CONTENTS

1 CULTIVATING COLLABORATION
5 DIRECTOR’S COLUMN
7 ANNUAL REPORT
8 CONSERVATION & RESEARCH
11 EDUCATION
12 VOLUNTEERS
14 EVENTS
16 PROGRAMS
17 THE GARDEN SHOP
18 GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
19 THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
21 NEW STAFF

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Hours
Daily: 9 am – 5 pm (No entry after 4:30 pm)
Glasshouses and Redwood Grove close at 4:30 pm
Closed the first Tuesday of the month

The Garden Shop & Plant Deck
Daily: 10:30 am – 4:30 pm
Free docent-led tour every Thursday - Sunday at 1:30 pm

Contact
Phone: 510-643-2755
E-mail: garden@berkeley.edu
Web: botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

GARDEN STAFF
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Cover Photo: UCBG’s Ben Anderson collecting specimens at the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center
I began visiting the Garden during my student days and I still remember the delight of those early explorations. In intervening years, that thrill of discovery has not faded. Yes, the pathways have become dearly familiar but the plants themselves are an ever-changing experience. Hence the delight of an ephemeral bloom finally spotted, the glow of autumn fruit or a sapling slowly shouldering upward. This experiential richness is a point of pride for all Garden staff, as are the myriad ways our collections serve as a resource - for scientists, educators, gardeners, students, and artists.

We also take pride in collectively stewarding this phenomenal collection and, of course, in planning for the Garden’s future. Planning for the living collection of the future presents special challenges and opportunities. One of the challenges lies in sourcing additional permitted, wild-collected accessions. No small feat given that wild provenance is the cornerstone of our collection policy yet domestic and international collecting permits are increasingly restricted. But herein lies an opportunity: to not simply create collection pipelines, but to integrate this goal into a more comprehensive agenda. One approach is to tether collection development to conservation and research projects. For example, by contributing to biodiversity surveys in countries of collection interest or by providing training and/or exchange opportunities with regional partners. While relationships with other gardens are of paramount importance, we must also continue building bridges with government agencies, park systems and conservation organizations (see the piece on Conservation elsewhere in this issue).

With this in mind, I’d like to share news of bridge building, near and far.
Mojave Desert

In April, a team from the Garden travelled to the east Mojave for a productive stint of field work. Our base was the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, a remote and beautiful research station that is part of the UC Natural Reserve System (NRS). It was our great fortune that our hosts, Director Jim André and Assistant Director Tasha La Doux, are both authorities on desert flora. They generously accompanied us on our initial field forays and provided a crash course in plants of the region. With the benefit of this jump start our team set out for several fruitful days of botanical exploration. Our objective was two-fold: 1) to survey underexplored areas of the reserve in order to collect vouchers (pressed plant specimens) to contribute to the Center’s herbarium and 2) to gather living materials to bring back to the Garden.

At the end of the trip, these living materials – cuttings, whole plants, and seeds – were carefully processed and packaged for the long drive home. They are currently coming along nicely in our nursery and will soon find a home in a completely renovated California desert bed. Thanks to a generous donation from Lester and Anne Packer, we have been able to commence this renovation - a long desired project that will allow us to provide a more optimal context for our California desert collection. Once construction is complete we will be planting out materials from our trip to the Mojave along with plants propagated or transplanted from the original desert display. These plantings will be augmented by additional desert collecting trips that are planned for 2018. Moving beyond the desert project, broader NRS collaborations are also being developed. Given our shared affiliation, the potential for synergies between UCBG and UC NRS is very exciting.

Mexico

In May, Holly Forbes (Garden Curator), Tim Gregory (Garden Research Associate and Advisory Board member) and I journeyed to southern Mexico. We joined a small group of scientists and horticulturists from Mexico, USA, and Australia with a collective interest in cycads as our unifying theme. Led by cycad expert Jeff Chemnick, our group embarked on a two-week adventure from Oaxaca to Chiapas, clocking serious miles along bumpy but scenic backroads. We visited remote populations of numerous Dioon, Ceratozamia, and Zamia species and, throughout the trip, experienced remarkable biodiversity – ranging from towering columnar cacti in the

From top: UCBG’s Ben Anderson, Vanessa Handley and Clare Al-Witri in the field; View from the flanks of Silver Peak; Jim André and Tasha La Doux share their knowledge of desert flora with UCBG staff
desert to delicate cloud forest epiphytes. In stark contrast were the ubiquitous burn zones scarring the countryside. These scorched landscapes are primarily the result of land clearing for subsistence agriculture, a poverty driven practice that is ravaging fragile forest margins. In one such boundary zone we arrived at the site of a documented cycad population to find the whole forest cleared. As a somewhat silver lining, our group discovered a new population of the same taxon in an adjacent area. One of our Mexican colleagues, esteemed botanist Dr. Miguel Angel Pérez-Farrera, has since partnered with a local conservation organization to negotiate with communities for protection of intact forest “islands”. Back at the Garden we are now also working to build research and conservation bridges with our colleagues in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

