Plant hunters that transformed our gardens

Start date 8 June 2019    End date 8 June 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sandy Primrose    Course code 1819NDX050

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746204

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Sandy Primrose has spent his professional life as a biologist, initially in academia and then as a senior manager in pharmaceutical, diagnostic and life science companies. He also has worked with various government departments on topics such as the detection of food fraud and the safety of genetically engineered foods. He now works as a consultant helping early stage companies in the healthcare field.

Sandy is a very keen gardener and lectures extensively on plants, horticulture and gardening. He is passionate about teaching and he tries to be both entertaining and educational without being overly technical. When in teaching mode he prefers to use a mix of presentation and active student participation to maximize the return to the student.
Course programme

09:30 Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee

10:00 – 11:15 The drivers of plant hunting (then and now)

- The 16th century desire to grow something different
- Joseph Banks and economic botany
- The rise and fall of traditional plant hunting
- The modern-day plant hunters
- The perils of plant hunting
- Global threats to plants and conservation

11:15 Coffee

11:45 – 13:00 Where and how to go plant hunting

- Centres of origin and diversity
- The central role of the herbarium
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Hotspots for garden-worthy plants
- The logistics of plant hunting
- CITES, the Nagoya protocol and the IUCN red list

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:15 The great plant hunters

- The Tradescants
- John Bartram
- Banks and Masson
- The Lewis and Clarke expedition
- The RHS collectors
- The Lobb brothers
- George Forrest
- Ernest Wilson
- Frank Kingdon Ward

15:15 Tea

15:30 – 16:45 The modern day plant hunters and final review

- Hunters of ornamental plants
  - Roy Lancaster
  - The Cox’s of Glendoick
  - Sue & Bleddyn Wynn-Jones (Crug Farm Plants)
  - Dan Hinckley
- The scientific plant collectors
  - The Millenium Seed Bank Project
  - Crop wild relatives
Course syllabus

Aims:
To give participants an understanding of the epic journeys (think Indiana Jones meets horticulture) that resulted in the wealth of plants that we have in our gardens today and the post-WWII role of gardens as centres of conservation for endangered plant species.

Content:
The changing drivers of plant hunting from the 16th century to the present day. The different types of plant hunter in the 21st century. Choosing where to go, and why, and the associated logistics. The great plant hunters from the Tradescants (17th century) to Frank Kingdon Ward (early 20th century). The modern-day hunters of ornamental plants (Roy Lancaster, the Coxes of Glendoick, Sue & Bleddyn Wynn-Jones, Dan Hinckley). The importance of crop wild relatives and the Millenium Seed Bank.

Presentation of the course:
All lectures will be illustrated with photos and maps but the emphasis will be on the bigger picture rather than details of individual plants. The lecture style will be relaxed and participants are encouraged to get involved if they wish.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:
- Appreciate the efforts and the hardships of the plant hunters who transformed our gardens
- Appreciate the current issues surrounding biological conservation and assess its success/relevance to plants

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fortune</td>
<td>Three Years' Wanderings in the Northern Provinces of China</td>
<td>Mildmay, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fortune</td>
<td>A Journey to the Tea Countries of China</td>
<td>Mildmay, 1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth Cox et al</td>
<td>Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges</td>
<td>Antique Collectors' Club, 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Wulf</td>
<td>The Brother Gardeners (The story of Peter Collinson and John Bartram)</td>
<td>William Heinemann, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Lindsay</td>
<td>Seeds of Blood and Beauty (The Scottish Plant Explorers)</td>
<td>Birlinn, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toby Musgrave et al</td>
<td>The Plant Hunters</td>
<td>Ward Lock, 1998</td>
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</tbody>
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M&J Gribbin  
Flower Hunters  
Oxford University Press, 2008

Jennifer Potter  
Strange Lives: The Curious Lives and Adventures of the John Tradescants  
Atlantic, 2006

Prudence Leith-Ross  
The John Tradescants: Gardeners to the Rose and Lily Queen  
P. Owen, 1984

All of these books are available from Amazon. Members of the RHS may be able to borrow them from the Society library.

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**Additional information**

**Venue**

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website: http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute

**Refreshments**

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 10 October 2018