

APRIL 2016

# SITELINES

Landscape Architecture in British Columbia



## RURAL AND ECOTOURISM

Rural and Ecotourism | In the Footsteps of the Scottish Plant Hunters | In Search of the Elusive Rhododendron Grove |  
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450–355 Burrard St. Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8

T 604.682.5610

E office@bcsla.org  
admin@bcsla.org

F 604.681.3394

TF 855.682.5610  
(Canada and US)

W www.bcsla.org  
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#### SITELINES GROUP

GUEST CO-EDITOR	Randy Sharp, MBCSLA (Inactive), FCSLA
CO-EDITOR	Tara Culham 604.682.5610
ADVERTISING	Tara Culham 604.682.5610 fax: 604.681.3394
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Addon Creative 604.379.5943
PRINTING	Initial Printing Inc. 604.669.2383

The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of landscape architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not

# Rural *and* EcoTOURISM

by Randy Sharp, FCSLA, ASLA, LEED® A.P., G.R.P.



Clive Justice and Randy Sharp at UBC Botanical Garden, *Rhododendron thomsonii*

**Experiencing the joy of reaching the top of the mountain, crossing a canyon on a cable footbridge, helping a villager clean up after a tropical storm, or having a simple feast at a homestay. Whether it's learning a new skill such as cooking local food or speaking a new language, travel presents ways in which we can further our knowledge and education. "Learning makes our brains more active, which psychologists have found will increase our level of happiness... Being in foreign lands, it also**

**continuously forces me to step out of my comfort zone — a great confidence-builder." [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacadatravel/11-reasons-why-travel-makes-you-a-happier-person\\_b\\_6908918.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacadatravel/11-reasons-why-travel-makes-you-a-happier-person_b_6908918.html)**

In this special issue on Rural and Ecotourism, we start our journey in the Himalayas during the 1970's, a great decade when virtually unlimited travel across Asia was possible with a Canadian passport. It was the era of adventure travel and backpacking to remote agricultural villages, visiting undiscovered places, and having 'fresh' experiences. People were gracious and welcoming, happy to share their culture, their modest accommodation, and organic food from the garden.

Clive Justice, FCSLA, LMBCSLA-003-L, describes his adventures in the Himalayas over a thirty-year period following in the tradition of the great Scottish plant hunters such as J.D. Hooker. After he retired from active professional practice, Clive joined the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) to assist the Government of Sikkim to establish rhododendron preserves, wildlife sanctuaries, park facilities and eco-lodges in order to build a sustainable economy based on agriculture and ecotourism (see insert).

The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as: "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people... Ecotourism strives to minimize the adverse affects of hotels, trails and other infrastructure by using either recycled materials or plentifully available local building materials, renewable sources of energy, recycling and safe disposal of waste and garbage, and environmentally and culturally sensitive architectural design. In addition, ecotourism builds environmental awareness, provides direct financial benefits for conservation... and empowerment for local people..." <https://www.ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism> ▶



Cover Image: *Rhododendron hodgsonii* and *Abies spectabilis* (Himalayan silver fir) in Kanchenjunga National Park, Sikkim, INDIA. Photography: Randy Sharp

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Randy Sharp and Carol Smith returned to the Himalayas in 2015 to see amazing rhododendron forests in bloom and to witness how Sikkim has become a model for ecotourism, organic agriculture, sustainable forestry, and water management in Asia. Dylan Gale, of Wild Nettle Foods, provides an introduction to WWOOFING starting in Nepal. The 'World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms' is a web of national organizations that link volunteers with organic farms and growers.

Kristina Salin, MBCSLA, MCIP, RPP, shares her planning and ecotourism strategies as well as current governmental policies related to agri-tourism in BC. She provides several examples of western ranch experiences and sustainable viticulture practices at a LEED® certified winery. A popular event is the Pemberton Slow Food Cycle, where participants visiting farms and fruit stands by bicycle. 'Getting there' to rural destinations without private motor vehicles or jet airplanes may be challenging as we transition to a lower carbon economy; however more

ecotourism companies are offering ride-share, rail, sailboat and kayak options as well as organized tours by bicycle and/ or van.

Back on the coast of British Columbia, Cameron Murray, MBCSLA, welcomes us to take a kayak or bicycle down the coast of Vancouver Island to Yellow Point, a long established eco-resort. We finish this journey in a comfortable armchair previewing a new colour edition of Mr. Menzies' *Garden Legacy*, written by a great plant collector himself, Clive L. Justice, FCSLA, LMBCSLA-003-L. Visiting places such as Yellow Point Lodge, named after the yellow Sedum oreganum, and surveying sites identified by Archibald Menzies such as Discovery Point and Menzies Bay are important. They inspire us to protect these iconic landscapes, and to replicate these coastal and interior ecosystems on rooftops in our cities and in the countryside of BC.

It is impossible to leave this planet without experiencing new landscapes. Local bicycle trips as well as travels to exotic lands are

a great form of continuing education; understanding how productive landscapes work, designing with nature, meeting people, and understanding how their cultures connect with the land. We look forward to hearing stories of great places to visit and unusual encounters along your journey. [SL](#)



Members of the Washington, Oregon and BC Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society: Britt Smith, Jean Smith, Fred Palmer, Forrest Gump and Clive Justice, 1974. Photo: Clive Justice

Julia Ryan, Vancouver  
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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SCOTTISH Plant Hunters

*Conversations with Clive L. Justice, FCSLA, LMBCSLA #003-L*



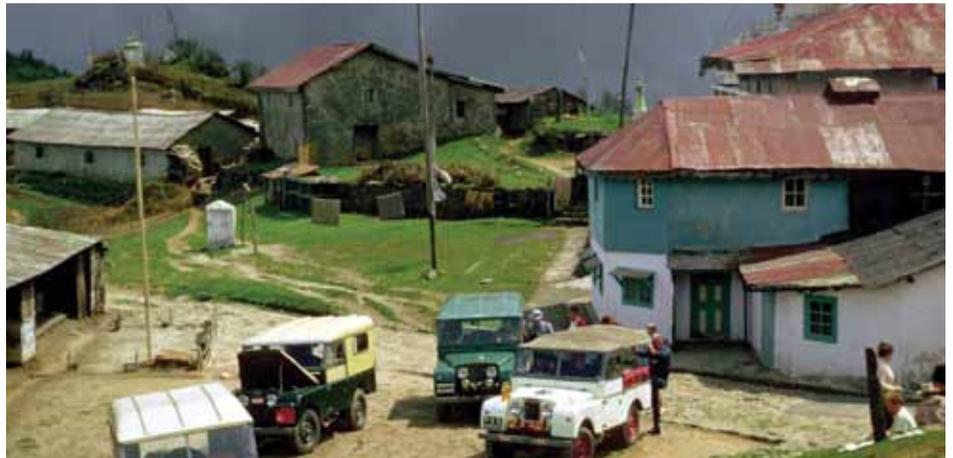
**Curious about his tartan regalia**, his obsession with rhododendrons, and trekking in the Himalayas, I confronted Clive Justice with many questions at a landscape architect's holiday reception. He was delighted. I told him that my wife Carol and I were planning a trip to the Himalayas in the spring of 2015. Clive sent me his annotated map documenting the route of his travels in Sikkim, and where to find the best rhododendron forests. Our adventure in Sikkim is described in the next article, 'In Search of the Elusive Rhododendron Grove.'

Meanwhile, Geoff Gooderham, MBCSLA, recommended we check out an interactive book about the great plant collectors, complete with pockets full of maps, botanical diagrams and drawings of plants. In *The Plant Hunters*, Carolyn Fry pays homage to those whose obsession with plants gave rise to our own passion for botanicals and gardening... Lavishly illustrated with more than one hundred images from the archives at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew\*.

**\* The Plant Hunters, Adventures of the World's Greatest Botanical Explorers,**  
*by Carolyn Fry*

<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/P/bo17224006.html>

Clive also told me stories about the great Scottish plant hunter, J.D. Hooker. Under extreme conditions, Hooker collected Woolly Lactuceae, Gentians, Chrysanthemums, Saxifrages and miniature Rhododendrons at elevation 18,000ft (5486m) in northern Sikkim. He described Rhododendron nivak as "the loftiest of all shrubs (in altitude)... branches are densely interwoven, very



harsh and woody... eminently typical of the arid stern climate it inhabits. The latest to bloom and earliest to mature its seeds, by far the smallest in foliage, and proportionately largest in flower... the most odoriferous... (produced by) the most excessive climate, a scorching sun by day and the keenest frost at night... For eight months of the year it is buried under many feet of snow... (the crimson-purple) flower of this little mountaineer will remain open through days of fog and sleet... "attracting bumblebees as well as the "Blues" and "Fritillaries" species of butterflies.

The trials and travels of the plant hunters and collectors were not easy. Hooker continues in his letters to colleagues back at Kew. "In the magical light of a young moon, everything was bathed in beauty and imaginative suggestion, but all pleasure was lost in the headache and giddiness and bodily lassitude brought on by exertion in that thin air." (Acute Mountain Sickness). At this elevation, a few steps under any circumstances is fatiguing, and the glare of the new fallen

Top: J.D. Hooker's Map of Sikkim and eastern Nepal, 1849 c/o Clive Justice

Bottom: Vintage WWII Jeeps and Land Rover, the primary form of transportation in Sikkim, 1974. All photos: Clive Justice

snow in so rarefied, an atmosphere gives soreness at once to unprotected eyes... (no sunglasses) others hung Yaks' tails over their eyes... I have not lost or broken a single instrument during my journey, though I have had 8 thermometers in daily use, 2 barometers, 2 chronometers, 3 compasses, a sextant, a artificial horizon (and) a vasculum full of plants..." [http://www.archive.org/stream/lifelettersofsir01hook\\_rich/lifelettersofsir01hookrich\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/lifelettersofsir01hook_rich/lifelettersofsir01hookrich_djvu.txt)

The great plant hunters of the Himalayas faced far bigger challenges than the earlier naturalists such as Archibald Menzies, who surveyed the coastal areas of British Columbia in the relative comfort of Her Majesties' Ship. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, 1817-1911, was also trained both as a naturalist and surgeon in Scotland. He was the first



Porters on 1974 trek with *Rhododendron falconeri*



Cooking momos (Tibetan dumplings) at Retreat 108

westerner to enter Sikkim, a remote kingdom sandwiched between Nepal, Tibet, India and Bhutan in the eastern Himalayas. The original inhabitants of Sikkim were the Bhoteas and Lepchas, joined later by the Nepalese and Tibetans who immigrated over the mountains to avoid persecution and to find greener pastures. These hardy mountain people of Sikkim live simple lives as farmers and serving as hosts, guides and porters, originally for the plant hunters, and now, for a new generation of adventure seekers.

