



The University of British Columbia

Botanical Garden



bigleaf dogwood (*Cornus marcophylla*)

Modern-day Plant Explorers

UBC Scientist explores biologically diverse regions of Vietnam, China


Following the path of plant explorers before him, this November Peter Wharton, David C. Lam Asian Garden Curator, is set to explore an exceptionally biologically diverse region in Vietnam and adjacent China, an area only recently opened to foreign travellers and scientists.

The expedition is a two-fold field survey in collaboration with Capilano University College in North Vancouver and the Hanoi Open University in Vietnam. The first project will focus on the tourism potential in Hoang Long Sen National Park, including an assessment of trail corridors and biodiversity where Peter will compile site data and collect plant material for herbarium specimens.

He will then join Chinese botanists from the Kunming Institute of Botany

(KIB) across the border in Yunnan Province, China. For the second project he will spend time collecting plant samples and studying in and around the Ailao Shan National Nature Reserve, before visiting KIB and returning home.

With numerous plant-collecting trips to China to his credit, Peter is no stranger to East Asia. And with each trip, the plant collections at the UBC Botanical Garden benefit immensely since many of the plants derived from wild-collected seed are highly valued by researchers.

Aside from the unprecedented opportunity to travel to a barely-explored region and document an extraordinary diversity of plants there—a good number that could be grown in the David C. Lam Asian Garden—such expeditions make important collaborations between leading scientists from Asia and Canada possible. 

The UBC Botanical Garden is a place of beauty and wonder, an educational resource that brings research, education and community together.

Inspiring Science in Children

If you've heard the unmistakably happy sounds of kids running through the Garden trails this summer, chances are, you've seen the result of a new partnership between the GEERing up! Kids camps and the UBC Botanical Garden. More than 500 elementary school children explored real-life concepts of sustainability and science through the Garden this summer.

GEERing Up! is a non-profit, student-run program designed and operated by UBC students. The annual program is designed to encourage students to explore their interests in engineering, science and technology.

The camps made use of the Garden's newly created kids activity sheet, made possible through the support of the UBC Campus Sustainability Office and the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. Used in tandem with the brightly coloured stop signs featuring kid-friendly Garden facts, the activity sheet was created as a tool for parents and teachers to teach children about plants' role in clean air, water, food and sustainable living. Check out the new kids website at: www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/kids

Above photo: Black Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)

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UBC's Garden Membership Update



The UBC Botanical Garden has set a precedent to encourage more UBC patrons to enjoy the seasonal changes of this garden at their doorstep

UBC Faculty and staff are now eligible for a free Garden membership providing unlimited garden access to both the Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden. Memberships also include newsletter mailings, discounts on Garden courses and lectures, and discounts

at the Shop-in-the-Garden.

Membership forms are available at each of the Garden gatehouses, or by contacting 604.822.3928 or www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org. Students remain free and need only show their student card at the entrance.

"Extending free membership to our campus colleagues makes sense for a garden which has been a part of the University since 1916," says Dr. Quentin Cronk, Director of the UBC Botanical Garden. "Since September 2004, more than 600 UBC faculty and staff members have taken advantage of this offer."

Director's Message



Quentin Cronk

The green heart of UBC

As a new school year begins our attention is focused on the Garden's academic plans. As an academic unit of the University, the Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research plays an important role in undergraduate and postgraduate education and research, as well as community outreach. As a result, UBC makes a substantial financial investment in the recurrent of Garden costs, the balance being met by fees and public donations.

For the Garden to grow and prosper we are committed to making even greater contributions to the academic life of UBC. Our 2003 progress report detailed dozens of courses and research programs in five Faculties that used the Garden as a resource, and we plan to increase this further by working to accommodate Faculties' teaching and research needs. To be the "green heart of UBC" we need clear plans and the determination to seek external funding. To this end, we welcome our first Garden Development Officer, Laura Groos.

Laura has been working diligently on plans for moving towards our fundraising objectives. Detailed costing is important because if we under-estimate the many hidden project costs, we risk not delivering our goals. However, we have a set of projects designed to carry the torch forward in the areas of education, research and community. Laura (604.827.5038) would be pleased to provide details to potential individual, corporate or foundation donors.

New Faces

Laura Groos, Development Officer

Laura will be working to build the Garden's community and donor partnerships. Originally from Victoria, her varied background includes the advertising industry and fund development with Vancouver Opera, Pearson College and the Dr. Peter Centre. She's happy to be back on the West Coast after working with Opera Ontario and the Opera Lyra in Ottawa.