**China**

In July, I had the pleasure of representing the Garden at the XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Shenzhen, China. Over 6,500 botanists from around the world convened for an intense week of scientific sessions and satellite meetings. Amongst those I attended was a Global Genome Initiative (GGI) for Gardens meeting at Fairy Lake Botanical Garden. GGI-Gardens is part of an umbrella initiative to collect and preserve genome-quality tissue samples from across the tree of life. I’m delighted to announce that UCBG has since become a partner in GGI-Gardens. We look forward to contributing materials from our collections to this valuable international project.

During the IBC, I was repeatedly impressed and inspired by the work underway at peer institutions in China, the aforementioned Fairy Lake Botanical Garden being a prime example. A concomitant theme: there are abundant opportunities for partnerships with Chinese gardens and universities. Both are making impressive strides in botanical research and conservation (backed by significant government and corporate funding commitments) so there is much we can
learn from and, in turn, share with our colleagues in China. We already have several invitations for research collaboration so will be working to develop those projects in the near term.

In addition to the partnerships highlighted above, the last year has seen new connections established between UCBG and Jardín Botánico Chagual (Chile), Tianjin University (China), Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba, Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary (India) and California Academy of Sciences.

We have also just completed a floristic survey of the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management. Under the leadership of Holly Forbes, a team of Garden staff and a UCB graduate student surveyed the 1,665 acre parcel. The team conducted rare plant surveys, prepared herbarium vouchers and collected new accessions for our California collection (see Horticulturist Ben Anderson’s blog post on the Garden website for more information on this highly successful project).

We look forward to sharing updates on these and additional projects in 2018!

— Vanessa Handley, Director of Collections & Research

EXPLORING THE GRANITE MOUNTAINS

Each day of our collecting trip began at the mouth of Cottonwood Basin, a broad bajada within the crescent of the Granite Mountains. From this vantage point we’d set our sights on distant destinations along the collar of the mountains. Rising from the hot, sandy washes of the basin, we’d hike, scramble and boulder our way upward. Occasionally we’d come across the refreshing surprise of an active seep, replete with trickling water and emerald bryophytes. With persistence, we’d reach new bands of vegetation and, ultimately, ridges peppered with juniper, pine and lingering spring wildflowers. Our ascents were punctuated by frequent pauses to enjoy the breathtaking views … and to document and collect the diverse plants we encountered. At the end of the day, a new route back ensured additional discoveries as we followed the setting sun down slope for dinner!

Left to Right: UCBG’s Clare Al-Witri in the Granite Mountains; fragrant evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa* ssp. *marginata*); Mojave kingcup cactus (*Echinocereus mojavensis*); little leaved ratany (*Krameria erecta*)
It has been a little over a year since I began as Director of the UC Botanical Garden. It has been a remarkable year of learning for me and of new milestones for the Garden, and I would like to share both what we have learned and what we have achieved.

I will also spend a moment talking about the plans we have for the immediate future.

I came to the Garden knowing what many people in the community have known for decades, that the Garden is a jewel of Berkeley, a lovely and diverse paradise set in a dramatically beautiful, if somewhat remote, location. I quickly learned that there is much more to this beauty than is immediately obvious. For example, the plant diversity of the Garden is unparalleled in the United States, with over 10,000 taxa in a very compact 34 acres. This collection is built on the diversity of the natural world. Unlike virtually every other botanical garden, over 70% of our plants are wild-collected and we have records about where they were collected. This directly affects the appearance of the Garden, as we do not have large swaths of horticulturally cultivated plantings that create beautiful but artificial effects. This also makes the Garden a resource for research: hundreds of scientists have used the Garden’s plant material for their investigations.

I also have learned about the people who make the Garden so extraordinary. I was fortunate enough to have inherited a hard-working and expert group of horticulturists with a great balance between experienced hands and new energy. Dr. Vanessa Handley replaced the well-respected Dr. Christopher Carmichael upon his retirement, and brings new focus and skills to our research and collections work. More than 330 active volunteers support the Garden through their work as docents, propagators, ambassadors, horticulturists, and other roles. Their work is invaluable and in many ways they are the deepest connection between the Garden and our surrounding communities.

The Garden Advisory Board has been very supportive during this transition, helping me to orient to the various stakeholders and bringing a range of expertise to the Garden’s work. As we recruit new members to this board, we continue to look for diversity of background and experience along with, of course, the capacity to help generate financial support.

