



PlantNetwork

Connecting gardens, sharing skills

Plant Records Group

Annual Meeting

15th May 2019

Chester Zoo

@PlantNetwork
#PlantRecordsGroup



PlantNetwork

PlantNetwork is a charity and membership organisation that provides training and network support to gardens and gardeners throughout Britain and Ireland.

Through its work, PlantNetwork contributes to maintaining and developing the horticultural and plant conservation skills for which our gardens are renowned. The goals of PlantNetwork are:

- Supporting gardens and plant collections for conservation, knowledge and enjoyment.
- Providing networking and professional development for the plant network community.

Since being formed in 1996, PlantNetwork has brought together both institutional and private members and now represents over 300 gardens including all the major public horticultural and botanic gardens in the countries.

Chair: Simon Toomer
Vice-Chair: Faye Tuffrey
Treasurer: Christopher Weddell
Co-Treasurer: Robert Brett
Hon President: Dr Matthew Jebb

Contact details

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<https://plantnetwork.org/>

PlantNetwork: The Plant Collections Network of Britain and Ireland is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England 3777793; registered charity 1081747. Registered office Beaver House, 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP

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Introduction

This meeting is relevant to anyone who is involved in the plant recording process in botanic, public and private gardens and plant collections. The day explores different recording systems, compares databases, and explores the type of information required. It also discusses the role of historical data, and the use of plant records outside the garden for the conservation of plants at the national and international level. It provides an opportunity to share experiences and network within the plant records community.

There will be opportunities to talk to three major plant database providers and a tour of the plant collections at Chester Zoo.

For more information about the gardens at Chester Zoo, visit:
<https://www.chesterzoo.org/explore-the-zoo/attractions-and-exhibits/gardens>

Programme

09.30	Registration, refreshments & networking	
10.30	Welcome	Rupert Wilson, PlantNetwork & Philip Esseen, Chester Zoo
10.45	Belsay Awakes: recording the plant collections of Sir Charles Monck and Sir Arthur Middleton	Christopher Weddell, Senior Gardens Advisor, English Heritage
Session: Plant recording software		
11.15	IrisBG: Plant records with a smartphone – does it work?	Havard Ostgaard, IrisBG (Botanical Software Ltd.)
11.45	BRAHMS, Botany and Botanic Gardens	Denis Filer, BRAHMS Project Coordinator
12.15	Getting the most out of your collections with the all-new <i>BG-BASE</i> v9	Rupert Wilson <i>on behalf of</i> Kerry Walter & Mahir Akbalik, BG-BASE Team
12.20	Complicated plant collections: plant records at Ness	Tim Baxter, Ness Botanic Gardens
12.35	Arboretum DB demonstration	Rhoderic Taylor, Lovell Quinta Arboretum
12.50	Discussion and Database Q&A	
13.00	Lunch & Networking	
14.00	Tour of Chester Zoo plant collections with coffee/tea available on return	Richard Hewitt, Chester Zoo Nursery Manager

Session: Wider use of plant record data		
15.00	Horticulture at Chester Zoo: an overview	Philip Esseen, Chester Zoo
15.15	PlantSearch, a global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections – how can it support your work?	Suzanne Sharrock, BGCI Director of Global Programmes
15.45	Big data and the threatened plant database	Kalani Seymour, Threatened Plants Programme Manager, Plant Heritage
16.15	Discussion of issues, problems, successes in plant records	
16:30	Close (with informal networking until 17:00)	

Speaker information

Recording of historical information

Belsay Awakes: recording the plant collections of Sir Charles Monck and Sir Arthur Middleton

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.

Notes:

Plant recording software

IrisBG: Plant records with a smartphone – does it work?

Havard Ostgaard, IrisBG (Botanical Software Ltd.)

