

Summer 2009

12 Home Farm
Loseley Park
Guildford, GU3 1HS
Tel: 01483 447 540

Newsletters

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE PLANT HERITAGE NATIONAL OFFICE

This year's AGM took place near Hatfield. It was a fun packed weekend with a medieval banquet on the Friday night and interesting trips to Abbots House (with a plant nursery), St Paul's Walden Bury (home of the Bowes Lyon family where the late Queen Mother grew up) and Hatfield House.



Genevieve Melbourne Webb
Executive Officer

The Saturday morning sessions were very entertaining with three diverse talks – Margaret Easter on a couple of naming discoveries whilst researching her forthcoming booklet, Sue Martin on why Geums were so interesting with lots of pictures and Maggie Campbell-Culver on John Evelyn and his role in plant introductions. The AGM itself was well attended with plenty of questions from the floor – the minutes will be loaded onto the website shortly. (Copies of these year's accounts are already on the website in the News section.)

Our thanks to Herts and Beds for the superb organisation and hospitality.

AGM 2009

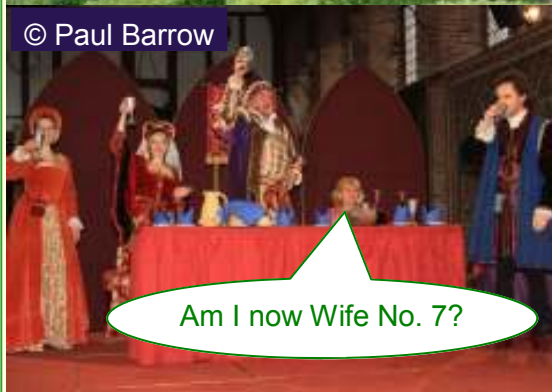


Which is the way out?

© Paul Barrow



Plant Exchange in action



Am I now Wife No. 7?



Members enjoying a garden visit



The Medieval Banquet

News from Collection Holders

What is in a Name – Update

'Touchwood Tutu' is the new name for No 428, the unnamed *Aquilegia* that was mentioned in the last issue. Carrie Thomas, National Collection Holder of *Aquilegia* is very grateful for everyone's response.



Publications

Curtis Botanic magazine (November 2008 issue) featured 6 species in the genus *Lathyrus* and one vetch *Vicia americana*. It is unusual for Curtis's to do an edition on a single genus so the achievement of Sylvia Norton who worked on the articles along with Georita Harriot and Greg Kenicer is all the more remarkable.

A trip to Ethiopia

Johnathan Hutchinson recently returned from a research trip to Ethiopia where he looked at *Scadoxus*. The trip had financial support for RHS Bursaries, Finnis Scott Foundation and the Devon group.

Thank You!

Thank you to the East Midlands Group for funding this year's RHS Plant Finder for coordinators. Ever mindful of costs, Mercy and Genevieve placed 60 single orders between them with Amazon, thus ensuring no postage costs.



Stinking Bishop cheese

A bit of trivia. In The Times on 29 May, it reported that 'Stinking Bishop' cheese had won the prize for the smelliest cheese in Britain. And who is responsible for this masterpiece? Non other than farmer Charles Martell who holds the National Collection of Gloucestershire apple varieties.

New Collections awarded by May Plant Conservation meeting

Full collection status:

x Heucherella

Vicky and Richard Fox (Cheshire)

Eucalyptus spp

Mr T Hart-Dyke (Kent)

Betula utilis

Savill Gardens, Crown Estates, (BBO)

Hardy Bromeliaceae

Mr R Parker (Somerset)

Ribes uva-crispa, *Ribes rubrum*

RHS Wisley (Surrey)

Jovibarba

Peter Bastion (Channel Islands)

One collection was raised from provisional to full status:

Cyclamen

Jo Hynes (Devon)

One collection holder gained scientific status

Lavandula

Dr Simon Charlesworth (Kent)

Three new books

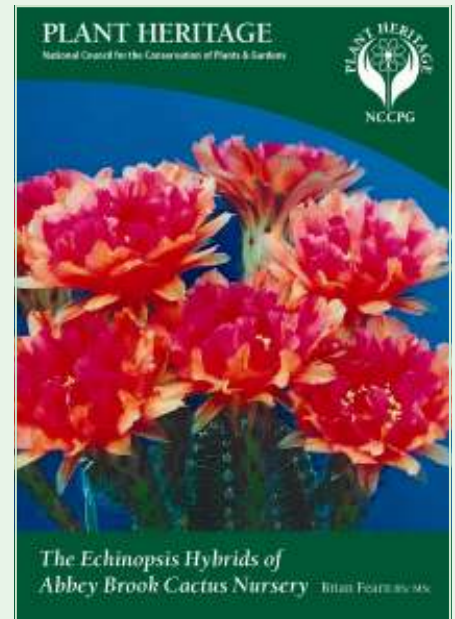
This year, thanks to the generous support of several groups and the tremendous efforts of the Publications committee (including Katrina and Elspeth), three booklets by National Collection holders have been published.