While I had heard many cautionary tales about the complexity of working within the University environment, which is indeed challenging, I have learned first hand about the absolute privilege it is to be part of one of the world’s greatest public universities. To paraphrase a recent communication from our new Chancellor Carol Christ, at Berkeley not only can you find people working in every field you can imagine, but also leading in these fields, creating ground-breaking and potentially transformative knowledge. I have been so grateful to be welcomed into this extraordinary community, and it is important to recognize that the Cal leadership acknowledges the Garden as a jewel of the Berkeley campus.

This past year was marked by some positive events that will have a long-term impact on the Garden. First and foremost was the transformative $10,000,000 gift that created the
Horticultural Happiness Fund. While the donors remain anonymous, it is an extraordinary act of both generosity and confidence in the Garden’s future. The donors also challenged us to leverage this gift to raise an additional $2,000,000 toward the Garden’s mission, and that work is ongoing.

We have embarked on two new capital projects, one to make the Garden more accessible to visitors with mobility challenges, and the second to continue the replacement our irrigation system to make it more efficient and effective. We are improving the stewardship of the collections thanks to support from a donor who created “the Woody Woodpecker Fund” to address long deferred tree management. The Garden created a master plan in 2015, which is a very useful and practical guide to the Garden’s growth path. During a recent review by the Garden Advisory Board, we were all gratified to see how much of the plan has come to fruition, and sobered to see how much more there is to be done.

On the financial front, the first year of our stewardship was very successful. Thanks in good part to the solid foundations laid by my predecessor, Dr. Paul Licht, the Garden is weathering the contraction of University support through a combination of expanded earned income, increased programmatic revenue, and more effective fundraising. Our programs consistently sell out, which suggests both that we are offering programs valued by our audience and that we have the opportunity to look closely at pricing to support the many and varied expenses associated with creating new programming.

Moving forward, we will continue to build new programmatic initiatives to expand our audiences, including wellness and mindfulness programs at the Garden, expanded interpretive programs for the casual visitor, and a symposium in February called the ‘Science of Cannabis’. We are also planning an international ethnobotanical symposium in 2019. At the same time, we are starting to build a robust research program through new collaborations on campus and partnerships with research institutions in the US and abroad. We are also building international relationships to re-establish a pipeline for new, wild collected and documented plants for the collection, focusing on South America in particular. You will see refreshed beds in the California section and new plantings in our Mexican/ Central American areas. Finally, we are initiating projects to improve infrastructure, including safety and the functionality of the greenhouses.

It has been a great year at the Garden, and I want to thank all of you who have supported the Garden so generously. We have tremendous opportunities looking ahead, and I am confident that, thanks in good part to the stewardship of my predecessors, longstanding friends, and new collaborators, that the Garden can continue to thrive and improve.

— Eric Siegel, Director
The UC Botanical Garden experienced yet another successful year made possible by you, our amazing donors! As you review this newsletter, I hope you will take pride in the Garden’s accomplishments and share in our optimism for the future of this very special collection.

It is your steadfast support that ensures that the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley remains one of the most well-respected plant collections in the world!

**This year the Garden welcomed over 80,000 people. Here are a few statistics that highlight our accomplishments:**

- **56,000** general visitors came through our gate, **8%** more than last year, with an average of **161** visitors per day.

- **7,820** students came to the Garden for educational tours and class fieldtrips.

- Hosted **142** weddings and other rental events for a total of **11,344** guests.

- **5,320** people participated in public programs including **3,000** people at our sold out concert series.

- **Approximately 900** children and chaperones participated in family programs and summer camp.

- Provided plant material for over **40** research projects around the world.

**EXPENSES**

- HORTICULTURE 39%
- VISITOR SERVICES 15%
- ADMINISTRATION 13%
- CURATION 6%
- FACILITIES 5%
- CAMPUS SUPPORT 26%
- REVENUE 34%
- GIFTS 30%
- ENDOWMENTS 10%

**REVENUE**
In 2016-2017 the Garden made progress on long standing projects and began some new efforts. Many of our on site efforts are complemented with projects to restore species to their native environment. Endangered California species continue to be our immediate focus and longer term international projects are in development.

Through a contract with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting, LLC [funding provided by the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)], Garden staff assisted with attempts to create several new populations of large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*), an annual species reduced to one self-sustaining population southeast of Livermore, CA.

A team of Garden staff and volunteers grew more than 4,000 large-flowered fiddleneck plants in the nursery and outplanted them in four introduction sites in December 2016 and January 2017. Team members braved cold weather and muddy conditions for one to four days each, carrying buckets of plants up or down steep slopes and carefully planting them in well-marked plots. This project has given many of us a greater appreciation for the challenges of creating new populations in habitat. We greatly value everyone’s contributions. The USBR is working to procure funding for us to continue this project with our colleagues at Vollmar.

