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### PLAN YOUR VISIT

**Advance Reservations Required**

**HOURS**

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<tr>
<td>Open Daily Members Only</td>
<td>11 am – 5 pm</td>
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<td>Mather Redwood Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glasshouses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Shop &amp; Plant Deck</td>
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<tr>
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<td>First Tuesday of the month, Thanksgiving Day, December 24, 25, 31, January 1, MLK Day</td>
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### GARDEN STAFF

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**ADMINISTRATION**

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Megan Peterson, Visitor Services Coordinator
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Christine Jegan, Rental Coordinator
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**NEWSLETTER**

Vanessa Crews, Editor
Annabella Guerrero, Graphic Design

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Staff photo credit throughout Newsletter: Vanessa Crews, Lew Feldman, Holly Forbes, Vanessa Handley, Christine Jegan, Christine Manoux, Deepa Natarajan

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200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720-5045
The UC Botanical Garden is considered to be among the world’s finest botanical gardens because of our living plant collection’s breadth and depth. We are only 34 acres in size, but our sheltered location in Strawberry Canyon allows us to successfully grow a diverse range of plants from around the world. Many of these plants are rare or endangered in the wild. Some of them you can only find in our Garden. We take pride in our work to conserve plants for future generations. We connect plants and people and believe this effort is essential to life on planet Earth.

Throughout the Garden’s 130-year history, we have faced challenges and found ways to thrive. The pandemic resulted in a four-month Garden closure and significant financial losses. Still, our dedicated dedicated horticulture staff remained on-site throughout the closure to care for our precious plant collection. Our talented education staff put Zoom programming in place, and we are thrilled that our programs reach more people around the world than ever before. Our Garden docents will soon launch downloadable tours and remote offerings for classrooms. The Garden was the first and remains the only UC Berkeley unit to safely open to the public.

We’ve continued to address essential maintenance issues. Deteriorating conditions of the houses threatened the Garden’s extensive glasshouse collections. Read more in this Newsletter about our creative and cost-effective efforts to safely house these unique collections. Visitors of all ages will appreciate the new handrails we’ve installed to assist your Garden walks on our steep terrain. There’s new energy-efficient LED PAR lighting in the Arid House, and we are planning improvements to the Redwood Grove and the Garden entrance.

UC Berkeley takes great pride in the Garden but provides only 15% of our budget. We generate 85% of our funds with the support of you, our Garden community. We are grateful to you for your generous support of our important work. You make this Garden thrive, and our future is bright thanks to you.

Make your reservation online and come visit your Garden.

Lew Feldman, Director

Together we can adapt and thrive in this changing environment!
For nearly 50 years, the Garden’s Tropical House has been a source of wonder and delight for visitors, young and old. For many, the Tropical House was their first (and perhaps only) glimpse of a tropical environment. The towering plants, moist air, and earthy aromas evoked a mysterious world and provided a unique educational experience. Here, children learned that chocolate does grow on trees. Gathered around the cocoa tree, docents awed school children with nibbles of bitter cocoa pods and sweetened chocolate chips, providing a hands-on lesson connecting plants and food. Here, we were amazed by the magnificent exotic titan arum (Amorphophallus titanum).

Throughout its history, the Tropical House was a challenge to maintain as heating and irrigation systems regularly failed, resulting in plant damage. More recently, glass panes cracked and fell, and engineers advised that the building required renovation and seismic retrofitting. The Tropical House was closed to the public in early 2020.

Another Garden collection glasshouse is also failing. This structure houses several thousand rare orchids and other tropical plants for research, conservation, and display purposes and has never been open to the public. Replacement of this house was estimated to cost nearly $10,000,000 due to complex engineering for unstable hillside soils. Searching for a cost-effective solution to the problem of two failing greenhouses, Directors Paul Licht and Lewis Feldman worked with campus to acquire the Jane Gray Research Greenhouse with accompanying headhouse for Garden use. This modern (circa 2000) research greenhouse is adjacent to the Garden’s parking lot and has been relatively unused by faculty in recent years. The Jane Gray will provide a safe home for the Garden’s extensive orchid and other tropical plant collections and provide new lab space for researchers.

Support the Tropical House with a gift:

- Matching funds will DOUBLE your Tropical House gift!
- At the Big Give on Thursday, March 11
- Make a gift with the enclosed envelope
- Online at botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/collections/tropical-house

Modernization of the Tropical House and the Jane Gray acquisition and renovations provided a cost-effective solution to maintaining two of the Garden’s precious collections. Generous donors immediately stepped up to provide funding. Both projects are well on the way to completion.

As the Tropical House structural improvements near completion, Garden staff see a new opportunity to renovate and refresh the house’s interior. UCBG Advisory Board member and well-known landscape architect Ron Lutsko is donating his firm’s services to design a modern interior that will engage and educate visitors with an intimate tropical experience. The project includes adding a shade structure to the adjacent patio where small groups gather, and refreshing exterior plantings around the building.

Generous donors funded the repurposing of the Jane Gray Greenhouse and the Tropical House structural renovations. We estimate the Tropical House interior renovations and exterior improvements will cost about $250,000. We have about $100,000 remaining towards this cost.

I invite you, our loyal members, volunteers, donors, and friends to make a gift today for this project. Together we can fill the Tropical House with wonder, delight – and someday another titan arum.

Vanessa Crews, Interim Development Director
Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details about this greenhouse’s structural history, the progress toward its refurbishment, and plans for redesigning the interior. The plant palette has shifted over time to better accommodate campus teaching needs and the Garden’s interpretation of the wet tropics. It’s also vital for housing specimens (large and small) that require a warm, humid environment to thrive.

