



Figure 1 New York Botanic Garden - © Jack Kinsey

USA TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

ABSTRACT

A trip around several gardens within the USA, Pennsylvania, New York, Philadelphia. Working in some and having tours and meeting the teams in others.

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RBG KEW DIPLOMA – COURSE 58

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Figure 2 Heading over a bridge at Winterthur ©Jack Kinsey

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Introduction a little bit about me.

A fine artist come horticulturist. A very common trend throughout horticulture. Still a practicing artist, forever inspired by the daily tasks working amongst the most fascinating plant life on the planet, along with being amongst wildlife and nature encourages my creativity.



Figure 3 One of my artworks - inspired by the movement of nature and our interactions with Earth 'Eternal Ephemerality' © Jack Kinsey

After a gap year following from my fine art degree a keen passion to pursue a growing interest in to the world of plants began, always using natural resources within my artwork; plants, trees, animals creating mixed media artworks with sculptures including taxidermy, plaster casts and oil paintings along with live plants. It was time to investigate further into the garden. A place that has always been my space for reflection, gravitation and inspiration. Consistently being thrilled of a germinating seedling, and the delight of those favourite plants blooming.

My training in horticulture began at National Trust Calke Abbey, a very familiar place for me. A place where I grew to truly know; plants, horticulture and garden history which made me have great passion for heritage gardens. Seeking and telling the historical stories will forever be a great interest of mine. Completing the L2 National Trust horticulture apprenticeship after two years. To then head on to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, now on the second year of the Kew Diploma, an intense program but the experiences, opportunities and knowledge gained from the course has been exceptional.



Figure 4 National Trust Calke Abbey © Jack Kinsey

Aims & Objectives

Aims

- Develop a wider knowledge of horticulture, understanding the principles of gardens and their ambitions as an organisation.
- Discover the stories and fundamentals of layouts and horticultural practices.
- Record and investigate any relations to my dissertation.
- Investigate sustainability and modern horticultural techniques.

Objectives

- Discuss with the horticultural team to understand the practices implemented at the sites.
- Read interpretation at the sites, and investigate if not clear.
- At the sites where I will not be meeting with the team, compare to sites in the UK and note how it feels to be a visitor, is it clear to know what's going on.
- Explore the sites and don't stop learning.



Figure 5 Exploring Longwood, having tours with the different team members of the departments. discussing their plans, ideas and roles and structure of the organisation. © Jack Kinsey

The Journey

- Longwood consisted as a 4-day visit, meeting the vast teams at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Along with a bit of working with some of the team for a short while. Pruning in the conservatory and the *Nymphaea* and *Victoria* with Senior Horticulturist Tim Jennings along with Longwood interns and Professional Horticulture students.

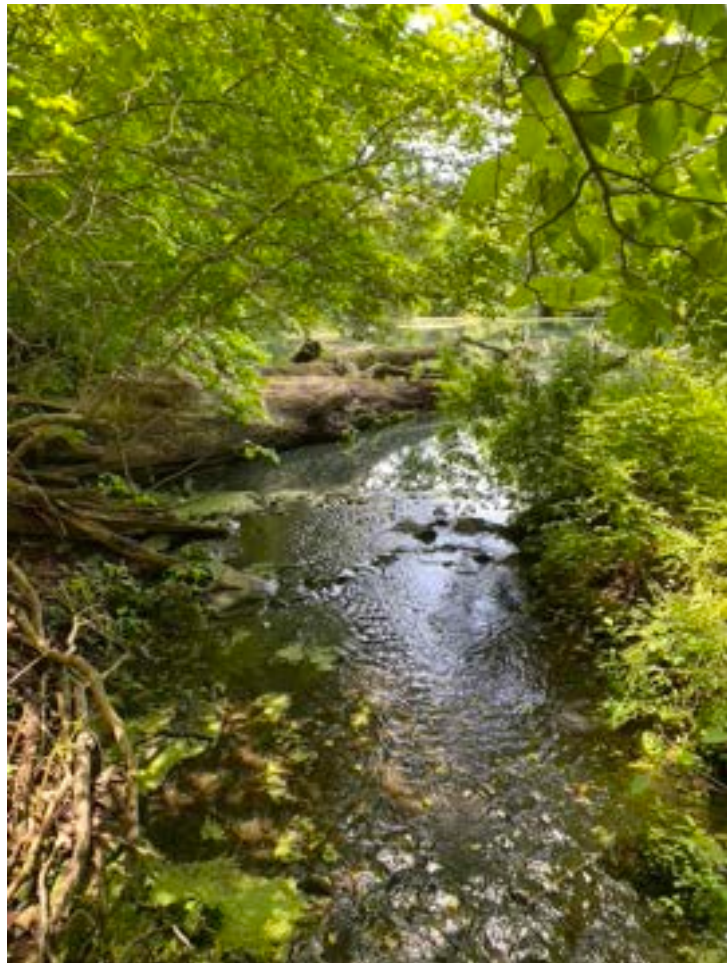


Figure 6 working with the land stewardship team at Longwood - Looking for invasive plants in the natural meadow. to plot and scale on the portable mapping system © Jack Kinsey