Contracts with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, supplemented by funds donated to the Garden through the annual Big Give program, support work on several species. These include growing, reintroducing, and monitoring Baker’s larkspur (*Delphinium bakeri*) and yellow larkspur (*Delphinium luteum*) populations and seed banking several federally-listed San Francisco Bay Area species.

Garden staff, assisted by volunteers, grew hundreds of plants from two populations of Shasta clarkia (*Clarkia borealis* ssp. *arida*) and from one population of Raiche’s red ribbons (*Clarkia concinna* ssp. *raichei*) for seed production in our nursery in spring/summer 2017. These are two of the six species of farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia* spp.) that the US Fish & Wildlife Service has asked to grow for seed production over the next few years. These seeds may be used to augment wild populations that have been declining recently.
We contracted with California State Parks to monitor Mt. Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*) populations. Assistant Curator Clare Loughran and Horticulturist Ben Anderson hiked cross-country over difficult terrain this spring to document the numbers of introduced plants on Mt. Diablo. The numbers were not as great as we would like, but the weather each year is very different and that has determining effects on the success of our native plants, especially annual species like this one. Another population, with over a million plants, was discovered in Spring 2016 in Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve by botanical consultants Heath Bartosh and Brian Peterson for the East Bay Regional Parks District. Garden staff collected seeds from this new-found population and volunteers worked hundreds of hours cleaning them for preservation and research.

California Plant Rescue (CaPR, www.caplantrescue.org/) is a consortium of Center for Plant Conservation member gardens (like UCBG) and other conservation practitioners to conserve California plant species. CaPR’s near term goals include seed banking all native California species with five or fewer remaining populations. In 2017 we worked with Bureau of Land Management staff to make a small seed collection of the federally-listed endangered Chinese Camp brodiaea (*Brodiaea pallida*), a bulb found in only a few sites east of Stockton, CA). Garden staff will be working on many more seed collections in 2018.

We worked with Mills College Professor Sarah Swope by providing seeds of the state- and federally-listed endangered Tiburon jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger*, an annual in the mustard family) from our seed bank. She is studying the genetic diversity within the one known population, as well as the water use efficiency of the species. In exchange, Dr. Swope collected seeds in 2016 from the wild population to replenish our stock.

The Garden is a participating institution in the national Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), now headquartered at San Diego Zoo Global. Curator Holly Forbes and Director of Collections & Research Vanessa Handley attended the CPC’s annual meeting in May 2017 at San Diego Zoo. They also attended a CaPR annual meeting at UC Santa Cruz Arboretum in November 2016.

**Research**

Garden staff responded to over 40 requests for research samples and information in 2016-2017. These were primarily for...
studies of evolutionary history in specific plant groups. One-third of these were for research at UC Berkeley. Ethnobotanical research projects this year included using the Garden collections to establish reference specimens for companies authenticating plant materials for the natural products industry. Another medicinal plant study sought to determine the levels of antioxidants of species sold in Central American marketplaces as a health tonic.

Dr. Hong Ma, of Fudan University of Shanghai, China, returned to the Garden in November to gather more plant samples in support of his research. Dr. Ma is a Garden member, and has already published research (on the evolution of fruit types in the rose family) facilitated by the Garden from past visits.

Riva Bruenn received her PhD from the Department of Plant & Microbiology Biology at UC Berkeley in summer 2017. She collected several plant materials from the Garden for her dissertation research. She studies the symmetry of flowers in the tropical ginger order Zingiberales. Dr. Bruenn worked in the lab of Professor Chelsea Specht, whose other students and post-docs depend on the Garden collections for their research projects.

Research can also lead to positive outcomes in plant conservation. We supplied leaves of an extremely endangered Hawaiian plant, cabbage palm (*Brighamia insignis*), to our colleagues at the Chicago Botanic Garden. They are assessing the genetic diversity of this species in the wild and in botanic garden collections. This information will inform conservation efforts on the cliffs of Hawaii.

Anatomical studies include those that will help us know how conifer leaf anatomy determines hydraulic functioning (and what that means for pine and other forests in a warming climate) and how 3-D leaf geometry varies in plants with different types of photosynthesis. These leaf geometry studies use specialized equipment, an x-ray microCT machine, at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab’s Advanced Light Source.

The plants are not always the prime interest of researchers, but sometimes are the host for the research subject. Dr. Isabelle Vea, a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, and her graduate student, Stevie Bain, visited the Garden in April to collect mealybugs for their research project. They were looking for species that hadn’t been previously documented here.

