



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Spring Blooms in the Garden***

### **Spring brings vivid profusions of flowers to San Francisco Botanical Garden**

**April 1 — June 21, 2019**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Starting in April and extending through to the spring equinox on June 21, the largest portion of the Garden’s collections comes into bloom. The season brings vivid profusions of flowers in the Garden of California Native Plants, the Mediterranean Garden, the South Africa Garden, and beyond. A spectacular variety of protea explodes with huge, fiery flowers in the South African Garden. In the Succulent Garden, the puya sends up massive towers of unearthly flowers that look like something from outer space. And nearby, a native of Mexico, the magic dogwood, dazzles with spiraling, white flowers that perch on its limbs like exotic lanterns.

The Garden is a unique home to a huge variety of remarkable and rare plants. Fantastical flora from the farthest reaches of the globe can be found in 55 acres of geographically specific gardens from South Africa to Chile. Many of the nearly 9,000 kinds of plants in the Garden’s collections are native to mediterranean habitats worldwide, flowering brilliantly after winter rain soaks ground parched during the dry summer.

This abundance of flowers draws a huge host of pollinators to the Garden’s bounty of remarkable and rare plants. A special population of locally rare, native butterflies now makes its home in the Garden of California Native Plants thanks to SFBG volunteer biologist Tim Wong. These lovely blue and black pipevine swallowtails should be out in full force this spring putting on a spectacular show, nurtured by native flowers and the food they offer.

Blooming events throughout the Garden occur frequently at this time—some can last for weeks while some may last for just a week or less. Visitors can get the latest on current, must-see flowerings by following the Garden on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for

regular photo updates. Free docent-led tours, as well as unique classes and activities for families and adults, also offer an array of ways to appreciate and learn about spring in the Garden.

**Some of the not-to-be-missed spring flowers include:**

***Puya alpestris*** (aqua sapphire tower): A high elevation bromeliad native to the Andes Mountains of central Chile, this surprising pineapple relative sends up massive 4 foot tall flower stalks covered in emerald-turquoise blossoms with bright orange stamens. Its huge stature and extremely rare coloration makes it one of the highlights of the spring bloom.

***Cornus florida var. urbiniana*** (magic dogwood): Hailing from the mountains of Eastern Mexico, the flowers are dramatically distinct from other dogwoods. The thin, white bracts are fused at the top, giving them a lantern-like appearance. When in bloom, the tree can be covered in hundreds of white flowers, resulting in a spectacular display of spirals and shapes.

***Protea cynaroides*** (king protea): The national flower of South Africa has the widest range and the largest flower heads of all *Protea* species. The massive, bowl-shaped inflorescences can reach up to 12 inches in diameter and are a favorite for flower arrangements as one flowerhead is almost an arrangement in and of itself.

**Mediterranean Garden:** A hill of ivy near the Garden's Great Meadow sat undisturbed for at least 25 years. Named Heidelberg Hill for the 1894 Midwinter Fair, where it was the site of a German village and beer garden, this area has been recently transformed into a stunning new mediterranean garden. Scarlet field poppies bloom at the foot of the hill, and as visitors climb the paths upwards, they can take in a diverse array of blooming salvias, rockroses, lavenders, snapdragons, and more.

**Arthur L. Menzies Garden of California Native Plants:** A vibrant seasonal show takes place right in the heart of the city every year as the four-acre Garden of California Native Plants blazes into bloom. With over 700 species on view (and many new plantings this year), the Garden's native wildflower meadow and surrounding arroyos and woodlands come to colorful life with bright blue wild lilac, gleaming golden poppies, delicate white and yellow meadowfoam, purple irises, and more.

**RELATED PROGRAMMING**

Take in the season's best blooms on free docent tours that take place on most weekends. Visitors of all ages can also ask questions and explore plants in more depth at Garden Interpretation Stations on weekends.

Visitors can also find a wealth of resources on plants from around the world in the Helen

Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Northern California's most comprehensive horticultural library.

The Garden's **Spring Plant Sale**, taking place Saturday, May 4 from 1-3pm and Sunday, May 5 from 10am-3pm is the Bay Area's largest plant sale with over 20,000 plants representing over 4,000 different kinds of plants and features a number of the spring blooming flowers grown at the Garden. The Spring Plant Sale is the largest of the Garden's monthly plant sales that take place on select Saturdays. Admission to the sale is free. Become a Garden member and enjoy first pick at the Member Preview Hours on Saturday, May 4 from 11am-1pm.

In the Bookstore, visitors enjoy special discounts on many seasonal items including wildflower books, greeting cards, posters, and more.

