

THE ONCE AND FUTURE GARDEN

by Mary Ellen Hannibal

Yes, it's the Garden's 75th birthday. Times have changed, but in many ways, today's Garden more deeply reflects its original purpose. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, famed botanist Alice Eastwood conferred with John McLaren, Golden Gate Park's superintendent, on the need for a garden within the park to showcase endemic California plants, which were generally new to science. Eastwood and McLaren keenly appreciated the special climate and situation of San Francisco, and wanted to show the world that we can grow practically anything here. They wanted to celebrate the beauty of plants while educating people about nature as it relates to climate and geography. Their dream for a botanical garden was not realized until 1940, through a generous bequest from Helene Strybing. Even then, few could have guessed how completely the world would be transformed

TODAY'S GARDEN HAS GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE AS A LIVING LABORATORY FOR SAFEGUARDING FUTURE PLANT LIFE.

by human impacts just three quarters of a century later. Nature, climate, and geography have always been important here and now, arguably, they are the most central issues of our day. The Garden is a laboratory of climate change impacts lived every day in real time. The plants have a profound story to tell, if we but read the leaves.

Like many a raving beauty, today's Garden is not always appreciated for all it has to offer. Often people see the Garden as a place of beauty, rest, and recreation, but miss its global relevance. Over the decades, botanical gardens became entwined with the idea of society ladies nodding off into their tea cups. Such a world hardly exists at all anymore, if it ever quite did. Flowers themselves have been poorly understood as some kind of window dressing on greenery. Nature's complexity in floral



ALLEN'S HUMMER

Following the coast northward, Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) returns to the Bay Area in early spring, just as our native wildflowers and shrubs begin to bloom. The adult male has an iridescent copper-red throat, green crown and back, and a white breast. This species constructs a small nest using spider web silk and lichens. It feeds on nectar plants in the Garden, including *Salvia*, *Fuchsia* and *Cuphea*. This illustration is from volume two of *The Birds of California: A Complete, Scientific and Popular Account of the 580 Species and Subspecies of Birds Found in the State*, by William Leon Dawson (1923). It is part of a four-volume work in the special collection of the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture.

design has evolved over millions of years and is foundational to help create an atmosphere that is habitable by *Homo sapiens* and other animals. Plant life is fundamentally responsible for

Sue Ann Schiff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW

Our milestone 75th anniversary is a time to reflect on how we got here, to celebrate what we have become, and to commit ourselves to a future of even greater contribution and impact. I love the proverb "It takes a village to raise a child." It speaks the truth. Today, I would like to amend the proverb: "It takes a village to grow a garden *and* raise a child."

As Mary Ellen Hannibal writes in our cover story, the dream of a botanical garden within Golden Gate Park was long cherished by Alice Eastwood and John McLaren and realized by our first director, Eric Walther. The Garden would not be here without the philanthropy of Helene Strybing, whose bequest made breaking ground here possible. Mrs. Strybing remains a bright light and reminder that giving to the Garden creates a special kind of compound interest in the future. For 75 years, myriad individuals have contributed time, resources, and sustained effort to maintain a public-private partnership that demonstrates what communities working together can do. This is a multi-generational village growing a garden, the beauties of which are amplified by time.

What has been created here? A place of great beauty that is also home to one of our country's most diverse and significant botanical collections; a sanctuary for plants that are no longer found in their native habitats; a garden where you can travel the

world in 55 acres, where the biodiversity of our planet is accessible to all; and an institution of learning and inspiration that makes the natural world alive. All right here in the heart of the city.

Our purpose here has changed with the times. Today, one-fifth of the world's known plant species are threatened with extinction. Plants sustain life on Earth. But human activity has accelerated the rate of extinction many, many times faster than the "natural cadence" of evolution. San Francisco's temperate climate and coastal fog allow our botanical garden to simulate the growing conditions of many of the world's most threatened regions, including disappearing cloud forests. We cannot save every threatened species. But there is something of great significance that we can do. We can have enormous impact by ensuring that future generations can know, appreciate, and work to protect the rich natural diversity of our planet.

That is San Francisco Botanical Garden's great opportunity. At this inflection point in our history, we are building momentum to achieve the Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening. This ambitious and necessary vision for the Garden's future, including the learning and community partnerships the project will make possible, will make us a more active leader in plant conservation. We will build on the strength of our programs, including our library and youth education programs, to continue to pay forward an original vision that becomes more clear with every passing day. It takes a village to grow a garden and to raise the children of the future. The Garden's next 75 years start with us. 

Sue Ann Schiff, Executive Director



RICHARD MORGENSTEIN

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

Established in 1955

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Golden Gate Park
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WHY WE NEED A NEW NURSERY

John McLaren was thinking ahead when in 1889 he identified a location for a botanical garden in Golden Gate Park. He chose a spot that was influenced by “a variety of soil and exposure, sloping, dry and sunny hillsides, sheltered spots and rich, low or marshy land.” He supported an 1898 bond measure to establish an arboretum and botanical garden, but it failed to get a two-thirds majority. The site was planted with coast redwoods at the turn of the century, and these trees have grown into giants that today grow with other native plants in what has become the Redwood Grove. The dream of the Garden finally became real in the midst of the Depression, and WPA workers helped with construction. The current nursery facilities, installed more than 50 years ago in a cold, damp spot of the Garden, were not intended to be permanent or even to last for the decades of propagation and care that have come to pass. A permanent nursery to support the vital activities of the Garden has never been funded or built. City gardeners, Botanical Garden Society staff, and volunteers have made do for decades. One might ask, well, since it has worked well in the past, why not keep with the same program into the future?

The answer has to do with the future itself. As biodiversity loss is arguably the most pressing issue of our day, it is incumbent on those of us who know how to cultivate nature that we share our knowledge. The Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening will provide a portal for more effective teaching and interaction with



JULIE BALDOCCHI

We have a responsibility to educate children about biodiversity now and into the future.



The Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening will expand the Garden’s capacity to nurture threatened and endangered plants.

our visitors. It will be a place where children and visitors of all ages can learn about what we do, why it matters, and how they can use these principles and practices in their classrooms, homes, and gardens. To be built on a sunny plateau near the Children’s Garden, the new facility will allow us to expand educational and community programming, and to serve more school groups and families. “We know of no other major botanical garden whose working nursery also is designed to be a center for learning and engagement,” says Executive Director Sue Ann Schiff. “We’re ready to start construction as soon as the necessary funds are in place.”

The Garden today cultivates many plants that are endangered or even extinct in the wild. We are an important repository of critical life matter, yet we have no commensurate way to truly protect and safeguard these treasures. We need to build a nursery where we can do better and more to protect plants from all over the world. We have a responsibility to do this—our location uniquely allows us to cultivate an enormous range of species. Ironically, our society takes good care of art treasures, which are unquestionably important, by erecting impressive museums to hold them. Yet the very substance of life we are sustaining and cultivating at the Garden has not received the same kind of investment and attention. Today, it is of the utmost importance that we, as an institution, step up to the plate to educate the public about biodiversity and how to protect it. As much as it will be a critically needed new structure, the Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening will be an invitation to our visitors to join us in caring for the Earth. 🌱

creating this biosphere in which life flourishes. All over the world we are converting habitat for plants into man-made development. Recently famed biologist Dr. E.O. Wilson, sometimes called “the father of biodiversity,” cautioned that it is more important to our future life to protect plants and animals from extinction than it is to focus exclusively on excessive emissions. “If we save the living environment of the Earth,” he said, “we’ll also save the physical or nonliving part of the environment, because each depends intimately upon the other.” He says it is downright wrong to imagine “that later generations will somehow find a way to equilibrate the land, sea, and air in the biosphere on which we absolutely depend.” Our nursery propagates plants that are endangered or extinct in the wild. We are a storehouse of future life.