Clive and members of the American Rhododendron Society, first traveled to Sikkim in 1974, during the dying days of the Kingdom. Palden Thondup Namgyal, the last Chogyal (shogun) of the Kingdom of Sikkim, invited Clive's botanical entourage to a lavish dinner and drinks at the royal palace in Gangtok. A year later, after an up-rising of the people and a statewide referendum held in 1975, Sikkim became a state of India and the monarchy was abolished.

Keshab C. Pradhan, author of several books including *The Rhododendrons of the Himalayas and Sikkim*, and his associate, P.K. Barnett, the Chief Forester of North Sikkim, were retained as guides for the 1974 botanical expedition. Leaving Gangtok in a convoy of vintage WWII Jeeps, the group drove to remote villages in the high alpine valleys of the Teesta watershed near the Tibetan border. The 'valley of flowers,' Yumthang, is a virtual paradise, carpeted in June with tiny Himalayan flowers including

primroses, cinquefoils, louseworts and Cobra-lilies. Situated at an altitude of 3,564m (11,693ft), the Yumthang valley is also the location of Singbha Rhododendron Sanctuary, featuring 24 species of indigenous species.

Clive's expedition stayed at Lachung, a former British hill station located at an elevation of 2,900 m (9,600ft) where the Lachen and Lachung Rivers meet. The Scottish explorer, Joseph Dalton Hooker, described Lachung as the "most picturesque village of Sikkim" in his Himalayan journal. Hooker spent four years mapping and documenting the incredible biodiversity and geology of the Himalayas (see his map), as well as collecting its unusual flora and commenting on the mountain inhabitants.

Two of J. D. Hooker's inspirations were the Scottish botanists Archibald Menzies and David Douglas who explored the West Coast collecting the indigenous pink and white rhododendrons. Hooker's greatest achievement, however, was the discovery of 24 new brightly coloured species in pure red, scarlet, crimson, purple, white and yellow. Many of these Himalayan rhododendrons are parents of the hardy hybrid varieties found in our western gardens. Rhododendromania swept Britain between 1851 and 1871, and Hooker became the second director of the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew.

Clive returned to Sikkim in 1991, at the invitation of K.C. Pradhan, now the Chief Secretary of the Forestry Department, and P.K. Basnett, Chief Conservator of Forests

for the state government. Clive had recently retired from his practice of landscape architecture in Vancouver, and joined the Canadian Executive Services Overseas (see insert in this magazine). CESO recruited retired and semi-retired professional and business people as volunteers to assist government agencies and businesses in under-developed countries.

Clive prepared *An Assessment of Visitor Facilities in Sikkim*. The report recommended improvements to parks, viewpoints, historic sites, hotels and facilities for ecotourism. One of Clive's recommendations was to encourage each and every visitor to Sikkim to plant a rhododendron or tree. He toured many of the conservation reserves, rhododendron sanctuaries and wildlife refuges that today cover nearly 31 per cent of the total land area of Sikkim. <http://www.sikkimforest.gov.in/Wildlife.htm>

In 2000, Clive visited Sikkim again with several members of the 1974 American Rhododendron Society botanical tour. The tour was organized as well by Keshab C. Pradhan and his son Sailesh Pradhan, who formed Sikkim Adventure Botanical Tours and Treks at 6th Mile outside of Gangtok. The group revisited several rhododendron protected areas including the Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary on the border of Bhutan. Clive was honored for his conservation work by the government of Sikkim at the designated 'Clive's Point', a popular destination and panorama viewpoint overlooking spectacular rhododendron ▶

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forests and distant views of Himalayan mountain ranges.

How sustainable is ecotourism in rural India? Recognized internationally as a 'hotspot of bio-diversity', Sikkim's forestry department has set aside 43% of the forests as an interconnected Protected Area Network.\* The department has also established programs to create awareness of the natural flora and to facilitate wildlife migration. For every tree cut down anywhere in the state, one has to be planted.

\* **The Rhododendrons of Sikkim,**  
*K.C. Pradham*

"The provinces of Kerala, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra all have bans on plastic bags in place but so far they have proved difficult to police. Delhi also introduced a ban last year. Some of the main reasons for the ban were that plastic bags blocking sewer lines drainage systems and water distribution pipelines were increasing malaria and dengue fever in

Rajasthan. Additionally, partly as a result of plastic bags blocking drains in Mumbai in 2005 over 1,000 people died in massive monsoon flooding there.\*" Several towns and cities are also considering banning plastic bottles, typically dumped off the sides of roads along with construction debris.

\* <http://planetsave.com/2010/07/29/largest-state-in-india-bans-plastic-bags-2/>

The Eco-Tourism & Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) is presently executing the Rural Tourism Cluster Project with funding partners for the promotion of community based homestays and ecotourism activities in various villages near popular tourist destinations in Sikkim such as the Bersey Rhododendron Sanctuary. ECOSS is also conducting a pilot project for the revival of the ancient weaving practice of giant nettle fiber cloth amongst the Lepcha community of Dzongu. In Yuxsom, the agency is providing solid waste management, telecommunication capacity building, and sustainability workshops for rural tourism operators.

Funding for water supply and waste management infrastructure is also provided through the community Small Grants Scheme (SGS) from the Department of Planning and Economic Reforms, Government of Sikkim.\*

\* [http://ecoss.org.in/?page\\_id=28](http://ecoss.org.in/?page_id=28)

The entire State of Sikkim produces only organic fruit and vegetables, as it has for millennia. Cow manure, ashes, leaves and food compost are plowed back into the fields; nothing on the farm is wasted. The agricultural terraces follow the contours of the steep valleys to conserve moisture and soil. Flood irrigation fills up one terrace and then flows in grass lined channels down to the next terrace. Footpaths separate the fields and follow the ridgelines up to hillside villages. Under the shade of a massive fig tree, students in uniform as well as men and women share conversations while waiting for the next ride share in a Jeep. Sikkim is halfway around the world; however, there is a lot that we can learn by immersing ourselves in the local culture and sharing stories. **SL**



# In Search of the Elusive RHODODENDRON GROVE

Randy Sharp, FCSLA, ASLA, LEED® A.P., G.R.P.

## *A Botanical Trek in the Himalayas of Sikkim*

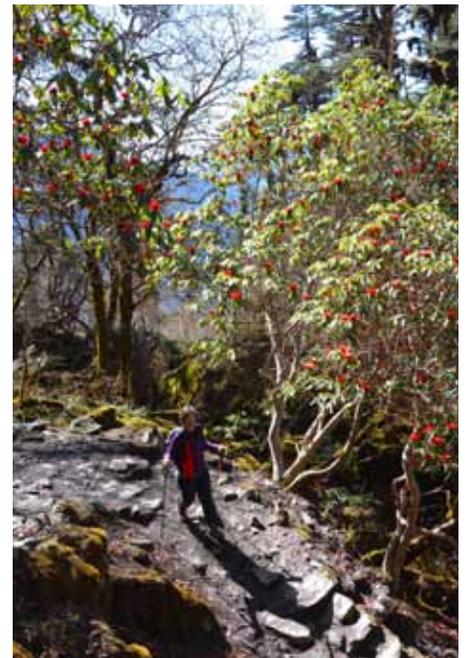
Ever since traveling around the world in 80 days with friends in 1979, I had wanted to return to the Himalayas to find ‘Shangri-La,’ and to re-experience the rhododendron forest. A distant memory from 1979 while trekking in Nepal, my friend Jake and I discovered a grove of twisted trees resembling our native Arbutus. Tall gnarly trunks supported a high canopy of brilliant red blossoms. Below, the forest floor was carpeted with fragrant white daphne. I shared my story with Clive Justice, FCSLA, LMBCSLA-003-L. He speculated that we might have seen *Rhododendron arboreum*, and the Paper daphne, *Daphne bholua*.

After months of research and booking online with local travel agencies in India, on April 3, 2015, my wife Carol and I flew to New Delhi by way of Frankfurt. We connected on a local flight to Bagdogra, a former air force base, where we had arranged for a driver to pick us up in a Toyota Innova mini-van.

I had this brilliant idea to go to the wettest

place on earth, Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, in NE India. Were we crazy? Most vacationers from Vancouver want to dry out in April after a long winter by visiting Palm Springs, Mexico or Hawaii! Monsoons sweep across the lowland plains of Bangladesh and literally drop a wall of water on Cherrapunji complete with spectacular wild lightning displays. Massive waterfalls spill over the 1,800m (6,000ft) high escarpment into deep canyons inhabited by former pigmy-like hunters. The local villagers are friendly now and offer tours down deep into the tropical jungle to see Cherrapunji’s unusual root bridges, braided from the air roots of massive fig trees, *Ficus elastic*.

After getting soaked from the pre-monsoon thunderstorms, Carol and I left Meghalaya and drove to Tawang, elevation 3,048m (10,000ft), near the border of Tibet, home of the second largest Buddhist monastery in the world (next to Lhasa). After riding three days there, and three days back over the worst road in India, and after sleeping in ►



Top left: Corduroy ‘road’ through Rhododendron forest Top right: Campsite at Tshoka, a former Tibetan village Bottom right: On the Tibetan highway through a grove of *Rhododendron arboreum*. All images Randy Sharp.



Cherrapunji's root bridges, braided from the roots of *Ficus elastica*

unheated 'hotel' rooms with no hot water, we were happy to return to civilization. We passed the tea plantations of Assam en route to the grasslands of West Bengal. At Jaldharpara National Park, we rode elephants in search of the one-horned Rhinoceroses (we saw many) and the Bengal tiger (they were elusive).

The next day, we arrived in sunny peaceful Yuksom, end of the road in West Sikkim, to acclimatize for our trek to Kanchenjunga National Park. We were treated like royalty at the Red Palace, a hand crafted timber 'eco-lodge' overlooking Buddhist temples and terraced farms that cascade down into deeply incised valleys. Yuksom, the ancient capital of Sikkim is now a rustic town for eco-tourists. In 1642, the coronation of the first Chogyal of Sikkim was officiated by the three venerated Lamas under a massive *Cryptomeria* tree.\*

\* *Lonely Planet, India Travel Guide, 2015, by Sarina Singh et. al.*

Mingma Tshering Sherpa organized permits and logistics for our trek from his office of Mountain Tours, Treks and Travels. Two porters, a guide, a cook, a wrangler and five pack horses will be carrying fresh food for us, cooking utensils, tea pots, our heavy

packs, sleeping bags, tents, a dinner table, and a decorative red Portable Pop-up Toilet and Changing Tent fit for a queen.