The strongest interpretive and planting theme is ethnobotany. Plants important in human uses (food, fiber, medicine, etc.) continue to be featured. These are arranged by geographic origin, formerly referred to as Old World (Asian/Australasian) and New World (Western Hemisphere), consistent with the general geographic arrangement of the outdoor collections. As we embark on a redesign of the interior, we reflect on this ethnobotanical theme’s variations as it was installed and renovated several times before. Several plants are especially popular, including cacao (chocolate), vanilla, coffee, and pepper. We interpret their usefulness to people while also describing their context in nature.

For example, since 2002, we have learned that the cacao tree (Theobroma cacao) is native only to South America and was distributed by people to Central America and Mexico. Today it is cultivated wherever conditions are favorable near the equator. 70% of the world’s cocoa production is from West African countries. The environmental impacts of farming cacao trees can be mediated by not clearing native tree species, to provide the shade needed by the cacao trees. Compared to traditional orchards, this cultivation technique can reduce the loss of plant and animal biodiversity within the modified plantation. Also, cacao trees need a certain amount of humidity and ground cover plants to support the midges that pollinate their flowers. The midges are also food for birds. The ground cover plant layer hosts other invertebrates, and the canopy hosts animals, epiphytes, and more. We tell this story of growing cacao trees by best practices under a native plant shade canopy to support biodiversity.

In addition to plants with ethnobotanical uses, the Tropical House can support our educational efforts to display and interpret tropical biodiversity hotspots of the world and their conservation issues, now in the context of climate change. This interpretive theme includes iconic plants that may come to mind when thinking about wet tropical locales, like palm trees, lianas, epiphytes, and orchids, some of which are endangered. This assemblage serves our mission of supporting education, research, and conservation.

The contrasting environment of the Tropical House with the rest of the outdoor collections makes it one of our most popular destinations. We look forward to a redesigned interior that will make the most of the limited space to provide an immersive tropical forest experience of heat, humidity, and lush foliage.

Holly Forbes, Curator

The whitish flesh around the seeds in the pod facilitates the multi-day fermentation process. After completion, the beans are dried and may be stored for a period of time before being roasted.
Top: The Tropical House glass was removed for renovations. Middle: Judith Finn pollinates Titan in 2007. Bottom: Wooden boxes protect plants during construction. Students use pollinator finger puppets to connect with plants in the Tropical House.
The Tropical House, one of the most popular destinations for Garden visitors, will be 49 years old in 2021. If the gestation period of planning, securing budgets, and construction is included, it is even older. When you enter, you are enveloped in warm moist air and greeted by a wall of greenery, as if you had been transported to the tropics. It is an extraordinary educational venue.

The original structure was completed in 1972, and the plantings installed by 1975. The focus was on economic interest plants and included many popular tropical culinary treats — chocolate, vanilla, coffee, and more.

In 1986, the Tropical House underwent its first renovation. The drainage and heating systems had deteriorated, and the compacted soil needed replacing. Renovations completed by late 1987 included removing the cement pool from the center of the building. A fiberglass pool replaced it with volcanic rocks above and water dripping down its face, providing suitable habitat for a variety of epiphytes. The new soil was warmed by heated water in tubes buried six inches below the surface, and pavers replaced the gravel flooring. The plants were arranged with those from the western hemisphere on right and those from the eastern hemisphere on the left.

An enormously popular program, first presented in 1989, was “Rainforest Rap.” Given during the winter, the tour emphasized ecology and conservation. “Rainforest Rap” evolved into “Tropical Treasures,” which emphasized the uses of tropical plants. The new iteration included more information about indigenous peoples as well as in-house displays of tropical foods such as mangos, pineapple, coconut, chocolate chips, and tropical juices.

Without question, the most popular plant celebrity is the titan arum (Amorphophallus titanum). When it blooms, which is infrequent, one would think that a Hollywood movie star had come to the Garden. Visitor numbers typically triple when one of these remarkable plants produces an inflorescence, which only lasts a few days. Sometimes the lines to visit it stretch to the entrance gate. A Garden tradition is to name them: Trudy was the first one, followed by Titania, Odora, Odoardo, Tiny Titan, Maladora, and Little Stinker. The first to bloom was Trudy in 2005, and seven others had bloomed by 2010. Trudy must love the limelight: she bloomed in 2005 at ten, then again in 2009, and again in 2015. What a performer!

The Tropical House again began to show its age; both the building and its plants were beginning to grow old. In 1998 the house was closed to the public because several trees had grown so tall that they broke ceiling glass! In September 2018, it was closed because of broken glass in the roof. The repairs were made in a timely fashion, and the Tropical House reopened in November. This was especially appreciated because the house is a much-loved destination during the winter with its excellent heat and abundant foliage.

Garden staff recognized that the Tropical House needed a major overhaul. Thus, in late 2018, plans were initiated for its renovation. By March 2019, the plans had been submitted to campus for approval. The first phase was to reskin the entire building with polycarbonate material to replace the glass. This material does not need whitwashing and is twin-walled for greater insulation; other project elements included earthquake retrofitting and a new heating system to replace the ancient heaters. By August of 2020 the reskinning and earthquake retrofitting were in process. The next step is the redesign of the interior to enhance the visitor experience.

Mara Melandry, Volunteer
ART IN THE GARDEN

A stroll through the Garden offers many delights, including these three art installations.