— Holly Forbes, Curator

Recent publications citing the Garden’s collections include:


Thousands of students each year, from preschoolers to graduate school students, come to the Garden on their own to learn. An additional 8,000 students participated in educational fieldtrips to the Garden this past year. The variety of tour themes and the content diversity of courses using the Garden highlight the ways plants are connected to our lives and demonstrate how the Garden is an unmatched educational resource.

Tours for Primary Grades

Children’s tours are at the heart of the docent program with 104 tours given on 13 different topics this year. In addition to our introduction to plants tours, the most popular tour has long been our California Natives: Plants and People tour in part because of its clear alignment with the Social Studies State Educational Standards for Grades 3 and 4. With newly revised standards, we have seen an increase in requests for our Evolution: Plants through Time as well as Patterns in Nature: Math in the Garden tours. These exciting tours go beyond the plant basics to reveal deeper workings of the natural world.

For many of our youngest students, coming to the Garden might be their first time “going into nature.” They sometimes come with surprising fears, such as what animals they might encounter or even getting lost. In 2017, with underwriting from the Bernard E. and Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation, the Education department piloted a First-Time Nature Explorers pre-tour classroom program to help prepare students for their Garden experience. The presentation combined images of the Botanical Garden (including those of children in the Garden), an overview of a docent-guided tour, and an opportunity for questions, before boarding their bus. This resulted in enthusiastic and engaged students and teachers, one of whom shared “I have one student, L., who is very sensitive, and even shows signs of depression at times. He was so smitten by the Garden that he said ‘I want to work here when I grow up!’”

UC Berkeley

The Garden is an essential resource for the nearly 1,600 UC Berkeley students enrolled in the introductory biology course each year, the largest single class to incorporate the Garden into its curriculum. Garden docents and graduate student instructors co-lead this course’s section groups during their California Ecosystems lab. Over 50 other UC Berkeley courses have built a Garden component into their curriculum. From Landscape Architecture to Mechanical Engineering, Art Practice to Creative Writing, the School of Public Health to the Graduate School of Education, departments all across campus integrate our unique environment to support their teaching.

Regional Colleges

The Garden is an outdoor educational laboratory for students at colleges all around the Bay Area, even for those as far away as Sacramento and Merced. They use the collection for a wide variety of biology and natural science courses. The Garden is a core component of the Merritt College Landscape Horticulture degree program. Local acupuncture schools use our unique Chinese Medicinal Herb Garden, one of the few in the country. The unsurpassed diversity and beauty of the collections have made it a perfect site for art courses from the California College of the Arts and Berkeley City College.

Visit our updated “Colleges and Universities” tab of our website, under Education, to see a more complete list of college courses visiting the Garden. All group visits, whether led by our docents or by outside instructors, are facilitated by our Volunteer and Tour Coordinator Perry Hall.

— Christine Manoux, Associate Director of Education
Docent Training Class of 2017: Our newest graduating class of docents bring a diverse set of professional and life experience to the Garden. The group includes numerous retired educators, including K-12 teachers (high school science and elementary school), school principals, community college instructors (entomology), college professors (English and Women’s Studies), and university lecturers (chemical engineering). The group also has a wide range of professional backgrounds including a construction manager, a software engineer, a chemical engineer, a landscape architect, and a corporate communications manager. The Garden is thrilled to have this wonderful group of seventeen newly trained docents ready to interpret the Garden for youth and adults.

Spotlight on Cross Pollination within the Garden’s Volunteer Programs: There are 51 volunteers who serve in two or more volunteer programs at the Garden. Here are a few highlights from this past year of volunteers who contribute to more than one volunteer program:

Conservation: Nineteen Garden volunteers helped support outplanting propagules of the critically endangered large-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinckia grandiflora) to native habitat over four days in December 2016, contributing over 170 hours to the project. See Conservation & Research, pg 8.

Volunteer Propagators & Discovery Stations: Since October of last year, a team of docents have been designing and leading interactive stations on the “Free First Wednesday” of every month and for special Garden programs. Docents engage visitors by inviting them to discover a particular plant topic, brought to life with plant material and interactive activities. Around 100 people a day of all ages visit the Discovery Stations. Patti Barni (Docent and Propagator in the Vines section) has been instrumental in coordinating and piloting this program. Susan Van Dyne (Docent and Propagation Section Head for Cacti & Succulents) helped with the August Twilight Tuesday: Cactus & Agave Discovery Station, and Mary Porter (Propagation Section Head for Insectivorous Plants and Bulbs) engaged visitors at the June Animals in the Garden Day and the July Discovery Station with Carnivorous Plants. Sally Levinson (Docent and Propagation Section Head for California Natives) provided specimens for the Butterfly and Caterpillar Discovery Station for the Animals of the Garden Discovery Day and Cal Day. She also leads the Garden’s monthly Butterfly Walks.