Fran Hannabuss, Administrative Manager

Filling in for Hailey Pappin's maternity leave until August 19, 2005, Fran is no stranger to UBC. She previously worked with Staff Finders for Public Affairs, the Sauder School of Business, and the Faculties of Forestry and Education. Originally from the UK, she also worked at the University of Birmingham and various Colleges in Manchester.

Ingrid Hoff, Horticulture Manager

Ingrid manages the Garden's land-based units such as Nitobe Memorial Garden, the Botanical Garden Nursery, Totem Research Fields, the Horticulture Greenhouses and the UBC Botanical Garden. Previously, she was the horticulture editor at Gardens West Magazine.

Linda Jennings, Accessions Technician

A native plant enthusiast, Linda works to maintain the Garden's plant records, producing signs and labels. She is currently pursuing a M.Sc. in Botany, researching a rare sunflower relative, endemic to Utah.

Eric LaFontaine, Data Entry Technician

Eric is responsible for a variety of projects including the maintenance of the Garden website and online forums. He is an avid gardener and previously worked for the US Postal Service in Alabama.

New Publication

The Jade Garden: New and Notable Plants from Asia

The Jade Garden is a guide to 150 of the most rare and fascinating ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials from Asia's "green mantle."

Based on detailed research and observation at one of the largest and oldest collections of Asian plants in North America, the subjects of this book were chosen for their rarity, superior garden qualities and commercial availability. All plants included have undergone thorough evaluation at the UBC Botanical Garden for hardiness and garden appeal.

Colourful, enthusiastic plant histories are provided, often from firsthand encounters with plants in their wild Asian habitats. Introductory essays provide useful background on Asian geography and floristics. With many of its plants appearing in a garden book for the first time, the Jade Garden is certain to be a groundbreaking horticultural event.

Co-authored by Brent Hine, Douglas Justice and Peter Wharton, the book is set to be published May '05.



Alangium platanifolium



Andrew Riseman

Research Highlights

The Garden's Centre for Plant Research is a leading research facility committed to the exploration and interpretation of the science of plants.

Assistant Professor in Agricultural Sciences and the Botanical Garden's Ornamental Plant Breeder, Andrew Riseman, Ph.D., reports here on progress in his breeding research program. He has been working with several species of

Exacum (Gentianaceae) native to Sri Lanka, with the ultimate goal of creating a new floricultural crop. These plants possess desirable horticultural traits, but are primarily noted for beautiful, large blue flowers. However, much work remains to be completed before commercialization. The following is a summary of graduate research being conducted.

Haploid Production Protocols:

Andrew's most recent M.Sc. student, Sonya Chiu, is working on developing protocols that allow for the generation of haploid plants. Her research will have significant impact on gene identification and ultimately, F1 seed production.

Genetic Transformation Protocols:

Faride Unda is one year into her M.Sc. degree. Her work relies heavily on molecular biology, seeking to develop efficient transformation protocols with the goal of incorporating a fungal resistance gene into the germplasm. With the gene's addition, commercial production of Exacum will most likely not have to rely on synthetic fungicides in the future.

Flowering Control:

Rani Krishnasamy is near to completing an M.Sc. degree on the environmental factors affecting flower initiation and development. The ability to predict the timing of flower initiation is critical for crop scheduling, and Rani investigated the effects of temperature, light and supplemental hormones on this process. Her results indicate that, depending on genotype, all three factors can influence the initiation and development of flowers.

www.agsci.ubc.ca/research/fac_page/riseman.htm



Xanthoceras

Seeds of Life

Seeds from rare and newly established plants are carefully gathered to ensure future conservation.

Aside from the abundant foliage of summer, plant seeds in the UBC Botanical Garden are regularly harvested and processed during Fall for re-propagation. Gardens such as the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden also provide an important resource for seed exchanges, such as the Alpine Garden Club of BC and the bi-annual international seed exchange, Index Seminum. Participation in international exchanges provides valuable sources of rare and interesting plants, as well as access to a valuable network of international botanists and horticulturists. Rare plants and seeds from the UBC Botanical Garden can also be purchased in the Shop's Plant Centre.

Awards and Achievements

Leo Award

Canadian gardening legend, David Tarrant recently added a Leo Award for 'best host in a lifestyles series' to his years of TV experience with the UBC Botanical Garden. His winning episode was one of a 13-series documentary which followed spring gardening wonders around the world. The Leos are supported through the Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation of BC.

Hampton Place Community Award

The UBC Botanical has been recognized for its contributions in building a university community through its children's sustainability activity sheet, community courses and lectures, annual Apple Festival, and collaborations with the University Neighbourhoods Association. Previous winners include the GVRD and RCMP.