*Water Pavilion* was installed in the Garden in 2012 for the *Natural Discourse* exhibition by artist Mary Anne Friel. She built a circular wall to connect two existing redwood tanks. Friel writes, "*Water Pavilion* draws on the history of garden architecture as enclosures in which the individual can reflect on human relationships with nature. In the Garden’s Mediterranean Area, two decommissioned water tanks constructed in the early 1900s (of old-growth redwood that once drew water from Strawberry Creek watershed to irrigate farms in the canyon) are reemployed to create an evocative space. It brings the viewer into intimate contact with the monumental forms of the tanks and the majestic redwood of their construction while acting as a lens to the stunning vista of the Botanical Garden, the city, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Pacific ocean."

The bronze armillary was installed in the Garden of Old Roses in 2005. It was created by Frank Cheney, a UC Berkeley graduate, Class of ’41, and later donated to the Garden by his family. Mr. Cheney was a civil engineer who developed a hobby of building sundials. He was commissioned by the city of Berkeley in 1968 to create a sundial embedded in terrazzo called a trigonal trapezohedron. This sculpture was a gift to Berkeley’s sister city Sakai, Japan. He also created the large sundial at the end of the Berkeley Pier.

Armillaries are an ancient form of sundial and celestial globe that tell both the time of day and season. The Garden’s armillary is made of red bronze and rests on a quarried stone pedestal. The equatorial ring includes hour lines with 15-minute marks and Roman numerals. The Latin inscription reads, "Non Numero Horas Nisi Serenas"—I count only the serene hours.

In 1994, artisan Michael Bondi and his team crafted the beautiful bronze and nickel bridge crossing a small pond in the Herb Garden. The hammer marks, texture, and patina on the Garden's bridge are the marriage of fire, metal, and creativity in Bondi’s forge. Bondi is a modern blacksmith who designs and crafts metalworks using traditional forging techniques at Richmond’s foundry. Bondi explains, “The bridge was a wonderful opportunity to completely design and create a contemporary mixed metal piece. It’s about textures and movement. Spider webs and cracked ice were the inspiration for the side panels.” Bondi’s architectural gates, stairs, and doors grace residences and commercial spaces all over the United States.

Vanessa Crews, *Interim Development Director*
Plants facing adverse conditions evolve ways to adapt and to survive; in the deserts developing mechanisms for conserving water, in windy environments developing extra structural support, and in very bright light developing filters to diffuse light intensity.

Like so many of the plants in our collection, the Garden has faced adverse conditions and adapted for survival. The University only provides 15% of the Garden’s budget. However, we created and grew plant sales, rentals, membership, programs, admissions, and donations to generate revenue and maintain the Garden over the years. You, our loyal volunteers, members, and donors have always been there for the Garden.

There are bright spots. Thanks to our dedicated staff, the Garden safely reopened to visitors at a reduced capacity in July. Innovative Zoom programs are reaching more visitors around the world than ever before. Plants and gifts are available for purchase in our new online gift shop. We have held two successful online plant sales and plan to hold more. Our members and donors were generous in 2020. More people made gifts to the Garden than any other year in the Garden’s recorded history. And as importantly, the Garden continues to provide an environment for enriching and renewing humanity’s bond with nature.

With your help, our Garden will continue to connect plants and people. We will continue to conserve plants that are rare and endangered in the wild. We recognize that you, our loyal supporters, are also facing challenges in this uncertain world. Please visit and take comfort in your beautiful 34-acre Garden. Together we can adapt and thrive in this changing environment.

Lewis Feldman, Director
CONSERVATION

Our work for the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Seeds of Success program involves collecting widespread species that will help to restore sites following disturbance. Garden staff spent three days in the BLM’s Point Arena/Stornetta Unit in Mendocino County collecting as many as 20,000 seeds from each of 15 species for this purpose.

The large-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinckia grandiflora) reintroduction project continues. In fall 2020, we again grew over 4,000 seedlings to augment the four new populations in development. We had to wait until the rains finally arrived in January 2021 to plant them in these field sites. We look forward to seeing how they do in the spring.

Seed banking for conservation was featured in our annual Big Give day of fundraising in March 2020. See the garden website (botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/biggive) for the beautiful video produced by Garden Marketing Specialist Delanie Lowe.

Funds from the Big Give event, supplemented by contract funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, continue to 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. We added field-collected seeds from 18 rare and endangered California species to our conservation seed bank during this time frame.

The farewell-to-spring (Clarkia spp.) seed banking project had our staff in the field again in 2019, making another conservation seed collection of the Merced clarkia (Clarkia linguiflata) just outside Yosemite. Our funding partner, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, was able to provide a modest seed collection of another scarce species, Whitney’s farewell-to-spring (Clarkia amoena ssp. whitneyi) from northern California in August 2019. We grew out over 50 plants for seed production and conservation banking in summer 2020. These efforts will help forestall the decline of these species and hopefully eliminate the need to add them to the federal Endangered Species Act’s protections. In addition to the six species of this project, we seed banked Mariposa clarkia (Clarkia biloba ssp. australis), one of Merced Clarkia’s ancestors.

We continued our work with California State Parks to monitor Mt. Diablo buckwheat (Eriogonum truncatum) populations. Curator Holly Forbes, accompanied by state parks natural resource program manager Christina Lew, maintained social distancing in spring 2020 to document the status of introduction sites on Mt. Diablo. Low numbers reflected the consequences of a drought year.
CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

Research

The use of the collections by researchers at UC Berkeley and across the globe includes the provision of fresh or dried plant material and data for various purposes. Some of the current studies of DNA are being applied to conservation goals.