IrisBG Handheld is an App made to view and update your plant collection on a smartphone or tablet. The App is available for Android and Apple iOS.

https://www.irisbg.com/p_irishandheld.aspx

Havard is the co-founder and manager of Botanical Software Ltd and has worked on the IrisBG team since 2001. He has a degree in Computer Science, combined with a keen interest in gardening and botany. Over the years, he has worked on more than 150 IrisBG implementations to help gardens improve how they document their botanical collections. Havard lives in Doesburg, in the Netherlands with his wife and two dachshunds.

BRAHMS, Botany and Botanic Gardens

Denis Filer, BRAHMS Project Coordinator

BRAHMS provides a scalable management system for preserved and living natural history collections as well as those undertaking biogeographic or taxonomic research. My presentation introduces the next generation BRAHMS system as published in April 2019.

<https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/>

Denis Filer is the BRAHMS project coordinator and is based at Plant Sciences, Oxford. His special interests include working with living and preserved collections data, helping museums, herbaria and botanic gardens boost the potential of their data both off and online.

Getting the most out of your collections with the all-new BG-BASE v9

Kerry Walter, Director & Mahir Akbalik, BG-BASE (UK) Ltd.

Combining power, flexibility and proven architecture, BG-BASE™ 9 provides a clean, modern and highly configurable interface to manage,

organize, view and share all of the data locked up in your collections. It fits perfectly into the workflow of gardens - large or small, new or established - wishing to enhance the value of their collections.

Kerry S. Walter has a PhD in Plant Taxonomy from the University of Michigan and began his work with electronic plant record systems in 1973. He began writing BG-BASE in 1985 and since then has focused on integrating data about Living and Preserved collections as well as the importance of storing collections data archivally for future generations. He has been fortunate to have worked with more than 150 botanic gardens and arboreta.

Mahir Akbalik received his BSc (Honours) in Horticulture with Plantsmanship from the University of Glasgow in 2011. He has a wide variety of experiences in over 25 gardens on four continents where he has been able to combine his interests in curation, horticulture and ecology starting in his native Turkey in 2003. He joined the BG-BASE Team in 2015 where he focuses on configurability, multilingual user interface and mapping.

Notes:

Wider use of plant record data

Horticulture at Chester Zoo: an overview

Phillip Esseen BSc. BLD. CMLI, Curator of Botany & Horticulture

Phillip joined Chester Zoo as Curator of Botany and Horticulture in 2015. His role involves managing the gardens and parts of the wider estate, curating the plant collection, ensuring the zoo plays an increasingly active role in plant conservation, and advising on plant selection and design for enclosures. The zoo specialises in maintaining large collections of *Nepenthes*, *Pleurothallidinae* orchids, and cacti (particularly *Copiapoa*, *Matucana* and *Turbinicarpus*), which Phillip manages as part of the National Plant Collections scheme. The team also works on a number of projects involving the conservation of native plant species, including black poplar, Llangollen whitebeam and limestone woundwort, and has developed and managed the Chester Zoo Nature Reserve.

PlantSearch, a global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections – how can it support your work?

Suzanne Sharrock, BGCI Director of Global Programmes

Suzanne Sharrock is BGCI's Director of Global Programmes. She coordinates BGCI's work on policy issues, including the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and has responsibility for a range of BGCI's publications and databases.

Big data: using plant records to identify and conserve threatened plants

Kalani Seymour, Threatened Plants Programme Manager

Kalani trained as a plant scientist and has worked at Cambridge, UCL, Reading and Kew with various roles in research, generating data and explaining it. Plant Heritage's Threatened Plants Project poses the challenge to name and act on behalf of rare garden cultivars in the UK and Ireland.

The PlantNetwork Directory of Botanical Collections in Britain and Ireland

First published in 1999, the Directory of Botanical Collections in Britain and Ireland provides information on 136 Botanical Collections. This on-line version of the Directory provides the original information as laid out in the printed version.

Visit the site: <https://plantnetwork.org/resources/directory/>

If you have, or know of, a plant collection that fulfil the criteria listed below, please add your information to the online form. The criteria are:

- potential use, for research, education, conservation or plant breeding; and/or,
- which maintains a plant records system (except for historically important collections where records have been lost or were never kept in the first place).

Perhaps your garden information simply needs to be updated? Please do check that your information is correct and up-to-date. Scroll down to the list of gardens and click on your garden. Then scroll to the bottom of the entry for your garden and follow the link to update.

If you need any help, please contact Rupert: rupertwilson@rhs.org.uk

Resources

International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)

IPEN is a voluntary registration system intending to facilitate the botanic gardens plant exchange in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

For more information, see: <http://www.bgci.org/policy/ipen/>

Nomenclature, floras and databases

- Tropicos®: all of the nomenclatural, bibliographic, and specimen data accumulated in Missouri Botanic Gardens' electronic databases during the past 25 years are publicly available here. See: <http://tropicos.org/NameMatching.aspx>
- Plants of the World Online: key tropical African Floras combined with data from Kew's Grassbase and PalmWeb databases have also been included along with species level data for some but not all orchids/ See: <http://powo.science.kew.org/>
- The Plant List: a working list of vascular plants and bryophytes created from combining the datasets of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden. See: <http://theplantlist.org/>
- Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNRS): corrects and standardises plant names. See: <http://tnrs.iplantcollaborative.org/>
- Plant Search: global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections (see above). See: http://www.bgci.org/plant_search.php
- ThreatSearch: a database of conservation assessments of plants and to determine if a plant is considered threatened. See: http://www.bgci.org/threat_search.php
- The GlobalTree Search: a database of tree species. See: http://www.bgci.org/global_tree_search.php
- The Tree Register of Britain and Ireland (TROBI): a database of notable trees throughout Britain and Ireland. See: <https://www.treeregister.org/>
- RHS Horticultural Database: for cultivar names. See: <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/>

Plant Records Group – over to you!

Do you use any other databases to check nomenclature, conservation status or geographic origin? If so, please let us know. Information will be updated for future meetings.

If there is other information which would be useful to share e.g. Nagoya, Plant Breeders' Rights, pest & disease information and much more, please do let us know. Or information you would welcome or find very useful.

We would like to create a repository of information for Plant Records Group member so any/all information you can share would be very useful. For instance, do you have a Collections Policy (see below) example or template you would be willing to share with PRG members?

See contact details on the inside front cover.

Note on Collection Policies

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 collections is available in our 2015 Annual conference resources booklet 'Plant collections management; keeping it legal, ethical and relevant' available on our website. For specific information on National Plant Collections, please see the upcoming PlantNetwork/Plant Heritage meeting in October 2019.

Notes and contacts

Will this meeting change how you manage your plant records?
If so, we would like to hear from you. Let us know what you are planning to do: office@plantnetwork.org or @PlantNetwork.

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PlantNetwork Events 2020

**PlantNetwork Annual Conference and AGM
Excellence in Horticulture
April 2020**

Training Days

- Winter Gardens
- Herbarium Techniques
- Glasshouse Forum
- Plant Records Group
- Exotic Gardening
- Tourism & Gardens
- Tree Forum
- Skills Forum

And introducing.... **The Sustainability Programme** with in-depth analysis of topical issues concerning growing media, plastics, herbicides, water use and many more issues.

If you have suggestions for training days or discussion topics, or would like to host an event, please contact us.

PlantNetwork Events 2019

**Climate Change & Gardens: PlantNetwork Annual Conference
and AGM**

08-09 May, Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens, Dorset.

Training days:

Plant Records, 15 May, Chester Zoo.

Arboreta and Woodlands: Tree Forum at RHS Rosemoor, 04 June, RHS Rosemoor, Devon.

Garden Masterplans and Management, 12 September, Trewithen Gardens, Cornwall.

Conservation, Preservation and Demonstration: the What, Why and How of National Plant Collections, 26 September, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire.

Play & Engagement in Gardens, 09 October, Walmer Castle & Gardens, Kent.

Tree Forum at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 22 October, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

More information and online booking at the PlantNetwork website:

www.plantnetwork.org



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