

Thursday Lecture Series at Eagle Hill

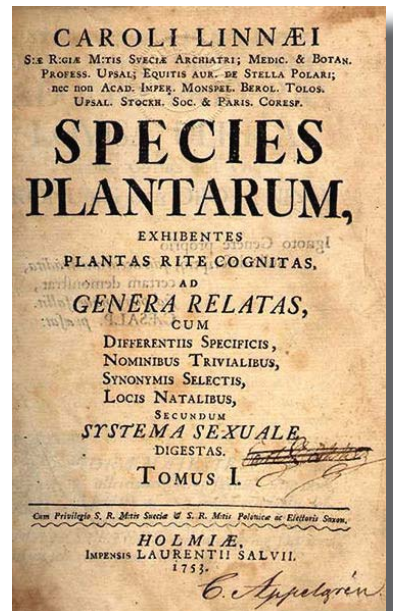
Linnaeus, the Second Adam with Robbin Moran

Thursday, August 25, 7:30pm

Linnaeus is one of the most fascinating figures in the history of biology. In his day (mid 1700s) he was famous for his sexual system of plant classification. Some of his colleagues thought his classification was lewd and licentious and had his books banned in certain European countries. He took revenge on his critics by naming ugly, smelly plants or animals after them. Linnaeus trained students, many of who lost their lives while on plant-collecting expeditions. One of his students, Peter Kalm, was the first trained botanist in North America. Nowadays Linnaeus is most remembered for the introduction of binomial nomenclature, which is still used for naming living things. Ironically, Linnaeus never meant for binomial nomenclature to replace the previous system of naming. His big ego and wide interests make for many entertaining stories about him—stories that shed light about science and scientists in the 1700s.



Dr. Robbin Moran is Curator of Ferns and Lycophytes at The New York Botanical Garden. He has published over 100 scientific papers and four books on ferns, including the fern volume of *Flora Mesoamericana*, which treats the ferns of Central America and *A Natural History of Ferns*, a popular account of fern biology. For the past five years, Robbin has taught the ferns and lycophytes course at Eagle Hill.



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