

# PLANT CONSERVATION STRATEGY UNVEILED

The North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Plant Conservation (NABGS), a partnership of botanic garden associations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, was presented at the annual American Public Garden Association (APGA) conference. This strategy was developed to focus on the thousands of North American plant species that are threatened with extinction. Other plant-conservation strategic plans have been used as a framework for this plan. The most significant include the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by more than 180 countries that are signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the strategic plan of the Conservation Alliance, a U.S. federal interagency group.

The Partnership for Plants Alliance is comprised of five key organizations: the American Public Garden Association (APGA), Asociación Mexicana de Jardines Botánicos (AMJB), Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network (CBCN) and the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC). The members collaborated to develop a comprehensive strategy for the conservation of threatened plants in North America.

## Goals:

- Understanding and documenting plant diversity;
- Conserving plant diversity;
- Using plant diversity sustainably;
- Promoting public education and awareness about plant diversity;
- Building capacity for conservation of plant diversity;
- Building support for NABGS.

The goals of the NABGS follow internationally agreed targets that have been adapted to the particular North American context. Underpinning the major goals are 19 specific and measurable targets and sub-targets setting benchmarks to determine the success of both existing and future conservation efforts.

The strategy also recognizes that the botanical gardens of North America hold some of the most diverse collections of plants in the world. Many gardens have the expertise, knowledge and resources to expand their plant-conservation efforts beyond North America and assist in conserving nonnative species in the countries of origin.

## INFORMATION ON THREATENED AND IMPERILED PLANTS

— The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) has been adopted by the signatories of the Convention

of Biological Diversity (CBD) and includes 16 outcome-oriented global targets for plant conservation by 2010. The ultimate and long-term objective of the strategy is to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity. The strategy will provide a framework to facilitate harmony between existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources. The reason for a strategy under the CBD is that setting meaningful targets is feasible since scientific understanding of at least higher plants, though incomplete, is better than for most other groups.

— Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a membership organization linking botanic gardens in over 120 countries in a shared commitment to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and environmental education. BGCI aims to mobilize botanic gardens and work with partners to secure plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

— The Center for Plant Conservation is a U.S. based plant conservation organization, dedicated to conserving and restoring the imperiled native plants of the United States.

— The number of native plants in the US and Canada is approximately 35,000 of which around 5,500 are classified as "at risk." In Mexico, 981 species are included on the 2001 Red List.



### BEAUTY FROM BULBS

Bring the special beauty of bulbs to your family's garden from our extensive collection of over 800 varieties of flower bulbs. The best of the Dutch harvest, our bulbs are available in smaller units from the John Scheepers *Beauty from Bulbs* catalog and in larger units with volume discounts through Van Engelen.

For a copy of Van Engelen's 52-page wholesale price list or John Scheepers 88-page color catalog, please contact our family's companies ([www.vanengelen.com](http://www.vanengelen.com) or [www.johnscheepers.com](http://www.johnscheepers.com)). And don't forget to ask for our Kitchen Garden Seeds catalog for the best of gourmet vegetable, herb and heirloom flower seeds ([www.kitchengardenseeds.com](http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com)).

The third generation in flower bulbs, Jan Ohms was raised in Holland's bulb district before moving to the U.S. He has been credited with helping to expand the use of Dutch flower bulbs in American gardens. For colorful personal stories about the Dutch flower bulb industry, horticultural information and color photographs, just give us a call.

<p><b>Van Engelen Inc.</b> 23 Tulip Drive PO Box 638 Bantam, CT 06750 Phone: (860) 567-8734 Fax: (860) 567-6089 <a href="http://www.vanengelen.com">www.vanengelen.com</a></p>	 <p><b>John Scheepers</b> 23 Tulip Drive PO Box 638 Bantam, CT 06750 Phone: (860) 567-0838 Fax: (860) 567-6089 <a href="http://www.johnscheepers.com">www.johnscheepers.com</a></p>
--	--

QT90 Serving America's finest gardens since 1908.

# Quill & Trowel

The Membership Newsletter of the Garden Writers Association

Number 4, August 2007

## "ROUTE 66: THE MOTHER ROAD" SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION



Michael Wallis

It has been said that "reading a Michael Wallis book is like dancing to a romantic ballad. He offers his hand and gently guides you across the floor, swaying to the song of the American West." A best-selling author and award-winning reporter, Michael is an historian and

biographer of the American West who has gained national acclaim as a speaker and voice talent.

A storyteller who enjoys transporting audiences across time and space, Michael has published 13 books, including *Route 66: The Mother Road*, credited with sparking the resurgence of interest in the highway. His works have appeared in hundreds of national and international magazines and newspapers, including *Time*, *Life*, *People* and *Smithsonian*.

Michael has been nominated three times for the Pulitzer Prize and was a nominee for the National Book Award. He has won many prestigious awards and honors. He was inducted into the Writers Hall of Fame of America and the Oklahoma Professional Writer's Hall of Fame and was the first inductee into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame.

Mr. Wallis' keynote address is sponsored by Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden. Hear his presentation at the Myriad Botanical Gardens during the GWA Annual Symposium in Oklahoma City.

## GWA ELECTIONS GO ONLINE

By GWA President Steve Dobbs

Without much fanfare, the GWA Board of Directors and staff have been steadily improving and expanding member services and activities. This is particularly true of the GWA website, where, in recent months we have made a number of changes as part of an on-going effort to increase member participation and make GWA communications and services quick, easy and efficient for everyone. While these incremental improvements have been done with minimal hurrah, occasionally we come across a change so phenomenal that it cannot go without some significant attention.

### 2007 GWA ELECTIONS

A milestone is being set for GWA as our annual election process will be by electronic ballot for the first time. You may recall that we thought it was daring to open the election balloting to faxed responses just a few years ago. As a result of that action, the number of members voting rose by more than 30%. That decision was obviously most beneficial to the membership and the association.

In keeping with our long-rang plan to expand member participation while controlling costs, the Board has been quietly investigating how to take the next step and make the election process fully electronic. Our challenge was to provide a voting system that makes it easier for members to understand what they are voting for, resolve existing issues resulting in spoiled ballots and guarantee

*Elections continued on page 16*

**Early rate discount for the GWA Symposium extended to Wed., Aug. 22. Register today!**

### In This Issue:

Addresses & Updates .....	20	Exec. Director's Report.....	3	Plant Conservation Strategy .....	14
Allied News .....	17	GWAF Report.....	4	President's Message.....	2
Dates and Events.....	21	Hot Off the Press .....	22	Regional Meetings Wrapup .....	12
Earn Royalties.....	16	New Members .....	18	Regional News.....	6
		On the QT.....	13	Sponsors .....	3
		Photographer's Corner.....	5	Symp At a Glance.....	24