

Winter 2010

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Newsletters

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE PLANT HERITAGE NATIONAL OFFICE

As the year draws to a close (my eighth with Plant Heritage in case anyone is counting), I never cease to be amazed by the overwhelming generosity of our volunteers, in terms of not only donations but also in the amount of time and expertise given by holders, group officers and trustees alike. Plant Heritage exists because of and for its volunteers and we must never underestimate the importance of what we are doing in maintaining cultivated plants for future generations.



Genevieve
Melbourne Webb
Executive Officer

Thank you for all your support this year and a peaceful Christmas to all our members.

Conservation Update from Mercy Morris

Another disease has appeared in the UK to frighten us all; *Phytophthora lateralis* has been found in Scotland, reports Horticulture Week. This is a particularly virulent disease that may attack *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and *Taxus brevifolia*. It would be considered a serious threat to the commercial horticulture industry. Read more about it here:

www.eppo.org/QUARANTINE/Action_List/action_list.htm

Are you aware of the new Code of Practice on **non-native invasive species?**

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/InvasiveSpecies/HCOP

This page is a useful source of information and a lot of it applies to the whole of the UK, not just Scotland. The concern for many horticulturists is which plants may be considered 'potentially' invasive. If you haven't been taking an interest in this topic you may be surprised!



Weather - have you had any **unusual problems** with the weather that would make a good story for our PR Officer Nicola, or some good photos for the website? This sad item is my own greenhouse, luckily I put the bubble-wrap up 3 days before this happened! Whether my pelargoniums will survive is a matter for prayer at the moment.



Brother UK Ltd are sponsoring the Bursary scheme for the 3rd year running with four grants of £400 available to those National Collection holders who can demonstrate how the monies will be used to benefit their collection. Full details, along with the application form, are available on the website and the deadline is **Monday 21 January**.

Conservation Update continued

International Trials Conference

Deadline for early registration
31 December at reduced fee

Organised by the RHS, in association with the ISHS, this first international trials conference aims to initiate a dialogue between plant growers, breeders, nurserymen, and commercial suppliers, in the trialling of plants around the globe.

Further details on www.rhs.org.uk/ornamentals2011. There are a limited number of day delegate places for those unable to attend the full conference and if you are interested but the cost is prohibitive, why not consider applying for funding from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust or an RHS Bursary?



Threatened Plant Project from Sarah Barton

5 practical workshops and 2 general talks on the project have taken place and a number of volunteers around the country are now busy listing their selected genera. For the most part the feedback has been very positive with constructive suggestions for improving the listing process. Other workshops are planned for the New Year.

For those people who are unable to attend a workshop I have been working on the option of completing the work remotely. There are one or two volunteers piloting this method already but it has yet to be finalised before it is ready to go nationwide.

Horticulture students from Plumpton College in Sussex attended the latest workshop and we are hoping they will be able to include the project in their curriculum next term.

Over 70 genera are now in the process of being listed. They are being checked and verified and I am hoping that some of these will move to stage 2 of the project early in the New Year.

Workshops for collection holders and members

'Grafting made easy' and 'Propagation secrets'

We will again be holding these very popular training day workshops in the RHS Wisley (Surrey) Lecture Theatre on the following days between 9.30am and 3.00pm:

Tuesday 25th January

Thursday 3rd February

Barry Clarke, Propagator for Hillier Gardens and Holder of two National Collections (*Rubus*, *Asclepias*) will be giving comprehensive training and detailed demonstrations. There will also be enough plant material for everyone to have a go!

If you would like to attend, let Joanna Jones know (joannaj@plantheritage.org.uk). Attendance is free, with a light snack provided for lunch.

We are grateful to Brother UK, NFU Mutual, Tanner Trust and Topinambour Trust for funding to support these workshops.



Fundraising Update from Joanna Jones

Chelsea cloakroom 2011

Spaces still left on the following two days of the Show :

Friday 27th May **Saturday 28th May**

07.30–10.30 07.30–10.30

16.50–20.10 13.50–18.30

Email Suzy Hughes
(suzyhughes@businessetiquetteint.com)

or me if you can help out.

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2011

We are delighted that Alan Titchmarsh has agreed to officially open the PH Marquee on Press Day, Monday 4th July at 11.00 a.m.

The main theme of the marquee will be 'The *Living Libraries of Garden Plants*' with two large central exhibits from The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Tom Hart Dyke at Lullingstone Castle.



