

W-10 Tree Day: Species Steward Spotlight: Learn about the conservation work being conducted by the Global Conservation Consortia Stewards

A. Byrne¹, A. Meyer², J. Linsky³, V. Handley⁴, and M. Rodriguez⁵

¹ The Morton Arboretum, USA

² Botanic Gardens Conservation International, USA

³ Atlanta Botanical Garden, USA

⁴ Montgomery Botanical Center, USA

⁵ GCCO Mexico and Central America

Duration: 90 minutes

Target audience: Curators/collection managers, horticulturists, conservation geneticists; all those who are involved in the development of a metacollection site from planning a site, to the establishment and then maintenance and care of the site.

Objectives:

- In this session, participants will learn about the different ways in which they can contribute to plant conservation projects through the GCC networks.
- Participants will learn about emerging conservation tools and strategies, and how to apply them to meet institutional and collective conservation goals, regardless of the size or capacity at each garden.
- Also, participants will contribute to thoughtful discussion (led by the workshop leads) on considerations that should be taken when initiating, or expanding an *in-situ* project, and/or establishing conservation collections.

Abstract: Effective conservation of genetic diversity requires the integration of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation approaches. The Global Conservation Consortia (GCC) are model networks, consisting of numerous roles that partners from around the world can take, spearheading conservation and research efforts for threatened plant taxa. The GCCs focus on numerous objectives, including *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation. The GCCs are successful in meeting these objectives through the committed roles that Species Stewards take on to protect, preserve, and restore priority, threatened plant taxa. Species Stewards are dedicated institutions and/or individuals, with varying capacities that lead *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation efforts for one or more threatened species for the GCC they are a part of; the success of the Consortia would not be possible without the commitment of Species Stewards. GCC Species Stewards will share success stories and challenges with the participants on several taxonomic focused *in-situ* and *ex-situ* projects. We invite plant conservationists to bring suggestions and think collectively about how their skills and expertise can contribute to the work of Species Stewards within the GCC model and overall support the research, restoration, and preservation of threatened plant species through various measures.