Recent publications citing the Garden’s collections include:


Holly Forbes, Curator

Top: This picture doesn’t quite capture the steepness of the north-facing slope where Garden horticulturists (Ethan Fenner, James Fong, Eric Hupperts, Basil Medeiros, Sophia Wash) were planting 1,000 seedlings in just a few hours. Vanessa Händley, Director of Collections & Research, and Clare Loughran, Assistant Curator, led the team and planted their share of seedlings.

Bottom: Assistant Curator Clare Loughran (left) and Horticulturist Basil Medeiros organize some of the 4,000 seedlings of large-flowered fiddleneck planted at four sites in January, 2021.
One of the most reassuring lights that shone through this past year was our community’s unwavering shared appreciation of nature and learning. Even when coming together in person at the Garden was not possible, our Garden community came together on virtual platforms and continued to engage and thrive. Though paused midway, we were able to continue our docent training program online and proudly graduated our newest class in November. Volunteer continuing education opportunities moved to video conferencing with excellent attendance. Children who were registered for our summer camp were able to experience the content at home (this time alongside their parents) through videos and hand-delivered activity kits. Our family programs pivoted to monthly online offerings beginning in October.

Our public program learning community not only thrived, it grew by leaps and bounds. A public butterfly walk that might have had ten people in person, was hosted online with 210 people! Three hundred people registered for a plant talk in January, a capacity we could never have held in a Garden building. Moreover, for the first time, we had participants in other time zones! By using Zoom services, we have also been able to broaden our presenter voices’ diversity, something we will continue to focus on in 2021.

This spring, the Education department will be launching free online resources with funding from the Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation, including virtual and downloadable tours and remote offerings for school classrooms. As we look forward to being able to gather together again for the kind of learning we love best — face-to-face, up-close with plants — we celebrate how we continued our learning together and will utilize these new tools going forward for a more inclusive and expansive learning community.

Christine Manoux, Education Director

**BLOOMING IN PLACE: A Zoom Photography Workshop**

A recurring series held in summer and fall 2020, and repeating in spring 2021, *Blooming in Place* is a 4-part contemplative photography workshop led by Becky Jaffe, photographer extraordinaire as well as naturalist, educator, and Garden docent. During the series, participants took a deeper look into both the external natural world and the internal personal world. Above is a selection of work from the August 2020 class, which included participants from Germany and New Orleans.

**TOP:** Marge Levy’s *Luminosity* (*Matilija poppy*) **CENTER:** Cyndy Plambeck’s *Shy* (*leaf study*) **BOTTOM:** Janet Reinstra’s *Water is Lily’s BFF.*
The Garden’s public programs have always been a wonderful point of engagement for our visitors. They have been bringing in a steady and diverse stream of attendees who participate in our monthly offerings. The whirlwind of events led to creating a series of online programs held via the Zoom platform, and brought about a surprising amount of success and new opportunities to engage with participants and presenters from around the country and world. Unable to meet in person, the Garden’s program team was eager to present online programming to continue the relationships we have with our program supporters. The first round of online programs included art workshops, a lecture on plant chemistry, and a virtual butterfly walk through the Garden. We received an overwhelmingly positive response to this first set of online offerings — we learned that there were participants from near and far! The series expanded in August 2020 to include photography, herbal teas, and garden design. In September, we were able to “host” artist Saya Behnam, a Persian artist living in Washington, DC, who was originally scheduled to visit the Garden in October. For many Garden events, we were able to pivot to an online platform. Garden enthusiasts enjoyed a virtual cider tasting with Redfield Cider in honor of our Apples & Hops festival. Our annual botanical art exhibit, Plants Illustrated, in partnership with the artists of the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists, became a virtual gallery and included a series of “Inside the Artist’s Studio” events. The online platform opens up a new world of opportunities for Garden programming this spring; we are collaborating with colleagues from the New York Botanical Garden and Denver Botanic Garden and international organizations such as Sarmaya of India.

We look forward to “seeing” you at a virtual workshop, lecture, or event soon.

Deepa Natarajan, Program Coordinator
VOLUNTEERS

After the Garden’s state-mandated, four-month closure from mid-March to mid-July 2020, the Garden’s volunteers were met with an unusual challenge: How do we support the safe reopening and ongoing work of our living museum during these extraordinary times?

Restarting the Volunteer Propagation program was an obvious priority and was allowed to resume at the end of June. Essential staff had worked steadily throughout the spring and into the summer to water and care for (but mostly water) the plants cultivated for sale. This meant that Volunteer Propagators encountered a ‘jungle’ of large, healthy plants upon their return, many of which flowered for the first time in our program’s cultivation! Plants were more than ready for sale when the Garden reopened to the public on July 13. Moreover, while the camaraderie of working together in groups was not possible due to the physical distancing requirements, there was a palpable sense of joy among the Propagators to be back. As one Propagator reflected, “We have never felt so connected to the Garden.”

The Garden benefitted from the increased popularity of plants, gardening, and the outdoors — a trend attributed to more people spending time at home: $23,865 worth of plants sold in the first six weeks that the Garden was open! Volunteers from all Garden programs — Docents, Ambassadors, Garden Shop, Horticulture, Propagation, and Curation Volunteers — nimbly pivoted to serve in new roles. In the early days of reopening, Docents and Ambassadors were critical to helping staff monitor physical distancing issues throughout the Garden’s 34 acres. They reported back on the new timed ticketing entry system to ensure that the Garden was neither too crowded nor too empty. They staffed the newly-designed sales area on the Tour Deck to greet customers and guide them to shop safely. Their support with wayfinding and promoting safety for both plants and people was essential. Volunteers frequently commented that visitors were overjoyed to safely return to the Garden during such a challenging time.

