



Collections & nursery

In 2008, an accession of 2,702 species from domestic and abroad were added up to XTBG's living collections, of which 1,641 from China and 1,061 from abroad. 5,207 specimens of 2,537 introduced species were mounted.

In the nursery, gardeners propagated and grew more than 9200 individuals of 683 species for display across the garden.

In wild ginger collection, about 1,000 new plants of 70 species in Zingiberaceae and Costaceae were added and 800 plants of 57 species were transplanted.



The nursery



XTBG staffs are working on the newly introduced plants

Phenological observation

Phonological information on the growth and flowering of 1,902 species were monitored and documented weekly. Annual growth of 3,795 plants (1,345 species) were observed and documented.



The nursery

Data management and digital garden system

Digital garden system (DGS) in XTBG is composed of plant information database (PIDB), outdoor-information collect system (ODCS) and geographic information system (GIS). The establishment of DGS provides an important platform for the plant information management and share so as to facilitate the scientific research.

Precise plant positions in 10 collections have been added to the database, including the wild orchid garden, ginger garden, and arum garden.



Locating trees



Planting map

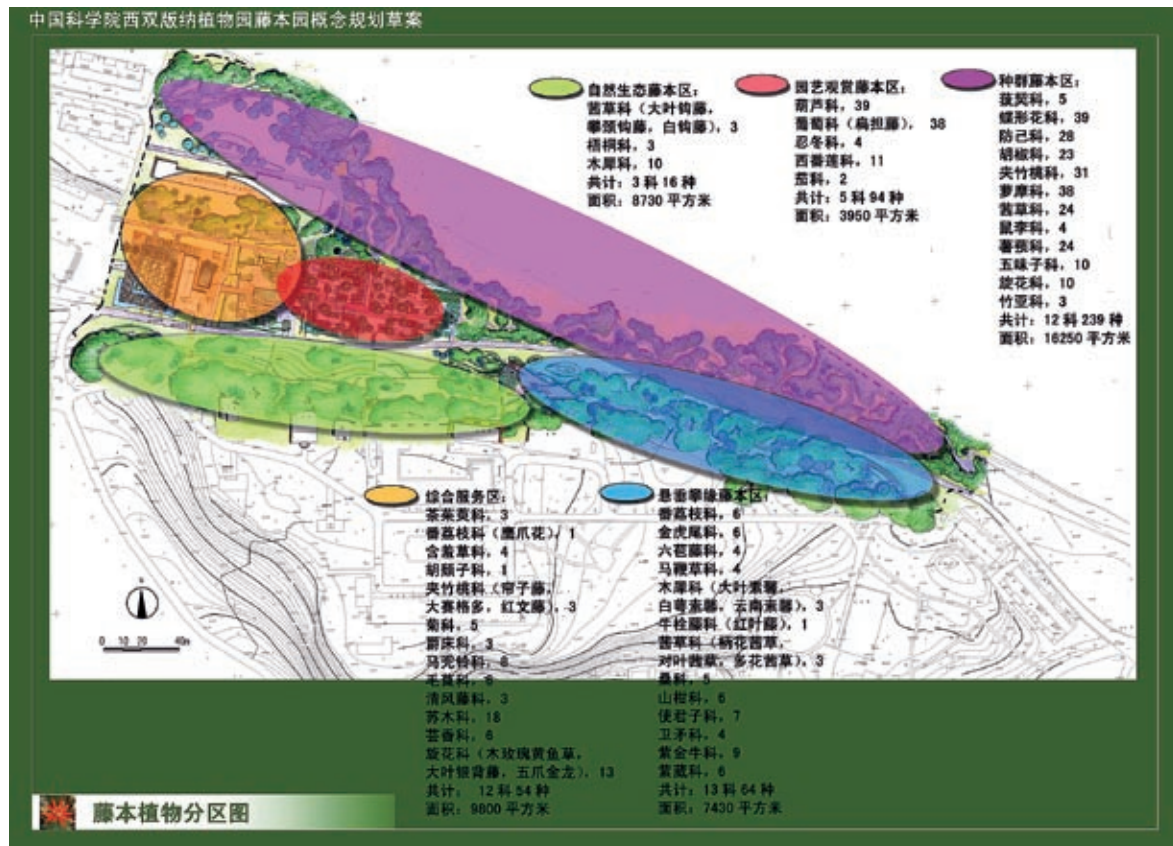


Landscape design

The third-phase knowledge innovation program “Landscape Optimization of Tropical Living Collections” launched in 2008 and it is in smooth development. Design for a number of collections, including vine garden, energy plants collection, wild edible plant collection, collection of typical tropical plant species, riverside seasonal rainforest plants collection, and a 23-ha nursery, was completed. Plants chosen for these collections have been introduced, or propagated.