**In addition, the Garden offers these special programs:**

## **FAMILIES**

### **Bean Sprouts Family Days Presented by Kaiser Permanente**

Saturdays, April 6 – October 26; 1-4pm

FREE with regular admission

Journey out to the Children's Garden to enjoy hands-on outdoor fun! Create colorful crafts with flowers, help weed and water the garden, read a book, or play a nature game with our staff and teen interns. Suitable for families with children ages 3-10. Drop in at any time during the program; heavy rain cancels.

### **Children's Story Time in the Library**

First and third Sundays of every month year-round; 10:30-11:30am (with some special author talks on additional Sundays)

FREE (admission applies for docent walks following story readings; free for SF residents and Garden members)

Come celebrate weird and wild plants, seeds, pollination, and more in the Garden! Enjoy a special story in the library on a different theme each month at 10:30am (see below), then take a guided walk through the Garden that connects that morning's story to living plants. Best for families with children aged 4-8.

April 7 & 21 — Flower Power

April 28 — Special Story Time: *Bird Watch* with author Christie Matheson

May 5 & 19 — Magic in the Garden

June 2 & 16 — Seeds and their Stories

## **Summer Reading Club**

June 1-July 31; drop in during the Library's open hours (10am-4pm six days a week; closed Tuesdays)  
FREE

Flex your mind and body this summer with the Summer Reading Club at the Botanical Garden's Library. Kids learn about the natural world in a game format and receive seeds to plant as they meet weekly reading and nature activity goals! Special prizes await children who complete the eight-week program. Prevent the "summer slide" and get outside -- join the Club! For children up to age 12.

## **ADULTS**

### **Birding at the Garden**

First Sunday of the month; 8am  
Free with regular admission

Spring flowers bring a lot of wonderful birds to the Garden. Join this docent-led tour through the Garden in search of unique and wonderful birds – they typically see about 30 species. Beginning birders are welcome to join.

### **Yoga in the Garden**

Saturday, April 13; 9-10am  
Saturday, May 18; 9-10am  
Saturday, June 22; 9-10am  
\$20 General

Take your yoga practice outdoors and flow with the beats of nature. The class will rotate around the Garden so your practice will never be the same!

### **Mother's Day Lei-making**

Saturday, May 11; 10am-2:00pm  
\$60 General / \$54 Member

Come join us for a day of lei-making for Mother's Day! Make a haku lei (also known as lei po'o, head lei or flower crown) for your mom, loved one, or you! All floral materials will be provided. Just bring a pair of scissors and garden shears. The workshop will be led by Arleen Fernando of Haumea Designs.

### **Sound Meditation in the Garden**

Sunday, June 16; 3-4:15pm  
\$28 General / \$25 Member

Soak up sound and nature as you lie back on the grass, feel the fresh air, and hear the birds intermixed with healing instruments while experiencing a live sound concert within the Garden, a biodiverse sanctuary with complimentary sounds, scents, and affords a very special place to experience a sound meditation.

Media sponsors include KQED Public Broadcasting, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *San Francisco Magazine*.

**San Francisco Botanical Garden, located in Golden Gate Park with entrances on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave at Lincoln Way and on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive off the Music Concourse, is open 365 days a year at 7:30 AM. Last entry changes with the seasons as follows: 6 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in March – September; 5 PM October – early November; 4 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November – January; 5 PM February – early March. Admission for San Francisco residents (with proof of residence, e.g., CA ID with SF address, or photo ID and utility bill) is FREE. Admission for non-residents is \$9 general, \$6 youth 12-17 and seniors; \$2 children 5-11; children 4 and under FREE. Families of 2 adults and one or more child pay just \$19. Admission is FREE to all visitors daily from 7:30 to 9 AM, as well as the second Tuesday of every month. The public should call (415) 661-1316 or visit [sfbg.org](http://sfbg.org) for more information. SFBG members receive free admission and discounts on fee-based programs, and at plant sales and local nurseries.**

### **About San Francisco Botanical Garden**

Located in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Botanical Garden is a sanctuary of natural beauty and tranquility dedicated to educating children and adults, cultivating community, and displaying and preserving the planet's biodiversity. With nearly 9,000 different kinds of plants from around the world, including many that are rare and endangered, it is possible to travel the world in the Garden's 55 acres. Welcoming over 450,000 annual visitors, the Garden brings the community together to marvel, to learn, to find respite in nature and to celebrate Earth's beauty and the interconnectedness of all living things.

Seasonal highlights include the magnificent Magnolia collection, the most significant for conservation purposes outside China; the unique Mesoamerican, Andean and Southeast Asian Cloud Forest collections; and the California Native Garden and century old Redwood Grove.

San Francisco Botanical Garden is a public/private partnership between San Francisco Botanical Garden Society and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