These include:

The *Echinopsis* Hybrids of Abbey Brook Cactus Nursery by Brian Fearn.

Brian has been fascinated with cacti and succulents for over 60 years. He founded Abbey Brook Cactus Nursery in 1956 and has been raising *Echinopsis* hybrids since the 1960s. A National Collection Holder of *Echinopsis* since 2000, his booklet describes the story of his work and the 130+ beautiful hybrids he has selected and named out of the 150,000 seedlings that he has flowered.

Brian's book is available to members at a pre-publication price of £7.50 (includes postage) as opposed to the normal p&p price of £9.50 (retail price £8.50). To place an order, please go to our website or contact the office. **This offers ends Friday 17 July.**



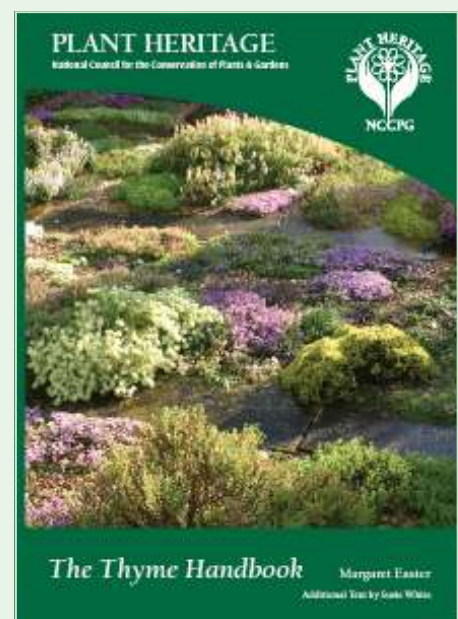
Geum by Sue Martin.

A Collection Holder of 2 years but with a 20 year passion for geums Sue loves geums because "they are bright and cheerful, flower for a long time and grow well in my garden". Sue's book details the majority of cultivars available to gardeners today as well as representative selection of species. It is available from the office priced £8.50 which includes postage (£7.50 retail).

The Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter, with additional text by Susie White.

Margaret Easter, a holder of *Thymus* (with Scientific Status), has undertaken many years of research, resulting in new material on cultivars and name changes. Susie White was author of "Thyme in the Garden" (1994) and is currently an *Origanum* Collection Holder. This booklet is expected to be published in August and will cost £9.50 (£10.50 p&p).

The front covers and a couple of the inside pages of all these booklets can be view from the Plant Book page of our website by clicking on the "Look Inside" by the relevant books.



Fundraising and shows



Cloakroom - is a winner at Chelsea Flower Show £4,175!!

Who would have thought that helping to run a busy cloakroom at the prestigious flower show could be such great fun!! Thanks go to the 90 volunteers or so who helped Helen and myself throughout the week – we raised a brilliant £4,175. Maybe next year too??



Joanna Jones
Fundraising

Brother UK Ltd

Brother UK Ltd have withdrawn ALL sponsorship deals for 2010, however I am delighted to report that following a recent meeting, they will remain loyal to us and give a sponsorship of **£5,000** towards the 2010 Directory, plus a contribution to the Collection Holder Bursary Scheme and retaining their 2010 Plant Heritage Journal advertising.

THANK YOU BROTHER!!

Jo is also in talks with **Johnson Seeds, European Connoisseur Travel, Vital Earth and NFU Mutual** with regard to hopefully furthering their support of the Bursary Scheme.

Mobile phones

I would like to report that this initiative has been a massive success with tons of old mobile phones being sent to Greener Solutions, **but unfortunately this is NOT the case!**

So far just £30.00 has been raised over the last four months! Every single mobile phone donates £2.00 to Plant Heritage. A very simple and excellent fundraiser. **Greener Solutions, FREEPOST, LON17592, Mitcham, CR4 3UZ** mention 'PLANT HERITAGE'



First Plant Heritage Sponsored Walk raises £760

– a glorious day on Sunday 19th April was had by 30 of us who took to the Surrey hills and walked about 10 miles and raised £760 towards plant conservation. We walked, sharing interesting stories and the lovely scenery - but most of all enjoyed the 'scrummy' homemade cakes at lunch time in the grounds of St. Martha's church.

Join us next year on **Sunday, 18th April** for a walk over Leith Hill. Alternatively, if your local group is interested in planning their own PH sponsored walk, give me a call and I will happily send you the details, template of forms etc.



Charity Flowers

By choosing **Charity Flowers Direct** you will be giving more than just beautiful flowers as a gift. You will also be helping Plant Heritage to raise funds. **Charity Flowers Direct** is run for the benefit of charities and all the profits go to many different charities, including US!

So every time you choose **Charity Flowers Direct** you will be making a valuable contribution. Email: help @charityflowers.co.uk and quote Plant Heritage (source code **NCCPG**) when placing your order.