Leaving Yuksom, elevation 1,780m (5,840ft), we started our hike through terraced fields of barley and cardamom. Cardamom is Sikkim's number one export crop, popular in South Asian dishes, West Coast fusion, and in cardamom cinnamon rolls on Main Street in Vancouver. On the first day, we climbed 1,000m (3,280ft) vertical on an ancient Tibetan highway, originally built for convoys of yaks. These days, the large big horned 'dzo' (pronounced zoo), a cross between the thick hairy yak and the water buffalo, dominate the trails; Step aside quickly!

Nordic hiking poles are essential for extra propulsion in climbing, as well as for stability descending the slippery steps, worn smooth by centuries of use. This is the ultimate 'step-master', pure cardio, especially for a person with Parkinson's who needs sustained exercise everyday. The trail is characterized by oversize 600 x 600mm and larger 'yak' steps, corduroy boardwalks, slippery clay sections, and stepping-stone slabs over wet areas and streams.

After crossing a massive rock landslide at the entrance to the steep river valley, Carol and I entered a dark sub-tropical, incredibly diverse, forest paradise. We saw massive Mahonia, Arisaema (jack-in-the-pulpit), philodendrons, strangler fig, ferns, stinging nettles, and Viburnum with giant stands of bamboo, maple, oak and cinnamon trees. We crossed a narrow one-track cable suspension high above the Rathong, and then climbed steeply up through a broad forest with a high canopy of live Oak trees. I hit the wall!

Approaching Tshoka, we regained strength as we entered an amazing 'arboretum' of hemlock, fir and rhododendrons in brilliant red, fuchsia, creamy pink and yellow cream blossoms. We climbed up through immense moss-covered boulders with a high canopy of *Rhododendron arboreum*, filled with red trusses towering 25m (80ft) above, with highlights of white magnolia. Spectacular!

Tshoka was our first campsite on the trek, site of former outpost and village for Tibetan refugees. Our Sherpa hosts prepared a feast for us: chai tea followed by momos (Tibetan dumplings), noodle soup with fresh vegetables, and paneer makahani (Indian cheese in a creamy garlic-tomato-ginger



Two porters, a guide, a cook, a wrangler and pack horses with the author



Iridescent pink-mauve bark of *Rhododendron barbatum*

sauce), as well as fresh fruit, rice pudding and more chai, served on a dinner table complete with white tablecloth.

We woke up the next morning to a deep blue sky with towering views of Mt. Pandim and Singalila Ridge to the west on the border of Nepal. “By 10,100 feet (3,078m) we were surrounded by a forest of *R. arboreum*, *R. barbatum*, *R. grande*, *R. falconeri* and *R. wightii* topped by gaunt, but spectacular *Abies spectabilis*, the Himalayan silver fir. At 10,500 feet (3,200m) we entered a band of *R. hodgsonii* with its smooth pink and peeling bark, and flowers varying from rose to reddish-purple. Interspersed with the larger trees we saw *R. campylocarpum* and *R. thomsonii*.\*

\*Excerpts from a 1992 trek to Kanchenjunga National Park and Biosphere Reserve, published in the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, by Sue Muller Hacking and Chip Muller

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v47n4/v47n4-hacking.htm>

As Carol and I approached Phedang, we encountered thick fog, fresh snow and a slippery eroded trail, overused by the dzo convoy trains. The next morning we awoke to a flooded meadow outside our tent that looked like curry soup, churned up by dozens of dzo and packhorses. The snow turned to sleet. I read *Chasing the Monsoon*, by Alexander Frater, subtitled ‘A Modern Pilgrimage through India’ which included stories about Cherrapunji, the wettest place on earth. How appropriate! After all day in a damp tent, Carol asked “when will this end?”

Our guide Pema woke us up at 4am to hike up for the sunrise over Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world at 8,586m (28,169ft). The clear dark sky with no moon presented a dazzling display of shooting stars, constellations of the Southern Hemisphere and the Milky Way. I ate a Mars bar and put on my headlamp. We clamored up the steep frozen trail, sometimes on hands and feet to a panoramic viewpoint. As we reached Dzongri Ridge, Kanchenjunga and its satellite peaks started to glow pink in the pre-dawn light followed by first rays of the golden sun. Eventually, the whole massif was illuminated as well as layers of Himalayan mountain ranges in all directions.

As the world unfolded around us, we discovered an alpine landscape of low spreading *Rhododendron anthopogon*, *R. setosum*, and *R. lepidotum* as well as impenetrable thickets of *R. campanulatum*.\* The morning sun illuminated the smooth iridescent pink-mauve bark and the large deep green leaves of the *Rhododendron hodgsonii*, named by J.D. Hooker after his fellow naturalist, Brian Houghton Hodgson. The *R. hodgsonii* was a thick entanglement of twisted branches, formed by constant wind and the heavy snowfalls.

\* <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v47n4/v47n4-hacking.htm>

Back at camp, the rest of our crew was packing up our soggy tents for the long two-day return trip down the mountain. It was a knee crusher, stepping down what seemed like 10,000 steps. We were happy to be back in Yukuksom to relax in the relative comfort of the Red Palace.

Based on the frequency of pre-monsoon storms, we decided to cancel our trek to the border of Nepal where we originally hoped to see Mt. Everest. It was a very fortuitous decision because on April 25th at noon, disaster struck the Himalayas. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake centered near Kathmandu in Nepal killed over 3,000 persons when entire villages were buried by landslides and an avalanche decimated the base camp at Everest.\* Sikkim lies along the same unstable fault zone as Nepal. Luckily, Carol and I had just returned from an overnight hike in the Bersey Rhododendron Sanctuary. When the earthquake hit, we were fortunate to be standing on solid rock overlooking the sacred Khechuperi Lake. The quake lasted for 15 seconds; however it seemed like an eternity. Moments before there were birds singing, tourists laughing and hens clucking; then everything went totally silent. The only sound was the distant rumble of a rockslide high up in the mountains.

\* <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32475030>

Luckily, nobody locally was injured, and landslides did not block any of the roads out of Sikkim. We escaped the next day to Darjeeling, with stopovers in Delhi and London. We were very happy to return to the comforts of home in Vancouver. Leaving the Himalayas, Carol exclaimed in exasperation “that was too much adventure! For the next trip, we will go on a real holiday, and I will do the booking.” Should we go to someplace dry, the desert? Palm Springs? I hear there is great rock climbing at Joshua Tree National Park! [sl](#)

# Wwoofing and Rural Tourism

by Dylan Gale

**There are six of us crowded into the kitchen playing the daily bedtime dice game at Ama and Bua's farm.** We have our lucky slogan that we shout when we roll, and Bua's is, "Maybe one thousand coming?!" I'm in Nepal, wwoofing in the "foothills" of the Annapurnas, getting a first hand insight into rural Nepali life. My hosts are nothing short of inspiring with their permaculture food forest, local coffee co-op, rice breeding program and warmhearted generosity. The landscape is on par with the hosts, epic terraced valleys with rice, millet, coffee and gorgeous views of the Anapurnas around every corner. This is where wwoofing really shines, allowing tourists to get off the beaten path, out of the cities and into real rural life just about anywhere on earth.

What is wwoofing anyways? WWOOF originated in 1971 in England, when Sue Coppard, a London secretary, organized a

weekend worktrade for four city dwellers at a biodynamic farm at Emerson College in Sussex. In exchange for their labours, they received a free getaway from the city with room and board on the farm provided. This arrangement allowed urbanites the ability to access the countryside and support the organic farming movement while the hosts benefited from their labour. As more folks became interested in this concept, an organization called Weekend Workers On Organic Farms was started and quickly grew. This rural tourism movement has proliferated and evolved to be an international phenomenon that often sees wwoofers staying at farms for months at a time as they stretch their budget and learn valuable organic farming skills. Over time the "Weekend Workers" have been replaced with "Willing Workers" or "WorldWide Opportunities". More importantly though, the term "wwoof" has become commonly

understood by travellers and farmers throughout the world, allowing low-budget rural tourism to flourish. Today, there is country specific WWOOF organizations in over 60 countries and additional hosts in another 60 countries that do not have their own organization. Judging by wwoofings success, it was an idea whose time had come.

My time at Ama and Bua's was the most "authentic" experience I had in my journeys through Nepal and India. Not only was I in the hills where few tourists have set foot, I also learned about their culture, their farming methods and even some things about my favourite beverage, coffee! Every day community members brought fresh picked coffee berries to the farm and it was the wwoofers' job to ferment them, grind off the fruit and spread out the beans to dry. It was news to me that coffee starts as a red berry and then gets fermented before being dried and sent around the world for roasting and consumption. Wwoofing gave me hands on experience and a richer understanding of something that I drink every day. I also got to dig up turmeric root, make traditional ghee from fermented milk and operate the biogas producing compost digester.

Other wwoofing experiences I've had include a couple of hard working weeks in Telemark, Norway where I learned to milk cows and picked cloud berries up in the mountains (yum!), and a couple of weeks of rowdy fun in southern Portugal where I got to harvest and process peanuts and go surfing every day. Each adventure was a good fit for that stage of my life which goes to show that wwoofing has a great diversity to offer.

Terraced hillside in the Himalayas. Photo: Randy Sharp



The opportunity to live and work with farmers throughout the world gives the modern traveller the ability to experience real rural life, a very different experience than the average tourist. Practical activities add a richness that can often be hard to find when travelling. Relationships with people and nature can be developed along with ideas and skills about alternate living and agriculture. For many, wwoofing can be a life changing experience, opening doors to new lifestyles and ways of being in the world. Wwoofing has certainly been a formative part of my life and has given me the opportunity to sample many different styles of farming in a diversity of places. Wwoofing, along with farm apprenticeships, has helped me develop my own agricultural philosophy and practices, as well as having a large influence on my relationships with land in general.

Wwoofing may have even more to offer the urban landscape architect. As one of the primary connectors of the urban and natural realms, the landscape architect's ideas about nature are vital to their work. Most of our nature experiences today are wilderness based, as city dwellers escape on an adventure in the great outdoors, be it a walk on the beach, a hike in the mountains or a Sunday drive to the lake. Wwoofing offers a different sort of nature experience, one in which the human is very much a part of the natural processes and is actively involved in manipulating nature in order to produce a livelihood. Could this different sort of experience change the way a landscape architect, or any professional for that matter, does their job?