The Garden also has solid scientific roots. Alice Eastwood, who served as Head of the Department of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences for more than 50 years, established an ongoing, educational flower show in the entrance lobby of the old Academy building in Golden Gate Park, the longest continuous floral exhibit in the world for many years. The janitor, a Mrs. Wilkins, helped her arrange the flowers, and observed a young German immigrant who made careful notes of the displays—he visited them nearly every Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Wilkins sent this young man, Eric Walther, to talk to Eastwood, who encouraged his scholarship and gave him keys to the herbarium, so he



MONICA RENNER

A. araucana (monkey puzzle tree) is among the ancient plant life that has helped create our living biosphere.

Walther’s academic perspective, schooled by Eastwood, influenced his progressive plan for organizing the Garden’s plants according to their geography of origin. Thus the Garden’s physical design reflects the progression of thought about evolution, and helps explicate the thinking process of the many naturalists who over generations have helped delineate how life forms evolve. Plants play a central role in the story. Darwin’s close friend, botanist Joseph Hooker, traveled the world and wondered how *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle) and *Araucaria bidwillii* (bunya-bunya), both of which are found in our Ancient Plant Garden, came to grow in places separated by oceans and conditions that would kill them. *A. araucana*, also found in our Chilean collection, is native to South America, and *A. bidwillii* to Australia. How could plants so physically separate have morphological similarities? Eventually the theory of plate tectonics explained how once continuous land masses had been moved around the globe, dispersing inhabitants, some of which persisted in their original forms. The Garden has significant collections of Southern Hemisphere plants in our Chilean, New Zealand, Australian, and South African Gardens—these locations were all part of the original Gondwana supercontinent. Today the Garden’s Gondwana Circle is planted in proteas that hail from all around the world.

Alfred Russel Wallace, a contemporary of Charles Darwin and independent co-discoverer of natural selection, elucidated another fundamental earth process on his travels, marking six global regions with flora and fauna that were distinct from each other. Naturalists steeped in piety proposed that these areas must represent six different Edens, and put the differences up to God’s creativity. Wallace, one of the leading evolutionary thinkers of his time, reasoned that land bridges had once connected terrestrial masses and sea level rise had come to separate them. He was right. Wallace, like Darwin, eventually concluded that when species are isolated from others of their originating kind



TRAVIS LANGE

Pollination is among the ordinary, yet critical activities in the Garden that impact biodiversity far and wide.

could consult the Academy’s library. Walther was working down the Peninsula on an estate, and when Eastwood learned he had applied for a job in Golden Gate Park, she had a word with John McLaren. She helped Walther get the job as first director of the Garden, a position he assumed in 1937 and held for 20 years.

for long enough, they evolve into new forms. The new forms reflect climatic influences and are also responsive to interactions with other species. The mostly geographical organization of our Garden is in and of itself a teaching tool in understanding how vegetation, upon which most other species depend, came to evolve around the world.

Historical insights about time, place, and plants have special relevance to us today. Plants grow keyed to a suite of conditions; climate, soil, elevation, and aspect to the sun are among them. As our climate is in fact changing, what plants grow where is changing, too. Different temperature and precipitation ranges will also change which birds use the Garden and when. The Garden is located on the Pacific Flyway. As something is always in bloom here, we are a favorite fuel-stop for those migrating North-South, and South-North, as well as for many full-time Bay Area resident birds. Bird migration patterns help us understand what is happening with nature on a macroscopic scale, but the microcosmic scale is every bit as important. The close intertwining of bees, insects, and pollinating birds with host plants is one of the tightest and most important relationships in nature. Most of our food sources depend on pollination. The Garden plays a critical role in supporting populations of pollinators that do their thing beyond our borders. Native plants in the Garden help sustain native bees that are likely to be the replacement troops as honeybees from elsewhere are declining in abundance. Because

the Garden is also home to nonnative plants that bloom according to different schedules, it provides something of a 24/7 cafeteria and charging station for bees.

San Francisco Botanical Garden is known by many as a sanctuary within the more boisterous outlines of Golden Gate Park and the urban footprint beyond. Thanks to our mediterranean climate and the ministrations of our gardeners and volunteers, plants bloom here year-round. Birds, butterflies, and bees are constantly at their attendant business. Gardens in general are green time-outs in a greyer world of daily duties, and they restore and refresh us. But today San Francisco Botanical Garden stands both symbolically and physically at the center of our concerns. It is here not only to provide solace and pleasure, but also to educate us to move productively through global transitions. There is no more important institution in San Francisco for helping us connect with the most profound issue not only of our time, but of any time. And, as always, the Garden teaches with beauty. 🍷

Mary Ellen Hannibal is a Bay Area writer and editor focusing on science and culture. Hannibal is an award-winning journalist and author of *The Spine of the Continent*. Her next book, *Citizen Scientist*, will be published in May 2016.



MONICA BENNER

ALL TOGETHER NOW — The Garden's Gondwana Circle is a focus point commemorating the Southern Hemisphere continents that once joined in an original land mass called Gondwanaland. Recently planted with proteas that share a common lineage going back more than 130 million years, the Gondwana Circle highlights our ongoing evolution.



KATHRYN RUMMEL



JULIE BALDOCCI



EUNA LEE

THERE'S A LOT TO DO IN 55 ACRES

Discover. Travel the world in 55 acres, right in the heart of the city. San Francisco provides a range of climatic conditions that exist in few other botanical gardens in the world. This unique environment allows the Garden to grow and conserve more than 8,000 different kinds of plants from all over the globe, including many that are no longer found in their native habitats.

Explore Further. Participate in classes, workshops, and walks, many free of charge, to explore the world of plants.

- Botanical drawing classes and wreathmaking workshops
- Full moon walks
- Birding at the Garden – first Sunday of each month
- Special tours, mobile app, and maps of individual collections
- Urbia Adventure League treasure hunt for kids of all ages
- Daily docent-led tours
- Weekend interpretation stations
- Plant Finder – online resource to research and identify plants growing at the Garden

Take the Garden Home. Shop for Bay Area-friendly plants, many propagated here and seldom found in commercial nurseries.

- Daily at the **Arbor** and monthly at the **Nursery**
- Annual Plant Sale – Northern California's largest, in May

Check out the **Garden Bookstore** for a beautifully curated array of books, seeds, and more.

- Bookmarks, cards, notebooks, calendars, posters
- A wide variety of artisanal gifts suitable for all ages

Inspire the Next Generation. More than 12,000 children plus their families and teachers are welcomed to the Garden every year for free education programs. Bring your children to the Garden for family programs.