Like most people, volunteers have wanted to get outside, and they wanted to have an opportunity to get their hands in the soil while supporting the Garden. People feel a little safer outdoors, and the Garden is large enough to allow people to work simultaneously and keep a safe distance. As a result, many volunteers from all programs switched to volunteering in Horticulture to help the staff catch up on the weeding backlog that proliferated during the closure. Docent Katie Korzun mused, “What satisfying work! Sometimes chatting, sometimes working quietly, we have gotten to know the horticulturists and each other, the weeds and the accessioned plants in ways we could not have before. Furthermore, I am provided just enough extra social contact to keep me from going completely nuts in these nutty times.”

For volunteers whose health risks of in-person contact brought all of their in-person volunteering to an abrupt halt, virtual volunteering became a safe way to continue to support the Garden. Docent Trainees, whose 26-week training was cut short, attended weekly Zoom seminars on various topics to help round out their learning. These seminars were open to all volunteers and were very well attended, with headcounts generally in the high 80s. The beginning and end of seminars and virtual volunteer events allowed for some socializing, clearly a welcome way for volunteers and staff to stay connected. Docents, who would typically be busy leading tours, organized to develop remote engagement opportunities for K-5 audiences, and made progress on long-standing projects, such as initiating a project to collect audio/video stories about the Garden from staff and volunteers, and
revamping the California Natives: Plants & People brochure. Administrative volunteer Kathy MacClelland quickly adapted to importing the online volunteer schedule to our tracking database to capture volunteer hours, a system created to reduce high contact at the volunteer sign-in sheet. Because of her work, we know that the number of volunteer hours reported since reopening the Volunteer Propagation program in June is 6,275, compared to 9,021 the previous year when Docents were able to lead tours.

The Garden thanks all of our volunteers for lending us their talent and supporting and staying engaged with the Garden during this time of uncertainty! We could not have continued to protect the collection and fulfill our mission without you. We look forward to evolving the new ways we have developed to work together and stay connected as the world settles into a new normal.

Perry Hall, Volunteer & Tour Coordinator

Top: Docent Alena Cowan (left) working as a Plant Checker and Connie Hartung (right) restocking plants on the relocated Plant Deck. Bottom: Volunteer Propagator, Dan Viele (left) helps customers at the Garden's first post-closure plant sale featuring hard-to-find carnivorous plants.
The Garden faced unprecedented challenges over the past year as well as exciting new opportunities. After being closed for several months in the spring, the Garden became the first campus unit to reopen in July. Lew Feldman began his second year as Director, and I became the new Advisory Board Chair when Beth Burnside stepped down after two years of outstanding leadership.

We were delighted to welcome three new members to the Advisory Board - Sarah Germany, Sue Hickman, and Ron Lutsko. We thanked retiring Board member Pam Grossman for her many contributions, including emergency preparedness planning (very timely in a year with a global pandemic, weeks of smoke-filled skies, and power outages).

Mindful of the Garden’s mission, the Advisory Board is working closely with Garden staff to develop a plan for the next five years and beyond. We are fortunate to have Beth Burnside and Cyndy Plambeck coordinating this effort as co-chairs of the Master Plan Steering Committee.

The advent of Zoom has made it possible for the Advisory Board and Board committees to meet via the internet until we can resume in-person meetings. One surprising and welcome result of Zoom technology has been the significantly increased participation in Garden programs. The Garden’s new online shop’s success has also been rewarding, with some items, including rare and unusual plants, selling out within hours!

Vanessa Crews, Advisory Board member, and former Development Director, returned to the Garden as Interim Development Director. Her knowledge of the Garden’s workings, successful fundraising initiatives, and informative e-newsletters are very much appreciated, and she continues to serve on several Board committees. Vanessa’s commitment to the Garden is exemplary, as is the entire staff’s dedication and involvement. As a result, the Garden is thriving.

A multi-year project to create a Florilegium for the Garden is underway, led by Advisory Board members Catherine Watters and Laura Sawczuk, both accomplished botanical artists. Launched in 2020, this exciting project will culminate with the publication of a book of botanical illustrations of plants from the Garden’s living collections. Illustrations selected for the book will be featured in a series of exhibits at the Garden.

We look forward to continuing our work on these and other vital projects in 2021, together with our talented professional staff, volunteers, and Director Lew Feldman. The enthusiasm of the Advisory Board and its support for the Garden is truly inspiring!

Katherine Greenberg, Board Chair
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sarah Germany is a food enthusiast. Whether it is in her role as chef, educator, writer, parent, wife, or gardener, sourcing farm-fresh food is at the nucleus of her work. With over twenty-five years of experience in Education, Social Services, and Culinary Arts, Sarah holds a BA from Skidmore College in Sociology, and MA in English from Long Island University with post-graduate work in Urban Studies. She has studied food in five countries, taught undergraduate composition at Long Island and Cornell Universities, and managed the only comprehensive education and employment training program serving homeless, runaway, and at-risk street youth in New York City. Sarah moved to the Bay Area in 2011 and has run culinary training programs for youth with experience in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Sarah founded a nonprofit in 2018 — the Food Commonweal (TFC) — with a mission to change the way East Oakland residents live and reduce the rate by which they are dying, one meal at a time. Helping people understand the importance of good food and its powerful contribution to a better quality of life and strong, healthy community is TFC's mission. Sarah is also an aspiring writer who is currently seeking representation for her full-length work: “Stories from the Kitchen: There is Healing at the Table Y’All.”

