



TRAVELING IN CHINA

Clockwise from upper left:

Sharing narrow rural roads with large logging trucks led to plenty of white-knuckle moments in China (top two photos).

A close encounter on the road to Changbai Shan in 1997 turned nearly fatal—by a matter of inches—when an oncoming truck swerved, directing an unsecured log straight toward the NACPEC expedition van. The end of the log neatly peeled off the driver's door like the lid on a sardine tin (above and at left).

Paul Meyer, looking slightly stunned, observes the damage.

Ever the plantsmen, the expedition members identified the offending log as Manchurian linden (*Tilia mandshurica*).

Upper left photo Paul Meyer, all others Peter Del Tredici





Other travel hazards included muddy roads and various waterways as well as sinkholes and road construction (top two photos).

Clockwise from right:

This apple vendor used a low-tech but efficient means of transport, a wooden handcart.

Once at the collection sites, foot power became the required mode of travel. Charles Tubesing leads the expedition members through a patch of *Oplopanax elatus*.

The rewards of hiking included incredible views of the scenery such as Tianchi (Heavenly) Lake at 2,000 meters (about 6500 feet) elevation in the Changbai Shan. Unfortunately, NACPEC expedition members did not see the mysterious monsters that local legend says inhabit this volcanic crater lake.

All photos Paul Meyer





FIELD COLLECTING

Collecting seeds, plants, and herbarium specimens is a team effort on expeditions.

Clockwise from upper left:

Jeff Lynch and Paul Meyer check out an unknown elm species (*Ulmus* sp.) on a hill above the Yalu River, which divides China from North Korea (seen in the background).

Though woody plants dominate among NACPEC collections, some herbaceous plants such as *Paeonia obovata* (held by Sheng Ning) have also been collected. This peony grows in moist, fertile soils in the woodland understory.

The glamorous work of plant explorers includes picking up Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) seeds along a roadside.

Out on a limb: Mr. Park, "the barefoot guide," balances precariously while collecting branches from a three-flowered maple (*Acer triflorum*).

Chris Carley, Bai Genlu, and Li Jianjun strip seeds from harvested branches of *Acer stachyophyllum* ssp. *betulifolium*.

Photos clockwise from upper left: Peter Del Tredici, Paul Meyer, Kris Bachtel, Peter Del Tredici, Anthony Aiello



Recording detailed data is an essential part of the collection process.

Clockwise from upper left:

In the mountains of the Beijing area, Rick Lewandowski (left) takes notes on location and surrounding flora while Ned Garvey (center) writes out labels for the seeds being packaged by Charles Tubesing (right).

Tools of the collecting trade include extendable pole pruners, held here by Wang Xianli.

Pole pruners are put to use collecting *Fraxinus insularis* in the rain during the 2008 expedition.

A cluster of fruit collected from Farges filbert (*Corylus fargesii*). A thin-shelled nut is held within each tightly wrapped involucre. This species was previously rare in the United States and is a valued addition to the USDA's *Corylus* germplasm collection.

Upper right photo Peter Del Tredici, all others Kris Bachtell



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