- Guided school walks
- School-year and summer Children's Garden programs
- Preschool program
- Bean Sprouts Family Days
- Library Story Time and Summer Reading Club
- Youth internships
- Self-guided walking materials
- Professional development for teachers

Dig Deeper. Peruse Northern California's most comprehensive horticultural collection at the **Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture**, including an extensive children's collection and seasonal art exhibits. Free admission. Open 10am–4pm except Tuesdays and major holidays.

- Books, images, periodicals, nursery catalogs
- Rare book collection
- Teachers' resource collection
- Circulating children's collection for members and teachers
- Interlibrary reference and special collection bibliographies

"Our family loved the Summer Reading Club at the Helen Crocker Russell Library! It was a great way to connect our four-year-old daughter's love of reading to nature and being in the Garden. The Botanical Garden has become one of my daughter's favorite places in the city!"

— Mercedes Jones

Volunteer. Contribute your time and talents, learn new skills, and join a special community of Garden supporters. Come on your own or contact us about group projects.

- **Work with plants:** Help keep the Garden beautiful and healthy by volunteering on the Green Team, as a gardener's assistant, or at the Nursery, Arbor and plant sales.
- **Work with people:** Support Garden programs and activities as a docent, children's walk guide, Bookstore volunteer, Library assistant, Children's Garden program aide, office assistant, on the Outreach Team or at special events.

Keep in Touch. For more information about the Garden and its programs, visit SFBotanicalGarden.org; subscribe to *At the Garden*, SFBGS's monthly e-newsletter; and follow us on social media: Instagram (@sfbotanicalgarden), Twitter (@SFBGS), and Facebook.

Support the Garden. Become a member or donor and support the Garden's botanical collections, outreach activities, and educational programs. Members enjoy Garden Parties every season with live music and local treats, early access to thousands of unique plants at the Annual Plant Sale Member Preview, special discounts, and so much more.

"San Francisco Botanical Garden has been a beautiful respite from the city for my whole life – as a toddler, a teenager, a mother, a retiree. I love following the changes throughout the year."

— Erika Oppen, SFBGS Member Since 1996



EUNA LEE



TAMI DESJELIER



WENDY TAI



EUNA LEE

Garden Bookstore

Books and Gifts

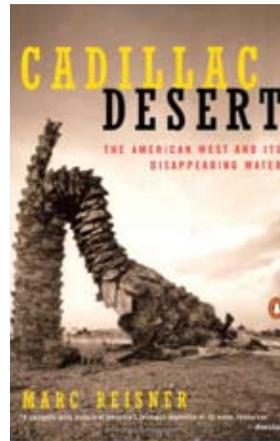
Inside the Main Gate, open daily (except major holidays) 10AM–4PM

For Casual Gardeners, Horticultural Professionals,
Nature Lovers, and More

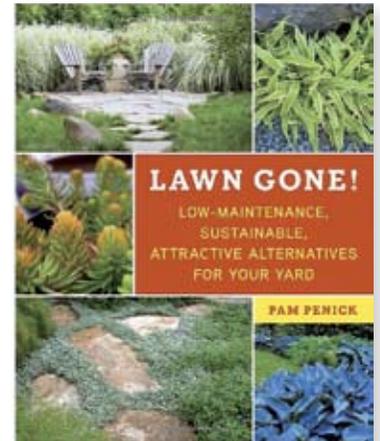
As California faces a megadrought, brought to us by natural processes but exacerbated by climate change, we are all charged with re-orienting ourselves to the basic issue of water. Where to look for help but the San Francisco Botanical Garden Bookstore!

Historical perspective on how we got into our present mess is laid out in the unsurpassed *Cadillac Desert*, the 1993 history of California water told by Marc Reisner. Don't just wring your hands, also get a copy of *Lawn Gone*, Pam Penwick's practical guide to landscaping without over-drawing our most precious resource.

While you're here, take a stroll through our myriad mediterranean climate gardens, where beauty thrives with little water, for inspiration.



Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water,
(Revised Edition)
by Marc Reisner
\$19.00



Lawn Gone! Low-Maintenance, Sustainable, Attractive Alternatives for Your Yard
by Pam Penwick
\$19.00

SFBGS Members receive a 10% discount on these books and all non-sale items. Become a member today ... sign up at the Garden Bookstore. **Gift certificates are available!**
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BEAUTY IN
THE MIST
In Bloom October
through December

CLOUD
FORESTS

upcoming Plant Sales

Saturdays, 10 AM–1 PM

San Francisco Botanical Garden Nursery near the
Arthur L. Menzies Garden of California Native Plants

November 14, 2015	End-of-the-Season Sale
March 12, 2016	Magnolia Companions
April 9, 2016	Spring Bloomers
May 6, 2016	Member Preview Sale 5–8 PM (SF County Fair Building)
May 7, 2016	Annual Plant Sale 10 AM–2 PM (SF County Fair Building)
June 11, 2016	Perennials
July 9, 2016	Salvias, Shrubs and Fuschias
September 10, 2016	Native Plants and Succulents
October 8, 2016	Trees, Ferns and Rhododendrons
November 12, 2016	End-of-Season Sale

Can't make the monthly sales? Plants for sale at the Arbor,
10–4 daily except major holidays

All sales include a general selection of plants in addition to featured plants.
For more information, please visit: sfbotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales

THE LEGACY OF LUTHER BURBANK:

Paintings by Sonoma County
Colored Pencil Artists

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2015

Colored pencil artists of Sonoma County present an exhibit of original artwork focused on select fruits, vegetables, flowers, and trees developed by famed experimental horticulturalist Luther Burbank. Nina Antze, art instructor for many SFBC classes, has coordinated the exhibit. The paintings depict plants created through Burbank's experiments and currently growing at the Luther Burbank Experimental Garden in Sebastopol and the Burbank Home & Garden in Santa Rosa. Among the plants included are 'Burbank' potato (ancestor of the Russet), spineless cactus, plumcot (a combination of a plum and an apricot), and Shasta daisy.



Tower of Gold by Nina Antze; Grafted Apple by Elizabeth Peyton



CHASING COLOR

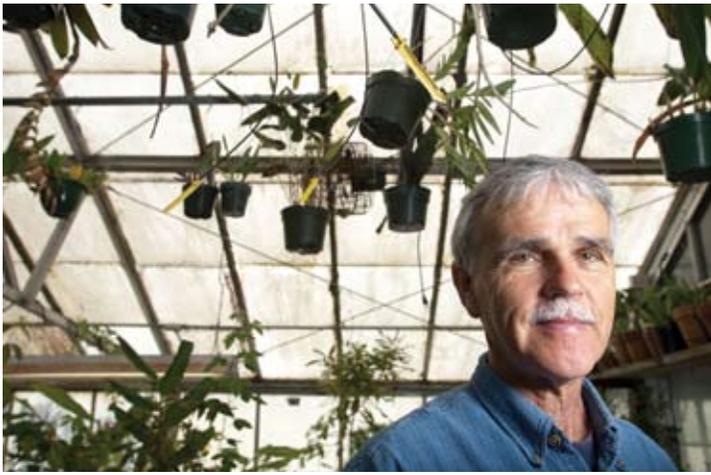
Painting California's Native Flora
through the Seasons

By Erika Perloff

JANUARY – APRIL 2016

Erika Perloff, professional artist, former naturalist, and amateur botanist, will present Chasing Color: Painting California's Native Flora through the Seasons in the Helen Crocker Russell Library. Perloff paints vividly with pastels in the plein air tradition, highlighting the beauty of California native flora. She tracks the seasons from spring and summer wildflower displays in desert and mountains, to fall leaf changes, to winter conifers covered in snow. You can follow her progress as she paints the beauty of California's plants on her blog at erikaperloff.wordpress.com.

