

From: John Cross <jw.cross@verizon.net>
To: Paul Fourounjian <pjf99@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>, Tamra Fakhoorian
<tamraf9@gmail.com>

Paul,
I suggest, you give me credit on the new homepage with something like this

"The Charms of Duckweed website was started in 1998 as a public service by John W. Cross, Ph.D.?? The Missouri Botanical Garden generously hosted the site for nearly 20 years, ending in 2020, when the ILA assumed responsibility for maintaining it."

Here are the detailed history and some historical insights.

1998-2000?? Erols.com --- My personal ISP, which no longer exists.

2000-2001?? USRA.org --- Universities Space Research Association, my then employer on a NASA Space Science project-- I moved the site there because at that time Yahoo.com (then the most popular search engine) refused to list *.com sites in search results.?? In early 2001, I accepted a new position with the Army Cancer Program, so USRA would no longer host the site.

2001-2020 Mobot.org -- In early 2001, I asked the NSF if they would entertain a grant application for funds to pay for commercial hosting.?? An NSF Education Division Program Director told me they only gave grants for creating websites, but seeing the need, she instead persuaded the Missouri Botanical Garden to host the site.

By 2015 changes in the Mobot firewall made it more difficult to maintain the site.?? When I moved to a new computer with Windows 10 that year, my old ftp software with all the complex firewall settings no longer worked and I gave up on updates.

In the early days of the Internet, it was the custom for an ISP subscription to include a few megabytes of space for customers to create a personal website.?? Later, the rise of hacking made this custom a security issue and the privilege was eliminated.?? This change postdated the move to USRA.org.

You do not need to contact the Missouri Botanical Garden, since they have already deleted the website.

Best wishes,
John Cross

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