Perhaps the only way to find out is to try it, and maybe it isn't necessary to travel too far either. There is plenty of WWOOF hosts here in Canada, and some may be close enough to you to become your regular weekend getaway. Part of the fun and challenge of wwoofing is the sheer diversity of WWOOF hosts and wwoofers out there. Finding a farm to wwoof at can be a bit like buying stuff in the classifieds:



Wwoofing on a farm in Norway, Dylan Gale

exciting and fun to see what is available but frustrating when the one that sounds perfect is too busy or only want wwoofers who will stay for longer than you can manage. Give yourself plenty of time to communicate back and forth with potential hosts, and be aware that not all hosts will be a good match for you, so pick them carefully and understand what you are committing to. WWOOF hosts usually expect 4-6 hours of labour a day in exchange for room and board and this is considered the standard. Unfortunately, there is almost always more that could be done on a farm and unless a wwoofer is feeling inspired to work extra, they should make their limits known. If you want a specific educational component make that clear ahead of time, and ask if that is something they can provide. Most importantly, try to be excited and optimistic, remember if you really don't like it your can always leave. [SL](#)

To get started on your own WWOOF adventure check out [wwoof.net](http://wwoof.net) or [wwoof.ca](http://wwoof.ca)

**BIO** | Dylan Gale lives in traditional Pentlatch territory on Denman Island, British Columbia. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria and has wwoofed in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, and Nepal. Dylan spends his time farming, working on the ferry and making Nettle Pesto with his partner, Emily Guinane. His passion for food and agriculture has been greatly enriched through his wwoofing adventures. Check out their business' website at [wildnettlefoods.com](http://wildnettlefoods.com).

# Agri-tourism in BC

## — A 'GROWING' INDUSTRY

by Kristina Salin,  
MBCSLA, MCIP, RPP

### Saddle up your taste buds!

**Agri-tourism is on the rise across British Columbia.**

Touted as the latest prodigious trend in tourism, agri-tourism is commonly described as a temporary or seasonal tourist activity, service or facility associated with agricultural land that complements a farming activity. As eco-tourism continues to enjoy its primary consideration in the sustainable future of tourism around the world, agri-tourism is emerging as a correspondingly popular trend.

Examples of agri-tourism abound in BC and include farm retail sales, farm stands and markets; farm and pumpkin patch tours, product processing, horse riding and cattle driving, livestock shows; hay, tractor and sleigh rides; farm picnicking; corn mazes; stocked pond fishing; wine tasting and vineyard dining; farm education, cooking classes, harvest fairs, charity fundraisers using farm products, bird and wildlife refuges; bed and breakfast or agri-camping and large or small scale open air concert events.

Since the days of the famed Woodstock Music Festival, farm land has been utilized for large open air concerts and British Columbia is no exception to this Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land is currently temporarily utilized by the Pemberton Music Festival, Squamish Music Festival and many others.



An Okanagan view.

Although it is entirely possible to create your own agri-tourism tour by connecting visits to ranches, orchards and wineries as in the examples above; select BC tourism organizations are already marketing agri-tourism tours in their regions. The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Authority has put together multi-day agri-tourism tours that include visits to working cattle ranches, wildlife preserves, lavender farms, orchards, honey farms, wineries, an artisan cheese farm and more.

Borrowing from the principles of ecotourism, agri-tourism tours also include heritage and

education components as well as a variety of sustainable tourism experiences specifically rooted in farming. By encouraging visitors to enrich the local economy, they contribute to the preservation and prosperity of the agricultural community they experience as a tourist. For a certain percentage of BC residents, a visit to a farm is a near daily occurrence or one that is inherent in rural Canadian culture but for many urbanites or visitors to Canada; it is a singular and special event. Agri-tourists may gain an entirely new understanding of the challenges facing agricultural operations in this current socio-economic climate, simply by visiting a farm.

In the absence of a regulatory framework for this type of tourism, the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture is working on a provincial Bylaw Standard for agri-tourism. As of January 15,

2016 the comment period on the proposed Bylaw is closed, however local governments are concurrently striving to represent both the economic development needs of their farming communities with the necessity to preserve farmland for food production. The challenge to strike the right balance is significant as agri-tourism has the potential to add considerable value to farming operations by diversifying and supplementing income that leads to greater community stability. At the same time, excessive or inappropriately conceived agri-tourism activities may undermine the very nature of agriculture in its community. If

the balance tips toward too much alteration of farmland for agri-tourism activities it may be difficult to bring the land back for food production.

In essence, both ecotourism and agri-tourism were around long before there were catchy phrases to describe them. Although images conjured for ecotourism usually equal parrots of the Costa Rican rainforests and agri-tourism the dude ranch vacations of the Billy Crystal variety; they are very much alike in terms of mandate as well as product. The United Nations World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism as "Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities" Regulation around both types of tourism are slow to evolve and in my recent experience working with Agricultural Area Plans, I have come to better understand some differing perspectives on what the sustainability mandate means to different stakeholders.

What some farmers view as agri-tourism and why this is a big part of the viable future for those on ALR lands is significant. The ALR lands designation allows for bona-fide farming use and land owners enjoy certain relaxations because of this bona-fide use. Some of the zoning and permitting issues around use of ALR lands and agri-tourism stem from the different requirements for structures designed as a riding ring, machine shed or an animal barn and those intended for the assembly of people. Agricultural plans

are taking this and other issues into consideration and bridging the gap between rural zoning, tourism planning and agricultural planning in many jurisdictions through-out the province.

Estate wineries and working cattle ranches are two very unique examples of a perfect marriage between agriculture and tourism and particularly fitting for British Columbia tourism. Some model agri-tourism offerings can be found in the Township of Langley, Tourism Chilliwack and Thompson Okanagan. Local jurisdictions are working to create appropriate policy around agri-tourism in order to support farmers by allowing a diversified source of income on ALR lands. The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is there to protect food production for all BC residents and although agri-tourism can present regulatory and political challenges, the Province of BC is committed to tourism and coupled with eco-tourism tenets; agri-tourism is another rural adventure just waiting to bloom. For more information on regulatory frameworks associated with agri-tourism, the ALC has a number of available publications relating to agri-tourism definition and regulation. The BC Agri-tourism Alliance has a mandate to promote agri-tourism in the province of BC however this organization still under development. Langley Township, Central Okanagan Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen have good working examples of current zoning regulations for agri-tourism in BC. Of particular interest is The Circle Farm Tour which promotes agritourism in the Fraser Valley.

Visit a Cattle Ranch such as Douglas Lake

Ranch, Canada's largest working cattle ranch established in 1884; which offers a range of experiences from fishing adventures to horseback riding and engagement in cattle operations. The Flying 'U' Ranch at Green Lake in the Cariboo offers the only 'free-ride' horseback riding (no dusty guided trail rides) on 40,000 acres (16,100 hectares) of hills, meadows, lakes and forests. Guests stay in log cabins dating back to 1922, go on hayrides, participate in square dancing and hang out at the saloon for a 'truly western experience.'

Tantalus Vineyards out of Kelowna is the first LEED® Certified Winery in BC. It is a naturally farmed vineyard that is hand tended with no use of herbicides. For a self-propelled adventure visit the Pemberton Slow Food Cycle and pedal your way along the Pemberton Meadows Road, visiting farms along the way. Delicacies include organic beef farming, organic vodka distilling, organic produce and baking as well as gelato and fun events for kids and the whole family.

While this list is not exhaustive of what agri-tourism offerings are available across the province, hopefully it provides a snapshot of the potential value agri-tourism brings to the BC Tourism economy. Recent trends and current events in agri-tourism can provide inspiration for further discussion as to its value and its likeness to ecotourism in terms of an authentic value added product. It may be that ecotourism and agri-tourism are already outdated paradigms and we are ripe for considering a blended sustainable 'rural tourism experience' tailored specifically for British Columbia.

Food for thought! 51

Family photo at the Flying U Ranch, Green Lake in the Cariboo, Nicola Sharp



Pemberton Slow Food Cycle, by David Niddrie, photographer



# Yellow Point Lodge

## ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

**Sedum flowers (*Sedum oreganum*) tint the shoreline with gold blossoms and provide the namesake colour for Yellow Point.** The Point projects eastward from Vancouver Island toward an archipelago of Gulf Islands. Saltspring, Thetis, Galiano, Valdes, De Courcy, Mudge and Gabriola Islands are all within view, across Stuart Channel.

Yellow Point Lodge provides an enchanting introduction for visitors to encounter the natural environment of Southeast Vancouver Island. The lodge and rustic cabins were first created in the 1930's and comprise only ten percent of the point, which retains 180 acres of old growth forest. Site ecosystems include: Douglas-fir forest, cedar groves, wetlands, arbutus and Garry Oak wildflower meadows, with eelgrass communities in the intertidal zones.

A spring walking loop at Yellow Point may include shell beaches, sandstone cliffs, and Garry Oak forests, with coastal meadows of sea blush and camas. Trillium, fawn lilies and shooting stars also appear in the forest floor, beneath arbutus, cedar and ancient douglas fir. Deer, eagle, heron and quail are among species inhabiting the forest, with waterfowl, otters, sea lions, seals and occasionally orcas tracing the shorelines.

Tranquility pervades the site, once you have travelled the long gravel roadway through the forest. Wind, waves and birdcalls soon replace city sounds. And visitors may empty their ears of car horns and roaring engines. Yellow Point is a place to unplug from modernity. Televisions and telephones are not part of the Lodge experience. Instead, visitors return to a pre-modern experience of literature and conversation.

Kayaks are available to navigate the Point and to take in the view from the water. Bicycles are on hand for visitors to pedal to the Crow and Gate for crab cakes and Kilkenny. Tennis is available on a court in

the forest. And swimming in the salt-water pool is inviting after a good game or day of activities. Then, on Saturday night, a dance band encourages dancers to glide across the old sprung hardwood floor.

A gong sounds three times a day to beckon guests to the dining room, overlooking the blue yonder of Stuart Channel. An assortment of delicious meals is served as a fixed menu at round tables encouraging fellow guests to mingle. It is a bit like summer camp for adults, and many stories are shared. Dining is also considered one of the key events of a Yellow Point triathlon, along with napping and reading.