Springtime Blues by Erika Perloff



Don Mahoney brings heart, head, and hands to the task of cultivating the Garden.

WHAT DON CULTIVATES: OUR BELOVED CURATOR TAKES SEMI-RETIREMENT

by Mary Ellen Hannibal

More than ten years ago, I phoned Don Mahoney. I was writing a small book about leaves and pods. Many of the study subjects were from plants in the Garden, and I wanted to capture some nuance about them. He took me on a stroll—something Mahoney has done with legions of people over the 30 years he has worked here. All he had to do was touch a leaf and a story sprang forth. He showed me a number of maple trees, pointing out that many species share a similar leaf pattern, their lobes and veins issuing from a single point like fingers from the palm of a hand. The pattern is called palmate. See how he was effortlessly teaching me. The genus designation for maple is *Acer*, which means sharp in Latin; Roman soldiers used maple wood to make spears, because the wood is hard. He told me all this in such a way that I have never forgotten it.

In July 2015, Mahoney officially moved into a new role, that of Curator Emeritus, where he will continue to share his wisdom and stories. Scaling back his hours, Mahoney will no longer run the Garden's volunteer propagation program and plant sales. He will still be present in the Garden two to three days a week, interacting with volunteers, and helping to train new Associate Curator Corey Barnes, who is now responsible for the propagation program and plant sales that Mahoney spearheaded for decades. "He's young," Mahoney tells me. "He's full of energy.

He will take the ball and run with it." Barnes comes to us from Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen. "That's a 100 percent scientific garden," Mahoney tells me. "All the plants are documented from the wild. Corey is a propagation specialist and ran Quarryhill's nursery as well as its volunteer and education programs—he loves plants and really likes people, too."

Reflecting on Mahoney's tenure here, long-time volunteer Pat Gordon tells me "his wisdom is encyclopedic," and above all, he is easy to work with. "He's never bossy and never tries to reorganize the way you have done something. He lets us do our thing." She laughs. "Over the years he has developed such a loyal cadre of people that they just keep coming forever. For most of us, what started as a little hobby turned into something obsessive—we want to know more about plants."

Mahoney has a doctorate from UC Berkeley, but "I was more into horticulture than botany and I wanted to veer off from academia," he tells me. Responding to a 1984 ad in *Leaflet*, Mahoney began here as a volunteer coordinator two days a week. "At the time, the Society didn't manage plant collections. The City-employed supervisor made notes on index cards and that's how they kept track of things." It is a bit of a mind boggle to imagine the changes Mahoney has witnessed and been a part of over his tenure. For one thing, our collections are now documented and mapped using satellite-based technology.

Among the many horticultural contributions he has made, the Mesoamerican Cloud Forest stands out. "I went down to Mexico with Dennis Breedlove in 1991," Mahoney tells me, referring to the California Academy of Sciences botanist who presciently understood that even as he was uncovering the unique evolution of the flora in Chiapas, it was under constant threat from development. "We would camp or sleep in the car if it was raining," Mahoney says. "Every three days we had to get to a hotel with electricity." Breedlove had contrived a homemade plant press powered by light bulbs. They brought more than 400 species back to the Garden from that trip. Today our Cloud Forest collections include plants from the Andes and Southeast Asia as well. All of these plants are threatened in the wild, which highlights the importance of cultivating them here. "Horticulture is necessary to know how to grow this stuff and keep it alive. You don't learn that in botany. Shade, sun, soil, and water—these are all more important as habitat disappears. If you want to save these species for future research, for medicine, as the components of an ecosystem, you have to know horticulture."

Mahoney also points out that education of the public is critical. "You often have to catch people's attention in an aesthetic way. Show people how wonderfully these plants look together, and teach them how to grow them." The pleasant experience of the Garden, Mahoney points out, is a key component of our sustainability outreach. As Gordon says of Mahoney, his is a "gentle guidance." And that kind of teaching happens to stick. 🌱

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN IN WORLD CONTEXT

In the 1870s, San Francisco civic leaders assigned 1,000 acres of sand dune to be transformed into Golden Gate Park, and subsequently identified a site to become a botanical garden. In the years since, constant cultivation has established a 12-inch layer of topsoil over that sand, which still lies below. Each generation has helped bring new individual gardens to maturity and has established new collections. Some of these are highlighted in the next two pages. Renovations and revisions have reflected growing knowledge about the world's plant biodiversity, and stewards have continuously stepped up to the responsibility to grow and care for some of the world's most special and most endangered species. We honor the hard work and careful gardening of those who have made this beautiful place possible. The world today presents challenges undreamed of 75 years ago, and Garden stewardship is more critical than ever. Right here we have a repository for a future life that is green, beautiful, and in bloom. It will take hard work on the part of many, but it is work joyously done, and gorgeously fruitful.



Clockwise from top left: The Bird's-Eye View of Golden Gate Park, 1892, sketched by H. B. Elliot, engraved by Bosqui Engraving Co. and published by A. M. Freeman & Co.; this park view was probably a wall advertisement for J. T. Harris Realtors. McLaren Lodge, located in Golden Gate Park and named in honor of John McLaren. The "Outside Lands" that eventually became Golden Gate Park were originally sand dunes.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE HELEN CROCKER RUSSELL LIBRARY OF HORTICULTURE



Clockwise from top: Eric Walther, first director of the Garden; John McLaren, Park Superintendent from 1887 to 1943; Helene Strybing, benefactor.

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN IN WORLD CONTEXT

1879 – Golden Gate Park is planted with Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, and blue gum eucalyptus.

1889 – A site is designated for an eventual arboretum and botanical garden; a bond issue to establish it fails in 1898. The site is preserved and planted with trees, including the mature and massive trees that now grow in the Redwood Grove.

1926 – Helene Strybing makes a bequest to establish an arboretum; the funds are gradually made available for use in the 1930s and 1940s.

1939 – Works Progress Administration (WPA) plans for the Garden, under the direction of Eric Walther, include a geographic plant display theme.

1940 – San Francisco Botanical Garden opens as Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, becoming home to the first cup and saucer magnolia to bloom in the U.S. Today, the Garden is recognized by the leading international botanical conservation organization as having the most significant magnolia collection for conservation purposes outside China.

1948 – The establishment of the International Union for Conservation of Nature calls for "the planet's resources to be used in a wise and equitable manner."

1949 – A more detailed plan designed by Prentiss French relocates the arboretum headquarters to 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way and creates "the long lawn." Sites for South American, Eastern Australian, and New Zealand Gardens are determined.

1955 – The nonprofit Strybing Arboretum Society is established to support the continued development of the Botanical Garden and to provide educational programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

“A garden like this, with its striking displays and extraordinary trees and plants from all over the world, does not grow overnight. This year, we celebrate all of the individuals, who, over the last 75 years, have played a role in stewarding this important resource and place of beauty. Together we share the goal of creating and sustaining one of the world’s outstanding public botanical gardens.”

— Phil Ginsburg, General Manager,
San Francisco Recreation & Parks

1958 – The first endangered species list is published.

