



Let's build together the future of Botanic Gardens

Lombardy Region Botanic Gardens Network celebrates its 10th birthday with a conference: "Let's build together the future of Botanic Gardens". It will be held in Bergamo, Sala Curò, Piazza Cittadella, on the 17th and 18th of October 2013. The event is organized together with Bergamo Botanic Garden and is promoted by Botanic Gardens Group – Italian Botanical Society.

It will be an opportunity for taking stock of the present situation but also for having a look at the future: a reflection on the new roles Botanic Gardens play in connection with the big issues that mankind is facing in this century (water shortages, masses urbanization, biodiversity loss, etc.) but also on the evolution of cultural expositive spaces in an economical and social context which is continuously changing. **Workshops** and **interactive sessions** will take place. The conference is open to everybody while seats last.

Key guest will be **Gail Bromley**, from Botanic Garden Conservation International, reference point entity for Botanic Gardens from the entire globe; she has also been head of Education Department at Kew Gardens where she actually also deals with volunteers management.

Gail will meditate with us on Botanic Gardens as complex institutions with a fascinating history, something that the ordinary visitor may not always be aware of.

Participants personal experiences will be shared during three sessions:

A) **"Cultural Evolution of Botanic Gardens: from the modern era museum to the relationship museum"**

Even though atypical organizations, Botanic Gardens are central to our cultural traditions; they are now asked to use innovative ways of relating to their visitors, in order to make them come alive as interesting places for a territory, a community a multiplicity of networks. The workshop will be held by professor **Gianpaolo Azzoni**, from Pavia University. It will comprise a first part in which a background scenario will be defined in a critical way and a second one in which participants will be asked to share their specific experiences.

B) **"Education stock exchange"**

A unique opportunity to share educational activities and school workshops – for exchanging ideas with our colleagues and improve together the educational programmes of our Botanic Gardens but also for building connections among people working with visitors of any age.

C) **"Fundraising in Botanic Gardens: comparing programmes"**

Together with **Paolo Celli**, from Centrale Etica, we will talk about Botanic Gardens actions's sustainability, comparing our fundraising plans thus suggesting concrete solutions to the economic crisis which is seriously threatening cultural enterprises.

A creative session in the format of a **world café** will be led by **Mara Sugni** (Lombardy Region Botanic Gardens Network) and **Serena Dorigotti** (MUSE, Trento Science Museum): it will aim at building a national Network for Education in Botanic Gardens, starting from our needs, moving to the possible stakeholders and to the resources already available.

Pietro Pavone, professor at University of Catania, will present **Florintesa project**, run by ENEA, Italian Research and University Ministry, Italian Botanical Society and Forum Plinianum.

As before explained, the chance is given by **Lombardy Region Botanic Gardens Network's Birthday**: **Gabriele Rinaldi**, director at Bergamo Botanic Garden and for many years head of the Network, will remember us about this celebration as an opportunity for building together our future.

We will wait for you in order to celebrate together!

