

# Abby J. Hird - *Curriculum Vitae*

---

1500 N. College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711 • abby.hird@bgci.org • (308) 293-1782

## EDUCATION

M.S., Public Horticulture (2007), Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware  
B.S., Horticulture (2004), College of Ag. and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Director, Botanic Gardens Conservation International U.S. (2013-present)  
Conservation Expedition Facilitator, Earthwatch Institute (2012-Present)  
Research Associate, Botanic Gardens Conservation International U.S. (2010-2013)  
Putnam Research Fellow, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University (2008-2010)  
Mapping Intern, Lyon Arboretum, University of Hawaii (2007)  
Curatorial Intern, University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, University of Delaware (2007)  
Longwood Graduate Program Fellow, University of Delaware (2005-2007)  
Research Intern, ACIDI/VOCA (USAID) Russia "Farmer-to-Farmer" Program (2005)  
Horticulture Intern, Lauritzen Gardens and Henry Doorly Zoo (2004-2005)  
Horticulture Intern, Moscow Botanical Garden (2003)  
Herbarium Assistant, Horticulture Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2001-2004)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

*Assessing global institutional support for integrated conservation of Magnolia ashei*  
Project advisor for Martin Smit, Longwood Graduate Program (2011-2013)  
*Self-incompatibility and reproductive potential in the rare, clonal shrub Spiraea virginiana*  
Primary Investigator, Jessica Brzyski, University of Cincinnati (2009-2010)  
*Development of a Conservation Collections Analysis and Curatorial Review Model*  
Advisor, Michael Dosmann, Ph.D., Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University (2008-2010)  
*International Collaboration among Public Gardens in Russia and the US*  
Advisor, Robert Lyons, Ph.D., Thesis Research, Longwood Graduate Program, U. of DE (2005-2007)  
*Evaluation of the College Horticulture Internships at Longwood Gardens*  
Advisor, Robert Lyons, Ph.D., Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware (2006)  
*Endowment Strategies for the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens*  
Advisor, Robert Lyons, Ph.D., Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware (2005)  
*Germination and seedling transplant requirements for the threatened Penstemon haydenii*  
Advisor, Dr. Jim Stubbendieck, Dept. of Hort., University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2000-2004)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

American Society for Horticultural Science Scholars Award (2003 and 2004)  
National Gardens Club Scholarship (2003)

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Global Botanic Gardens Congress participant in China (2007), Ireland (2010), and New Zealand (2013)  
Earthwatch Expedition, Trinidad and Tobago (2012)  
Longwood Graduate Program travel to Brazil, Canada, China, and Russia (2005-2007)  
Seed Collecting Expedition, Altay Mountains, Siberia, Russia (2007)

## PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group member (2013-present)  
Association of Zoological Horticulture Conservation Committee member (2013-present)  
APGA Plant Conservation Professional Section vice-chair (2013-present)  
Board Member, Magnolia Society International (2011-present)  
Regional Recruitor, North American Plant Collections Consortium (2007-present)  
Advisory Committee Member, APGA National Issues Forum, Convention on Biological Diversity (2012)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Urban Gardening, Arnold Arboretum Adult Education (2009-2011)  
Floral Design, University of Delaware (2006-2007)  
Introductory Horticulture Laboratory, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2003)

## PRESENTATIONS

- Breaking the Barriers to Successful Ex situ Plant Conservation. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Biology Symposium poster, Cambridge, Massachusetts (2010)
- Breaking the Barriers to Successful Ex situ Plant Conservation. 4<sup>th</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, BGCI, Dublin, Ireland (2010)
- The North American Collections Assessment, APGA Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia (2010)
- Got Collections? In-depth Analysis Boosts Conservation Planning and Understanding What We're Conserving: Conservation through a Collections Management Lens, APGA Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri (2009)
- International Collaboration Among Public Gardens, APGA Annual Conference, Pasadena, Calif. (2008)
- Evaluation of the College Horticulture Internships at Longwood Gardens, American Society for Horticultural Sciences Annual Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona (2007)
- Mapping Community Assets for the Delaware Center for Horticulture, Delaware State GIS Conference, Dover, Delaware (2007)
- Botanical Exchange Activities Among Russian and U.S. Public Gardens, 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, BGCI, Wuhan, China (2007)
- Longwood Gardens Student Programs: Educational Opportunities for International Students, All-Russia Conference, Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia (2006)

## PUBLICATIONS

- Brzyski, J., A. Hird, et al. (unpublished). A study of sexual reproduction in the rare, clonal shrub *Spiraea virginiana* (Rosaceae). University of Cincinnati.
- Cibrian, A., A. Hird, et al. 2013. What is the Conservation Value of a Plant in a Botanic Garden? Using Indicators to Improve Management of ex situ Collections. NY Botanical Garden Memoirs.
- Hird, A., and A. Kramer. 2013. Achieving Target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: Lessons Learned from the North American Collections Assessment. Annals of Missouri Botanical Gardens. St Louis.
- Kramer, A. and A. Hird. 2012. Care for the Rare Interpretation Resources for Public Gardens. Public Garden. American Public Garden Association.
- Hird, A. 2012. A Quarter-Century Perspective on the Center for Plant Conservation Collections at the Arnold Arboretum. *Arnoldia*. Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. 70(1):11-25.
- Kramer, A., A. Hird. 2011. Establishing an International Sentinel Plant Network. *BGJournal*. BGCI.
- Kramer, A. and A. Hird. 2011. What is the conservation value of botanic garden plant collections? Public Garden. American Public Garden Association. 26 (1): 22-24.
- Kramer, A., A. Hird, et al. 2011. Conserving North America's Threatened Plants: Progress report on Target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Botanic Gardens Conservation International.
- Hird, A. and M. Dosmann. 2010. Getting the most out of the BGCI Plant Data Upload. *BG-Journal*, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, UK.
- Hird, A. and M. Dosmann. 2009. Arnold Arboretum Curatorial Review: the Center for Plant Conservation Collections. The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Boston, MA.
- Hird, A. 2009. Altay Expedition Trip Report. Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.
- Hird, A. 2009. Pinkshell Azalea: A ruby for all seasons. *Silva*. Arnold Arboretum.
- Hird, A. and R. Lyons. 2007. International Collaboration among Public Gardens in Russia and the United States. Master's Thesis, Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware.
- Hird, A., et al. 2007. The College Horticulture Internships Experience: Promoting, Growing, and Learning with Students. *Public Garden*, APGA. 22 (1):34-37.
- Stephens, M., A. Hird, et al. 2006. Endowment Strategies for the University of Delaware Botanic Garden through Case Study Analysis. *HortTechnology*, ASHS. 16 (4):570-578.