1959 – A new master plan designed by Robert Tetlow gives the Garden its current modernist character; a central elliptical open space with a simple fountain is the main wayfinding element.

1960 – Botanist Elizabeth McClintock helps halt plans to construct a freeway through the Botanical Garden. The Hall of Flowers is built and dedicated. Flower shows for the next 35 years bring visits from Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, Rosalyn Carter, Emperor Hirohito, and Princess Margaret, among others. The building’s name is officially changed to the San Francisco County Fair Building in 1986.

1962 – In *Silent Spring* Rachel Carson warns about DDT; it is the birth of the modern environmental era.

1968 – Raymond Dasmann coins the term “biological diversity,” which becomes “biodiversity” by the mid-1980s. A children’s garden is planted, to be followed later by the current Children’s Garden established in 1991.

1970 – The Environmental Protection Act is enacted. World population: 4.45 billion.

1972 – The Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture opens and develops Northern California’s most comprehensive collection of horticultural materials.

1973 – The native plant collection is renamed the Arthur L. Menzies Garden of California Native Plants in memory of the Garden’s revered Assistant Director. Subsequent renovation of the four-acre garden in the 1980s receives several design awards, including national recognition by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

1980 – Andean wax palm, the tallest palm in the world, is planted in what would become the Andean Cloud Forest collection. The Garden now has one of the most comprehensive collections of high-elevation palm species known in any botanical garden in the world.

1984 – Mesoamerican Cloud Forest planting begins. Over three decades this collection has matured to represent a typical cloud forest plant community and includes many rare and endangered plants.

1985 – A hole in the ozone layer is detected.

1995 – A new Master Plan for the Garden is created and incorporated into the Master Plan for Golden Gate Park, adopted in 1998. With



BRENDAN LANGE



BRENDAN LANGE



MONIKA BOURELL



TRAVIS LANGE



KATHRYN RUMMEL



ANDREW STEINMETZ

IN THE PALM OF OUR HAND

The Garden is one of a select group of gardens and arboreta worldwide recognized for conserving plant collections at the highest professional level. Recently, the North American Plant Collection Consortium of the American Public Gardens Association conferred full accreditation to SFBG for our palm collection. This recognizes our commitment to research and promotion of public awareness about conservation. We care for nearly 400 plants, including 200 accessions of 112 different kinds of palms. As evidenced below, the trees are distributed throughout many of our themed gardens—come enjoy them!



BRENDAN LANGE



JASON DEWEES

(Left): Andean wax palms in the Andean Cloud Forest Collection. The Garden, often bathed in San Francisco's famous fog, is one of the only botanical gardens in the world where these plants can grow outdoors successfully. (Right): The Garden's native New Zealand palms (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) growing amongst sprays of New Zealand wind grass (*Anemanthele lessoniana*).

help from private donors and public funds, there have been a number of Garden renovations and improvements in furtherance of the Master Plan, which continues to guide planning today.

1996 – City and county ordinances mandate a drastic reduction in the use of pesticides at city-owned facilities; SFBG becomes a main laboratory, sharing “integrated pest management” practices developed here.

1997 – The Kyoto Protocol is established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Southeast Asian Cloud Forest planting begins. This garden, along with the Andean Cloud Forest and Mesoamerican Cloud Forest, makes SFBG the only garden in the world to host three cloud forest collections outside their native habitats.

2000 – World population: 6 billion.

2001 – The International Panel on Climate Change reports global warming due to human activities.

2004 – Strybing Arboretum changes its name to San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, and the Strybing Arboretum Society follows suit, becoming San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum.

2008 – Renovation of the Ancient Plant Garden, a walk through evolution. The Rhododendron Garden is renovated, adding a seating area made from fabled monastery stones. New plantings in the Chilean Garden emphasize ethnobotany.

2010 – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature finds that one-fifth of the world's 380,000 known plant species are in danger of extinction. A supremely rare manzanita is found in the Presidio; cuttings are preserved at San Francisco Botanical Garden.

2012 – Scientists warn we are undergoing a “sixth mass extinction” event. World population: 7 billion.

2013 – Building permit issued for the Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening. Targeted for LEED Platinum certification, the new facility, to be located near the Children's Garden, will be a state-of-the-art working nursery. Its outdoor Learning Court and interpretive displays will make it possible for visitors of all ages to learn about sustainable design and gardening practices.

2015 – The Garden celebrates its 75th Anniversary with renewed commitment to the community and the whole garden we call Earth.

(Facing page, clockwise from top left): Mesoamerican Cloud Forest, a mature, dense and jungle-like cloud forest habitat; South Africa Garden, with plants from the country's Cape Region; the Arthur L. Menzies Garden of California Native Plants, home to drought tolerant endemics; Waterfowl Pond, where ducks, egrets, and turtles regularly splash; Succulent Garden, dedicated in memory of the Garden's first director, Eric Walther. (Above): Moon Viewing Garden, designed in traditional Japanese style.



KATHRYN RUMMEL

TRIPLE CROWN CELEBRATIONS FOR GARDEN'S 75TH



FLOWER PIANO POWER

Much of the music wafting over the Garden for twelve days in July was classical and jazz, but it is no exaggeration to say that Sunset Piano Opus IV: Flower Piano rocked our world. Between July 9 -20, twelve pianos arrayed in as many Garden settings were available for the public to come and play. And come they did. The event broke attendance records and brought thousands of people of all ages from diverse backgrounds to experience the pianos and the Garden. A public art installation created in partnership with Sunset Piano—a collaboration of multi-disciplinary artists Mauro Ffortissimo and Dean Mermell “dedicated to bringing piano culture and music to a world that needs good things,” Flower Piano was made possible in part by a grant from the Black Rock Arts Foundation. The inspiration to put pianos in unexpected places brought great joy and exuberance to the Garden. Scheduled performances by skilled pianists entertained throngs during some of the weekend hours, but the pianos were available to anyone to play in between, and the magic of spontaneous activity at the pianos is something the guests raved about more than anything. Stay tuned for news of Flower Piano 2.0!



NATALIE JENKS



NATALIE JENKS

“The professional players were great, of course, but the best part was the regular folks of all ages and skill levels who sat at the keyboards and made beautiful, impromptu music!”

— Lisa Gardner

“This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am so grateful to have been a part of. It was seriously Disneyland for musicians. Every moment I spent in the park over the last week was truly magical. I think it’s cool there were scheduled performances, but the best moments definitely happened with the general public playing for everyone. . . . It was life-changing.”

— Jen from San Francisco

“What an experience... conscious moments of ecstatic happiness...”

— Garden Visitor



NATALIE JENKS

Visitors to Flower Piano made beautiful music here. An unforgettable experience was had by all.

GARDEN FEAST

Garden Feast is an annual event of purposeful pleasure and this year's luncheon on May 28 celebrated the Garden's 75th anniversary and commitment to the children of our community. Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom was keynote speaker. Newsom, who happens to be the grandson of the Garden's former assistant director, Arthur L. Menzies, after whom our Garden of California Native Plants is named, remembered exploring nature with his grandfather here, and emphasized the importance the Garden continues to have in children's lives. Newsom's message was highlighted with a special appearance by Argonne School third-graders and their kindergarten reading buddies, who sang "Happy Birthday" to the Garden. Our most successful Garden Feast to date raised more than \$450,000.

