

Welcome to the first of the Canadian Botanical Educators Network quarterly newsletters! As part of the *Investing in Nature: Partnership for Plants in Canada* project, our goal is to support and enhance plant conservation and biodiversity education across the country. With this newsletter we hope to establish a forum for communication and exchange between educators at Canadian botanical gardens, arboreta, museums, and related institutions/ organisations. We invite contributions and suggestions for future newsletters!

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1. Launch of *Investing in Nature: a Partnership for Plants in Canada* Web Site

Our web site is now online at www.bgci.org/canada. The site is a work in progress and new content will be added regularly. We've tried to incorporate as many of your suggestions as possible; additional contributions and feedback would be much appreciated!

2. Canadian Botanical Gardens Conservation and Education: Summary of Status and Needs

Beginning almost a year ago I had the pleasure to meet and consult with staff and volunteers at 17 botanical gardens and arboreta across Canada to discuss plant conservation activities and educational programming. The variety of activities and projects underway is truly impressive and inspiring! Collectively these facilities host close to 4.5 million visitors a year, delivering education programmes to approximately 400, 000 people and contributing to conservation efforts for over 100 Canadian plant species at risk. Copies of the summary are being printed and will be sent to each of our participating institutions and stakeholders.

Summary of Activities:

- Education www.bgci.org/canada/edu_pgms.html
- Plant Conservation www.bgci.org/canada/plant_conservation.html
- Complete summary of consultations www.bgci.org/canada/resources.html

3. Enhancing Conservation & Education Programmes

Last fall we invited institutions registered as participants to the *International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation* to submit plant conservation and education project proposals for supplementary funding as part of a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Programme. We are pleased to offer support to the following programmes:

- a The Arboretum, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON: New interpretative signs in collections where

existing rare species occur, setting conservation context and information about recovery.

- b Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, St. Johns, NL: Supplies and equipment for well-attended and on-going education and conservation programming.
- c Montreal Botanical Garden, Montreal, QC: Integrating existing activities and conservation program information with new interpretative panels and support device.
- d Morgan Arboretum, St. Anne-de-Bellevue, QC: Signage for on-going programming with interpretation of diverse conservation issues, including invasive species.
- e Reford Gardens/Jardins de Matis, Grand-Matis, QC: Diverse supplies and equipment for an established and well attended public awareness program with multiple-use potential.
- f Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton/Burlington, ON: Equipment for diverse conservation education programs, including web site.
- g University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden, Edmonton, AB: Equipment for well-established and expanding educational program on plant diversity and conservation.
- h VanDusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC: Native plant brochures, with multiple program use, plus redeveloping a native planting area.

For more information:

- Canadian Conservation/ Biodiversity Education programmes www.bgci.org/canada/edu_pgms.html
- International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation www.bgci.org/canada/get_involved.html

4. Canadian Botanical Educators National Meeting 2004

Mark December 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2004 on your calendar: in co-operation with Montreal Botanical Garden, *Investing in Nature: A Partnership for Plants in Canada* is planning to host a national botanical educators meeting in Montreal. This will provide an opportunity to meet one another, share programming ideas, and initiate some collaborative projects related to biodiversity education. We are currently working on finding funding to subsidise travel costs — stay tuned for more information!

5. Upcoming educational events:

Events are posted in the language(s) in which they are presented:

- **11 au 13 mai 2004**
Le croisement des savoirs au coeur des recherches en éducation relative à l'environnement
Chaire de recherche du Canada en éducation relative à l'environnement
Université du Québec – Montréal, Québec
www.unites.uqam.ca/ERE-UQAM/colloque
- **June 9-12 2004**
Dallas 2004: The How-to Conference
American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta Annual Conference
Dallas, Texas
www.aabga.org
** Please note, Investing in Nature: A Partnership for Plants in Canada will be hosting a display at this meeting; we would be happy to display or distribute promotional and/or educational material from Canadian botanical gardens and arboreta. Please contact Laurel McIvor at lmcivor@rbg.ca*

- **August 19-22/ 19 au 22 août 2004**
Developmental Education for a Sustainable Future
L'Éducation développementale pour un avenir durable
 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication
 Réseau canadien d'éducation et de communication relatives à l'environnement
 Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.
 Presentation proposal deadline: April 15, 2004
 Date limite pour l'appel de présentations: 15 avril, 2004
www.educ.sfu.ca/eecom
- **More botanical & environmental education events/conferences**
www.bgci.org/canada/edu_events.html
- **Plant conservation events/ conferences**
www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/networking/cevents.html or
www.rbg.ca/cbcn2/en/news/coming/index.html

6. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their contributions and support:

Our sponsors: HSBC Holdings plc
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Our partners: Botanic Gardens Conservation International
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English and French copies of this newsletter are available in pdf format: www.bgci.org/canada

*Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.
 If you would like to subscribe, have any questions or if you would like to contribute a news item,
 please contact Laurel McIvor, the newsletter editor: lmcivor@rbg.ca or 514-872-5420.*