Volunteer Propagator for the California Natives Section Cristina Campbell also created a special program for a local group of Girl Scouts on water efficient gardening. The troupe used their new knowledge to do community service projects to earn their Water Conservation badges.

Floral Arrangers: Anthony Garza, Supervisor of Horticulture and Grounds, trained seven volunteers (all currently working in other UCBG volunteer programs) for the Garden’s Floral Arranging program. Floral Arranging Volunteers create floral arrangements to be enjoyed by visitors in various Garden buildings and for a variety of Garden special events.

Curation Photography Project: The Curation Department launched a volunteer photography program to obtain high quality photographic images of the Garden’s plant accessions. The Garden’s 10,000 taxa spread over 34 acres makes for an ambitious undertaking! The goal is to upload images to the Garden’s plant database to document the collection and aid in plant identification.

Thanks to all of the Garden’s amazing volunteers. You make the Garden grow!

— Perry Hall, Volunteer & Tour Coordinator
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contribute to an active and vibrant community at the Garden. Their work is essential to fulfilling the Garden’s mission of research, education and conservation. The Garden’s 302 volunteers work in all areas of the Garden. Volunteers must commit to regular volunteering and for at least one year (except for event and plant sale volunteers).

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS 2016 - 17

<table>
<thead>
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<th>302</th>
<th>ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>17,792</td>
<td>HOURS WORKED</td>
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Estimated value: $429,500  
FTE: 8.5 full-time staff members

DOCENT TOURS + SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ADULT TOURS:

| 32 Tours | 508 Visitors |

CHILDREN’S TOURS:

| 104 Tours | 2,920 Children |

DROP-IN TOURS:

| 220 Tours | Attendance varies |

IN-SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

| 18 Classroom Visits | 432 Children Served |

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED:

| 3,352 Children |

COLLEGE CLASS VISITS

UC BERKELEY CLASS VISITS:

| 86 Classes | 3,081 Students |

CLASS VISITS (OTHER INSTITUTIONS):

| 58 Classes | 1,332 Students |

TOTAL CLASS VISITS:

| 144 Classes | 4,423 Students |

Visits to the Garden are offered to UC Berkeley and other institutions at no cost.

Please email the Volunteer & Tour Coordinator at perry@berkeley.edu if you would like more information.
EVENTS

Japan in the Garden
The Garden hosted a series of programs with the theme of ‘Japan in the Garden.’ The series was inspired by the Berkeley – Sakai Sister City Association who celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. What began as a traditional tea ceremony, tree planting and koto performance, grew into a series of programs ranging from bonsai, to joinery construction, and to origami. We were honored to host the mayors of both Berkeley (Jesse Arreguin) and Sakai (Osami Takeyama) for the inaugural event on April 21st.

Around the World in 6 Glasses
We completed our series of programs Around the World in 6 Glasses with three exceptional and fun events this summer. In June, we held a rosé tasting in the Garden of Old Roses, where Horticulturist Gideon Dollarhide led a tour through the collection. The rosés were supplied by Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant and a highlight was a rosé from the Bandol region of France. It paired well with a cardamom cake with rose water icing from Sweet Adeline Bakery. In August participants enjoyed Herbaceous Liqueurs, featuring drinks such as Benedictine and Chartreuse made originally by monks with a combination of over 100 herbs! Horticulturist Jason Bonham led an exceptional tour of the Herb Garden. The series concluded with a sold-out beer tasting provided by Fort Point Brewing Company of San Francisco.

Bastille Day Concert
Every year we transform one of our summer concerts into a French fête with food, drink, a silent auction and festive music. This year the program featured kir royales, quiches, and a petit four bar. Music by Paul Mehling’s Le Jazz Hot and the Fabrice Martinez Trio carried the evening. Proceeds from the silent auction support our Education Program.

SEEDS – Anna Laurent and Plants Illustrated
We started off 2017 with the theme of ‘Seeds’. The Garden hosted artist, author and photographer Anna Laurent, who presented her series titled DISPERSAL at the Garden in Julia Morgan Hall. Laurent’s stunning photographs featured seed receptacles gathered in the Garden’s collection over three years of collaboration with Garden horticulturists.

Following DISPERSAL, our returning botanical artists from
the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists presented their show *Plants Illustrated* with the same theme of seeds. It was remarkable to see the beautiful juxtaposition of illustration with photography.