"When I hear students in the Garden's Youth Education Program say things like 'I'm helping to save the world' as a little girl spreads compost or 'Come on let's explore, it's really cool,' from one child saying to another who is afraid of the redwood trees, these moments solidify for me the importance of this Garden and its Youth Education Program in fostering a sense of ownership and connection with nature in nature for our future stewards of the planet."

— Julie Baldocchi, Garden Feast Co-Chair and Steering Committee 2013, 2014, 2015

COMMUNITY DAY

More than 5,500 people helped celebrate the Garden's 75th anniversary at a free, all-day event on Sunday, May 31. Activities began with a meditative walking tour, bird walk, and yoga class, followed by a nature sing-a-long for kids of all ages, and family-friendly performances reflecting the Garden's global collections, including its South African, Temperate Asia, and Cloud Forest collections, complimented by docent-led tours. There were more activities for adults and children at the eastern end of the Great Meadow and in the Library, Off the Grid food trucks stationed outside the gates, and an array of Garden-related products, services, and demonstrations hosted by community partners. Docents answered eager questions all day, weaving in the art, the science, and the joy of commemorating the Garden we love.

Garden Feast (from top, left to right): Don Baldocchi, Gavin Newsom, Sue Ann Schiff, Phil Ginsburg, Mark Buell, Eric Andersen; Anette Harris, Mary Ellen Smith; Kirby Walker, Sally Ward, Emily Wheeler; Violet Marshall, Alison Bricker. Community Day: Performance by China Dance Theatre.



GARDEN FEAST PHOTOS BY MOANALANI JEFFREY PHOTOGRAPHY

EUNA LEE



Banksia serrata by Mary L. Harden; from the cover of *Treasures*, in our bookstore.



SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

YEAR IN REVIEW: BY THE NUMBERS

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

\$816,390 total admission revenue, from fees paid by nonresident visitors and collected by SFBGS for the City and County of San Francisco/Recreation and Park Department

362,673 visitors to the Garden—a 16 percent increase over the year ending June 30, 2014

40,185 hours contributed by volunteers to virtually every aspect of the Garden's operations

27,277 volumes plus 300 current plant and garden periodicals in the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Northern California's most comprehensive horticultural collection*

25,000 plant propagations (estimated) by staff and volunteers, with many available to the public for purchase

12,631 children interacting with nature through SFBGS school-year, summer, and family programs—more than 40 percent growth in children served since 2010

8,508 different kinds of plants thriving in the Garden, including 5,688 species, of which more than 30 percent were wild collected and more than 300 are rare and/or endangered*

2,459 households, representing individuals, couples and families from San Francisco, the Bay Area, and beyond who support the Garden through their memberships—a 13 percent increase over last year

1,124 volunteers including 495 regular volunteers participating throughout the year and 629 corporate, school, and service organization volunteers doing one-time group projects

538 free daily docent-led tours, along with 162 docent-staffed weekend interpretation stations, where visitors can learn more about particular collections

* Count as of June 30, 2015

A MESSAGE OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

This year we are celebrating San Francisco Botanical Garden's 75th anniversary. It takes tremendous vision and decades of careful planning, collecting and care to create one of our country's most diverse and significant botanical collections.

We are confident that Helene Strybing, whose original bequest made the Garden possible, and Eric Walther, its first director, would be extraordinarily proud of what the Garden has become—a jewel in the crown of Golden Gate Park and a botanical garden of great beauty and importance, including world-renowned collections.

This year, we celebrate the successful collaboration between the Botanical Garden Society and San Francisco Recreation & Parks and all those whose leadership, dedication, and generosity have helped the Garden grow and flourish. We understand that global environmental degradation makes our efforts all the more important. We commit ourselves to nurturing the plants of the garden we call Earth and to enabling future generations to know, appreciate, and work to protect the rich diversity of our natural world. We acknowledge a special obligation to our children, to equip them with understanding and compassion for all living things so that they can become caring and responsible citizens and stewards for the generations who will follow them.

The Botanical Garden Society's mission is to build communities of support for the Garden and to cultivate the bond between people and plants. It is with deepest gratitude that we thank our members and donors who sustain the Garden as we know it today and enable us to build toward the next 75 years.

With appreciation,

Donald R. Baldocchi
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sue Ann L. Schiff
Executive Director

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014

ASSETS	2014	2013
Cash and investments	6,148,982	6,105,174
Accounts and pledges receivable	348,703	468,607
Property and equipment	696,481	706,099
Other	49,999	38,851
Total assets	7,244,165	7,318,731
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities	260,219	625,120
Net assets	6,983,946	6,693,611
Total liabilities and net assets	7,244,165	7,318,731

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014

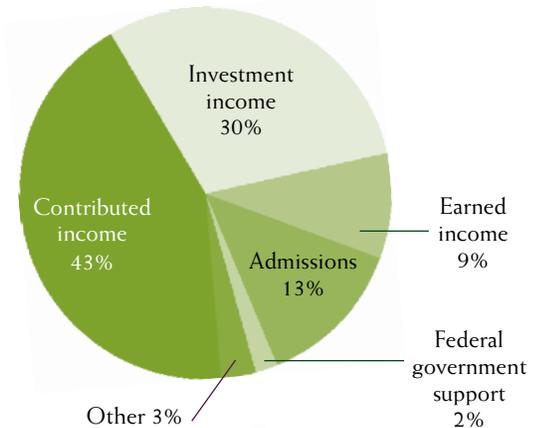
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2014	2013
Contributed income	1,471,899	1,826,761
Investment income	1,034,437	1,070,404
Earned income	307,103	281,544
Admissions*	463,879	250,147
Federal government support	70,531	73,214
Other	90,180	7,717
Total support and revenue	3,438,029	3,509,787
EXPENSES		
Program services	2,296,356	2,527,647
Management and general	336,197	504,732
Fundraising and development	515,141	446,155
Total expenses	3,147,694	3,478,534
Write down of promise to give**		(1,000,000)
Change in net assets	290,335	(968,747)

* As allocated to SFBGS by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.
 ** Write down of foundation pledge for the Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening. SFBGS was unable to reach groundbreaking within the timeframe of the foundation's dissolution plan.
 Source: San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months ended June 30, 2014.

