

LENA VIOLETTE GREENWOOD

Personal Information

Name: Lena Violette Greenwood

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CURRICULUM VITAE – LENA VIOLETTE GREENWOOD

“Bridging People and Plants Through Conservation, Education, and Artful Horticulture”


Professional Summary:

Enthusiastic and internationally seasoned Botanical Garden Curator with over 12 years of experience across public garden design, native plant conservation, and community-focused education. Proven track record in managing living plant collections, leading sustainable landscaping initiatives, and curating immersive green exhibitions. Passionate about biodiversity, cultural horticulture, and making botany accessible to wider audiences.

Professional Experience


Head Curator – Kyoto Botanical Garden, Japan

Kyoto Prefectural Government

 July 2019 – February 2024

- Curated Japan’s largest camellia collection, increasing visitor attendance by 38% through seasonal exhibitions.
- Designed and launched the “Plant Spirits” initiative, blending folklore and native flora in a night-time light garden tour.
- Led a multilingual volunteer education program, training over 120 guides in interpretive storytelling and botanic literacy.
- Coordinated rare seed exchange programs with 16 international gardens, including Kew Gardens and Missouri Botanical Garden.

Senior Horticulturist – Eden Project, Cornwall, UK

 March 2014 – May 2019

- Oversaw the rainforest biome's tropical plant maintenance, managing a team of 7 horticulturists.

- Collaborated with ecologists to successfully propagate 11 endangered tropical species, three of which were reintroduced in the wild.
- Delivered 80+ school workshops annually focusing on botany and sustainability.
- Contributed to the BBC Earth series “Hidden Life of Plants” as an on-site botanical consultant.

Landscape & Education Intern – Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South Africa



Jan 2013 – Dec 2013

- Participated in the Fynbos Restoration Project following wildfires; assisted in seed cataloguing and mapping.
- Created interactive trail signage integrating indigenous knowledge and botanical facts.
- Developed a “Young Botanists” weekend program for local youth, later adopted as a permanent fixture.



Education

MSc in Plant Conservation

University of Reading, UK



2011 – 2012

Dissertation: *Community Involvement in Native Plant Conservation: A Case Study from the Western Cape*

BSc in Horticulture & Garden Design

Writtle University College, Essex, UK



2007 – 2010

Graduated with Distinction



Certifications

- **Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Level 3 Diploma in Practical Horticulture – 2015**
- **First Aid in Wilderness Environments – 2022**
- **Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N3 – 2021**



Special Projects

“Botanical Borders Without Borders” – UNESCO-Funded Exhibition (2021)

Curated a traveling art & plant installation showcasing native plants from 12 countries, emphasizing global conservation efforts.

“Healing Gardens Initiative” – Kyoto Municipal Hospitals (2020–2022)

Designed therapeutic garden spaces for three hospitals; integrated with patient recovery programs.



Selected Talks & Lectures

- *“Plants & People: The Emotional Ecology of Public Gardens”* – Guest Lecture, University of Tokyo (2023)
- *Keynote: “Gardens in a Changing Climate”* – Royal Horticultural Society Conference (2021)
- *Panelist: “Women in Conservation”* – British Council Green Futures Series (2020)



Skills

- Botanical Collection Management
- Interpretive Garden Design
- Cross-Cultural Environmental Education
- Seed Bank Coordination
- Public Speaking & Exhibit Curation
- Languages: Latin Plant Nomenclature, Japanese Botany Terms



Volunteer Work

- **GreenSteps (France):** Rewilding volunteer; assisted in meadow restoration – 2023
- **Bee Line Bath (UK):** Urban pollinator garden advocate and trainer – 2017–2019



Personal Interests

Floral watercolour painting | Folklore botany | Writing poetry inspired by plants | Slow travel | Urban foraging