

2000-2001 Annual Report of the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research

The 2000-2001 academic year was a period of considerable change and adjustment for the Botanical Garden and its staff. Bruce Macdonald, director since 1987, retired in January. During his tenure at the garden, he built significantly upon a profitable plant introduction scheme, tirelessly worked at increasing funding and donations to the garden and kept the Botanical Garden in the public eye. Bruce has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his work at the garden and for his efforts in horticulture locally, nationally and internationally. His book, *Practical Woody Plant Propagation for Nursery Growers*, is an industry standard. In retirement Bruce plans to write a second volume on propagation and continue to consult. Douglas Justice, curator of collections, is currently acting director.

The Faculty hired Andrew Riseman as an assistant professor and ornamental plant breeder for the Botanical Garden. Both the Henry M. Eddie Plant Development Foundation and the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) provided start-up money for this position. The local nursery and floriculture industries will be major beneficiaries of Andrew's work in breeding plants for increased stress tolerance, hardiness and ornamental value. Laboratory facilities were established and a number of plant species identified for future breeding work. Research technician Justin Moore was hired to assist Andrew.

Long-time Botanical Garden employee Linda Blaine has left the garden, having been promoted to assistant to the dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences; David Tarrant is now public relations and programs coordinator at the garden; and Judy Newton is the new education coordinator. Horticulturist John Lawrus moved to the Cayman Islands to take on the position of garden supervisor at Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. Workers Stacey Ewert, Chad Chobotar and Randy Grant have joined the garden from other UBC departments.

The Botanical Garden continues to build on its increasing support from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. In November, UBC Senate approved the establishment of UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Horticulture,

now renamed the Centre for Plant Research (BGCPR), a decision that allowed the garden to move forward on a number of important fronts. Foremost was the initiation of a Strategic Plan and a Master Plan for the BGCPR and the commencement of a search for a new director, the results of which will be known soon. The Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research logo (back cover), created by De Lorenzana Design, gives the BGCPR an attractive brand identity that can be used on administrative and promotional materials alike. The garden website, <http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org>, which now resides on the faculty server, was also updated and redesigned, incorporating the new logo and colours. Botanical Garden accessions technician Daniel Mosquin is webmaster.

The Botanical Garden continues to garner increasing public awareness. In 2000, paying visitors to the Nitobe Memorial Garden and the main Botanical Garden totalled more than 35 000, producing gate revenues of approximately \$118 000. This year, Apple Festival resulted in the largest revenue of any garden event to date. Over 9000 kilograms of apples were sold and more than 6000 people attended. The Perennial Plant Sale, Native Plant Sale and Indoor Plant Sales were all highly successful, both from financial and community perspectives. None would have been possible, however, without the Friends of the Garden, who organize and run these activities. The FOGs helped bring in more than \$200 000 from events and Shop in the Garden revenues in 2000. To commemorate their twenty-fifth anniversary in 2001, the FOGs presented the Botanical Garden with a sophisticated laser engraver for making interpretive signage and labels for the garden. The laser technology replaces an older, hazardous, chemical-based label-making system. The significance of FOG contributions, whether donations in time, materials, expertise, money or lobbying efforts on behalf of the garden, cannot be understated. Without the generosity of such supporters, the Botanical Garden would not have survived the budget cuts and lack of institutional support that characterized the previous decade.

For 2000-2001, individual donations to the garden totalled nearly \$190 000. Together with Josephine Berthier's bequest of \$750 000 for student education and training and \$100 000 for the BC Native Garden, these gifts push the Botanical Garden's endowment total to over \$3 million.

The Botanical Garden catalogued more than 350 new plants, representing horticultural and documented wild-origin collections from around the tem-

perate world. Notable additions to the Botanical Garden include a large collection of cultivated houseleeks (*Sempervivum* and *Jovibarba*) donated by the estate of renowned local cactus and succulent collector Grace Rollerson. The Botanical Garden was also the recipient of a number of rhododendrons, maples and associated plants from seed collected in the mountainous regions of northern Yunnan, China, given by the Rhododendron Species Foundation, a Pacific Northwest institution with a long history of collaboration with the Botanical Garden. An important donation to the Botanical Garden was Professor John Davidson's lanternslide projector and extensive collection of early 20th Century lanternslides depicting both botanical subjects and life in Vancouver at the turn of the previous century. John Davidson was British Columbia's first provincial botanist and UBC Botanical Garden's first director. The projector and slides were a gift from the Davidson family.

Internationally, UBC Botanical Garden is an important destination for people in the botanical research and botanical garden communities. Noteworthy visitors to the garden in the past year include Hideo Suzuki, past president of the Japanese Rhododendron Society. Mr. Suzuki continues to provide the garden with documented, wild-collected seed from Japan. Renowned British plant explorer Keith Rushforth and world rhododendron expert Peter Cox both visited the garden and saw plants from seed that each had collected on expeditions through the Himalayas, Vietnam and China. Mark Flannagan, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park, England, and Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Tacoma, Washington, were other distinguished visitors.

The International Clematis Society and the American Nursery Association both held successful tours through the garden. In November, the Botanical Garden hosted the annual meeting of the North America China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC), whose membership includes curators and directors of a number of important American botanical gardens. UBC is the only Canadian and the only west coast garden involved with NACPEC. Wild-collected seed and valuable information flows unimpeded between member institutions. The Botanical Garden continues to establish and build such relationships with individuals, institutions and societies to support global plant diversity and conservation efforts and to enhance the development of research and educational opportunities in the garden.