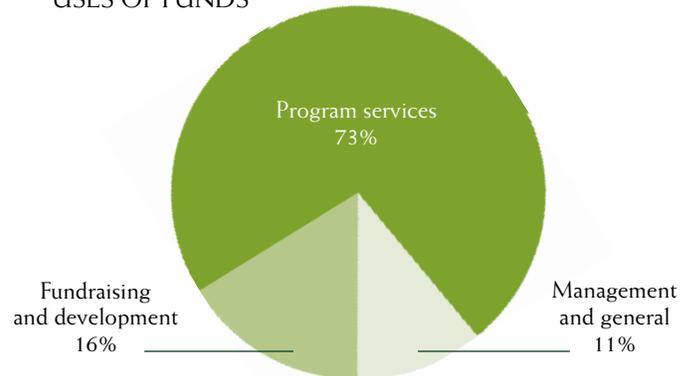
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

12 months ended June 30, 2014

SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS

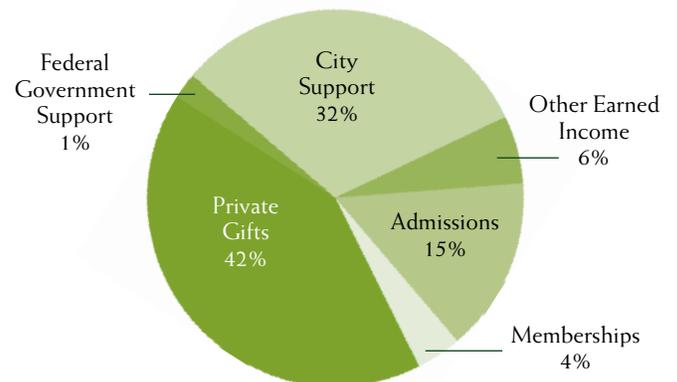


Contributed income: memberships, foundation grants, contributions, bequests, net revenues from fundraising events and in-kind gifts
 Earned income: plant and bookstore sales, program fees and library art and book sales
 Program services: plant collection management, nursery, gardens, youth education, classes and public programs, library, bookstore, volunteer program, visitor services and other program-related activities

WHO PAYS FOR THE GARDEN

In sharing management of the Garden, SFBGS is responsible for certain costs and the Recreation and Park Department for others. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, SFBGS and the Department spent a combined total of \$4.9 million to operate the Garden.* Nearly 70 percent of the Garden's operating support came from SFBGS's donors and members in the form of private gifts and memberships, and from Garden visitors in the form of admission revenue and other earned income. With limited public funding, private support from our community is crucial.

* Revenue and expense to build the privately funded Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening are not included in these calculations.



Sources: San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months ended June 30, 2014; San Francisco Recreation and Park Department report to the Board of Supervisors, dated March 17, 2015.

Every gift enables San Francisco Botanical Garden to engage visitors, offering them beauty and opportunities to experience the natural world and understand the role we all can play in sustaining it. Generous supporters make this possible and inspire our gratitude.



Individuals

\$250,000+

Estate of Mary Elizabeth Colton

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Anonymous
Richard William Anderson
Revocable Trust
Emily Frost Administrative Trust

\$25,000 to \$99,999

Kinmont T. Hoitsma Trust
Delle Rae Maxwell and
Patrick Hanrahan
Samuel and Florence Scarlett
Revocable Trust
Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer

\$15,000 to \$24,999

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William and Ilse Gaede
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Dr. David Larson
Monica Martin and
Buck Delventhal
Michael and Liane Palmertree
Will and Julie Parish Family
Mary and Lawrence Pitts
Anne S. Reisman Revocable Trust
Helen and Allan Ridley

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Cynthia Jamplis
Peggy H. Myers
Sue Ann and Bob Schiff
Phil Schlein
Wendy Tonkin

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Ingrid and John Swenson
Gretchen Tenenbaum
Laurie and Jeff Ubben
John D. Weeden
Gordon and Alida Wilson

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Barbara and Erik van Dillen
Kirby Walker and Paul Danielsen
Emily Wheeler
David and Boo Whitridge

\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Jerome and Drue Ashford
Suzanne Badenhoop
Thomas C. Benet
Paul and Sandra Bessières
Pamela L. Brown
Arden Bucklin-Sporer and
Dr. Karl Sporer
Robert and Carolyn Bunje
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Helen and Raj Desai
Kate Ditzler
Martha Ehrenfeld and Carla McKay
Dr. Edward and
Mrs. Catherine Feldman
Jill Finegold

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

San Francisco Botanical Garden Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors whose gifts support the care and maintenance of the Garden's plant collections and its outreach and education programs for people of all ages.

We thank our donors for their generous support to operating funds from July 2014 to June 2015. Donation levels represent each donor's total giving to the Annual Campaign, Paver and Bench Tributes, Garden Feast and/or Membership.



*Asterisks indicate donor is deceased.

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY REPORT OF GIFTS JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

M. Jean Fisher and Kathy Parks
 Mary Fishman
 Victoria Ford
 Bruce Francis
 Janie and Donny Friend
 Jason Friend
 Robert and Chandra Friese
 Barry and Laura Galvin
 Meredith Goldsmith
 Peter Good and

Sara Bartholomew
 Robert Goodman and
 John Bankston
 Julie B. Harkins
 Laura Hartman and
 Paul Duguid
 David P. Hermeyer and
 Samuel P. Wantman
 James and Kathleen Hormel
 Mary P. Hufty
 Janet Jacobs and Terry Gomes
 Katharine Hotchkis Johnson
 Ron and Barbara Kaufman
 Neil Koris

Laura Kline Lazarus and
 Michael Lazarus
 Suzanne Legallet
 Fred and Marlene Levinson
 Cynthia Snorf Livermore
 Sara and Ron Malone
 Anita Mardikian and
 Pepo Pichler
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 Tom Osborne
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 Alison Mauze
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 Nion McEvoy
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 Mr. Serge Smirnoff, Jr.
 Dr. Linda S. Mitteness and
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 Wendy Pelton
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Christopher and Julie Ridley
 Shelagh and Thomas Rohlen
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 Jane Rosenberg and Steve Deas
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 Sue Rupp and Josh Ingojo
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Lolly and Don Schenone
 Theo T. Schwabacher and
 Michael Gallagher
 Pearl Anne Seipp
 Marina Shoupe
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 Clare Wheeler Sias
 Kim Starr
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 Edith and Joseph Tobin
 Herbert Wetzels and
 Dr. Cherie L.R. Wetzels
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 Patricia Wipf
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 Rosemary and Sheldon Wong
 Alexis Woods
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\$500 to \$999
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 Diane and Shawn Alexander
 Randy Arnold
 Dina Artz

Ann Griffith Ash
 Karen Birks
 Joan Bodenlos
 Anna C. Bolla
 Michael Boss
 Grace Brett Kelly
 Christine P. Brown
 Leslie Walker Burlock

“The Botanical Garden has been an endless educational resource, an inspiration, and a place of enduring memories for our family over the past 15 years. It represents an opportunity to ‘travel the world’ of art, ecology, and science in our own backyard in San Francisco. We look forward to supporting its mission for decades to come.”

— Zoe Astrachan, Landscape Architect and
 Andrew Dunbar, Architect, SFBGS members since 2002



Ann Cameron
 David J. Campbell
 James Campbell
 Terrie Campbell and
 Jim Henderson
 Emily Carroll
 Tatiana and Chris Chase
 Fred Cline, Jr.
 Dr. Suzanne Coberly and
 Mr. Jeff Haas
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 Vaughn Shields and
 Gregory Elich
 Dana Skinner
 Charles and Claudia Slayman
 Joseph Sobiesiak and
 William Hicks

Liz Sutherland
 Holland Sutton
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 Denny Tang
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 Tara Townsend
 Sally Towse and Burton Kendall
 David D. Tran
 Jason Tran
 Serena Tran
 Anthony Tse
 Virginia Tusher
 Liz Vaughn
 Marianne Walters
 Diane and William Wara

"We are longtime SFBGS supporters and are fortunate to live within blocks of the Garden. It is a very special place, a true treasure in the city. There are so many charming nooks and crannies to explore as well as a wonderfully diverse collection of plants and trees. Being in the Garden creates a very carefree feeling that we always experience when we are there. There's no other place like it."

