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## WEBWORTHY

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## WEBWORTHY

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*Webworthy has reviewed 327 Websites to date! Are you reading this intro? If so, we'd like to know if you find this column useful! Email the editor at <pmrose@buffalo.edu> with your comments and any suggestions for improvement!*

*Websites are chosen for uniqueness, depth of information, functionality and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any broken links. Comments and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-3900 x129; <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted, Internet sites were also reviewed in Science's NetWatch column. — PR*

### Botany

Forestry managers aren't the only ones who research tree diseases. Those of us who live in the Northeastern U.S. and Canada have been burning the Internet oil trying to identify the black spots appearing on our maple trees. Turns out they are indicators of a foliage disease called "tar spot," described at Forest and Shade Tree

Pathology. USDA Forest Service Plant Pathologist **James Worrall** created the site as an online textbook, and encourages readers to contribute to the "log blog" record of observations and ideas about tree diseases. In addition to root, foliage, parasitic and abiotic diseases, selected disease profiles, an ethnopathology quiz, and links, the site also includes a calendar of conferences. While descriptions of the diseases are useful, only some list appropriate remedies. — <http://www.forestpathology.org/>.

### Insect-borne Diseases

Sometimes the mighty are felled by the miniscule. So it has been through human history as insects have carried a cadre of diseases like yellow fever, malaria, typhus, and syphilis. Insects, Disease and History attempts to understand the impact that these insect carriers have had on human history. Authors **Dr. Gary Miller** and **Dr. Robert Peterson** offer ample references in their treatises that discuss the role of insects as biological weapons (pretty relevant in today's climate!), reveal the effect of plague on a Christian army in 1190, and detail the insect-borne diseases that affected World War II. The site is a bit primitive in look and feel (as requests articles and photos), however the information is

invaluable, and includes a medical entomology primer as well as a chronology. — <http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/historybug/>.



### Mathematics

Is world domination a product of the teaching of Western mathematics? So says Brazilian mathematician **Ubiratan D'Ambrosio**, referenced in an article discussing the development of ethnomathematics on the **Ethnomathematics Digital Library (EDL)**. Cultural practices and math know-how differs among cultures, but students and scholars can delve into the annotated links to over 300 papers, Websites, book reviews and other resources. Puzzle at the purpose of sangaku — geometrical puzzles carved into wooden tablets by 17th to 19th century Japanese worshippers, or discover the beauty of khipus — numbers recorded on knotted strings by the Incas. Multicultural math — a number counted many ways. — <http://www.ethnomath.org/>. 