

2011 BGCI Member Survey in the U.S. – Summary of Results

Many thanks to the 86 individuals representing 50 BGCI-member botanic gardens and arboreta in the United States that responded to our member survey in November, 2011. Respondents represented staff in curation (37%), administration (34%), education (15%) and research (11%) roles.

We were gratified to hear that membership to BGCI is helping many gardens fulfill their missions, and that BGCI's inclusivity, global databases, and global perspective are highly valued.

We aim to build on our strengths in 2012-2013, as outlined in the new [Strategic Plan for BGCI U.S.](#) This plan was created by the [BGCI U.S. Board of Directors](#), and is based largely on what BGCI's U.S. members told us during this member survey.

Please contact BGCI U.S. Executive Director [Andrea Kramer](#) with any questions about this survey, the BGCI U.S. Strategic Plan, or the work of BGCI in the U.S.

SURVEY RESULTS - SUMMARY:

1. What is valued most from BGCI membership? (in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)

- The sense of having an international connection and being part of a global effort/purpose
- Access to information - Publications
- 2-way information sharing (with BGCI and between members)
- Ability to play a regional role in global plant conservation
- Colleague/institution connections, networking and sharing and ideas
- Professional development and feedback, education
- Access to information - Databases and inventories
- Educational materials, events
- Collaboration and partnership opportunities
- Relationship to BGCI and its mission adds to organizational credibility, prestige
- BGCI organization strength

Rank the following BGCI international initiatives in order of value to you and your work? (1 = most important, 2 = next most important, etc.)

Answer Options	1 - most important	2nd most important	3rd most important	4th most important	5th most important	6th most important
International policy and strategy efforts	23	8	8	7	12	11
Global databases	12	13	12	11	9	11
Conservation and restoration program	17	15	16	13	4	4
Education programs	8	8	11	8	22	11
Training and capacity building	2	6	12	13	13	22
Communication and best-practice sharing	7	18	10	16	8	9

2. Why did you answer the way you did? (in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)

- All are important – it was difficult to choose
- Institutional needs / alignment to mission / specific job focus
- Interest or institutional focus on conservation
- What members currently use most from BGCI
- Appreciation of need for BGCI’s global role
- Interest or institutional focus on education
- BGCI expected role/priority
- What is needed for the future
- Interest or institutional focus on curation

3. If you use the PlantSearch or GardenSearch data base(s), how do you use the information you find? (in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)

- Reference and plant stats, reporting
- Garden contacts
- Information sharing, networking, garden requests
- Research

4. What additional functionality or usability features would you like the PlantSearch and GardenSearch data base(s) to have in the future? (in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)

- Data integrity (up to date, complete)
- More features, specific information about collections
- More details about who has what
- More details about requests and requestors
- Awareness/accessibility

5. What additional future services or initiatives would you like BGCI to provide that would most help further your organization’s work? (in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)

- Technical assistance/staff training
- Continue to connect, share information and best practices
- Education /interpretation best practices and development
- Funding assistance
- Be a “voice for plants”
- Host US conference, facilitate groups
- Grow membership

6. Does your garden participate in any federal advocacy to support plant conservation legislation and funding?

Yes	18.6%	11
Yes, but would like to do more	10.2%	6
No, but would like to	30.5%	18
No, and do not plan to	16.9%	10
No, we are not a non-profit organization	10.2%	6
I don't know	13.6%	8

7. Please provide any additional comments about your answer above. *(in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)*

- Institution cannot be involved in advocacy or very low priority for institution
- Institution is involved in some to high levels of advocacy
- Institution is interested in doing more
- Little to no advocacy – not enough capacity

8. Does your garden have resources that might be helpful for collaborative projects with BGCI? *(in order of number of responses with most mentioned first)*

- Facilities available
- Can sponsor or host workshops, events
- Willing to share staff expertise, time, products
- Interested in participating in collaborative projects
- Not now, but may be interested in the future
- Can help “spread the word” through awareness and education