— Paul and Mariel Batjiaka, SFBGS members since 1997



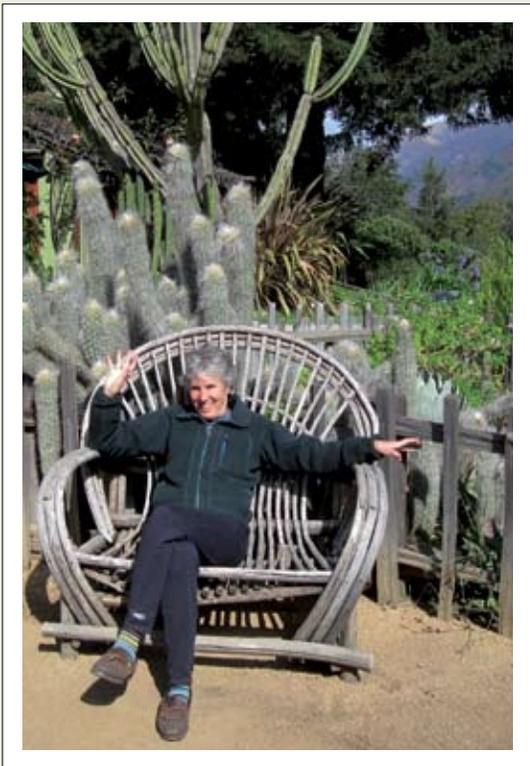
Rebecca Ward
 Rube Warren
 Rex Wolf
 Anne and F. Montgomery Woods

\$250 to \$499

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 Masae Aitoku
 Dr. Ingrid E. Akerblom
 Donald and Bette Anderson
 Zoe Astrachan and Andrew Dunbar,
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 Diane Balter and Michael McMillan
 Celia C. Barbaccia
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Elizabeth Barker
 Laurie Barkin and Brian Brosnahan
 Erin Barni
 Marti Baroody
 Laurie Berk and Brian Kerester
 Thomas and Rebecca Birdsall
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 Michael and Nancy Borah
 Robert and Lourdes Borden
 Daniel Bornstein and
 Kristin Murtagh
 Lynne Bosche
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 Peter Bradley and David Krimm
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 Mona Chang
 Baylor Chapman
 Danton and Susan Char
 Dr. and Mrs. Yanek Chiu
 Betsy B. Clebsch
 Ronald and Rosemary Clendenen
 Edward Cohen and Anne Bakstad



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DELLE MAXWELL MY GARDEN OASIS

I was a nearby apartment-dwelling resident many years ago, great neighborhood, but no yard. I often visited the Garden in search of a beautiful place to relax and to enjoy a respite from urban life. Later, even though I moved out of the city, I took classes in botany and horticulture through the Garden's community programs, consulted books in the Helen Crocker Russell Library, and wandered about looking for inspiration for my own garden. The Garden never ceases to surprise me; I find myself returning to this oasis again and again.

As a nursery volunteer for over 15 years now, I have helped to grow rare and unusual plants while gaining deep knowledge about plant propagation and cultivation from our incredible staff and fellow volunteers.

There's a sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that I am doing my part to help the future of this important institution. Looking forward, I am excited to support the Garden's work in conservation, sustainability and environmental stewardship, as well as continue to build on our unique and extensive plant collections.

— Delle Maxwell, Strybing Circle member, volunteer, and trustee

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY REPORT OF GIFTS JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

Arthur and Elena Court
 Lady (Marjorie) Crockett
 Kate C. Danforth
 Dr. and Mrs. Haile Debas
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“Whenever I visit the Garden, I am always delighted by the beauty and information presented before me about parts of the world I will never see. I am happy to support SFBG, which offers such valuable educational opportunities to all citizens, young and old.”

— Kathy McNeil, longtime Strybing Circle member, volunteer, and former trustee



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SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY REPORT OF GIFTS JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

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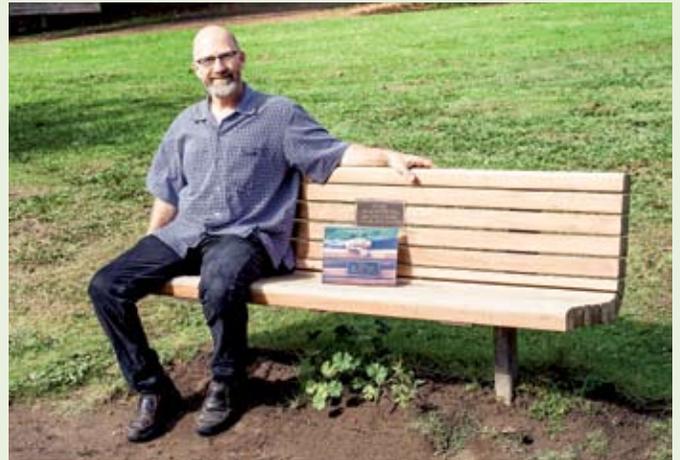
DONOR SPOTLIGHT: STEVEN A. DIBNER MY PARENTS' BENCHES

Together with his sister, San Francisco Symphony bassoonist Steven Dibner has dedicated two benches at the Garden, one in honor of his mother and stepfather, and one in honor of his biological father.

I joined with a small contribution, and then I volunteered, preparing alpine plants for the Plant Sale. I got to meet curator Don Mahoney, whose dedication and knowledge were inspirational.

I was convinced that once my amazing parents were gone, it would be great to have a specific place to go to honor them—to think about them and feel surrounded by nature, which they understood and appreciated so much.

We are so lucky to live in a city where there is such respect for the environment, with caring people to support the havens for art of all kinds. The miracles of beauty possible on our planet come so wonderfully alive in this unique Garden.



Steven Dibner at his mother's bench at the Wildfowl Pond

DEDICATE A BENCH OR PAVER STONE

Celebrate, commemorate, and remember your loved ones, achievements, anniversaries, or inspirations with distinctive tribute opportunities throughout the Garden. Consider sponsoring a bench or dedicating a paver stone with a tax-deductible contribution. For more information, contact Mona Chang, Associate Director of Development at 415.661.1316 ext. 304 or mchang@sfbg.org.

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

San Francisco Botanical Garden Society works in partnership with the City and County of San Francisco and its Recreation and Park Department to support San Francisco Botanical Garden, whose 55 acres in Golden Gate Park include more than 8,000 different kinds of plants from all over the world. The Botanical Garden is known for its unique, diverse, and significant plant collections, with more than 30 percent of the species wild-collected and many rare and endangered.

SFBGS's mission is to build communities of support for the Botanical Garden and to cultivate the bond between people and plants. With the help of its members, donors, and volunteers, SFBGS funds Garden improvements, provides curatorial and plant collections management services, propagates plants for sale to the public, maintains the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, offers year-round educational and community programming, operates the Garden Bookstore, and welcomes annually more than 360,000 visitors from San Francisco, the Bay Area, and around the world.



KATHRYN RUMMEL

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Tree daisy (*Montanoa tomentosa* var. *xanthiifolia*) blends with the elegant Alpulca pine (*Pinus pseudostrobus* var. *apulcensis*) in the Mesoamerican Cloud Forest during peak fall bloom.

KATHRYN RUMMEL