



## Bian Tan

*Over 20 years' experience in plant diversity conservation*

### **Nationality**

Singaporean

### **Education**

M.Sc. in Botany (Taxonomy & Systematics) – University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

B.Sc. in Horticulture with Honours and High Distinction – University of Arizona, Tuscan, AZ

### **Language Capabilities**

English

### **Countries of Work Experience**

Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA, and Vietnam

### **Proposed Position:**

Lead Specialist - Flora

Over twenty years experience in plant diversity conservation, environmental education, and capacity-building, including six years experience throughout Southeast Asia implementing programs for Botanic Gardens Conservation International (a plant conservation NGO) and fifteen years experience in the U.S.A. networking and implementing conservation programs with the North American botanic gardens community. Country experience includes: Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA, and Vietnam.

Core expertise: Botany, Taxonomy, Teaching, Guiding, Horticulture, Botanic Gardens Management, Conservation, Environmental Education, International Collaborations

### **Professional Experience:**

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#### **Consultant in Plant Conservation (Oct 2009 to present)**

- Masterplan consultant for new 200 hectare national botanic garden, Vietnam. Collaborator: Hanoi University of Pharmacy, Vietnam. November 2011 – January 2012
- Technical facilitator and keynote speaker, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Regional Workshop, Queen Sirikit Botanic Gardens, Chiang Mai, Thailand, Sep 2010. The GSPC: 2010 and Beyond
- Speaker and delegate at the 4th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Dublin, Ireland, June 2010. Conservation of Orchids, Medicinals, and Agarwood in Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and Cambodia <http://www.bgaorg/files/Dublin2010/papers/Tan-Bian.pdf>
- Speaker and facilitator at Gifted Education Programme Annual Conference, Singapore Ministry of Education, November 26, 2010. Introduction to Biodiversity Conservation
- Speaker and facilitator for the Leaf monkey workshops, Singapore (training of nature guides), May 2009, May 2010: <http://wildshores.blogspot.com/2009/05/terrific-time-at-treasures-of-our.html>
- Course trainer in various botany courses, Center for Urban Greenery & Ecology (National Parks Board, Singapore), 2010 – present
- Speaker at Nature Society of Singapore Conference (Nature Conservation for a Sustainable Singapore), October 2011. Alien Invasive Species in Singapore.

- Taxonomist and transect setter, Tree Surveys of Sentosa & Southern Islands, Nature Society of Singapore
- Nature guide for the Singapore National Parks Board at Singapore Botanic Gardens, HortPark, Sungai Buloh Wetland Reserve, Southern Ridges, and Chek Jawa Wetlands

**Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), based in Indonesia and Singapore Programme Coordinator, South East Asia (Feb 2003 — September 2009)**

- Developed and delivered long-term programs in Southeast Asia focusing on staff capacity building, environmental education, and threatened species recovery programs in collaboration with local rural communities <http://www.bgaorg/ourwork/southeastasia/> and <http://www.bgci.org/sea/index/>
- Provided guidance and consultation in conservation, botany, horticulture, sustainable practices, and botanic gardens management to Southeast Asian botanic gardens and related institutions
- Established and maintained working relationships with regional botanic gardens and relevant government bodies (Ministries of Forestry, Environment, etc) in the ASEAN member states: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, as well as South China
- Established and nurtured the South East Asia Botanic Gardens Network, (<http://www.se-asianbg.org/about.html>). Facilitated communication, networking and exchange of ideas among Southeast Asian botanic gardens at International and regional conferences and meetings (Global Botanic Garden Congress, American Public Garden Association Conferences)
- Presenter and facilitator at numerous meetings and workshops, including:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 2004. Presentation: *Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in SE Asia*.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Wuhan, China, 2007, San Francisco, 2006. Presenter and facilitator: *Education for Sustainable Development*
  - 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, Oxford, U.K., 2006. Facilitated meeting of educators from South Asia and Southwest Asia