A bird's-eye view of the new 23-ha nursery



The conceptual design of vine garden

PUBLIC EDUCATION





New entrance to the garden

On August 6, the inaugural ceremony to celebrate the use of new entrance to the garden was held.

The completion of the new bridge and entrance has improved the accessibility for tourists to the garden. The new bridge and entrance unite architecture and horticulture and provide an elegant addition to the surrounding neighborhood.

The total area of western entrance is 10.38 ha, of which include visitor center, ticketing facilities, parking area, souvenir market.

The parking area is 26,000 m², with the installation of a video surveillance system, designed for 500 coaches and cars.

The new visitor center houses a diorama of XTBG, a souvenir shop, an information desk, first aid, ATM, VIP rooms, meeting rooms, a mother-and-child room, a room for drivers and cicerones, and a refreshment bar. With the installation of air-conditions, elevator, TV sets, telephone, fax machine, and broad band network service, the new visitor center will help the garden meet the needs of its expanding audience.



The Luosuo river bridge & western entrance

World botanic gardens exhibition in Beijing

The world botanic gardens exhibition about “Homes for plants, Gardens for humans”, co-organized by XTBG, BGCI, and Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Committee was displayed at the Science and Technology Park near the Olympic Village from 1st August 1 to September 8, 2008.

Mr. LIN Wenyi, vice chairman of National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the 29th Olympic Games Science & Technology Committee, were present to the opening ceremony. Attendances to the ceremony include Prof. LI Jinghai, vice president of CAS, Mr. MA Lin, chairman of Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission, Mr. PAN Jiaofeng, director of Bureau of Planning & Strategy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. WANG Yu, deputy director of Department of Policy, Regulations and Reform, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China.

The goal of the exhibition is to open a window to Olympic Games participants and visitors from around the world through which they can see the beauty and the value of biodiversity and witness the ongoing efforts of botanic gardens to preserve our natural plant heritage. It also aims to show all visitors how gardens work locally and internationally to keep our planet green.

The exhibition contains 70 individual exhibition panels with 70 stories highlighting world botanic gardens, institutions and individuals involved in plant conservation and research. Other exhibits include two seed display cabinets, two leaf display cabinets, and an interactive plant scent station (where visitors can smell different oils and perfumes derived from fragrant plants). The main exhibition also includes interesting living plants; most of them are medicinal plants. XTBG had provided the photographs and text

used in the exhibition posters, as well as video, plant displays, and other publicity materials. In the plants display and exit area, there is a large (5.5m x 7.5m) LCD screen playing video provided by XTBG.



Exhibition entrance-The exhibition is located on the Science and Technology Park of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Olympic Village, Beijing



The big dry fruit of *Entada phaseoloides* attracts many visitors



Exhibition in Shenzhen

The exhibition themed “Mysterious tropical rainforest and colorful ethnic cultures” was opened in Shenzhen on September 28. It was co-organized by XTBG, People’s Government of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and Shenzhen Fairy Botanical Garden. Dr. LI Yong, director of Shenzhen Fairy Botanical Garden, chaired the opening ceremony. Prof. CHEN Jin, director of XTBG, delivered a warm opening speech.

The exhibition is mainly shown by pictures and explanatory notes of tropical rainforest and indigenous people. Folk song and dance performances, ceramics showing, show of carving Buddhist scriptures on palm leaves, lectures by research professors are all available for the exhibition. An interaction activity named “Say a word for the rain forest” is also designed for visitors. The great Dai minority dance by beautiful Dai girls adds distinct regional and ethnic features for the exhibition.

Prof. CAO Kunfang of XTBG delivered a lecture to the participants on the opening day.



Opening ceremony

Many government officials, leaders, and research personnel were invited to the exhibition. It attracted more than 100,000 visitors during the National Day Holiday. The exhibition lasted for one month from September 28 to October 26.



