

INTRODUCING A NEW EDITOR

With this issue, *Selbyana* has a new editor, Wesley E. Higgins, Director of Systematics and Jessie B. Cox Chair in Tropical Botany at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. In 1994, during graduate school at the University of Florida, he served an internship at Selby Gardens and then returned in 2000 to join the staff of the Research and Conservation Department. Dr. Higgins previously served on the *Selbyana* Editorial Board and contributes orchid articles to the journal.

Bruce K. Holst, editor of *Selbyana* 1999–2003, is Director of Plant Collections and Scientific Publications in the R&C Department at Selby Gardens. He contributes articles on trop-

ical plants to the journal and will serve on the Editorial Board along with past *Selbyana* editors Margaret D. Lowman (1992–1999) and Nalini Nadkarni (1989–1992), both of whom are *Selbyana* authors. The founding editor, Carlyle A. Luer, M.D. (1975–1982), currently serves on the Selby Gardens Board of Trustees and contributes orchid articles to the journal.

Wesley Higgins joins a succession of *Selbyana* editors committed to publishing research on tropical plants with emphasis on epiphytes and their forest canopy habitat.

—Barry W. Walsh, *Managing Editor*



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In beginning my tenure as editor of *Selbyana*, I wish to thank the outgoing editor Bruce Holst for his five years of dedicated work. His efforts have set a high standard of scientific journalism, and I aim to follow that example. My goal is to continue to present a variety of original research articles on tropical plants with the emphasis on epiphytes and their forest canopy habitat. This emphasis coincides with the research and conservation centers in operation at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, which feature orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads, and canopy ecology.

This issue introduces a new Book Review column that will critique books on botanical and ecological topics likely to be of interest to *Selbyana* readers. Future issues will introduce columns on current research and conservation work conducted by the Orchid Identification Center (OIC), established at Selby Gardens in 1975, and the Mulford B. Foster Bromeliad Identification Center (BIC), established at Selby Gardens in 1979.

The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is a private nonprofit research institution. As such, our mission is to conduct botanical and ecological investigations and to communicate findings to the public through publications, lecture series,

and educational programs such as internships. Emphasis is placed on the training of interns from the tropics, and many Selby Gardens interns have gone on to become leaders in their home countries. *Selbyana* advances the Selby Gardens mission by publishing scientific articles based on fieldwork and research, especially on epiphytic plants.

The editorial staff of *Selbyana* works with authors to strengthen their manuscripts by means of a peer-review process (see Editorial) and by assistance in complying with the journal's style. *Selbyana* thus provides an invaluable service to scientists around the world and especially to those in the tropics. The value of maintaining a scientific journal cannot be overstated in this time of increases in printing costs and reductions in the number of botanical journals. My objective, as editor, is to reach out to fill the void caused by the loss of journals such as *Lindleyana* and to maintain the reputation of Selby Gardens as a specialist in the research and conservation of tropical epiphytic plants and their forest ecosystems. Authors from around the world are invited to submit manuscripts on appropriate topics.

—W.E. Higgins