**Local Color**

The Garden was thrilled to host local artist Mimi Robinson for a week-long exhibition (enjoyed by hundreds of visitors) and public programs inspired by her newly released book, *Local Color: Seeing Place Through Watercolor*. Ms. Robinson gave a beautiful talk accompanied by live music, as well as two watercolor workshops. She spent the past year capturing the colors of the Garden in seasonal color palettes of place.

**Plant Fiber Enclosure: Origins**

In a whirlwind installation, UC Berkeley Associate Professor of Architecture M. Paz Gutierrez brought her students to the Garden to install the first-ever 3D printed sculpture made entirely of plant fibers. After presenting her research and work on plant fibers to the Garden’s staff and volunteers in March, she worked with her students to render a bird’s nest, modeled on nests of weaver birds. The Nest was constructed of 400 woven panes created through a process focused on exploring scalability opportunities that utilize natural material waste and natural fibers for digital weaving. The Nest was displayed to Garden visitors in the Ornduff Room of the Garden’s Conference Center for a week in May.

— Deepa Natarajan, Program Coordinator

*From Top:* Coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) by Anna Laurent, DISPERSAL; Empress Tree Pods (*Paulownia tomentosa* capsules) by Nancy Wheeler Klippert, *Plants Illustrated*; Local Color Exhibition
This year the Garden launched ‘Wellness at the Garden’ – a series of programs that include yoga, mindfulness, qigong and sound bathing. We look forward to offering more wellness programs on a regular basis. Please visit our redesigned program webpage for current information on these and many other popular program offerings.

Art
Karen LeGault returned to instruct Garden visitors on drawing in the Garden. She will be returning in the winter to present a fascinating series of programs under the title “The Four Treasures of Chinese Brush Painting.” Traditionally known as the four gentleman of brush painting- Plum Blossoms, Bamboo, Orchid, and Chrysanthemum are the pillars of this art form. Each class will focus on a different plant.

International Speakers
The Garden hosted a number of speakers from around the world in a series of evening events initiated by Garden Advisory Board member Katherine Greenberg. This year we hosted Spanish Landscape architect Javier Mariategui, who presented from his book “Gardening for the Senses”; Visiting Scholar Pia Lopez-Izquierdo who spoke on her research on color; and returning speaker Dr. Carlos Sanchez, who presented on the National Botanic Garden of Cuba. The director of the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary in southern India, Suprabha Seshan, gave a presentation about their conservation programs.

Concerts
We had another sold-out summer of Redwood Grove Concerts with over 3000 visitors attending. Highlights this year included Sk. Kakraba who performed the gyil (a Ghanaian xylophone), and the octogenarian Sugar Pie DeSanto, who filled the Grove with her foot stompin’, head bobbin’, soulful, sassy vocals!

Trees
The Garden will offer a fascinating series of programs in 2018 under the theme of “Trees.” From wood to paper, instrument-making, forest ecology, natural building, dyes, pruning, and the mysterious phenomenon of “Witness Trees,” we invite you to stay tuned for another wonderful year of public programs at the Garden.

— Deepa Natarajan, Program Coordinator
The Garden Shop and Plant Deck offer visitors, members, volunteers and staff an opportunity to purchase rare and unusual plants propagated by Garden volunteers, and a selection of carefully curated and botanically inspired gifts.

The most popular items in the Shop continue to be those that are unique to the Garden. UCBG branded items, such as the popular Garden mugs, are original mementos of an enjoyable visit. This year a new mug was introduced, featuring images of two rare and endangered species, Baker’s larkspur (Delphinium bakeri) and yellow larkspur (Delphinium luteum). Sales of these mugs support the Garden’s conservation effort on behalf of these two species and offer an opportunity to introduce and educate a larger audience to these rare plants.

Earlier this year, the Shop and Deck had a makeover. The addition of a new door creates an easy transition between the two spaces and adds more natural light to the Shop interior.

The Garden Shop “blossoms” during the December holiday season with a spacious pop-up shop in Julia Morgan Hall. The third Holiday Pop-Up Shop, slated for December 6-10, 2017, will continue the “buy local” tradition with holiday gift items from local vendors and plant-centric items from our in-house “makers”. It is a great opportunity to find unique holiday gift items, buy local, and contribute to the Garden at the same time!

No mention of the Shop would be complete without calling out our loyal Garden Shop volunteers and student staff. In addition to handling sales transactions and shop keeping, they greet visitors and provide general Garden information and helpful advice. Many thanks for all they contribute!