Membership

Shows

The membership team has been helping out with membership at national shows, with Gillian at the Malvern show in May and Gill at Gardeners World Live at the NEC Birmingham in June. Clearly a tremendous amount of work had gone into the displays at the Plant Heritage stands, and in those displays done by the individual National Collection Holders, resulting in a number of awards. The Plant Heritage display at Gardeners World Live won a Silver medal in the Lindley range.



Gillian Spencer



Gill Groombridge



Silver Medal
Winners at NEC



Plant Heritage
Display at NEC

Plant Heritage Marquee at Hampton Court Flower Show

(Tuesday 7th to Sunday 12th July) – we are all preparing madly for Hampton Court Palace Flower Show next week. Boxes are packed, leaflets printed and banners all delivered to site. The marquee will take on a blue theme this year, with 18 National Plant Collection Holders and a large garden display celebrating the 200th anniversary of Cornish plant hunter, William Lobb. Come and see us at the Show. Toby Buckland, the new Gardeners' World presented, will be opening the marquee on Press Day, Monday, 6th July.

There will be 17 Collection Holders in this year's marquee, plus an exhibit from the students at Pershore College and a garden display celebrating the 200th anniversary of William Lobb, the plant hunter responsible for bringing back the Wellingtonia and the monkey puzzle tree. Matthew Biggs and Maggie Campbell-Culver are helping the team put this display together.

Workshops

We held a Membership Workshop in April attended by twelve groups where we discussed our current membership, why people join organisations and methods of membership recruitment and retention. Delegates found the dialogue with other groups the most useful part of the workshop, as they could share ideas and also enjoyed a tour of the Wisley library or the gardens. We will be holding another workshop in Scotland in the Autumn.



Workshop
Attendees at
Wisley



Conservation

Trip to American Public Gardens Association Conference 2009



Mercy Morris
Plant Conservation

Last year Pam Allenstein - the Collections Manager for the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC) - invited Hans Persoon of the Stichting Nationale Planten collectie and Anne Duncan of the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens, and me to make a joint presentation to the American Public Gardens Association conference in St Louis. With funding from the RHS Bursary scheme and the Stanley Smith Trust, I was able to attend last week (23-27 June).



Pam opening the session

The purpose of the presentation was to give a global view of plant collection schemes to the delegates, so that we could compare and contrast, instigate a network for future development, and learn from each other.

It is interesting to note that Plant Heritage (and the UK) is pretty much unique in how we handle plant conservation. Not only are we the oldest and the largest organisation, but we are the only one to include collections held by private individuals. The NAPCC is a collaborative approach between large public gardens, nearly all botanic gardens, universities and arboreta. They hold almost entirely species collections, but some cultivars. Individual collection holders are not accepted.

The Netherlands has two plant collections schemes which are run separately with very little communication. One is solely botanic gardens, and is entirely for the purposes of conservation, with duplication kept to a minimum. The other is held mainly by large commercial nurseries around Boskoop and contains mainly cultivars, and is of significant importance to the trade.

The Australians also have a botanic gardens collections scheme which is specifically focussed on their native flora, and attempting to protect it against the ravages of climate change. There is in addition a garden plants collection scheme (Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia).

One of the most interesting aspects was that the same discussions that wax and wane within Plant Heritage (species v cultivar collections, whether collections really have conservation value, keeping and sharing data, coordinating) are current across all organisations.

We ended by agreeing that starting and maintaining a network to link collection holders globally, as well as the organisations involved, will prove to be a benefit to all.



Visit to the Missouri Botanic Garden

Special Offer for Plant Heritage members

We have negotiated a discount price of £25 a year on "The Plantsman", the RHS's quarterly publication dedicated to a deeper understanding and appreciation of garden plants. (Usual price £32).

Each 68 page issue is printed in colour and covers a wide range of subjects such as

- * Profiles and evaluations of plant genera, species and cultivars of horticultural merit
- * New or advanced cultivation and propagation techniques
- * Detailed accounts and findings from RHS trials
- * Plant exploration and travel
- * Changes to names of garden plants and developments in taxonomy
- * Advances in plant breeding and development of new garden plants
- * Profiles of plant experts, breeders and horticultural personalities

If you would like to receive a free sample copy of a back issue before taking up a subscription, please contact Mike Grant on mikegrant@rhs.org.uk, giving your name and address and Plant Heritage membership number. To take out a subscription, call 020 7821 3401 and quote your Plant Heritage membership number and the code PHPL.



Congratulations to the winner of the first National Photographic Competition

which was Fern Alder from the Kent Group for her interpretation of "Plant Portrait"

Fern will receive the Rachel Thomson Crystal Bowl, and a £50 Garden Gift Token.

Now is the time to start thinking about next year's competition - the subject is "Through the Garden Gate"

Full details of the competition will be found in the Autumn 2009 Plant Heritage Journal.