Young Visitors to the Garden

Community Connections

The UBC Botanical Garden has been a pillar of the community for many years, providing education, instruction, community events and a place of beauty. Two of the Garden's staff consistently engage the local gardening community in classes, lectures, seminars and presentations throughout the summer. The following is a highlight.

David Tarrant, Public Relations and Programs Coordinator, kept busy with presentations in Creston, Qualicum, Vancouver, Victoria and Winnipeg. A long-time association with the BC Housing, the "People, Plants and Homes" program encourages tenants of all ages to garden. To celebrate the program's 26th anniversary, four summer forums that attracted more than 525 people and presented over 200 awards were held in Victoria and Vancouver. David's presentation was called "Salsa Gardening," incorporating samples of tomatoes and peppers from the Botanical Garden's Food Garden, along with colourful annuals from the entry garden.

Education Coordinator Judy Newton regularly speaks to Master Gardener classes, such as the recent Whatcom County chapter in Bellingham, Washington where she gave an enthusiastically received class on vegetable gardening.

How a Garden Grows?

Through hard work and support

Providing outstanding research, educational resources and community events is a full-time passion – and one that grows through the generous support of donors.

For more information on ways of giving or supporting Garden plant expeditions, please call Development Officer, Laura Groos, 604.827.5038

Fall/Winter Gardening Classes

The UBC Botanical Garden is a resource for unique gardening classes, ranging from Botanical writing, drawing for beginners or holiday wreath making. Register early for these popular Fall classes. To register, please call 604.822.3928 or visit www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org. Coffee and tea provided but please bring a lunch.

Botanical Drawing

\$55 Garden Members, \$60 non-members
Sunday October 24, 10am-3pm,
Garden Pavilion

A medical and scientific illustrator, Vicky Earle has a passion for tropical plants and rainforests. This class will focus on plant characteristics and developing the drawing skills to produce botanical art in pencil. No experience necessary. Registrants will receive a supply list of required materials.

Christmas Wreath-Making

\$50 Garden Members, \$55 non-members,
Saturday December 4 OR Sunday December 5
(choose one day only) 9am-12pm
Reception Centre

Mark your calendars for this popular seasonal class with Judy Newton and David Tarrant. All materials are supplied to make a holiday wreath, including plant materials gathered from the Garden. Bring your pruners.

Dormant Pruning of Trees and Shrubs

\$29 Garden members, \$33 non-members
Saturday January 29, 9am-12pm,
Reception Centre

A horticulturist at UBC Botanical Garden, Andy Hill will discuss and demonstrate the art of pruning trees and shrubs. With opportunity for hands-on pruning, dress for the outdoors and bring your pruners.

Garden Writing

\$22 Garden members, \$25 non-members
Tuesday February 15, 7pm-9pm,
Reception Centre

Ever dreamed of writing articles for a gardening magazine or had your articles returned? Learn from former Horticultural Editor, Ingrid Hoff, what it takes to become a successful garden writer. Learn how the publishing industry works and tips on getting the attention of editors.

For class updates:
www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org

Mini-classes

Noon classes to inspire. Bring a lunch, coffee provided. RSVP: 604.822.3928. \$5 will be collected at the door, 12pm-12:45pm, Reception Centre.

October 23

Autumn Blooming Perennials

October 28

Autumn Berries for your Garden

February 24

Wakening up your plants

Tuesday Lunch Lectures

What's new in Garden research and science? The following FREE lectures are open to all; 12pm-12:45pm, Reception Centre.

November 9

Townsendia aprica: A rare Utah endemic
Linda Jennings

December 14

Photographic impressions of the BC Interior
Daniel Mosquin

January 11

Quentin Cronk, UBC Botanical Garden Director

February 8

Where the garden has come in 35 years
David Tarrant

For class updates:
www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org

Next Issue - Spring/Summer 2005

Members as donors -
a fundraising update

Science in the Garden:
education initiatives

Mark your Calendars

Apple Festival

October 16 -17th, 11am - 4pm

Holiday Wreath Sale

Shop in the Garden
November 24 - December 5, 10am - 4:30pm

Member's Day

Shop in the Garden
December 2, 10am - 7pm
25% off for garden members

Gifts for the Gardener - Gifts for the Garden

Open 7 days, 10am-4:30pm until Dec. 23 (re-opens Jan 17)
Gardening books, gifts, tools, plants and seeds

*All proceeds help keep the garden growing



ubcbotanicalgarden
& centre for plant research

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