

Contents:

1. “Have you thanked a plant today” – Travelling exhibit
2. New On-line Conservation & Education Material
3. Everybody on board for *BOTANICAL ADVENTURES*
4. Roots with Shoots
5. *Roots*, The education review for botanic garden educators
6. *Plant for the Planet*: A Plant Conservation Checklist for Gardeners
7. *Plant*, the Ultimate visual reference to plants and flowers of the world
8. NFB’s special web site feature on biodiversity
9. Celebrate Biodiversity - Seaweeds of the Northeast Pacific
10. Upcoming educational events
11. Acknowledgements

1. “Have you thanked a plant today” – Travelling exhibit

A new exhibit about biodiversity in botanical gardens is now ready to travel across Canada, thanks to funding from the Museums Assistance Programme of the Department of Canadian Heritage and HSBC Holdings Plc.

This exhibit reminds viewers that “Botanical gardens help us to understand the plant diversity that sustains us”. Examples of education, research and conservation programmes at Canadian botanical gardens and arboreta are highlighted and viewers are encouraged to get involved in their local garden.

⇒ Two copies are available for loaning to our partnering institutions, free of charge, for the next two years. The free-standing 8’x10’ exhibit is aimed at the general garden visitor but is also suitable for special events or workshops. Photos and more information : (www.bgci.org/canada/inst_map.html#trav).

2. New On-line Conservation & Education Material

The Museums Assistance Programme also supported the development of new on-line educational material for nine botanical gardens.

- Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Gardens: www.mun.ca/botgarden/plant_bio
- Harriet Irving Botanical Garden: <http://botanicalgardens.acadias.ca>
- Mitis River Park/ Reford Gardens: www.parcmitis.com
- Chateau Ramezay Museum: www.chateauramezay.qc.ca/jardin and www.chateauramezay.qc.ca/jardin/eng
- Royal Botanical Gardens: www.rbg.ca/kids
- Niagara Parks Botanical Garden: www.niagaraparksnature.com
- Columbia Valley Botanical Garden: www.conservancy.bc.ca/CVBG
- VanDusen Botanical Garden: www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website/education and www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website/conservation
- Milner Gardens and Woodland: www.milnergardens.org/education-programs.htm

⇒ In addition to developing new conservation related content for their own web sites, these gardens also helped to build the BGCI/Canada web site. More information is available at: www.bgci.org/canada/map_pjt.html

3. Everybody on board for *BOTANICAL ADVENTURES*, Julie Girard, Château Ramezay Museum

This summer, the Château Ramezay Museum invites visitors to live “Botanical Adventures” as they discover extraordinary stories of travelers and the precious plants they brought with them.

The unique exhibition tells a fascinating part of the history of scientific relationships between Canada and France over five centuries. Plants were of great value and some were even considered precious and much in demand. Canadian ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius L*) already used by First Nations people, was discovered in 1716 and soon became the second most exported product of Canada after furs. Successfully transporting plants across oceans required innovative solutions, some of which are shown in the exhibition.

Many famous figures endeavored to learn about the New-World plants including botanists, military men and churchmen. The exhibit also explores relationships to medicinal gardens, botanical gardens herbaria, and current plant conservation efforts.

⇒ For more information, contact Julie Girard: 514-861-3708, jgirard@chateauramezay.qc.ca

4. Shoots with Roots, Charlene Forrest, Milner Gardens and Woodland

The “Roots with Shoots” nature/ecology/gardening education programme at Milner Gardens and Woodland is hands-on, multi-visit, and intergenerational. “Shoots” (students) and “Roots” (staff and volunteer mentors) share laughter and learning in the fantastic garden and in the surrounding old growth coastal Douglas-fir woodland.

The on-site programme balances time and space with school field trips, pre-school programmes and summer camps. Last fall, 9 classes made 2 trips to Milner’s woodland to learn about safety, flora, fauna and local lore. This spring the ‘Spring Seed Dispersal’ component was taken to 17 classrooms for activities and information about native plants and organic vegetable gardening.

The 9 classes that visited in the fall are now returning for the on-site gardening module. Over four separate visits, students learn about compost, garden preparation, care and tools, plant identification, beneficial & harmful animals, and ethnobiology. This season students have also been granted special research permits to collect native plants and begin a herbarium at the garden.

⇒ For more information: www.milnergardens.org or education.milnergardens@shaw.ca

5. Roots, The education review for botanic garden educators, Sarah Kneebone, BGCI

Botanic Gardens Conservation International announces the publication of the latest issue of *Roots*. The April 2005 issue, "International Agendas: Implications for Botanic Gardens," looks at the principal international conventions affecting botanic gardens from an educational standpoint and examines how they are being implemented. Our aim is to emphasise the pivotal role botanic garden education is playing in achieving the targets of the various agendas.

Roots is mailed to all member institutions and individual members at the Associate Member level. If your garden is a member of BGCI, but you've never seen *Roots*, use our garden database on www.bgci.org to find out who receives our publications at your garden.