Sue Hickman was born in Oakland and raised in Moraga. She and her husband David raised their three children in Lafayette. After raising a family and working for over 20 years as a Human Resource Specialist, she has enjoyed giving back to the local and global communities while exploring interests in social justice and women’s education. Her current philanthropic activities include service on the Board of Directors of East Bay Services to the Developmentally Disabled since 2010. EBSDD creates and facilitates government-funded care programs for independent living skills and the developmentally disabled. She has also been on the board of Soroptimist International — Diablo Vista since 2011 and served as its president in 2013-2014. Sue published her memoir, 'Be Happy: Life after Loss,' in 2013. She is an avid lover of nature and travel and an enthusiastic student of the arts.

Ron Lutsko grew up in Hawaii, Texas, and California, where he developed a lifelong love of art and ecology. He studied at UC Davis with Bachelor of Science degrees in both Landscape Architecture and Environmental Horticulture and followed that with a Master's Degree from UC Berkeley, where he focused on Landscape Theory, Fine Art History, and Architecture. He founded Lutsko Associates Landscape in 1981, where he could play out his abiding interests in conceptual art, architecture, and ecological systems. The studio reflects his design philosophy and his belief that thoughtful placemaking sits within the lineage of Land Art. Since establishing the firm, Ron has worked on residential, commercial, civic, and institutional landscape designs throughout the United States, Mexico, and Latin America. Notable projects include Quintessa Winery, Portola Valley Town Center, the San Francisco Botanical Garden’s Exhibition Garden and Native Plant Garden, Manetti Shrem Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Mexico Pedregal Preserve, the UC Davis Native Plant GATEway Garden, Mill Valley Library, Mediterranean Garden at Longwood Gardens, and Turtle Bay Sustainability Gardens.
Dr. Vanessa Handley stepped down from her position as Director of Collections & Research at the end of December to focus on conservation research. She continues to engage in research and conservation projects which connect to the collections. We appreciate her many contributions to collection development and research support during her tenure at the Garden. The search for a new Director of Collections will get underway in early 2021.

Development Director Jessica Parker, Development Assistant Jenny Moore, and Marketing Specialist Delanie Lowe, left their positions at the Garden in the fall of 2020. We appreciate each one’s unique contributions to the Garden, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

We are grateful to the Garden’s former Director of Development, Vanessa Crews, who returned to fill in during the hiring search for a new Director of Development.

We are pleased that the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Garden’s current Faculty Advisory Committee: Dr. Georjana Barnes (Molecular & Cell Biology), Dr. Ben Blackman (Plant & Microbial Biology), Dr. Christine Hastorf (Anthropology), Dr. Vernard Lewis (emeritus, Environmental Science, Policy & Management), Mr. Thomas McKeag (Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry), and Dr. John Taylor (emeritus, Plant & Microbial Biology).


Program Coordinator Deepa Natarajan was the subject of an article, “Steeped in Color,” in Flora, a publication of the California Native Plant Society, Winter 2021.

Krista Vossekuil is grateful for the opportunity to support the Garden’s mission and work closely with donors who are passionate about our connection to plants, conservation, and environmental education. Krista was born in the East Bay and spent summers at her grandparents' ranch in Green Valley, Calif., where she fell in love with oak woodlands and the natural world. Her diverse career working for Bay Area nonprofits spans more than 15 years, and she has served many causes, including conservation, human health, and animal welfare.

She was most recently Director of Philanthropy for John Muir Land Trust and worked on campaigns to permanently protect nearly 1,000 acres in Contra Costa County. Krista graduated from the University of California, Davis, with Bachelor's Degrees in English and Political Science and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She is Education Chair on the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Board of Directors and completed the Master Birder course at the California Academy of Sciences in 2015.

Krista enjoys birding, hiking, gardening, volunteer work, and spending quality time with family and friends.
HONOR A LOVED ONE, COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL EVENT AND SUPPORT THE GARDEN!

BENCHED, BRICKS AND TREES

Benches
Beyond its plant collections’ scientific and educational value, the Garden serves as an oasis of peace and serenity. It is an opportunity for visitors to escape the digital life and seek the serenity only a setting like the UC Botanical Garden affords. Tribute benches placed throughout the Garden’s 34 acres provide a comfortable spot for visitors to rest, relax, and rejuvenate both body and soul. The placement of the bench determines the investment cost of $20,000 to $40,000.

Bricks
Celebrate, honor, and remember with an inscribed brick in the Garden’s Tribute Plaza. The pictured bricks are the Garden’s most recent additions to the Tribute Plaza. Two sizes of bricks can be purchased for $500 to $1500.

Trees
Help preserve and maintain the Garden’s priceless collection by adopting a tree. Your adoption will fund an interpretive panel for your tree, enabling the Garden to share its conservation history with thousands of Garden visitors each year. You will receive a personal dedication on the panel and the satisfaction of increasing interpretation of the collection. Tree adoptions start at $10,000, are entirely tax-deductible, and may be applied towards University class gifts and giving societies.

