Hawaiian Botanical Society, Society of Economic Botany, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I am an ethnobotanist and plant systematist, so I approach natural products research from the plant side by using molecular techniques for assessing product identity, genetic variability, and historical use of plants. I am especially interested in the systematics of the coffee and strychnine families, biogeography of the Pacific floras, and crop plant origins and evolution.

Can you describe what you do in your current position?

Since 2006, I have held an endowed professorship at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia. I am building an active botanical sciences program at ODU, and we have recently completed a research greenhouse and orchid conservatory on campus. We also have an active collaboration with the 150-acre Norfolk Botanical Garden where I serve as Director of Science.

What is your scientific background?

I obtained Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Botany at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. While researching sweet flag, *Acorus calamus*, I developed an interest in tropical ethnobotany. I completed my Ph.D. at the University of Hawai'i in molecular systematics of an endemic member of the strychnine family. I then spent a short period working for the Center for Plant Conservation in Hawai'i setting up a "Genetic Safety Net" program that was designed to preserve the rare plant species of Hawai'i. I later took a postdoctoral position at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in their new molecular systematic program and less than a year later was promoted into a permanent position as an assistant curator (research scientist). At that time I was one of the only researchers at NYBG studying plants of the Pacific basin and served as Acting Chair of the Molecular Program for three of my seven years there.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would hope to broaden my botanical perspectives and meet scientists with similar or parallel interests in plant science.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I enjoy movies, hiking, photography, fantasy football, good food, time with friends and family, and wine.

What are you currently reading?

This summer I read "Getting Stoned with Savages" (about kava, Fiji, and Vanuatu) and "Lost on Planet China" both by J. Maarten Troost. I am also reading Charles Darwin's "Voyage of the Beagle" and "Wicked Plants: the Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother and other Botanical Atrocities".



DR. TATYANA LOBOVA

Dr. Tim Motley enjoying the new orchid conservatory at Old Dominion University.