**San Francisco Botanic Garden Society (formerly Strybing Arboretum Society), San Francisco, CA Plant Collections Manager: (Oct 1994 — Nov 2002)**

- Managed and maintained the computerized plant records, including a mapping system of the woody plants
- Initiated and successfully submitted Mesoamerican Cloud Forest for membership in the North American Plant Collections Consortium
- Established the South East Asian Cloud Forest collection; authored cloud forest website: <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/cf/index.html>
- Pioneered and fostered capacity-building partnerships with Eka Karya Bali Botanic Gardens, Philippine National Herbarium, Institute of Ecology and Bioresources (Vietnam), Missouri Botanical Gardens,

and Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for Southeast Asia (USA); organized and led joint collecting expeditions with these partner institutions in SE Asia

- Presenter at regional and national conferences of the APGA, including:
  - National Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 1999. Bringing the Convention on Biodiversity to Life in our Gardens.
  - Pacific Regional Meeting, Seattle, WA, 1998. Computerized Mapping at Strybing Arboretum.
  - Pacific Regional Meeting, Stanford, CA, 2000. Taxonomy Primer.
  - National Conference, Denver, CO, 2001. Strybing's Mesoamerican Cloud Forest Collection.
- Supervised and trained volunteer docents and presented public lectures and workshops on Botany, Taxonomy, Plant Collections; conducted local and international tours
- Served as a public resource and channel for current local and international botanical and horticultural information
- Co-chair of Lunar New Year Flower Market, an annual educational and outreach event to the Asian community

#### **Kevin Erwin Consulting Ecologist, Inc., Fort Myers, FL**

##### **Botanist/Plant Ecologist: (July 1991 — May 1994)**

- Extensive field experience monitoring and mapping habitats, surveying for threatened & endangered species, and delineating wetlands, as part of environmental impact assessments
- Established and developed an in-house reference herbarium

##### **Professional Affiliations**

- Board of Directors, Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for SE Asia, Davis, CA <http://www.ecosea.org> | 1998 - 2005
- Program Selection Committee, APGA National Conference 1999, USA | 1998 - 1999
- Advisory Council, Friends of Tilden Regional Botanic Gardens, Berkeley, CA | 1996 - 2003
- Advisory Committee, California Botanical Society, Berkeley, CA | 1999 - 2003
- Collections Management Peer Reviewer, Museum Assessment Program, American Association of Museums, Washington, D.C. | 2000 - 2003

##### **Publications**

- Tan, B. & W.S. Judd. 1995. A Floristic Inventory of O'Leno State Park and Northeast River Rise State Preserve. *Castanea* 60 (2): 141-165
- Tan, B. 2009. Botanic Garden Networks and their Relevance to Plant Conservation. *Buletin Kebun Raya Indonesia* 12 (1):1-4
- Gratzfeld, J. and B. Tan 2008. Agarwood — Saving a Precious and Threatened Resource. *BG Journal* 5 (2): 27-29 <http://www.bgci.org/resources/article/0576/>
- Tan, B. 2001. Mesoamerican Cloud Forest at Strybing Arboretum. *Public Garden* 16 (1): 36-43 <http://www.publicciardens.org/files/files/SFBG%20MesoAmerican%20Cloud%20Forest%20Collin.pdf>

- Tan, B. 2000. Beyond Strybing: The Botanical Garden's Role in Plant Conservation. Strybing Leaflet 23 (1) 1, 4-5
- Tan, B. 2001. Reflections on Cloud Forest in Vietnam. Strybing Leaflet 24 (4): 1, 4-5
- Grantham, M. & B. Tan. 1999. Cloud Forest Daisies: Horticultural Treasures of Montane Mexico. Pacific Horticulture 60 (3): 50-56. Spanish language translation published in Desde Los Jardines, a leading horticultural magazine in Argentina.
- Richardson, Mark, Anle Tieu, Bian Tan. Training and Capacity Building for Conservation in Asia: Implementing Target 15 of the GSPC. BG Journal, Vol 3 No 1, January 2006. <http://www.bgclorg/resources/article/0495/>