— Nancy Rosenlund, Retail Coordinator

UC BOTANICAL GARDEN

HOLIDAY Pop-Up Shop

In Julia Morgan Hall

Members-Only evening: December 6 | 4 - 7 pm
Public Sale: December 7 - 10 | 11 am - 4 pm

From Top: UCBG conservation mug; Left: yellow larkspur (Delphinium luteum), Right: Baker’s larkspur (Delphinium bakeri); Garden Shop with new door leading to the Plant Deck
The year was one of continued progress for the Garden. We completed the first year under a new Director and we welcomed a new Director of Collections and Research, both with much success. This is the first time that we have had a full-time director in many years, since most previous appointments have been in addition to faculty responsibilities.

We also received a transformative financial gift over the past fiscal year and are able to strengthen our staff and increase our endowment as a result. Our advisory board plays an important role in supporting staff in the Garden’s development effort.

We welcomed three new members of the board. Mariela Gerstein will join the board, replacing her husband, Rich Gerstein, whose work responsibilities preclude him from serving. Mariela is full of ideas and enthusiasm for our mission. Laura Sawczuk, an artist living in Orinda, has a history of commitment to community service which should prove very useful to the Garden. We also welcome Susan Van Dyne, a docent and long-time gardener. Susan recently retired as professor at Smith College.

We are delighted to welcome back emeritus board members Ramona Davis, Ken Kuchman, Cindy Plambeck and Jill Wilson to full board status, all of whom have long records of generous service to the Garden. We also acknowledge the contributions of Jim Bruner to the board for the past six years and are grateful that he will continue to serve in an emeritus capacity.

Finally, the Vice Chair of the board, Beth Burnside, requested a one-year delay in assuming the role of Chair. As a result, I have agreed to serve an additional year in my current position. We are fortunate to have a highly collegial board, a skilled professional staff, and the support of hundreds of wonderful volunteers. We look forward to another year of progress.

— Jim Landau, Chair

Mariela Gerstein
Mariela Gerstein grew up in Peru and received her BA in Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley. Upon graduation, she worked on transportation projects in Mexico where she met her husband, Richard Gerstein, who founded a company in logistics and transportation which they grew together and later sold. Mariela is a photographer, painter and calligrapher. She is passionate about providing children with opportunities to experience nature and different cultures. She is involved with schools in San Francisco, Slide Ranch, and the Jewish Community Center. Mariela lives in San Francisco with her husband, Richard, and their 3 children.

Laura Sawczuk
Laura has been a Garden member and donor for more than twenty years. She has an MFA from East Carolina University and a JD from USF. She served as president of multiple school parent organizations and is a Master Gardener and Orinda Garden Club member. Currently, Laura is a professional color consultant and often incorporates color and design elements in the surrounding landscape. She’s an accomplished botanical painter and has participated in shows throughout the US. Laura and her husband, Luke, have three grown children and live in Orinda. She enjoys seeking out rare and unusual plants for her woodland home garden.

Susan Van Dyne
After receiving her PhD in English and American literature from Harvard, Susan taught for 42 years at Smith College. There she helped to create the Program in the Study of Women & Gender, which she directed for twenty years. She also established a concentration in Archives that integrates study, research and internships in archival collections for undergraduates. Susan left her extensive perennial garden in Massachusetts, and retired to Oakland where she created a succulent garden that was included in two garden tours in spring 2017. She serves as a volunteer propagator of succulents and cactus at UCBG and as a docent both here and at the Ruth Bancroft Garden.
# Thank You to Our Donors

## 7/2016 - 6/2017

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NEW STAFF

Director of Collections and Research Dr. Vanessa Handley formally joined the Garden staff in June 2017. She is responsible for building a more robust research program and developing new sources for documented wild-collected plants. She is also working on building new collaborations with faculty at UC Berkeley and other institutions.

Vanessa comes to the Garden from Holy Names University, where she was Chair of the Division of Math and Science. She earned her PhD from UC Berkeley in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and is a Visiting Researcher at the California Academy of Sciences. Earlier in her career she ran a landscape design and installation business.

Membership Specialist Jenny Moore joins the Garden following Sarah Wininger's transition to Development Associate. Before the Garden, Jenny worked for UC Berkeley for two years at the Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology and the Center for Information Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS). Prior to living in Berkeley, Jenny was the Membership Assistant for over three years at Ganna Walska Lotusland, a botanical garden located in Montecito. She is excited to be back in a botanical garden setting and looks forward to meeting you at upcoming events and lectures.
Holidays in the Garden

Nov 30 - Dec 1
Botanical Illustration: Winter/Holiday with Catherine Watters

Dec 6
Evergreen Wreath Making

Dec 9
Family Program: Holiday Nature Crafts

Dec 10
Botanical Crafting for the Holidays

Members-Only evening
December 6
4 - 7 pm

December 7 - 10
11 am - 4 pm

Shop a unique selection of hand-crafted gifts from local vendors and the Garden.

All Proceeds Benefit UCBG

For more information and to register for programs visit: botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu