

An Analysis of Historic Significance and Its Impact on Public Horticulture Institutions

Matt Quirey

Introduced by First Year Fellow:
Dan Stern



The fields of public horticulture and historic preservation both have deep and well-documented beginnings. Internationally, a tradition of advocacy for preservation developed early. However, in the United States, preservation efforts did not gain national attention until the Antiquities Act of 1906. Subsequent legislation, programs of the National Parks Service, and growing numbers of non-profit advocacy groups have confirmed the increasing interest to value places of historic significance, including cultural landscapes.

Important questions remain. How do we decide which cultural landscapes are significant? What are the current criteria used to distinguish these landscapes in the United States, Canada, and abroad? Are public horticulture institutions included in this discussion? This research used strategies aimed at answering those questions. Starting with an analysis of international criteria, interviews were then conducted to better understand the groups that are involved with garden and landscape preservation, maintenance, education, and advocacy. A survey was sent to APGA garden directors utilizing The Theory of Planned Behavior to better understand how attitude, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control affect management's current support of historic significance. When attitude and subjective norms were found to be the significant variables, further exploration was done to determine how public horticulture institutions can be more engaged in cultural landscape preservation.

Public horticulture institutions strive to be integral parts of their communities. As such, their role as keepers of cultural heritage depends on proper stewardship of their historic resources. However, as funding becomes less available, justifying the expense of maintaining such a role demands clear understanding of the importance of considering historic significance in the decision making process.

Sino-American Botanical Exchange: Encouraging Greater Botanical Collaboration Through a Mutually Beneficial Staff Exchange Program

Barnabas Seyler

Introduced by First Year Fellow:
Andrew Gapinski



With the vast diversity of China's flora and its similarity to North America's, the interest in study and botanical collaboration has continued in both countries despite increased regulations and bureaucracy. Limited budgets and smaller staff sizes have especially hindered collaboration among small to medium sized gardens in both China and the U.S. This study investigated the potential development of a Sino-American horticultural staff exchange program modeled after the Interchange Fellowship/Martin McLaren Scholarship program as administered by the Garden Club of America and the Royal Horticultural Society (UK).

Interviews were conducted with directors and/or upper management during July 2008 at 11 Chinese botanical gardens in seven provinces. Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and case studies documented the American perspective; data were collected and examined from the American Public Gardens Association, Garden Club of America, North American China Plant Exploration Consortium, and key public gardens engaged in collaboration with China.

Data indicate tremendous support for the proposed staff exchange program among public gardens and stakeholders in both countries. The public horticulture context in China was documented and three models of public horticulture institutions were identified. The proposed exchange program will unite the resources and mutual interests of public gardens in both countries, coordinate their abilities, and keep them connected to the best minds and future horticultural leaders within their respective countries. Ongoing staff and educational exchange will also increase mutual understanding and awareness of institutional strengths on both sides and create a resource network available to non-associated individuals or institutions wishing to collaborate.

Longwood Graduate Program

IN PUBLIC HORTICULTURE



Research Seminars

May 29, 2009

Longwood
Gardens



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The Longwood Graduate Fellows will present their thesis research topics on Friday May 29, 2009. A light luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Longwood Gardens Visitor Center Auditorium. The presentations will begin at 12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Audience members will have complimentary access to Longwood Gardens following the presentations. Please check the Longwood Gardens Web site for other highlights of the day <www.longwoodgardens.org>.

SCHEDULE

Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
Introductory Remarks*	12:00 p.m.
Jackie Bergquist.	12:15 p.m.
Dan Burcham.	12:45 p.m.
Matthew Quirey	1:15 p.m.
Break	1:45 p.m.
Barnabas Seyler	2:00 p.m.
Closing Remarks	2:30 p.m.

*Assisted by Shari Edelson, First Year Fellow

Directions to Longwood Gardens can be found at www.longwoodgardens.org

Please park your vehicles in the Visitor Parking Lot. Access the Auditorium by making your way through the Garden Shop to the Auditorium Lobby.



Urban Forest Management for Multiple Benefits: An Analysis of Tree Establishment Strategies Used By Community Tree Planting Programs

Dan Burcham

Introduced by First Year Fellow:
Jon Pixler



Community tree planting programs work to improve local and regional communities by managing trees in constructed landscapes. Trees planted by these programs provide many benefits accrued within the local ecology and valued

by city residents. Although adequate research exists describing the nature, extent, and valuation of the amenities provided by urban trees, management strategies used to sustain these benefits is an area requiring additional investigation. This research examined tree establishment strategies used by community tree planting programs, which includes the selection, acquisition, and installation of trees.

The study utilized a mixed-methods sequential methodology approach for data collection. Research included eleven key informant interviews with community tree planting program managers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States. On-site visits were made to conduct semi-structured interviews, collect tree planting information, and observe tree establishment first-hand. In order to further investigate the nature of the tree establishment process from tree production to installation, a questionnaire was sent to professionals at community tree planting programs and nurseries.

Programs participating in this research collectively planted 26,383 trees, made possible through resident grant applications, volunteer coordination, internal effort, and cooperative planting strategies. Approximately 132 woody taxa were represented in this sum. Planting strategies were designed with specific management goals and objectives in mind to promote benefits and amenities provided by trees. The research data collected from community tree planting programs identified universal strategies advancing tree establishment, including a well-defined program mission, reliable financial support, community involvement, program standards and policies, and a clear tree planting

workflow. Programs were also affected by their working relationships with nurseries, and questionnaire results revealed an inverse relationship between a program's tree planting success and three other variables, including the number of trees planted, number of nurseries utilized, and the nature of commercial interaction.

The Development of a Natural Disaster Planning Template for use in Plant Collections Management

Jackie Bergquist

Introduced by First Year Fellow:
Keelin Purcell



Living collections are vital holdings in botanical and public gardens, which come in direct contact with meteorological elements every day. This direct exposure is, most of the time, what plants need to survive. Alternatively, this direct

contact with the elements may also cause destruction during extreme weather conditions to which the plants are not adapted. During wind storms, ice storms, freezing temperatures, tornadoes, hurricanes, and fire events, plants that are unadapted can be permanently damaged, if not killed. This thesis examines the natural disaster planning process in public gardens, specifically focusing on the mitigation of damage to plant specimens.

This thesis research is a concurrent embedded approach of mixed methodology, including two national public garden surveys, three case studies, and nine onsite interviews with botanical institutions that have experienced disaster. Data from this research indicates that over two thirds of American public gardens do not have disaster protection plans in place for their collections. It was also found that preventative mitigation and protection measures were not as important to the public garden community as pre-disaster planning for an expedited post-disaster recovery. A natural disaster planning template was formulated as a result of this research, to aid public gardens in the disaster planning process.