Figure 8 Working with *Victoria amazonica* & *V. cruziana* along with *Nymphaea*. Thanks to Tim Jennings senior horticulturist the waterlily expert at Longwood © Jack Kinsey



Figure 7 Visiting the Pro. Hort. student veg. plots and garden design areas. © Jack Kinsey



Figure 9 Colvin giving a demonstration on how the technology works in designing a water fountain display at Longwood. An incredible process and a huge level of time and care goes in to make these shows something spectacular for the Longwood visitors. © Jack Kinsey

Figure 10 The green wall within the conservatory at Longwood, where I worked with the team doing the routine maintenance © Jack Kinsey

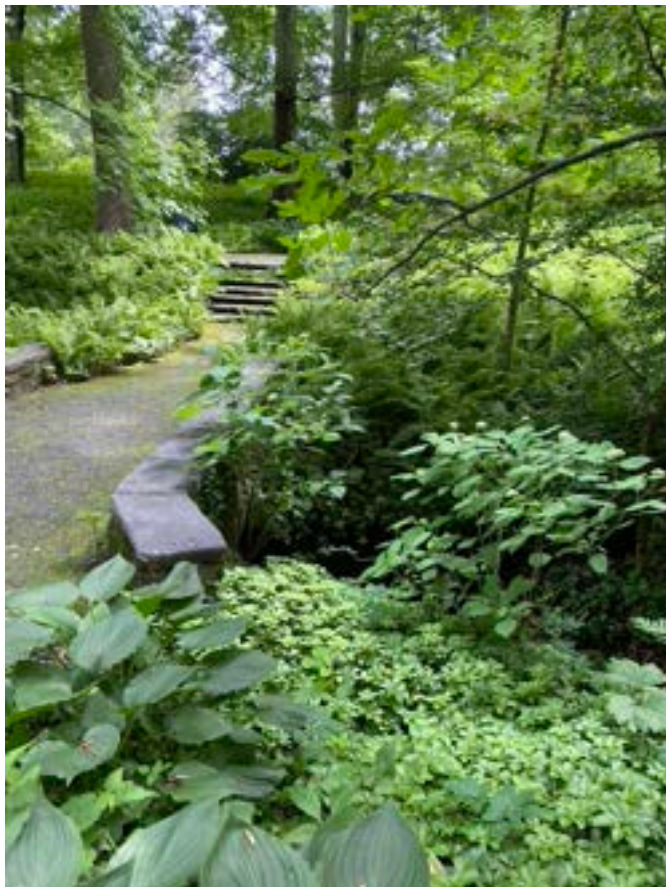


Figure 11 Winterthur exploring with the interns from Longwood ©Jack Kinsey

- While at Longwood I also visited Winterthur another of the Du Pont estates around the area, a tranquil retreat of woodland walks a rest from the high impactful displays at Longwood.



- A trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show along with Professional Horticulture students from Longwood. Some images showing what the event was like.



Figure 12 Philadelphia flower show © Jack Kinsey

- Working with the team at Chanticleer was the next stage of the trip. Along with a trip to Stoneleigh with interns of Chanticleer. Stoneleigh newly opening to visitors just two years ago. Showing strong ideas for the future that place has a lot of potential, already having some new great features and a strong core structure.



Figure 13 Arriving at Chanticleer and exploring the gardens – the private staff pool was also on offer – yes, I did have a swim! © Jack Kinsey



Figure 14 My first day working at Chanticleer with Matt and we did some editing on the *Mangave* planting adding some other plants to the display ready for more complete display later in to the summer season.

- Finishing of my trip with a visit to New York Botanical Garden. Meeting Adam Dooling along with a tour and meeting the team at NYBG – gaining great contacts for my dissertation that will be helpful to discuss the links with conservation and the connection with other organisations and collaborations to tackle conservation.



Figure 15 *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' pruned against the house at Stoneleigh, something that I had not seen before. The Longwood fountain display the theme 'Queens of Soul'



Figure 16 A fresh water stream that runs through the heart of NYBG looking tranquil as Adam Dooling gave me a tour of the sit, on the right the Waterlily's in the courtyard of the glasshouse. © Jack Kinsey

Descriptions

Longwood Gardens

The first week of the trip was spent exploring Longwood Garden, meeting the vast team and the diversity of departments across the organisation, the outdoor landscape team to the conservatory and their historian. A thoroughly immersive experience to truly get to know Longwood. A few trips to other local gardens such as the tranquil Winterthur.



Figure 17 Longwood -© Jack Kinsey.



Figure 18 Longwood conservatory - © Jack Kinsey

While at Longwood I visited Winterthur along with the intern students, a great opportunity to meet the inter students and visit another garden. I had an evening with the Professional Horticulture Students at Longwood, which is the equivalent to a similar program to the Kew Diploma or the Wisley Diploma, a great conversation discussing our futures, the pros and cons of the education.

WHAT I LEARNT AT LONGWOOD.

A phenomenal team with exceptional knowledge maintains Longwood, and from this I learnt the importance of having a strong team and horticultural knowledge enables great work, with plenty of diversity amongst them too. I learnt the about the story of Longwood and it was clear on my visit that this story is obvious within the surroundings, because Longwood is about drama it is about demonstrating what can be achieved. A huge quantity is annual displays, not that of a traditional English parterre annual display but that of large tropical plants. The conservatory is a multitude of genus, cultivar and mixtures of temperate and tropical plants colliding together, a very different scene that I am used to with the regional planting of the glasshouses at Kew. Longwood is an inspiration of what can be achieved and gives a massive influence on its visitors. I have met with experts at Longwood and students on similar programs as me, which is both great for future contacts for my studies and future career.

Chanticleer Garden

A week of work experience within a garden made for gardeners. The idyllic place of pure genius planting, meticulously tweaked to perfection pushing every inch of space to its delightful limit. Each fulltime horticulturist having their own style making each area sing its own tune with mellow peaceful connections. A truly inspiring garden and a great team.

Along with trips to the enchanted Stoneleigh, Scott Arboretum and the Philadelphia Flower Show. With a visit and tour by Adam Dooling at New York Botanical Garden.



Figure 19 The Gravel Garden and Asian Woodland at Chanticleer - © Jack Kinsey

WHAT I LEARNT AT CHANTICLEER.

A garden that is adored by so many. I learnt what happens when a garden is created by gardeners for gardeners. This place has a multitude of areas that sing of many different styles of planting. While at Chanticleer I worked with a few of the horticulture team, looking at the maintenance, planting methods, the structure of the gardens and how these are individually managed. I spent many evenings photographing and making notes of the planting designs. Along with the odd occasion attempting to photograph hummingbirds.

Chanticleer is not an old garden, but it has an interesting history and those stories can be read through the manor house. The gardens today are pretty much 30 years old as prior to that it was largely a site with rolling hills and a stream. Today many gardens marry together via winding paths and woodland edges and trickling babbling streams.



Figure 20 NYBG – © Jack Kinsey



Figure 21 Chanticleer - © Jack Kinsey

OVERVIEW OF WHAT I LEARNT.

From the trip I have gained a great deal of research that will be useful towards the progress of my dissertation. The influences of discovering the gardens seeing by first-hand how the infrastructure works discussing ideas and the futures of the organisation. The focuses of where and what is the current mission, issues and achievements at the moment was an experience that I could have only gained by this trip.



Figure 22 Staying at Chanticleer meant I had the garden to myself so spending my evenings within Chanticleer Garden, meant I was able to see some extra special things, and photographing this very busy hummingbird was an extra treat.

Thank you

Throughout my time visiting the USA I was able to network with international gardens and other students, staff and exploring horticulture at an international level. Gaining amazing contacts that will be eternally grateful to have gained. The opportunity to have gained this experience personally and professional is nothing but beneficial.

Without the support from RBG Kew and the module of the travel scholarship this adventure would have not been an option. Along with the support for the funding from several funding organisation that have sponsored my trip.

Thank you to:

- Kew Guild = £ 900
- **Bentham Moxon Trust - Stella Ross-Craig grant = £ 500**
 - Hardy Plants Society HPS = £ 500
 - Royal Horticultural Society RHS = £ 652

TOTAL = £2552

Under by - £ 256

Summary of costs

Air Fare:	£ 678
Toll roads:	£ 50
Car Hire/Fuel:	£ 830
Accommodation:	£ 730
Food/Stores:	£ 520

TOTAL COSTS	£ 2808
Funded	£ 2552