Landscape architects balance built form with natural form. It is refreshing to encounter such an imbalance toward nature. In lieu of nine parts architecture and one part landscape, as often in urban areas; the Yellow Point recipe is reversed to place one part architecture within nine parts nature. This is a generosity of space that invites trillium; According to ecologist Robert Dorney, trillium only requires one acre of forest per plant.

Yellow Point Lodge provides a gracious and welcoming atmosphere, thanks to the Hill family and staff. Visitors travel backwards in time to a place of tranquility. Lodge design elements are vernacular post and beam, with a marvelous sandstone fireplace. Cabins have a rustic simplicity, with modern wood stoves. Walkers, following natural desire lines, have worn meandering walkways that interconnect the diversity of landscapes. And these mature forest pathways have an ancient quality, beckoning a walk into prehistory. [SL](#)

Yellow Point Lodge and ocean 'pool'  
by Cameron Murray, MBCSLA

Yellow Point meadow with sea blush, *Plectritis congesta* by Cameron Murray, MBCSLA



# MR. MENZIES' Garden Legacy

## THE NEW COLOUR EDITION

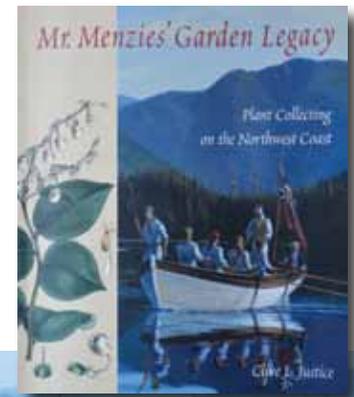
The new edition of *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy*, by Clive L. Justice, FCSLA, LMBCSLA #003-L, will feature over 70 new colour renditions of the Flora of the West Coast of Canada, Washington State and Alaska. West Coast botanical art, featuring the diversity of plant species collected by Archibald Menzies, was displayed at the University of British Columbia.

Scottish surgeon and naturalist Archibald Menzies joined Captain George Vancouver on his voyages to the West Coast of the Americas to complete the charting of started by Captain James Cook. The H.M.S. Discovery reached Vancouver Island in October 1792. Menzies recorded maples, alder and rhododendrons, as well as naming the genus *Menziesia* (False azalea), the spectacular *Arbutus menziesii* and the mighty Douglas fir, *Psuedotsuga menziesii*. On his return voyage to England, he stopped in Chile and picked up several unknown seeds that germinated onboard. The unusual tree was named the Monkey Puzzle Tree and this first specimen lived for over 100 years at Kew Botanical Gardens.

Clive offers an educational chronicle of Menzies' plant exploration and discoveries through short, informative accounts. Each thematic chapter can be read on its own; however, the stories do jump around in place and time. The casual writing style contains many references to the life and time of Archibald Menzies, his colleagues at Kew Gardens and the great plant hunters that followed (see the article in this issue of *Sitelines* describing the adventures of J.D. Hooker).

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, LMBCSLA, 029-L, FCSLA, FASLA, OC, recently delivered the Margolese Prize Lecture and gave a shout out to Clive as the author of *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy*. Both Ms. Oberlander and Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture consulted *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy* for

the undulating green roof design and plant selection for the coastal landscapes around the new Visitor's Centre at VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Clive has included hand drawn maps also indicating unique places such as Discovery Point, Washington, where *Arbutus menziesii* (so named) was observed growing in association with *Rhododendron macrophyllum*.



Coastal bluff wildflower meadow at East Point, Saturna Island. Photos: Randy Sharp



*Arbutus menziesii* at Francis Point, near Pender Harbour

In summary, *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy* is a wealth of knowledge for history and gardening enthusiasts containing many anecdotes about common West Coast plants. The book documents the coastal wildflowers of the Garry Oak ecosystem such as Woolly sunflower, Alliums, Camas lily, wild strawberry Kinnikinnick, Fescues and Sedums that are very adaptable to thin soils on the extreme microclimates of building rooftops. The descriptions of plant communities and illustrations are very helpful for landscape architects and green roof professionals designing living breathing buildings. **SL**



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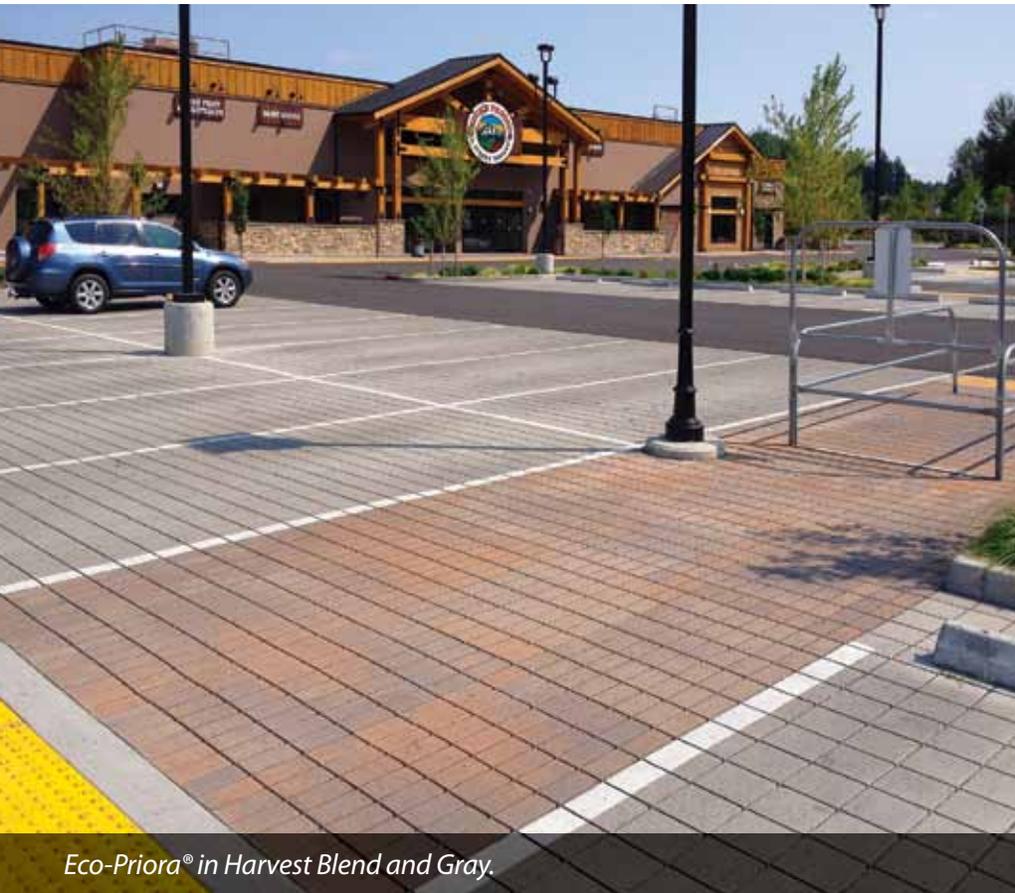


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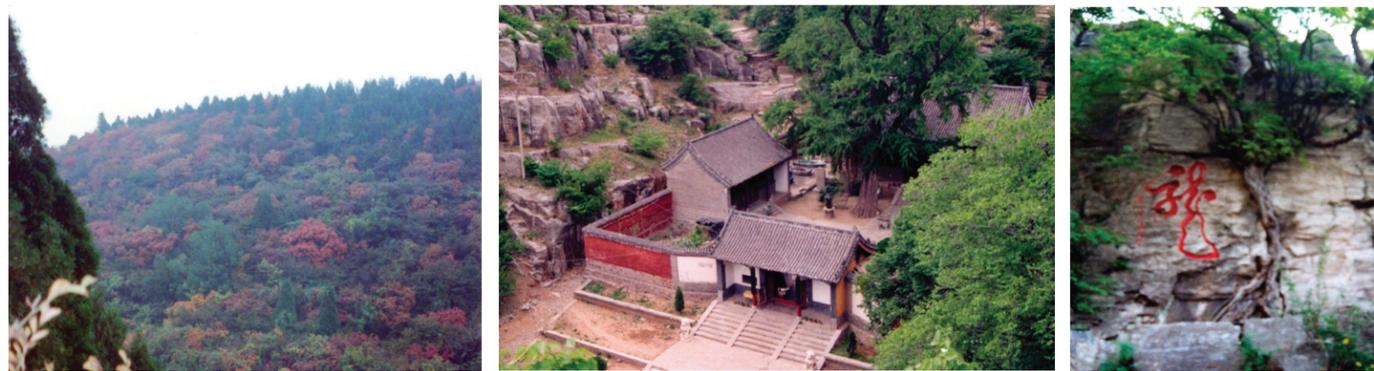
8 x 8 Unit: 200 x 80 mm x 200 mm



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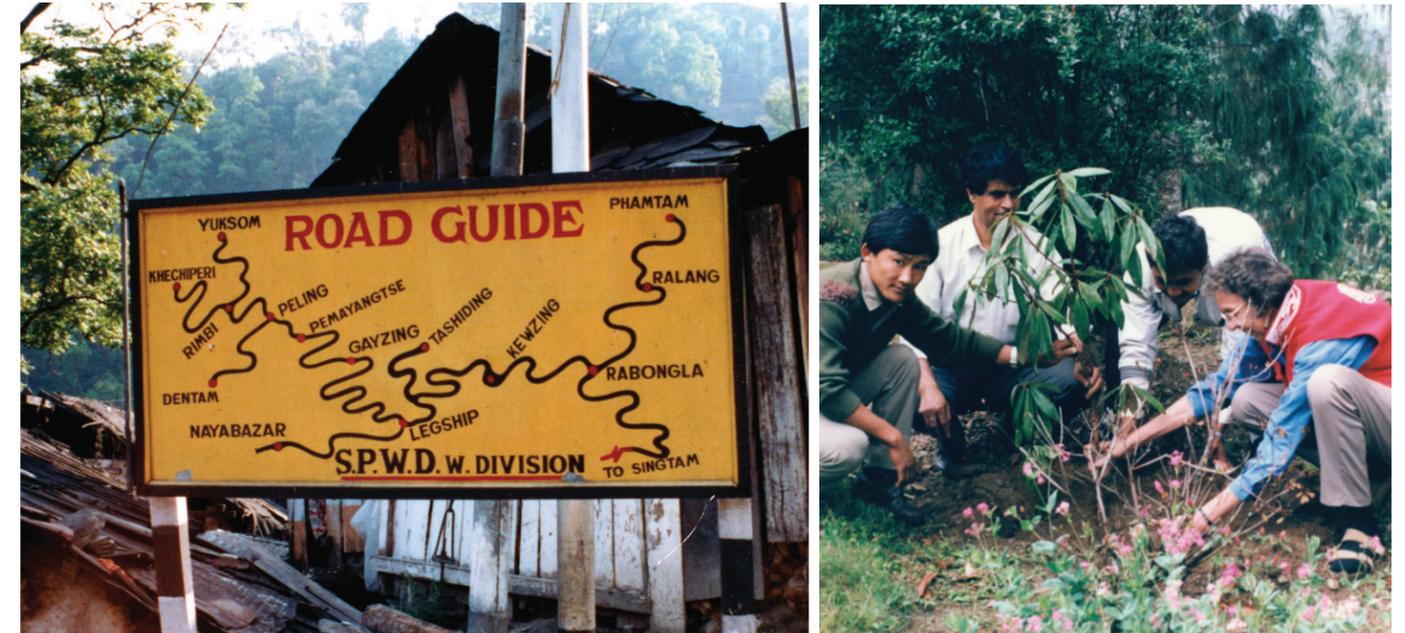
400 mm x 90 mm x 60 mm





2001: Shantung Province, China. Advice to cities in this Chinese province in the development of their now forested parks that have been under their care and development protection since 1949. Using Shantung's Confucius Complex of temples, visitor facilities & Juniper forest. & using North American National Parks, US & Canadian as development models of these 8 city Forest parks for Chinese People's tourism.

