

Plant hunters that transformed our gardens

Start date	28 March 2020	End date	20 March 2020
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Sandy Primrose	Course code	1920NDX016

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact the Lifelong Learning team

Zara Kuckelhaus, Fleur Kerrecoe
shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 764637

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	Session 1: The drivers of plant hunting (then and now) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Session 2: Where and how to go plant hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Session 3: The great plant hunters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
15:45 – 17:00	Session 4: The modern day plant hunters and final review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hunters of ornamental plants<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Roy Lancaster◦ The Cox's of Glendoick◦ Sue & Bleddyn Wynn-Jones (Crug Farm Plants)◦ Dan Hinckley• The scientific plant collectors<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The Millenium Seed Bank Project◦ Crop wild relatives
17:00	Day-school ends

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 *

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

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.

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: 15 January 2020