For more assistance or help with a tribute gift, please contact the Garden’s Development Office at 510-643-2937. Vanessa Crews, vcrews@berkeley.edu
PLANTING THE GARDEN’S FUTURE

Long-time Garden member Susan Subtle passed away in Berkeley last May. Susan’s estate plan included a bequest to the Garden with a provision for a bench. Susan was a well-known artist with many passions, especially for succulents. Her family visited the Garden in October and selected a bench site in the Deserts of the Americas with a view of her favorite plants.

Please stop by Susan’s bench when it is installed later this spring.

Susan’s estate gift is a tribute to her love of the Garden and an example of how your estate plan can support the Garden.

Please contact the UC Berkeley Office of Gift Planning at 510-642-6300 or ogp@berkeley.edu with your questions, or contact Vanessa Crews with the Garden’s Development Office at 510-643-2937 or vcrews@berkeley.edu. We are very happy to assist you.

Sample Bequest Language
“I give $ or % of my estate/trust to the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY FOUNDATION, a California non-profit public benefit corporation, to provide [fully expendable OR endowed] support for the University of California Botanical Garden at the Berkeley campus of the University of California.”

TRIBUTE GIFTS
JULY 31, 2019 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

TRIBUTE BENCHES

IN MEMORY OF DR. ELMER R. GROSSMAN
MIKE ANTONCICH
MARIANNA GROSSMAN
PAMELA GROSSMAN
CAMILLA SUTTER

IN MEMORY OF JOHN WUJEK
MARY WUJEK & STEVE ROSS
PAULA WUJEK
JOSEPH & DONNA WUJEK

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN SUBTLE
SUSAN SUBTLE ESTATE & FAMILY

TRIBUTE BRICKS

IN HONOR OF STEVE ANDREWS
BETH MURAMOTO

IN MEMORY OF SARAH BRANN
BILL WONG

IN HONOR OF THEIR GARDEN WEDDING
NICHOLAS BONHAM & AVIVA FALK

IN MEMORY OF BETTY COATES
EL CERRITO GARDEN CLUB

IN MEMORY OF ELMER GROSSMAN, M.D.
DEENA GROSSMAN

IN MEMORY OF FAYE GUNThER
RICHARD & DEBORAH GUNThER

IN HONOR OF STEVAN, SARAH & CHARLES
HOFFMAN
CURT & KRISTINE HOFFMAN

IN MEMORY OF ALAN E. KNIGHT
JONATHAN D. KNIGHT & MARCIA P. BELVIN

IN MEMORY OF DANNY MADDIx
ANGELA HOTH

IN MEMORY OF DR. BENITO C. TAN
TAN SIBLINGS: CONCHITA, PACITA, LOLITA, AURORA,
JULIANA & BERNARDO
**TREE ADOPTIONS**

**OAK (Quercus rugosa)**

ADOPTED IN MEMORY OF
PROFESSOR RICHARD M. WHITE
DAVID A. HORSLEY
ROGER T. HOWE
ALI JAVEY
DORAIN LIEPMANN
LIWEI LIN
ROYA MABOUDIAN
MICHEL MAHARIZ
RICHARD S. MULLER
CLARK NGUYEN
KURT PETERSEN
KRISTOFER PISTER
MING WU

**DAWN REDWOOD (Metasequoia glyptostroboides)**

ADOPTED IN MEMORY OF
BYRON LAMBIE
JAMES & MARIANNE CALLUM
SARA & JOE DANIELSON
CHARLOTTE DAY
DOUGLAS DOOLEY AND FAMILY
EDEN FOUNDATION, MORRIS & LIBBY WERTHAN
ANN FRANCISCO
LITA FRIES
HARMON & TZIPPI HANIG
JILL LAMBIE & NANCY WERTHAN
SHARON LAMBIE
MELISSA MOSS
SUSAN & PAUL MOSS
TOBY POHL
STEVE PONCE
JENNIFER RUSKIN AND FAMILY
ELIZABETH TORIO
MELISSA WERTHAN
ALAN KORN & VICTORIA WESSON

**HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS**

**IN MEMORY OF CHARLES S. ADAM**

VANESSA CREWS
MAGGIE RINDLER

**IN RECOGNITION OF JESSICA BLINSTUB**

DARLENE FONG

**IN HONOR OF BETH BURNSIDE**

JULIA BURKE
VANESSA CREWS
RAMONA DAVIS
KATHERINE GREENBERG
PAMELA GROSSMAN
JON F. HARTUNG
SUANNE INMAN
JIM LANDAU
PAUL & BARBARA LICHT
ANN REYNOLDS

**IN HONOR OF CHRIS CARMICHAEL**

KATE BOLTON

**IN HONOR OF TERENCE CHEN, M.D. AND FOREST BATHING**

SUSAN COLLIGAN

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN CHIN**

INGRID PURCELL

**IN MEMORY OF VERA B. CHISHOLM**

DAVID GARTLAND & CAROLINE CORRIGAN

**IN HONOR OF LEWIS J. FELDMAN**

DAVID TOZER
LOUISE FORTMANN

**IN MEMORY OF DEBBIE FONG’S DOG “MADDIE”**

DARLENE FONG

**IN HONOR OF HOLLY FORBES**

BARBARA KELLER

**IN MEMORY OF ELMER GROSSMAN, M.D.**

MYLES & IDA ABBOTT
DAVID ARONSON
BETH BURNSIDE
FRANÇOISE COHEN
VANESSA CREWS
DIANE DAVENPORT
FRIENDS AT CHOATE – CHARLES, KRISTIN, HENRY, TOM, TAMER, COURTNEY AND SHIRLEY
MARIANNA GROSSMAN
MARCHELLE KING
PAUL & BARBARA LICHT
SARAH KLAUS
CAROLINE SINKLER
CAMILLA SULLIVAN
JANICE SULLIVAN
THERESA WELSH
EDWARD & ROBIN WENRICK

