



PHIPPS

### **Botany In Action Proposal Guidelines**

**Abstract.** Each proposal should contain TWO abstracts (250-WORD LIMIT EACH) of the proposed work. One abstract should be written for the non-specialist and convey the general importance of the work so that it can be understood by those who do not have a strong botanical or scientific background. The other abstract should be a scientifically based abstract that would normally accompany any grant proposal.

**Body of the proposal.** The body of the proposal should clearly outline the objectives, questions and/or hypotheses that will be addressed by the proposed research. The proposal should make a compelling case for the scientific, conservation, or ethnobotanical importance of the research. In addition, the proposal should convince reviewers that the applicant has both an understanding of the relevant literature and an understanding of the appropriate methodologies to successfully complete the proposed work and publish the results. The proposal should briefly describe the broader implications of the proposed work in terms that a layperson could understand and appreciate (e.g., conservation importance, importance for medicinal botany, etc.). **THE BODY OF THE PROPOSAL MUST BE LIMITED TO FIVE DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES.**

**Literature cited.** A bibliography should immediately follow the body of the proposal. Use names, not numbers, when citing in the proposal (e.g., Smith 2000).

**Curriculum Vitae.** The CV should include all the relevant information including education, research, publications, grants received or pending, and presentations. Be sure to include relevant non-academic experiences such as work for conservation non-profits or government agencies, significant outreach and educational activities.

**Letter of Recommendation.** Include a letter of recommendation from your advisor.

**Late proposals.** Proposals received after the due date (see the Web site for this year's due date) will not be considered.

**Mode of submission.** The proposal and all supporting documents must be submitted as a single pdf attachment to an email message to [dmcguire@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:dmcguire@phipps.conservatory.org). The pdf file name must start with the last name of the applicant.

### **Botany In Action Research Priorities**

The goal of BIA is to fund the best science that meets the goals and interests of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, while promoting the development of scientists who have a commitment to excellent research, education, and public outreach in Phipps' priority areas. Funding is limited to doctoral students currently enrolled in a graduate program at a US institution, with a focus on plant based science. Funding is primarily provided to support field

work; the field work may take place in the US or any other country. Once a fellow is accepted, other funding options may be available.

There are four priority areas for BIA research:

1. Ethnobotany, with special interest in medicinal plants;
2. Diversity and conservation, with special interest in regional (southwest Pennsylvania and tri-state area) and tropical forests;
3. Landscape and brownfield restoration with special interest in how plants deliver ecosystem services;
4. Sustainable landscapes.

Specific topics within one or more of these broad areas may be targeted in a given year. These targets will be announced on the BIA Web site in advance of the proposal due date.

Your proposal will be reviewed by the BIA Fellowship Committee, chaired by Phipps' Director of Research and composed of participants in the Education, Research and Conservation Task Force of Phipps Conservatory as well as members of Phipps Board of Trustees' Advisory Committee. Reviewers are made up of both active scientists as well as laypersons who have a strong interest in botany, plant conservation, and sustainable landscapes. The reviewers who are scientists maintain active, funded research programs and have extensive experience reviewing grant proposals for both state and federal agencies.

**Duration of Funding.** The Center for Sustainable Landscapes traditionally maintains a supporting relationship with BIA Fellows for the multiple years in which field research is conducted during pursuit of the Ph.D. Funding is granted one year at a time. A new proposal must be submitted each year. The format is the same for each year (see BIA Proposal Guidelines). However, funding for the second and later years is contingent on available funds, as well as on the BIA Fellows' success with the previous year's funding, judged on the basis of a required annual report to the BIA Fellowship Committee.

Excerpt from BIA Mission  
Revised December 2009