Raffle

This raised £3,200 – many thanks for all those who gave their support and congratulations to the following winners :

- 1st J. Hawkins - £350 cash prize kindly donated by **Hatts Quality Travel**. Pat Cooke from Hatts is currently organising trips to Courson
- 2nd Carolyn Richards (Hants) 2 nights at a Farmstay of their choice for 2. Kindly donated by NFU Mutual
- 3rd & 4th Mrs Jill Cox (Kent) and Mrs A Woods (Newton Abbott) – NGS Garden day tour for 2 persons (inc lunch & wine) kindly donated by Gardens Etc
- 5th J Phelan - £150 Squires Garden Centre gift vouchers
- 6th R. Crosby – Bosch Ciso Cordless secateurs
- 7th Carolyn Richards (Hants) Brother Labelling machine (QL1050)



Pat Cooke drawing the raffle with Jo

Music Magpie Collection of CD albums & DVDs

Have you got unwanted CD Albums and DVDs? Please consider giving them to Plant Heritage so that we can send them to Music Magpie who recycle them. Each item raises 50p for plant conservation.

Please get in touch with Joanna Jones to discuss collection – perhaps you could collect them on behalf of your local group?

So why not ask everyone to bring a CD to your local AGM? And if each group collected 100 – that would be £1,750 for your old CDs and DVDs that might otherwise just go to a jumble sale (or the bin).

Please note: the CD must still be in its sleeve (and therefore contain a barcode). No newspaper freebee promotional CD/DVDs are taken, and CDs must be albums.



Website Shop

Books - Special Offer

Buy a Geum book (£8.90) or The Thyme Handbook (£11.30) and get another book of your choice free*: Cistus, Dianthus, Kalmia, Lathyrus, Lonicera, Origanum, Polemonium, Russell Lupin, Vireya Rhododendrum and Yucca. See more details of these books in our website shop. (*not including Geum or The Thyme Handbook. Offer expires March 2011).

Order by ringing the office on 01483 447540 or sending a cheque made payable to NCCPG stating which free book you would like

Specialist titles available for immediate despatch:

The Genus *Jasminum* in Cultivation (Botanical Magazine Monograph) Hardcover by Peter Green & Diana Miller £37

Lavandula (Botanical Magazine Monograph) Hardcover by Tim Upton & Susyn Andrews £33

Passion Flowers Softcover by John Vanderplank £30

Special offer for members

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Camellias and Rhododendrons

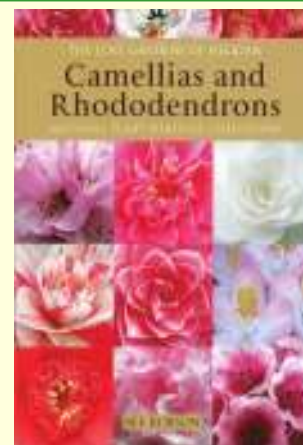
National Plant Heritage Collection

By Bee Robson (2010)

An attractive book on the old camellias and rhododendrons found in the Lost Gardens of Heligan, which became a National Collection in 2007. Bee spent nine years identifying the plants, researching their provenance and propagating from them.

Available from Heligan for £15.90 (includes postage), our members can buy it for the special ALL IN price of **£9.95 while stocks last**.

Please send a cheque payable to NCCPG to our Loseley address or buy through the website www.plantheritage.com/Shop Offer ends 31st January 2011.



A reminder to all members to book their place at the **2011 AGM in Worthing** on the Sussex Coast in May. Two nights of dinner, bed and breakfast with evening entertainment, Saturday lunch and coach trip to Arundel Castle or Sussex Prairie Garden as well as presentations by three National Collection holders – for £240 only.

The hotel itself is minutes from the seafront and has a Games Room for snooker, pool, table tennis, skittles and darts. www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk

Further details and Booking form can be found in the autumn edition of the Journal or online www.nccpg.com/Events/2011-AGM---May-27-29.aspx



Remembering Tony Lowe

In October, Dr R.A.W. (Tony) Lowe died. Mike Squires has written a few words about him.

Tony Lowe was a larger than life character. On leaving the Navy he qualified as a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators and in 1984 he became the General Secretary to NCCPG, a post he held for nine years.

That was at a difficult time for Plant Heritage but the charity was fortunate that Tony had many contacts who he would visit and bring back large cheques to keep it afloat. Whilst working at The Pines, Wisley Gardens, he lived on a barge on the nearby canal.

Although his role at Plant Heritage was an administrative one, a love of plants obviously became engrained and he left to pursue a BSc in the Department of Plant Sciences at Reading University. Leaving Reading he went on to St Catherine's College at Cambridge University where he completed a PhD in Plant Science.

It was whilst at Cambridge that he met his partner Christine who worked in the Botanic Garden when he became involved in a project she was responsible for.

Tony and Christine settled at Jacobstowe in Devon and developed a super garden with spectacular views of Dartmoor.



Tony Lowe (RH side) exchanging pleasantries with Christopher and Jeanette Brickell at the 25th Plant Heritage Anniversary celebrations in 2003