**IN RECOGNITION OF LISA HOOVER AND LUPINUS CONSTANCEI**

KIRSTEN WINTER

**IN HONOR OF SARAH ELISE KLEIN**

KAREN KLEIN

**IN MEMORY OF WATSON “MAC” LAETSCH**

RODERICK BECKER
MARGARET HAUBEN
CRUIG OLSON
DAVID & PHRYNE OSBORNE
ROY & LAURIE JACOBES
BRUCE STEPHENSON

**IN HONOR OF DELANIE LOWE**

JESSICA PARKER
2020 was a challenging year for the Garden. Recognizing the fiscal dilemma created by the COVID closure, and that our living collections are invaluable resources for scientific research and conservation, you made nearly 1,000 donations to the Garden in 2020 — twice the number of gifts of any other year in the Garden’s recorded history. Many of these gifts arrived in December as you made annual gifts or added donations of $5, $10, or more to your admissions, shopping, and program purchases. The Garden staff is humbled and grateful for your contributions. Together we can maintain this beautiful 34-acre oasis in Berkeley.

There are many ways you can support the UC Botanical Garden today:

- Become a Member
- Take one (or more) of our online classes
- Make a purchase at The Garden Shop
- Give a Tribute gift
- Make a Donation

GARDEN WISH LIST

It takes the help of our many generous donors, members and volunteers to keep the Garden’s 34 acres well-maintained. Recent requests by staff ask for support for ongoing projects in the Garden. The Tropical House interior renovations are the main priority, although many other projects require donor support.

$125 HELP A HORT STAFF MEMBER GET A NEW PAIR OF WORK BOOTS.

$250 CHROMEBOOKS, WE NEED 10, ONE PER HORT STAFF MEMBER. DUE TO COVID PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, STAFF CAN NO LONGER SHARE DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR COLLECTION DATA AND RESEARCH. — DONE!

$250 ONE 5x8 METAL SHED. WE NEED 10, ONE PER HORT STAFF MEMBER.

$1000 A LOAD OF SONOMA FIELDSTONE FOR WALLS AND PLANTING PROJECTS.

$1000 NEW RAILINGS ON GARDEN PATHS.

If you are interested in contributing to these projects, please contact Vanessa Crews, vcrews@berkeley.edu or Lew Feldman, ljfeldman@berkeley.edu.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

While the last year provided unique challenges to the Garden, our members continued to show their dedication and support. For that, we feel very fortunate. While circumstances changed our routine, we attempted to be creative in making the Garden available to our members, even remotely. When the Garden was forced to close for a few months during Shelter in Place, we launched Houseplanted, an online Garden community encouraging members to share memories and photos from the Garden, as well as their home gardens and houseplants. It was heartwarming to see the breadth of responses, each emanating creativity and positivity and helping to build a sense of community.

To make up for the Garden closure, we extended all our members’ expiration dates by six months. This was our way of giving back those months of potentially missed Garden visits once we reopened. When we were finally able to open our gates to the public again in July, we decided to reward our members with early access, allowing them exclusive entry to our first day of opening. To extend that to something more permanent, we created “members’ Only Hour” each day between 10 am and 11 am, allowing members to enjoy the first hour of the Garden being open every morning.

We are very grateful for the ability to remain open, and we thank you for your ongoing generosity, loyalty, and support. While some institutions remain closed, it has been inspiring to see many other botanical gardens reopen to the public. As a reminder, a Garden membership with us makes you eligible for special admission privileges and discounts at over 300+ gardens throughout North America! We encourage you to take advantage of all our Garden has to offer, as well as many other adventures out there waiting for you! We are excited to eventually bring back Member events and tours when we are able to, and we look forward to a bright year ahead!

Emily Gude, Membership Manager

TRAVEL WITH THE UC BOTANICAL GARDEN

Santa Fe: Gardens, Culture, and Cuisine
September 17 – 22, 2021
Experience the unique culture and rich botanical heritage of Santa Fe, with visits to gardens, galleries, museums, and historical sites. Enjoy a guided excursion to Taos Pueblo and learn the secrets of southwestern cuisine at the Santa Fe School of cooking. We will be based at the atmospheric Hacienda Hotel and Spa.

Morocco: Gardens, Culture, and Cuisine
March, 2022
Morocco dazzles visitors with its fascinating culture, exotic gardens, amazing architecture, colorful souks, spectacular landscapes, and regional cuisine. This exceptional tour begins in Tangier and continues to Marrakech and the High Atlas Mountains. A post-tour excursion to the Sahara is planned. Enjoy the best of Moroccan hospitality in private homes and gardens along the way!

Tour Escort: Katherine Greenberg, UCBG Advisory Board Chair
For more information and to add your name to the interest list for these small-group tours in support of the UC Botanical Garden, contact Katherine Greenberg kigcal@aol.com
BIGGIVE

3.11.21

Matching funds will DOUBLE your donation. Your gifts will support the Tropical House renovation, connecting people and plants.

GARDEN SHOP

PLANTS • GIFTS • BOOKS

Featuring Local Artisans and Artists

SHOP ONLINE
gardenshop.berkeley.edu

VISIT THE PLANT DECK
Open daily
Check the Garden Website for hours. Reservations are not required for shopping. Reservations are required for visiting the Garden.