



TAIGA RESCUE NETWORK

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*Press Release - For immediate use
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The Boreal Forest Garden

Promoting sustainability at the Chelsea Flower Show

The Boreal Forest Garden is now ready for exhibition at the 2005 Chelsea Flower Show. Between May 23 and 28, 2005 representatives of Canada's aboriginal peoples and the forest communities of the Russian Far East will be at the exhibit to talk to visitors about the importance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

The Boreal Forest Garden, a Taiga Rescue Network-LandLab joint initiative, aims to promote the simplicity and necessity of natural ecosystems by focusing on aboriginal and non-aboriginal community uses of boreal forest NTFPs. The garden is an example of how natural systems and traditional uses can fit into contemporary culture.

Ric and Rose Richardson are Metis aboriginal peoples of northern Saskatchewan, Canada. They have chosen to come to Chelsea to raise awareness about how their community uses NTFPs, and of their own attempts to use these products to boost their rural economy. They have brought gifts for the Royal Family on behalf of First Nation communities in Saskatchewan, and examples of NTFPs such as carved moose antler, will be on display at the Boreal Forest Garden.

There will also be a Canadian aboriginal hoop dancer at the Boreal Forest Garden performing traditional dance.

Alexei Zhukov is the Head Forester from Sakhalin Island in the Russian Far East. He will be at the Boreal Forest Garden with samples of herbal teas and other products that exemplify the role NTFPs play in his community, which now faces major oil and gas development projects that are expected to negatively affect the local boreal forests.

"...stable river levels are directly dependent on the amount of forest along the banks, which regulate the runoff of rains and meltwater and help prevent soil erosion. Only deep rivers can provide the necessary conditions for salmon and other species of fish from the sea coming to spawn. Fish is a major source of food for the indigenous people and other long time inhabitants of the island of Sakhalin..." says Mr. Zhukov.

Alexei goes on to say "the importance of the taiga forests cannot be overstated, yet for some reason this does not save them from destruction. Trees that may have lived for several hundred years are turned into raw timber in the space of an hour. The demand for timber is unsustainably high."

NTFPs not only provide local people with food, but they are closely tied with cultural development and survival and increasingly provide alternative economic development, thus reducing reliance on unsustainable large-scale resource exploitation such as commercial forestry.

The Boreal Forest Garden is not only a forum to promote sustainability, but also the concept of naturalized landscapes in urban landscapes. We hope that by raising this type of awareness urban communities will take steps to reduce consumption of boreal products, thus reducing stress on the boreal forest and its peoples.

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Official Boreal Forest Garden webpage: www.taigarescue.org/chelsea

Contact Details

Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) of Jokkmokk, arctic Sweden, is a network of over 200 participant organizations, whose participants exist in boreal producer (Scandinavia, Canada, Russia) and consumer countries (central Europe, USA, Japan, China). TRN is the Boreal Forest Garden exhibitor.
Damien Lee, Information Coordinator, Office: +46 971 17039, Mobile: +46 (0) 73 093 2368

LandLab – A group of artists, ecologists and landscape architects based in Scotland; Boreal Forest Garden designer and contractor. www.landlab.co.uk
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Chelsea Flower Show – After making it through a rigorous selection process, with over 60 other applicants, TRN and LandLab won a place for their Boreal Forest Garden at the 2005 Chelsea Flower Show May 23 – 28, in London, England. The Boreal Forest Garden is one of the 20 “Show Gardens in the Open” which are the main attractions at the event.
Royal Horticultural Society, Administrative Offices: +44 (0)20 7834 4333

Sponsors to date (ordered alphabetically by organization where possible)

Arts fundraising expert **Janet Dunnett** of **Arts and Business North West** has provided consultancy time and helped find sponsors and sources of support for the project. www.aandb.org.uk

British-Russian Eco-cultural Network (BREN), a UK based network aiming to foster the exchange of ecological-cultural initiatives taking place in, or between, Russia and Britain. BREN provided vital support in ensuring native representation for the boreal garden from Sakhalin Island, the Russian Far East. For further information on BREN's work: www.brenweb.org or e-mail info@brenweb.org

Michael Wickenden of Cally Gardens Nursery, Gatehouse of Fleet has generously given time and expertise with the selection and growing of the herbaceous perennials. www.callygardens.co.uk

The **Canadian Boreal Initiative** has provided funds to support Canadian aboriginal peoples attendance at the Boreal Forest Garden, and other project costs. www.borealcanada.ca

Elevate East Lancashire are sponsoring some of LandLab's design work to help promote and develop new businesses from East Lancashire.

UK haulage experts **Gilbraith**, of Lancashire are providing help and support with transportation and storage. Tel. 01254 581727. www.gilbraithtranstore.co.uk

Laurieston Estate, Scotland, have provided coppice materials, advice and assistance to help build and transport the hazel sculpture.

Scottish artist **Lizzie Farey** has specially made a willow sculpture for the garden.

Lorberg Nurseries of Berlin are providing large (up to 10m high) specimen trees for the garden. www.Lorberg.com

Builders and stone masons **Ren Wallbank and Co.** of Lancashire are providing assistance as main contractor helping to build the garden, especially with project management, stone sourcing, and hard landscape construction. Contact LandLab above for further details.

Snabba Tryck, a Swedish printer with strong environmental ethics are sponsoring the printing of our official Non-Timber Forest Product fact sheet that will be available to interested visitors and media during the Show. Thomas Rosén, Snabba Tryck: +46 (0)31 51 00 53, info@snabbtryck.com

United Utilities, an operator of electricity distribution, water and wastewater networks in Northern England and a UK leader in environmental sustainability are providing some of the materials for the construction of the Boreal Forest Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show.
Mark Donaghy, United Utilities press office +44 (0) 1925 233 328