



# PlantNetwork

Connecting gardens, sharing skills

Training Day

Plant Records

17th May 2018

University of Cambridge Botanic Garden

**@plantnetwork**

# Programme

10.00am	Registration
10.15am	Introduction & welcome by Sam Brockington, Curator Cambridge Botanic Garden
10.25am	“Plant records, what when and where.” Pete Atkinson, Plants Records Officer, Cambridge Botanic garden
10.55am	“The English Heritage Plant Collection: what is recorded, how and when.” - Christopher Weddell, Senior gardens Adviser, English Heritage
11.25am	“Would a Rosa ‘by any other name... smell as sweet’?” - Lauren Gardiner, Curator, Cambridge University Herbarium.
11.55am	“Managing plant records, reflections of a data wrangler” - Rupert Wilson, Principal Data Manager RHS Wisley.
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30pm	‘New Botanical Plant Labels & Tracking NAGOYA at the RBGE’ Fiona Inches & Helen Thompson, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
14:00pm	“Botanic Garden or Amazon.com, or both” - Sam Brockington
14.30pm	General presentation
15.15pm	<b>Coffee</b>
15.30pm	Garden tour / engraving demo (Sally Petitt, Mark Crouch, Mar Millan)
	<b>End of day</b>
18.30pm	The Eagle Pub <a href="http://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/cambridgeshire/eagle/">www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/cambridgeshire/eagle/</a>

All presentations from our training and conferences are shared through our website. [www.plantnetwork.org](http://www.plantnetwork.org). Our website search facility also allows you to find previous newsletter articles,

presentations and downloads. As always, please get in touch if you have any suggestions for website content.

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Sam Brockington, Curator of Cambridge University Botanic Garden**

Samuel Brockington was awarded a BSc with Honours in Plant Science from the University of Edinburgh in 2002. He gained a PhD at the Florida Museum of Natural History, USA in 2009, where his focus was on the angiosperm order Caryophyllales, especially the evolution of flowers within Aizoaceae. He is currently a NERC Independent Research Fellow, University Lecturer, and Curator of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Here his research group pursues a variety of research questions, but is primarily engaged in understanding the evolution of and industrialising tyrosine-derived plant metabolites. In the context of botanic gardens, he is interested in how biodiversity is held and managed across the world-wide garden network.

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### **Peter Atkinson, Plant Records Officer, Cambridge University Botanic Garden**

Peter originally studied environmental science and worked at the World Conservation monitoring centre on the IUCN plant red list and then at RBG Kew in their conservation section before studying for a masters in Conservation of plant genetic resources at the University of Birmingham. Peter has been working at Cambridge Botanic Garden for the last 17 years and has managed the transition of their data through two database systems to the current system, IrisBG

pja34@cam.ac.uk

## **Christopher Weddell, Senior Gardens Advisor, English Heritage**

Christopher is a Senior Gardens Advisor at English Heritage, which encompasses the setting and monitoring of standards of garden presentation and curation at English Heritage's garden sites, advising and supporting garden teams and property staff, and leading on support for plant recording, garden volunteers and garden health and safety. Christopher has also spent time working for the National Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and the Royal Horticultural Society amongst others, and is currently a PlantNetwork Board Member.

[christopher.weddell@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:christopher.weddell@english-heritage.org.uk)

## **Rupert Wilson, Principal Data Manager, Horticultural Information and Advice, RHS Garden Wisley**

Rupert joined the RHS in 2001 after working for several years in the School of Plant Sciences at the University of Reading where he managed the herbarium database. Rupert leads a team of five staff whose diverse roles include the upkeep of the plant records at Wisley, compilation of the RHS Plant Finder, providing training and first line support of the RHS Horticultural Database and ensuring consistency in the data held and publications from across Science.

In addition to his work for the RHS Rupert is also a PlantNetwork trustee and board member.

[rupertwilson@rhs.org.uk](mailto:rupertwilson@rhs.org.uk)

## **Lauren Gardiner, Curator, Cambridge University Herbarium**

Dr Lauren M. Gardiner is the Curator of the Cambridge University Herbarium, part of the Department of Plant Sciences. With 16 years of experience working with herbaria and botanic gardens

around the world, including 11 years on the staff at RBG Kew. With a background in species description, taxonomy, and nomenclature, and as a member of the RHS Orchid Committee and the Systematic Association Council, Lauren has a particular interest in historically important collections and the modern relevance of specimens in current research.

In addition to his work for the RHS Rupert is also a PlantNetwork trustee and board member.

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### **Fiona Inches, Glasshouse Manager, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh**

Fiona started her career working in the production Glasshouse for Perth and Kinross district council. Following her DHE (Diploma in Horticulture, Edinburgh) she was employed as Temperate propagator in the glass department. Now as one of the Glasshouse managers she is responsible for research and public glasshouses including the iconic Palm House's. She is also responsible for the department plant records, plant requests and the Quarantine house.

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### **Helen Thompson, Senior Horticulturist, Plant Records - Gardens Department, RBGE**

Helen has worked in her current post since 2010 and is responsible for the stocktaking and labelling of the Outdoor Living Collection at RBGE. Prior to working in Edinburgh, Helen also worked for Benmore Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Garden Kew, Doncaster Council and WS Atkins Engineering Consultants.

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# The PlantNetwork Directory of Botanical Collections in Britain and Ireland

First published in hard copy in 1999. The Directory, with some updates, is now available online. Please spend a few minutes checking the entry for your garden and update anything that is incorrect:

**[plantnetwork.org/directory](http://plantnetwork.org/directory)**

Scroll down to the list of gardens, click on your garden. Scroll to the bottom of the entry for your garden and follow the link to update and submit an update.

