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1. **Biodiversity Education Colloquium**

Join us December 1-3rd, 2004 at the Montréal Botanical Garden to exchange experiences and innovative ideas to improve and expand educational efforts promoting plant conservation, biodiversity and sustainability. The colloquium is open to representatives from Canadian institutions and organisations that have demonstrated their commitment to plant conservation by registering to the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation (no fee to register, consult www.bgci.org for more information). A limited number of travel subsidies are available to institutional members of the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network and/or members of Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

More information, registration forms and the programme schedule can be found on the homepage of our web site: www.bgci.org/canada.

2. **Supplementing on-line content for botanical gardens**, *David Galbraith, Royal Botanical Gardens*

Royal Botanical Gardens is inviting proposals from botanical gardens and arboreta across Canada to increase plant conservation and educational materials they make available to the public via the World Wide Web. Gardens will be able to share their plant conservation work and educational programming and allow Canadians to virtually ‘visit’ and participate in programming related to plant conservation efforts at gardens they might otherwise never have access to.

More information and the Request for Proposals for this support will soon be posted on our web site at: www.bgci.org/canada/inst_fund.html

3. **A data base for conservation**, *Diane Wyse-Jackson, BGCI*

BGCI has launched an enhanced world wide on-line botanical garden database. It’s an exciting online resource where you will be able to find all the information you may need about any garden in the world. Features allow you to:

- Update your own garden records such as: contact details, facilities, opening times, research activities, and education programmes
- Securely upload your entire plant record database
- Cross reference your plant record with endangered species lists to see how many endangered species are present in your collections
- Link to your own garden web site
- Upload pictures of your garden for your public profile page

Don’t be left behind – apply online to get an access code to update and add your information now. To get started, locate your garden in the garden search at www.bgci.org; at the bottom of your garden profile click “Apply to edit this garden”, complete the form and BGCI will send you a username and password by email.

4. **New Canadian conservation & education programmes** *Kate Oxley, Royal Botanical Gardens*
Mission accomplished – eight Canadian botanical gardens report on the projects supported by *Investing in Nature: A Partnership for Plants in Canada* programme and the Museum's Assistance Programme of the Department of Canadian Heritage in 2003/04. Royal Botanical Gardens co-ordinated provision of materials and supplies for conservation, education and interpretive activities delivered to the public in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia:
- a. The Arboretum, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON: 'Be Aware of the Rare!'
 - An interpretive signage project improves public awareness of the significance and plight of endangered and threatened woody plants in The Arboretum's collection.
 - b. Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, St. Johns, NL: Educational Materials and Supplies
 - Equipment and materials were purchased to enhance conservation components of public education programming and for staff and volunteer training.
 - c. Montreal Botanical Garden, Montreal, QC: Urgence-Conservation Display
 - An information kiosk was established about the garden's *Urgence-Conservation* ex-situ conservation program to stimulate interest and awareness and to receive spontaneous gifts from the public.
 - d. Morgan Arboretum, St. Anne-de-Bellevue, QC: Interpretive Signs
 - The Arboretum introduced a series of 18 new bilingual interpretive signs to increase public awareness of conservation issues and promote sustainable forest management.
 - e. Reford Gardens/Jardins de Métis, Grand-Métis, QC: Materials and Supplies for Plant Conservation & Education
 - Educational and scientific supplies were purchased to facilitate floral inventory work, monitoring, and interpretation of native and endangered plants.
 - f. Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton/Burlington, ON: New Conservation Exhibits and Equipment
 - An exhibit on ethnobotany and one on the importance of the gardens' herbarium were created and equipment was purchased for educational programming.
 - g. University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden, Edmonton, AB: Educational resources for biodiversity and taxonomy workshops
 - Fifteen binocular dissecting microscopes purchased for the Prairie and Northern Plant Diversity Centre (PNPDC) to allow courses to be conducted year round.
 - h. VanDusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC - Native Plant Displays and Interpretive Brochures
 - Improvements to the native plant collection and educational material more effectively raise public awareness of environmental issues, particularly the protection of the diversity of regional flora.

More detailed information is posted on our web site at: www.bgci.org/canada/inst_fund.html

5. **New botanical garden education resource from BGCI**, *Sarah Kneebone, BGCI*
A CD ROM, '*Plants for the Planet: Resources for Botanic Garden Education*' has been produced by BGCI. The CD features the recently completed publication 'Education for Sustainable Development – Guidelines for Action in Botanic Gardens'. In addition it contains key BGCI publications such as the Environmental Education in Botanic Gardens Guidelines, the Darwin Technical Manual for Botanic Gardens as well as a range of policy documents. The CD provides in electronic format back issues of "Roots" BGCI's education review, including issues on interpretation, teacher training, planting for education, ethnobotany and adult education. A key feature of the CD is that many of the documents are provided in several languages – English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese and German.

'Plants for the Planet: Resources for Botanic Garden Education' will be distributed to all BGCi members and will be sent out with the next copy of Cuttings and BGJournal in January 2005. It is hoped that it will provide an easily accessible source of relevant documents for botanic gardens all over the world. Feedback or comments about the CD and requests for additional copies should be sent to sarah.kneebone@bgci.org

6. Upcoming educational events

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

- **December 1-3, 2004/ du 1^{er} au 3 décembre, 2004**
Biodiversity Education Colloquium/ Colloque en éducation sur la biodiversité
www.bgci.org/canada
Montreal Botanical Garden, Montreal, Quebec
- **du 9 au 13 mai, 2005**
L'ERE, un champ d'innovations: congrès de l'Association Canadienne Française pour l'Avancement des Sciences www.aqpere.qc.ca/bulletin/intereb.28.10.04.htm#proj
l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Chicoutimi, Québec
- **June 29-July 2, 2005**
Rooted in Your Community: AABGA Annual Conference www.aabga.org
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A
- **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/english/conferences.html ou www.eecom.org/francais/callFrench.html
location to be announced/ à venir, Ontario
- **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

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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 you would like to contribute a news item, please contact Laurel McIvor, newsletter editor and writer (unless otherwise indicated):
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