Clive L. Justice and his Canadian Executive Service Organization, (CESO/SACO) Adventures



Part of the Sikkim Road Network and report recommendation for every visitor to plant a Rhododendron (a tree)

Bob Boyes, a Vancouver city traffic Engineer and fellow Unitarian church member suggested I should join the Toronto-based Canadian Executive Service Organization. CESO was recruiting retired and semi retired professional and business people as expenses paid Volunteers to help out businesses and governments in underdeveloped countries. From your CV, on file with CESO in Toronto, you would be selected for suitable fit with requests for your expertise from overseas clients recruited by posted field personnel. The city of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia wanted a tropical botanist to advise the capitol's parks development. I figured it was not only tropical botany but park design and construction they wanted. It turned out I was right. The KL parks department was staffed with Bamiputra landscape architects who had got their recent degrees from US Schools through foreign student programs. No one had any construction or park-site construction experiences in building parks. I had 30 years of expertise in every part and aspect of landscape and parks development. I would need it.

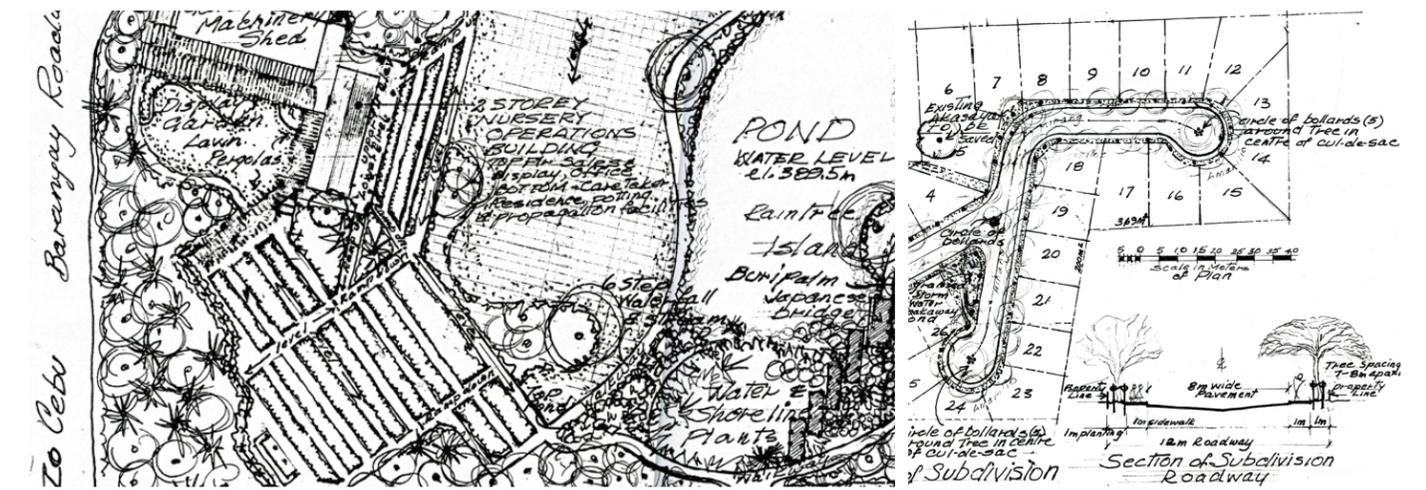
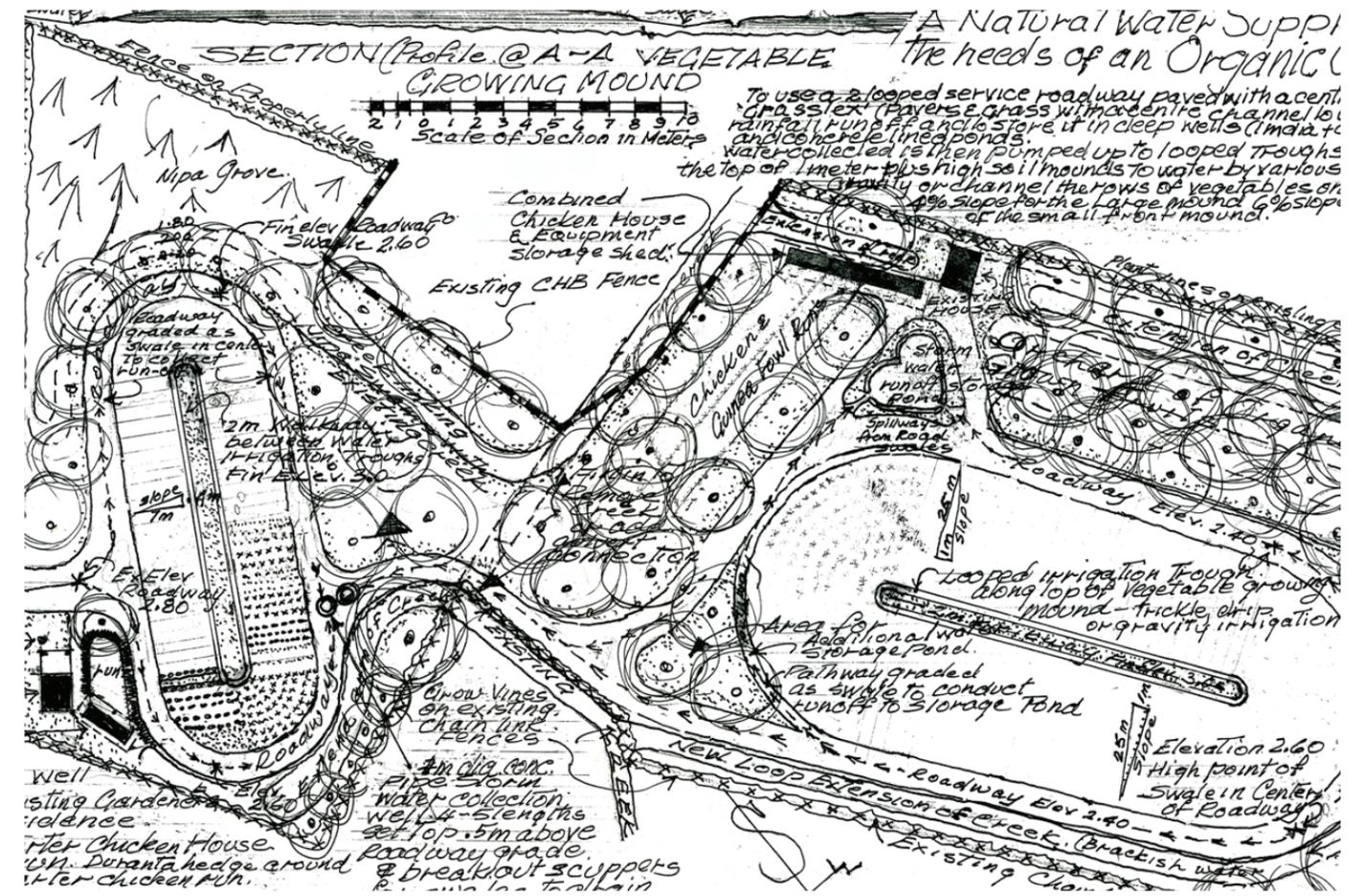
PROJECTS: undertaken by Clive L. Justice, as a Canadian Executive Service Organization Volunteer Advisor. 1985 to 2001



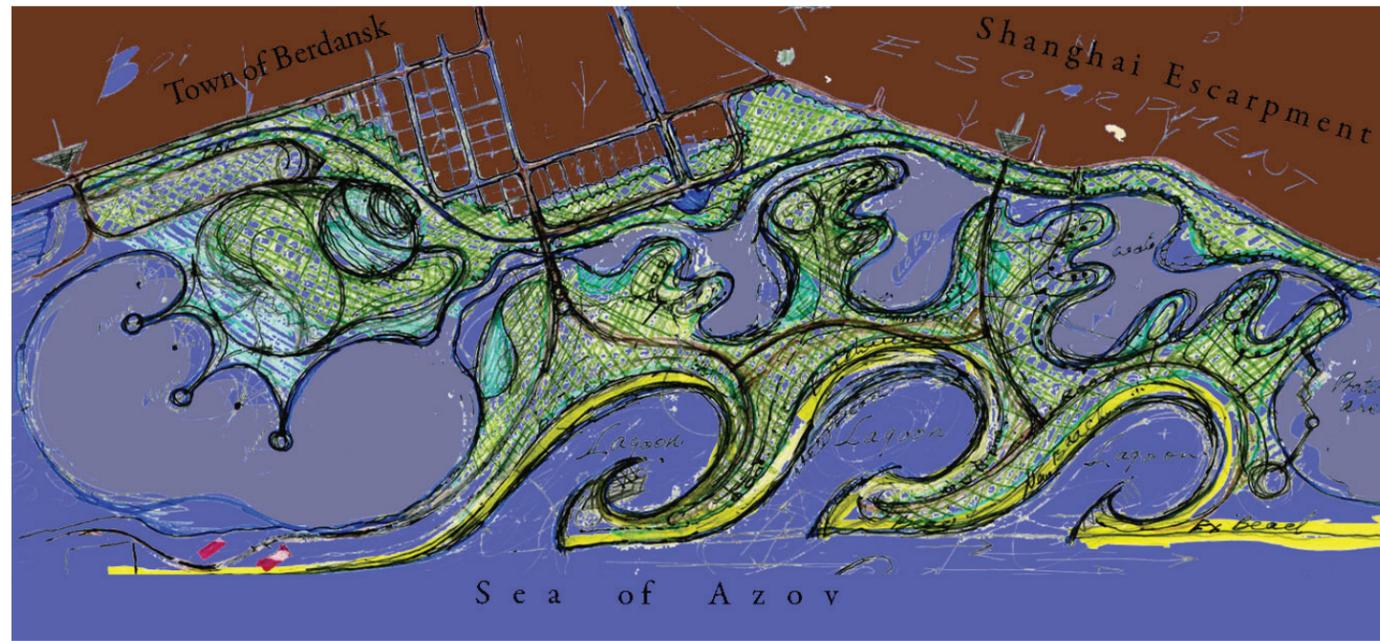
1985: National Orchid Display Garden and Centre, Kuala Lumpur, for Parks & Recreation Department, Lake Gardens and other city parks improvements. KL Airport roadside & median Landscape planting. (not shown)  
 1986 & 1991: Waterfall Botanical Gardens, Palau Penang, Malaysia. Redevelopment and Restoration Plans by State of Penang - in association with state Town Planning Dept, Wisma Komtar, Georgetown, Malaysia. Advisors University of Northern Malaysia Pulau Penang Botanical gardens Committee with CESO Volunteer landscape and Botanical gardens Technical advise.