You can also get your own copy of *Roots* and other publications from BGCI by becoming a BGCI member. Simply follow the link, <http://www.bgci.org/home/individualmembership.html>, to learn more about individual membership options.

6. *Plant for the Planet: A Plant conservation checklist for gardeners* Brian Johnson, BGCI-US

BGCI (U.S.) launched our new public awareness campaign, “Plant for the Planet,” this spring to promote actions home gardeners can take to help save plants. *A Plant Conservation Checklist for Gardeners* was published as the first part of the campaign. This colourful brochure details gardening practices that support local and world-wide conservation of plant resources.

The brochure highlights simple conservation recommendations for gardeners, including knowing the laws that protect wild plants and their effects on gardening; avoiding invasive or potentially invasive species; and knowing the conservation status of species in their garden.

Copies of the Checklist are being distributed free to BGCI member gardens in the United States and Canada to distribute to visitors and/or to use in programs. We have also developed a comprehensive web site with additional tips and information: www.plantfortheplanet.org

Editor's note: BGCI-US has generously helped produce Canadian versions of this checklist for distribution with the new travelling exhibit. Pdf versions: www.bgci.org/canada/resources.html

7. **“Plant”, the Ultimate visual reference to plants and flowers of the world**, Janet Marinelli, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Experience the beauty and dazzling variety of the world's plants and flowers, from the everyday daffodil to the rarest orchid. A celebration of the world's flora, *Plant* features an extensive encyclopedia of 2,000 of the most spectacular and endangered plants on the planet, and shows gardeners how they can play a personal and important role in helping to save them. The lushly illustrated pages are filled with fascinating tidbits about plants, their wild habitats, the threats they face, and the heroic stories of the people who are working to rescue them from extinction.

Plant gives gardeners both the horticultural and the conservation information they need to make their gardens and greenhouses a part of the great green ark. It is available at bookstores and botanic gardens or online at www.bbg.org

- ⇒ Published in association with BGCI and endorsed by leading botanical gardens around the world
- ⇒ Royalties from sales of the book will help fund urgent plant conservation work

8. **NFB's special web site feature on biodiversity**, Barb McKean, Royal Botanical Gardens

Check out the CITIZENShift website for their new feature on Biodiversity. CITIZENShift is a National Film Board of Canada website dedicated to citizen engagement and social change. Point your browser to <http://citizen.nfb.ca> for unique content from active citizens, independent filmmakers and multimedia artists. Voice your opinion, or contribute creatively!

- ⇒ Includes a “sneak peek” inside Rochelle Strauss’s book “Tree of Life” (Kids Can Press, 2004): <http://citizen.nfb.ca/onf/info?aid=3361&eid=9050>

9. **Celebrate Biodiversity - Seaweeds of the Northeast Pacific**, Maggie Kilian, Interpretation Canada

“Celebrate Biodiversity” promotes biodiversity awareness through educational posters and internet technology. They are placing a particular emphasis on diverse, yet 'under-appreciated' organisms, particularly from the marine environment.

A colourful interactive poster of the Seaweeds of the Northeast Pacific is posted on : www.celebrate-biodiversity.com. Information about ordering bilingual paper copies of the posters (for the costs of shipping & handling) is also provided.

10. **Upcoming educational events** (*Events are posted in the language(s) in which they are presented*):

- **June 29-July 2, 2005**
Rooted in Your Community: AABGA Annual Conference www.aabga.org
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A
- **August 25-29th, 2005**
Interpretive Planner Workshop:
http://www.interpnet.com/interpnet/miscpages/programs/Workshops/CIP/MedicineHatAlberta_Aug2005.html
Medicine Hat, Alberta

- **September 30 – Oct 2, 2005/ du 30 septembre au 2 octobre, 2005**
Creating Ripples: Education, Environment and Culture: EECOM Annual Conference
Faire des vagues en éducation, environnement et culture: Conférence EECOM
www.eecom.org/ripples2005/index.htm ou www.eecom.org/vagues2005/vagues.htm
 Huntsville, Ontario
- **October 25-29th, 2005**
Sustainability and EE: Focus on the Future:
North American Association for Environmental Education
<http://naaee.org/conferences/index.php>
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
- **September 10-14th, 2006**
“The Nature of Success, Success for Nature”: Education in Botanic Gardens,
BGCI’s 6th International Congress, Oxford, U.K.
www.bgci.org/educationcongress
- **More botanical & environmental education events/conferences**
www.bgci.org/canada/edu_events.html
- **Plant conservation events/ conferences**
www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/news/coming/index.html

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English and French copies of this newsletter are available in pdf format: www.bgci.org/canada

If you would like to subscribe, have any questions or if would like to contribute a news item, please contact Laurel McIvor, newsletter editor and writer (unless otherwise indicated): laurel.mcivor@bgci.org , 514-872-5420.