If you need any help with either method, please contact Rupert [rupertwilson@rhs.org.uk](mailto:rupertwilson@rhs.org.uk)

## Resources

### International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)

A model for the acquisition and the exchange of living plant material within the botanic gardens community in respect of the ABS requirements of the CBD. IPEN is a voluntary registration system intending to facilitate the botanic gardens plant exchange in accordance with the CBD provisions. IPEN is characterised by the following aspects:

- only for botanic gardens according to the definition by the BGCI
- IPEN covers only the exchange of living plant material, meaning living plants or parts of plants
- only for non-commercial exchanges: Plants must not be sold for profit or used for any kind of commercial activity

- IPEN includes a documentation system (IPEN numbers, that makes the origin of the plant material traceable at any stage of plant exchange

The backbone of the network is the IPEN Code of Conduct, a three-page document stating the unified policy of the IPEN member. This covers acquisition, maintenance and supply of living plant material by the gardens as well as benefit-sharing. The Code further provides a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) to be used for exchanges with institutions that are not member of the IPEN network. Abstract from [www.bgci.org](http://www.bgci.org)

## **Verification of nomenclature and conservation status**

### **Tropicos®**

Missouri Botanic Gardens' Tropicos® was originally created for internal research but has since been made available to the world's scientific community. All of the nomenclatural, bibliographic, and specimen data accumulated in MBG's electronic databases during the past 25 years are publicly available here. This system has over 1.2 million scientific names and 4.0 million specimen records. A number of tools have been developed including a name matching service.

[tropicos.org/NameMatching.aspx](http://tropicos.org/NameMatching.aspx)

### **Plants of the World Online**

POWO was launched in March 2017 with a focus on key tropical African Floras - Flora Zambesiaca, Flora of West Tropical Africa and Flora of Tropical East Africa specifically. Descriptive data from these Floras was linked via a curated taxonomy to images from the digitisation of the collections enabling Kew to finally put a substantial part of these Floras online. In addition, data from Kew's Grassbase and PalmWeb

databases have also been included along with species level data for some but not all Orchids.

[powo.science.kew.org](http://powo.science.kew.org)

### **The Plant List**

A working list of all known plant species. It aims to be comprehensive for species of Vascular plant (flowering plants, conifers, ferns and their allies) and of Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). Collaboration between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden enabled the creation of The Plant List by combining multiple checklist data sets held by these institutions and other collaborators.

[theplantlist.org](http://theplantlist.org)

### **Taxonomic Name Resolution Service**

The Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNRS) is a tool for the computer-assisted standardization of plant scientific names. The TNRS corrects spelling errors and alternative spellings to a standard list of names, and converts out of date names (synonyms) to the current accepted name. The TNRS can process many names at once, saving hours of tedious and error-prone manual name correction. For names that cannot be resolved automatically, the TNRS present a list of possibilities and provides tools for researching and selecting the preferred name.

[tnrs.iplantcollaborative.org](http://tnrs.iplantcollaborative.org)

### **Plant Search**

The only global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections:

- Search 1,309,221 collection records, representing 461,365 taxa, at 1,099 contributing institutions
- Locate threatened, rare, medicinal and other plant species in living collections

- Connect with living collections to aid your conservation, education and research efforts

By uploading your collection records onto the Plant Search your collections become available to the plant collection community (locations are not shared via the web search engine) and your records will be verified automatically.

[www.bgci.org/plant\\_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/plant_search.php)

### **ThreatSearch**

A comprehensive database of conservation assessments of plants.

- Search over 242,000 conservation assessments, representing over 150,000 taxa.
- Find out if a plant has a global or regional conservation assessment or is considered threatened

[http://www.bgci.org/threat\\_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/threat_search.php)

### **The GlobalTree Search**

The most comprehensive database of tree species.

- Search over 60,000 tree species names and their country distributions.
- Find out the geographical distribution of a tree species.
- Discover all tree species found in a country

[http://www.bgci.org/global\\_tree\\_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/global_tree_search.php)

### **The Tree Register**

The Tree Register of Britain and Ireland (TROBI) is a registered charity collating and updating a database of notable trees throughout Britain and Ireland. A unique database of over 200,000 of our most notable Trees.

[www.treeregister.org](http://www.treeregister.org)

## **Labels and engraving**

**We are pleased to announce our new Bronze Sponsor for 2018**

### **The Garden Label & Sign Company**

The Garden Label & Sign Company specialise in the design and production of bespoke, durable, labelling for horticulture. Offering an engraving service, as well as supplying blank labels to those who have their own engraving equipment. They design and manufacture laser engraved labels and signs. Using a range of materials to include plastic laminates, solid wood, metals and slate

[www.gardenlabelling.co.uk](http://www.gardenlabelling.co.uk)

## **Collection Policies**

A collection could include living plants and fungi including seed, pollen and spores; herbarium specimens; DNA; reference material derived from scientific study, e.g. chromosome slides; economic botany artefacts; accompanying literature, i.e. libraries and archives. The collection could be as large as the entire holdings of a botanic garden with an institute mission and linked to a national or international network. Alternatively, it may be just one of several collections in a botanic garden. Its purpose could be singular or multi-disciplinary. It could be historical, recent or proposed and be of varying size and resources.

A Collection Policy is a written document which acts as a practical management tool by defining the limits of the collection and guiding the actions of its manager through future developments. It should embrace the remit of the organisation; be formulated using a clear methodology; be practical, achievable and flexible; be subjected to constant review and, if necessary, revision.

Dr David Rae RBGE

BGCI Magazine Plant Collection Policy-are Guidelines Needed?  
Volume 2 Number 6 - June 1996

**More information on managing plant collection management is available in our 2015 Annual conference resources booklet 'Plant collections management; keeping it legal, ethical and relevant' available on our website.**

## **NOTES**