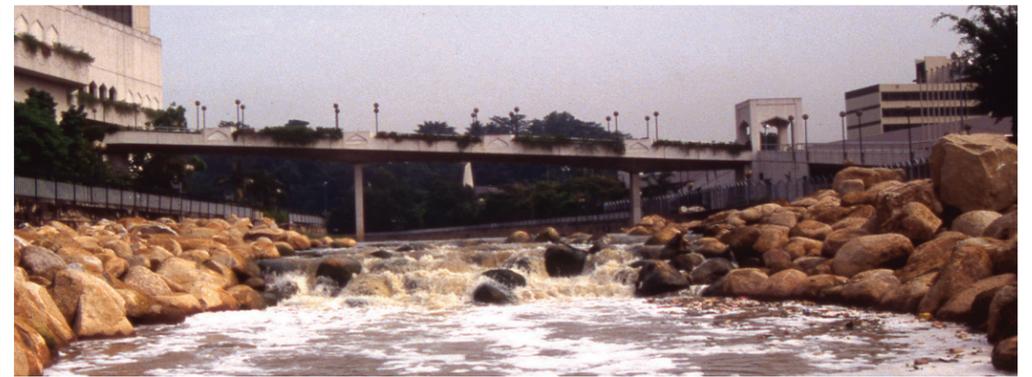
1988: The Queen's Garden, Taman Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur, Parks and Recreation. Works and buildings Dept's project of an ornamental public display garden of water plants, native Malaysian herbs, spices, fragrances and medicines with flowering vines, orchids and bougainvillea. Design based on Malaysian women's wedding headdress. Design & construction supervision to completion by CESO Advisor. A Turnkey Project opened by the Queen on departure for her home state, Jahore.



1999: Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines. Several clients: 1. Mentoring a Small Landscaper-nurseryman to expand his business to being able to take on municipal and other larger gov't projects — how to read landscape plans & construction details & plant material specifications Area & material take offs, pitfalls & etc. 2. Provide lot & street layouts for small urban subdivision with street tree selection & placement. 3. A Rainwater storage and recovery vegetable & fruit farm on a seaside plot with high water table of saltwater. 4. Master site plan for rural hillside turf, plant, & large tree nursery with roadside garden shop with plant sales and garden equipment on the North American model. 5. Not shown, a tourist & cruiseship passenger venue in the Cebu mountains of an indigenous people's forest orchard of the 50 native subtropical & tropical fruits trees.



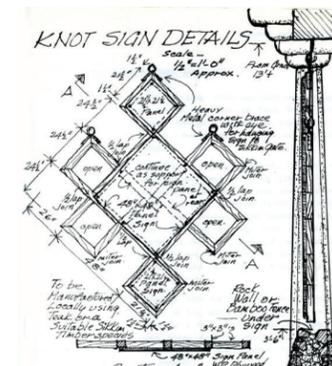
1998: Berdyansk, Ukraine. A concept for a large delta lands national park on heavy metal polluted agricultural land adjoining an orchard, vineyard, grain farming & agribusiness commune.



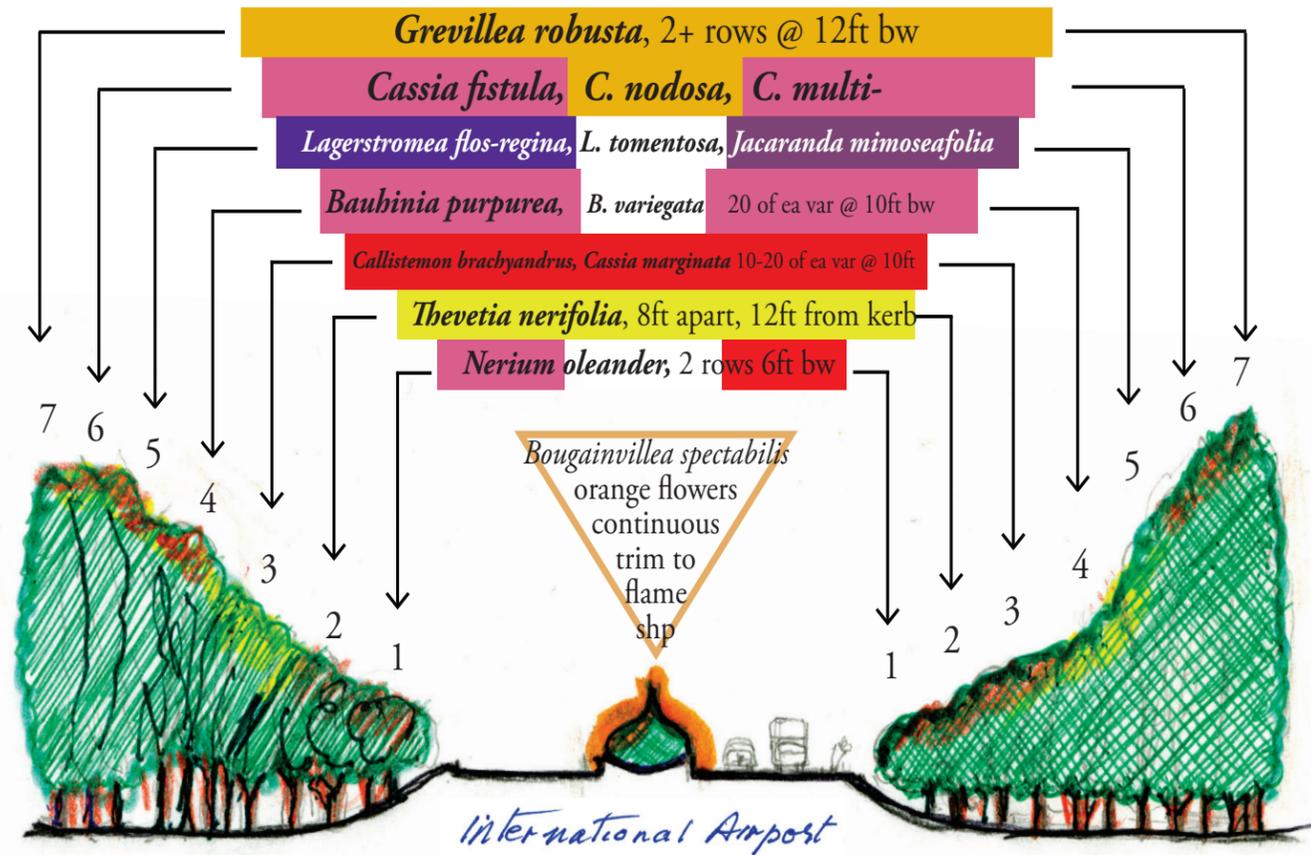
1990: Naturalizing & Greening of Kuala Lumpur's Channelized River System in association with Parks & Recreation Department/Sewers & Storm Water Division of the Engineering Department, City of Kuala Lumpur, for Prime Ministers Dept & Mayor's Office Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



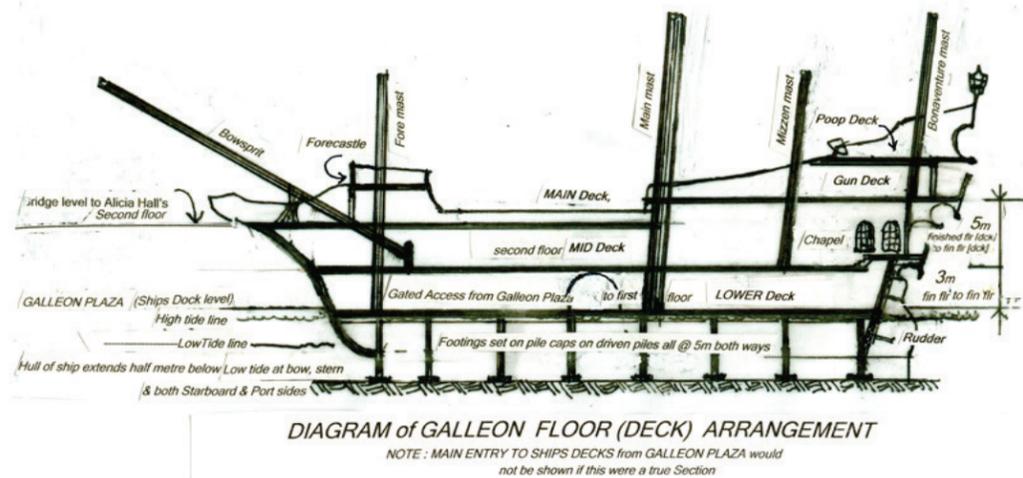
1991: West Malaysia Kuching old town and new town: North Kuching. Plans for upgrading of Kuching Parks and Arboretum & Landscape concept for New North Kuching mountain top town hall within a National Park combined with a Hornbill bird sanctuary.



