

Newslines – Summer 2011

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Right: Monty Don and Tom Hart Dyke discuss the NC *Eucalyptus*

Below: Newby Hall's Head Gardener, Mark Jackson, explains the planting scheme to the Friends



Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Despite the challenges of the weather prior to Hampton Court – from Arctic winter to Saharan spring – and the last-minute losses of a major sponsor and 2 Collection Holders, the 20 CHs in the Plant Heritage Marquee put on a stunning show. They rose imaginatively to the challenge of illustrating this year's theme "The Living Library of Garden Plants".

Outstanding were Jim Marshall's headily scented Malmaison carnations, arrayed in an Edwardian library, which scooped a Gold Medal; and the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens' 12 collections presented in a huge leather bound volume. For the first time, Plant



Heritage won the coveted Best Feature of the Show Award.

As usual, the volunteers were the real stars – from the build-up, through manning the stands, to the clearing up at the end. Seed Shop entrepreneurs, Janet and June

culled a record £2,000 in its 4th year, after many hours of work cleaning and packaging seeds donated by members.

To cap a terrific, if wet week, 57 new members were recruited during the Show – another record!

PH Friends enjoy exclusive visit to Newby

In June, our Friends and Life Members visited Newby Hall as guests of Richard, son of our late President Robin Compton. In lovely weather everyone enjoyed a guided walk around the beautiful gardens including the National Collection of *Cornus*; followed by

lunch; and a fascinating tour of Newby Hall itself.

The Collection was at its peak with over 100 specimens – 30 species represented by 76 different hybrids and forms.

Our Friends Group was created in 2003, in

response to requests from those members who wanted to give additional financial support to Plant Heritage; Life Members became part of the Group in 2010. If you would like further information, please contact Gill or Gillian on 01483 447540.

Assessing the rarity of cultivated plants

"I am excited to join such an important project as it moves into the fascinating and challenging stage of plants at risk assessment."

Kalani Seymour, TPP
Project Coordinator



Seed Shop 'the treasure trove of Hampton Court' –
BBC TV

Threatened Plants Project Update

In **Stage 1**, 20% of the 1068 plant genera with cultivars listed in the RHS PlantFinder are in the process of being collated, largely by Plant Heritage volunteers.

From that starting point, data is then added from other sources including the plant lists of the National Collection Holders in order to establish the initial 'Threatened List'.

Out of the 204 genera in Stage 1, 42 have now moved to the classification of 'Critically Endangered in cultivation', 'Endangered in cultivation' and 'Vulnerable in cultivation'.

These are now ready for Stage 2 – input from experts – to finalise the list of most Endangered.

New Project Coordinator, **Kalani Seymour** replaces Sarah Barton who has

gone to a new job in a children's charity in Wiltshire.

Kalani's background includes plant conservation, taxonomy and research; her recent role was 'Living Collections and Landscape Interpretation Manager' at Kew.

For more information, visit the Threatened Plants Project section on the website in "Info Centre".

Members get results – conservation in action

One plant that attracted a lot of interest in the Marquee at Hampton Court was the *Dahlia* 'Princess Marie José', on display in our Membership stand bookshelf. This plant, with only 1 listing in the PlantFinder, is being propagated by Gillian and other staff to put in the 2012 Plant Exchange.

Gill, Gillian and the volunteers found the dahlia's rescue story a great way to initiate a

conversation with potential members before the 'hard sell'. A tactic worth trying when recruiting members at Plant Fairs and shows around the country, if you've got a local rescue success.

The annual Plant Exchange is the economical (aka FREE!), ecofriendly way to find a rare plant for your garden or help ensure that plant's long term survival by propagating it and sharing

it with others. Your Group will soon be collecting 'wants' and 'offers'. Not everyone's wish list was satisfied this year – if you can help with any of the wants listed on the website, please contact your Group coordinator.

Finally, the Seed Shop is a perennial profile raiser for Plant Heritage and could be replicated at many more events too. Contact us for more information.

Be part of Plant Heritage online community

The Blog is where we bring you up to date with the latest news, visits to collections and behind the scenes accounts of Plant Heritage's work.

<http://plantheritage.wordpress.com>

OurPlantHeritage is the Facebook forum for Plant

Heritage supporters. Everyone is welcome to share their photographs and knowledge or pose questions for the experts.

By the way, you don't need a Facebook account to read our pages.

www.facebook.com/ourplantheritage

Margaret Easter receives Brickell Award 2011 for her *Thymus* collection



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