XTBG’s commentator describing varied seeds from tropical rain forests

Winter camp for youth

Co-organized by Beijing Teenager Science & Technology Club and XTBG, the popular scientific winter camp for youth entitled “Exploration of tropical rainforest” was opened on January 25 at XTBG. The camp is aimed to increase the youngsters’ understanding of tropical rainforest, to provide a platform for communication between scientists and middle school students, and to arouse the keenness on nature.

After having a general understanding about XTBG, the students from various key senior middle schools experienced scientific observations and experiments, which were elaborately designed by scientists with XTBG. A series of science popularization reports, such as “Importance of species conservation and phonological observation”, “Preservation and research of aroid plants at XTBG”, “Countermeasures of plants”, “Long-term ecological monitoring and research of tropical rainforest”, “Photosynthesis of plants in tropical rainforest”, “Dialogue between fig wasps and figs” and so on, were delivered to them.

“The winter camp brings us to the mysterious tropical rainforest. We enjoyed our journey and get interested in the rich biodiversity in the tropical rainforest. We also had a better understanding on the importance of protecting environment” said a camp member on the summary meeting of the camp on January 30.



Exploring the arcanum of *Alocasia* spathe spadix



Participants of winter camp



XTBG public education & tourism wins praise

XTBG public education & tourism won praise from All-China Women's Federation and National Tourism Administration. The post of cicerones has been awarded as one of "Women Rendering Meritorious Service Posts".

Since early 1990s, XTBG has set up a team of public education cicerones. Up to now, over 80 cicerones with women of Dai ethnic group as the majority have contributed a lot to scientific popularization. They not only make progress and achievements on their own posts, but also spread knowledge to their families and neighbors in local villages.

PARTNERSHIP



Mr. QIN Guangrong (right 2), Yunnan Governor, paying an on-site inspection to XTBG

Governors of Yunnan Province, inspect XTBG

Mr. QIN Guangrong, the Governor of Yunnan Province, inspected XTBG on July 8. His purpose was to check the achievements made in the second-phase tourism development. Prof. Dr. CHEN Jin, director of XTBG, reported the Master Plan of XTBG, general philosophy of building new living collections, species conservation and science popularization to the governor. He also reported the progress of on-going construction of the new research center. During the inspection tour, Governor QIN Guangrong visited the newly established Tropical Brilliant Flowers Garden and new Palm Garden. Satisfied with the high-level landscapes coming into being in such a short term, the Governor praised XTBG for its significant contributions to local development,



Prof. CHEN Jin (right front 1) reporting the progress of the third-phase knowledge innovation program, to Mr. QIN Guangrong (left front 3), Yunnan Governor



and its demonstration & promotion role in the new undertaking of tourism industry of Yunnan Province. He also encouraged XTBG to make sustained and even greater efforts in order to turn it into a first-class botanical garden of the world at an earlier date. The Governor also hopes the Menglun Township to have a harmonious development with XTBG.

Vice Governor of Yunnan Province LIU Ping paid an earlier inspection tour to XTBG on February 18. Accompanying the vice governor's field inspection tour, XTBG deputy director LI Hongwei mainly reported the master plan, construction of new garden areas, and the number of tourists received during the Spring Festival "Golden Week" holiday.

MOU between XTBG and University of Hawaii renewed

Prof. Dr. Andrew G. HASHIMOTO, dean and director of College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA, visited XTBG during November 1-3. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two sides. Prof. Dr. CHEN Jin, director of XTBG, met with Dr. Andrew G. HASHIMOTO and his companions. They had discussion on cooperation potentials and signed a memorandum of S&T cooperation. According to the MOU, exchanges between scientific personnel and students are to be enhanced in the future five years; joint research projects and academic meetings may be held; research materials, information, academic journals may be exchanged. Dr. Ching Yuan HU, associate dean of CATHR, gave an overall introduction and delivered a lecture titled "The Future of Agriculture". XTBG and the University of Hawaii have kept good cooperation ties for 20 more years. A memorandum of understanding had ever been signed 20 years ago and the two sides implemented cooperation very well. The renewed MOU in this November is to motivate more collaboration activities.