1991: An Assessment of Visitor Facilities in Sikkim, India. Report and recommended improvements to Parks, Viewpoints, Hotels, Rest Houses, Conservation 86 Protected Areas, Historic Sites, Roadside Rests and Picnic Grounds for Small Group Ecotourism. For the State Government of Sikkim, K.C. (Keshup) Pradhan, Chief Secretary in association with Sikkim Forestry Dept, P.K. Basnett, Chief Conservator of Forests, Gangtok.



1993: Indira Ghandi International Airport 6 km Access Highway, New Delhi, - India. Enhancement & Beautification of both sides of the R of W and adjoining lands with a stepped height forest of 7 species of native flowering trees. Not shown: amenity and street tree assessment and improvement recommendations for a Garden-city modelled town in Orissa State. India.



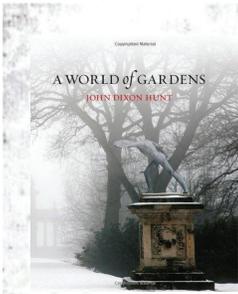
1995: Bacalod City, Negros Occidentale, Philippines, Master Redevelopment & Improvement plan for Galleon Resort. A family owned seaside and eco- tourist resort south of the city where the client family live.



1996: Otepää, Estonia: Master Redevelopment plan for a lake-side Park and Resort for training students in forest conservation, visitor and local camping and year-round recreation & eco-tourism.

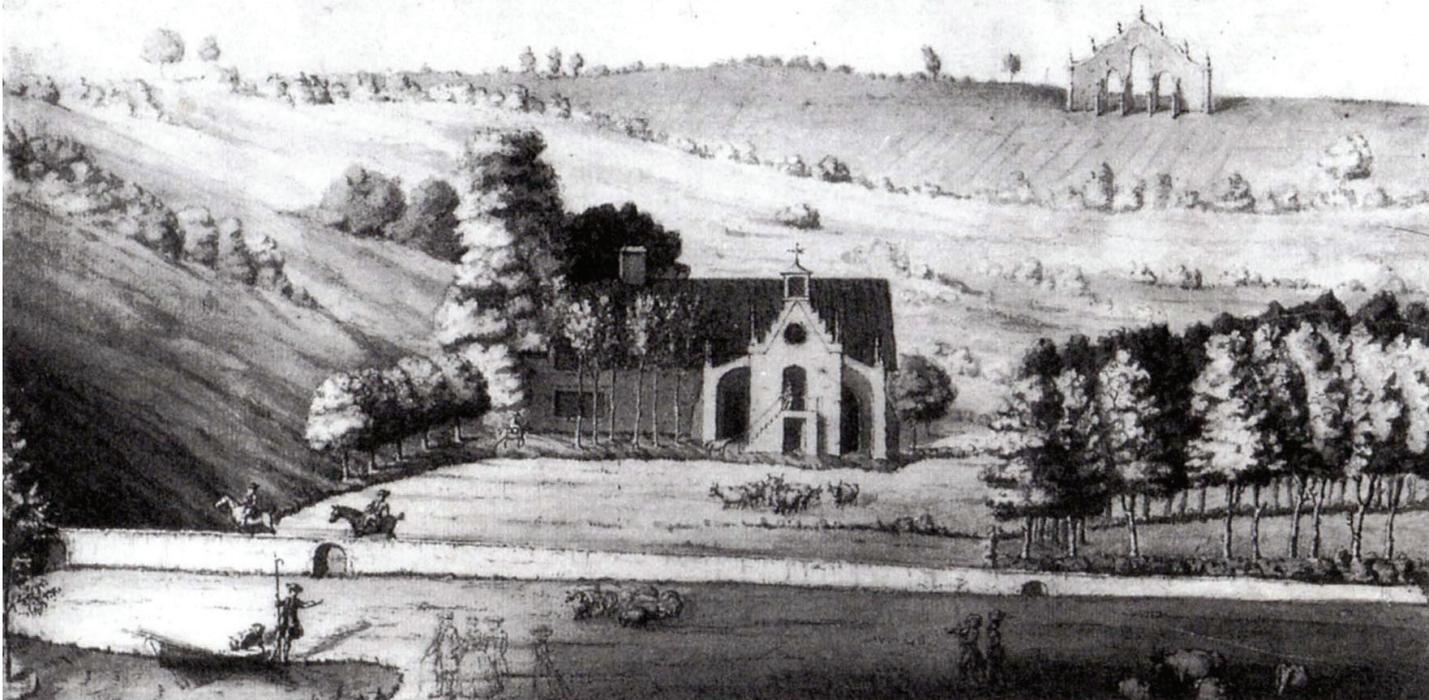


1997: Western Poland. Golf Complex of 8 elements (features)- i) 9 & 18 hole championship courses with complete ii) club house facilities. Golf training in a iii) residential campus setting with iv) training in the game along with v) employee training in course & vi) grounds maintenance and vii) facilities operations & viii) upkeep.



BOOK REVIEW: JOHN DIXON HUNT'S THE WORLD OF GARDENS, REAKTION BOOKS

## The Medium is the Message Is the Internet Googling the Book's Demise?



128 William Kent, Drawing made in Rousham gardens showing the Temple of the Mill and the Eyecatcher to the north beyond the River Cherwell. c. 1739

by *Clive Justice*

As a devoted reader and writer of books, I am also a passionate collector of old and new editions on the classics, visual arts, crafts, Landscape Architecture, community and park planning, et cetera. We are publishers having established BC Bigleaf Maple Books, Ltd. in 2014. Currently, I am deeply concerned that the computer is replacing the book as a quick and easy way to gain superficial bits and pieces of information about a subject, that lacks the deeper meaning and wider perspective that a book provides for the reader. This is of concern to us at BC Bigleaf as we are publishers of fine and illustrated hard copy books, exclusively of scholarly nature on Landscape Architecture, landscape art, Gardens and Landscape History, professional memoirs, botanical explorations with topics including western Canada's indigenous trees and wildflowers, Canada's arctic tundra and flora with Rhododendrons: Arctic, Temperate and Tropical; Permaculture & Horticulture.

Reviewing *A World of Gardens*, London 2012, by University of Pennsylvania's LA Department Chair and Emeritus Professor, John Dixon Hunt, who served in both positions; this reader finds the book well written in a serifed font that makes for easy and pleasant reading. Within the text there are references to the many illustrations—pictures, gardens and plans—which are after all visual, and are a necessary part of any book on the subject. In Dixon Hunt's book, the pictures are numbered and usually nearby, on the same page.

The numbered drawing, 128, on the second page of Chapter 11, *Leaping the Ha-ha, Or, How the Larger Landscape Invaded the Garden*, is shown here as part of this review, as an example of careful placement of the super abundance of pictures and visual elements included in Dixon Hunt's *World of Gardens*. Here, we see

Rousham Garden's squire who jumped the fence of his estate to find all outside was a natural garden & landscape. Hence the well used *cliché* occurring in subsequent books...*all nature was a garden*, English of course.

This Landscape Historian, an educated Pacific Northwestern Canadian, is surprised and a little disappointed that Dixon Hunt makes no mention of my heroes or worthies of Landscape Architecture—San Francisco's Thomas Church (1902-1978) (*Gardens are for People*); or Roberto Burle Marx, the Brazilian plantsman & Landscape Architect who worked with Oscar Neimyer, Architect, and together designed Brazil's new highland capital, Brasilia. Dixon Hunt does cite Ian McHarg, a wild Scotsman who preceded him as head of Landscape Architecture at University of Pennsylvania, whose Press published titles that are classics in environmental awareness of degradation occurring across the world, destruction of Tropical Temperate and Boreal grasslands and forests. McHarg's book, *Design with Nature*, 1969, is a Penn Press publication, while the most famous and well known—Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring!*—changed my life's mission to make sure all graduating UBC Landscape Architecture students gifting a copy of it. The BCSLA Book Awards was the result.

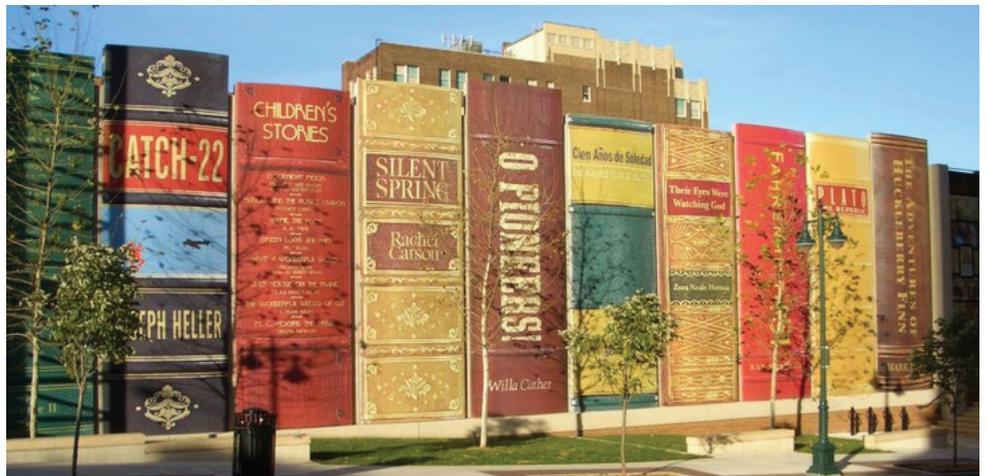
In my early book collecting, I chanced upon a small book *The Origin and Cultivation of Shade and Ornamental Trees*, by Hui-Lin Li, 1963 by the curator of the Arnold Arboretum, published by Penn Press. I ordered 2 copies from this new source, gifting one to the Campbell River nature writer and well known fly fisherman Roderick Haig-Brown.

To conclude Hunt's Chapter 9: *Garden as Theatre* shows a garden with a lake displaying a myth called *Galatea*, whose actuality is an ancient Roman Naval sea battle acted out in the garden, where the one-eyed giant Polyphemus who killed his lover Acis in jealousy, who won't respond to his courting, what an opportunity for sculpture's with water works, spouts & fountains.

The garden display in the Medieval period during the 16th century take on a new myth scenario, keeping the same name, *Galatea*. Aphrodite is brought to life by the prayers of her sculptor creator who has fallen in love with his own work—what scope! An opportunity to create all sorts of sexy garden and lake water works.

Dixon Hunt's history says about all there is to say about European & English garden history. It will become close if not the classic work on garden history. All Landscape Architects should read it.

Internet researchers will not gain the deeper view into the worlds of the garden by browsing by for a few minutes on the screen. This book is an experience!



The building facade of the part of the Kansas City Public Library exhibiting the shelved backs of books such as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* that changed the world's perception to our physical environment and its protection.