Dr. Ching Yuan HU is delivering a lecture



Dr. Andrew G. HASHIMOTO (left front) and Dr. CHEN Jin (right front) shaking hands to celebrate the signing of the MOU and their cooperation



XTBG wins title of Advanced Collective for work in poverty alleviation

XTBG wins the title of Advanced Collective for work in poverty alleviation in Yunnan Province in the year of 2007. While enhancing work in scientific research, species preservation, public education and landscape optimization, XTBG has taken the responsibility of reducing poverty for the locality, especially for Mengla County over the past years. XTBG has provided technical support, established joint poverty alleviation fund with Mengla, and sent scientific personnel to manage development-oriented poverty alleviation programs. The contributions have been given positive recognition from local governments at different levels.



Certificate of Award

XTBG staff members donate to help the people in Sichuan Quake

May 12, 2009 is a day of memory in China and the world, as we mourn for and remember the people who lost their lives in the earthquake, in Sichuan, SW China.

At XTBG, 727 staff members and their relatives made their voluntary contribution to help the people in Sichuan Quake and post-earthquake development. More than 75 thousand Yuan have been donated to Yunnan Red Cross.



XTBG staff members donate to help the people in Sichuan Quake

TALENT TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

Graduate Education



Graduation ceremony 2008

As an academic institution, XTBG been engaged in graduate training and has offered Master and Doctoral degrees since 1986. Currently, there are 172 graduate students studying in the garden, 60 of them are doctoral candidates including 2 foreign students. 37 senior researchers are qualified to supervise graduate studies in the fields of botany (17) and ecology (20). In July 2008, 59 students accomplished their study and graduated with 41 MSc degrees and 18 PhD degrees.



Joint MSc Program with USTC

In 2008, XTBG is going to have joint MSc Program with University of Science & Technology of China (USTC). Four M.S. candidates are to be under joint supervision of teachers from both XTBG and USTC. During a visit to USTC to interview Master candidates, Prof. LI Qingjun delivered a lecture entitled "Plant-animal interactions in the process of pollination" to USTC students on March 29. XTBG and USTC signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement in 2005. Many kinds of collaboration activities have been carried out smoothly since then.

Prof. XU Zaifu receives GUCAS Outstanding Teacher Award

At the 30th anniversary of the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS), some senior teachers received recognition for their excellence in supervising graduate students. Prof. XU Zaifu, former director of XTBG, was honored with the GUCAS Outstanding Teacher Award. Engaged in the development of XTBG for more than 40 years, Prof. XU Zaifu has been an expert in conservation biology. In addition to expertise in scientific research, he is skilled in motivating and inspiring students.



A PhD candidate receives BHP Billiton Scholarship

Mr. HAO Guangyou, a PhD candidate with XTBG was awarded as the GUCAS-BHPB Scholarship 2008. His supervisor, Prof. CAO Kunfang, also receives teacher scientific research prize. Based in Melbourne, BHP Billiton is the world's largest diversified resources company and is a major supplier of mineral and energy resources to China.





Talent Training

Personnel training base for tropical horticulture

A total of 56 college students from Simao Normal College improved their knowledge and practical skills on tropical horticulture and technique in the year 2008.

XTBG and SMTC have been keeping on good ties with each other for many years. The two sides had jointly established a “Personnel Training Base for Tropical Horticulture” in XTBG since 2001.



Training course on gardening and horticulture

XTBG sponsored 2 training courses on gardening and horticulture for local technicians in Yunnan province. A total of 80 participants from Xishuangbanna prefecture and Simao prefecture accomplished the training, of which 75 received certifications.

The Department of Labor and Social Security of Yunnan Province designated XTBG as the No. 68 Institute of Yunnan Provincial Professional and Technical Ability Appraisal on Horticulture in 1997. Since then, XTBG has hosted training course on gardening and horticulture each year, making full use of its advantages in landscape planning and designing, horticultural cultivation, seed storage, plant protection, forest science.

University student internships

XTBG is an internship base for many universities. Many university students have worked as interns here, which make it a peak period in this summer. After a one-week internship program by students from University of Science & Technology of China, students from other 11 universities as Yunnan University, Beijing University begin their internship projects at XTBG. The students are enabled to get hands-on experiences in both laboratory research and field research.

XTBG Internship Program offers undergraduate students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the fields of botany, ecology, biology and zoology. The program enables students to work on specific projects under the direction of teachers of their own universities and XTBG’s professional staff. Thanks to its unique location among ethnic villages, the students have chances to know more about ethnic cultures and religious beliefs of Dai nationalities at the neighboring villages, in addition to accomplishing their study tasks.